



# Longbenton High School

Ref: PQ/RS/65106

6 December 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Now that we are in the special time of Advent, I wanted to write to you to let you know of some of the events happening in school during the last two weeks of term.

Firstly, I would like to inform you that **Christmas lunch** will be one of the items on offer at lunchtime on **Thursday 12 December**, turkey and Brussel sprouts included!

As a school we encourage our students to support charitable events, especially at this time of year. There are a couple of events coming up in school that look to support good causes that I wanted you to be aware of:

- In recent years, students have requested that we take part in a Christmas Jumper day, which is promoted by Save the Children. All monies raised will go directly to this valuable cause and our **Christmas Jumper Day** will be on **Friday 13 December**. Any student who would like to support this event can come to school wearing a Christmas Jumper that they have either made or bought. To support this cause, students can make a small donation if they wish. Students do need to remember that there is an expectation that they will wear the rest of their uniform, including school trousers/skirts and shoes
- Students and staff are organising a **Christmas Fair and Bake Sale** in aid of St. Oswald's Hospice and Team Kenya at lunch time on **Tuesday 17 December**. Many students and staff have volunteered to help and students will have the opportunity to buy snacks and cakes, try fair type games as well as arts and crafts. We did this last year and it was extremely popular with students.

In the last week of term, we hold celebration assemblies for all Students during which we will highlight some of the many successes our young people have enjoyed during the Autumn Term.

We have two very different Christmas events organised that I would like to invite you to attend where you can see first-hand how talented our students are.

On **Monday 16 December at 7pm** in the Main Hall of Longbenton High School we have our Christmas Concert. At this, you will be thoroughly entertained by a wide range of our talented young performers. Tickets will be on sale from the school office, price £3.50 (£1.50 for under 18s).

Hailsham Avenue, Longbenton, Newcastle upon Tyne NE12 8ER

On **Wednesday 18 December at 7pm in St Bartholomew's Church** we have our annual traditional **Carol Service**. This event is guaranteed to leave you feeling festive and ready for the family cheer that hopefully awaits us all.

In addition, I would like to inform you of an event which is held on a termly basis. At the request of our student council, any student who completes 98-100% attendance for the full term will be given a golden ticket, which entitles students to come to school in non-uniform on the last day of term, should they wish. Tickets will be given out to students who have achieved this during the final week of term, in readiness for **Friday 20 December**. Should students come to school out of uniform without a golden ticket, we will need to consider whether it is appropriate for them to be in lessons or they may be sent home to change.

Thank you in advance for supporting these events.

Finally I would like to express my thanks for the help and support of so many of you and others in the local community over the past term and year. Some of you may know that four years ago I suffered a sub-arachnoid haemorrhage, which I was very lucky to survive and be able to return to full capacity. Over the past year or so, I have noticed that I am becoming increasingly more tired both cognitively and physically. After much thought and consideration, I have decided that I will retire in the summer of 2020. Throughout my teaching career I have always worked in North Tyneside schools and have been at Longbenton since September 1998 in a number of different roles, including as headteacher for the past five years. I have relished working at Longbenton for many reasons, not least the truly comprehensive nature of the intake of the school, the local area and the inclusive and caring philosophy of everyone in the school for our students. However, I know that I have to listen to my body and this academic year will be my last. It has been a prolonged process in my head to reach this point. I have no doubt that I will see many of you at events in school over the coming months and I am looking forward to thoroughly enjoying my last two terms working at this very special place.

I hope that you and your family share a very special festive season together, enjoying that most wonderful of things, time together creating memories. Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year in 2020.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Quinn', written in a cursive style.

Mr P Quinn  
Headteacher