

June 2025

Dear Year 6 Parent/Carer,

### Transition Update - Year 7 September 2025

I hope that you enjoyed a restful half-term break and that SATs exams for your child have gone well. As we enter the final term and exam season begins for our older students, we are now focusing on preparations for the new Year 7 cohort joining us in September. Following a highly competitive admissions process and the recent appeals period, our final intake list is almost finalised, with a third date of appeals due in July.

We are committed to making the transition to secondary school a positive, exciting experience and to giving our new students the best possible start. To ensure you receive the most relevant and up-to-date information, please continue to check the 'Transition' pages on our website: <https://longbenton.org.uk/about/transition>. All updates and key details will be posted there.

### Mobile phones

We would like to reassure parents that there is no need to purchase a smartphone for your child as they prepare to start with us in Year 7, if they do not have one already. Our view is that students do not need a device with access to social media or the internet until Year 9 at the earliest. Our school now operates a full mobile phone ban for all students during the school day and this will apply to your child in September. If they do bring a phone to school, they will be expected to hand in their phone to their tutor each morning and will get this back at the end of the day. This policy is in place to support a focused learning environment, reduce distractions, and promote positive social interaction. There are some interesting internet free/social media free alternatives here if you are in the process of looking for a new device for your child: <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/alternatives>

### Transition Timetable

Below is a reminder of the key transition activities that we are planning over the coming weeks, to ensure that you and your child have everything you need for a successful start at high school. Additional information about these events will be posted on the school website and reminders distributed via email.

Dates	Transition Events
From May half term	Opportunities for Year 6 to attend period 6 <b>Inspire sessions (extra curricular clubs)</b> at our school, these run from 3.15-4 pm. If you have previously not completed the Google form or your primary school has not arranged attendance at these sessions and your child would like to attend, please contact us directly at <a href="mailto:transition@longbenton.org.uk">transition@longbenton.org.uk</a>
Monday 23rd June	A separate transition event for our <b>smaller feeder primary schools</b> . Invitations will go directly to these students / families. This is for schools where we have below 5 students coming to us. The event will run from 9.30-11.30am. Students should come in their primary school uniform.

Tuesday 24th June	Our <b>SEND students</b> will be invited to our <b>Transition+</b> event which will be coordinated by our Deputy SENCO. Invitations will go directly to these students / families. The event will run from 9.30-11.30am. Students should come in their primary school uniform.
Monday 30th June	<p><b>Transition Day 1</b> Year 6 need to arrive at Longbenton High School at <b>8.40am</b> wearing their usual <b>primary school uniform</b>. It would be helpful if students could bring some basic equipment (pen, pencil, ruler) if they have it. They will <b>finish at 3.15pm</b>.</p> <p>When Year 6 students arrive at school there will be staff and older students welcoming them and they will be directed to the main hall. All students will spend the day in their tutor groups, spending time working with their form tutor and other members of staff. Year 6 will experience a year group assembly, a range of lessons, spend lunchtime in the secondary environment and start to immerse themselves in the secondary way of life.</p> <p>Students may bring in a packed lunch or can pay for their lunch - £5 covers lunch from the canteen for Transition Day 1 and 2 - we ask that students either bring £5 cash with them on transition day 1, a bank card they could use at the canteen tills or parents can bring £5 cash to the main school office on the first transition day if they are dropping off their child. If you are in receipt of Free School Meals you will not be charged.</p>
Thursday 10th July	<p><b>Transition Day 2</b> Year 6 need to arrive at Longbenton High School at <b>8.40am</b> wearing their <b>primary school PE kit</b>. It would be helpful if they could bring some basic equipment with them. They will <b>finish at 3.15pm</b>.</p> <p>During the day there will be a <b>House 'reveal'</b> - students will find out which of our 4 houses they have been assigned to (and which colour tie they will therefore need for September). Students will complete a PSHE lesson in their tutor group and will then be with students in their house completing different activities/competitions to gain points for their team. We will have an assembly at the end of the day to announce our House Champion!</p>
This half term	<p><b>New Intake Parents' meetings</b> This is an <b>optional</b> appointment for you and your child to have a 1:1 meeting with a member of staff. We will already have the relevant academic and pastoral information from your child's primary school, but if you would like to discuss any of your child's needs further in advance of September this provides another point of contact. If you feel you require one of these appointments, please click <b>this <a href="#">link</a></b> and complete the short form.</p> <p><b>We will write to you again at the start of July to share the details of how we will collect contact details, photo permissions etc prior to September using 'My Child at School'</b></p>
Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th July	<b>Uniform Shop</b> We will be running a uniform pop up shop on Wednesday 16th July 3-4pm and on Thursday 17th July 8.45-9.45am for any families who are interested in picking up some good quality pre-loved uniform. This includes PE kit, blazers, shirts and jumpers.
Wednesday 3rd September	<p><b>Starting High School - Year 7 only in school</b></p> <p>Students need to arrive at school from 8.15am for a 8.45am start in full uniform. They will not need to bring in any PE kit on their first day. Students will start the day in tutor groups</p>

	<p>and will spend some time with their new class. They will be issued with their timetable and will then follow this to experience lessons during the school day.</p> <p>Year 7 will be the only year group in school on this date apart from Sixth Form. This staggered start enables us to concentrate on really getting to know and support the cohort.</p> <p>Parents are invited into school for lunch on their first day to experience the food from the canteen, meet key staff from the Senior Leadership and Pastoral Leadership teams and your child's tutor. This is also a chance to gain information regarding secondary expectations including homework and our behaviour policy, supporting your child through transition, how to use MCAS app and for us to answer any questions you may have.</p> <p><b>Further information regarding this will be sent out in July.</b></p>
Thursday 4th September	Students will arrive at school to begin their day as normal at 8.45 a.m. They will experience a full day of five lessons.

Please complete this [form](#) by Friday 13th June so we can plan for our transition days. This contains important information about your child - medical information we may need to know, photograph permission, lunch plans and arrangements for leaving us at the end of the day.

### Uniform

Our branded uniform is available from Emblematic, this includes blazers, ties and PE kit. Up to date prices can be found on their website <https://emblematic.co.uk/longbenton-store/>. In addition to Emblematic, we do sell ties in school should you wish to purchase these directly from us - on the second transition day your child will find out what house they are in which dictates the colour tie they should wear. We also can support with uniform through our pre-loved uniform shop. If you would like further information about this please contact us directly at [transition@longbenton.org.uk](mailto:transition@longbenton.org.uk)

### Key contacts

We appreciate that transition to secondary school can be an anxious time. If you have any further questions, please do contact us at the school, either directly at [transition@longbenton.org.uk](mailto:transition@longbenton.org.uk) or via the school office on 0191 2189500. Here is a reminder of the staffing and key contacts for Year 7 from September - your child will find out their tutor on their first full transition day.

Pastoral Team for Year 7 & 8	
Associate Assistant Headteacher	Kat Lambert
Year Leader	Mark Wilkinson
Pastoral Manager	Debbie Aikman
Deputy SENCO - Key Stage 3	Amy Blackburn

There are also some useful online resources for parents at the following links to share with your child:

<https://www.annafreud.org/schools-and-colleges/resources/moving-up-the-transition-to-secondary-school-animation-teacher-toolkit/>



<https://www.place2be.org.uk/our-services/parents-and-carers/getting-ready-to-start-secondary-or-high-school/>

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/media/2odjiktz/top-ten-tips-for-parents.pdf>

If you have friends and family who have children currently in Year 5, please make them aware that our Open Evening for the Year 7 intake starting secondary school in September 2026 will be on **Tuesday 23rd September 2025**. We will be running tours in September and October, as in previous years - information will be available on our website soon.

In the meantime, we look forward to getting to know you and working with you to ensure that your child is happy, settled and successful at Longbenton High School.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kat Lambert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kat Lambert

Associate Assistant Headteacher Years 7 & 8