

# NORTON NEWS

Norton College Newsletter Issue 7

## A message from our leader...

To all parents and carers of our students at Norton College Worcester, I can't believe how quickly this academic year has passed.

It is very much with pride and also sadness that we will be saying farewell to 13 students, moving on to new colleges and new opportunities. I look forward to them visiting us in the future to share how their journeys progress.

Again this year we have seen wonderful academic achievements with well over 100 qualifications being taken by our students; with over fifty of these being GCSE examinations. I look forward to celebrating their results in August. We should all be extremely proud of their achievements.

This year we have invested in improving the college environment for the students, in particular our new music performing room. Moving forward we have exciting plans for a new library, a boxing gym and a sensory room, to enrich the opportunities for our students.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday and I look forward to welcoming the students back in September.

**Rod Goold, Head of School**

## Term Dates

End of Summer Term: Friday 19th July 2024

Start of Autumn Term: Wednesday 4th September 2024

Inset Day: Monday 7th October 2024

Half Term: Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November 2024

End of Autumn Term: Friday 20th December 2024

Start of Spring Term: Tuesday 7th January 2025

Half Term: Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February 2025

End of Spring Term: Friday 11th April 2025

Start of Summer Term: Monday 28th April 2025

Bank Holiday: Monday 5th May 2025



## Exam Update

As we wrap up another term, it's time to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our students.

Our GCSE students have outdone themselves, with a record number of entries and outstanding results. Over 20 students took their Maths iGCSE this year and 14 students took English. A busy exam schedule included entries for Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geography, History, Statistics and Music. The students' commitment, perseverance, and passion for learning have set a new standard for excellence. Each of them has demonstrated that with hard work and determination, anything is possible. Congratulations to all our GCSE students for their fantastic efforts!

Many students have also completed their Functional Skills qualifications on the route to GCSE and vocational pathways. This has been built on with life experiences in college such as handling money, having debates and utilising reading and writing skills to prepare our students for life in the future.

For those embarking on their journey in Entry Level Science, students have shown curiosity and eagerness to explore the wonders of the scientific world. Their efforts have laid a strong foundation for future scientific endeavours, and we are excited to see where their interest and skills will take them next.

Our students in Entry Pathways Humanities have shown remarkable insight and understanding of human society and culture. Their discussions have enriched our school community and instigated conversations and debate.

Students have worked hard completing qualifications in BTEC Sport, Cooking and Construction. These practical skills have helped build independence skills, so students can cook for themselves, plan and complete practical projects and explore sports and fitness to improve their physical wellbeing.

This term has been a testament to the talent, hard work, and determination of our students across all subjects. We are immensely proud of their achievements and look forward to seeing what they will accomplish next.

Keep up the great work and continue to strive for excellence in all your endeavours and congratulations to all our students for a record-breaking year!

**If you haven't already done so, please contact Donna before the 7th August 2024 to advise how your child would like to receive their GCSE results.**

**Mike Porter**  
**Examinations Officer**

## Exams

### Functional Skills

	Entry Level 1	Entry Level 2	Entry Level 3	Level 1	Level 2	Entry Level 1 Maths	3
English Reading	3	7	3	10	4	Entry Level 2 Maths	7
English Writing	4	7	5	8	1	Entry Level 3 Maths	6
Speaking & Listening	3	4	3	9	-	Level 1 Maths	3

**BTEC Cooking: 7**

**\*\*\* GCSE Exam Results come out on Thursday 22nd August 2024 \*\*\***

Students have taken a record number of GCSE's this year:

Biology: 5   History: 1   Maths: 23   Chemistry: 6   Physics: 1   English: 16   Statistics: 1   Music: 1

## Maths

This term has been dominated by all of the exams our students have taken. We had a staggering 23 students sit their iGCSE in Maths, and 1 student sat a GCSE in Statistics. Many more have taken Functional skills exams and I'm looking forward to them continuing their focus and progress in September.

I am incredibly proud of all of the students at Norton College for their commitment to lessons and their desire to better themselves.

## Science at Norton College

Summer term is always busy at Norton College, and Science is no exception! A record 11 students sat GCSE exams in Biology, Chemistry and Physics this term, and 10 additional students achieved Entry Level Science or Further Entry Level Science this year. We are looking to beat those numbers next year too, with 15 students already signed up to do GCSE Sciences next academic year.

We place a real emphasis on practicals in Science, and Steph and Holly work hard to make Science lessons fun and engaging. In Entry Level, students set up chromatography and distillation experiments, making predictions and explaining the results in scientific language. All the students enjoy burning food in GCSE Biology in order to calculate the amount of energy in different foodstuffs, and who doesn't love burning alcohols to investigate combustion in GCSE Chemistry?!

We are seeing a rise in the number of students engaging in GCSE Physics now too, with massive credit given to the Maths department for this, as students need to be working towards GCSE Maths before they can start GCSE Physics.

Living Eggs returned at the start of the summer term, and students had further opportunities to watch eggs hatching and chicks developing. It was wonderful to see the gentle side of many of our students emerging, as they handled the newly hatched chicks with care, hushing anyone who made too much noise.

Steph & Luke are hoping to develop Engagement Science further next academic year, to allow all students regular opportunities to take part in exciting Science activities.

# English

## End of Year

First of all we are really proud of the progress our students have made in English this year, especially all those students who have taken exams from Functional Skills through to iGCSE. We eagerly await the iGCSE results in August.

We are also pleased to announce some changes within the English department and are delighted to welcome back Megan Hill following her maternity leave. Sadly, although we are losing Orla from the English team, we are not losing her from the college and we wish her every success in her new role as a Pastoral Support Assistant.

We are looking forward to implementing the Accelerated Reader programme when we return in September, as we continue to develop reading across the college.

Student feedback has highlighted the need for an improved reading area in college and there will be some work carried over the summer holidays to develop a new and bigger library area. Students will be encouraged to use the area for reading and quiet study. We are looking to increase the variety of texts available to students and welcome any recommendations.

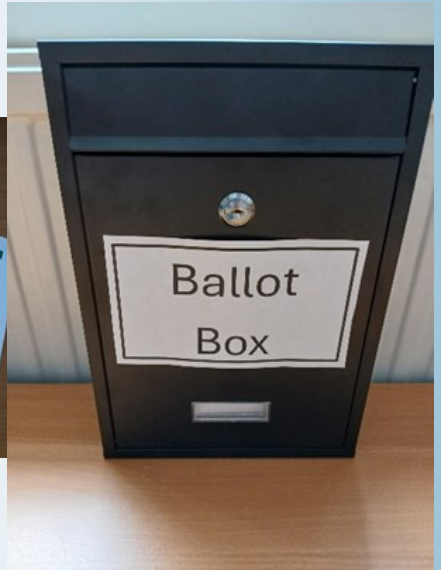
*Don't forget our summer reading competition!*

*Prizes for the top 3 students who register the most minutes spent reading over the holidays.*

*Log on to [myon.co.uk/login](http://myon.co.uk/login) using your unique student id to access over 6000 digital books!*

# PSHE

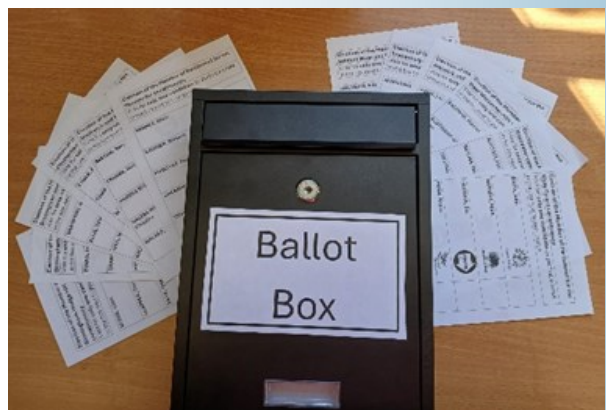
## Norton College Mock Election



On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July while the nation took to the polls, students at Norton College were given the opportunity to vote in our own mock election. Students did not need to register or show ID, but all those wishing to take part were invited to the Norton College Polling Station, in PSHE, to cast their vote for the candidates standing for election in their constituency. Postal votes were available for those students on home learning/twilight packages. Throughout the week students had the opportunity to read the “easy read” manifestos created by some of the major political parties to help them make their decision.

After the count the results were as follows:

Green Party	31%
Liberal Democrats	25%
Reform	19%
Labour	15%
Conservative	6%



## PSHE Lessons

This term we have been covering Changing and Growing. For our younger students this has involved exploring the physical, emotional and social changes they are going through, while our older students focused on intimate relationships, consent, and contraception. As part of this topic students were signposted to places where they could get additional support including The Mix <https://www.themix.org.uk/>. The Mix's mission is to empower every young person to make an informed choice about their wellbeing; whether that's through our peer-led and moderated community, one-to-one webchat, counselling service, crisis support messenger or our range of support content.

## Careers

Can you or anyone you know offer work experience to one or more of our students? As part of our career programme, we are looking to increase the opportunities for our students to experience the world of work. Work experience placements do not have to take on the traditional everyday for a week format, we are able to be flexible with some of our students going out weekly to placements for either all day or just a few hours at a time. If you are able to help please contact Ian McCrudden at [Ian.McCrudden@nortoncollege.org.uk](mailto:Ian.McCrudden@nortoncollege.org.uk).



## 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.

As another year comes to the end we reflect back on all the sport that has taken place within college. The footballers have managed to progress their skills and the games are getting more enjoyable. No matter what the weather the footballers will go and play.



with many



sonal records and achieving new things.

We have had great engagement in the gym students breaking per-



Over the year we have had - Parkour, football, Kingy (Norton college's take on tag), cricket, rounders, bike riding, badminton, rugby, kayaking, swimming, canoeing, and more.

The sport department would like to congratulate all of those who have completed modules in their BTEC and to the leavers we wish you the best for the future.

## Mental Health Week

In May, the World Mental Health Awareness Week was observed, with this year's theme being 'Move for Your Mind.'

Staff members Chris and Connor collaborated to highlight how any form of exercise and movement can significantly enhance mental and physical health.

They emphasised that engaging in sports isn't the only way to achieve mental fitness.

Discussions with students and staff revealed that activities like walking a dog, cleaning the house, or gardening can be equally advantageous.

The aim was to impart knowledge that could aid in improving everyone's mental and physical well-being.

### Where are they now...

My name is Anthony and I attended Norton College Worcester from 2018 till 2021. Prior to attending Norton, I was in a local mainstream high school, where I struggled to access any form of education or social development. During my time in a mainstream provision, I would be disruptive, constantly get in to trouble, only attending school on a part time timetable and failed to make any real academic progress.

When I moved to Norton College, I felt welcomed and understood for the first time. I benefited from the 1:1 teaching, flexibility built into my timetable, support from helpful staff and social skills gained from trips out.

From Norton College I gained multiple qualifications including Btecs, GCSEs and external vocational qualifications. The benefit of passing these recognised qualifications has allowed me to move on in adult life and gain full time employment.

I am really grateful for all the help and support I received from Norton College. If it wasn't for Norton, then I would not be where I am today. I have a full-time job, a car and excellent prospects for the future.

# Humanities



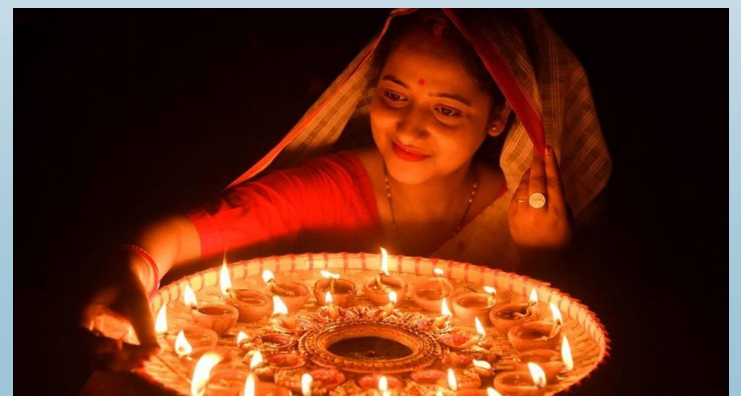
Humanities students will have completed their work on religious festivals and celebrations by the end of July. Some of them have earned enough credits that they have now completed a Certificate in Entry Level Humanities. Whilst some are gaining an Award.

8 to 12 Credits = Award

13+ Credits = Certificate

Humanities is a fantastic way of broadening students' horizons and is essential within the multi-cultural society we live in. Students studied Diwali which is a Hindu festival celebrated over five days in late October/early November. It is a time to worship deities and for spiritual reflection, also known as the Festival of Lights.

It is also a time to spend with friends and family, giving and receiving presents, fireworks and delicious food. It is such a fantastic festival that Indian Sikhs, Buddhists and Muslims celebrate it too.





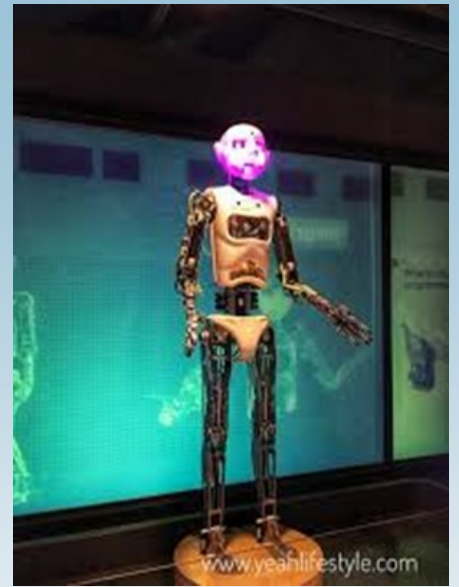
Students also studied Holy Week, which is the week leading up to Easter Sunday.

It starts with Palm Sunday when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a Donkey, welcomed with palm leaves. Maundy Thursday marks the Last Supper when Jesus ate with his disciples for the last time when he broke bread and drank wine, which is why we have Holy Communion today. Good Friday saw the crucifixion of Jesus and his death, but it is Easter Sunday that is the most important event on the Christian calendar. This is because of his resurrection and the empty tomb.

It shows that Jesus defeated death, and it is considered by many Christians to be proof of life after death. Many Christians also think of Jesus' resurrection as evidence of God's omnipotent and omnibenevolent nature.

Sister Jessica has made two visits this term and she talked about Holy Week to some of our students and how important it is to her faith. We also visited the monastery, which is a place of tranquillity.





We visited the Think Tank in Birmingham and travelled by train to get there.

The whole experience of travelling, buying tickets, getting to the station on time, finding the correct platform etc were all useful skills to have in life.

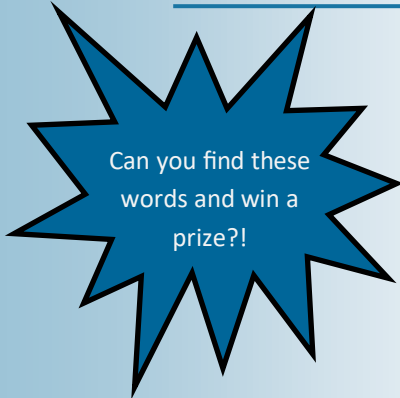
The Think Tank has a wonderful array of exhibits from the modern world to pre-history. Some of the exhibits were interactive and were great fun and just about everything you could think of was there.

It's well worth a visit!



# WORD SEARCH COMPETITION

## Olympic Sports



Can you find these words and win a prize?!

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 September.

ARCHERY

BASKETBALL

BEACHVOLLEYBALL

BOXING

EQUESTRIAN

FENCING

GYMNASTICS

JUDO

MODERNPENTATHLON

ROWING

SAILING

SHOOTING

SKATEBOARDING

SWIMMING

TABLETENNIS

TAEKWONDO

TENNIS

TRACKANDFIELD

TRIATHLON

VOLLEYBALL

WATERPOLO

WEIGHTLIFTING

WRESTLING

Name: .....

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