

October 2018

Dear Year 11 parent

As you will be aware, the months ahead are a crucial time in your child's education. As well as preparing for next summer's GCSE examinations, it is also a time for beginning to make decisions about where and how to pursue further education, training or employment next year and beyond. I am writing to inform you of provision that is being made by The Northworthy Trust for Year 11 students in all of its three schools – Merrill Academy, Lees Brook Community School and The Long Eaton School – to support you and your child with making those important decisions.

Since joining together to form a Trust, we have rationalised our post-16 offer to ensure that we can provide the best quality of education, to meet the needs of as many of our students as possible. We have two distinct post-16 provisions, both of which are rated Good by Ofsted and delivered highly successful exam outcomes again this summer:

- At Lees Community Brook School, a broad offer of vocational courses offered at Levels 1 and 2 (plus Hairdressing and Beauty courses at Level 3),
- At The Long Eaton School, an extensive offer of Level 3 courses including 20 subjects at A Level and another 8 Applied General (BTEC) courses

Further details of the Trust post-16 offer, including the courses being delivered, are available at www.northworthytrust.org.uk/about-the-trust/post-16

We recognise that students and their parents will be considering a wide range of options, but we are also aware that for many the option to stay within the Trust is an attractive one. Students who choose to move to another Trust school for post-16 study are able to access travel bursaries to support the costs of transport. A number of learners from last year's Year 11 are already doing so and have, without exception, made a successful start to Year 12.

A number of events are taking place over the next few weeks, and I hope that all Year 11 students will be able to take full advantage.

Careers and Skills Fairs

We have been successful in securing the commitment of a broad range of local employers, college and universities to attend our Careers and Skills Fair. Events are taking place at the following venues:

For students and parents from The Long Eaton School:
Tuesday 6th November, 5pm to 7pm at The Long Eaton School

For students and parents from Lees Brook Community School and Merrill Academy:
Wednesday 17th October, 5pm to 7pm at Lees Brook Community School

(Lees Brook parents please note that the Year 11 Study Skills evening is also taking place at the same time – it will be possible to visit both)

Post-16 Open Evenings

Each of our Trust post-16 sites is also holding an Open Evening, to which parents and students from all three Trust schools (and other local schools) are warmly invited:

Long Eaton Sixth Form Open Evening: Tuesday 9th October, 6pm to 8pm

Lees Brook Post-16 Open Evening: Wednesday 14th November, 6pm to 8pm

Taster Day

On Tuesday 6th November, all Year 11 students will be taking part in a Trust-wide Taster Day, to give them an opportunity to experience post-16 courses. We are aware that some students already have a firm idea of their plans after Year 11, but regardless of their intended destination the Taster Day will be a valuable opportunity to develop a better understanding of the demands of post-16 study as well as an opportunity to try out subject areas which may be of interest.

Students for whom Level 3 (A Level or equivalent) study is likely to be the most appropriate route will be invited to choose from a range of subject options and will spend the day at The Long Eaton School. Those for whom Level 1 or 2 courses may be better suited will spend their Taster Day at Lees Brook Community School. All travel costs, where applicable, will be covered by the Trust – further details will follow from the school wherever this applies.

Raising aspirations is a key element of our strategic plan as a Multi-Academy Trust. Thank you for your support in helping your child to take full advantage of these exciting opportunities over the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely



Zoe House
Headteacher



Neil Calvert
CEO, The Northworthy Trust