



Friday 5 June 2020

## Wider opening of schools

The Government has updated their guidance document for parents in the light of the decision to open schools more widely to some year groups. We have been asked to share this information with you. If you would like to read the complete document, please have a look [here](#). There is a lot of information for you to digest so I've summarised some of the key points about wider opening of schools for you below.

We are being asked to open our school to a wider group of students in Year 10 and 12 from 15th June. This will not be 'back to normal' for students in these year groups as learning from home will still be the main educational experience for them. However schools will be able to provide "some face to face support" to "supplement" students' online learning. Schools are being limited in terms of the numbers of students who can attend at any one time. No more than 25% of the Year 10 and 12 cohort will be allowed to come into school on any one day.

The Government is strongly advising you to send your child in to access the support which is offered, however "parents will not be penalised for non-attendance at this time". Students are encouraged to walk or cycle to school to minimise the use of public transport.

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## Featured Fabulous Friday Winners

This week our students have again demonstrated real pride in their work and have produced some outstanding responses to the tasks that have been set for them by their teachers. It is important that students continue to make the most of their learning whether it be through Google classroom or through the work packs that have been posted home. Please click on the links below to see some of the stand-out examples from this week:

[Art - Keeley \(7RTH\)](#)

[English – Afrasayab \(8HVA\)](#)

[English – Benz \(7HVP\)](#)

[ESOL - Aleksandar \(7SRE\)](#)

[French – Tajmeet \(7HVP\)](#)

[Geography – Samuel \(8HVA\)](#)

[PE - Kabisan \(10MBE\)](#)

[Literacy – Afrasayab \(8HVA\)](#)

[Music – Saad \(7SRE\)](#)

[PE – Binisha \(7HVP\)](#)

[English – Emilia \(9WWA\)](#)

[French – Yvan \(8HLA\)](#)

[Geography – Ali \(10ZUD\)](#)

[Literacy – Ryan \(7SRE\)](#)

[PE - Wiktoria \(7YEA\)](#)



## Wider opening of schools *continued from the front page*

### How have we decided to approach this?

Our provision will consist of three phases as follows:

1. **Each student in Year 10 and Year 12 will be offered an academic mentoring appointment.** Students will be able to meet with members of staff to review their learning experience so far, discuss any barriers to learning and receive support to resolve these. We will also be able to note down any other areas of support students tell us that they need. We will invite tutor groups in on different days.
2. **We will then provide some small group support for targeted groups in academic subjects.** This will be tailored in the light of feedback from students at their mentoring appointments. No more than 45 students will be able to attend on any one day and their arrival times will be staggered to ensure that we can keep a safe 2m distance between students and staff at all times.
3. We will also provide **some small group support for targeted groups in practical subjects**, with the same approach as listed in 2 above.

We are finalising these plans now and will write to parents with students in Years 10 and 12 next week with specific details of your child's academic mentoring appointment. In this letter we will also share with you the actions we've taken to make our school safe. To reassure anyone who is worried, there will only be 11 students in the North Hall at any one time for the academic mentoring meetings with staff. The hall will be cleaned between each set of appointments to minimise the risk of any Covid-19 transmission. Students who live furthest from the school will have later start times than those who live closer to us. This means that if students' only means of getting to school is via public transport, they will not need to travel at peak times. Our aim, as always, is to make sure that our provision is supportive and safe.

Ms Budd - Headteacher

## Staff Feature



Lockdown really has been a tale of two halves for me. As I'm sure those of you who are working from home know only too well, trying to balance my work commitments with my family commitments has been a real challenge. My daughter requires a lot of my time - she's 2, my work has consumed our dining table and I never seem to have enough time to tick off all the jobs on my to-do list. This week I've been busy creating new booklets and revision materials to try to smooth the path into Year 11 for our Year 10 students, planning a series of Webinars for our Subject Leads to help refocus us on the wonderful updates to our curriculum that we had been working on this year before the pandemic began, and finalising our centre grade submissions for our English Language, English Literature and Community Language cohort.

On the other hand, as a family we have been lucky enough to spend lots of time playing and learning (from each other), exploring the beautiful open spaces, woodland and waterways in our local area (we've watched a swan family guarding their eggs for weeks and now love popping down every day to watch the young cygnets grow), and we've created our own mini allotment in our garden where we're growing courgettes, green beans, tomatoes and a variety of salad leaves. We cannot wait to start picking and enjoying the crop

Ms Baker - Subject Leader for English

[help@northolthigh.org.uk](mailto:help@northolthigh.org.uk)

If you or your child are encountering any problems and would like some help in supporting their learning, please email [help@northolthigh.org.uk](mailto:help@northolthigh.org.uk). This can be to address any kind of issue you may be having either with the nature of the work or more technical issues like a lack of internet access, login problems or password problems.

*Seizing opportunity    Instilling ambition    Realising potential*