LONGBENTON HIGH SCHOOL

Longbenton High School, Hailsham Avenue, Longbenton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE12 8ER
(0191) 218 9500
www.longbenton.org.uk
lhs@longbenton.org.uk
Headteacher: Mrs R Watson
Chair of Governors: Dr J Sanders

Tuesday 10th November 2026

OFSTED Report for Longbenton High School

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, our school was inspected last half term (29–30 September 2026), and I am pleased to now share the final published report with you. The inspection process was both challenging and reassuring, highlighting areas of real strength alongside those we already knew required further attention.

The inspection itself was intense, particularly so early in the academic year and with a new senior leadership team in place. However, it also provided an opportunity to showcase the many excellent aspects of Longbenton High School.

Above all, we were immensely proud of our pupils, whose exemplary conduct, positive attitudes to learning and warm engagement with the inspection team truly reflected the spirit of our school community.

I would also like to personally thank parents and carers for their engagement throughout the process. It was heartening to see our Longbenton community come together, something that is so important to the success of our school.

The inspectors were particularly complimentary about our warm, supportive school culture, the strength of our pastoral care and the positive relationships between staff and pupils.

You can read the full Ofsted report here: https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/23/108645

What is it like to be a pupil at this school?

The inspection team evaluated key areas of our provision against national standards, recognising strong practice across several areas:

- **Safeguarding (Met):** Inspectors confirmed that safeguarding standards are met, noting an open and positive culture in which pupil safety is prioritised and pupils feel secure.
- **Curriculum and Teaching (Expected Standard):** Leaders have established a well-sequenced curriculum with a clear focus on literacy. Teaching is delivered by staff with secure subject knowledge who present new information clearly.
- **Inclusion (Expected Standard):** The school is skilful at identifying needs early, adapting teaching effectively for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), and providing targeted support through pupil premium funding.
- **Personal Development and Wellbeing (Expected Standard):** Inspectors praised our highly effective pastoral support, comprehensive PSHE curriculum, assembly programme and extensive range of extracurricular and newly introduced enrichment activities.
- **Post-16 Provision (Expected Standard):** Our sixth form was recognised for high-quality subject teaching, effective guidance on higher education and apprenticeships, active student leadership and positive examination outcomes.

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Areas Identified for Improvement and Our Action Plan

Alongside these strengths, the report identified four areas requiring further improvement. These areas reflect our own internal self-evaluation, and work is already underway to address the issues highlighted by inspectors.

- **Improving Attendance and Punctuality:** While most pupils attend regularly and enjoy a purposeful start to the school day, persistent absence, particularly among a small number of disadvantaged pupils, remains too high when compared with national figures. We are continuing to strengthen our attendance strategy and work closely with families to support regular school attendance.
- **Addressing Behaviour:** Inspectors noted that while pupils generally behave well in lessons and around school, a small minority demonstrate behaviour that falls below our expectations. This contributes to suspension rates that are higher than the national average. We remain focused on consistently applying our behaviour policies, alongside targeted support, to ensure that learning time is protected for everyone.
- **Achievement:** While post-16 outcomes are positive, we recognise the need to improve academic attainment consistently across all key stages. We are particularly focused on improving GCSE outcomes in English and mathematics to broaden the opportunities available to our young people when they move into post-16 education and training.
- **Leadership and Governance:** Since taking up my role as Headteacher on 1 September 2026, alongside a refreshed leadership team, we have established a more systematic approach to school improvement, fully supported by our governing body. Governors have also introduced more robust strategic planning and increased monitoring visits to support school improvement priorities and ensure progress towards our school development plan targets.

Looking Ahead

We see this inspection report as a constructive and valuable guide to our continued improvement at Longbenton High School. It recognises the many strengths of our school community while providing a clear focus for the areas where we need to do better.

Guided by our KIDMAP values, our staff and governors remain fully committed to providing the very best education, opportunities and support for every young person at Longbenton High School.

Thank you for your continued partnership, feedback and support.

Kind regards,



Mrs R Watson

Headteacher