



LEARN, ACHIEVE, LEAD
AT NORLINGTON MIXED 6TH FORM

Norlington 6th Form Newsletter

27th March 2020

Dear Year 12 and 13,

It would appear that while the UK is obsessed with buying toilet roll and dried pasta, as a young person you are likely to be concerned for very different reasons.

Most importantly, please follow the government's advice regarding **social distancing** to reduce the spread of the virus so the NHS can cope. In the coming weeks, the priority of all of us should be to keep safe, look after our families and help in any way we can within the community to protect lives and support NHS workers on the frontline.

If you have questions about calculated grades, exams, UCAS , studying, next steps - anything really, email me. The only question I am not allowed to comment on is about specific subject predicted grades, as it will compromise the process being drawn up by the Department for Education (DfE) and exam boards. Remember, myself and your tutors are here for you, if needed, via email.

Stay safe, Stay well, Stay home.





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Accessing School Work

Norlington Portal is the main platform for accessing school work from your subject teachers. Please log in regularly. We are aware that some teachers are also using **Google Classroom**, **Moodle** and **Twitter** to post work to you. If you have any difficulties accessing school work, please email me and your subject teachers.

Attached to this email is a wide range of websites and activities that you can use to support your independent study of each of your subjects at home.

Latest information from the Department of Education

What we do know....?

- All **AS**, **A level** and **CTEC exams** for the Summer 2020 series have been cancelled.
- Year 13 students will have A level / CTEC '**calculated grades**' from teacher assessments, whole-school historic achievement and individual student's prior attainment. The 'calculated grades' will be **moderated externally** by exam boards to ensure the grade distribution follows a similar pattern to previous years so that no student is disadvantaged in these extraordinary circumstances. **Please remember that the grade teachers submit is not guaranteed to be the grade you receive. It is only one piece of information that exam boards will use to calculate your grade. Teachers are not allowed to discuss these grades with you as it will compromise the process being drawn up by the Department for Education (DfE) and exam boards.**
- Year 13 'calculated grades' are expected to be released before the **end of July 2020**.
- **Year 13** students studying for **AS exams** will also be awarded a calculated grade.
- Year 13 students will have the opportunity to sit an **exam** as soon as it is reasonably possible after schools and colleges open again. There is also the option of taking exams **in 2021** if you are unhappy with your 'calculated grade'.



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What information we are still waiting to hear...?

- **Dates** of the 2021 exams – we still await information about when and how this can happen for those who opt to take an exam, if unhappy with their calculated grade.
- If students opt to sit **exams**, will these grades override any Summer 2020 'calculated grades'? e.g. if students opt for an exam in 2021 and the result is lower than the 'calculated grade' – which grade would stand?
- **A Level** and **CTEC** coursework. Centres are continuing with coursework, as we have not received any information on this.

Norlington School and 6th Form Advice

- All Year 12 students need to complete work set by their teachers. End of Year 12 exams will be taken once the school reopens. If you do not access the support currently being provided by your teachers and do not complete the work set, then you will not have a secure understanding of Year 12 work and risk having to repeat Year 12.
- All Year 13 students keep working at home to **study / revise the subject specifications**, in case you opt to sit the exams.
- All A Level and CTEC students continue with **coursework**.
- Year 12 EPQ students need to complete the online EPQ course (<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/epq-success>) and begin planning their projects. I will shortly provide further guidance on this.
- All Year 13 students undertake **wider reading** to prepare for University undergraduate courses. Look up the Year 1 content for your chosen university course and start reading around the topics. More advice to follow on this.

Be reassured that Norlington 6th Form will provide as much **support** as we can over the coming period.

Link to Government and exam board guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>



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6th Form Bursary Payments

Bursary payments will still be made each month. Cheques will be posted to your home address. If you are currently staying at a different address, please let me know so we can post the cheque to an alternative address.

UCAS Information

Year 13

To Firm & Insure your university's offers, the original deadline of 5th May has been extended by two weeks to the **new deadline of 19th May**. This will give you more time to consider all your options and information available.

Many universities are now hosting a series of **live link ups** and a variety of other ways to keep in touch and support their prospective students. This includes support on a variety of topics and providing study techniques and activities to help applicants prepare for University. Please visit your intended university websites and explore all the fantastic resources available to you.

Year 12

It is pleasing to hear so many of you are working hard and already submitting work to a high standard. It is worth noting that teachers will soon be writing your **individual UCAS subject references** which will make up your Tutor Reference on your UCAS application and I am sure they will consider your aptitude to independent learning (a key university skill). Keep up the good work.



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Useful links to support your Health & Wellbeing

Physical Activities:

<https://www.sportengland.org/stayinworkout>

Mindfulness and Meditation:

https://www.ted.com/talks/andy_puddicombe_all_it_takes_is_10_mindful_minutes

<https://www.headspace.com>

Mental Health Support:

Young Minds: <https://youngminds.org.uk>

Kooth: <https://www.kooth.com>

Interested in trying out a bit of theatre?

Theatre tickets are often expensive but every Thursday at 7pm on YouTube the National Theatre is allowing free access to a performance filmed on stage live (at the time). Check out April 02 'One man, Two Guvnors'. Funny and uplifting starring James Corden from Gavin and Stacey fame. If you need a gentle introduction into theatre, this is the play for you! A family play, too.

https://www.timeout.com/london/news/the-national-theatre-is-going-to-stream-a-free-play-every-thursday-night-032620?fbclid=IwAR2Be-fswn9x_61safdxChshrtT87xVNEXa2QyjAHBfHC0Adp9feH26pSwk



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Thought of the Week

Students are like footballers now- just because there are no games doesn't mean they stop training! School students are not the only people who are caught in this limbo. For example, you are all now in the same position as professional footballers!

All football activity has been suspended until further notice, but players have been told to remain professional and to follow their training programmes for however long they may be isolated.

Les Ferdinand, Director of Football at our nearest League club, Queens Park Rangers, has this to say: "We have given specific training and nutrition programmes to the players. We keep reiterating to the players '**this is not a holiday; this is not a break.**' Unfortunately, you are not allowed to come into the training ground, but you are professional athletes. You need to **keep yourself in condition** to be able to hit the ground running again. We all know that if you are off for a certain amount of time, at the end of the season, when you come back you will need a six-week period to get yourselves back up to speed. But this is **not** a period where we have said 'go home, put your feet up and relax'.

The players are **expected to do something every day** to keep themselves ticking over so when we do go back in, we will have missed a couple of games, but they shouldn't need a full pre-season to resume playing football again. We'll test them when they come back and hopefully, they realise they **need to be professional** enough to take it on board."

You need to be as professional as you can be by continuing to study.

Although we can't imagine this right now, we will eventually return to some kind of normality. We don't know exactly when that will be, but it will happen, and we must remember this because it gives all of us a reason to keep going and look forward to the future.

That's it for this issue. Watch out for the next newsletter on Friday 3rd April. I'm off to learn how to use Houseparty!

Mr. Wadey