



LONGBENTON HIGH SCHOOL

HT Update Oct 25

Dear Parents, Carers, Students,

I hope that everyone is settling in to the new academic year well, and that our new Year 7 cohort in particular already feel part of the Longbenton family. The energy, enthusiasm, and focus I have seen across the school in these first few weeks instils me with confidence that this will be a year of real progress and achievement.

We have had a smooth and structured return to school, with students arriving in correct uniform, on time, and ready to learn. The vast majority have shown positivity, respect, and commitment to our expectations. Our staff and senior team have noted many examples of students going the "extra mile" — supporting one another, upholding our behaviour standards in corridors and lessons, and showing kindness and courtesy around the site. Such a start is important because it sets the tone for the whole year: high expectations, consistency, and mutual respect.

We believe that every child deserves an environment that is calm, safe and conducive to learning — and that without firm boundaries, that cannot happen.

You may have seen a recent article in Newcastle World about how schools are ranked according to suspensions data. I want to defend our position on behaviour and respect. A school cannot be excellent academically if it tolerates behaviour that undermines learning or disrespects staff and students. Our expectations are non-negotiable: lessons start and end promptly; classroom disruption is not tolerated; respectful language and conduct are required.

This does not mean we are not an inclusive school; it means we expect high standards from everyone. We are aware that a firm stance can sometimes attract criticism, particularly from those who misunderstand the difference between being fair and being permissive. But our approach is rooted in respect, consistency, and the belief that every child can excel if given the right environment.

Open Evening & Forthcoming Events

We were delighted by the turnout at our Open Evening on Tuesday 23rd September. Thank you to all staff, student ambassadors, and volunteers who helped make it a success.

The feedback from prospective families was very positive: they remarked on the warm welcome, the clarity of our expectations, and the atmosphere of purpose and positive energy throughout the building.

We have tours booked and running for over 50 families through September and October, demonstrating just how popular our school has become (we have been heavily oversubscribed now for the past 3 years).

Staff absence

As is inevitable in any large organisation, we are currently experiencing a number of staff absences due to illness and other unavoidable circumstances. This includes some key members of our leadership teams. This means our response time to queries may be a little slower than we would like.

Please be assured that we have plans in place to ensure the continued smooth running of the school. Staff, including myself, are backfilling and stepping in to support different areas as needed, and we are working closely together to maintain high standards and minimise any disruption to the day-to-day experience of our pupils.

We appreciate your understanding and patience; please help us by directing your queries to the right place and avoiding copying in multiple people to avoid confusion. Please see a reminder of email addresses below. Attendance queries should be sent directly to attendance@longbenton.org.uk; all pastoral issues and queries should be sent to year...@longbenton.org.uk (insert the number for your child's year group).

Education Strategic Review Consultation

You may be aware of the recently launched consultation on the admissions arrangements and potential mergers and closures of schools across North Tyneside.

UPCOMING EVENTS AUTUMN TERM 1	
1 OCT	FLU IMMUNISATION CATCH UP DATE: 20 TH OCTOBER
2 OCT	Y10 & 11 REVISION - PARENTS & CARERS INFO EVENING 5.30-6.30PM
9 OCT	Y10 WORK EXPERIENCE INFORMATION EVENING
14 SEPT	Y10-11 CAREERS FAIR PARENTS/CARERS OF Y10-11 WANTED TO ATTEND 3-4PM
21 OCT	Y7 PARENT-TUTOR EVENT 2.30-5.00PM, DETAILS TO FOLLOW
24 OCT	LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM 1 NORMAL FINISH TIME
3 NOV	FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM 2



Attendance, appointments, etc: attendance@longbenton.org.uk

Pastoral queries: [year7@](mailto:year7@longbenton.org.uk) [year8@](mailto:year8@longbenton.org.uk) [year9@](mailto:year9@longbenton.org.uk) [year10@](mailto:year10@longbenton.org.uk) [year11@](mailto:year11@longbenton.org.uk) [sixthform@](mailto:sixthform@longbenton.org.uk) - all followed by longbenton.org.uk

SEND queries: SEND@longbenton.org.uk **MCAS and all other queries:** lhs@longbenton.org.uk



Education Strategic Review Consultation (cont.)

You can read about this here:

<https://haveyoursay.northtyneside.gov.uk/hub-page/education-review-2>. I would encourage you to take part in these consultations and share your views as parents and carers of school-age children. Your perspectives are valuable, and these processes depend on a range of voices being heard.

I want to reassure you that there are no plans to change our school's admissions number or the way we serve our community as part of this consultation. At this stage the consultation does not directly affect us - but if what is proposed does go ahead, it does have the potential to change the education landscape in North Tyneside. Understandably, this will be a sensitive time for staff and families in these neighbouring school communities and I am very mindful of the challenges our education colleagues may be experiencing.

Parental Engagement

Over the coming weeks, we have several events and support sessions planned into the calendar. We are also looking forward to applications for form representatives and house captains to add to our Student Council. We will be fundraising in school between 13th-17th October for Show Racism the Red Card; please start collecting together any loose change that may be hiding in drawers at home. **Please also not that students will finish slightly earlier at 2.15pm on 21st October** so that staff can facilitate our Parents Evening event.

Thank you to everyone who attended our revision session for KS4 students last night. I would encourage all parents and carers to stay engaged: ask your child about their day, check Google Classroom and GCSE Pod, attend events, and support our high expectations. When home and school are aligned around consistency, respect, and aspiration, students flourish. I am sorry IT has not been as slick as we would have liked at the start of term, with national issues related to Bromcom/MCAS outside of our control and some internal issues setting up Google Classrooms and new student accounts - which have now been resolved.

Finally, I am aware that some concerns have been raised following reports circulating on social media and local forums about an incident in the community last night. While social media can often amplify speculation, please be assured that if there were ever a matter of concern directly involving our students, we would communicate this with you formally. I would kindly encourage all parents and carers to treat online discussion and rumours with caution and to rely on information shared directly by the school.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and for entrusting us with your child's education. With best wishes for a successful term,

Kelly Holbrook
Headteacher



Attendance spotlight

Number of home visits completed in September: 100

Attendance at LHS to September end: 93.5%

National average: 93.7%

North East average: 92.9%



SAVE		SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING
	4 DECEMBER 2025	
DATE		THE
		
 		
HAILSHAM AVENUE, LONGBENTON, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE. NE12 8ER		

WWW.LONGBENTON.ORG.UK