

NORTON NEWS

Norton College Newsletter Issue 5

A message from our leader...

Autumn 2023 has seemed like an extremely long term for students and staff at Norton College Worcester. But looking back it has been extremely productive and exciting.

We firstly welcomed a wealth of new students, who have adapted to our unique philosophy and way of working extremely well.

Our Anti-Bullying focus week was very successful with students and encouraged very mature and thought-provoking discussions across the college.

Students also engaged extremely well with our focus week on Young Minds – 'Wear Yellow to support mental health', which was designed around breaking down the stigma related to mental health issues in teenagers and adolescents.

Our Dungeons & Dragons role play sessions continues to grow in popularity. The complexity of the characterisation, story telling and problem solving is baffling to watch. It is also wonderful to see students taking on the role of the 'Story Master', devising and delivering the activity to their peers.

The college allotment in the Norton village, continues to develop, thanks to the effort and commitment from key staff and students. We now have an outdoor learning area in the local community to be proud of.

Our recent Reading focus week across college, encouraged some of our more reluctant student readers to access the wonder of 'real books'. It was heart warming to see students completing reading trails around the college and accessing such a wide variety of genres, from Louis May Alcott's 'Little Women' to Alan Dean Foster's 'Alien'.

This term staff have created a new music recording and performing room, which has instantly become extremely popular with students. Walking by hearing students performing on the drums, keyboards and guitars, is quite a magical experience.

Our college gym has again been further developed with new equipment, and the student uptake in P.E. activities and BTEC Sport courses continues to expand due to the commitment and enthusiasm from staff.

We have to be mindful in regard to student attendance at college and our bespoke packages. The target we aim for, is 90% engagement or more for our students. Please could parents and carers support our students as much as possible to reach and succeed this goal. Any families requiring advice or further help please don't hesitate to contact college.

I hope all our students and their families and carers and our staff too have a wonderful holiday, and I look forward to welcoming students back to college on Tuesday 9th January 2024.

Rod Goold, Head of School

Term Dates

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 2024
End of Summer Term:	Friday 19th July 2024

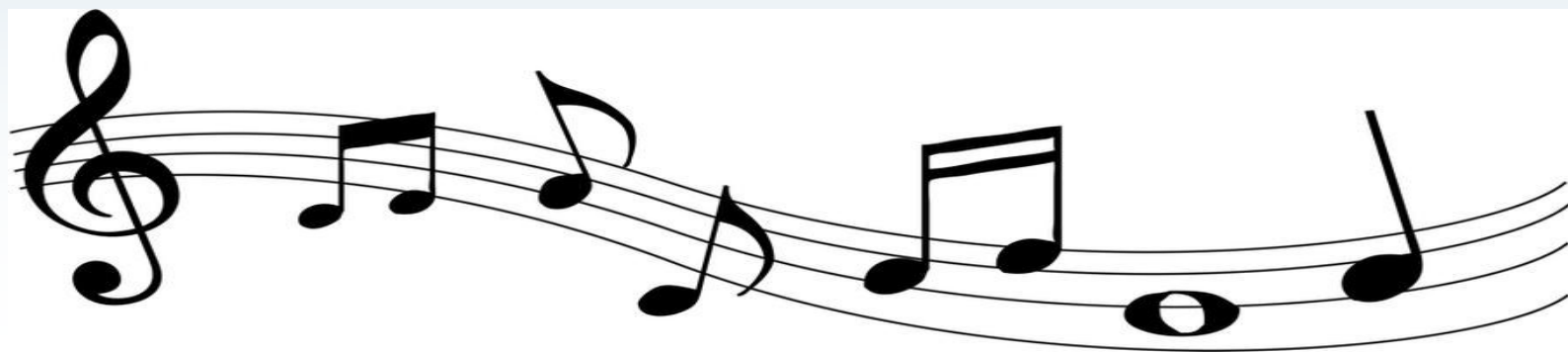


Music

As we wrap up an inspiring first term, we're thrilled to share some exciting developments and achievements within our musical community.

Firstly, a warm welcome to Bailey, who has been a delightful presence in our department. His dedication to learning the guitar and valuable contributions to studio set-up have truly enriched our environment.

We're proud to introduce Jay, our talented new resident bassist. Jay's commitment to his craft is evident as he not only plays regularly but is also crafting his own bass from scratch with Rich Inwood. The creativity extends to designing logos, adding a personal touch to his newfound joy.



Kieran continues to impress with his guitar lessons, showcasing consistent improvement. Additionally, a warm welcome to Philip, our new student, eager to explore the world of music.

Isaac, our veteran pianist, is on the path to delivering exceptional GCSE results. Having recorded two soundtracks and original compositions, his dedication to music and production is truly commendable. Keep an eye out for his upcoming movie soundtrack.

Welcome Jacob, our multi-talented addition to the music room. Jacob's journey, experimenting with guitar, piano, bass and drums before settling on vocal lessons, reflects the diverse musical expressions within our department.

Exciting news from Rome, our up-and-coming RnB rap artist from Cheltenham. He's gearing up to release his new single 'Bellingham', recorded and produced right here in the Norton Studio. Rome's ability to write, produce and record his own music speaks volumes about the creativity and collaboration within our community.

Let's celebrate the diversity of talents and the positive impact these individuals bring to the music department daily. Here's to a harmonious journey ahead!

English

This term we have had a “Reading Week” to highlight the importance of reading. Students have been encouraged to read a variety of reading materials, complete a book trail and write a blurb for a book. Two of our students, Coby and Cole, won a £20 book voucher for completing the book trail and showing commitment to reading. It has been good to see increased engagement with reading amongst our students. We will continue to provide more texts which are of interest to our students to further encourage engagement in reading and to link with their writing.



Maths

We're really proud of the students who gave their Maths iGCSE another go in November, they behaved really well and we look forward to them getting their results in January. Our students are working really well towards their exams at different levels, in Maths, and we hope that they will achieve their potential throughout the year.

To link with Anti-Bullying week, students looked at a variety of graphs showing information on cyber-bullying, our display in the Teaching and Learning corridor gave suggestions of where they could get support if they had experienced this themselves, or if they knew someone who had.



It's been a busy term in PSHE. Students have been coming to the PSHE Hub not just for lessons but for a morning cuppa, a place to chill, play some games and get help and advice from Jodie and Laura. This term's topics have been Healthy Lifestyles and Self-care, Support and Safety.

Healthy lifestyles

Younger students have explored the long-term and short-term effects of alcohol, tobacco and vaping, whilst older students explored the social and physical impacts of using illegal drugs.

Self-care, Support and Safety

E-safety has been the focus, with students developing an understanding around the issues of sharing and receiving inappropriate messages, including what support is available to them.

- www.thinkuknow.co.uk
- www.ceop.police.uk
- www.childline.org.uk
- www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-reporting/report-remove/
- www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/drugs-and-alcohol/

Anti-bullying Week 13th November



All subject areas taught anti-bullying themed lessons with maths using bullying data, art creating an anti-bullying mural and the Gym had a focus on gym etiquette and supporting each other.

The Upstairs Unit, Downstairs Unit and Hatch had a range of engagement activities focusing on the difference between banter and bullying.



We had a great term with loads of things happening in the gym. We have had lots of students starting their Parkour journey with some great progress being made. It is really inspiring seeing the students taking the movement in their stride and leap- ing, vaulting, and rolling their way through the week.

SPORT

The students into weightlift- record lifts and resiliently sticking to programs and plans. The regular football has been happening in all the lovely win- ter weather and from what I hear they have been having some great matches. We have had some rugby in the sports hall (non-contact) where the students have been working on kicking and catching. Some great teams being formed and some friendly competition. In the new year we are hoping to expand the students doing the Parkour Progression booklet and adding some extra movements. We will also be continuing the football on a Monday and a Wednesday along with more regular competitions within the sport department.

SCIENCE

We've had a busy start to the year in the Science Department at Norton College! Holly has settled into the department really well and has built up great relationships with the students she is teaching Entry Level Science to, and Steph has ten GCSE students to prepare for May 2024, learning a mixture of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

The addition of The Wall in the large Science room has meant we can offer two lessons at the same time, meaning we can offer Science to even more students! The Science Engagement room is a welcoming area where students can go to do practicals or simply to complete tasks linked to the termly topics.

Autumn's Science Engagement themes have been Healthy Body and Our Planet. Lung and testes dissection was a particular highlight for staff and students alike! Students are also looking forward to finding out the effect of erosion and weathering on their hand-picked rocks with the most recent addition to our Prep Room.

We are lucky to have a well-stocked Prep Room, and practicals done this term with GCSE and Entry Level students include Electrolysis, Titrations, Burning Magnesium, Distillation, and Rates of Reaction. We are constantly adding new and exciting practicals to engage students in Engagement Science with Luke, and we aim for all students to have a go at some Science each term...

Catering

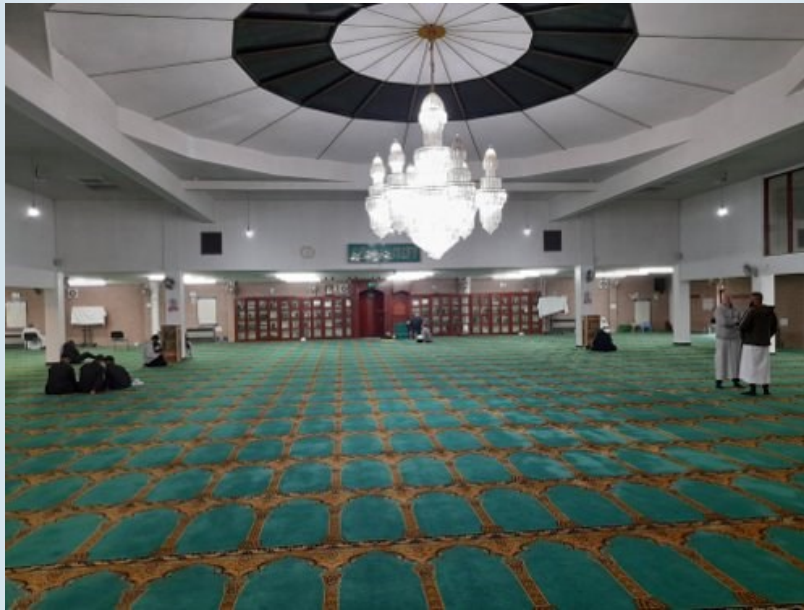
Congratulations to Rome, Callum and Stevie who have all passed their Level 1 Catering BTEch this term.



Humanities

Trip to the Birmingham Central Mosque

Tuesday 19th September 2023



The Prayer Hall holds up to 3000 people

As part of last term's Religious Education and Places of Worship, we visited Birmingham Central Mosque.

We weren't able to go last term due to the mosque being fully booked.

It was a great experience for many reasons as students learned about some of the Islamic rituals.

For example, Wudu (washing before prayer) and the Salat Prayer Ritual. On top of this some students had never been to Birmingham and it enriched their horizons regarding a varied multicultural society.



The Salat Prayer Ritual

Black Country Museum Visit: Thursday 9th November 2023



Humanities Entry Level students are studying History this term and we visited the Black country Museum to embellish this. The are working on 'British Society for the past— World War 2'. One of our objectives is to compare life during the War to the present day. Students were disgusted at the thought of having to use a privy at the bottom of the garden or having to use a chamber pot at night stored under the bed. The use of the horrendous hard scratchy toilet paper didn't impress either! They weren't too keen on having a bath in the living room...and sharing the bath water was 'too much'!

Many said that they wouldn't have been able to cope.





Can you identify the objects at the end of the blue arrows and what they were used for?
Answers at the end.



A Visit from the Royal British Legion Tuesday 7th November 2023

The week before Remembrance, Amanda Clements from the Royal British Legion visited to talk about the meaning of the poppies. Students asked what the money that was raised is used for and she explained that many servicemen who had incurred injuries such as losing an arm. Amanda got the students to reassemble a poppy with just one hand and it proved quite challenging.



This year Natalie and Donna crocheted many poppies and we raised over £65. Over the last 5 years we have promoted red, purple, white, rainbow and black poppies to remember all that have served their country.



Visit to Warwick Castle—Thursday 21st September 2023

With Warwick Castle so close, we thought that it was too good an opportunity to miss.

The torture chamber was quite an experience and definitely not what I expected. One of the rooms was a courtroom and the judge was brutal. She called one of our quiet students to the dock, on the charge of 'widdling in the well'!! Feeling very anxious, I wondered where the emergency exit was and how this would end!! However, to my relief, the student involved gave a brilliant performance and there was nothing to worry about at all.

In case you've never been, there are actors in the torture chamber who are dressed in medieval clothing and play the role of torturers. In very dark rooms they give a chilling performance and some of the instruments of torture make you want to cross your legs to say the least!



Young Minds Wear Yellow Day

On the 10th of October, it was Young Minds Wear Yellow day. This day is to help raise awareness of the mental health issues that children and young people go through. It was once again well supported by staff and students, with many wearing some amazing yellow articles of clothing.

A big thanks to Jodie once again for making her yellow wrist bands.

There were some great conversations around mental health and hopefully the stigma is slowly being broken down. The students engaged well and they seem to have a good understanding of mental health and the help they can get within and outside of college.

We also managed to raise £200.00 towards Young Minds .



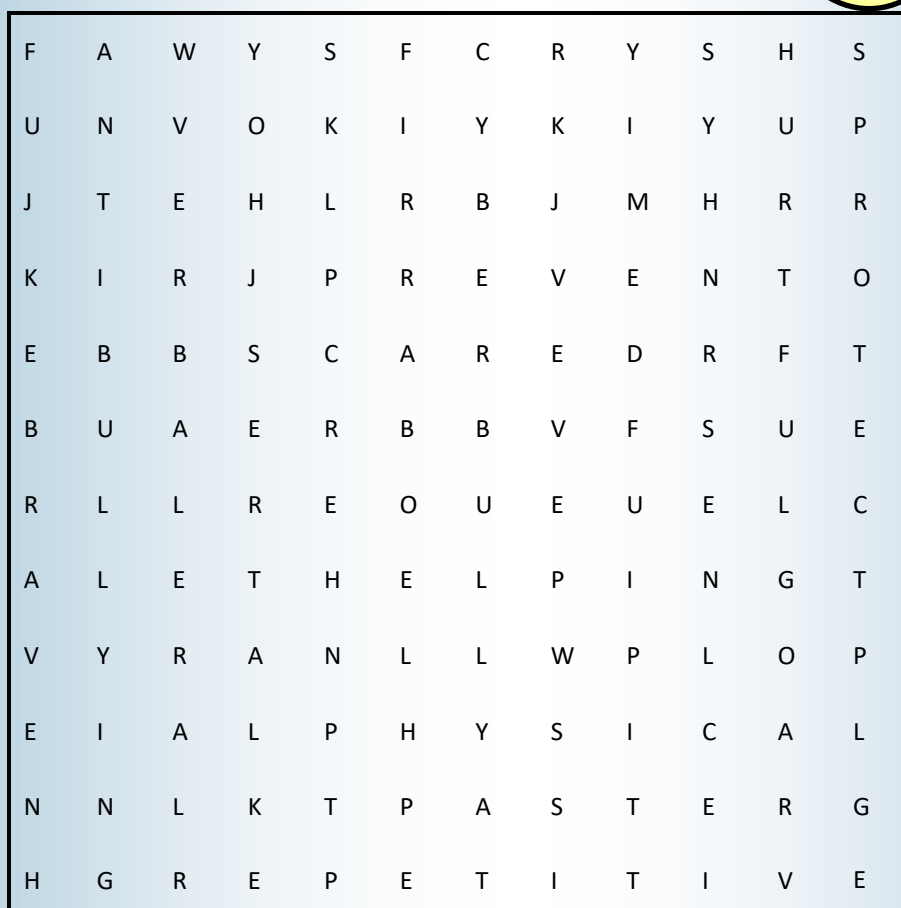
Left to Right
Luke, Orla, Rod, Debbie H, Grace, Becky, Lyndsey, Kris, Chris & Holly

Anti Bullying

Anti Bullying

WORDSEARCH COMPETITION

Can you find
these words and
win a prize?!



ANTIBULLYING

BRAVE

CYBERBULLY

HELPING

HURTFUL

PHYSICAL

PREVENT

PROTECT

REPETITIVE

SCARED

TALK

VERBAL

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 12th January 2024.

Name:


Money support and advice from Worcestershire Children

Help For Houses


- Income Support
- Energy Bills—Cost of Living Payments
- Childcare Costs
- Household costs
- Childcare Costs
- Finding Work

costoflivingsupport.campaign.gov.uk provides access to contacts who can provide support for households.

Visit '[Energy Saving Tips](#)' Find out what actions you can take to get




Act On Energy



We encourage energy conservation by providing free and impartial advice to householders and small businesses in Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Coventry, Solihull, Birmingham & the wider West Midlands

Household Support Fund

For those who have previously received funding from the Household Support Fund prior to 30th September 2022 you can now re-apply for funding – subject to the conditions.



Food Banks

Worcester City (Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri 11am—2pm) 0808 2082138
7 Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester WR1 2RS, UK

Droitwich (Tues 1pm—3pm & Fri) 07532 130604 / 07532 130604
Droitwich Baptist Church, Ombersley Street East, WR9 8QS


Redditch & Bromsgrove (Mon—Thursday 11am —2pm & Fri 10am—1pm) 01527 69161
Number 24, Church Green East, Redditch, B98 8DE

Malvern Hills Foodbank (Mon—10.15am—12.30pm, Tues 1pm—3.15pm, Thurs 10.15am—12.30pm) 07529 322985
Unit 4, Spring Court, Spring Lane South, Malvern, WR14 1AT

Pershore (Tues 11am—1pm, Fri 1pm—3pm) 01386555347
St Andrews, Church Walk, Pershore, WR10 1BH

Kidderminster (Mon, Wed & Fri 12:30pm—3pm) 015262 916555
Unit 9, Swan Shopping Centre, Blackwell Street, Kidderminster DY10 2DP

Money Helper



Where to get free debt advice

If you're struggling with debt, it can be hard to know where to turn. But with lots of free advice services available across the UK, you can find help in a way that's best for you.

Free Debit Adviser, click this link above and search for support in your local town.

Answers to the blue arrow questions:

Top A chamber pot (also known as a guzunda or a po)

Middle A pitcher and basin (for washing your face)

Bottom A hot water bottle

Did you guess correctly?