

11th March 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I hope you all had a restful half term holiday and feel recharged ready for the term ahead. There are a few updates I wanted to provide particularly around staffing, Covid, exams and future dates.

### **Staffing Update**

We have been in the process of undertaking a staffing restructure in the school which has involved some changes to senior and middle leadership posts. In addition, Karen Gammack, our existing Deputy Headteacher, is due to retire this year following two very successful years with us. She will be leaving at May half term. We have appointed two fantastic new Deputy Headteachers who are due to start at the beginning of June: Paul Atkinson (currently Assistant Headteacher at Jarrow School) and Sarah Willis (existing Assistant Headteacher). They will be responsible for Culture & Ethos and Quality of Education respectively. Other key appointments which will see a change from September 2022 are: Head of Sixth Form - Abby Potts will be taking over this role, although Ian Williams will stay on as Assistant Headteacher - and Raising Standards Leader (Year Leader) for Year 7; this will be Kat Lambert.

### **Covid Update**

You will be aware that over half term the rules regarding Covid have been relaxed further by the government. This means that:

- There is no longer a legal requirement for people with Covid infection to self-isolate
- If you have any of the main symptoms of Covid or a positive test result, the public health advice is still to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.
- Contacts are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests, and contact tracing has ended.
- From 21 February, staff and pupils in mainstream secondary schools will not be expected to continue taking part in regular asymptomatic testing and should follow asymptomatic testing advice for the general population.

If you have any questions regarding the changes, please just ask.

### **Uniform**

We will be asking students, now that the weather is warmer, to stop wearing coats while in classrooms. Please ensure that your child is wearing their blazer and the correct (optional) school jumper (this is a plain black v-neck jumper); trainers if worn as shoes should be plain black without visible logos (eg Vans with large white sections are not acceptable). The wearing of coats (during covid outbreaks when we have had lots of windows open) has enabled some students to 'hide' incorrect uniform in recent months and we need to ensure that they are meeting our expectations; we need parental help in this, ensuring that your child is leaving the house in the correct items.

### **Ukrainian refugee appeal**

We are launching a charity appeal from Monday 14 March which will run throughout the week. Our students are keen to raise awareness of the current refugee crisis and to raise some funds for the DEC ( Disasters Emergency Committee <https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-crisis-appeal> ) We will be selling blue/yellow ribbons (as we might for the Poppy appeal, so any donation amount will help, however small) throughout the week and holding other fundraising competitions and events. The Polish Centre in Newcastle have been inundated with item donations and have paused them for now (see story [here](#)), so we are not collecting physical items at this point. If you would like some advice on how to talk to your child about the war in Ukraine, there is a useful blog post [here](#) which has also been shared with our staff.

Finally, an update on forthcoming dates this term and next:

### Spring Term

- ★ **Year 11 & 13 Mock Exams:** Week beginning 7th March. Please note - Year 11 Keep Up lessons resume Monday 14th (English & Maths which are compulsory); options subjects will arrange directly with students between now and Easter which students need to stay on which days for specific intervention.
- ★ **Ukrainian Refugee Appeal:** Week beginning 14th March
- ★ **\*NEW EVENT\* Year 10 Parents Information Evening:** Thursday 17th March (in person event in school) 6pm
- ★ **\*NEW EVENT\* Class of 2029 Year 6 Welcome Event:** Tuesday 22nd March
- ★ **Covid Vaccinations:** (the immunisation team are visiting for a 'mop up session' for anyone who has missed a vaccine) Tuesday 22nd March
- ★ **Year 8 Parents Evening:** Thursday 31st March (online via School Cloud) - please note this is a change to the original date
- ★ **Year 9 LifeSkills Workshops:** (careers event) Wednesday 30th March
- ★ **Year 10 Exam Week:** week beginning 4th April (last week before Easter)
- ★ **Easter holidays:** week beginning Monday 11 April (2 weeks). School starts again Monday 25th April
- ★ **May half term:** week beginning Monday 30th May

### Summer Term

- ★ **Year 10 Employability Week:** week beginning 25th April.
- ★ **Year 12 exams:** week beginning 16th May
- ★ **KS3 Exam Week:** week beginning 13th June
- ★ **The final Year 11 exam** is Physics on **Thursday 23 June**; the Leaver's Assembly will be straight after this on the same day.
- ★ **Training Day:** (no students in school) Friday 24th June
- ★ **Y12 Work Experience week:** week beginning 11th July
- ★ **Last day of summer term:** Tuesday 19th July

Please continue to follow our latest news via the website here: <https://longbenton.org.uk/news> For example, we have been sharing our 6th form success stories and primary school alumni as part of our Year 6 to 7 transition work. Congratulations in particular to Jess McArthur in Year 12, who has been successful in securing an accountancy apprenticeship at Deloitte, against over 3,000 applicants who made it to the interview stages.

Yours faithfully



Kelly Holbrook  
Headteacher



**Longbenton  
HIGH SCHOOL**



## **National Offer Day 2022 Longbenton High School**

### **National Offer Day FAQs**



### **Welcome Event for Year 6 Tuesday 22nd March 2022**

Email [transition@longbenton.org.uk](mailto:transition@longbenton.org.uk) to confirm your attendance

### **How can I ask questions about September?**

The easiest way to get in touch about anything to do with your child's transition is via email at [transition@longbenton.org.uk](mailto:transition@longbenton.org.uk)



### **When can we visit?**

There is a Welcome Event for all Year 6 students with places on Tuesday March 22nd 4.30-6.30pm. Please bring family and younger siblings with you! Further opportunities will be available over the summer term.

### **When are transition days?**

Our visit days and events for Year 6 (and Year 5) will start after Easter. We start the term every September with the first two days just for Year 7 - no other year groups. This year that is Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th September 2022.

### **Do you have places available?**

Yes! Please contact North Tyneside admissions directly if you would like to appeal against the school place you have been offered and would like a place at Longbenton High School for September 2022.

### **How do I contact admissions?**

The instructions will be in your offer letter/email. Any queries should be directed to [school.admissions@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:school.admissions@northtyneside.gov.uk)



[transition@longbenton.org.uk](mailto:transition@longbenton.org.uk)



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