

NORTON NEWS

Norton College Newsletter Issue 8

A message from our leader...

Can I say a huge festive thank you to all our parents, carers and students.

This Autumn term as ever has been extremely busy for students and staff; with many milestones and challenges being overcome.

I appreciate there is some anxiety regarding the pending changes to our Behaviour Policy and Reward System at Norton College Worcester, that come into effect in January. Can I take this opportunity to reassure all students, parents and carers that our college ethos of kindness and warmth and our trauma informed approach will not be changing in any way or form. As a college we are adapting to current educational research and the requirements of guidance from the Department of education, but through all of these developments we will keep everyone informed and supported.

Sadly, two members of our staff are moving on to new career opportunities. So, can I take this opportunity firstly to thank Deborah Pribojac for her tireless work and commitment leading our Trauma Informed approach and developing our school curriculum. Deb's will be totally irreplaceable and will be missed by students and staff. Secondly, can I thank Connor O'Donnell who developed our college gym studio and inspired numerous students to take up healthy lifestyles and participate in physical education. Both Deb and Connor have supported and enriched the lives of our students, they will be missed by all of us.

Can I also take this opportunity to highlight the achievements of one of our senior students. Liam Reid has had an incredible journey supported by our staff and external partners, over the last 8 years. Liam has successfully qualified as an advanced CWDI climbing instructor and has also achieved his mountain biking RSD Level 2 instructor qualification. Liam is aspiring to a career managing a climbing centre, which is an amazing role model to other students.

I hope you all have a wonderful break, and I look forward to seeing our students again in 2025!



Rod Goold, Head of School

Term Dates

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

Half Term: Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May 2025



Science at Norton College

I would like to start by congratulating the 11 GCSE students and the 10 Entry/ Further Entry Level students who achieved a Science qualification last academic year. Many of these students have now progressed from Entry Level onto GCSE or onto a different GCSE from the one they studied last year (Biology/Chemistry or Physics).

Due to increased uptake in GCSE Sciences, Holly has taken on the three GCSE Physics students this year, and is keeping them occupied with plenty of exciting practicals using the new equipment, including the wave machine, solenoid and acceleration loop. Meanwhile, Steph's Biology and Chemistry students are burning food, distilling alcohol, and making purple fire.



Autumn term's Engagement Science themes were Healthy Bodies and Mad Scientist; the younger students enjoyed dissecting hearts and making their hair stand on end with the Van de Graaff generator. Next term's themes include Our Planet and Forensic Science, and we are looking forward to participating in the OFG-wide Energy Town competition for Energy Saving Week from 13th to 23rd January 2025.



Maths

In the summer of 2024 Norton College Worcester achieved a record number of GCSE entries, with 24 of them being in Maths. The Maths department continues to go from strength to strength as we are pleased to announce that we have appointed a new Maths and ICT tutor, who will be starting with us as soon as all of the paperwork has been completed. We have also appointed a second home tutor who will teach Maths and English to those students who need home-tutoring. We are really looking forward to expanding our department and the opportunities it will give the students here.

Where are they now...

My name is Taylor and I attended Norton College Worcester for 2.5 years from the age of 14 years.

Prior to starting at Norton college, I attended various schools with varying levels of success. I had a very disruptive home life and I ended up at the age of 11 becoming LAC.

When I joined Norton College felt I was behind in my studies and had not achieved my potential. Thanks to Norton College's close nit environment, 1:1 teaching and relationships with staff, I was able to learn the GCSE curriculum and passed English, Maths, Chemistry, Biology and statistics alongside other vocational qualifications.

This allowed me to enter 6th form college and I am now at King Edward VI college in Stourbridge studying Sociology, Politics and Law. I am predicted AAB and I am in the process of applying for Oxford / Cambridge to study Law in September 2025.

English Endeavour

This term we have opened our new and much improved library for students. Books have been organised according to the Accelerated Reader Scheme. There are different genres of books available for students along with a variety of magazines. Students will also be encouraged to suggest their own ideas when we purchase further books. There will shortly be a computer added to the room so that students can access books on myON and complete research.

Just a reminder that all students have access to myON, which is an online reading platform with thousands of digital books and age-appropriate articles. Students will need their username and password to access this. Students can speak to their English tutor if they are unsure of how to access myON offsite.

We have also introduced a new KS3 Curriculum for some of our students. This has a thematic approach and this term's theme has been "Heroes and Villains". For Spring Term, we will be changing to a new theme of "Horror and Mystery".



"The more that you **READ**
the more **THINGS** you will know.
The more that you **LEARN**,
the more **PLACES** you'll **GO**"
— Dr. Seuss

PSHE

It's been a busy first term in PSHE, with many of our new students using the PSHE Hub as a place to spend time between lessons. 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 and risks associated with body modifications.

Self-care, Support and Safety

Online safety has been the focus for our younger students, with students developing an understanding around the issues of sharing and receiving inappropriate messages, including what support is available to them. Our older students have been focusing in the risks associated with gangs.

Some useful websites for parents, carers or students concerned about online safety:

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

www.ceop.police.uk

www.childline.org.uk

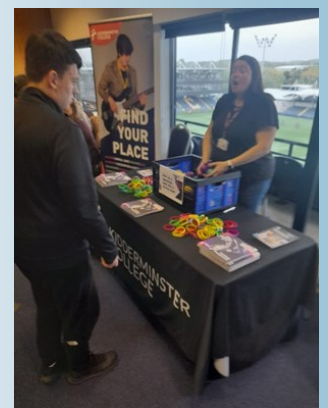
www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-reporting/report-remove/

www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/drugs-and-alcohol/



Life Beyond School Inclusion Show

In October 12 students attending the Life Beyond School Show, this event provided students across who have a learning need, disability of EHCP an opportunity to speak to colleges, employers and training providers about their next steps. The students really enjoyed their time at the event. We look forward to returning next year.



Coming up....

Worcestershire Skills Show March 2025, more information to follow when the dates and venue have been confirmed.

Mental Health Week

On the 10th of October we took part in **Wear Yellow for Young Minds**. Staff and some students chose to wear something Yellow to raise awareness that young people need to be listened to and have support for their mental health. There were some great conversations and ideas from students. There was some lovely understanding of how young people struggle with their mental health and some of the causes of it. It was a good day with many positive conversations about young people and their mental health. We also managed to raise



Mental Health Helplines - UK

Samaritans - 116 123 (free 24 hour helpline)

SHOUT - Text SHOUT to 85258 (free, confidential, open 24 hours)

CALM (for men) - 0800 58 58 58 (open from 5pm to midnight every day)

Papyrus (below 35) - Call 0800 068 4141 (young suicide prevention open 9am to midnight every day)

YoungMinds (young people & parents) - Crisis Messenger text YM to 85258 (available 24/7)
Parent Helpline 0808 802 5544 (Mon-Fri from 9.30am to 4pm)

Would you share? It could save a life.



Humanities

What's been happening in Humanities?

Sister Jessica

Sister Jessica from Mucknell Abbey has been to visit us twice since the last newsletter. As a former London teacher, she takes everything in her stride and engages with the students wonderfully. She doesn't visit to discuss her religion in anyway unless students choose to talk about God or no God. Conversations may include safe sex, drug taking and all sorts of useful topics that may arise, but discussions are always instigated by the students and what they want to talk about. Sometimes in such conversations I have to do a reality check!

Myself and Jodie have been invited to her 'Life Vows' at the Abbey at we feel humbled that we have been invited. In this ceremony includes the following:

The three Benedictine vows are:

Stability

A lifelong commitment to a particular community of monks. Benedictines believe that true happiness can be found in this place and time, and that contentment and fulfilment do not come from constant change.

Fidelity to the monastic way of life

A commitment to the monastic way of life, which includes poverty and chastity. Benedictines promise to be open to change, listen to others, and put the needs of the community before their own.

Obedience

A commitment to give up one's own will to follow the will of God as expressed by the Abbot. The vow of obedience is not military, but rather reflects the love, respect, and dependence that Jesus had for the Father.

Benedictines make these vows in the presence of God, his saints, the Abbot, and the community. The vows are meant to promote harmony in the community and help Benedictines strive for holiness.

Entry Level Humanities

This term students have been studying Apartheid in South Africa from 1960 – 1994. It's hard to believe that in the modern world that discrimination and cruelty existed towards black people. Students were shocked to see and hear the how segregation worked and to read about laws that were put into place. For example:

The Bantu Education Act of 1953, which provided separate and inferior education for black South Africans.

The Population Registration Act of 1950, which classified people into racial categories.

The Group Areas Act of 1950, which designated specific areas for certain racial groups.



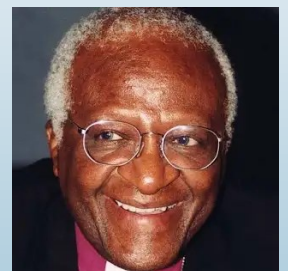
These laws restricted the movement and opportunities of non-white individuals, forcing them to live in designated areas, attend separate schools, and limit their access to employment and other resources.

Students also studied significant people who battled to end apartheid and these include: Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu and F.W. de Klerk.



Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was a South African anti-apartheid activist and politician who served as the first president of South Africa from 1994 to 1999. He was the country's first black head of state and the first elected in a fully representative democratic election

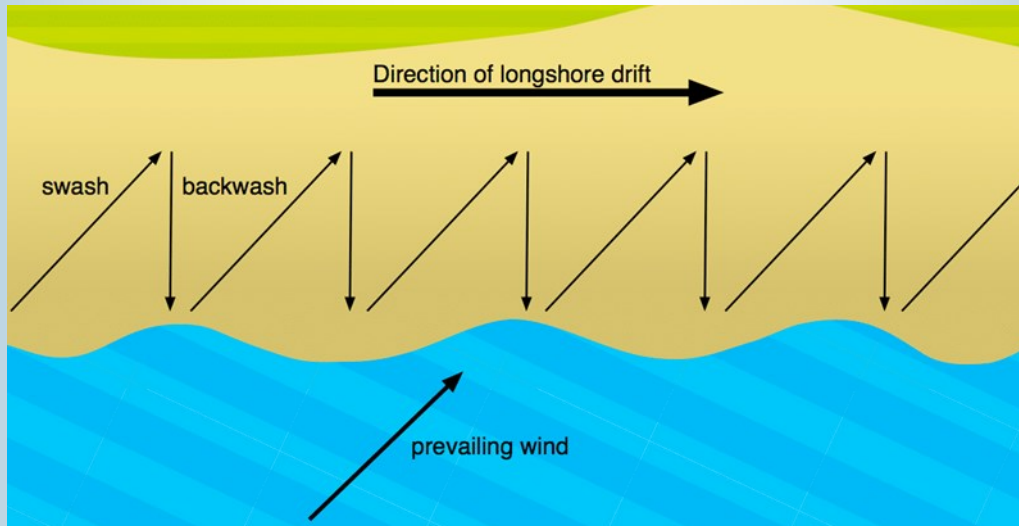
Desmond Mpilo Tutu was a South African Anglican bishop and theologian, known for his work as an anti-apartheid and human rights activist.



F.W. de Klerk was the president of South Africa from 1989 to 1994. He helped to end apartheid and to make South Africa a democratic country.

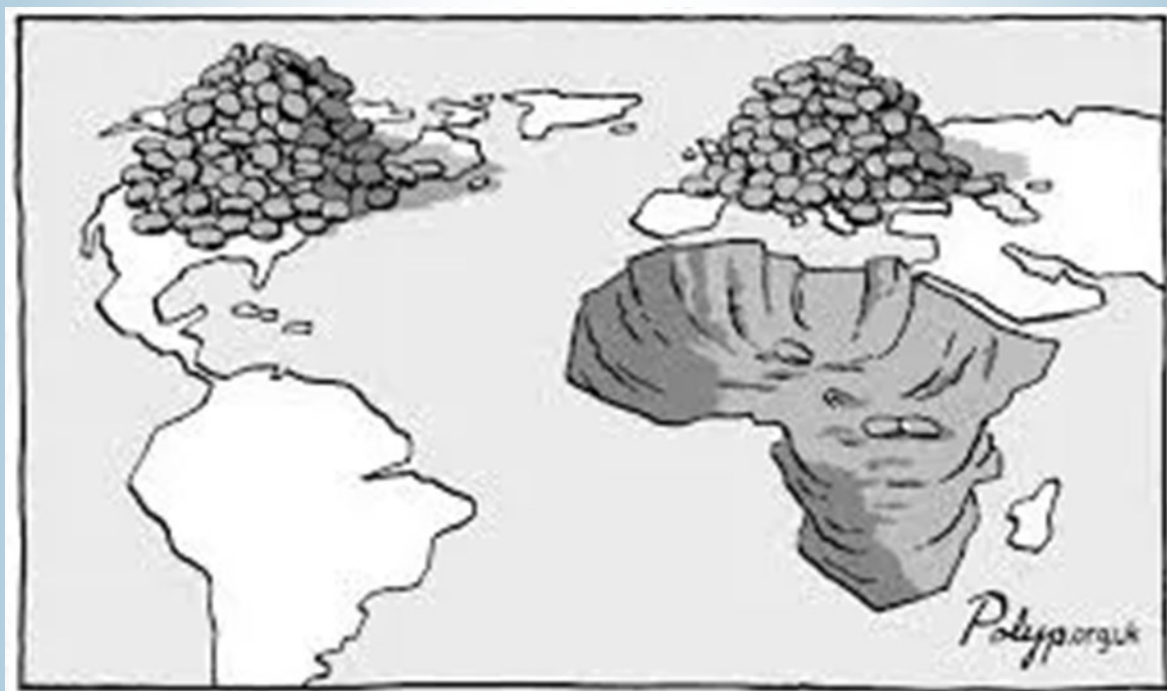
GCSE students

Geography GCSE students are at differing stages with-in their studies and range from the Development Gap, plate tectonics, tropical storms, a case study of Bristol, ecosystems, biomes and coastal marine processes. Three students have progressed from Entry Level to GCSE geography, making a total of five students and two who will sit their finals examinations next year.



The development gap is the difference in development levels between the world's richest and poorest countries. Development can be measured by economic growth or human development, which is an improvement in quality of life.

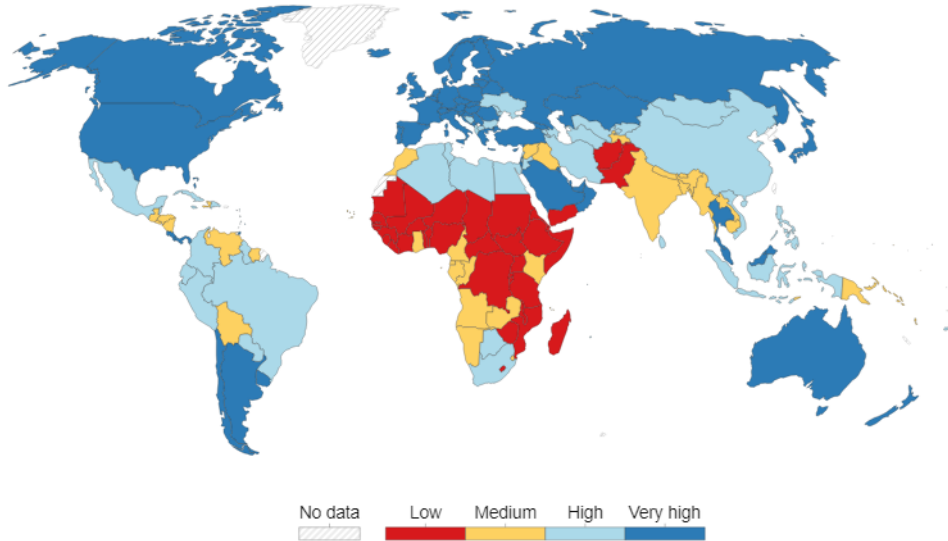
The Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite measure of a country's social and economic development. It's calculated by combining the following three factor indices, each contributing one-third to the HDI: Life Expectancy Index, Education Index, and Standard of Living Index.



Human Development Index groups, 2022

Our World
in Data

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, a good education, and a decent standard of living. The groups below define different levels of human development depending on the HDI values.



Data source: UNDP, Human Development Report (2024)

OurWorldInData.org/human-development-index | CC BY

As well as GCSE Geography, History and Religious Education and Entry Level Humanities, we are also offering GCSE Geology and we are currently studying minerals and igneous rocks.

The Head of Science at the John Kyrle High School has very kindly lent us an array of igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks as well as minerals and fossils.



Fossil trilobites

A naturally occurring cube of iron pyrite (fool's gold)



Careers

Careers education is a core part of what we offer at Norton College Worcester. Our destination data for students, shows that we encourage them to succeed and to move into positive destinations post Norton College. We work closely with Worcester careers hub and with various career agencies in different counties. Our careers team work with individual students to plan their career and help them to prepare for adulthood.

To support the careers offer at Norton college, we will be looking to appoint a careers tutor, as part of the PSHE department, allowing additional time to help students in this important area of their development. If you would like to discuss careers for your child, please feel free to contact Ian McCrudden in college at any time.

We have recently had a week where we focused on the balance of salaries against job enjoyment, work life balance and working patterns. The students came up with some really good ideas and developed their understanding of benefits of finding a career path they enjoy.

FamilyFirst

Here's your free copy of the UK's
largest parenting title - Enjoy!



Like & follow us on
facebook.

WORD SEARCH COMPETITION

Fruits

Can you find these words and win a prize?!



Fruits Word Search



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

Blueberries

Strawberry

Watermelon

Plum

Raspberry

Oranges

Apricot

Kiwi

Grapes

Banana

Pears

Apple

Peach

Pineapple

Mango

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 10th January 2025.

Name: