

Northolt High School newsletter



Friday 12th March 2021

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Committed to excellence

Northolt High School always adapting!

I have nothing but praise for the way that our students have responded to the lateral flow COVID testing process we've established as part of our return to school process. The tests have been supervised by our support staff, with some new members of staff having this as their first experience of working at Northolt High School. All staff leading the testing process have fed back that students have been exceptionally well behaved and polite. As well as thanking our students, I'd also like to thank families for the support you've given us. We will complete the last of the student and staff 'tests to return' on Monday and have therefore started to issue the home test kits to students. You should have received a letter providing you with guidance to support your child in completing these tests, which should be done twice weekly.

It feels amazing to reflect that just eleven weeks ago, lateral flow testing was not a feature of Northolt High School as it seems so normal now! We were asked over the Christmas holidays to set up the Lateral Flow Test Centre site very rapidly as at that point we were expecting students to return to school in January. On New Year's Eve, Mr Haresnape, Ms Pott and I found ourselves in school reading the guidance, scratching our heads and trying to work out how best to convert the North Hall into a testing site, supported by our wonderful Facilities Team. It's the first time in my whole career that I've been onsite in school on 31st December!



Our Chair of Governors, Mr Hulme, also gave up a couple of days to make our permanent test centre booths. Our wonderful support staff team have paused on their usual roles to learn how to become test centre processors, recorders and operators. This has been very hard work indeed and they are all exhausted. The whole process has been led by Ms Pott, Deputy Headteacher, who has been easily covering half marathons each day as she moves round the school collecting students for their tests.

I'm sure that you'll join me in thanking everyone who has been involved in this process for all their hard work. We have had some positive tests as a result of this process. This has proved the point of introducing the testing, showing that these tests can identify COVID cases which otherwise could have been able to spread far more widely across the school, as the infected people were not showing symptoms. We're hoping that the continuation of the home testing process will continue to support us in keeping our community as safe as possible, so please support your child in establishing a clear testing routine at home.

Thank you in advance!

Ms Budd - Headteacher

Seizing opportunity

Instilling ambition

Realising potential

Product Design – Origami Masks!

During our remote learning period, Year 8 students learned how to be creative with origami. The final piece of this unit was to create an Origami mask which included elements of butterfly wings.

The way that our students took on this challenge was exceptional, and the unique creativity shown by all students is something to celebrate. [Bakr](#) Year 8 even created his mask with a pirate eye covering!

The winning design below was by [Kaizer](#) in 8DWH. Well done, Kaizer!



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Welcoming our new staff



Hello, my name is Mrs Aneke. I work in the Inclusion Department of Northolt High School as a Teaching Assistant. In this role, I support teaching staff to ensure that every pupil has equal access to opportunities for learning and development.

I recently graduated from University of Birmingham with an MA in Translation Studies. Prior to that, I worked overseas for about 3 years as an MFL tutor and translator. I hope to play even more active roles in making quality education accessible to all children and young people.

Hello, my name is Miss Andre and I have started as a Teaching Assistant in the Inclusion Department. In my role, I will be providing in-class and external support to particular students to help them reach their fullest potential.

I have always loved the buzz of being in a school and working with children. Following the completion of my English Literature and Philosophy degree at Bristol University, I spent time travelling and working at an overnight Summer Camp in the US. This experience instilled in me the desire to work with children and begin my journey to becoming a teacher. I hope to go on to get my PGCE and become a secondary school English teacher.



Online work experience

Work experience is always something incredibly valuable to young people, however this year we have had to be extra creative in ensuring young people across our school community have access to experiences in work places remotely or in person. Through a charity called **Speakers for Schools** we have been successful in placing students with institutions such as BP, Skanska, Santander, the Army, Water Aid, Midland Metro and many more. You can still register and apply by clicking [here](#).



If your child is also in **year 8 to 12** they should already have signed up to [UPSKILL ME](#) which is a digital platform for young people to record their experiences with volunteering, work experience and any other achievements they are proud of. We are already seeing some fabulous portfolios being created by our students which will help them hugely when applying for Universities and jobs in the future. Don't miss out.



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.

Seizing opportunity

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Revision and catch up sessions over Easter Break

A number of our Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 students will be involved in revision or catch-up classes across a range of subjects during the first week of the Easter holidays. Letters will be sent out to those students who are involved towards the end of next week providing further details about these arrangements.



Year 8 Parents' Evening – Thursday 25th March

Year 8 parents and families have recently received their child's mid-year progress report, and are currently going through the process of choosing their GCSE subjects. To help with this important decision and to discuss progress to date, we have our virtual parents evening on Thursday 25th March. Don't forget to sign up for your virtual appointments through [schoolcloud](#).



 **schoolcloud**
Parents Evening

Year 7 & 8 Windrush workshops

All our Year 7 & 8 students will be participating in an exciting virtual workshop during one of their Humanities lessons in the next two weeks.

This interactive workshop entitled *Passing the Time through Rhythm & Rhyme* is being run by the Writing, Acting & Publishing Project for Youngsters also known as [WAPPY](#). Whilst maintaining a Covid safe environment, the workshop will creatively explore with students themes around the Windrush generation who arrived in the UK from Caribbean countries between 1948 and 1973.

In next week's bulletin we will report on how the workshops have been received and share some of what students say they have learnt from them

