

LONGCROFT NEWS

Friday 9th September 2016

To those read this email who have previously received Longcroft News, welcome back to a new academic year at Longcroft School and Sixth Form College...

...and “hello” to all those who are joining us for the first time. This weekly bulletin keeps you up to date with Longcroft’s success, achievements, notices and dates for your diary.

Off to a Great Start

You do wonder where the six weeks holiday goes but now we are at the end of the first week of the new academic year. The students have come back in great spirits and have settled really quickly to their studies. Year 7 seem to be finding their way around and Year 9 look like they are enjoying life at the upper school site. As you’ll read below we’re really proud of this year’s examination results. We all need to work together to ensure Year 11 get on top of everything they need to do to be ready to achieve an even higher level of success next summer.

Examination Results

Best ever GCSE Results

The class of 2016 has achieved our best ever GCSE results. If you use the old measure, the Gold Standard of 5A*-C with English and Maths at 68% or the new measure called Basics (the percentage achieving A*-C in just English and Maths) at 70.5%, then these two results are the best we have ever achieved and are well above the national averages. Well done to the students and their teachers.

Beyond these headlines we saw great improvements in the results of both boys and girls. Our girls achieved a basics score of 79%, this is a 9% increase compared to 2015. Our boys achieved a Basics score of 62% which is an 8% improvement on last year. Again our students and their teachers deserve great credit for achieving these results. Both of these results will be significantly better than the national figure for each gender.

21% of all of the grades achieved were at A* and A. Last year 21% of students achieved 3 A*/A passes, this year this figure rose to 29%, again a significant improvement. Our top ten performing students achieved 77 A*/A passes between them.

We are proud to be a school that strives to meet the needs of all students. This year 99% achieved 5A*-G passes to 96% last year. All of our vulnerable groups e.g. students in receipt of free school meals, looked after children, highly mobile children e.g. children of service families, all performed well compared to their peers.

It is worth noting that our results do show a strong link between achievement and attendance. We worked hard last year to improve attendance overall with some success. However we can see that children whose attendance was less than 90% have achieved less well than their peers of similar

ability. All of the national research shows that for children to do well at school they must attend regularly and 'regularly' for us means more than 96% of the time.

A Level Results

At A level we again had another strong year. Our average points score per entry rose by 7.8 points to 205.4. Our overall pass rate was 100%, every student left with passes at A level. The percentage of students achieving as 3 A*- B grades was 29% compared to 23% in 2015. Similarly the percentage achieving 3 A*-C grades was 53% compared to 40% in 2015. 21% of our students have gone to a Russell Group university, nationally for state schools the figure is usually closer to 10%. Our top ten performing A level students all achieved 3A*/A passes or better, some got four top grades. We are delighted for year 13 and wish them every success for the future.

Overall we are very proud of the achievements of our Y11 and Year 13 students. Hopefully they feel proud to have attended Longcroft and for those that have now left us we hope they look back on their time here with great fondness and with fantastic memories and experiences. We are delighted to welcome into Year 12 those students that have chosen to remain with us.

Extra-Curricular Sports Activities

Attached to this email is a timetable of sporting clubs and activities that take place this term at lunch and after school. Many thanks to the PE Department for organising this and they look forward to seeing many familiar faces and new students joining in with these sporting opportunities.

Friends of Longcroft School (FOLS) – Prize Draw

If you would like to join the Prize Draw, now is your chance. The Friends of Longcroft School would like to invite all parents of children at Longcroft School, members of staff and governors to be part of this. For just £12 for the year you get 12 chances to win. Last year 94 people played the cash draw generating £546 for prizes and £546, which all went back to supporting children at Longcroft in their learning. In the forthcoming school year they would like to increase the players, thus making more money to support the school and in turn increasing the prize pot.

You can join by completing the attached form and sending this along with payment for the full year by cheque to the school office or by using ParentPay. Winners are emailed directly and, just as they have been today, results will be published in the Longcroft News. Please help and join today!

School Uniform

Our students do look smart. The boys in particular are wearing the uniform well and are complying fully with our uniform standard. Equally a proportion of our girls are doing the same. There is quite a large variety in the skirts our girls are wearing. Many skirts are too short, or at least are worn at too short a length. Our dress code is clear, knee length is the standard. We are pressing home this point with our girls and will continue to monitor this closely. For future reference, it is skirts that are particularly elastic that are most likely to be worn too short. There are many skirts which could be purchased, that are not so elastic, that more readily meet the standard we expect. Please consider this when making your next purchase.

Free Toast at Upper School Canteen

To help illustrate the importance of students eating breakfast, Mellors (Longcroft's contracted caterers) will be providing a free slice of toast for students from Monday 12th to Friday 23rd September. Other items, such as hot sandwiches, hot and cold drinks, fruit and cereal are also available.

Understanding Teenagers Courser – Back by Popular Demand

Due to the positive response and uptake of the recent 'Understanding Teenagers' programme, we are hoping to run another in the autumn term. Actual dates will follow at the beginning of the next term, but if you are interested in attending then please get in touch with Charlotte Coates 01482 862171 / 07876 447917.

Important Dates

Wednesday 14th September – Immunisation Catch-up Sessions for Years 9, 10 and 11 who missed previous HPV, TDP, Men, ACWY and MME immunisations.

Wednesday 21st September – Year 11 Information Evening:

Wednesday 23rd September – Year 10 Information Evening.