

The New School Year Begins

I hope that you and your family had a lovely summer, and that any travels or visits were memorable for the fun and good times that you all shared. I hope that the summer holiday has left our students refreshed and ready for the challenges that face them in the year ahead. I am writing this a couple of weeks since our return and it has been a really excellent start to the term with teachers commenting very favourably about how quickly Year 7 have settled into their new environment and how other year groups have returned in a focused and determined fashion to do well.

As we look forward to the new academic year and plan ahead for all of the excitement that lies in store it is always right to reflect and consider the milestones that we achieved as a school in the last school year. A number of things stand out in my mind as being of particular importance. In no particular order the first was seeing our new school finally being built. I have been involved in planning this for seven years now so the sight of the first pieces of steel being fixed was a very happy moment for me. At around the same time our previous head, Jim Cockburn, retired and I am very proud to now be the headteacher of Longbenton and I am very lucky to lead such a talented and committed staff and such fantastic young people. In May OFSTED came and, quite rightly, recognised just what a good school we are and how hard the students and staff here work and how much pride we all have in our school community and in the high standards that we achieve. My last milestone would be the excellent GCSE and A 'Level results that our students attained in the summer (more on those later in this Newsletter). As the parent of two children who were taking those exams in the summer I know just how stressful the wait is and how much relief and happiness can abound from success.

As in every year within schools there are many changes with new syllabuses starting in a number of subjects, new grading systems for Year 10 in English and maths, a change in how school performance will be measured to metrics called Progress 8 and Attainment 8 being just some of them. In July 2016 we will be starting the move to our new school that rises rapidly in our midst. However, some things don't change and, fundamental to that, is that we are here to serve the young people of our community, to improve their future life chances through the education and wider experiences they enjoy with us and to have the highest expectations of all of our students in all that they do. I am really excited by what lies ahead for us this year and we, at Longbenton, are really looking forward to working with you to make the most of the opportunities ahead.



OPEN EVENING FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

Longbenton rightly has the reputation for being a school where young people flourish, are well taught and supported, and where students of all abilities achieve well and make very good progress. Prospective Year 5 and 6 students and parents are warmly invited to our Open Evening on Tuesday 29 September between 6.30 pm and 8 pm with the event beginning with a presentation about our school from the headteacher, Mr Paul Quinn, in West Theatre. You will then have the opportunity to ask questions and go on a guided tour of the school and see the work done in some of our subject areas, as well as being able to ask questions of students who will help show you round. This evening is also a perfect opportunity to hear about our state of the art new school which will open in September 2016, meaning that any Year 6 students enrolling with us will be the first to benefit from this learning environment. For more information, or to arrange a visit during the working day, contact our admin team via [email](mailto:lcc@lblearning.com) or telephone at lcc@lblearning.com or on 0191 218 9500.



Year 7 Shine in their Summer School

"I really enjoyed it and got to know my fellow classmates a lot better than before."



For two weeks in July, some of the children starting Year 7 this September were transformed into entrepreneurs and challenged to "Make £1 Grow". Through a mix of creative workshops and exciting trips to local attractions (not least to St James' Park), Skills to Shine supported them to develop a range of skills and gain experiences needed to make products or services to make their £1 grow.

It was a great way to prepare these young people for the transition to secondary school and was viewed as great fun by the students too. "I've liked that we've been making things and that we've been looking at developing the skills needed for the world of work," explained one of our new Year 7 students.

Longbenton Student Named Britain's Best Young Driver

The final of the 2015 Young Driver Challenge took place on 5 September at the NEC in Birmingham., and 15 year old Longbenton student, Christian Dickens, beat off the competition from hundreds of entries to be named as the winner.

Drivers were marked according to strict criteria on their driving skills and manoeuvres, including parallel parking, figures of eight, turn in the road, steering, judgement and positioning. Christian also needed to complete the Goodyear Driving Academy, an online driving simulator which tests your knowledge of the Highway Code. The Challenge is backed by Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) and motoring expert and presenter Quentin Willson.

Christian won 20 lessons Young Driver lesson, 20 "on the road" post-17 lessons and £500 off a car insurance premium once he is old enough to drive on the road. Well done to Christian on this fantastic success.

Well Done on Summer Exam Successes!



Longbenton Community College is celebrating some of its best ever results from both Year 11 at GCSE and Year 13 at 'A' level.

The headteacher at Longbenton, Paul Quinn, said, "We are delighted with the results that our students achieved. At GCSE we saw impressive success in a wide range of subjects including the performing and creative arts as well as science, maths and English. At 'A' level we saw many students achieve very impressive results. Results in a range of subjects were very strong, including a number of students who attained very high grades. As the parent of a Year 13 student, I know how anxious the wait is for these results with pending university applications so I am thrilled that our students did so well and can now take the next step into an exciting future. I wish them all well".

At GCSE, in English Language, an incredible 86% of students attained at least a C grade, the best the school has ever achieved. In maths, 75% of students achieved at least a C grade, which was very close to the best the school has ever done. When combined, 69% of our students achieved at least a C grade in both English and Maths. Over 17% of entries were at A or A* grades, with about a quarter of students attaining at least 3 A/A* grades. This makes the results for GCSE one of our best years ever.

Their Year 11 Leader, Rachel Cooper, said "This year's Year 11 results were extremely pleasing, with improvements across the board. This is testament to the hard work and dedication of the staff, but more so to the efforts and commitment shown by the pupils".

Students were delighted at their success and very high enrolment figures into our sixth form reflects the confidence that our pupils have in the quality of teaching and overall educational experience that they have enjoyed throughout their years of learning at Longbenton.

Assistant Principal and Head of Sixth Form, Ian Williams commented, "The Year 13 results this year were tremendous. In all A2 subjects students progressed above the national average, from their starting points at the end of GCSE. We achieved 38 % A*-B grades and virtually of these students who wanted to (around 50 students) have secured places in their chosen university or college course. Other students have progressed to employment or apprenticeships routes.

Well done to all Year 13 and all staff at LCC wish you the best of luck in the next stage of your careers!"

Diary Dates for the School Year

Below are a set of important dates for parents and carers to be aware of:

Date	Year Group	Event	Description
Starting Friday 25 September	Year 11	IGCSE Speaking and Listening Final assessments	This is worth 20% of students' final mark so is very important
Tuesday 29 September	Years 5 and 6	Open Evening	An opportunity for prospective parents to learn more about LCC at 6.30pm
Thursday 30 September to Wednesday 14 October	Years 5 and 6	Tours of the school	An opportunity for prospective parents to see us during the working day
Friday 2 October	All year groups	Teacher Training Day	School closed to all students
Thursday 8 October	Year 7	Parental Information Evening	An opportunity for parents to learn more about what lies ahead and how best to support your child in their learning at 6.30pm. This includes information on the iPad leasing scheme that we run.
Thursday 22 October	Year 10	Parental Information Evening	An opportunity to learn more about what lies ahead and how best to support your child in their learning at 6.30pm
Friday 23 October	Years 12 and 13	Progress data posted home	Target grades and teachers' current assessments posted home to parents
Friday 23 October	All year groups	Half term break	School closes to all students at 3.10pm
Monday 2 November	All year groups	Return from half term break	School resumes for all students
Monday 2 November	Year 11	Progress data posted home	Target grades and teachers' current assessments posted home to parents
Tuesday 3 November	Year 12	Parent-Tutor Evening	An opportunity to meet tutors and discuss the early progress of students in their courses
Wednesday 4 November	Year 11	IGCSE Exam	Written iGCSE English Language exam for all Year 11
Tuesday 10 November	Year 13	Parent-Tutor Evening	An opportunity to meet tutors and discuss the progress of students in their courses
Wednesday 11 November	Year 11	Parental Information Evening	An opportunity for parents to learn more about what lies ahead and how best to support your child in their learning at 6.30pm. Progress data will be available at this evening.
Thursday 3 December	Year 7	Parent-Tutor Evening	An opportunity to meet tutors and discuss the early progress of students in their courses. Current teacher assessments and targets for core subjects will be available at this evening.
Monday 7 December	Year 11	Trial Exam Week	Mock exams for all of Year 11
Friday 18 December	All year groups	Break up for Christmas	School closes to all students at 2.30pm
Monday 4 January	All year groups	Return from Christmas break	School resumes for all students. Please note there is no teacher training day.
Monday 11 January	Years 12 and 13	Trial exam week	Mock exams for all of Years 12 and 13

Date	Year Group	Event	Description
Monday 18 January	Year 9	Internal exam week	School exams for all of Year 9
Thursday 21 January	Year 11	Sixth Form Open Evening	An opportunity for parents and pupils in Year 11 to find out more about what we offer in the 6 th form
Wednesday 27 January	Years 12 and 13	Parents' Evening	One to one appointments with each of your child's teachers, held this year at George Stephenson High School
Wednesday 3 February	Year 11	Parents' Evening	One to one appointments with each of your child's teachers with full written progress monitoring report
Wednesday 10 February	Year 9	Parental Information Evening	An opportunity for parents to learn more about what lies ahead and how best to support your child through the Informed Choices Process at 6.30pm
Friday 12 February	All year groups	Half term break	School closes to all students at 3.10pm
Monday 22 February	All year groups	Return from half term break	School resumes for all students
Friday 26 February	Years 8 and 10	Progress data posted home	Target grades and teachers' current assessments posted home to parents
Tuesday 1 March	Year 9	Parents' Evening	One to one appointments with each of your child's teachers with full written progress monitoring report
Tuesday 8 to Thursday 10 March	All year groups	School play	Three nights of high quality entertainment in West Theatre at 7pm
Monday 14 March	Year 10	Work Experience week	All of Year 10 out for a week of work experience
Tuesday 15 March	Year 8	Parental Information Evening	An opportunity for parents to learn more about what lies ahead and how best to support your child through the Option Choices process at 6.30pm
Wednesday 23 March	All year groups	Break up for Easter	School closes to all students at 3.10pm
Monday 11 April	All year groups	Teacher Training Day	School closed to all students
Tuesday 12 April	All year groups	Return from Easter Break	School resumes for all students
Monday 18 April	Year 10	Internal Exam Week	School exams for all of Year 10
Monday 25 April	Year 8	Internal exam week	School exams for all of Year 8
Friday 29 April	Years 10 and 11	Progress data posted home	Target grades and teachers' current assessments posted home to parents
Thursday 5 May	Year 8	Parents' Evening	One to one appointments with each of your child's teachers with full written progress monitoring report
Monday 9 May	Year 7	Internal exam week	School exams for all of Year 7

Date	Year Group	Event	Description
Monday 16 May	Years 11, 12 and 13	First public exam	GCSE, AS and 'A' level exams begin
Friday 27 May	All year groups	Half term break	School closes to all students at 3.10pm
Monday 6 June	All year groups	Return from half term	School resumes for all students
Wednesday 8 June	Year 10	Parents' Evening	One to one appointments with each of your child's teachers with full written progress monitoring report
Friday 10 June	Year 9	Progress data posted home	Target grades and teachers' current assessments posted home to parents
Monday 20 June	Year 7	Parents' Evening	One to one appointments with each of your child's teachers with full written progress monitoring report
Tuesday 28 June	Years 11, 12 and 13	Last public exam	GCSE, AS and 'A' level exams end
Wednesday 29 June	Year 11	Last day	Leavers' assembly and signing out day
Thursday 30 June	Year 11	Year 11 Prom	Celebration event
Friday 1 to Monday 4 July	Year 7	High Borrans	An opportunity for Year 7 to experience outward bound centre and activities
Friday 8 July	All year groups	Musical Theatre	Our fabulous annual musical at Whitley Bay Playhouse
Tuesday 19 July	All year groups	Summer break	School closes to all students at 2.30pm



Our New School Taking Shape Very Nicely

Visitors to our school always are astonished by how quickly things are taking shape with our new build. The impressive footprint is now formed by steel and concrete with all floors and roofing in place. One of the wings now has brickwork up to roof height and all is on track for the building to be wind and watertight before the winter so that we will not be at the mercy of the elements. Work inside is also developing with interiors and rooms being formed as well

as essential services. We cannot speak too highly of our builders, Galliford Try, who are delivering this high specification school on time without impacting on our daily business whatsoever. Credit also to our students and staff who operate completely as normal other than the occasional look across to the site to marvel at the efficiency of the construction and to be looking forward to next summer when we move in.

Decisions have been made over colour schemes, flooring, tiling, locations of sockets and data points for every room in the school, the IT solution that we need and many other fine points of detail. Over the summer many staff have been preparing for the move by getting rid of old and redundant text books and files as we prepare to leave our current buildings that have served us so well over the past sixty plus years.

More Sporting Success

Congratulations to one of our Year 11 students, Eliot Snowdon, who won a bronze medal in early August in the 200m Butterfly at the ASA National Swimming Championships. Eliot maintains a balance between training at Tynemouth Pool at least once a day while successfully pursuing his studies towards GCSE. Well done to Eliot, we're proud of you.



Young Authors' Work to be Published

Congratulations to two Year 13 Longbenton students who are now published writers! Charlotte Emmerson and Anna Hornby, who are both studying A' Level English Literature, entered a mini saga competition, Grim Tales. They had to showcase their technical writing and creative skills to write a complete saga in only 100 words.

Charlotte and Anna were successful in this competition that attracted thousands of entries from around the UK and their work was chosen for publication in a special anthology based on their imagination, perception, expression and use of language. Congratulations to these two fine wordsmiths.



Invitation to become a Parent Governor

A place has become available on the School Governing Body for a Parent Governor. Longbenton Community College is very fortunate to have Governors and staff who are passionate about the school and its pupils and would like to invite a parent to become part of this committee and be a part of the dedicated team who strive to do the best for the pupils and the school.

What does it mean to be a Parent Governor?

Although there is no remuneration made and it is a voluntary position, being a Parent Governor at Longbenton is very rewarding not only for you but also for the school. You can help make a difference.

What commitment do I need to make to be a Parent Governor?

The full Governing Body meets about once every term. You will be expected to be part of one of the sub-committees which meet once per term, Finance and Premises, Curriculum, Staffing, Marketing and Communication or Teaching School Alliance and also be a member of the Full Governing Body. You will be required to make important decisions for the school that may change the way things happen in the school. You will be a critical friend to the school offering your view as a parent and having the whole school in mind.

What do I need to do to become a Governor of the school?

If you feel you have the time and commitment to give to Longbenton Community College and would like to be involved as a Parent Governor then complete the nomination form and return it to the school office by 4pm on Wednesday 30 September. A copy of the form is also available on the website www.longbenton.co.uk.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support for the school and look forward to hearing from you.

NOMINATION FORM
FOR PARENT GOVERNOR
AT LONGBENTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

I should like to nominate _____
as a parent-governor of Longbenton Community College

Signature of proposer: _____

Please print name of proposer : _____

Children of proposer currently attending Longbenton Community College:

Signature of seconder : _____

Please print name of seconder: _____

Children of seconder currently attending Longbenton Community College:

Signature of parent who is standing as a parent-governor : _____

Please print name of parent who is standing : _____

Children of parent who is standing for election currently at Longbenton Community College:

**Nomination forms should be returned to Miss R Standish, Clerk to the Governors,
via the School Office by 4pm on Wednesday 30 September 2015**