



Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com

Executive Headteacher/CEO: Alun Williams

Registered Address: Norton Hill School, Charlton Road, Midsomer Norton, BA3 4AD

Company No: 7365778

1st July 2020

Dear Parent/Carers

I am writing with further updates following recent announcements from the Government regarding schools. We are still waiting for further formal guidance on a number of aspects, but I feel that it would be helpful for you to know my views and those of Headteachers as soon as possible on a range of issues.

1) GCSE and A Level Centre Assessed Grades for 2020 - Year 11 and Year 13 cohorts:

These have now be passed to examination boards and we await the moderation process which is taking place nationally. We have been told that under no circumstances, should we share these grades or the school rank order of pupils with anyone external to the organisation. We are currently constructing an appeals process for pupils if they disagree with the grade issued by the exam board and we hope to share this with parents/carers before the end of term (17th July).

2) Transition Arrangements:

These are well under-way in schools and as a reminder we have the following planned:

- Pre-school children will be invited in on 16th and 17th July to meet their teachers and key workers.
- Year 6 children will be able to access virtual transition videos across all the schools and some may be invited to visit their new school, if they are part of an enhanced transition programme.
- Secondary schools are aiming to create videos for parents covering induction evening topics.
- Some primary schools are hoping to run some transition with other year groups before the end of term, so that all children have an opportunity to meet their new teachers or, be part of a virtual transition programme.

3) Video Learning:

Secondary schools are now producing more teacher-videos to enhance learning for children. These are a useful tool to support pupils understanding of key concepts, but only when combined with other set work. We are gradually extending the use of video and thank you to parents/carers for the positive feedback received on these. Of course, production of video is not straight forward and whilst we are fortunate to have excellent teachers across the Trust, not many are natural film stars! Additionally, the quantity of high quality cameras available across schools is a limiting factor, something we are addressing. We have now set up rooms in most secondary schools to help staff produce live or recorded material and we plan to keep these in place in case they are required in September.

4) Arrangements for September:

We are hoping that schools will return to normal in September and we can all breathe a sigh of relief. At this point, the government has not issued any further guidance on how they believe this can work. Once I have further updates I will inform you of our plans. At this point, I am making the assumption that schools will see all children return, albeit with certain Health and Safety restrictions.

5) Uniform in Schools from September:

The current guidance is that items of clothing should be washed regularly to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus. As a result of this, all schools would like children to wear some elements of school uniform,





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but not all of it. School shoes, appropriate school trousers/skirt and the appropriate school shirt/polo top will be expected, but schools will be relaxed about ties, blazers and jumpers. The decision here has been a tricky one to try and balance. We want to reduce the risk of the Coronavirus being spread, but also feel a responsibility to uniform suppliers, who collectively, have close to £1 million worth of stock in shops/warehouses. Blazers and jumpers are also expensive items and therefore we hope this flexibility will help parents/carers who are struggling financially. Retaining some elements of uniform is something I think is important, as we know that uniform 'levels the playing field' so to speak between children from different backgrounds. **At this point, can I also make it clear that the usual expectations about jewellery remain.** We would envisage that full uniform will be compulsory again from Term 2 (after the October half-term).

Schools will write directly to their parents/carers with further details specific to the school prior to September.

6) After-school clubs in schools.

We are expecting a return to some form of normality and where we can, after-school clubs will be offered, as has been the case in previous years.

Thank you for your continued support in what continues to be a very challenging and difficult time.

Kind regards

Alun Williams
CEO

