



Friday 26 June 2020

## Getting ready for September

Last Friday, the Government announced the intention for students in all year groups to return to school in September. We have been told that we will receive specific guidance to support this before the end of term, which has not as yet been issued. The fact that there will be guidance suggests that it may not be complete "business as usual" but we're excited nevertheless at the prospect of having our students on site again. Whilst this week's lessons for Year 10 have been well attended and lovely to see, the restriction of only being able to bring 43 students into school means that the school still feels very quiet. We're looking forward to a busier building!



We've put a lot in place to make school safe for students' eventual return. We've extended our one way system, adding a new one way system into and out of the Science block. These one way systems, along with 2 metre spacings are marked out clearly. Inside corridors, [these stickers](#) have been placed throughout the school. Outside, our brilliant Facilities Team have created their own [footprints](#) to mark out both distance and direction for students. We're grateful to Ealing Council for providing similar colourful markings on the pavement outside the school as well as you can see from this photo alongside.

*continued on page 3*

## Featured Fabulous Friday Winners

There are not as many examples of our students work to share with you this week – perhaps there was too much sunshine? If your child has done something they are proud of, please ask them to send through an image of it to their teacher so that it can be considered for inclusion:

Catering – Trinity (8KGA)

English – Shalu (10LPL)

Geography – Eleni (7SRE)

Geography – Aragsan (7RTH)

Catering – Zainab (8HLA)

# Mohammedbaqir (gDKA) – Competition winner

## First place: Mohammedbaqir, Ealing

We particularly appreciated the link Mohammedbaqir has drawn here between tangible in-game rewards and the more subtle element of social reward!



Mohammedbaqir in gDKA has been awarded first place for his entry into the St John's Inspire programme competition. There are roughly 10 schools across Ealing and Harrow that are signed up to the programme, with around 15 children at each school participating.

This is a superb achievement. I spoke to Matt Graghan is the coordinator for the programme at St John's College Oxford and he has mentioned that he has requested for Mohammedbaqir's work to be featured in their college newsletter.

Mohammedbaqir work is featured on the St John's Inspire programme website which is linked [here](#).

Ms Kaur – Form tutor gDKA

## Subject Focus: Computing

### Year 7 and 8

Whilst lockdown has meant some subject areas have had to adapt to remote learning, computing fortunately continued as normal, so long as students had access to a computer and the internet. This has been particularly helpful for KS3 as consistency is important to ensure students continue to progress at a similar trajectory as if they were still in school. Year 7 and 8 have been receiving work via Google Classroom in the form of Google forms such as quizzes and tests. In addition to this, students are able to use online platforms such as [Python](#) to complete their programming tasks. Year 7 students have been introduced to the basics of programming and spreadsheets whilst Year 8 have learned how to create basic programs using [Python](#).

### Year 9 GCSE

Year 9 GCSE Computer Science students have been working on [component one](#) of their GCSE specification. They have looked at and studied the following topics; ethical and legal implications of computing, system security, networking LAN and Wan basics as well as system software. In addition to this, they have also used [Python](#) to continue developing their programming skills and knowledge, to ensure they are able to use them in real life scenarios.

### Year 10 GCSE

Year 10 GCSE Computer Science students have been working on consolidating much of their prior learning and have been intensively filling in gaps ready for their upcoming assessments. To do this, they have been working on the following topics; producing robust programs, programming concept-iteration, Boolean logic, logic gates, networking and ethical and legal consideration. Students will be completing a multiple-choice assessment to ascertain their levels in regards to their learning, so that they have a good understanding on strong areas of subject knowledge and other areas that need further development.

### Year 12 A Level

Year 12 A Level Computer Science students are working extremely hard on the following topics: databases, SQL, networks and client servers. These topics have built on from their GCSE work and though it is at a far more advanced level, students have nonetheless risen to the challenge ensuring they are completing all work and communicating with each other and staff in the department. From September, students will begin their second phase of the course and so far they are both excited and feeling quietly confident.

Mr Wasiq – Subject Leader Performing Arts and ICT

*Seizing opportunity    Instilling ambition    Realising potential*

## Getting ready for September *continued from front page*

We've slightly changed our canteen to create a clear [entrance and exit system](#) with a barrier in between to ensure that students keep the one way system going. Queues are all socially distanced. We have installed wall mounted hand sanitiser dispensers in the canteen and throughout the school but also have hand sanitiser available on [freestanding tables](#) which we will use before and on the way home from school and after break and lunch times. Students will no longer be able to use our [water fountains](#) so will need to bring their own water into school.

It's important that everyone understands the new routines before coming onto the site. [This notice](#) is clearly displayed in our school reception and has also been [translated](#) into the languages spoken by most of our school community. There is a lot of signage around the school to remind students about how to wash their hands, to not touch their face, and also about the [safe numbers of people allowed in each room](#). Obviously, once we receive the Government guidance about September, we will do more, but I'm confident that we have made excellent progress in ensuring that our school is safe. If you have any concerns or questions that you'd like us to address in terms of safety, please contact us by emailing [help@northolthigh.org.uk](mailto:help@northolthigh.org.uk). We're very keen to work in partnership with you!

Ms Budd - Headteacher

## Staff Feature



Lockdown has been both a challenging and rewarding time for me. As teachers we thrive on routine and interaction and when both are taken away you need to find your new norm. I've certainly missed being in school, putting a face on each day (I've saved a lot in make-up), getting smartly dressed (I haven't worn a pair of heels for three months now!) and interacting with all our students. I've received some of the kindest and funniest emails from students during this time, my favourite was from a student in my Year 9 English class who emailed to say she missed me telling her to stop talking! I miss telling students to tuck their shirts in but I mostly miss the daily pride and rewards that come from being in the classroom with our students.

I've had some company at home in the form of my dog Chewie (reference to Chewbacca from "Star Wars" but he looks more like an Ewok now!). He will sit and stare at me while I'm working or sit on my lap. He has enjoyed having me home and I'm not sure how I'll manage coming back to school without him (I may have to squeeze him into my handbag!). It's been super hot this week, so we bought him a paddling pool, but I'm not sure that he's very keen on it though!

I've also loved meeting with Year 10s in the last few weeks and can't wait to get back to school. I wish you all the best during this time. Keep looking after yourselves and your loved ones. I'm incredibly proud of all our students. You're amazing.

Ms De Sousa – Key Stage 4 Leader

[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*