

# NORTON NEWS

Norton College Newsletter Issue 4



## A message from our leader...

**Rod Goold**

**Head of School**

## Term Dates

End of Summer Term: Friday 21st July 2023

Start of Autumn Term: Wednesday 6th September 2023

Half Term: Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November

End of Autumn Term: Friday 22nd December 2023

Start of Spring Term: Tuesday 9th January 2024

Half Term: Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February 2024

End of Spring Term: Friday 22nd March 2024

Start of Summer Term: Tuesday 9th April 2024

Bank Holiday: Monday 6th May 2024

Half Term: Monday 27th to Friday 31st May

End of Summer Term: Friday 19th July 2024

## Exams

Congratulations to Nathan D, Callum S, Cole & Kieran C who have all successfully completed their BTEC Level 1 in Catering.

\*\*\*\*GCSE Exam Results come out on Thursday 24th August 2023\*\*\*\*

# *HUMANITIES*

## *RE Visits galore!*

### Mucknell Abbey

When you invite a nun to visit College, you never quite know what the response will be! However, it was an enormous success and was truly mind blowing. The topic within Religious Education this month is Places of Worship and we took advantage of the monastery's nearby location.

Sister Jessica is from the local monastery called Mucknell Abbey and is a Benedictine Anglican nun. She spent the morning with us after Easter and has offered us the chance to visit the Abbey and to visit us again.



*Mucknell Abbey is an Anglican Benedictine monastery in Worcestershire, England.*

As soon as Jessica arrived, she generated a lot of positive interest and students were fascinated by her and treated her with the upmost of respect. They asked her a range of interesting questions about religion, her daily routine and how often she prayed each day. They were amazed aht she could do 'normal' things like going on holiday, swim and all the things wer probably think she wouldn't be able to do. For the students it was a real eye opener as to how some people live their lives. Jessica sange or praises and congratulated us for being an amazing college and in an email to me after her visit she said this about Norton and our students:

*'They were great ambassadors for your school and for your whole approach to them and their learning'*

In a later article she wrote:

*'As well as welcoming visitors to the monastery, I paid a visit to Norton College, a nearby secondary school. One of their students, a teacher in tow, had come up to the Abbey out of curiosity a month or so ago and the contact made has developed into a plan to welcome a group of students to the monastery to visit particularly the Oratory as part of their R.E. curriculum. I went and spent a morning at the college, meeting some of the students and showing them some photos of the Oratory and the wider Monastery too; we're looking forward to arranging a visit here some time in May. The college offers a bespoke curriculum that enable their students to overcome barriers to learning and with a guiding philosophy of kindness, warmth and compassion it is an inspirational place to be. I greatly enjoyed seeing the work the school was doing and also meeting young men and women who would probably never usually engage the monastic life. Several of them, including the group below, were fascinated and asked lots of thoughtful questions.'*



Sister Jessica showing students pictures of the Abbey

After Jessica's visit, we were invited to visit the Abbey. Fourteen students went. It was the biggest group that had left the College, other than to play football, in the College's history.

Some of our students had never been on a trip out of College, whilst some had to battle with anxiety. However, the sense of peace and tranquility at the Abbey was profound and instantly we felt calm and relaxed.

Sister Jessica demonstrating the use of a thurible, which is used in the Christian liturgy for the burning of aromatic incense.





## Worcester Cathedral



Everyone was given the opportunity to be 'bishop' and sit on the Bishop's Throne!

Following the visit to the Abbey, we went to Worcester Cathedral and were given a guided tour. Students were fascinated by the scale of the building and its amazing carvings and tombs.

After the tour, we were invited to visit the stone masonry department, which has been planned for July.

## Tallow Hill Mosque

Students have to study two religions and we felt that it was appropriate to choose Islam due to misconceptions this has with some people. Therefore, we visited Tallow Hill Mosque in Worcester and in September we will be visiting Birmingham Central Mosque.



Tallow Hill Mosque, Worcester

To balance things, as a lot of our students do not have or want a faith, we invited a Humanist into College. It was their chance to speak and to understand what she and humanism is all about. Students found it refreshing that there were people like herself who offer their services for naming, wedding and funeral ceremonies without any religious connotations at all.





## CUSTOM GUITAR BY CONRAD

WITH ASSISTANCE FROM KRIS & RICHARD I

With assistance from Kris and Rich I

**Stage One:** I started by taking off the original strings, machine heads, tuning pegs etc.

**Stage Two:** I then began sanding down the original coat of gloss paint.

**Stage Three:** I then put on a base coat of black spray paint.

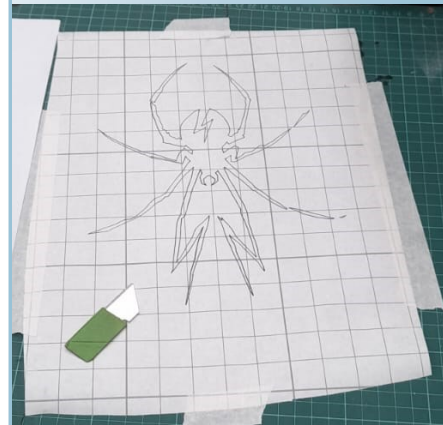
**Stage Four:** I found a design to put on the back of the guitar and then Richard traced the design onto masking film.

**Stage Five:** I put on some gold details on the body and the neck.

**Stage Six:** Then Richard cut out the design and stuck it to the back of the guitar.

**Stage Seven:** I then sprayed over the design and after it had dried, I peeled off the masking film and was left with the design.

**Stage Eight:** I then put everything back onto the guitar and then I took it home.













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## In other news....

I am pleased to inform you that Norton College Worcester and Norton College Tewkesbury have joined Outcomes First Group Ltd.

Outcomes First Group Ltd provides special needs education and care to some of the country's most vulnerable and challenging children and young people, as well as providing caring homes as part of their adult services (you can see more details at [www.outcomesfirstgroup.co.uk](http://www.outcomesfirstgroup.co.uk)). They are delighted to now have the opportunity to also be able to offer the same quality of education provision in Worcester and Tewkesbury as they are known for elsewhere in the country.

Our Board of Directors, Edward Morris, Sam Fletcher, Jacky Powell and myself, have thought carefully about securing the future of Norton College Worcester and Norton College Tewkesbury, in what really is a very challenging environment and we have chosen Outcomes First Group Ltd. Whilst Edward, Sam and Jacky will stand down as directors, I will be staying on as Executive Headteacher, supported by Lauren Wright, Director of Operations and Gemma Mann as our regional Director and Chair of Governors.

Please be assured that these changes will have no immediate effects on your child's place or their education at either Norton College Worcester or Norton College Tewkesbury.

**Rebecca Kenny, Executive Headteacher**