

December Parent & Carer Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we come to the end of the first term of the year, I'm reflecting on the achievements and enthusiasm that our whole academy community has shown since September. It was amazing to celebrate so many of our students moving onto positive destinations in September (and we're looking forward to seeing how it is all going at our certificate collection evening this week).

In October we celebrated the amazing feedback from Ofsted who saw all the hard work and dedication our team put in to support all our students.

This year is the 20th Anniversary of Longley Park and we will be celebrating this in the early Summer. More information to follow in the new year.

We will be closing for the Christmas break on Friday this week and the site will be closed until Friday 3rd January for a small number of revision sessions. All students return to normal lessons on Monday, 6th January at 9am.

Many students will have exams in those first weeks in January so make sure you use some of the time over the break purposefully to prepare and revise. Good luck!

Merry Christmas to all that are celebrating next week and all the very best for 2025 from all the staff here at Longley Park. Have a happy and safe break everyone.

Term Highlights

Remembrance Day

Industry Insight Day

Maths Field Trip

Teeside University Visit

Placement Feedback

Online Study Resources



What's happened this term?

Business, IT & Law

Level 3 BTEC Business Year 1 students have been planning events for next half term. X1 will run a local charity shoebox-style appeal, raising awareness about homelessness and creating care packages for donation. X2 will host a ping pong or badminton tournament to raise funds for charity. Both groups excelled in their Unit 3 Finance mock exam—the best results yet—and must revise over Christmas for the real exam on Monday 13th January at 9am.

Year 2 students completed trial exams for Unit 6 (Principles of Management) and Unit 7 (Business Decision Making) and are now preparing for their real exams on 17th January and 20th January. A revision session for Unit 6 will take place on Saturday 11th January, 10am-2pm.

Level 2 Business students completed their trial Unit 9 Principles of Marketing exam and are revising for the real exam on Friday 10th January at 1:30pm. They are also working on Unit 3 Branding assignments, learning about promotional strategies and creating their own brand pitches.

The A-Level and BTEC Extended Certificate Business group visited Gripple in November, where they explored production facilities, apprenticeships, and graduate roles. Students engaged in site tours, product design challenges, and discussions with SHU alumni about career opportunities.

Level 2 ICT students are finalising their Unit 5 Podcasts and preparing for their Unit 2 Technology Systems exam on 22nd January at 1:30pm. They enjoyed a workshop at the Video Game Museum, creating animated pixel art, with excellent participation.

Level 3 IT Year 1 students attended Sheffield Hallam University workshops on digital forensics and IT business simulations. They've completed mock exams for Unit 2 Databases and are revising for their real exams on 14th and 15th January. An extra revision session will run on Saturday 11th January, 10am-2pm.

Year 2 IT students have multiple exams in January (Units 2, 11, and 14) and should check Edulink for their schedule. Year 2 Computing students achieved excellent Unit 2 and 1 mock results and must prepare for exams on 17th January (1:30pm) and 21st January (9am). **Year 1 Computing** students participated in a virtual cybersecurity work experience day with AON, earning certificates for their CVs.

Economics students attended the EBEA Conference in November, hearing from authors, Bank of England economists, and undergraduates. The event expanded their understanding of economics and future career pathways.

Year 1 Law students have applied for the Fragomen mentorship scheme and are preparing for January assessments. BTEC Law exams are on 10th January (9am) for Year 1 and 15th January (1:30pm) for Year 2.

Transition to Foundation students have completed their organisation skills unit, independent research projects, and creative self-portraits. They look forward to a celebration event on 19th December, with prizes for positive contributions.

Celebration Evening

It was wonderful to see Numaan and Hunaida collect their certificates for BTEC IT success. Numaan, now studying Data Science at the University of Sheffield, and Hunaida, pursuing Cybersecurity at Manchester Met, will return in the new year to share their experiences with students.

MATHS

Eighteen of our A-Level Maths students recently attended the Maths Broadening Horizons event at Sheffield Hallam University. The trip provided an excellent opportunity for the students to engage with the practical side of mathematics. During the event, they listened to insightful talks about how mathematics is a human endeavour and explored the various career paths available to those with a mathematics degree. In addition, the students participated in two interactive workshops focusing on the mathematical modelling cycle and problem-solving techniques. It was a valuable experience that expanded their understanding of how mathematics is applied in real-world scenarios.

Humanities

In Humanities, **Criminology** students have completed their 8 hour controlled assessments – all students attended and worked really well throughout their sessions. These assessments are worth 25% of their final grades, and it has been great to see the students taking them so seriously. In **History**, students have had the opportunity to visit Sheffield University, where they were able to work with some very rare archived material, including a hand written manuscript from the C16th. They also visited the National Civil War Centre in Newark, where they were able to explore the realities of 17th century life through the eyes of people who lived it.

STEM

Over the past half term, our Science courses have been very busy. Our second-year A-level students in **Psychology, Chemistry, Biology, and Physics** have been preparing for their final exams by sitting trial exams. These practice tests help students identify areas to improve and plan their revision to be ready for summer exams. Our **Level 3 Applied Science** students are also working hard as they prepare for their January exams in Units 1, 5, and 7. Many of them will be revising over the Christmas break to give themselves the best chance of success. Meanwhile, our **Level 2** students are completing final coursework assignments in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. They are now starting to focus on preparing for their exams at the end of January. We encourage all students to spend time studying independently, both in lessons and at home, to make sure they are fully ready for their assessments. We've also had some exciting trips and activities. During an Industry Insight Day, students took part in virtual work experience, learning valuable skills to prepare for their future careers. An external speaker from First Light Fusion gave a talk about engineering careers and the skills needed for these industries our Physics students visited Sheffield Hallam University, where they carried out hands-on experiments to meet key assessment requirements.

We are proud of all the hard work and commitment our students have shown. We look forward to sharing more of their achievements in the coming months.

Health

Our second-year **T Level** students have begun their formal assessments during their placements, and these are progressing well. These assessments will continue over the next few months, offering students valuable hands-on experience. Meanwhile, our Level 2 and first-year T Level students recently completed their first block week placement of the term, where they made an excellent impression with their host settings.

In **Health and Social Care**, students across all levels are diligently preparing for their January exams, having recently completed their trial exams. Additionally, our second-year students have successfully finished their final placements, marking an important milestone in their studies.

We are very proud of the dedication and progress shown by all our students.

T-LEVELS
THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

ENGLISH

A Level English Literature and English Language students visited Sheffield Hallam University for a degree level taster day. English Literature students explored issues of race and gender in Shakespeare's Othello, while English Language students had a seminar on how artists use regional dialect in song lyrics to express identity and divergence.

Creative Arts

In the Creative Arts department, our Level 3 UAL students recently enjoyed an inspiring visit to Leeds Art Gallery, gaining valuable insights and inspiration for their studies. Meanwhile, our Level 2 students have been collaborating with an artist from Willow Lantern Workshops to create beautiful lanterns for the Shiregreen Lantern Parade. These experiences have provided fantastic opportunities for our students to develop their skills and creativity!



SKILLS FOR LIFE



In the Skills for Life program, several of our students sat their GCSE English or Maths exams in November. The results for these exams are expected to be released on Thursday, 9th January. We wish all our students the very best as they await their results!

LPSF pantry



How to Access Support

Support from the LPSF Pantry is available discreetly. If you or someone you know could benefit from this service, please contact a member of our safeguarding team. You can reach out via email at safeguarding@longleypark.ac.uk or text 07721511649 to arrange a collection.

We are here to support you, and we encourage you to take advantage of this resource if needed. Stay safe and take care.

Exams

IMPORTANT
Please make sure you are sat in the correct seat for your exam.



We encourage all parents, carers, and students to read our latest Exam Newsletter, which contains important information about the upcoming exams.

Inside, you'll find revision tips, exam regulations, details on how to best prepare and a reminder about toilet breaks during exams. Students should be arriving to their exam 15 minutes before the start time.

Staying informed is the first step toward success, and this newsletter is a valuable resource to help students feel confident and prepared as they approach their exams. Don't miss out on the guidance and support it offers!

All up to date information can be found on our website.



We 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 Academy so that you never miss important news.

