

# Northolt High School newsletter



Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021

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Committed to excellence

## Investing in our future

At this time of year, we always begin to look forward to the new academic year in September. There is always lots of work to do to make sure that we're ready! Part of this annual process is always that we reflect on the year that has passed and make plans for the following years. One of our goals is to continue to improve the way that we attract and retain high quality staff to our school.

As part of this, we will be starting a partnership with an organisation called [Investors in People](#). We are also planning to work with [the Teacher Development Trust](#) to support us in providing the best quality of professional development for our teaching staff as possible. The intention of these projects is to ensure that we are doing the best that we can to lead, develop and support everyone who works here, so that our students can benefit fully from their educational experience with us. After half term we will be issuing a detailed Parents' Survey to you. This will be to enable you to share your views about what we're doing well and how we can further improve. We'll then build this feedback into our annual planning process.



When you get to page 2 of today's newsletter, I hope that you'll be as proud as we all are to read that Ms Vardon-Prince has reached the national final of the Pearson's "Teacher of the Year" Award. A number of our teachers were nominated this year, however the judges have reported that it was clear from the nominations that there was something very special indeed about Ms Vardon-Prince. The purpose of the Teaching Awards is to "raise the profile of the teaching profession, highlight the positive impact teachers and school leaders have in our society – with pupils, parents and the wider community, and show teachers how much they are valued". We're really hoping that Ms Vardon-Prince is recognised for her very special talents and goes through to the next stage of the process (we will find out in June).

Thank you to those of you who either attended our Public Consultation meeting about the plans for our new school building on Wednesday and/or have already completed our survey. We are keen to get as much feedback as possible about our plans. If you were not able to come along on Wednesday, please have a look at [this presentation](#) which gives you more details about our plans. Please let us know your views by completing [this survey](#). Thank you!

Ms Budd, Headteacher

## Dates for your Diary

- **Monday 10 May – Wednesday 9 June** – Year 11 Assessment Window
- **Monday 17 May – Thursday 10 June** – Year 13 Assessment Window
- **Friday 28 May** – Last Day of Half Term
- **Thursday 10 June** – Year 10 Parents' Evening
- **Thursday 24 June** – Year 9 Parents' Evening
- **Wednesday 21 July** – Last Day of Summer Term



*Seizing opportunity*

*Instilling ambition*

*Realising potential*

## Teacher of the Year finalist – Ms Vardon-Prince



The Pearson National Teaching Awards run every year and you might remember that we promoted this to our students and families inviting them to nominate Northolt High School in various categories.

I'm so proud to be able to let you know that our very own wonderful Ms Vardon-Prince was not only nominated, but has been shortlisted as a finalist for the National Secondary School Teacher of the Year! There were hundreds of nominations from across the country and the judges I spoke to really emphasised that just by getting through to this stage, Ms Vardon-Prince has really already demonstrated a fantastic achievement.

As some of you already know, we were asked to provide some additional information about Ms Vardon-Prince in support of her nomination to send to the judges today. Thank you to everyone who supported this and provided supporting letters or information we were able to share with the judges. You might like to take a look at [this wonderful video](#) we created to share with the judges, which really does help capture how much Ms Vardon-Prince brings to our community and why we think Hope deserves this award.

Today we hosted an online event with the judges, where members of staff and students were able to tell the judges exactly why we think that Ms Vardon-Prince deserves to win this award. We will find out in June whether this has been the case ... but for now, we all wish to congratulate Ms Vardon-Prince for this nomination as it is so well deserved. We are really lucky to have her in our school!

Ms Budd, Headteacher

## Exciting careers guidance work continues

On Tuesday this week, we were delighted to welcome Maddy Burnett and Natalie Fairhurst to our school who are Speech and Language Therapists from the NHS. Maddy and Natalie spoke to our year 10 students about their fascinating careers.

Maddy and Natalie talked to our students about what a speech and language therapist does, what type of people they work with and how they help them. The year 10s were brilliant and had some really interesting questions about public speaking, the importance of communication and of course, finding out how much speech and language therapists get paid.

Due to Covid, it has been really challenging to get our students linked up with traditional work experience placements so it was really good to have this workshop to inspire and inform.



For more remote opportunities to get work experience and much more. All of our students in years 8-12 should have signed up to [UPSKILL ME](#) where they will find many opportunities to develop their careers knowledge and skills.

Andy Price, Assistant Headteacher

## Three Dimensional Design – WOW!

We have been busy in Three-Dimensional Design (called Product Design in key stage 3), with students involved in different projects, designing and making functional objects.

Year 7 students are currently working on a project making Textile Postcards. They have researched various artists and designers and are in the process of designing a postcard which they will make using a range of textile materials and techniques. At the end of the project they will be writing on the postcards and sending them to loved ones, so something for you to watch out for in the post!



The current Year 8 project is Coasters, which is inspired by a range of artists and designers whose work focuses on abstract geometric designs. Students are currently working on their designs for coasters and will be developing their designs using CAD CAM (computer aided design and computer aided manufacture). When the project is complete, students will be able to bring the coasters home and use them.



Year 9 students are working on a Miniature Chair project in which they have researched a range of iconic chair designs in order to create their own product. We are currently at the prototype stage, where students have made their chairs out of a range of materials including cardboard, wire and MDF board. Soon, they will be developing their designs using 2D Design software and their work will be laser cut and then assembled like a piece of flat pack furniture. The school has invested in a brand new state-of-the-art laser cutter, so hopefully our Year 9 students will be the first to use it



## Year 8 Peer Advocacy Project

A number of our Year 8 students are currently involved in a series of four half-day workshops which are being jointly run by Karen Brooke from Oshun Education and Jenniffer Lewis from the Communities Empowerment Network (CEN).

The project requires students to commit to some research outside of school looking at their own family history and their experiences of living in the borough/London/the UK,

We are hopeful that the narratives arising from this project will form a display that can be showcased for parents so that they have the opportunity to share in the outcome.

Students had their first workshop this week, with the second taking place on Monday 17th May.



## Pride Standards for Classrooms

This week we introduced a new system of *Pride Standards for Classrooms*. Prior research that staff had done, indicated that both students and staff believe better progress and learning takes place in classrooms that are neat and tidy.

As a result this new system was developed which involves both teachers and students returning the classroom to the agreed standard at the end of each lesson. We hope that this leads to an improved learning environment for all!

### Classroom PRIDE STANDARD:

5

- Chairs tucked in (on tables if last lesson in class)
- Tables orderly
- Floors clear of rubbish
- All equipment & resources packed away
- Staff desk, surrounds neat and orderly

The Northolt Way

RESPECT PRIDE COURAGE



## Covid-19 Symptoms

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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