



Longbenton High School

10th September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the new academic year; it has been wonderful to have all of our students back in the building again this week. Thank you for your patience with regards to the staggered start for different year groups so that we could accommodate the required lateral flow testing schedule; we have had no positive Covid cases so far. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new Year 7 parents and hope that your child's transition experience has been a positive one; they have made a great start.

2021 Results

You will be aware that students in the summer did not in the end sit 'formal' examinations as expected, but they still completed full assessments in school to enable us to award accurate centre-assessed grades. We are incredibly proud of the results our students achieved: at A Level 38% of grades were A*-B, with 19% A*-A grades; 48% of students achieved at least one A or A* grade; and every student with university ambitions secured a place. At GCSE we saw a fourth successive year of improvement in all key headline measures. An impressive 14% of students achieved a sweep of top grades at 7+ and 73% of students achieved a 4+ in English and Maths. We will of course keep in close communication with Year 11 and Year 13 parents this year about any adjustments to examinations for summer 2022 and hope we get some more clarity from the Department for Education soon.

Period 6 timetable: extra-curricular activities starting Monday

One of the elements of education that the pandemic has affected the most has been our ability to deliver extra-curricular activities. We know that this is one of the things that students have missed most: the opportunity to get involved in sports activities and clubs connected to their interests; and to spend time with their school peers and friends outside of the classroom.

We want to ensure that students are developing the skills that subjects can't necessarily teach them, so we are proud to be launching a **Period 6 curriculum / timetable, starting from Monday 13th September**. This will evolve and be added to as the weeks and months go on, but at present our offer for the first half term is attached.

There is an expectation that:

- All students in Year 11 will stay for Keep Up lessons 2.45-3.45, every day except Tuesday
- All students in Years 7-10 will attend **at least one** club or sport activity each week 2.45-3.45pm

Students may want to spend a few weeks trying each club or event to see what suits them best before committing to attendance. Beyond that, we may have to put a cap on numbers for some clubs and activities and run a reserve list; we will let you know if that is the case. Please discuss with your child what they should attend. No prior experience is required for any activity on this timetable.

Year 9 Enrichment Curriculum

Beginning this term, students in Year 9 will be participating in a pilot for an Enrichment Curriculum, with dedicated time all year within the timetable to undertake a qualification outside of the traditional curriculum. Enrichment enhances the learning process because it fosters collaboration, creativity and curiosity and enables students to build interpersonal skills and develop the values which we hold front and centre at Longbenton: integrity, determination, ambition and positivity. Students have already had an introductory session on their first day in school this week explaining what is on offer: Apps for Good; Arts Award; Dance Leadership; Debate; Duke of Edinburgh Award and



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Sports Leaders. They will have the option to try out a taster session next week before making a final choice about their preferred option. Please discuss this with your child.

Catering Services

We are aware that there have been some teething issues with catering services this week, which are unfortunately beyond our control - we do not manage the service as a school and do not manage student accounts. By way of a reminder: students can pay for school meals by setting up a ParentPay account or using a debit card or pre-payment card at the till. You will also be sent the QR Code/Pin number for your child by email. Your child needs to have one of these to purchase food at morning break or lunchtime. Students eligible for free school meals will have a daily allowance of £2.25 added to their account. They can spend this at break time or lunchtime and if they wish, parents can add more funds to their free school meal allowance. Year 7 have already been sent the emails, please check your junk/spam folders. If you have not received the activation email or QR code, please email parentpay@northtyneside.gov.uk with your child's name and school.

Forthcoming dates for your diary

16th September	Year 12 Parent Information evening (via Google Meet) 6-7pm
7th October	Year 7 Parent/Tutor contact (School Cloud appointments)
20th October	Year 11 Parents' Evening (School Cloud appointments)
25th-29th October	Half term holiday
19th November	Staff Training Day (school closed to all students)
22nd November	Year 11 Mock Exam week starts

As ever, please get in touch with any issues or queries you may have. We have an exciting year ahead and lots of plans to ensure the student experience here is the best it can be. We will get there more effectively if we work together and keep communicating.

Yours faithfully

Kelly Holbrook
Headteacher