

September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

As we near the end of a very successful first few weeks back at school, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support. Attendance, punctuality and uniform have generally been excellent and illustrate the high standards we have set and expect of our students. The new reward system has been very successful and we expect some students to achieve the bronze award by the end of the half term. You can track your child's positive achievements on Class Charts daily and see how they display the KIDMAP values of Kindness, Integrity, Determination, Manners, Ambition and Positivity. You can also support us by using this terminology with your child at home. It has felt - without Covid testing or associated rules and regulations - like a very normal September for the first time in a long time.

Ofsted Report

Our Ofsted report has now been formally published on the inspectorate website here: [Longbenton High - Ofsted Good rating](#) We are incredibly proud of this outcome and hope you will agree that it validates what we know and see every day: we have made remarkable changes and improvements as a school.

Summer Examination Results

This summer, we managed to secure record results. At GCSE, our overall grade 4+ pass rate was 78% (above the national figure of 75%) and at 5+ we achieved 61% (above national figure of 60%). 71% of students achieved at least a standard pass (Grade 4) in both English and Maths (62% in 2019); and 48% achieved at least a Grade 5 (40% in 2019). Our average grade was a 5, which is a 'strong' pass.

In terms of A Level performance, 83% of grades were A*-C, 59% were A*-B, with an average grade of a B (in line with local and national averages). Nearly 70% secured their first choice university offer and 100% of our students are now on university courses, apprenticeships or in employment.

There was a real buzz on both results days and we had our highest ever retention figure from Year 11 into Year 12, with 45% of our students staying in our Sixth Form to complete A Levels and BTECs.

Open Evening

Our Open Evening for Year 4, 5 and 6 students interested in joining us in Year 7 is coming up on Tuesday 27th September from 4.30-7.30pm. Staff and current students are really looking forward to showcasing our school; please

help us to spread the word with friends and colleagues with the following link:

<https://longbenton.org.uk/parents/admissions>

Pastoral Support

We have increased pastoral capacity and restructured our team this year following the appointment of Paul Atkinson as Deputy Headteacher (see changes to staffing below). Furthermore, we have a number of external providers working with the school this year that will enhance the pastoral provision already on offer and will be communicating this to you as we go into the term.

The new consequence system is really supporting learning in the classroom. No child should ever disrupt the learning of other children and if they do they will receive a consequence. These consequences range from 15-45 minute detentions on the same day. You will receive a text by 2.10pm if your child is on detention. They must attend the detention that night, so please do not plan any meetings/events immediately after school if possible, as they will need to complete the consequence first. Only in exceptional circumstances will this be reviewed.

If you need to contact school regarding your child, the first option is to contact your child's form tutor. If you need to contact your child's year team (the head of each year is now known as an RSL or Raising Standard Leader), details are as follows:

Year 7	RSL: Kat Lambert KL@longbenton.org.uk	Assistant RSL: Laura Charlton LCH@longbenton.org.uk
Year 8	RSL: Kevin Leigh KLE@longbenton.org.uk	
Year 9	RSL: Alex Maughan AMG@longbenton.org.uk	
Year 10	RSL: Danny Harold DH@longbenton.org.uk	Assistant RSL: Hannah Douglas HD@longbenton.org.uk
Year 11	RSL: Nicola McPherson NMC@longbenton.org.uk	Assistant RSL: Kath Brownbridge KB@longbenton.org.uk
Year 12 & 13	Head of Sixth Form: Abby Potts ALP@longbenton.org.uk	

Uniform

Our uniform policy states that only one pair of stud earrings are permitted in school. Additional piercings will be confiscated until the end of the day. Excessive amounts of makeup, acrylic painted nails and false eyelashes are not to be worn in school. Please support the school with this and ensure that from Friday 30th September any acrylic nails that need professional removal or piercings that need clear retainers etc have been actioned and are not worn by your child.

Progress Information and Parental Guidance

You will be aware that throughout the year we hold information evenings and subject teacher evenings. We will write to you throughout the year with specific details of the events coming up. Wherever possible we will aim to maintain a balance between online and face to face events to ensure that information and parent/teacher communication is accessible and meaningful. **Forthcoming dates:**

- Year 7 Parent/Tutor Evening - Tuesday 11th October 2022
- Year 12 & 13 Parent/Tutor Evening - Thursday 13th October 2022

Period 6

We are incredibly excited by, and proud of, the fantastic 'Period 6' offer that our staff have put together for the first term. There is a wide range of clubs on offer, promoting genuine 'cultural capital' amongst our students, with activities ranging from choir to lego club to volleyball. Year 11 Keep Up lessons are already running until 3.15pm.

The full list of activities for this term can be found via the school website:

<https://longbenton.org.uk/students/extra-curricular-activities>

Students do not need to sign up to attend the clubs, but we encourage compulsory **attendance to at least ONE club or activity per week**. We are hoping that students will want to attend multiple clubs; these types of enrichment activities can spark a life-long interest in a new hobby, help promote social skills, build friendships and give students the chance to really expand their CVs. We hope you will support us by encouraging your child to take up these wonderful opportunities that are running after school (2.45-3.45pm). Please do contact Mr Towler (rt@longbenton.org.uk) if you want any additional information about the clubs on offer.

Yours faithfully

Kelly Holbrook

Headteacher