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 Monday, 27th February 2023

Hello,

We are now in our second week of this half-term and have less than 10 weeks until the final assessment and examination windows. A great deal of work is underway to support students in preparing for these, including trial assessments and support sessions, and our Learning Matters initiative, and this will continue to give students the best possible chance of success in their examinations.

It is vital that students are using their time well to prepare for final assessments, examinations and getting ready for their next steps, either within Longley Park Sixth Form or onto higher education, apprenticeships or employment. We will be circulating information to students in the next two weeks about revision sessions and opening times over the Easter break when they will be able to come in to

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 also have a parents and carers handbook with lots of useful information and contact details. You can access an online copy here: <https://sway.office.com/sCbU7TudZBsU0HED?ref=Link>

**Parents Consultation event**

Our second parent and carer consultation event of the year on Wednesday 8th March. This is an opportunity to meet with your child's teachers and discuss the progress they are making. Appointments will run from 4.15pm until 7pm and should be made by students directly with their teachers. Appointments help the event run efficiently and we would encourage you to make appointments to avoid lengthy waiting times. We know how crucial support at home is in helping students attend, engage and succeed. We look forward to welcoming you on Wednesday 8 March. More information here: [Upcoming Events - Longley Park Sixth Form](https://www.longleypark.ac.uk/news/upcoming-events).

**Learning Matters and Make it Count**

*Our Make it Count* campaign starts on Monday 27th February. This marks the start of our countdown to Summer assessment window. This will provide students with a range of assessment support, revision and catch-up workshops, as well as a schedule of support over the Easter holidays will be published early in March.

Alongside this, our *Learning Matters* initiative continues to give students weekly strategies to develop their study habits and approach to learning, to help them know and remember more. At the end of each week, we give out free resources to help students put some of these strategies into action. You can find out more about these here [Learning Matters - Longley Park Sixth Form](https://www.longleypark.ac.uk/learning-matters)

**UCAS and progression Information Evening**

On Wednesday 26th April from 4.30 - 6.30pm we are holding a UCAS and progression Information Evening.

For parents/carers of students that are currently studying on their first year of a Level 3 A-level or BTEC programme. Please come along to find out about UCAS University applications, what they entail, and what the process is for students, including the importance of achieving grades and researching university courses. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions and discuss any concerns you might have around things such as travel, accommodation, and finance.

For any parents/careers of students in their final year of Sixth form that do not want to continue straight on to university next year, there is also a chance to find out about what the alternative progression options might be, and how students might progress down those routes, for example taking a gap year or securing an apprenticeship.

**Project You Half Term 4**

Part of our commitment to our students is providing them with opportunities to develop new skills, their character and explore new interests and talents. Our *Project You*! enrichment offer has launched again, with activities including Wildlife Walk, Podcast club and Longley Link Up. The gym is also now open for students to use throughout the day, with a range of open and tailored gym and sports sessions.

**Attendance**

Being here and on time to sixth form is vital if students are to achieve to the highest standard. We know that when the weather is cold and wet getting up and getting here can be that little bit harder but every lesson every day is what we need from all out students. Students with 95% or better attendance are proven to have the best chances at success during their studies and beyond that into employment. For any reason students are unable to attend then they should be completing the online absence reporting form to let us know about their absence.

**Stop smoking/vaping**

The Sixth Form are supporting Sheffield Smokefree campaign to help learners, their parents and carers better understand the harmful effects of smoking and vaping. The Sixth Form is proud to be a SmokeFree site and, in conjunction with Smokefree Sheffield, we want to help young people be more aware of the harmful effects of smoking on vaping on physical health and wellbeing, relationships and finances. As parents and carers, having a better understanding of the effects of smoking and vaping has, will enable conversations with your child about this. Find the right moment, ask questions and listen to them. You can find out more at <http://ow.ly/sFEw50MROE9>.

**LPSF Pantry**

We have spoken previously about the current cost of living crisis and the impact this is having on so many of us. It is important to us as a Sixth Form that we do all that we can to support all our learners and their families during difficult times. As such we have been able to establish a partnership with our local Tesco supermarket (Spital Hill), to support the launch of our LPSF Pantry.

We are pleased to able to share with you the LPSF Pantry will be available to all students and their families from Monday 27th February. If you need any support with food or toiletry items, please email LPSFPantry@longleypark.ac.uk and we can arrange for discreet collection of items. Alternatively, students can access Room F47 where the LPSF Pantry is located.

**A message from Sheffield Council**

Finally, the following is a message from Sheffield Council that they have asked us to share with parents regarding the commissioning plan for mainstream education places 2023-2026.

Sheffield City Council is consulting on our Commissioning Plan for Mainstream Education Places 2023-2026, which covers the period September 2023 to August 2026. This plan sets out how the Council seeks to ensure there are sufficient childcare and education places in the right locations to meet demand, while at the same time fulfilling our other responsibilities to raise education standards.  [The survey will run](https://haveyoursaysheffield.uk.engagementhq.com/mainstream-education-places) from Monday 6th February 2023 to Wednesday 8th March 2023. Please [click here](https://haveyoursaysheffield.uk.engagementhq.com/mainstream-education-places) for the consultation page and survey.

Regards,





Jamie Davies, Executive Principal

principal@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](https://longleypark.ac.uk/media/2078/cedar-information-for-parents-and-carers-2.pdf) 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](https://longleypark.ac.uk/media/2074/btec-booklet.pdf) 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](https://longleypark.ac.uk/media/2075/student-id-process.pdf) 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](https://longleypark.ac.uk/media/2076/welbeing-apps.pdf) to view.
* Parent’s and Carer’s Handbook – there is a wealth of information about the sixth form, the support that students can access, and information from curriculum areas within the handbook. Click [here](https://sway.office.com/sCbU7TudZBsU0HED?ref=Link) to view.