

7th July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the close of a truly remarkable school year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the collective achievements of our students and staff. The year has been rich with accomplishments - far too many to list - but we've done our best to capture the highlights in our half-termly newsletters which you can find [here](#) at the top of the 'Letters Home' page. Our final HT6 newsletter will be published at the end of next week.

Some standout moments for me include welcoming a heavily oversubscribed Year 7 cohort in September; celebrating the success of students within our new AP provision; the launch of our Sixth Form 'newsletter', The Waffle; and the launch of our solo Sixth Form. Our students have embraced inspiring opportunities that have broadened their horizons and built character - from a ski trip in Italy to events on our Resilience and Respect days. Just this weekend, students took part in a Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award expedition and Year 7 and 8s enjoyed a weekend residential at High Borrans.

We also introduced new behaviour strategies this year, including the implementation of our mobile phone ban, that have enhanced student engagement and helped to keep our school calm and safe. I am also especially proud of the growth and impact of our Equalities Team, which continues to exemplify our commitment to inclusivity and representation. We were pleased to receive accreditation as a School of Sanctuary recently as part of this work.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the unwavering dedication of our staff and the steadfast support of our families. Thank you for being an essential part of our journey this year.

Final week of term arrangements

Monday 14th July	<i>Tuesday 15th July</i>	Wednesday 16th July	<i>Thursday 17th July</i>	Friday 19th July
Summer Rewards Day	<i>Normal lessons</i>	Sports Day	<i>Normal lessons</i>	NB: Students will finish at 12.15pm

New Term Arrangements - 25/26 Academic Year

Monday 1st September	Tuesday 2nd September	Wednesday 3rd September	Thursday 4th September	Friday 5th September
Staff Training Day <i>Students not in school</i>	Staff Training Day <i>Students not in school</i>	Year 7 ONLY <i>Y9/10 New Starter Lunch 1pm; Y12/13 Induction 9.30am - 10.30am</i>	Year 7, 11 & Sixth Form ONLY	Y8, 9 and 10 start



Uniform and equipment standards

As we go into the holidays many families will be replenishing uniform and possibly purchasing new kit. Our uniform and expectations policy remains unchanged but we would like to clarify expectations regarding shoes and skirts - please see the **visual uniform guide attached to this letter** and refer to our Uniform Policy and guidance [here](#).

From September we will be monitoring uniform more closely to improve standards. Student uniform will be monitored as students enter the building and by their form tutor each morning. Where a student is in breach of the uniform policy they will:

- Receive an incorrect uniform mark on the school system which will automatically text home to inform their parent/carer
- Borrow the correct uniform from the uniform cupboard
- Collect a yellow slip identifying the item of uniform they have borrowed
- Return the borrowed uniform to their tutor at the end of the school day, signing off their yellow slip [note: students who do not return borrowed uniform will be invoiced for the cost of the item]
- Potentially have incorrect uniform items removed and confiscated which will be securely stored by the pastoral team

If a student is in breach of the uniform policy and refuses to borrow the correct uniform, the student will be placed in RESET until they are in the correct uniform. Students will be able to leave RESET once they are in correct school uniform; this may be through borrowing uniform from the uniform cupboard, or presenting in the correct uniform the next day. Refusal to complete RESET will be treated as persistent disruptive behaviour (PDB) in line with our behaviour policy. In cases of repeated breaches of the uniform policy, i.e. three incorrect uniform marks on the school system in one week, this will be treated as defiance and students will be placed in RESET for 5 lessons. If families have difficulty in sourcing the correct uniform they should contact the pastoral team to resolve this.

This enforcement in policy means that we will provide uniform to those students that arrive at school without any correct items; they will be expected to wear what is provided in order to avoid being isolated. It is important that our students continue to embody our core values and demonstrate their pride in being students of LHS by adhering to these expectations. As we approach the end of the year if you are able to donate any uniform that you no longer need it would be greatly appreciated. We are in particular need of smaller sizes of blazers, skirts and PE kit.

It is also essential that all students are well equipped for lessons. Students should have a pencil case with black or blue pens, pencils, a rubber, a ruler, a protractor and compass, and a scientific (natural display) calculator. Our recommended calculator is a Casio FX. Students are also advised to bring in water in a refillable bottle as sugary fizzy drinks, including any form of energy drink, are not permitted at LHS and will be disposed of.



Attendance & Punctuality

Attendance is a key priority at LHS and as it stands a large number of students still do not attend school at the same levels as schools locally or nationally. We have worked hard to reduce Persistent Absence this year and expect to end the year with a 3.5% reduction in persistently absent students. However, this will continue to be a focus into next academic year. Exam outcomes are significantly impacted by attendance. 50 students in our Year 11 cohort who have just finished their exams had attendance below 90%. The gap from their peers is stark: we are predicting an outcomes gap this summer of almost 30% at grade 5+ for these poor attending students.

I need the whole school community to work together on attendance in this coming year and ensure that students attend everyday, apart only in extreme circumstances. We are unable to authorise a number of activities that in the past may have been authorised, such as tournaments. In 2025/26 we will only authorise sporting activities / competitions at an elite level, i.e. national level such as representing Team GB. We ask that you also bear in mind when booking any holidays for next year that we cannot authorise term time holidays. We work with the Local Authority to issue fines for 10 sessions (5 days) of absence due to unauthorised holidays. Additionally, we are working with the North Tyneside Attendance and Placement Team to issue 'Notice to Improve' for students with poor attendance and we are increasing the use of Fixed Penalty Notices in cases where there is continued absence. It is essential that we work together to ensure children attend school regularly and are in the best position to achieve their full potential. If there are barriers to attendance, I urge parents to open up a dialogue immediately with us so we can work together to overcome these issues.

Staffing & Governors

This summer we say goodbye to Ms Rawstron (Geography), Ms Hopkins (Maths), and Ms Ryan (English). Our receptionist, Ms Scott, is also leaving us at the end of term. In addition, following 7 years as Chair of Governors, Sheila Palmerley will be stepping down from our Governing Board. Whilst many of you will not have come into contact with our Chair, it is important to know the value of this voluntary, unpaid role, which is focused on improving the education and well-being of children and staff in our school. The Chair of Governors has a key role to play in helping the governing board to work as a team to challenge, support and contribute to the strategic leadership of the school - I would like to thank Sheila for her time doing so at Longbenton High School.

On the subject of governance, we still have a parent governor vacancy; you can find an application form and Parent Governor FAQs at the bottom of this [webpage](#).

Several new staff will be joining us in September, as follows:

Ms Bailey-Jones	Maths	Mr Cooke	Perform (Maternity cover)
Ms Carr-Thoms	Create	Ms Donnelly	Science
Mr Clinchant	Humanities	Mr Hay	AP Lead/Psychology



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Mr Lazell	Inclusion Manager	Ms Meyer	PE (Maternity cover)
Mr Patterson	PE/Maths	Ms Welsh	Humanities

Pastoral Managers will follow year groups in September, which means Ms Aikman will move from Year 11 back down to Year 7. All other members of the Pastoral Leadership remain unchanged.

Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11
Ms Aikman	Ms Richardson	Ms Bertram	Ms Gardner	Ms Clark

School holidays and Results Days

The school will be closed for the summer holidays from the afternoon of 19th July; the main office is not staffed during this time. Please note that emails and other communications are monitored intermittently and may not be responded to until the start of the new term if not deemed urgent.

GCSE and A Level results will be issued on their respective national results days: A Level results will be available on **Thursday 14 August 2025**, and GCSE results on **Thursday 21 August 2025, from 8.30am on both dates**. Further reminder details about how and when to collect results will be shared closer to the time directly via MCAS/Bromcom communication, the school's website and social media channels. Sixth Form enrolment for Year 12 starting September 2025 takes place in school on Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd August; students do not need to make an appointment and can enrol straight after collecting results on Thursday 21st if they wish.

Best wishes for the summer break ahead.

Kelly Holbrook
Headteacher