



Longbenton High School

14th January 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Happy New Year and welcome to the new term. Despite the problems that the pandemic continues to throw at us all, I hope you managed to enjoy the Christmas break.

Covid update Students were phenomenal last Wednesday regarding the on-site lateral flow testing at the start of term: they were punctual, incredibly sensible and mature about the whole process. We tested just under 600 students in total and had 11 positives on the day.

We continue to be affected by Covid-related absence which is making the day-to-day running of the school difficult. Staying fully open for face to face teaching will remain hugely challenging in the weeks to come; there are already schools in the borough who have had to move to remote learning. We will do our best and will of course keep you updated about changes as promptly as possible, but we are suffering the effects of regional and local high case rates at present.

You will be aware that the **rules about testing and self-isolation** are changing all the time and it can be very confusing. A summary of the current situation is as follows:

- Face masks are to be worn in classrooms as well as communal areas. This is to be reviewed on January 26th by the government.
- From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to school immediately on day 6. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day.
- If, while self isolating, the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest. Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.
- Students and staff who test positive via LFT no longer have to have a confirmatory PCR (as of 11th January onwards)

Whilst staff absence is high, please use email in the first instance to communicate with school; please only call with urgent issues. **You can now report your child's Covid absence online here:** <https://forms.gle/SetdQXv4NXiFiNpU7> It is also at the top of the school website home page - just click on this and you will be taken to the online form. We have high student Covid absence at present, reflective of the regional and national case rate, at around 15% of all students across all year groups.

Please continue to report non-Covid absence in the normal way.

We will aim as a school to push day to messages and FAQs out via social media on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook, via the News section of the school website and via School Comms email to help answer common queries. In order to keep you informed about any detentions that your child may receive, from next week we will be sending these messages

directly to you via School Comms. In addition to this, students will also be reminded of these in school. Please ensure you can and are accessing School Comms messages and that we have your up to date contact details.

Vaccinations We have had confirmation from the vaccination team that they will be in school on **Friday 18th February** to administer first and second doses of the Covid vaccination for 12-15 year olds at our school. If you have already booked a vaccination appointment for your child outside of school please keep this appointment. You should have already received a letter regarding these vaccinations and consent forms.

A reminder that students who have had Covid in the past 12 weeks cannot have their vaccine until this timeframe has passed. Similarly, students need a 12 week gap between their first and second vaccine doses. If your child had their first vaccine here in school on November 5th, the earliest date at which they are eligible for a second dose is 28th January.

Visitors to the site Please do not come to school unless you have a booked appointment to see a member of staff. We cannot facilitate immediate face to face meetings for parents and carers who just turn up in reception, particularly with staff absence and covid rates at present. If you are attending school for a meeting, please try to take a lateral flow test beforehand.

Exams Planned exams (external and 6th form mocks) are still going ahead as planned. The DfE have clarified that face masks do not need to be worn during exams. We are waiting for exam board information for Year 11 and 13 due to be released on 7th February; we need to manage expectations around what this information will look like (e.g. there may not be as many changes as we might have wished for). At present Summer 2022 exams are still going ahead; the DfE are determined that they will happen and we need to prepare students - as parents and teachers - for this to be the case.

Period 6 timetable - from 10th January

The amended timetable for this half term for all year groups is below. Keep Up lessons for year 11 also started this week. **It is an expectation that students attend a minimum of one activity per week 2.45-3.45pm.**

Period 6 Enrichment Timetable (2.45-3.45pm) SPRING TERM 2022

	Clubs & Activities	Sport	Year 11 Keep Up Lessons	Post-16 EQP Support/Drop in
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Orchestra - all year groups ★ Guitar Legends - all year groups ★ Amnesty International/Human Rights - all years ★ Y7 First Lego League Club ★ Lego Club (Learning Support) ★ Year 7 & 8 Drama club ★ Languages Club - all years ★ Y10 GCSE Photography homework club ★ Y10 DT NEA Catch Up ★ Year 10 Catering/CACHE catch up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Netball for all years in the Sports Hall (RD/RCO) ★ Trampolining for Y9, 10, 11 in the Studio (AMO) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Maths / English Keep Up ★ Week 1 : North - Maths , South -English ★ Week 2 : North - English, South - Maths) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Science ★ FTC ★ ICT/Business
Tuesday				
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Geography Club ★ Year 10 Geography - improving geographical skills/revision help/homework help ★ Film Club CM17 ★ Y7-9 Textiles Club- week 2 only ★ Historical Fiction Book Club-any year group - week 2 only ★ Y7 History Club - week 2 only ★ Learning Support Homework Club ★ Year 8 Punctuality detention / homework club ★ Year 7-9 Games Development Club ★ Year 10 Punctuality detention / homework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Trampolining for Y7 and 8 in the Studio (RD) ★ Table tennis for all years in the Sports Hall (RT) ★ Badminton for Y7 and 8 in the Sports Hall (DH) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Week 1 : Option A subjects (Art, History, Music, Performance Skills, Photography, Spanish, Business & Enterprise) ★ Week 2 : Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Maths ★ History ★ RS

	club ★ Year 9 TICE - Week 2 only (RW)			
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Y7-9 Longbenton Voices (choir) ★ Y7-9 STEM Club ★ Debating Society - all years ★ Numeracy Club - Learning Support ★ Creative Writing Club CM15 ★ Pride Club (2.45-3.15pm) CM03 ★ Book club (Week 2) CM01 ★ Y10 Art Homework Club (HRO) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Basketball for all years in the Sports Hall (MR) ★ Badminton for Y9 and 10 in the Sports Hall (AMO) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Week 1 : Option B subjects (Cache, Drama, French, Hospitality & Catering, Geography, History, Photography) ★ Week 2 : Option D subjects (Construction, Computer Science, Cache, Geography, PE, Sports Studies, Business and Enterprise) 	
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Senior Choir ★ Warhammer Club - all year groups (starts 31.09) ★ Year 9 Punctuality detention / homework club ★ Year 9 Photography Arts Award ★ Year 9 Arts Award (RW) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Basketball 'breakfast club' with the Newcastle Eagles Foundation* for all year groups in the Sports Hall from 7.30am-8.30am. ★ Volleyball for all year groups in the Sports Hall (RT) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Week 1 : Option C subjects (Construction, Art, DT, Hospitality & Catering, I-Media, RE, Triple Science) 	

*There is a cost of £10 for the half term for these sessions with Newcastle Eagles. Please see Mr Towler to sign up for these sessions

Forthcoming dates this term

- ★ **Year 11 6TH FORM TASTER DAY/TYNE MET** - Open event (students only) Wed 26th January
- ★ **6TH FORM OPEN EVENING** - Wed 2nd February (virtual)
- ★ **Year 9 Parents Eve** - Thurs 3rd February (online via School Cloud)
- ★ **6th Form parents eve @ GSHS** - Wed 16th February (online via School Cloud/phone calls)
- ★ **Year 7 Parents Eve** - Wed 9th February (online via School Cloud)
- ★ **Year 8 Parents Eve** - Wed 24th March (online via School Cloud)
- ★ **Year 10 Exam Week** w/b 4th April (last week before Easter)
- ★ **Year 11 Exams** Monday 14th February - English and Maths mock exams
- ★ **Year 11 Mock Week** - w/b 7th March (schedule to follow)

Further information regarding Year 10 and Year 11 exams will be sent in the coming weeks.

Holidays Spring-Summer 2022

February half term: week beginning Monday 21st February

Easter holidays: week beginning Monday 11 April (2 weeks). School starts again Monday 25th April

May half term: week beginning Monday 30th May

Last day of summer term: Tuesday 19th July

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

Yours faithfully



Kelly Holbrook
Headteacher