

Welcome to Longley Park Sixth Form

Dear parent or carer,

First, I want to congratulate all those students who have joined Longley Park Sixth Form from across the region. I am thrilled that your child has chosen to study with us here. It was wonderful to see so many new faces across the sixth form last week and to meet many parents and carers at our parental welcome event on Thursday. For those of you that could not make it, you can find our parent's and carer's handbook on our website.

Joining Longley Park is not just about taking on a set of subjects. For our students, it is the start of Project You. A time for young people to focus on themselves and their futures. We encourage students to take advantage of all the opportunities open to them: enrichment, trips, activities, groups and more. Every student has the potential to be brilliant at Longley Park and working with you as parents and carers, we can achieve this.

Useful Information

Attached to this welcome letter are a few pieces of information we feel will be useful for you to have as a parent or carer.

- Accessing Edulink – 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 is a great way to keep informed about what is happening at the Sixth Form. You can access the system, links to IOS and Andriod apps and a help guide here: <https://linktr.ee/lpsf>. The sixth form postcode (needed for registration is S56SG).
- BTEC student handbook – many of our students 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. <https://longleypark.ac.uk/media/2074/btec-booklet.pdf>
- 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. <https://longleypark.ac.uk/media/2075/student-id-process.pdf>
- 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. <https://longleypark.ac.uk/media/2076/welbeing-apps.pdf>

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.



Learning Matters

Every week this year 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 want all our learners to love learning and excel at it. You can help your child do this by talking about their day – what content they have covered and what tasks they must 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.

The first two Learning Matters areas are below for your information and you will see them on our social media each week.

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. Absences from Sixth Form needs to be reported before 9 am each day they are missing. We have an attendance expectation of a minimum of 95% for all students. Where absences are a concern, these are supported through the Sixth Form pastoral team.

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.

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.

Parent Members of our Academy Advisory Council

I would 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. In attendance at these meetings will be Link Trustees and a member of the Trust Leadership Team. The key aims of the AAC are to act as a 'critical friend' to the Sixth Form; to advise about local issues we may need to consider that could affect the Sixth Form; 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 email me directly on principal@longleypark.ac.uk.

I hope that together, we can support all students here at Longley Park Sixth Form to start strong, make good choices and be successful.

Yours faithfully,



Jamie Davies, Executive Principal

longleypark.ac.uk



Learning Matters

#1

An introduction
into Learning
Matters



Learning really does matter - it's why we are here.

We want you to be the best learner you can be, so that you can achieve now and far into the future.

You should know by now that you are expected to study outside of lessons but, we recognise that not everyone knows how to do this well.

Learning Matters will give you weekly strategies to develop your study habits and your approach to learning, to help you know and remember more and crucially, enjoy the process. There is no time like the present, so we start Learning Matters with Study Timetables!!

Having a weekly, personalised timetable in place will help you to achieve your learning goals. It will also help you to manage any other weekly commitments and part time work. You can split your week into manageable chunks and focus your time in the right way. Filling your weekdays with quality, independent work will give you more free time in the evenings and at the weekend and will support you to be the best learner you can be.

We will provide the tools and support you need to make Learning Matters work for you through our **Monday Matters giveaway** - This week you will find some study timetable templates in the plaza. Please help yourself and make a positive start on your learning journey.



Learning Matters

#2

Being Prepared and Getting Organised

Getting yourself organised so that you can study effectively is an important first step.

If you need help with getting prepared and your organisation, you can see ILC team, ALS or your tutor.

Things you can do

- Find a place to study that suits your style. The Sixth Form has a range of spaces, from silent study, to group seminar rooms for you to use.
- Plan your time and be disciplined with using it. A planner or diary will help you see how much time you have to complete the tasks you have been set. Knowing what deadlines are in front of you will make it feel more manageable.
- Look ahead and get ahead. Use your learning journeys to see what is coming next in your subjects. Arriving to a lesson knowing what topic is in focus will help you process information and make connections.
- Keep a file. Some students like to keep large files at home and use a daily travel file for current work. Again, try out what works for you. You might find [this video](#) useful for building your files.

