

Northolt High School newsletter



Friday 30th April 2021

Page 1 of 4

Committed to excellence

Changes to school calendar

This year, schools are responsible for awarding grades to students in Year 11 and 13 in the absence of formal examinations. The final assessments begin next week. Once students have completed assessments, we have put in place much more complex arrangements than usual to support us in marking these, as required by the examination boards. For example, students' papers will not be marked by their class teachers (this helps us to ensure that there is no bias). Once marked, papers will then be checked and moderated by other staff for accuracy. The final work will be to consider all the pieces of assessment which will be counting towards the grade and for teachers to make a judgement about which grades to award.

I am sure that you will appreciate that this process needs to be taken very seriously by our teaching team as students' grades depend on it. In a normal year, we prepare students to sit examinations which are then posted off to external examiners to mark, moderate and eventually grade. This year we are responsible for setting the papers, marking, moderating and grading ourselves.

Our teaching staff need some additional time in order to complete this work and so we are proposing the following changes to our school calendar:

- Students will have a **late start to school on Wednesday 19th May and Thursday 27th May**. They will **start school at 10.30am**, going straight to a shortened period 1 lesson for that day. This will give our teachers some additional time to mark the Year 11 and 13 assessments.
- On **Monday 7th June** (the first day after half term), there will be **no onsite lessons**. Teachers will set lessons on Google Classroom for students to complete, with no live element. This will allow teachers to spend time in departments moderating and standardising Year 11 and 13 students' work ready for us to submit the grades later that week.

I apologise for this disruption to our school calendar and hope that you understand the importance of us making sure that our grading process is robust and accurate for our students.

I hope to see some of you at our New Building Consultation Event next week (see page 3 for details) and would also like to say Eid Murabak to our Muslim families who will be celebrating next week.

Ms Budd, Headteacher

Upcoming Dates for your Diary

- **Wednesday 12 May** – New Building Consultation Event (more details found in this newsletter)
- **Monday 10 May – Wednesday 9 June** – Year 11 Assessment Window
- **Monday 17 May – Thursday 10 June** – Year 13 Assessment Window
- **Thursday 20 May** – Year 9 Parents' Evening
- **Thursday 10 June** – Year 10 Parents' Evening
- **Friday 28 May** – Last Day of Half Term
- **Wednesday 21 July** – Last Day of Summer Term



Seizing opportunity

Instilling ambition

Realising potential

PSHCE Curriculum Update

Our students are incredibly lucky to have a dedicated PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education) lesson each week, which is taught in their form groups by their form tutor. This lesson provides a fantastic opportunity for students to learn about topics which might not be covered in their other lessons such as health and wellbeing, politics and current affairs, staying safe, and relationships and families, along with many others!



At the moment, our year 7 and 8 students are learning all about citizenship and community. Year 7 are learning about tolerance and respect in our community and the impact it has and Year 8 are currently learning about social issues in the community and how events of the past year could have had a damaging impact on different areas of society. They are going to be taking part in an inter-form competition to support a chosen charity in any way they can (in light of current restrictions). We look forward to seeing how students have helped their chosen social issues!

As you already know, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is now a statutory requirement in schools, and our KS4 and 5 students are currently learning all about sex and healthy relationships in their PSHCE lessons. You can find more information about the curriculum and our RSE policy on our website [here](#).

Families we have spoken to have said they would like to talk to their children about the issues raised in RSE at home but are not always sure where to get advice and information from. We have therefore published the lesson content for Years 9, 10 and 11 on our website [here](#) with links to specific information about the topics. You may also find the links below helpful.



[Here](#) you can find a useful guide for parents from the NSPCC on talking about relationships, sex and consent.

[Here](#) you will find some information from childline about contraception and safe sex



[Here](#) you will find advice from Brook for young people and their families on sex and relationships.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to discuss our PSHCE curriculum further.

Miss Whalley
Subject Leader for Humanities and PSHCE
dwhalley@northolthigh.org.uk

Consultation on our New Building Project!

In very exciting news for our school and local community, Northolt's new building project is nearly underway!

Northolt High School has had an ambition to build new school buildings for a number of years. These will provide a new and modern educational environment and replace the current school buildings which are old, expensive to maintain and are spread out which means pupils have to spend a lot of time moving between the two ends of the school site.



Our project is at an important point in its progress. We have sold unused school land at Dabbs Hill Lane and have received payment for this. Ealing Council also are committed to funding part of the project. Temporary accommodation to enable us to relocate the Science Department out of the South Building will be installed over the summer. This will enable us to vacate our South Building which in time will be demolished. Our brand new school building will then be constructed on this area of the site.

There is however a shortfall in funding and the school's governors are undertaking a consultation exercise with staff, students, parents, local residents, Ealing Council, the Department for Education and other statutory consultees on the sale of part of the north end of the school site to meet the funding shortfall. This is the only realistic way of obtaining the funding we need as funding is not available from other sources. The sale would be dependent on the school continuing to occupy the north side of the school until the new building is completed. In return for Ealing's financial contribution to the project part of the school site would be transferred to them to build a new special needs school in the future.



We are holding a **virtual public consultation event on 12th May at 6pm**. All staff, students, parents, carers, local residents, and all other 'stake holders' are invited to join our Zoom meeting. Please click [here](#) at 6pm on Wednesday 12th May to join us to hear about the proposal.

You will also be receiving a letter which goes into detail about the project and includes a feedback form for you to let us have your views. If you have any questions before the 12th please do not hesitate to contact me by email on tmckee@northolthigh.org.uk

Mr McKee

New School Project Manager
Northolt High School

The Big Ask



Think **BIG**

Be heard

Take part

The Big Ask

19 April - 19 May

Be part of the largest ever survey of young people in England!

We will use what you tell us, to show the Government what you need to live happier lives

thebigask.uk

Children's COMMISSIONER

The Big Ask is a survey for all children and young people aged 4–17 in England.

This is a chance for children and young people to have their say on the things that matter to them. They can share what their life is like, what they want in the future, and anything they think is holding them back.

The Children's Commissioner will collate responses and feed these back to local and national government, recommending what she thinks needs to change to make children's lives better. Please watch [this video](#) for more information.

The survey has been split into different age groups, so children and young people can fill in a version appropriate for their age. There are also easy-read 'accessible' versions as well as a version for parents to share their views.

[Complete the Big Ask survey](#) - it should only take 5-10 minutes. Students have all also been emailed a link to the survey to complete.

A note about Year 11 Assessments

Our Year 11 students start their final May assessments next week which will provide teachers with further evidence to help inform their final grades. To reduce the risk of bias, and in order to **ensure objectivity**, we are taking the following steps:

- Students will be asked to write their assessment number on their answer paper and not their name.
- Papers will be assessed without the student's identity being known to the marker.
- In subjects that have more than one teacher papers will not be assessed by their regular teacher.

We want our Year 11 students to approach these assessments positively and to view them as an opportunity to shine by demonstrating all the subject skills and knowledge they have acquired. Best of luck Year 11!

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.