

Parent & Carer Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

This first term has been a busy and productive one for all our students and it has been wonderful to meet with so many parents and carers at the different events we have. Our students have recently been busy competing trial examinations, preparing for the January exams and settling into new courses and new ways of learning.

As we start the new year, we are at the half-way point of the year. We need students to be aiming for final assessments and exams. Attendance is key. We look forward to welcoming students back at 9am on Monday 8th January.

From all at Longley Park, we wish you the very best for the holidays, enjoy the time off with family and friends, and we hope students come back refreshed and prepared for their exams. To all our students, parents and carers, have a merry Christmas and a Happy new year.

PROJECT YOU

For our students, achieving their qualification is just one part of their time at the sixth form. We talk a lot about PROJECT YOU- that means developing students as a learner, individual and a member of our community.

ENRICHMENT, EVENTS, VISITS & SPEAKERS

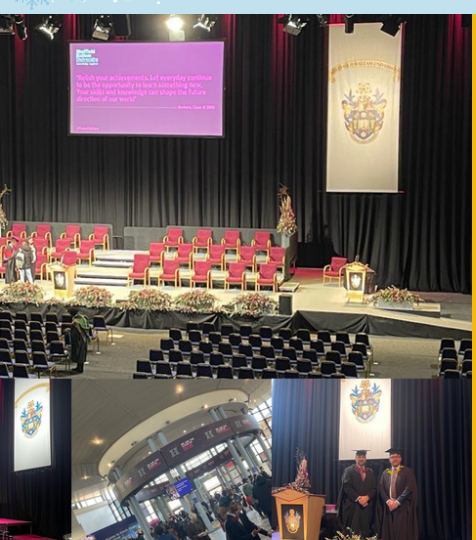
This term we our students ran a Murder Mystery event and we invited in the surrounding secondary schools to take part. It was a fantastic event!

Our Education and Early Years T Level students also received their T-shirts and hoodies for their placements and our students have been applying for University via UCAS- over 275 so far!



SHEFFIELD HALLAM UNIVERSITY GRADUATION

We were proud to celebrate with some of our Alumni who graduated from Sheffield Hallam University. It was great to see so many students who had worked so hard and achieved so much. We had the pleasure of witnessing the culmination of hard work and dedication as several former students donned their caps and gowns at the graduation ceremony. It was an extraordinary moment filled with joy, accomplishment, and a sense of shared pride.



OPEN DAY

We're thrilled to share the excitement of our recent Sixth Form Open Day, where we threw open our doors to prospective students. It was an event brimming with enthusiasm, guidance, and a taste of the incredible educational journey that awaits! Visitors had the chance to embark on guided tours led by our knowledgeable Student Ambassadors, who shared insights into our classrooms, facilities, and the myriad of opportunities awaiting our students. Our dedicated teachers and support staff were also on hand to answer questions and provide valuable information.

MAKE IT COUNT

We're excited to recap the incredible journey we've shared over the past few weeks during our "Make It Count" campaign at the Sixth Form. As December unfolded, we embarked on a mission to ensure that every moment mattered for our students. With trial exams on the horizon, "Make It Count" became a rallying cry to inspire academic excellence and personal growth. Daily study tips were shared with students, free resources to support their study and revision plus recognizing the importance of well-being, we prioritized mental health resources throughout the campaign. Daily mindfulness exercises, stress-relief techniques, and resources to foster emotional resilience were shared to ensure our students felt supported holistically.



What's happened this term?

BUSINESS, IT & LAW

Our Business and Financial Studies students enjoyed an interactive session from a Financial Planner from the Chartered Institute of Insurance. Students got to role play and make financial decisions for the medium to long term and this was linked to their own personal finances. Nick explained what is like to be a financial planner, routes into this employment and then how to plan money amongst savings, protection, investment and pensions taking into account investment risk profiles. This was done through a game simulating different customers and awarding points for correct decision making.

STEM



Over the last six weeks, our STEM department has seen lots of exciting activities. Our second-year A-level students in Maths, Psychology, Chemistry, Biology, and Physics have been practicing for their final exams with trial exams. Feedback from these will be used to set targets and for learners to map out the rest of their time before the summer exams to be as prepared as possible. Also, our Level 3 Applied Science students are working hard on getting ready for their exams for units 1, 5, and 7 in January, and they'll be spending time revising over the Christmas break. For our Level 2 students, they are finishing final assignments for the coursework units in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics and starting to focus on content for their end of January exams. What ever the level of learner they should be busy working independently doing as much outside of lessons and in them and ensuring that they are fully assessment ready.

We've had some interesting trips too. The industry insight day was an opportunity to complete some virtual work experience to get career ready. We had an external speaker 'First Light Fusion' who talked about engineering careers and skills in these industries, and students from the University of Sheffield worked with our A-level Biology students to complete some key practical's. Not to mention our Physics students had hands-on experiences with practical sessions at the University of Hallam to complete some of the CPAC assessments. We're proud of the students' dedication and look forward to sharing more of their successes in the coming months.

HEALTH

BTEC Health and Social Care L3Y2 students have been preparing for their mock exam. They have been learning about key body systems including the skeletal, muscular, digestive, nervous, endocrine, and renal systems. They have also examined medical research and compare data from this. Students have also been busy researching Alzheimer's Disease for their mock exam for Unit 4 Enquiries into Research, investigating new drugs and treatment. Also the effects of the disease on service users, family and carers.

On the 4th December they sat their mock exams (6 near passes, 19 passes, 11 merits, 10 distinctions).

Our L2 students have also worked hard in preparation for their mock exam and now they have completed their learning of all mandatory topics from the unit they are focusing on the revision skills needed to be successful in their upcoming exam. Students are completing past papers, looking at different revision techniques and implementing their skills in times exam questions in lesson and for independent study.

In sport we have been preparing for our trial exam in sport psychology. We have been reviewing and discussing real life events from the sporting world and applied psychological theories to try and understand and explain the behaviour of athletes and teams.

SPORT

HUMANITIES

Year 1 historians have been looking at the aftermath of Russian Revolution and questioning the benefits and limitations of a range of primary sources. In their Britain course, they have been thinking about religious opposition to King Charles I and how historians have interpreted events.

In Religious Studies over the past 6 weeks students have focused on developing their understanding of 5 key ethical theories for correct moral action. Students are now moving on to a consideration of religious history to be able to discuss context and prophethood in relation to Plato's Euthyphro dilemma

In Politics over the past 6 weeks students made comparisons in class between UK and USA systems as a revision/review process so they could sit a USA mock exam, (which has a UK comparative element). They have been concentrating on understanding strands within ideologies, specifically Liberalism and Conservatism, and how they should apply this knowledge when it comes to written structure in question types as exam responses will require.

In Skills for Life, some students sat the November resits in GCSE English or GCSE Maths. Results for these exams will be available to students on 11th January. Good luck to everyone who sat these papers! GCSE students have begun their small group sessions – these sessions give teachers and students time to develop individual targets and work on these together.

ENGLISH

In A Level English Language and A Level English Literature, final year students were busy preparing for trial exams, to give them another opportunity to work on exam practice and get used to writing in timed conditions. They have also been working on their independent coursework units, giving them an opportunity to focus on a particular area of interest, and to develop independent research and study skills. Our Year 1 A Level students have been developing their knowledge of key texts and theories and are becoming much more confident in sharing their learning in class.

SKILLS FOR LIFE

Students across the Creative Arts courses have been taking advantage of career opportunities and beginning to explore their future aspirations. In 3D Design, students are currently working alongside HLM, an architecture company based in Sheffield. They're working with the company to redesign an existing structure and are currently preparing for a panel presentation with the company's director. Successful students may have the opportunity to gain work experience with the company. In UAL Game Art & Design, students have just begun working on a project to be submitted to the British Academy of Film and Television with the opportunity to win a games industry mentorship. Finally, in Art students are currently working together on a collaborative exhibition.

CREATIVE ARTS



SAFEGUARDING @THE SIXTH FORM

We all have a statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children and young people in our care. We have safeguarding policies and systems in place to help their safety and ensure a consistent approach to practices throughout the school, followed by all staff.

We are committed to working closely with parents and carers for the benefits of our students. We also work with a range of professionals to support our students and their families to get the right help at the right time.



Kooth Digital Health offers free and anonymous therapeutic mental health and wellbeing support to young people in Sheffield aged between **11- 18**. Funded and endorsed by the NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, our services remain available over the winter period, offering 'on the day' wellbeing support from the comfort of your own home, via any web-enabled device via the following website-

www.kooth.com

Kooth offers free access to online text-based practitioner chats, self help tools and activities, journal spaces and advice from our non-judgemental, safe and moderated peer:peer communities. With no threshold, waiting list or referral process, young people in Sheffield can access support for ANY issues they may be experiencing. These may include; body image, self-esteem, loneliness, bereavement, academic pressures, stress, anxiety, friendships, sexuality, life changes etc.

Kooth's live chat hours over the holiday period

24th December (Christmas Eve) - 4pm - 8pm
25th December (Christmas Day) - 4pm - 8pm
26th December (Boxing Day) - 4pm - 8pm
31st December (New Years Eve) - 4pm - 8pm
1st January (New Years Day) - 4pm - 8pm

Other days over the holiday period will follow our usual live chat hours of 12pm - 10pm on weekdays and 6pm - 10pm on weekends.

kooth.com

SUPPORT OVER CHRISTMAS

The physical health and emotional wellbeing of our students is important, and much more important to maintain during the holiday periods, below is a directory available to young people that offers information through different services around the things young people may struggle with: [Young person support directory - Resource Library - Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust \(sheffieldchildrens.nhs.uk\)](#)

SHEFFIELD PARENT HUB

Parents and carers can access a range of groups that offer practical advice and support with parenting "What's On" guide <https://www.sheffielddirectory.org.uk/parent-hub>



LPSF PANTRY

We appreciate the cost-of-living crisis is providing a challenge for many of us and as such we continue to extend our offer of support, and as such I am pleased to report that our local Tesco supermarket support our LPSF Pantry (Food Bank). You can access this support discreetly by contacting a member of the safeguarding team safeguarding@longleypark.ac.uk. Just ask always here to help!

OUT OF HOURS CONTACT

Please note that during the Christmas holiday period the safeguarding team may not be able to respond to emails or telephone queries raised as the college will be closed. However, if you need any advice or support there is a wealth of information available on the website about resources and services that may be helpful.

The Sixth Form is closed from Friday, 22nd December until Monday 8th January. For any urgent safeguarding issues, you are still able to contact safeguarding@longleypark.ac.uk

If you have any concerns about the welfare of a child or young person during these times, please contact the Sheffield Safeguarding Hub on 0114 2734855 (24-hour service). If you think a child or young person is in immediate danger, please call the Police on 999 at any time. If you are a student and are worried and feel unsafe then you can get help from Childline, a free, private, confidential service where you can be you. You can chat online or on the phone, 08001111, 24 hours a day.

Important Information

Message from our Safeguarding Lead, Yasmin Celik

I wanted to make you aware that this half-term saw information shared with staff and students in relation to a 'Notification of a Lockdown', Drill in the event of an emergency. We have a duty of care and responsibility to ensure that this information is shared with you also.

Longley Park Sixth Form will be carrying out a drill in the new year. Please note that in the event of a real lockdown, communication to parents/carers will take place as soon as is practicable in accordance with a lockdown procedure.

Tutors will go through the lockdown procedure with students prior to the drill and staff will answer any questions which students may have.

The Sixth Form is committed to always ensuring the safety of staff and students and as such, although we hope never to need to use the lockdown procedure, we feel it important for an annual practice to take place.

To ensure parents/carers are sufficiently informed about such events the following has been put into place. In the event of a **lockdown drill**, parents/carers will receive the following text as soon as the sixth form is put into lockdown:

- LPSF is currently doing a lockdown practice. This is TEST. There is no need to worry or panic.

In the event of a **real lockdown**, parents/carers will be informed via text once the situation has been dealt with or relevant and appropriate safe time during the ongoing situation. All attempts will be made to keep parents/carers fully informed during such an event.

EXAM GUIDES FOR STUDENTS AND CENTRES

Ofqual's guides for students and for centres on exams this year (including A levels, GCSEs, and vocational qualifications) are now live. We gave our feedback on these guides during the process and hope they're helpful in communicating arrangements for this year, which are largely back to normal – but many students and staff may not know what 'normal' looks like.

Our Winter Exams Newsletter is now available to read on our website now.

Results Days

- Tuesday 6th February 2024 – LIBF U1/3 – Part B
- Thursday 21st March 2024 – All BTEC Level 3 Nationals and BTEC Level 2 (not Science)
- Thursday 4th April 2024 – BTEC Level 2 Science

Information about Results and Post Results Services will be available to students nearer the time.



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 principal@longleypark.ac.uk.

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.

