



LONGBENTON HIGH SCHOOL

23 January 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I am writing to let you know that, after nearly ten years at Longbenton High School and six years as Headteacher, I will be leaving the school at the end of the spring term. From Easter, I will be taking up a new role as Headteacher of Berwick Academy in Northumberland.

This has not been an easy decision. Longbenton has been a hugely important part of my professional life, and I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together as a school community. None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our staff, the support of our parents and carers, and—most importantly—the hard work, resilience and character of our fabulous students.

During my time as Headteacher, I have been privileged to work with an exceptional team to move the school from Requires Improvement to Good, to address and eliminate a significant financial deficit while continuing to improve outcomes, and to grow the school to the point where it is now oversubscribed. Above all, I am proud of the difference the school makes to the lives and life chances of young people every day.

I want to thank our staff for their professionalism, commitment and care for our students; our parents and carers for your trust, support and partnership; and our students for making Longbenton such a vibrant, ambitious and special place to work. It has been a genuine privilege to serve this community.

I will remain fully committed to the school until the end of the spring term, and it will be very much business as usual during this time. I will share further information about the process for recruiting my successor as soon as I am able to do so.

Kelly Holbrook

Headteacher