

A New Chapter, A Brilliant Beginning

What an incredibly busy and rewarding first half-term it has been—and my very first as Headteacher of Longbenton High School! I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know our students, staff, and families, and I want to extend my sincere thanks for such a warm welcome into the Longbenton community.

There has already been so much to celebrate. We kicked off the year by welcoming our new Year 7 and Sixth Form students, followed by an extraordinarily busy Open Evening where our pupils did a fantastic job showcasing their school. Our recent Respect Day was another major highlight, bringing our KIDMAP values to life through meaningful conversations about kindness, mutual respect, and our shared responsibilities to one another.

At the end of September, we also welcomed Ofsted. I would like to thank our entire community once again for your incredible support throughout the inspection—it was a privilege to see our staff and pupils demonstrate exactly what makes Longbenton so special. I feel exceptionally proud and fortunate to lead such wonderful staff and students, and I am genuinely excited about the journey ahead.

Even as we break up for the holiday, work continues behind the scenes. We are spending the half-term refreshing our facilities and updating several internal spaces, ensuring everything is ready for our students' return on 2nd November.

I hope you enjoy reading this inaugural edition of The Longbenton Legend, celebrating just a few of the brilliant things happening across our school.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. I wish you all a restful and well-deserved half-term break!



Respect Day: Everyone belongs at Longbenton

Respect Day on Friday 9 October gave pupils the opportunity to explore how we treat one another and the part we all play in making Longbenton a welcoming place.

With contributions from guest speakers, the day focused on Fundamental British Values and the nine protected characteristics. Pupils considered the importance of respecting different backgrounds, beliefs and experiences, and treating everyone fairly.

A central message was being an upstander: someone who recognises when something is wrong and takes positive action.

Supporting someone who has been left out, speaking to a trusted adult or safely challenging unkind behaviour can make a real difference.

The day brought our KIDMAP values of Kindness, Integrity and Manners to life through everyday choices: how we speak, listen and support one another.

Thank you to our guest speakers, staff and pupils for their contributions. The message extends beyond Respect Day: everyone at Longbenton deserves to feel safe, valued and able to be themselves.



We were delighted to welcome Marcell Edwards to speak to all year groups as part of Respect Day.

With a background in recruiting talent at Adidas, Marcell has championed equality, diversity and inclusion, helping establish partnerships with the Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation and #MerkyFC to create opportunities and break down barriers.

His work also includes supporting young people from disadvantaged backgrounds through sport. In 2023, he was shortlisted for a National Diversity Award in recognition of his contribution as a positive role model.

Thank you, Marcell, for joining us for a day focused on respect, belonging and standing up for others.

Learning in focus

EVERY DAY COUNTS, EVERY LESSON MATTERS!

Getting teenagers out of bed on a Monday morning can sometimes feel like an Olympic sport! But being in school, keeping on top of work and developing good revision habits really can make a difference to their future.

Research from FFT Education Datalab found a clear link between attendance and GCSE progress. Pupils who missed more school generally made less progress than those who attended regularly.

And here's something to think about. Missing just one day every fortnight adds up to almost four whole weeks of lost learning across a school year!

Every lesson builds on what came before. Missing an explanation in Maths, a key scene in English or an important practical in Science can make the next lesson that little bit harder. Those small gaps can quickly add up.

That's why we're also encouraging pupils to take pride in their exercise books. Clear headings, dates, neat presentation and completed corrections aren't just about making books look lovely. They help pupils revisit their learning, understand feedback and revise more effectively.

And revision isn't just for Year 11! Spending ten minutes looking back over a topic, testing yourself or explaining something you've learned can help knowledge stick.

Parents and carers can help too! Why not ask your child to show you something they're proud of in their books this week? Even better, ask them to teach you something they've learned. You might discover a thing or two yourself!

Of course, we understand that children become unwell and sometimes attendance can be difficult. If your child is struggling, please speak to us so we can work together.

At Longbenton, we want every pupil to succeed. Being in school, taking pride in their work and building good learning habits are three brilliant ways to make that happen!

SMALL GAPS. MISSED LEARNING.

1 DAY

missed every fortnight...

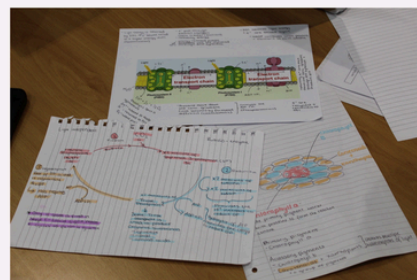
...adds up to almost

4 WEEKS

of learning in a school year.



That's around 19 school days.



LEARNING WORTH KEEPING

Notes today. Revision tomorrow.

Every lesson brings explanations, practice and feedback.

This week, ask your child to show you work they're proud of and teach you something they've learned.

Sport & Inspire

Beyond the classroom

DETERMINATION

Girls' football: Five goals and a County Cup victory!

Our Year 7 and 8 girls delivered a brilliant 5–3 victory away at Ovingham Middle School, progressing to the next round of the U13 County Cup.

Jessie S. scored all five Longbenton goals, while captain Bessie B. impressed in defence and provided two assists. Goalkeeper Lucia B. also made important late saves to secure the win.

The team showed tremendous determination, battling back from 2–1 down with just one substitute available.



AMBITION

Year 7 boys win County Cup penalty shootout



Our new Year 7 boys' team made a fantastic start to their Longbenton football journey against Burnside.

After a 1–1 draw, the boys progressed in the County Cup following a dramatic penalty shootout. Loukas K. saved the crucial penalty, with Seb R., Levi T., Louie D. and Kaisaac M. all converting theirs.

Jake S. earned Player of the Match for an outstanding defensive performance.

What makes this particularly special is that 60–70 Year 7 pupils had expressed an interest in representing the school, showing the enthusiasm for football amongst our newest pupils.

INTEGRITY

Longbenton Goes Red for Show Racism the Red Card!

Our Longbenton community came together to support Wear Red Day, raising a fantastic £166.16 through a school bake sale!

Staff and Sixth Form students wore red to support Show Racism the Red Card, a charity that tackles racism through education and promotes equality and respect.

A huge thank you to everyone who baked, donated and took part. A brilliant example of our KIDMAP values in action!



SCAN
ME! >>



**Parent of a
Year 7 child?**

Year 7 parents, we'd love
your feedback on Tuesday's
Tutor Evening! Scan to share
your thoughts.

CELEBRATING OUR PEOPLE

You Said, We Listened

While we await the publication of our recent Ofsted inspection report, we're delighted to share some really encouraging feedback from our school community through Ofsted Parent View. Of the 161 responses received, 88% of parents said they would recommend Longbenton High School to another parent!

The results also showed that 87% agreed their child feels safe, 83% said their child is happy, 82% felt the school communicates well and 81% agreed their child receives the right support to learn well.

We're particularly pleased that 75% of parents feel we make decisions with their child's best interests at heart, reflecting the importance we place on knowing, supporting and caring for every young person.

It was also encouraging to see 75% of parents agree that the school makes sure pupils are well behaved. Creating a calm, respectful and positive environment where everyone can learn and thrive remains a key priority for us.

These results are something our whole school community can be proud of. We know there's always room to improve, but we're incredibly grateful to everyone who shared their views and for the continued trust and support of our families.

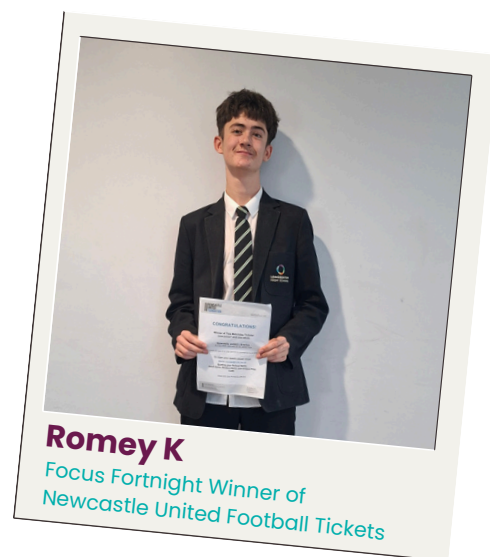
88%
Would recommend
Longbenton

87%
My child
feels safe

83%
My child
is happy

82%
The school
communicates well

81%
Support to
learn well



CELEBRATIONS & WHAT'S NEXT

Dates for your diary

**Monday
2nd
November** Return to school
08:40 – all year groups

**Tuesday
1st
December** Post-16 Open Evening
16:30 – 18:30 for Year 11 students

**Friday 4th
December** School Closed – Inset Day
All year groups

**Tuesday
15th
December** Year 11 Parents Evening
15:00 – 17:30 for Year 11 parents and
students

Notices for families

Stay Connected with MCAS

Please ensure you have access to the MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) app and have notifications switched on. This is one of our main ways of sharing important school information, letters, attendance updates and reminders with families.

Winter Attendance & Uniform

As the colder months approach, please continue to support good attendance and punctuality. If your child is absent, contact attendance@longbenton.org.uk.

We also have good-quality second-hand uniform available through school reception, subject to availability. Families needing additional support with uniform costs are encouraged to contact us confidentially.