

Longbenton Community College

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Newsletter

I know you will continue to be concerned over Mr Quinn's health and well-being. He has been home for over a month now and continues to progress very well. He wrote to our staff just before half-term thanking them for continuing to work hard with the students in their classes to help them achieve the best that they can. In fact, he has sent a personal message to you all which is also in this newsletter. As last half-term, I will continue to spend as much time as I can here at Longbenton and if there is anything you need to ask me, please contact me through Miss Standish in the school office. If you need to speak to a member of staff about your son or daughter, please contact the school as you normally would. I know that you will wish me to pass on your best wishes to Mr Quinn for a speedy recovery.

We are very pleased to report that the new build is very much on schedule and we will be able to move in as planned for September 2016. As you can imagine, the actual moving of equipment will be a big undertaking. To that end the Local Authority and Governing Body have agreed to allow us four extra days to move. These days will be Monday 18 and Tuesday 19 July and Monday 5 and Tuesday 6 September. Wednesday 8 September will be our staff Training Day. This means that the last day of the summer term for the students will be Friday 15 July and their first day back after the summer will be Thursday 8 September. We would like to thank you for your understanding on this matter. Finally, another date for your diaries is our Open Day to see the new building. This will be on the morning morning of Saturday 23 April 2016. All will be welcome and further details will follow.

Thank you for your on-going support and understanding at this time.

Ian Wilkinson
Executive Headteacher

NON UNIFORM DAYS

During this term we will be having two non uniform days. The first will be held as part of the national Sport Relief event, on Friday 18 March. Students across the College who wish to take part will be asked to donate £1. All monies raised will be divided between Sport Relief and our continuing support for Arina School in Kenya.

Further to the success of our golden ticket day, held on the last day of the autumn term, we will repeat this event for students who have excellent attendance in the spring term. A second non uniform day will be held as a reward to recognise this achievement. Students have been consulted regarding how we can improve this further. The Student Council have decided that any students who have 98% attendance or better, should be entitled to a golden ticket. Tickets will be issued to students in advance of the non-uniform day which will take place on Wednesday 23 March.

MESSAGE FROM PAUL QUINN

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that all families have enjoyed a relaxing February half term break: a chance for our students to refresh before the busy and important half term ahead: internal exams, option choices, drama production, musical theatre rehearsals, preparing for external exams - the list could be very long indeed. Clearly I have not been around to be part of the day-to-day business of Longbenton but I know that all staff have been working hard with the students in their classes to help them achieve the best that they can; I know this because it is who we are as a school and who my staff are.

I want also to thank you all for the good wishes and positive feelings that you have conveyed towards me at this most difficult of times. I have been overwhelmed by all of this and it has really helped me in my recovery from the subarachnoid haemorrhage I suffered on Christmas Eve. I also need to thank the many people who have taken on extra responsibility and given more of their precious time in my absence; it is greatly appreciated. As a school, and for me personally, the additional support from Ian Wilkinson has been a godsend and both he and our Chair of Governors, Steve Houghton, have supported me throughout this time.

Physically I have made really good progress. I am at the gym regularly, going for walks most days, and am probably fitter than before I had my brain haemorrhage. The consultants are delighted with how I am doing but tell me that progress for this happens over months rather than days and weeks. Encouragingly, they are confident that over time I will make a full recovery and I look forward to the time when I can, return to work. I miss Longbenton as I love teaching and my role as headteacher, working with an incredible team of people who are dedicated to making a real difference in the lives of our students.

P Quinn
Headteacher

NEW SCHOOL UPDATE

We were delighted at the positive response we received following the launch of our new logo and school name to students and parents last month and are pleased to announce that the governors have approved the new school uniform. From September 2016, blazers with the new logo, ties and PE kit will be available from our uniform supplier, Emblematic. The governors are keen to consider the cost element to parents who may have recently bought uniform, so the new uniform will be phased in over the academic year Sept 2016 to July 2017.

This means that students can wear either the 'old' uniform or the 'new' one. The new uniform will be compulsory to students from September 2017. Details of new uniform will be issued shortly.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to invite you all to an open event at our new school on Saturday 23 April 10am – 2pm, when you can get the chance to look at our fantastic new premises.

Real Business Challenge

Anna Dodds, Penny Thompson, Hannah Fleming, Anja Barlow, and Molly Bennett all from Year 10 took part in the NE Regional Final of the Coca Cola Real Business challenge held at the Stadium of Light in February. There were 7 teams in the Regional final from a national entry field of 750 schools. The teams had to present a portfolio of products for an advertising campaign to stop people littering and were assisted by experts and mentors from the business community. The presentations were of a very high standard and although the girls didn't make the national final they did extremely well and were a great credit to everyone associated with them. Well done!



ANNUAL DRAMA PRODUCTION



Following in the tradition of Longbenton, this year's play has again been written by Mr Keith Williams, entitled "High School Moveable" and will be the last ever in West Theatre!

This take place on the evenings of Tuesday 8 to Thursday 10 March at 7pm in West Theatre.

Tickets are available from reception in West priced £3.50 /£2.50 concessions.

The plot: It is the last year of life for the assembly hall at Langburn High School before it is to be levelled and replaced by a new multi-purpose facility named Fairfield Academy. The final keenly anticipated event to be held in the old building is the Leavers' Prom and Farewell Concert. The play follows a group of students who are planning the prom and making the final preparations - including making sure everyone has a date! However the course of true love and party planning never did run smooth where teenagers are concerned...so we can expect some high jinks and fireworks!

YEAR 8 PARENTS' INFORMATION EVENING

This meeting, due to take place on 15 March 2016 as been cancelled. You will be receiving a letter about the options process for Year 8 students and the process will also be explained to the students by the Year Leader.

USEFUL DATES TO REMEMBER:

Tuesday 1 March	Year 9 Parents' Evening 4.30-6.30pm in West
Monday 7 March	Year 8 Internal exam week
Tuesday 8 to Thursday 10 March	School Drama Production, "High School Moveable" at 7pm in West Theatre
Monday 14 March	Year 10 Work Experience week starts
Wednesday 23 March	School closes for students at 3.10pm
Monday 11 April	Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 12 April	School opens to all students
Monday 18 April	Year 10 Internal exam week
Friday 29 April	Years 10 and 11 Progress Data sent home
Monday 2 May	Bank Holiday - School closed
Thursday 5 May	Year 8 Parents' Evening 4.30-6.30pm in West
Monday 9 May	Year 7 Internal exam week
Monday 16 May	GCSE/A Level exams begin
Friday 27 May	School closes for students at 3.10pm
Monday 6 June	School opens to all students
Wednesday 8 June	Year 10 Parents' Evening, 4.30pm-6.30pm, in West
Monday 20 June	Year 7 Parents' Evening 4.30pm-6.30pm in West
Monday 27 to Wednesday 29 June	Pyramid Music Festival in West Theatre
Tuesday 28 June	GCSE/A Level exams finish
Thursday 30 June	Year 11 Prom
Monday 4 July	Year 11 Bridging Week
Friday 15 July	School closes to students at 3.10pm (NOTE new date)
Thursday 8 September	New school opens to all students (NOTE new date)