

## Our learning moves online

Monday's announcement by the Prime Minister that our country is in a new national lockdown will have caused very many of you great concern. Thank you for your support as we rapidly adjusted our plans to move all of our students' learning online.

Those of you who were with us last academic year in the lockdown situation will see on page 2 that the arrangements we've made for students' learning are different this year. We are asking our students to follow their normal timetables and our teachers to be available to support students in 'live' time during these lessons. Our aim is to improve students' engagement in their learning from home and to be able to better support them.

Why have we taken this approach? Well, the Department for Education have researched how well young people engaged in home learning during last year's lockdown. The Department has raised a concern that not enough young people were able to study for an appropriate amount of time last year and also that teachers were not providing sufficient feedback to students and parents about their work. For this reason, the Department for Education has issued a legal requirement that schools provide online lessons, including live or video content.

Online lessons like this can obviously not be posted home, which was what we did last year for families who did not have access to computer or ICT devices. 25% of parents/carers have informed us that your children currently don't have a device. I have today launched a fundraising campaign by writing to major companies in Ealing and London, asking them to support with donations so that we can rectify this. To date, we have received 50 laptops from the Department for Education, which have already been distributed, along with 30 laptops belonging to us. We have requested a further 150. We will do everything we can to support you to ensure that your children have appropriate devices to work from. For now, we have explained to students that our Google for Education platform can be accessed via:

- Mobile telephones
- Playstations
- Xboxes.

Please encourage your children to use these options in the first instance. We are also posting home some paper based work for all students next week, so students will have work to be getting on with while we resolve this issue. The most important thing you can do now is to encourage your child to carry on learning in the best way that they possibly can.

In other news, as you can see from the photograph, we have now set up our coronavirus testing centre in the North Hall. I'm very grateful to Ms Pott and Ms Naccour who have led on this. All staff have been trained and Mr Price had a 'test test' this afternoon (thankfully this was negative). We will begin our routine testing programme next week.



Ms Budd - Headteacher

## Remote Learning: The Northolt Way

It is vitally important that our students continue to learn during the national lockdown. At Northolt High School, we will continue to use Google Classroom to share our lesson materials and this time we are introducing a live element called Google Meet.



From **Monday 11th January**, students are being asked to log on to Google Meet, via their Google Calendar, for the first five to ten minutes of their lesson, so that they can have some contact time with their teacher.

To enable our remote learning to be successful, we have developed a draft protocol called [Remote Learning: The Northolt Way](#). This draft protocol details what students, teachers and parents can/should do during remote learning and how we can support each other.

I would very much welcome any comments or suggestions about our draft remote learning protocol. Please read the draft and contact me at [lmathews@northolthigh.org.uk](mailto:mathews@northolthigh.org.uk) if you have any questions or suggestions about the draft by Thursday 14th January.

I realise that there is a lot of information to take in at the moment, so you might find [this short video](#) useful- it is about Remote Learning: The Northolt Way- and takes you through how to use Google Classroom and Google Meet.

Finally, thank you very much in advance for your help and support in keeping learning going whilst our students are at home.

Mr Mathews - Deputy Headteacher.

## Online Safety Toolkit for Parents

With children having to spend more time online, parents and carers, please find [here](#) advice and practical tips around keeping children safe while at home on line.



## Students in school during lockdown

While of course the aim of the national lockdown is to keep everyone in their homes, a small number of our students are still coming into school each day to learn onsite. We have written to you if we have offered your child a place. Places are open to children of [critical workers](#) and students who are classified as [vulnerable](#). If we have not contacted you and you think that your child should be learning in school, please contact us on our [help@northolthigh.org.uk](mailto:help@northolthigh.org.uk) email address.

## Covid-19 symptoms

For students in school our Covid procedures remain the same.

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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## What students have, and will be doing, in Music

Year seven students have completed the singing and vocals skills scheme of learning for the Autumn term and are now working on Baroque music. As part of this scheme of learning, students will be introduced to the great composers of the Baroque era, the influence their compositions had on society and thought as well as learning to play or compose a piece of Baroque music. Students will use Bandlab - which is a web-based composition software - to complete their work.



Year eight students have completed the Hip Hop scheme of learning last term in which they learned about the circumstances in which the genre of music came into existence. In addition to this, students also learned about the great composers, compositions and the impact the genre has had on society as a whole. Year eight students are now working on the elements of music where they will develop their compositional skills using Bandlab.



Year nine students are studying music in preparation for a level two certification in music - based on the RSL specification. This term, students will learn about music for the stage through an exploration of musical styles, genres and particularly how the music is used to develop mood and context. Students will also be composing their own works using Bandlab and with the intention for it to be used for stage.

Year ten students have learned about vocal music and music for stage in the Autumn term and are now working on compositions using Bandlab focussing specifically on scales and tonalities. Students will have the option to choose the genre or style of music they wish to compose but will be ensuring they stick to the strict guidelines set out in the scheme of learning. Once students have completed their compositions, they will create a presentation of why it should be published or released commercially which will help them ascertain what the music industry is like.

Year 11 students are working on their controlled assessment this term. As part of this, they will be required to investigate and research innovation in music and then learn how to use these innovations in their compositions. Students will initially use Bandlab to begin their work and then will progress onto CakeWalk for the more advanced aspects of this scheme of learning. Students have worked very hard up until this point by completing an assignment in the autumn term on two genres of music and are very excited about this controlled assessment.

Mr Wasiq – Subject Leader for Music

## Staying Healthy

Physical activity is really important for us all and is known to have a positive impact on our mental health. Please encourage your child to participate as fully as possible in online PE lessons – but we'd suggest not leaving it at that. At Northolt High School, a number of staff were inspired by Joe Wicks' PE lessons last year (you can see his YouTube channel [here](#)). Congratulations to Ms Weeks who has recently graduated from his 90 day plan! She has inspired many other staff members who have signed up to Joe Wicks, [Couch to 5K](#) and more. For support with mental health at this time, please see the links on our website [here](#).



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## Our Non-Uniform Day Charity Success



Thank you to all students and families who contributed money for our Non-Uniform Charity collection.

The school community raised £458 which we will split equally between Save the Children and Northolt student – Jerry Ndi's collection towards his charitable efforts.

You can also continue to support Jerry's charity campaign through his GoFundMe campaign [here](#).



# £458

## Social Worker in School Project



We are delighted to inform you that Northolt High school has been selected to take part in a pilot project which has been funded by the Department for Education.

The project involves working with the London Borough of Ealing to review the possible benefits of placing a Social Worker in the school, for students, families and teachers.

Our Social Worker, whose name is Janine James, will be based on site and will be involved in working with the school staff to actively promote and support social and emotional wellbeing for students and families.

Janine will be around for informal chats, open to all students and also to parents/carers and will also be available to meet with any student or family members virtually.

The project will run until July 2021 and will be assessed and monitored by the University of Cardiff to determine if there are any positive benefits for students and families in having a Social Worker in the school. If positive outcomes are identified, there is possibility that the Department for Education will fund a Social worker position for schools across England.

As part of their research, the University of Cardiff may want to speak with students and families engaged in some of the Social Workers activities. You may be asked if you would like to participate in giving your views. The school and Ealing Children's social care will ensure you are notified well in advance.

Should you have any queries or questions about this project, or would like to speak with Janine directly, please contact Ms Callie Marsh, our Designated Safeguarding Lead.



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