



NORTON NEWS

Norton College Newsletter Issue 2

A message from our leader...

This Autumn academic term has flown by. I am still reeling over the amazing academic success of our students in the summer in GCSE, functional skills, and vocational examinations. We should all be extremely proud of their achievements. We even had students achieving forklift truck and powerboat qualifications.

This September we had a large intake of new students, who have settled into the ethos and culture of the college remarkably well, and I look forward to watching them engage with their learning journey and reach their full potential in our setting.

I am also very proud of our students who have transitioned from us to six form provisions, colleges or work-place opportunities. We will follow their progress with keen interest as they move forward in their studies or employment.

We continue to develop the wealth of activities which our students can engage with. I am extremely pleased with our links with the Worcester Warriors Community Trust, who are enabling our students to participate in activities at the Sixways Stadium. This week the Trust's coaches are visiting college and are offering a 'wheelchair' rugby experience, which will be very exciting for our students and staff, especially after watching this sport at the Commonwealth games.

Our most recent Ofsted Inspection went very well, with us being graded as good in all areas. This is an exceptional achievement, and something that we will continue to build upon. Can I take this opportunity to thank all the parents that spoke directly to the inspector or who completed the Parent View survey, as always, your feedback is greatly appreciated. We could not work so effectively with our students without your support.

On a sad note, Suzanne Fowler, 'our Sue', one of the senior pastoral team is leaving Norton College at Christmas after being with us for 11 years. Sue has touched the lives of countless students and will be very much missed. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours.



Rod Goold
Head of School

Term Dates

Autumn Term

Friday 16th December Last day of Autumn Term
19th December 2022 — Christmas Holiday
2nd January 2023
Tuesday 3rd January Inset Day

Spring Term

Wednesday 4th January First Day of Spring Term
20th—24th February Spring Half Term Holiday
Friday 31st March Last day of Spring Term

3rd—14th April Easter Holiday
Monday 17th April Inset Day

Summer Term

Tuesday 18th April First day of Summer Term
Monday 1st May Bank Holiday
29th May—2nd June Summer Half Term Holiday
Friday 21st July Last day of Summer Term

After a nervous wait this summer, results day came on 25th August and we are pleased to say we celebrated a record year for student GCSE grades!

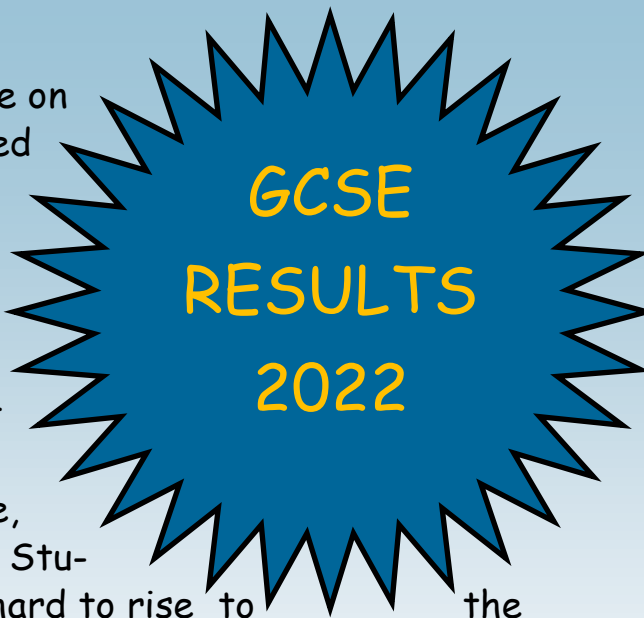
Some students came in to celebrate with teachers and enjoy a chat and a cup of tea before discussing their results and next steps.

It was a happy and emotional day! After a difficult few years in regard to the pandemic, this was the first year formal examination conditions took place, without the need for Teacher Assessment Grades. Students obviously relished this opportunity, worked hard to rise to the challenge and we are extremely proud to have those passes as part of a record achieving year at Norton College!

It is also a sad time as a lot of these students left us in the summer and we wish them all the best with their onward endeavours. We are so proud of what they have achieved in their journey at Norton.

These results will help inspire a lot of other students at the college to believe in themselves and push them on to maximise their academic potential!

Best of luck to all students taking GCSEs in January and all parents/carers should be receiving a letter informing them of upcoming exams by the Christmas break.



2021/22 GCSE Grades

Subject	Grade Achieved									Totals
	Grade 9	Grade 8	Grade 7	Grade 6	Grade 5	Grade 4	Grade 3	Grade 2	Grade 1	
iGCSE Maths	1	-	-	-	2	1	3	3	2	12
iGCSE English	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	7
GCSE Biology	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	5
GCSE Chemistry	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	4
GCSE Physics	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
GCSE Statistics	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	3
Totals	6	1	-	2	5	3	6	6	3	32



I wish you knew that.....

Talking interventions can be very powerful, research has shown that just listening and / or helping a young person to find words for their feelings and emotions can bring stress levels down, feeling understood can help to reduce toxic stress. Empowering a young person to tell their story sets them on a journey of acceptance, self-awareness and emotional and social intelligence.

Young people, just like adults want to be heard, want us to know, want us to ask and want to tell their stories. Students who would like to tell others how they are feeling or would like to reach out to an emotionally available adult, now have an additional way of doing this via our new 'I wish you knew that....' post box. The box can be found in the downstairs unit, with our Mental Health First Aider. Please encourage your children to use this confidential service if they have things they would like us to know and are struggling to voice their thoughts, worries or emotions. The box will be locked and emptied regularly.

Debbie Pribojac

Trauma Informed Schools Practitioner



Norton College Allotment



Paul took over the management of the allotment from September and now you wouldn't recognise it, as he has made massive improvements.

Paul's initial plan was to make the site more child friendly by introducing a gravelled seating area and encouraging the students to help with all the jobs that needed doing.



So far Paul has taught and helped the students to lay a block paved pathway, upgraded the polytunnel, to use as a potting area and after building a log store at college, re-located it to the allotment site.

Students have also helped out pruning trees, collecting apples and with general site maintenance.



They have also sown daffodils ready for spring.

Future plans include growing grape vines up a pagoda (to be built in college), planting vegetables chosen by the students that can then be cooked at college. Watch this space....



PUSH-UPS CHALLENGE

Throughout May members of College staff, led by Matt Bell, undertook the 100 press-ups a day challenge. This was to raise money for cancer research and was supported by college staff and students.

To complete the challenge the staff members had to do 100 push-ups each day throughout May. These could be done in one go or broken down into more manageable chunks. The staff that took part, reported that the physical effort became less as the month went on and they were able to do bigger chunks at each session.



Congratulations to all that took part. We are pleased to say that not only did this surpass the £50 they planned to raise, they achieved £250 towards this great cause.

Rowing challenge—to row 500m as quickly as possible to break in the new rowing machine. So far approx. 25 staff and students have taken part (including Rod). Fin Sandford holds the quickest student time and Connor is currently winning for the staff..

Next week we will be 'Rowing The Channel' - Who will rise to the challenge?



English Update

Students were invited to take part in our 'Write a Rap' competition. It was great to see so many entries, which students had obviously taken the time to create their rap.

It was a very difficult decision, but we chose three winners throughout the College. Congratulations to Cole, Tom and Harry!



In other news, the library has had an update and books have been reorganised to help students find what they are looking for. We have purchased new books and we would like students to offer their own ideas for future book purchases.

There is a suggestions box in the library or alternatively students can speak to their tutors.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

11TH NOVEMBER

Over the past five years, here at Norton College, we have been promoting Remembrance. Everyone knows about the red poppy and its meaning and in the first year of raising money this is what we did. Thereafter, we thought it fitting to bring awareness to specific groups of service personnel who served in WW1, WW2 and other wars such as in Afghanistan. Many ex servicemen and women find themselves in hardship or in need of someone to support them regarding mental health and are often overlooked. The Poppy Appeal helps to address this.

We brought awareness to the purple poppy, LGBTQ+ rainbow poppy, black poppy and white poppy.

During The Great War, millions of horses and mules were killed. Seeing pictures of them stuck in mud, sometimes wearing gas masks, are powerful images. In 1943, the Dickin Medal was inaugurated to acknowledge the work of animals in war. Since then, 34 dogs, 32 messenger pigeons, 4 horses and 1 cat have been awarded this 'animal Victoria Cross'. The medal itself is a bronze medallion, inscribed with the words "For Gallantry" and "We Also Serve".

We remembered too, the LGBTQ+ community with rainbow poppies and the black poppy for black men from across the world who served. It is important that their service is remembered as not only having to serve during conflict, but to be faced with discrimination as well. For example, Alan Turing who broke the German Enigma code, who was later prosecuted because of his sexuality.

This year we promoted the white poppy. This used to be seen in a negative way many years ago, but today this poppy remembers everyone who served and gave their lives as well as promoting peace. With the sale of the knitted poppies and cakes, this year we raised over £165. This was the best year so far for money raised.

Huge thanks to Natalie who knitted the poppies. Each one takes up to four hours to knit and over the past five years she must have knitted over 100! Also, to Gareth for organising the making and sale of cakes. This year, Will (below) spent two days making cakes, they were awesome and sold out very quickly!

Will handing over the money raised from this year's appeal.

He played a key role in making the cakes.

He doesn't look like it, but he was very excited about the whole thing!



PSHE

(Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education)

In April, the PSHE team was completed with the arrival of Dolly and her owner Jodie.

During the Summer Term, students at Norton College Worcester learnt about self-awareness.

This covered personal strengths, skills for learning, prejudice and discrimination and managing pressure.

Dolly, joining Harry during his PSHE lesson.



During the Autumn Term, students have been learning about self-care, support and safety.

Students have learnt, where to get help if they are feeling unwell (mentally or physically), keeping safe online, what to do if they are frightened or worried and some basic first aid.

Pepper, joining Xavier for his PSHE lesson.

In the Spring Term, students will be covering the Managing Feelings unit.

This unit includes self-esteem and unkind comments, strong feelings and romantic feelings. All lessons are taught to an age-appropriate level, therefore older students will cover aspects of this unit differently to our younger students.

The 10th of Oct 2022 was **World Mental Health Day**.

To support this and **Young Minds**, we at Norton College Worcester, decided to wear something yellow to help raise awareness about the mental health struggles that young people have.

Some staff and students wore yellow t shirts, shirts, and jumpers.

Mike wore a very special very bright shirt!

Staff member Jodie and students made some great yellow bracelets, that both students and staff wore.

This encouraged conversation between students and staff about mental health and ways to cope.

The message was "its ok not to be Ok" and that talking about issues can really help. There were quizzes and conversation starter packs to have fun and keep the conversation going.

The good thing is that we at Norton do this anyway, not just on world mental health day.

We also had a just giving page with a target of £100. As I write this, we have reached £200.

Let's end Mental Health Stigma!

HEALTHY MINDS
'I'm Wearing Yellow
Day'



Science: Engagement Sessions

Within the science department we are developing science engagement sessions for our younger students, to build an interest in the sciences. Over the next term there will be weekly science engagement sessions for students, to add a fun twist to science. These will include exciting activities such as:

- Living Eggs
- Microwave Science
- Bottle Rockets
- Combustibles

A message to all parents...

Plases can I ask for your support in reminding students not to have energy drinks or the new Prime drink prior to being transported in the morning, or from bringing them onto the college site for consumption through the day.

We pride ourselves in trusting students to have their mobile phones in their possession whilst in college. Could you remind students that they are not to take photographs or videos whilst in college. We are continually highlighting online safety to students, could parents support us in ensuring students keep themselves safe at all times and only share things with peers that are of an age-appropriate content.

Rod Goold
Head of School

Congratulations to Conrad, Leo and Jacob who won prizes in last term's word search competition. We were overwhelmed by the number of responses we had and were pleased to award these students for their participation.



Careers

A	R	E	R	E	Y	W	A	L	C	R	Y	D	P
R	E	N	O	Y	B	L	C	I	R	N	O	O	T
T	B	A	R	C	U	T	S	F	E	R	A	C	P
S	M	I	F	R	T	T	R	E	S	O	T	T	A
I	U	C	A	E	C	N	E	G	S	T	E	O	I
R	L	I	R	S	H	A	B	U	E	C	C	R	N
O	P	S	M	R	E	T	R	A	R	A	H	S	T
L	N	U	E	U	R	N	A	R	D	S	N	E	E
F	R	M	R	N	L	U	B	D	R	A	I	C	R
C	H	B	L	G	U	O	G	I	I	I	C	I	E
H	C	I	N	A	H	C	E	M	A	L	I	L	V
E	P	I	L	O	T	C	T	I	H	O	A	O	I
F	F	O	O	T	B	A	L	L	E	R	N	P	R
E	E	N	G	I	N	E	E	R	A	R	C	E	D

- NURSE
- HAIRDRESSER
- SAILOR
- LIFEGUARD
- ACCOUNTANT
- FLORIST
- PAINTER
- ENGINEER
- DOCTOR
- TECHNICIAN
- FARMER
- PILOT
- BUTCHER
- CHEF
- BARBER
- LAWYER
- MUSICIAN
- ACTOR
- PLUMBER
- POLICE
- FOOTBALLER
- MECHANIC
- DRIVER

All correct answers will be entered into a draw to win a bar of chocolate.

To enter, please write your name below and hand in your completed sheet to the office.

The draw will take place on Friday 6th January 2023.

Name: