

Northolt High School newsletter



Friday 28th May 2021

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Committed to excellence

Returning to our new normal

As you will see from page 2, we held a celebration assembly for our Year 11 students earlier this week. I would like to thank Ms De Sousa who, as ever, made sure that this was a very special occasion for students. Ms De Sousa worked her magic to make sure that students had doughnuts, balloons, farewell videos from teachers, certificates and the chance to look fondly at photographs of the year group at all stages of their Northolt High School experience. The assembly was joyful, celebratory and recognised all the hard work that students have put in in the last two years under challenging circumstances.

It was our first assembly since March 2020. In planning the event, we completed a risk assessment, which included us taking clear photographs of where students were sitting to support us should we need to do any contact tracing for COVID-19. I was so pleased to see how much students not only enjoyed the content of the assembly but also the very fact that they were *allowed to be together*, in the hall. The event served as a clear reminder of the obligation we owe to our young people to slowly but surely begin to re-introduce normal school routines such as assemblies which play such an important part of our community life. We are looking forward to being able to reduce the restrictions placed upon school life as the country continues to reopen.

Part of this reopening process is going to involve reminding ourselves about the routines and practices which create successful in-school learning. We know that learning now in classrooms is not the same as it was before the pandemic and that we need to take steady, gradual steps to return to 'normal' classroom routines. For example, we've noticed that not everyone is currently finishing our 'Do Now' activities which take place in the first few minutes of a lesson. Starting a lesson well is key to ensuring that learning is successful throughout the lesson, so it's important that we return to a situation where all students are completing the 'Do Now' activities well.

To help students return to consistent and successful learning habits, after half term we are going to begin reminding students about the features of successful learning. Our goal is to raise our expectations now so that we have a head start for September. Mr Price, Assistant Headteacher, and I will write to you all to share our plans for the summer term so that you are able to support this initiative.

Ms Marion 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
- **Monday 7 June** – Remote Learning Day (students not in school)
- **Thursday 10 June** – Year 10 Virtual Parents' Evening ([copy of letter sent to parents](#))
- **Thursday 24 June** – Year 9 Virtual Parents' Evening
- **Wednesday 21 July** – Last Day of Summer Term



Seizing opportunity

Instilling ambition

Realising potential

Top rating for our canteen!

Last Friday, the Food Standards Agency made an unannounced visit to our canteen. *Innovate* from Impact Foods is our contracted provider and Rafal Mormal is their onsite Chef Manager. He was very pleased that the Food Standards Agency once again awarded the canteen their highest hygiene rating and said it was down to the hard work of the whole canteen staff.



Year 10 & 12 June Pre-Public Examinations

As far as we know, from current Government guidance, our Year 10 & 12 students will be sitting final written examinations in less than 12 months' time. So to help them prepare for these, this week we shared information with students and parents (linked [here](#)) about their upcoming June Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs). Teachers are currently supporting our Year 10 & 12 students in preparing for these PPEs.

[Year 10 June PPE timetable](#)

[Year 12 June PPE timetable](#)

Congratulations to our Year 11 students

On Wednesday this week, we held a celebration assembly for our fabulous Year 11 students as they come to the end of their GCSE courses.

We took the opportunity to recognise their resilience and character in overcoming what have been extremely challenging circumstances, due to the impact the pandemic has had on their learning. The event also gave staff and students the opportunity to look back fondly on shared memories from their past five years at Northolt High School.

A letter from Ms Budd outlining the arrangements for Year 11 students during the remainder of the Summer Term can be found [here](#).

We wish all our year 11s the very best and are looking forward to welcoming them back into our 6th form in September.



PRIDE

COURAGE

RESPECT

Springpod – Careers and Guidance



Take control of your future

Meet Springpod. The careers platform where you can experience the world of work & university before you apply.

Here at Northolt High School we are promoting a fantastic careers platform called SPRINGPOD.

This is aimed at students from **year 10 to 13** and is a portal giving students the opportunity to experience virtual work experience, apprenticeships and resources linked to universities.

Young people showing initiative and taking charge of their own futures is becoming more and more important following the Covid pandemic and this is a great way for students to access big companies and top universities.

You can create an account in a few simple steps [here](#). Springpod recently featured on SKY News. You can watch this news clip [here](#).



Community Sports Trust

PL Kicks Football Development Trials

Would your child like to play for Brentford Football Club Development Centre? Free trials are being held on Wednesday 2nd June for any young person who is currently in years 7 to 11.

Venue: **Springwest Academy, Browells Lane, Feltham, TW13 7EF**

Players will participate in a two-hour training session consisting of 45 minutes of technical practices and one hour of conditioned small-sided games and places are strictly limited.

If your child is successful, they will be invited to attend weekly football development training from Wednesday 9th June 2021, 5:30-7pm at Springwest Academy. Find more information and [register here](#)



Jack Petchey Speak Out workshop

This week we held our re-arranged Speak Out workshop with a selection of our Year 10 students, funded by the wonderful Jack Petchey Foundation.

The workshop aims to increase confidence and to take students out of their comfort zone when it comes to public speaking, taking them through a series of exercises and culminating in them writing and presenting a speech of their own on a topic of their choice. The best speakers and speeches go into a borough wide, and then potentially a national competition, You may recall reading in our school newsletter about our student, Jerry, who won the Ealing Borough competition last year.

This year's workshop was also a huge success with students. Once they had overcome their initial nerves, they produced and delivered powerful speeches on topics that they were passionate about. These included the consequences of teenage crime, Islamophobia, the dangers of stereotypes, and the damaging body image ideals promoted by social media.

Our four finalists will take part in a series of school assemblies. Our school community will then select our school winner who will represent us in next year's borough final, which we'll be hosting in January 2022. Watch this space for details of our borough finalist.

If you would like any further information about the workshop or the Jack Petchey Foundation, please visit their [website](#).

Financial support for families over May half term



Parents and Carers of students in receipt of free school meals should have received [this letter](#) from Ealing council.

The letter outlines the council's financial support for families over the May half term. If families have any questions about the scheme, please [find more information here](#).

Mental health support phone line

[Speak CAMHS helpline](#) is support for children who live in Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham, or Hounslow.

Any child or young person, parents and carers or professionals who are concerned about a child's mental health can call this helpline for advice, support and guidance.

The helpline is open:

Monday to Friday from 8am to 11pm

Weekends and Bank holidays from midday to 8pm

Outside these hours, crisis calls will be passed to an out of hours CAMHS professional. If they're not available to talk straight away, you can arrange a call back.



Reminder: Remote Learning Day – Monday 7th June

A reminder for all families that the Monday after half term is a remote learning day for all students. Teachers will set lessons on Google Classroom for students to complete. Please note; there won't be live lessons as we have done in the past as teachers will be busy on this day with the process of awarding grades to students in Years 11 and 13.



Please check with your child that they are confident with accessing their Google Classroom account this week and let us know at help@northolthigh.org.uk if you need any assistance

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.