



Longbenton High School

10th May 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I hope you all had a restful Easter and enjoyed the recent bank holiday. There are a few updates I wanted to provide particularly around forthcoming exams: **GCSE and A Level exams start Monday 16th May**. Regardless of what you may think about whether exams should still be going ahead given the unprecedented years of disruption students have experienced, student resilience and positivity as they go into this period is so impressive. We are incredibly proud of all our LHS students and Year 11 and 13 are demonstrating exactly why: by focusing, supporting each other and ensuring they are fully prepared for what will be an intense time coming up.

Year 11

Students have engaged well with recent changes to form groups which have increased our capacity to help provide final intervention in English and maths, and have continued with the after school Keep Up sessions. These additional half hour sessions throughout Year 11 have had a positive impact, but these sessions will finish on Friday 13th May. Many students have already started their GCSE exams - with the MFL speaking tests last week - and again we were very pleased with their attitude to these. The **written GCSE exams begin on Monday 16th May**, and all students have been given an exam and revision booklet. This can also be found on the school website [here](#).

All students will be in normal lessons once their exam has finished, or if they do not have an exam, **until half term**. On Monday 6th June there are no exams, but students will be able to come into school for bespoke English and maths revision sessions ready for the exams that week. Students will be on 'study leave' from that point and will not need to remain in school if they do not have an exam. We will be able to provide designated revision/study space during this time should they wish to work in school. Physics is the final examination for all students and is on **Thursday 23rd June**. The Leavers' Assembly will be held after this exam finishes.

Students may still order leavers' hoodies from school at a cost of £16, and will need to choose the size, colour, and any additional lettering. Orders and payment must be received by Mrs Howlitson by this Friday (13th May). The final payment for the school prom must be handed in a week later, by Friday 20th May.

Year 11 students with Sixth Form offers will be receiving confirmation letters next week. There is a Sixth Form bridging event for those students on **Thursday 7th July**; details of this event will be in the offer letter and students should make every effort to attend. Please contact the school via our new email address for Sixth Form with any queries regarding enrolment post GCSEs or transition from Year 11 to 12 at: SixthForm@longbenton.org.uk

Year 13

Like Year 11, **exams also start on Monday 16th May**. Year 13 will be expected, unless they have an exam in another subject, to attend all of their lessons up until the final exam is completed in each of their subjects. Students who have taken subjects at GSHS will sit their exams at LHS.

The timetable for Year 13 exams can be found [here](#).

We are holding a Y13 leavers event from 9.30-10.30am on Tuesday 17th May in the Sixth Form Common Room for all Year 13 students. We will provide food and refreshments and this will be a chance for students to meet with each other and staff, take photos and, if they wish, write farewell messages. We are very conscious that students did not get a chance to do this at the end of Year 11. Many students have been coming in on a Tuesday morning to revise but it would be excellent if all students could be there to remember their time at Longbenton and take some final group photos with everyone. We will inform students about this event during tutor time and posts on Google Classroom. Can I take this opportunity to thank you for your support during your son or daughter's time in the school. Students are working very hard towards their forthcoming exams and we wish them every success in the future

Year 10 after May half term

Year 10 approached their mock exams before the Easter holidays with great maturity. At this stage, after two terms of their GCSE courses and the disruption of the past two years, we are expecting to find knowledge gaps from this series of mocks and student expectations need to be managed - they will not be exactly where they need to be yet. For this reason, we will be starting Keep Up sessions immediately after May half term. This means that students will be expected to stay in school for an additional 30 minutes every day except Tuesday; **their finish time will therefore change to 3.15pm**. This is not optional; all year 10 students will be expected to attend these additional lessons to help prepare them for Year 11 and their final GCSE exams. Having organised them for our Year 11 students we know that these sessions have an extremely positive impact.

Uniform - all year groups

Please ensure that your child is wearing their blazer and the correct (optional) school jumper - this is a plain black v-neck jumper, not a round neck sweatshirt or jumper (and should certainly not be a logo sweatshirt). Trainers if worn as shoes should be plain black without visible logos (e.g. Vans with large white sections are not acceptable). There is a current trend for excessive jewellery especially necklaces; these should not be visible over the top of ties. The blazer is NOT optional and must be worn.

Finally, an update on forthcoming dates this term:

- ★ **GCSE and A Level Exams start - Monday 16th May**
- ★ **Year 12 exams:** week beginning 16th and 23rd May
- ★ **KS3 Exam Week:** week beginning 13th June
- ★ **The final Year 11 exam** is Physics on **Thursday 23 June**; the Leavers' Assembly will be straight after this on the same day.
- ★ **Training Day:** (no students in school - apart from students sitting A Level Biology exam) Friday 24th June
- ★ **Year 10 Employability Week:** week beginning Monday 27 June
- ★ **Year 11-Sixth Form bridging event:** Thursday 7th July 9am-1pm
- ★ **Y12 Work Experience week:** week beginning 11th July
- ★ **Last day of summer term:** Tuesday 19th July
- ★ **A level Results day:** Thursday 18th August (results available from 8.30 am onwards)
- ★ **GCSE Results day and Sixth Form enrolment:** Thursday 25th August (results available from 8.30 am onwards)

New term start dates (September 2022): Tuesday 6th September (Year 7 & 6th form only); all other year groups have their first day as follows: Thursday 8th September (Year 10 & 11); Friday 9th September (Year 8 and 9). Monday 5th September is a staff training day.

Please continue to follow our latest news via the website here: <https://longbenton.org.uk/news>

Yours faithfully



Kelly Holbrook
Headteacher

Exam FAQs - Reminders

Will any students receive TAGs or CAGs this year?

No - exams are going ahead in summer 2022. If your child misses examinations this summer there is no DfE contingency plan to replace their examinations with TAGs.

What happens if my child misses an exam?

If your child is absent due to illness, please notify the school by 8.30am on the morning of the examination. A medical certificate (from GP) or the JCQ Self-Certification Form 14 must be produced to the Examinations Officer within 5 days of the examination.

What must my child bring to their exams?

All students should bring the necessary equipment; a black pen, pencil and maths equipment including calculator etc as required for each exam. Students MUST NOT bring a mobile phone, watch or any electronic device to the exams; these are not allowed in the exam room and the school is not responsible for items left outside the exam rooms. Any equipment must be in a clear case; labels should be taken off any drinks bottles.

Please note that Year 11 should be in full uniform for exams. They cannot wear hoodies and coats - the sports hall can sometimes feel cold first thing on a morning, so they should be in shirt/jumper/blazer.

What should I do if my child has Covid or tests positive for Covid on the day of an exam?

In summary, the following facts are important to note:

- The DfE no longer recommends that children are tested for Covid, unless told to do so by a health professional
- If your child has mild 'cold' symptoms, such as a runny nose or slightly sore throat, the guidance is that they should attend the examination
- If your child is unwell and has a high temperature / persistent cough they should remain at home and return to school when they feel better and they no longer have a high temperature
- The guidance states there is no need for any child to isolate if a family member has Covid
- If a student misses an examination due to Covid we will ask parents and students to complete page 2 of JCQ Form 14 to self-certify. This form must be signed and returned to the Examination Officer within 5 days of the exam. No other evidence will be required.
- If a student misses an examination for an acceptable reason the school will also apply to the exam board so a grade can be awarded, based on the examinations that they do sit.
- All examinations for the same subject are spaced 10 days apart. This means that if one of the exam papers is missed for a particular subject a grade can be calculated based on the other components (exam papers)
- If no papers are completed for a particular subject a grade cannot be awarded
- If the school suspects that the child is not ill or has submitted false information to justify missing an examination, the school is obliged to carry out a malpractice investigation on behalf of the exam board. The severest sanction for malpractice is disqualification from all subjects and no grades will be awarded.

When will exam results be issued this year?

Year 13 will receive their results on A Level Results Day, which this year is on Thursday 18th August. We will issue results to Year 11 students, in person, on Thursday 25th August. Enrolment into our Sixth Form will also take place on this day. Students can leave a stamped addressed envelope with the Exams Officer and have their results posted on results day; we do also issue results via email directly to students on request.