



**LONGBENTON**  
HIGH SCHOOL

# Newsletter

June 2017

Messages from the Headteacher:

**PUBLIC EXAMS:** As you can imagine these are busy times in our school as we support all of our students but not least those who are in the middle of GCSE and A' Level exams. We wish all of those students (and their families) the very best. Remember those extra sessions after school and before exams will continue right up until the end of June.

**NEW YEAR 7:** The reputation of Longbenton High School continues to grow in our local community and beyond. An example of this is in the number of young people coming into Year 7 in September when we are likely to be over-subscribed with pupils joining us from twenty different primary schools. We welcome all of our new students and look forward to working in partnership with their families in helping them achieve their best in all aspects of school life.

**SCHOOL COMMS:** We are in the process of moving from Parent Mail to a new system, School Comms, which we feel will greatly improve our ability to push information to you about school news, events, pupil attendance and punctuality etc. electronically. More information will follow once arrangements for this improved service are in place.

**NEW SCHOOL DAY:** For the past few years we have timetabled four 80 minute lessons each day, with one less on Tuesdays to allow for staff CPD. This worked well for us in the old school where there was much lost teaching time due to pupils moving from building to building. However, now that we are in our fabulous new school, where everything is under one roof, this is no longer an issue. As a result we are changing to a five period day from September as I am convinced that it will lead to a better learning experience. We will continue to expect students to be in school by **8.30am** with the end of the teaching day being at **3.10pm** other than on Tuesdays when students will finish at **2:05pm**, slightly later than currently.

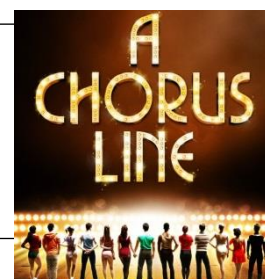
Another change that we will be making is to return to a single lunch period. We have had a timetable with a split lunch as our former dining hall could not cope with the volume of students having a school lunch. However, our new school has far better facilities and we no longer need this arrangement. We have had some successful trials of the new system and we will make the change permanently from September.

**MOBILE PHONE USE:** We are clarifying with students where and when it is appropriate to use mobile technology around school. Before school, break and lunchtimes in the public areas and outside is entirely appropriate but not walking around corridors or in classrooms. It is too easy for us all to become addicted to using mobile phones and we want to make sure that students do not grow up expecting to have their phone constantly to hand. Parents can really help with this by **NOT** ringing or texting their children when they are in school. If you need to contact your child urgently please ring the school office.

**SCHOOL LUNCHES:** For your information, from September 2017 the price of the set two course school lunch is being increased from £2.10 to £2.15 per day.

Paul Quinn  
Headteacher

Tuesday 11 July 2017 at  
Whitley Bay Playhouse



## Year 7 Students' Love of Reading

This year we have introduced the Accelerated Reader scheme into Year 7 and it has proven to be massively successful. It is great to see our library so heavily used and so many young people enjoying reading as well as collecting wristbands and certificates for their efforts. A special thanks to Mr Cook and Mrs Roberts for all of their work on this and also to Katie Pearson on being the first "Word Millionaire" having read over a million words in the books that she has taken quizzes for.



# FUNDRAISING COMPETITION



*How many desk can we buy?*



Longbenton High  
School Supports Arina  
Primary School  
through Team Kenya



For many years now we have looked to support Arina Primary School through our involvement with Team Kenya who works with local Kenyan people to educate, empower and transform communities in rural Kenya. Tutor groups have been set the challenge of raising £10 to support this charity – enough to buy a desk for a pupil who would otherwise have to work on the mud floor. There have been many fun and innovative ways students have found to raise money including computer gaming, bake sale, egg decorating, bottle flip challenges but also taking park in a local Park Run over 5km.

We had a fantastic turnout of 24 students from year 7 up to year 11, a couple of experienced Park Runners but mainly first timers and they did exceptionally well. All completed the 5km including one student who did so in his wheelchair. The organisers and other runners were really impressed by our students and would like to have us back again so we may need to make it an annual event! Students raised over £150.

Well done to all involved!





**Longbenton Air Cadet George Binfield has been appointed as Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant's cadet for 2017.**

The 18-year-old Cadet Flight Sergeant, of Forest Hall, was officially welcomed into the role by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant Mrs Sue Winfield OBE at a ceremony held aboard HMS Calliope on the River Tyne.

George was appointed as Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for Tyne and Wear from over 1000 cadets. He will attend functions with the Lord Lieutenant when members of the Royal Family and other civic dignitaries visit the region. He was selected because of his hard work, high standards and personal qualities as a cadet at 2344 (Longbenton) Squadron.

The Longbenton High School student told us "I'm really excited to be appointed and looking forward to performing my duties. It's a privilege to perform the role and I'm really thankful to have been selected."

Commanding Officer, Flight Lieutenant Gary Richardson said "George truly deserves to be appointed into the role. He is an outstanding ambassador for young people possessing an ambitious positive attitude, friendly nature and strong sense of humour."

**A Longbenton Air Cadet is on cloud nine after earning his flying wings!**

After undergoing a selection day, which assessed his aptitude, knowledge and skills in a simulated environment, Alex McGowan, 17, bagged himself a prestigious flying scholarship.

The Longbenton High school student went to Dundee to gain his Flying Wings with Tayside Aviation. He said of the fully sponsored opportunity, "The course was the best two weeks of my life! The instructors focussed on the areas I needed to improve which helped to increase my confidence.

"However, when I flew my first sortie alone I was really nervous! The pilot told me to hold the aircraft on the taxi-way and he got out, saying "Good luck in your solo flight; don't break the aeroplane, they're expensive!" So I closed the cockpit cover and went through my checks before taking off.

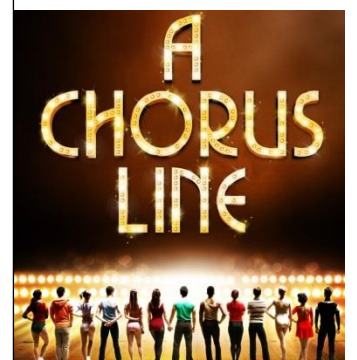
"I just went for it as I had been waiting for this moment since arriving there. It was an incredible feeling from start to finish. After obtaining clearance to take-off, I just went through everything I'd learnt before landing again. It wasn't as scary as I thought.

"It is by far the best experience I have ever had and I thank the Air Cadets for that."



**LONGBENTON HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS A CHORUS LINE.....A SINGULAR SENSATION!**

Widely considered as one of Broadway's all-time greatest shows, A CHORUS LINE explores the inner lives and poignant ambitions of professional Broadway wanabees. Set in a typical 1970s Broadway audition room, the show tells the stories of the aspiring performers and tracks their desperation to get the job. This production promises to be energetic, fun-filled and sure to leave you singing the many catchy tunes that feature. Students from across the school, ranging from Year 7 to Year 13 will showcase their talent on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July, 7pm at the Whitley Bay Playhouse. Tickets will be available to buy from the school office or from the theatre directly in the three weeks preceding the production. Please come along to be wowed by the brilliance of our hard working students.



## **Bake off!**

Well done to the fantastic bakers of Longbenton! Food Studies is very popular in our school and the hardest task was choosing winners from the fabulous entries. Two of our governors, Catherine Lyons and Rob Lackenby, assisted Mr Charlton and Mr Quinn in the tasting and judging.



Certificates were given out in assemblies to all those who took part and the winners;

3<sup>rd</sup> Evie Hartridge

2<sup>nd</sup> Erin Lord

1<sup>st</sup> Alice Gray



## **Rocket Girls!**

We are officially the 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest rocket secondary school in the North!

The girls designed and built a rocket powered car and came 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 24 entries reaching a top speed of over 40mph! The success is all down to the girls and the staff who support both STEM and ENGINEERING clubs.

They got to race it at an event at RAF Leeming and our students who called themselves Team Phenomenal 4. They did wonderfully well and won the right to have their team name on the tail fin of the "bloodhound" rocket car which is aiming to break the 1000mph world record next year in South Africa.

## **Sarah Hunter, MBE**

Congratulations to Sarah Hunter, an ex-pupil, who is currently recognised as the best women's rugby player in the world and has been nominated for a prestigious top award 'Freedom of the Borough' from North Tyneside, the highest accolade a local authority can bestow. Sarah was a pupil at Longbenton and has visited school sharing her experiences and inspiring our pupils. We are so proud of her and her achievements!

