

Longley Park Sixth Form - Half-Term One Update

October 2022

Dear parent or carer,

As we approach the end of the half-term, we are sending our first half-termly update for parents and carers. It was wonderful to meet so many of our at our parents and carers welcome event in September – if you missed the event, you can find our [presentation on our website](#). A huge thank you to parents and carers who attended the event and shared such positive feedback about the Sixth Form and the support available for students.

This half-term we welcomed almost 600 new students to the Sixth Form and we are proud of how well learners have made the transition to post-16 studying. Many students are making excellent use of our Independent Learning Centre to complete homework, assignments, and revision in their study periods.

This week we launch our enrichment programme with over 30 different activities that students can take part in across the week. Do encourage participation in these activities as these help students develop their wider skills and will provide students with additional activities to be involved in during their study periods.

Several key dates for next half-term are listed below.

- Tuesday, 1st November, Students return from half-term (if students are sitting GCSE English November resit on 31st October, Sixth Form is open and students must come in for their exam)
- Wednesday, 2nd November, Higher Education fair for students
- Friday, 11th November, Longley Remembers
- Tuesday, 29th November, Consultation Event for all parents and carers
- Wednesday, 21st December, Final day of term

There are regular updates on all our social media about student successes, events and important dates. If you are not already following us, take a second now to click through and like or follow Longley Park Sixth Form so that you never miss important news.



We are always looking to get your views on the sixth form. You can always contact me on principal@longleypark.ac.uk with any questions or queries. I would also like to take this opportunity to invite interest to join our Academy Advisory Council (AAC). Each AAC consists of a group of people who could be parents, community nominees and academy staff. The key aims of the AAC are to act to support and challenge the Sixth Form leadership; to advise about local issues that we may need to consider; to represent the interest of the community in the running of the Sixth Form and to

represent the Sixth Form in the community. If you would be interested in supporting us on our AAC or know of a local stakeholder that could work with us, please do contact me.

Our safeguarding and wellbeing team are available over the half-term should you have any issues or concerns. You can contact them on safeguarding@longleypark.ac.uk.

We look forward to students returning from half-term on Tuesday 1st November at 9am.

Regards,



Jamie Davies, Executive Principal

longleypark.ac.uk



Learning matters

Every week this term we are promoting learning and how to do it well. Our learners will bring with them many skills and good habits developed from GCSE study. We want to help students strengthen these skills and develop them into habits. Each week a skill is promoted and a resource is made available to help learners put the skill into practice. We will also be rewarding students for going above and beyond with their learning, with café voucher and entries into prize draws. We are scanning students ID cards on entry to our Independent Learning Centre, where students can work individually or collaboratively with their peers. The more they use it, the more entries to our draws they get.

We want all our learners to love learning and excel at it. You can help your son or daughter do this by talking about their day – what content they have covered and what tasks they have to complete and crucially, when, where and how are they completing their learning beyond the classroom. Just the process of explaining their learning to someone else can be extremely powerful. We hope you will join us in promoting this and making sure that Learning Matters at Longley Park.

Student Progress Ratings

The first RAGs (red, amber, green) or progress ratings will be available to view on CEDAR from Monday 17th October. This is a rating given to students by their subject teachers to indicate the progress they are making on their courses. RAGs are given towards the end of each half term and are designed to help students, teachers, tutors and parents better understand the progress being made so that proactive steps can be taken to help students continually improve.

Teachers will reach these ratings by considering a range of information, including assessment results, performance in class and engagement with learning. You will see this rating as a post on the CEDAR pastoral log and it will be brightly coloured to reflect that rating given. If your child is making good progress, they will be rated green; reasonable progress is yellow and poor progress is red. Some

more detailed feedback will be available to help you in the and your son or daughter understand the reasons for that rating and what steps can be taken to improve progress.

A range of support will be available to students over the next half term, including intervention, revision and exam preparation sessions and the ILC is open every day for students to use independently. Parental support with learning and preparation for assessments is so important and we welcome your support in helping students use and take action on the feedback given to them by their teachers and tutors. Should you have any questions about the rating, what it means or how you can help, please contact your son or daughters Tutor.

BTEC

This year we have relaunched our BTEC programmes to offer students more support before they submit an assignment. Students will be given Interim Assignments which will help them to build their knowledge, skills and understanding before completing a final submission. Students will receive feedback to help them identify strengths and areas for improvement for each interim assignment and it is important that they act on this feedback before creating their final assignment. It is important that students familiarise themselves with the new procedures and ensure they remain organised and meet the Interim and Final Submission deadlines.

Students have all been provided with a BTEC Handbook and attended assemblies to explain the new processes. Parents can also access the handbook on our website:

<https://longleypark.ac.uk/media/2074/btec-booklet.pdf>

Absences

As a Sixth Form we want our students to understand the importance attending their lessons every day in relation to the grades they achieve and as a steppingstone into employment where attendance is vital. When a student does need to be off, it is important they let everyone at Sixth Form know. Therefore, we have moved to an online reporting system. Students who are absent from Sixth Form need to complete the online form through Cedar indicating which lessons will be affected and the reason for absence. This information is then available to all the staff who need to be aware. Absences from Sixth Form needs to be reported before 9 am each day they are missing.

Remember we have an attendance expectation of 95% for all students and where absences are a concern these are supported through the Sixth Form pastoral team. Parents and carers can see live attendance through our online Cedar portal. Click [here](#) to view.

We have had a number of extended absence requests this half-term. All absences have a negative impact on students' ability to be successful. The Sixth Form advertises our Term dates in advance, and I expect students to take holidays in those that are advertised. It is important that parents and carers understand this and organise visits and trips outside of curriculum time. Where absences are of a significant length, this can result in a student being withdrawn. If you want advice or guidance on this, please contact your child's tutor for an initial discussion.

Enrichment and Project You

Project you is all about developing our students own personal skills around themselves. This year we will be launching Project you on the 19th October from 3pm where all students are welcomed to join us in the sixth forms freshers fair. There will be a range of stalls from Henna to treats for all those of you with a sweet tooth, along with all the stalls promoting the coming half terms enrichment activities. All students should be signing up for 6 hours of enrichment activities as part of their time with us. So, whether its arts and crafts, Movies or crime solving we believe there is something for everyone and if there isn't... we'd love to know what we could include to get you involved.

University Applications through UCAS

The majority of students in their final year of their Level 3 programme will now be completing their application to study at University. This is completed through the UCAS application website.

On the application students must complete the following:

- Add personal details
- Choose up to 5 courses from different Universities
- Add details of all of the qualifications they have achieved so far (e.g. GCSEs)
- Confirm they intend to apply for student finance
- Give information of any work experience they have undertaken
- Write a personal statement
- Pay £26.50 to UCAS when the application is complete
- SEND the application – Note – the application then comes to the Sixth Form for checking

The deadline for completing the second draft of personal statements is Tuesday 1st November

The Sixth Form Internal deadline for completing the UCAS application is Friday 2nd December

At this point the Achievement team at the Sixth Form will do final checks on the application, and then add predicted grades alongside the College reference, which is required by the Universities. The intent is for UCAS applications to be sent prior to the Winter break, ahead of the national deadline in January. Students are guided if early applications are necessary and offered support if they are called to interview.

Please could you encourage students to meet the deadlines, and access the wider support that is offered, (e.g. personal statement workshops). Students are supported through the entire process from the spring term in their first year. They have been directed to work on their application and research University courses over the past 6 months.

Student finance applications normally open at the end of February, and information for this will be communicated nearer to that date.

Respecting the local community

As a Sixth Form within the local community, we spend a lot of time working with that community and making sure that our students show respect to the local area and the community that live around us. We do have a collective responsibility towards our local community and neighbours.

Some of you will be aware of our presence on Ribble Way and the neighbouring streets so will understand some of the concerns our neighbours do share – litter, parked cars, noise disruption. We have initially tackled these concerns with informal conversations and texts messages to parents. I am, however, disappointed to receive communication from a member of our local community, in relation to an enormous amount of litter that has been left by students (despite bins being populated around).

To tackle this ongoing issue further, I wanted to make you aware of our approach moving forward. We will liaise closely with South Yorkshire Police and our Local Community Police Liaison Officer, Debs Parker, CCTV and camera footage will be used to identify individual students, contact with parents will be made and identified students may be issued with an ASB Letter by the police, (Anti-Social Behaviour Order). Further information in relation to what this is and what this means will be circulated and available to you.

GCSE English and Maths autumn exams

The GCSE English and Maths autumn re-sit papers will be taking place soon. All students will have details of these exams on their Cedar exam timetable. Students should arrive at least 15 minutes before the scheduled start time and must bring all the relevant equipment with them.

	English		Maths	
	Date	Time	Date	Time
Paper 1	Monday 31 st October	9.00	Tuesday 1 st November	9.00
Paper 2	Wednesday 2 nd November	9.00	Thursday 3 rd November	9.00
Paper 3			Monday 7 th November	9.00

Students who are due to sit an exam in November must read the *JCQ Information for Candidates* documents on the school website before they sit their first exam, these can be found here - [Revision + Exams - Longley Park Sixth Form](#).

Good luck to all students sitting their GCSE English and maths the week we return from half-term. Make good use of the break to revise, practice exam papers and prepare for the assessment.

Safeguarding and Wellbeing Update

A great start to the academic year with most students wearing their lanyards consistently and navigating the new barrier systems in place well. A huge thank you to parents and carers for supporting this matter with us. It is vital that we have a collective responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our Sixth Form Community. Most importantly I am keen that we maintain our approach and expectations around this so again ask that you continue to talk to your child about this and ensure they have their lanyards with them daily.

I want to take this opportunity to introduce our Trust's Community Police Support Officer, Debs Parker. Debs will be based at Longley on Monday and Wednesdays and in the coming weeks and will be able to give your child the opportunity to drop in and speak about any concern they may have

relating to police type matters, this includes issues or worries occurring outside of Longley Park Sixth Form, at home or in the community. If you or your child needs to speak to Debs outside of the drop-in sessions, they can email, and Debs can arrange to meet with you or them. Deb's email address is debsparker@brigantiastrust.net.

For those aspiring to join the Police Force, Debs also has information about the path into Police recruitment, and other relevant information to.

As we approach October and November, we often see an increase in Anti-Social Behaviour associated with the Dark Nights period which encompasses Mischievous night, Halloween and Bonfire night which not only has a negative impact on member of the local community, but it also puts people at risk and diverts emergency services away from genuine emergencies as they deal with such behaviour. We want to share this information from South Yorkshire Police with you about their Dark Nights campaign: [Dark Nights Information for Parents, Carers and Students](#).

ALS (Additional Learning Support)

Additional learning support at Longley Park consists of an experienced and dedicated team. We have been working closely with new and returning students during this first term, especially those identified as having special educational needs and disabilities, including students with EHCP's. In the first few weeks of the year, students enrolled at Longley Park Sixth Form were able to meet with members of the ALS team to discuss their learning needs. Strategies and implications of teaching were added to students' Cedar profiles, where teachers could use this information to differentiate lessons according to students' learning needs.

Students attended an induction, for the initial transition phase to the sixth form, where they were supported by teachers and members of the ALS team. This term we have focused on transition, to allow students a positive and supportive start to their new provision.

During the summer we moved to a larger Additional learning support space, where students have access to 1-1 support with a member of ALS team, to complete work. There are also opportunities to take part in social activities, including enrichment and diversity activities throughout the week. In addition, there is a sensory room to support students with time and space throughout the day.

We use quality first teaching in all lessons, following the assess, plan, do, review cycle, where teaching strategies can be adapted according to students' learning needs. We use the 5-a-day strategy, which enables strategies to be adapted into categories including Explicit instruction, Cognitive and metacognitive, Scaffolding, Flexible grouping and Using technology. This allows students with Dyslexia, ASD, ADHD etc to have strategies and a plan in place. This allows them to access their learning at the same level as all students in the lesson.

We have assigned keyworkers to curriculum areas and EHCP students. These keyworkers create a tailored plan with teachers, support staff, pastoral staff and parents and carers, which allows the students to be successful at Longley Park.

If you require any additional support or information, you can contact the team, please email learningsupport@longleypark.ac.uk

Useful Links and Information

- Accessing Cedar – this is our online parent portal. Here you will be able to track the progress, attendance and any concerns and commendations that are received. It's a great way to keep informed about what is happening at the Sixth Form. Click [here](#) to view.
- BTEC student handbook – many of our students are study BTEC qualifications and for some, this maybe a different way of studying. We want to support students to make the transition to this qualification and this handbook outlines expectations, demands and rules around the submission of work. Click [here](#) to view.
- Information around Sixth Form ID – to keep our site safe, we ask all students to always wear an ID card when they are on site. The ID card is also a student's card for printing and to spend bursary money in the canteen. Where a student continues to forget their card on multiple occasions, we will refuse them entry to the site. The process around this is detailed on the attached letter. Click [here](#) to view.
- Wellbeing support apps – starting at a new sixth form can be an emotional time for some. We have a wellbeing team to help students settle into their new surroundings. There are also a range of apps that students can access to support their wellbeing throughout their time with us. Click [here](#) to view.