

Northolt High School newsletter



Friday 23rd April 2021

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Committed to excellence

A focus on our Year 11 and 13 students

I am very grateful to our Senior Deputy Headteacher, Mr Haresnape, who spent a good part of his recent holiday studying the final guidance we received at the very end of last term from the Joint Council of Qualifications about the actions schools have to take to award GCSE, A Level and BTEC grades to students in Years 11 and 13 at the end of the year. He has produced a very thorough school policy document to help guide our staff through a complex and very detailed process.

We were pleased to see how comprehensive the guidance is. The task ahead of us has been made very clear. We are being asked to ensure that students' grades are drawn from a wide range of evidence. Our Subject Leaders are now cross checking each question that has been asked in assessments students have taken so far in the year, matching these against the syllabus objectives. This will help us to understand whether there are some topics that still need further focus and assessment to ensure that the evidence base for students' grades is sufficiently broad. There is a useful overview of the guidance and what we have been asked to do in JCQ's [Guide to parents and students](#), so please read this and come back to us if you have any questions.

Students' final grade will be based on the overall quality of this full range of selected evidence which will include all of the assessments undertaken in November and April as well as those that will be completed during the May assessment window. We're now in the process of creating very clear information for students and parents about the assessment objectives which will be assessed in May, to support students in their preparation so they can perform to the best of their ability.

Supporting our Year 11 and 13 students is a top priority for us this term. I am so proud of them for the way they have responded with commitment and drive to the changes we've had to introduce as a result of the pandemic. Throughout the process of change which we've all experienced, Year 11 and 13 students have asked sensible questions, shared their ideas and worries in a mature manner and above all else, worked extraordinarily hard.

To all students, parents and members of staff involved in the 'last push' for Year 11 and 13 this year – thank you for everything you're doing and keep it up. The end is in sight!

Ms Budd - Headteacher

A message about Ramadan

Hundreds of millions of Muslims around the world are currently observing Ramadan, a time of real focus on faith. Muslims raise money during Ramadan and donate supplies to help others in need. Muslims also fast during daylight hours – this is one of the five pillars of Islam. The result of this month of fasting should be that a person is able to be more mindful of their actions and how they use their time on this earth.

To all the members of our community who are observing Ramadan, we'd like to say ...

“Ramadan Kareem,” which translates into “Have a generous Ramadan”.

Seizing opportunity

Instilling ambition

Realising potential

The return of our afterschool clubs



Extra-curricular clubs are back! We are so excited to be able to get these up and running again and our students are too. This term we've put a real focus on providing additional sports related clubs, in particular for students in Key Stage 3, to provide ample opportunity for them to shake off any lockdown blues and get physically active once more!



Please have a look at the clubs available for your child and arrange with them what evenings they will take part.

[Key Stage Three Clubs](#)
[Key Stage Four Clubs](#)
[Key Stage Five Clubs](#)



Earth Day



Earth Day is an annual event on April 22nd to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First held on April 22nd, 1970, it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by EarthDay.org.

This week, our students took part in an Earth Day assembly with a focus on 'pollinators' – bees and insects vital to the global environment – and the impact of the decline in bee numbers. Ask your child what might happen if our bee population continues to decline!



What can you do to help?

1. Plant flowers and herbs such as sunflowers, lavender and other bee friendly plants.
2. Build a bee hotel.
3. Avoid the use of pesticides.
4. Write to your MP.
5. Join a conservation campaign.
6. Avoid picking wild flowers or plants.
7. Buy local honey.
8. Teach others about why pollinators and bees are essential to our planet and humans.



Reading at Northolt High School is hotting up!



At Northolt High School we are committed to promoting a love of reading. Over the coming weeks, we are making some exciting changes to *Reading for Pleasure* in our Key Stage 3 English lessons.

Students will now have access to Amazon Fire tablets in their *Reading for Pleasure* lessons to allow them to take their *Accelerated Reader* quizzes for the books they are reading at school and at home. Our students will also be able to use the tablets to search for their next book and request one to be delivered from our school library.

Thank you to all of our families who are supporting their children with their twenty minutes reading at home. We cannot wait to share their quizzing successes with you so watch this space.

If you would like to find out more about our Accelerated Reader program, please click [here](#) or contact Miss Vardon (hvardon-prince@northolthigh.org.uk) with any questions.



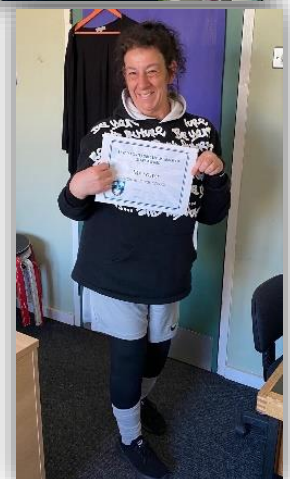
Sustainable Travel Campaign

The [Sustrans BIG PEDAL Challenge](#) is taking place this week and next, involving 2,166 schools in the UK and within these, 733,375 students. Our challenge is to travel to school by walking, scooting or cycling and our staff launched this by appearing in sportswear on the first day of term. Mr Adu and Ms Forster were among those voted as 'best dressed' by students.

Parents can also take part in this challenge. Just let us know, through your child and we can add your sustainable journeys to our tally.

We have a number of prizes we will be giving out each day next week. If you cycle to school, will you find a 'golden padlock' on your bike when you collect it at the end of the day? If you do, you'll be able to collect a prize from our school office! If you're not a cyclist don't worry as there are other prizes too!

We hope that you enjoy the change in weather, get outside and join our push to travel sustainably as much as possible. We are also logging our results by year group – Years 8 and 11 are currently leading the way!





Work Experience

Despite all of the difficulties presented by the pandemic, it has also created some wonderful opportunities for our school – and work experience is an area where we've seen some brilliant opportunities.

Traditionally, work experience at Northolt has been mainly a Year 10 focus, with students spending one to two weeks at a local business.

This obviously has not been possible during the pandemic, however we are already seeing the benefit of many new providers opening up virtual work experiences for students of all ages. This means work experience no longer has to be focused on year 10 only; it can be from year 7 all the way to year 13. We currently have students undertaking fantastic placements with BP, the NHS, Bentley Cars, Wilmot Dixon, Santander and many more. It is my hope that all students get the opportunity to have a work place experience at least once in their school journey but hopefully they can have many more.

There are a number of portals we are using to promote virtual experience linked here. Upskill Me has been promoted before and every student has been asked to make an account so they can record their careers journey. Please help your child build a better future by making sure they are registered and engaging. The other links provide great opportunities for work experience as well as other careers resources.

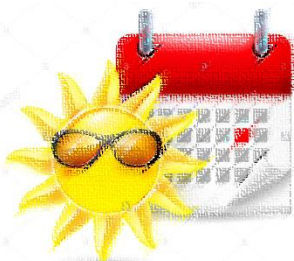
Assistant Headteacher, Mr Price



[UPSKILL ME](#)

[Speakers4schools](#)

[Springpod](#)



Summer Holiday Activities Survey

Ealing Council has received funding to run holiday activities in the summer holidays and they would like to understand what activities would interest parents and young people.

The activities will run for 4 hours per day, 4 days per week for 4 weeks. Each day a nutritional meal will be provided.

Please complete [this](#) survey by 5 May to help Ealing plan for the summer. The survey is anonymous, it should take no more than a couple of minutes to complete.

If you have any questions, please contact Polly Bradley at Ealing council pbradley@ealing.gov.uk

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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