



LEARN, ACHIEVE, LEAD
AT NORLINGTON MIXED 6TH FORM

Norlington 6th Form Newsletter – Edition 14

17th July 2020

As we enter the final few days of the Summer term, I would like to thank our Year 12 and 13 students for their attitude and approach during this past term.

Year 12 students continue to engage with their lessons and teachers in a positive and mature manner which has been fantastic to see. Students have also attended their end of Year 12 assessments for each subject and it has been wonderful to see every single Year 12 student come in! I want to stress the importance of reading Year 12 into 13 sections of the newsletter, outlining the processes you will be embarking on. There are also key dates flagged such as the deadlines for your UCAS applications!

Year 13 students will be collecting their results in August and it is important to remember that there will be doors open for you no matter the outcome. Please ensure you read the process of Results Day (below) carefully as it outlines exactly what to expect and what you will be able to do.

As we approach the summer holidays, I want to thank each and every one of you for your hard work and for the way so many have approached your learning during these different times.

I look forward to welcoming our new Year 12 and Year 13s back in person in the near future, as well as seeing our current Year 13 on Results Day. Have a relaxed and restful summer when it arrives, you all deserve it.

Take care everybody.

Mr. Wadey, Head of 6th Form



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Year 11: Norlington 6th Form's Virtual A Level Transition Day 2020

Norlington 6th Form's **Virtual A Level Transition Day 2020** took place on **Friday 10th July** for all of the Year 11 students who have applied for a place in Year 12 this September. Due to COVID-19, we were unable to host this event in the normal way, but instead it all happened online.

In case you missed it.....

You should begin by watching this video first which will explain how the event is organised:

<https://www.loom.com/share/b0151459083540d0bdf445ae28638300>

The Google Drive where all the videos and transition material can be found is here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17Uj12Jx7VIdjGMEMclH3kg5Ql5vje7l-?usp=sharing>

This is not a live event and you will have access to all videos and transition material from now until September which means you do not have to watch all the videos in one go. Feel free to take a break in between and come back to them when you need to.

I hope you enjoy the event and that, even though you can't physically be there, you get a feeling of what it would be like if you joined us in Year 12 this September.

The Weekly Quiz

The last weekly quiz of this academic year is an End of Year Review and will test your knowledge of the past year's news. To take the quiz, follow the instructions below:

1. Download the app 'Socrative Student' or [CLICK HERE](#) to be taken to the web page
2. Enter the Room Code: **WADEY3968**
3. Enter your full name
4. Answer the questions that appear. Most are multiple-choice, but for those which require a written answer you must spell correctly in order to be marked correct





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Leavers 2020

It has been a time of great uncertainty for our Year 13 students, and I want to take this opportunity to commend all 2020 leavers on the mature way they have conducted themselves over the past few months. We are all incredibly proud of the fantastic achievements of all our students.

I want to reassure students and parents that, although the process for awarding grades may be different, the admissions process to confirm students' places will remain broadly similar to previous years. All applicants will be treated fairly and consistently, as they are in any other year.

On A Level results day, the 6th Form Team will be available during the whole day to support both parents and students.

Leavers be prepared for August 2020!

We will be giving out the A Level and CTEC results in Cabin 1 from 8.30am on Thursday 13th August and students will have access to computers in G29 to get onto the UCAS website. A letter will be sent out with further information regarding results.

Over the summer, students should ensure that they keep their details up to date on UCAS Track as their university may wish to contact them. Please ensure that addresses, email addresses and phone numbers are correct, and we would also encourage students to ensure that they have a note of their Track username, password and Personal ID over the summer. It is especially important that students bring all this information with them on results day, as well as contact details for their Firm and Insurance offers.





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Results Day:

UCAS Track will not be available to applicants until 8:00am on 13th August. Applicants are advised not to try to access UCAS Track at midnight on 12th 13th August—no information will be available until the morning. So get a good night's sleep....!!

Hopefully, you will get the exam grades that you need, but if you just miss out, the university may accept you anyway. Possible outcomes are:

1. You are offered a place at your Firm or Insurance choice, depending on exam results.
2. You might be offered an alternative by the university - a "changed course offer" (which you need to accept or decline)
3. You may not get your place but can search through Clearing for courses which have vacancies. For the first time this year, students looking for a place through clearing will be presented with a personalised list of available courses. 'Clearing Plus' will match unplaced applicants to relevant courses with vacancies. Anyone with a confirmed place on results day who change their mind can also now release themselves into Clearing to see their matches.

For more information go to:

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/results-confirmation-and-clearing/what-clearing#faqs>

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/advice-parents-and-guardians/clearing-guide-parents>

Clearing will also still be available in the traditional way. Any places on courses that universities haven't managed to fill are listed on the UCAS website and these can be found via their search tool - where you can browse vacancies according to subject, location or university. The official and up to date Clearing vacancies are published on the UCAS website from 5th July and in The Telegraph on 13th August. It is also published in The Telegraph newspaper just before results day. *It is advisable to bring along a copy of The Telegraph on results day for easy reference.*

Be aware that universities will identify spaces 2 – 3 days before this and will generally publish them on their websites. Students should contact universities in the first instance to secure a place in Clearing and then confirm it directly with UCAS. The impact on students collecting results is that if they are unsuccessful in their Firm and Insurance choices, they need to dedicate time for the Clearing process and ensure they do not delay in doing so.



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Rest assured that should you be in the position of being in Clearing, we will be available to help you through the process.

4. If you have done better than expected and exceeded your conditional Firm offer you might be curious about courses with higher entry requirements. If so, you can use UCAS Adjustment service. Again, support will be available on the day to help you through this process. For more information go to www.ucas.com/adjustment

It is really important that students are in school for Results Day on 13th August. It is much easier to deal with UCAS and universities with the support of the 6th Form Team and parents, rather than trying to call from somewhere remote! If a student is unavoidably absent, they need to brief the named person they listed on their UCAS application form as “Nominated Access”. Data protection means that UCAS staff, admissions experts and other advisers are unable to talk in depth to unauthorised parties. Once you have secured your place at university, your confirmation letter should appear in UCAS Track five to seven days after your place is confirmed (your letter is not emailed or posted to you). Make sure you check your confirmation letter carefully - it will say if there is anything else that you may need to do. Please note that this summer the standard JCQ post-results services such as Access to Scripts, reviews of marking and reviews of moderation will not apply.

Preparing for Results Day

To support Year 13s this Results Day, University Search UK have teamed up with a range of universities from across the UK to offer a series of Results Day Webinars. All of these webinars are completely free of charge, and different universities will be featured every day with advice for you about predicted grades, Results Day and Clearing. Each webinar will also feature a live Q&A session so you can ask any questions you have directly to universities and receive a response.

Monday 10 August: Predicted Grades - Everything you Need to Know

Tuesday 11 August: Results Day Guide

Wednesday 12 August: Clearing, Adjustment and Deferrals

These webinars are expected to book up quickly, so don't wait to sign up. You can sign up to these webinars and view more information about the webinars by [CLICKING HERE](#).



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Year 12 in Year 13

For parents and students, the university and UCAS process may seem a little daunting. Both UCAS and Norlington 6th Form can provide full support for both!

Support for Parents:

The guide below contains everything you need to support your child with their higher education choices:

[Parent, Guardian and Carer Guide 2020](#)

The UCAS website also has a dedicated Parents' page with lots of useful information. You can sign up for their monthly UCAS newsletter and access a handy 'parent information tool' to guide you through the application process, so you can stay up to date with what your child needs to do and when.

[UCAS advice for parents and guardians](#)

In school support:

All of the presentations and resources we have delivered to students can be found on the UCAS and Apprenticeship Google Classroom which all of our Year 12 students have joined. The focus of tutor time throughout the Autumn term of the next academic year will be on supporting the students with the application process and the writing of their Personal Statements.

University visits:

More and more universities are offering virtual open/applicant events. Of course, it is always preferable to visit a university in person. However, in the current climate, the next best thing is a virtual open day, which still offers the chance to speak to students/staff and do tours of the institution and city. There are also a variety of virtual taster sessions, webinars and summer schools on offer to help students in their decision-making process and get a feel for what is best for them.

We recommend that students attend as many of these online events as possible prior to and over the summer holiday as, once they return in September, the university process will speed up considerably alongside their A Level study.

If you are searching for university events the following websites are a good starting point:

UCAS tool: <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/events/find?keywords=events>

Uni Taster Days: <https://www.unitasterdays.com/search.aspx>



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Unibuddy:

Unibuddy is a new online tool that gives students access to students at your preferred university, so you can chat about their first-hand experiences: [Unibuddy tool](#)

During the summer holidays:

There is plenty that students can be doing over the summer break in order to ensure they are fully prepared for their UCAS applications being sent off.

Firstly, they should be completing their online application with a view to having 90% completed on their return to school in September. Students started the application form on 17th June within their in school UCAS session, and students can continue to complete and update their applications throughout the summer.

Secondly, students should continue to work on their Personal Statement. We gave guidance on this essential task during the second and third in school UCAS sessions. The presentation the students received on Personal Statement writing can be found on Norlington's UCAS Google Classroom.

We have recommended that students should aim to produce a first draft of their statement before the end of the summer term, which will allow them access to prompt feedback from their teachers, form tutors and myself. Students can also send their draft to Mr Wadey or Mr. Wilson over the summer break for feedback (via email).

Students can use the next few months to continue researching universities and courses offered using UCAS Course search and the University websites. Students may also want to research career and apprenticeship opportunities.

The UCAS Career Finder tool allows students to think ahead and research work and training opportunities, including:

- Work experience
- Apprenticeships
- Placement schemes
- Insight and taster days
- Employer-sponsored degrees

Sign up to UCAS Career Finder at <https://careerfinderucas.com>

We will continue to keep students up to date with relevant information and timelines. Parents and students can also sign up for regular updates on the UCAS website: <https://www.ucas.com/get-updates-ucas>



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Should you have any questions about the university process please do not hesitate to contact:
Mr Wilson – UCAS Coordinator, jwilson@norlington.school
Mr Wadey- Head of 6th Form, cwadey@norlington.school

Key UCAS Application Dates

Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary and other early applications to be submitted to Mr Wilson, via UCAS, by **27th September 2020**. All other applications to be submitted to Mr. Wilson, via UCAS, by **15th November 2020** as a final deadline.

It is worth noting that we check all UCAS applications and references thoroughly; this process can take up to two weeks. Therefore, when a student pays and presses the 'send' button, they are sending it to the 6th Form Team and need to factor in that it could take up to two weeks for their application to reach UCAS.

We do process all applications as quickly as possible. It is also worth being aware that if any errors are picked up on applications, we cannot change them— we have to send the application back to the student for them to make any amendments and then send it back to us. It is essential that students regularly check both their UCAS account and their email accounts.

Apprenticeships

For students who would like to apply apprenticeship after their A Levels, there are several things you can also be doing over the summer holidays.

Things to do now:

Start putting together a cracking CV and thinking about your employability skills. You should complete the EtonX CV Writing Skills online course which you have exclusive free access to until the end of July- more details of this are written later in the newsletter.

Research opportunities:

Use these websites to kickstart your apprenticeship research.

[Amazing Apprenticeships](#)

[Getmyfirstjob](#)

[Ratemyapprenticeship](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

[Notgoingtouni](#)



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Clic is an online community here to support everyone with their mental health.

Clic believe that no one needs to be lonely or isolated during these difficult times and beyond. Through Clic, we are here for you around the clock. Join us today and connect with others for mutual support, share your thoughts and find helpful information.

Why Clic?

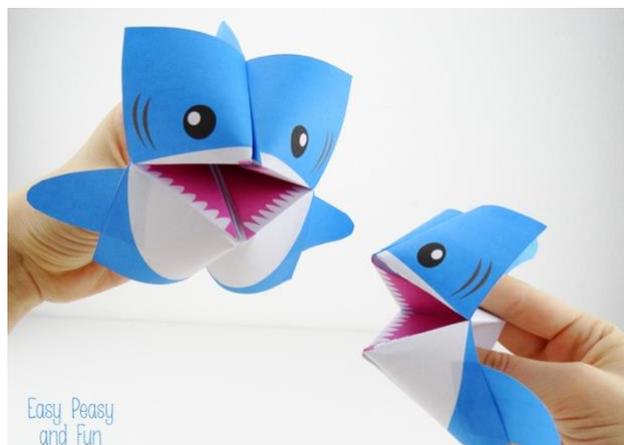
- 24/7 community support
- Free for everyone
- UK-wide

[CLICK HERE](#) to join the Clic community.

Clic

Mr. Wilson's Joke of the Week

"I find the advantages of easy origami are two-fold"





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Creative Competitions

Want the chance to show off your creativity? Here is a list of competitions that you can enter.

CREATIVE WRITING INK	Write a piece in any genre	Rolling deadline (every 2 months)	https://creativewritingink.co.uk/writing-prompts/
YOUNG MUSLIM WRITERS AWARD	Short Story Poetry Journalism Screenplay Play script based on any theme	13 th August 2020	https://muslimwritersawards.submittable.com/submit
SAVE AS WRITERS INTERNATIONAL WRITING COMPETITION	Short stories Poetry based on a theme of post apocalypse (entry fees £3/poem and £4/short story)	31 st August 2020	https://www.saveaswriters.co.uk/competitions/post-apocalypse.html
YOUNG WRITER'S SHORT STORY COMPETITION	Short story in any genre	31 ST August 2020	http://www.outletpublishinggroup.com/2019/11/26/young-writers-short-story-competition-2019-2020/
THE MOTH NATURE WRITING PRIZE	Prose fiction, non-fiction or poetry based on an exploration of the writer's relationship with the natural world	15 th September 2020	https://www.themothmagazine.co.uk/mothnature/story1.asp
YOUNG WALTER SCOTT PRIZE FOR HISTORICAL FICTION	Prose Poetry Drama, Fictional diaries Letters or reportage based on the past	31 st September 2020	https://www.walterscottprize.co.uk/young-walter-scott-prize/

Let us know if you get shortlisted or win something!

That's it for this academic year! I wish all students and families a restful summer, and all students who are collecting GCSE or A Level Results the very best of luck!