



Midsomer Norton
Schools Partnership
The Sixth Form

Student/ Parent Update 25.6.21

Dear all,

It has been a busy week with lots happening and the students on all sites have been amazing whether coping with online learning again or showing their determination to progress following their end of year exams.

Covid

The local rates of Covid are rising rapidly at the moment and students within the Sixth Form have already had to isolate over the past few weeks. It is important that we adhere to the covid guidance we have placed in school to ensure that students are able to continue to attend site. It is well proven that attendance to school improves students outcomes and the support and intervention we are able to put in place also has a significant impact.

It's really important that we do everything we can to keep the students in school and it is vital that students ensure that they do not come into school if they have symptoms. To remind all of us I have detailed the current Public Health Guidance on expected symptoms for Covid. If a student has symptoms then they need to have a PCR test and if this is negative then they can return to site.

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If a student has been in contact with someone who has a positive covid test then they need to self isolate for 10 days. The completion of a PCR test does not shorten this period of time but Public Health England is currently asking individuals to complete these tests to help them understand the spread.

All students should complete a lateral flow test twice a week; on a Wednesday and Sunday. These are proving to be very effective at picking up asymptomatic cases in the community. It is important that students log this on the government website <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> and also vital that they let us know immediately. Myself, Ms Taggart and Ms Oxley-Hughes pick up our emails regularly and if we are informed prior to the start of the school day then we can contact students to ensure they do not come into school once a case has been picked up. If students have run out Lateral FLOW tests then there are additional test kits available from the Sixth Form office on either site.

We ask all students to wear masks when moving around the site outside the Sixth Form bubble area and also to make sure they keep the chairs moving forwards when sat in the communal areas of the Sixth Form.

Evidence shows that good ventilation is key to limiting the spread of the virus and therefore windows will be opened and they cannot be closed, so students need to ensure that they dress appropriately for the weather.

End of Year exams

Year 12 students have been receiving the results of their end of year exams and also looking at how they can improve these in the lessons this week. Students will be developing subject specific targets to work on over the next few weeks and their tutors will work with them on these. On the whole, the students have done exceptionally well, particularly considering the circumstances of this year's studies and we are very proud of them.

Students who have achieved a grade E or U in a subject or who are substantially below their target grade will be asked to retake the paper once the departments have supported them to address any issues or misconceptions. This retake is to ensure that students are now confident in these areas and are able to progress.

It is likely that students will not be achieving their target grades at this time and we would expect students to be 1 or 2 grades below their target grade in these exams. This has been exacerbated by the impact of home learning and also as students have not had as much exam experience as they would do normally. All departments are putting together intervention plans to support students and some students may be invited to attend after school sessions to support them in progressing in subjects.

We may also ask students to complete a Study Time Diary sheet, where a student is working well but the progress does not seem to match this. This allows us to ensure that the students are making the most effective use of their study time and not spending more time on pieces of work than expected. Students complete this for two weeks and then it is reviewed together with their tutor to see if there are any changes that could be made.

Some students may be underperforming in a number of areas and this may be due to lack of effective study activity in their study periods. In this case we ask the students to spend a specific amount of time in the library and to keep a record of this. These are known as monitoring reports and are not a reflection of poor behaviour as they may be perceived in the lower school, but are used to allow us to monitor a student's work practices and use of their study time. These work very effectively in helping to get the students back on track.

We will be contacting parents over the next week if students are going to be completing any of these measures and may ask parents to attend a remote meeting to discuss any other issues arising.

There will be an opportunity to talk to subject teachers in the Year 12 parents evening on Thursday 15th July and further details about this will be sent out in the next week.

I hope that we are able to return to some semblance of normality soon, but in the meantime if you have any queries or concerns please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Ward". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Mrs K Ward
Director of Sixth Form
Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership