






FAQs – Open House Tours 2025


 **How are Year 7 students placed into sets?** In Year 7, students start in mixed-ability tutor groups. For subjects like Maths and English, we use KS2 data, primary school info, and our own assessments to place students into sets. These are reviewed regularly.

 **What are the class sizes?** Typical class sizes are around 26 students. In practical subjects (e.g. Science, Art), we aim for smaller groups to ensure safety and support. There are 180 in a year group, split into 2 year halves; we have 7 tutor groups in 2025/26 with approx 26 students in each.

 **How do you support the move from primary school?** We know that moving up to secondary school is a big step. At Longbenton High School, we are really proud of how we manage transition to Year 7. Our programme starts in March, with a welcome event for students and parents after Offer Day, visits to primaries, two transition days in July, and the offer of 1:1 parent meetings in the summer term. Students are invited to attend our extra curricular programme in the summer term so they can get used to coming to their new school before September every week. Once students arrive, they benefit from strong pastoral support, helping them settle quickly, make friends, and feel confident in their new environment. This year we invited parents into school for lunch on the first day so Year 7s could show parents their form room, share some food and play ping pong!

 **What are your GCSE options?** We offer a wide choice of **academic & vocational subjects**: *Art & Design, Photography, Business & Enterprise, Childcare, Design & Technology, Drama, Geography, History, Hospitality & Catering, Computer Science, iMedia, French, Spanish, Music, Sports Studies, Religious Studies*. Students here complete 8 GCSE qualifications. Some schools make students choose a fourth option and complete 9; we feel that this stretches students too much and is unnecessary when 5 GCSE passes are needed for the next stage of education. In addition some students sit GCSE Further Maths

 **What pastoral care is in place?** Each student has a **form tutor, Pastoral Manager** and a **Head of Year**. Associate Assistant Headteachers lead the Y7-8, 9-10 and 11-13 teams. We focus on both wellbeing and achievement by working alongside the Connect Mental Health Support Team who provide student counselling.

 **What support is there for SEND students?** At Longbenton High School, we're committed to supporting all students to thrive, whatever their needs. Our SEND team works closely with primary schools before transition to ensure we understand each child's individual profile. Support may include in-class assistance, small group interventions, and personalised learning plans. We are proud to have an on-site Alternative Provision (AP) base, which offers a quieter, nurturing environment for students experiencing EBSNA or facing challenges related to SEMH. This space is staffed by experienced professionals who provide tailored support, helping students re-engage with learning at a pace that suits them. *(Please note this is not an ARP)*. We believe in inclusion, early intervention, and strong partnerships with families every step of the way and have two non teaching Deputy SENCOs alongside our SLT SENCO which shows our commitment to supporting students with additional needs.

🏀🎨🧠 **What extra-curricular activities do you offer?** Tons! Including: Sports clubs & teams; drama & music; STEM, coding, and art clubs. Plus opportunities like **Duke of Edinburgh** (KS4 & KS5). This runs Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 3.15-4pm.

📱 **How do you communicate with parents?** Our Parent A-Z guide on our website contains everything you need to know as a new parent. We keep in touch via MCAS (My Child At School App) where you can monitor behaviour, attendance and top up school meal accounts and pay for trips. We send half Termly Newsletters to showcase what is happening in school. We use online platforms for homework & progress (GCSE Pod and Google Classroom). We showcase achievement via our social media channels on X, Instagram and Facebook. We are launching a new parent forum in 25/26!

👤 **What are the behaviour and uniform expectations?** We expect: Good attendance (we carry out daily home visits and issue fines); respectful behaviour; a focus on learning; full school uniform. We use a clear **behaviour policy** with restorative approaches that can be best characterised as Warm/Strict. **We have a strict no mobile phone policy** - this means all mobile phones have to be handed in at the start of each day.

10. 🌟 **How do you stretch high-achieving students?** We offer: challenging work in lessons each day; competitions & enrichment; options at GCSE including separate Sciences and Further Maths. We run peri lessons including LAMDA drama lessons. Students every year progress to Oxbridge and Russell Group universities to study competitive courses like Medicine.

Key dates and contacts

All Transition to Year 7 queries	transition@longbenton.org.uk
Associate Assistant Headteacher Y7-8	Kat Lambert
Deadline for admissions for Year 7 entry Sept 2026	31 October 2025
National Offer Day (when parents find out allocated school places)	2 March 2026
New Year 7 Welcome Event at LHS (start of the transition process)	31 March 2026



Longbenton
HIGH SCHOOL