

NORTON NEWS

Norton College Newsletter Issue 6



A message from our leader...





Rod Gould, Head of School







Term Dates

 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 



Maths

The students at Norton college are continuing to engage well and make good progress in Maths.

We have a bumper year for GCSEs, with 22 students being entered for the exam in the summer, and many more students gaining qualifications in Functional Skills.

In the near future, we will be focusing on how we can further support students with specific difficulties in Maths, such as maths anxiety and dyscalculia.

So hopefully I will have more to report on this soon.

English

This term in English, we have been continuing to encourage student to engage more with reading and linking this with their writing.

As part of World Book Day, students were asked to complete a questionnaire to give us their ideas on how we can support them further with reading at Norton.

Using this information, we will be looking at how we can access more reading materials that meet our student's interests and needs.

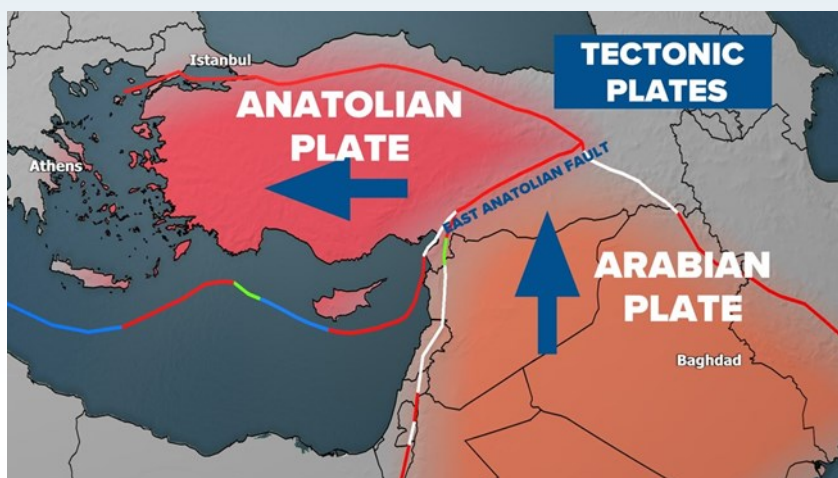
Again, this year, we have increasing numbers of Functional Skills exams being passed by our students and more of our students have been entered for the iGCSE English Language exam this Summer.

These are fantastic achievements!

Humanities

This term we are covering 'Responding to a tectonic event' as part of the Geography aspect of Humanities. It seemed apt that we research the Turkey-Syria earthquake that happened last year.

Students need to know why earthquakes happen, primary & secondary effects and how the public, governments and individuals respond.



The outermost layer of the earth is called the crust and it is broken into large pieces called tectonic plates.

These huge pieces of Earth's surface slowly move at about the speed that your fingernails grow.

Their movement form mountains, causes earthquakes and they even rearrange the position of continents

Overall impact:

- At least 56,683 people were killed - 50,783 in Turkey and at least 5,900 in Syria - making it the deadliest earthquake globally since Haiti in 2010.

- Another 118,404 people were injured. 107,204 of those were in Turkey, including 850 who lost limbs as a result of their injuries. At least 11,200 people were injured in Syria.

- Nearly 18 million people were left in immediate need of humanitarian assistance including food, clean water and a place to live.



Earthquake

Context: An earthquake of magnitude 7.8 struck **south-central Turkey and Northwest Syria**

The seismicity in this region is a result of **interactions between the African, Eurasian, and Arabian plates**. The Arabian plate is known to be pushing northward, which results in a slight westward movement for the **Anatolian plate**, where Turkey is located.

Eurasian Plate

Alps Orogeny

Persia-Tibet-Burma Orogeny

Anatolian Plate

Aegean Plate

African Plate

Arabian Plate

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Entry Level Humanities students have nearly finished phase one of their qualification. This means that they have achieved between 8 – 12 Credits and will receive an Award in Entry Level Humanities.

Phase two of their qualification will be to achieve a Certificate in Entry Level Humanities. 13 – 36 Credits are needed for this and 37+ for a Diploma in Entry Level Humanities.

When the time is right students can move on to GCSEs in Geography, History or Religious Education according to their interest.

Currently, we have 1 student studying GCSE History and we are covering: 1) Germany 1890 – 1945, 2) Norman England, 3) Britain: Migration, Empires and People, 4) Conflict and Tension: First World War 1894 – 1918.

We have 4 GCSE Geography students and have mostly covered so far: Tectonic hazards, Weather hazards, Climate change, Ecosystems, Biomes, Hot deserts, Glacial and Coastal landscapes.

Over the next year we will cover: The development gap, Nigeria: A newly emerging economy, and the Changing UK economy.





A visit from Sister Jessica, Mucknell Abbey, Norton

Jessica came to visit in February and the students were outstanding. They asked me deep and meaningful questions, not only about religion but other aspects of life. Seeing her sitting on the floor with some of our students was quite a sight to see. It's fantastic that we have the link with her and the Abbey as it broadens horizons in many ways.

**Next term Entry Level Humanities will cover:
Religious Festivals & Celebrations—
Easter & Diwali**

A Message from Sister Jessica

In last year's end of year newsletter, you may remember reading about the visit by a group of students to Mucknell Abbey, an Anglican monastery just over a mile away from the college. It was a joy to welcome the students and staff members on that occasion, and since then we've kept the relationship going. I've made 3 or 4 visits to the college since their trip up to see the Abbey, and it's been wonderful to get to know the college, the students and some of the staff a little better, and to see more of the fantastic work the college is doing.

Every time I visit, I feel as though I discover more of the many, many opportunities given to the students, whether in computing, sport, food or more traditional academics. On my most recent visit I even got to meet some chicks which had been hatched out!

As the students have got a little more used to seeing me around, I've been able to have some challenging and fascinating conversations with them, including the nature of belief, the difficult bits of the Christian faith, the bible and different ways to read and understand it. In all these conversations, my aim is not to evangelise or seek to convert anyone, but rather to give a space and an understanding ear to some of the big questions that it can be hard to raise at other times. Not all our conversations are quite so "spiritual"; I've also discussed steam trains, computer games, baby chicks, our new cat and whatever else might be going on in the news. It's been good too to talk to the staff, and hear how they're getting on; as a former teacher I have some insight into the joys and challenges of everyday school life.

As I said after my first visit, I continue to be amazed and impressed by the school's positive, empowering approach to all the students; in seeing this in action, I am learning a lot about not judging books by their covers. I am also getting to meet and get to know some interesting, engaging, polite, respectful and lively young people.

At the Abbey, we recently heard this quotation from Dutch priest Henri Nouwen: "It belongs to the centre of the Christian message that children are not properties to own and rule over, but gifts to cherish and care for. Our children are our most important guests, who enter into our home, ask for careful attention, stay for a while, and then leave to follow their own way. Children are strangers whom we have to get to know." Norton College, to me, shows this cherishing and caring for the gifts that are their students, and it is always a pleasure to spend time with them.

PSHE Hub



We've had another busy term in the PSHE hub. The PSHE hub has become a base for a number of our students who enjoy the chilled, supported atmosphere and endless hot drinks. Everyday there are games and activities for students to engage in, with Uno being a particular favourite this term.

PSHE Lessons

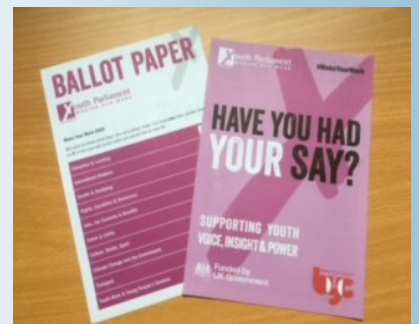


This term we have been covering The World I Live in, with a big focus on careers and preparing for adulthood. For our younger students this has involved exploring rights and responsibilities while our older students have also been looking at budgeting and future careers. All students have had the opportunity to play "The Budget Game", a board game where students must deal with unexpected credits and debits over the course of a month.

Worcestershire Youth Voice



Students at Norton were invited, by the Youth Parliament, to vote on issues that they care about the most. Votes have been cast across educational settings in Worcestershire and are currently being counted.



Apprenticeships

Some of our older students have been exploring apprenticeship using <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship> and <https://worcsapprenticeships.org.uk/> This has enabled students to see the range of apprenticeship, including their entry requirements, students were surprised to see that some apprenticeships required very few qualifications, if any.

Worcestershire Skills Show 2024

This year the Worcestershire Skills Show was at the Sixways Stadium, a hugely popular event with schools from across the county bringing their students to speak to and try out a range of career pathways from apprenticeship to university degrees. Due to the large number of visitors attending the event this wasn't appropriate to all our students, however those that attended enjoyed speaking to a range of employers and training centres and having a go at some of the interactive displays. We made some excellent contacts and look forward to some of the exhibitors coming into college to visit our students.

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Coming up... Life Beyond School October 2024

The Worcestershire Life Beyond School inclusive show provides a unique opportunity to students across Worcestershire who do not attend a mainstream school or hold an EHCP in a mainstream school an opportunity to speak to colleges, employers, training providers and more about their next steps. The event is aimed at students in year 9 to 13.

There is also an additional early evening slot for parent/carers to attend. We will share more closer to the event.

Beyond School Booklet found on the Skills4WorcestershireWebsite, www.skills4worcestershire.co.uk



The Hub @ The Hive: <https://www.careersworcs.co.uk/thehub/>

Careers Worcestershire @ The Hive is a dedicated space for young people aged 15-24 to help find the right pathway into employment, training, and education. There are dedicated careers advisors based within the hub that can provide 1-1 support to help you decide and achieve your goals!

You will be able to find the Hub at: THE HIVE,
SAWMILL CLOSE, THE BUTTS, WORCESTER WR1 3PD.
The Hub @ The Hive is based on the ground floor, turn left once you walk through the main entrance.



THE HUB OPENING TIMES: MONDAY – FRIDAY: 9AM – 4PM

You can also attend workshops and access other services within the hub including finance, health & wellbeing, and other youth providers.

What the Youth Hub has to offer:

- ◆ Providing one to one advice and guidance sessions
- ◆ Supporting you in finding, applying, and securing your next opportunity
- ◆ Helping you find an apprenticeship or training programme
- ◆ Confidence & resilience
- ◆ Personal development
- ◆ Career choices
- ◆ CV writing
- ◆ Job search
- ◆ Job applications
- ◆ Interview preparation
- ◆ Mental health/wellbeing
- ◆ Apprenticeships / Training courses / College & University courses
- ◆ Work experience / Volunteering
- ◆ Housing

Careers

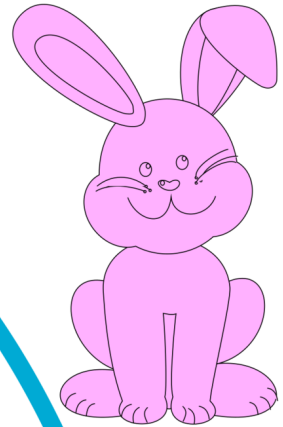
At Norton College the careers curriculum is closely entwined within PSHE. As part of this, we hold careers weeks throughout the year to encourage students to think about their future careers. This can be looking at specific career choices, career families linked to interests or starting the career journey.

This term our PSHE team have been looking at the world we live in, which links well to all career activities. As part of this we have visited some specific career placements. Especially interesting was our trip to the West Midlands Ambulance station, where we were shown round the premises. Students had the opportunity to meet Paramedics, support staff, mechanics and senior managers. The role of a Paramedic is a rewarding one that changes each day and the skills needed they have are transferable to a lot of different careers. The visit allowed students to discuss various routes into this profession and see what is needed from the whole team to ensure ambulances are on the road, fully stocked and with highly trained Paramedics on board.

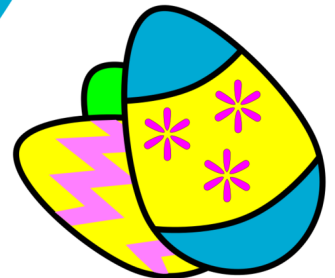
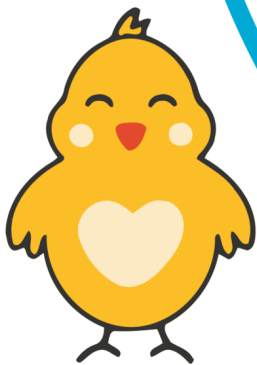
If you have any specific careers questions please speak to Ian McCrudden in college who will be happy to support.

Easter

Word Search



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



Word list:

BASKET
BOUQUET
BUNNY
CARROTS

CELEBRATION
CHICKS
CHOCOLATE
COTTONTAIL

DYE
EGGS
FIND
FLOWERS

HIDE
HOP
PEEP
RABBIT