Pupils experience life outside the classroom

NORTON College believes education for students happens outside of the classroom, as well as inside which is why it organises so many incredible trips, writes Emily Ogram, Year 11.

For example, there is the Amsterdam trip to help Year 8 students with their philosophy and ethics and history work, while the bi-annual ski trip is open to all students. Last summer, a group of six Norton College students with pupils from other schools spent a month in Borneo with our own Mr Stones and Ms Halkyard to make lifelong memories and support community based schemes, working alongside local residents to renovate and refurbish local schools and assist rural communities with projects improving sanitation.

Mr Stones said: “These trips play a vital role in enhancing students’ understanding of culture, language and experiences and by developing skills and learning new knowledge, the benefits for students are lifelong, and often support further study and future employment.”

Dreams come true for two sixth form students

By Tamara Tavares

FOLLOWING the university application procedure through UCAS (the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service), 60 per cent of students at Norton College sixth form who applied for higher education courses are now receiving offers from their five choices.

One of these students is Gemma Brazil. Norton College welcomed Gemma into Year 9 in 2014.

From the start, Gemma has shown real dedication to her studies, and followed the college’s culture of high expectations, as well as its ASPIRE values.

As a result of Gemma’s commitment, she has received a conditional offer of a place to study English literature at Cambridge, best-known for sustaining the highest entry standards of all universities and ranked a world leader.

While visiting the university during the summer holidays, Gemma was advised to apply by a member of staff at Cambridge. This gave her the courage to do so.

Gemma had received her offer. It is evident that this is an opportunity of a lifetime, which Gemma claims she “wasn’t expecting at all”.

Similarly to Gemma, Lauren Richardson, in Year 13 at Norton, has gained a place on a competitive, rigorous course at Northern Ballet, the “international centre of excellence in training for classical ballet and musical theatre”.

Before achieving her conditional offer at Northern Ballet, Lauren had to undertake auditions where she performed in front of a few of the school’s faculty team, as well as other students with a similar dream.

Although Lauren has secured place at the ballet school, she wishes to complete her Alevels at Norton College, so it will leave her with more doors open for the future, despite her desire to achieve a career as a professional dancer.

Pastoral care on offer at college

AROUND Norton College, there are numerous facilities to benefit the wellbeing of students, writes Emily Ogram, Year 11.

Pastoral care is a priority at Norton, and the pastoral building and pupil support definitely contributes to their wellbeing. It is the heart of pastoral care at Norton, and is a quiet space for students to complete work outside of lessons, a stress-free space for Year 11s to spend time revising and a welcoming environment for pupils to work, if they don’t feel comfortable working in a classroom for a particular lesson.

It is a great asset to the school and the students who use the space value it.

One student said: “I always feel welcomed into pupil support, and I know I am always able to go there and do my work quietly, especially if I don’t feel well enough to attend a lesson in a busy classroom.”

Another said: “I spend time in pupil support revising as it is a much quieter space than at home, and it helps to know there’s somewhere to go if I need that independent space.”

Another great part of life at Norton College is the vast range of lunchtime and after-school clubs available to students.

They provide extra-curricular activities for students to engage in, and include sports clubs like netball, hockey and rugby, as well as debating club and an English literature group.

Recently, the college put on their annual production and this year it was Legally Blonde. So, students met Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after-school to rehearse for the show.

The library is also open from Monday to Thursday after-school to complete home learning in a quiet and calm atmosphere with staff available to help.

For more bandstand students, science club takes place each Thursday after-school and some of the previous experiments have had some really fun results.

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