



Friday 17 July 2020

Summer is here!

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to read [our consultation document for parents and carers](#) about our September reopening plans and who has responded to the [survey](#). If you haven't had a chance to respond yet, I'd be very grateful if you could do so by Tuesday 21st July. We will respond individually to your questions and queries raised.

Our Facilities and Senior Leadership Teams will be working over the summer holiday period to make sure that we are fully ready to reopen to students in September. We will post out further information to you during week commencing 17th August. If you have any questions, please continue to use our help@northolthigh.org.uk email. Response times might be slightly slower than they have been during term time (as staff will need to take some time off during the holiday period) but we will get back to you as quickly as possible.

I am tremendously proud of our whole community for the way we have responded to the disruption this academic year. Who could have imagined in September that we would be closing the school in March in such stressful circumstances? I'm really grateful to parents and carers who have been so supportive of your children's education. It's been a real team effort - thank you. I hope that you enjoy a well-deserved rest over the summer!

Ms Budd - Headteacher

Featured Fabulous Friday Winners

We have a fabulous range of student work to celebrate in this final newsletter of the academic year – please click the links below. Congratulations to all those students who have worked so hard over the school closure period and continued to give their very best right until the end. We are all very proud of you!

[Art – Ashni \(7CHO\)](#)[Business – Ali \(10ZUD\)](#)[Catering – Amna \(10TAT\)](#)[English – Halima \(9WWA\)](#)[French – Amatullah \(7CHO\)](#)[Geography – Kevin \(10TAT\)](#)[German - Clea \(10SHO\)](#)[History – Benz \(7HVP\)](#)[Literacy – Afrasayab \(8HVA\)](#)[Pastoral – Kenneth \(12SGA\)](#)[Product Design – Goutham \(8HLA\)](#)[Science – Kay \(7CHO\)](#)[PSHCEE/RE – Benz \(7HVP\)](#)[Art – Benz \(7HVP\)](#)[Catering – Dani \(9WWA\)](#)[Literacy - Aleksandar \(7SRE\)](#)[Art – Marika \(7HVP\)](#)[Catering – George \(9GTA\)](#)[Art – Sukhmani \(7HVP\)](#)[Catering – Jenezia \(10ZUD\)](#)[Literacy – Ryan \(7SRE\)](#)

Preparing for university

The summer term always sees us start the process of making university applications with our Year 12 students. This would normally involve visits to universities but, obviously, we have had to think more creatively this year. This week we were delighted to be able to host video conferencing sessions with three different London universities: the University of West London, London City University and Imperial College. These informative presentations provided our students with guidance on the application process, the importance of writing strong personal statements, and general advice about choosing courses and how to make their application stand out.

All three sessions were very informative and we were fortunate to hear, amongst others, from Doctor Peter Clarke, a course leader in Biomedical Science at Imperial and their senior admissions officer. Our students now have a real head start going into year 13. I'd like to thank all the staff from the universities that volunteered and Ms Gadd, our Director of Sixth Form, for organising such an excellent series of events.

Mr Price – Assistant Headteacher

Subject Focus: English Language

This term for English Language we have been focusing on the skills needed to be effective writers through a structured mastery programme.

All students in **Years 7 to 10** have been working from skill level appropriate booklets, learning, practising and using a range of skills from basic capital letter and full stop accuracy to extended crafting of stories using genre specific conventions.

Alongside effective writing, we have also continued to dedicate time to reading for meaning and enjoyment.

Year 9 students have been working on developing deep reading skills and considering the wider messages that non-fiction texts share, considering what we can learn from them about our society, the British societies of the past and the wider societies around the world.

Years 7 and 8 have been reading for meaning and considering the morals to be learned from a range of Ancient Tales, practising their analysis and summarising skills along the way, as well as being stretched to write moral tales of their own. We have seen some great stories from them.

We, of course, have also continued to support students across the school with reading for enjoyment through our KS3 and Year 9 library lesson time. During this time, students have been accessing texts through a variety of means, completing Accelerated Reader quizzes and discussing their reading with Ms Buck, our librarian and their English teachers.

If you are looking for fun and engaging English related activities to do over the holidays, head to our [Reading Site](#). Whilst providing links to lots of online reading material, it also promotes a competition that our students can get involved in - *Poetry By Heart*. To take part in the competition, students must learn by heart and perform a poem of their choice from a list provided. What better way to spend the summer than by reading and sharing poetry from across the age. Why not have a go at this as a family? We'd love to see your family videos!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all, on behalf of the whole English Department, a restful summer after what has been a challenging and unprecedented school year. One constant thing that we can rely on is the power of words to give comfort, joy and excitement when we find times challenging. Enjoy your summer. We are very much looking forward to welcoming our students back in September.

Ms Baker – Subject Leader for English

Summer Reading Challenge



We all know how important reading is when it comes to the emotional and intellectual wellbeing of our children. Over the summer holidays, some students can lose their passion for reading and for some, it is a challenge to find a book. We hope that we have made things a little easier (and enjoyable) this year: our school reading website is now live and accessible to everyone. This means the whole family can benefit from the resources available.

On the Northolt High School Reading Site, you will find links to a wide variety of online reading materials as well as our Daily Reading Challenge. Over the lockdown period, students have been able to read along with Ms Baker for twenty minutes each day and test their understanding of the novel by completing a short quiz. This has proved extremely popular and we will be continuing this over the summer holidays. Now, all of the family can join in. From next week, you will be able to read *Refugee Boy* along with me and you can still catch up with the books we have read over lockdown under the KS3 and KS4 Reading Challenge Tabs.

You will also find all of the resources and information that you need to support your child in preparing an entry for the *Poetry By Heart* competition that will take place over the Autumn Term, just click the banner at the top of the site.

Let's get reading - click [here](#) to have a browse and see what is on offer.

Miss Vardon - 2i/c English

Seizing opportunity Instilling ambition Realising potential

Staff Feature



The end of term is always a time for reflection and looking at what we can learn from the previous year. I have learned that our students really do embody our school values. When we left school on Friday 20th March, I didn't anticipate that we would be away for this long but with a version of 'normality' somewhere on the horizon, I can look back and say that the students of Northolt High School have continued to impress me each and every day. In these extraordinary times, their dedication to learning has made me love my job even more. While my students may have used their time to explore new knowledge, I am not sure I have lived up to their standards.

As anyone in my form will tell you, my two great loves are food and books. At the start of lockdown I ordered myself a nice stack of new recipe books to encourage me to use my 'commuting' time to make some more adventurous and healthy dinners. When I sat down to write this, I scrolled through my photo gallery in search of some evidence of these wonderful healthy meals but that wasn't what I discovered...

I found images of all of the comforting cakes and old favourites that I had created instead. As an English teacher, I love a metaphor and these cakes are mine. At the start of lockdown, I think many of us had lofty ambitions for the new skills and projects that we would finally get around to but the reality ended up looking a little different. We have all made the best of a really challenging situation and hopefully we have learned to put less pressure on ourselves as a result.

Like most teachers, I am now thinking ahead to September and making sure that our curriculum offers students opportunities to build on the knowledge they have gained over the lockdown period but also supports those students who feel, a little like me and my cooking goals, that they haven't achieved everything they wanted this term. Rest assured, we will all get to where we need to be next year.

The summer holidays are a time to regroup and relax to ensure we are fighting fit for September; I know I speak for the whole staff when I say that we cannot wait to welcome our students back.

Wishing you all a safe and restful summer,

Miss Vardon – 2i/c English

Useful links and resources

- If you'd like to continue listening to stories, why not join a variety of experienced storytellers [here](#). This week, for example, Alim Kamara, a rapper and storyteller, tells us a story about *togetherness*.
- If you'd like to continue creatively reading and writing, why not join the National Literacy Trust [here](#). Activities here include exploring Michelle Obama's autobiography, *Becoming* and joining a poetry slam.
- These [new wellbeing activities](#) from the British Red Cross help learners (ages 7-18) to be kind to themselves and look after their own wellbeing in order to build resilience and coping mechanisms.

Help & Support

Lots of us have had to deal with new challenges during the pandemic and we all need to ask for help from time to time. There is lots of help and support available locally and online. You may find some of these links useful:

- [Supporting your child's mental health](#)
- Our [Safeguarding page](#) with advice about safe internet use, mental health, and lots of other issues.
- [Advice about local support for Ealing residents](#) from the London Borough of Ealing.
- Details of Ealing's [emergency fund](#) for those in financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [Horizons bulletin](#) with details of local support including foodbanks.
- [Information booklet](#) to support families throughout the summer holidays.

Seizing opportunity

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