

Northolt High School

newsletter



Committed to excellence

Friday 11 September 2020

Our new school year begins

Thank you all for your support this week as students returned to school. We've had a very successful start to the new school year. Students have really risen to the challenge of adapting to a lot of change and they've been nothing short of brilliant! Our Year Group zoned areas are well established and students are following the new one way systems (helped by some gentle reminders!). Staff and students are getting used to the longer lessons as well. It really has been lovely to see all the students again and there has been a happy buzz around school all week.

Year 7 students have settled well despite not being able to have a transition day last term. With our two week timetable, next week (week B) is the first week that some of them will not be leaving by Gate A at the end of the day. Parents, please look out for the letters we have sent out to you today which tell you which exit gates students will use on different days so that you can make arrangements if you are meeting your child. These are also on our website.

Next week, we are going to begin planning so that we can re-launch our before and after school clubs provision. We will need your help for this, so please look out for the parent survey which we will be sending out. We are going to plan the provision around your feedback and aim to have our before and after school club offer up and running by the end of September.

As ever, please get in touch if you have any other feedback as this is always helpful. Have a lovely weekend - it looks as if we might be about to get some late summer sun!

Ms Budd - Headteacher

Student views on being back at school



This is a really big school, much bigger than my primary school in Birmingham. You could easily get lost, but the teachers and students have really helped me find my way. The playground is really big and I like that we are allowed to take our Grab and Go food outside. It feels strange not to be able to share my glue stick with the person next to me, but I do understand the changes have been made to make things safer for everyone.

Adnaan (7NWI)

It feels so strange being back having been away for such a long time. It is taking a little time to adjust to all the new systems that have been put in place to make the school safer. I'm enjoying having longer lessons, as I feel like we are getting through so much work each day, which is important because we have a great deal that we need to catch-up.

Dani (10WWA)



Seizing opportunity

Instilling ambition

Realising potential

Student views on being back at school continues from page 1



I prefer the school this way. Fewer lessons in the day means there are less transitions and the longer lessons means we are learning more. Lunch in different year groups is great because you don't need to queue for as long. Whilst I still have quite a long journey to school, the later start does mean I get to sleep in a little longer. It's all good.

Isaiah (9HLA)

I don't like how young people are being blamed in the media for the rise in infections. I think the school has made some significant changes to help keep us safe. Moving the start time later means avoiding heavy traffic and overcrowded buses which is a good thing.

Kamila (13SGH)



New canteen procedures



We've made some significant changes to our procedures in the canteen to help reduce risk. Students have their lunch breaks at staggered start times within their year group "bubble". The tables and chairs are then sanitised between each year group. The canteen menu is shared with students in form time in the morning to help speed up the queue. Many thanks for using the [Wisepay](#) online payment system to regularly top up your child's meal account – it helps to keep everything running smoothly. Due to the risk of virus transmission students can no longer top-up using cash in school.

Student rewards

Next Friday will be the first Fabulous Friday of the new academic year. Staff are looking forward to recognising and rewarding the work and effort of students by either issuing them with a VIP lanyard or else sending home a "Good News" card or otherwise making a positive phone call home.



Covid symptoms

To reduce community transmission of the coronavirus, you must keep your child at home if your child or anyone else in your household develops coronavirus symptoms. The main symptoms of coronavirus are: • **high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature) • **new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual) • **loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If you are keeping your child at home you must contact Ms McMurdie, our attendance officer, on **02088648544 extension 705**. She will then be able to advise you further.

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