



1 October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This letter was originally scheduled for Monday; however, as many of you know, we received a call from Ofsted mid-morning, naturally shifting our immediate focus.

OFSTED:

Regarding the visit from His Majesty's Inspectorate, I cannot praise our pupils and staff enough for their hard work and dedication. Having experienced numerous inspections throughout my career, I can say with confidence that I have never worked alongside a more willing, open, and supportive school community. Our pupils spoke articulately and thoughtfully, taking pride in our strengths while maturely highlighting our areas for growth.

The inspection process was fair and constructive, and the final feedback to the Senior Leadership Team made it clear that the inspectors truly understood the heart and ethos of Longbenton High School. We are now awaiting our final report card and will continue pushing forward with our ongoing developments across the school.

As we round up nearly a whole month back at school there is a significant amount to shout about and I wanted to share some of the highlights with you.

Year 7 Open Evening:

Last week, we opened our doors to prospective Year 5 and 6 families choosing their secondary school for next year. The evening was a wonderful showcase of our vibrant Longbenton community.

Our students were phenomenal, demonstrating immense maturity and professionalism as they welcomed visitors and spoke articulately with families. A special mention goes to the seven students—**Ella, Jessica, Jackson, Shravya, Renee, Caleb, and Alesia**—who presented alongside me. Delivering a talk to a packed room with such unwavering confidence was a standout moment, and I was immensely proud of them. My sincere thanks also go to our dedicated staff team, whose hard work behind the scenes allowed the school to shine so brightly.

Dates for the diary:

- **Year 10 Parents' Information Evening:** Thursday 8th October. Mr Harold and Mrs McPherson look forward to welcoming as many families as possible.
- **Year 10 and 11 Revision Strategies workshop:** Thursday 15th October (5.30-6.30pm) will include workshops on maths and English, general revision strategies and staff will share information about how to support your child through their GCSE years.
- **Sixth Form (6F) Open Evening:** Tuesday 1st December. This is an essential event for anyone exploring Post-16 pathways. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding our Post-16 offer, please feel free to contact Mrs Potts.

Enrichment:

Last week marked the full launch of our afternoon Enrichment programme. It was a pleasure to see students actively engaged in such a wide range of activities. I also walked through some of these lessons with an inspector on Tuesday who was equally as impressed as I.



The importance of these sessions cannot be overstated—they broaden horizons, build social confidence, and allow students to interact with diverse groups across the school. Few schools offer an enrichment experience of this depth, and alongside our **Inspire** offer, there is truly something to suit every interest. I strongly encourage all students to take full advantage of these opportunities. If you have any queries regarding enrichment, please contact your child's Year Team.

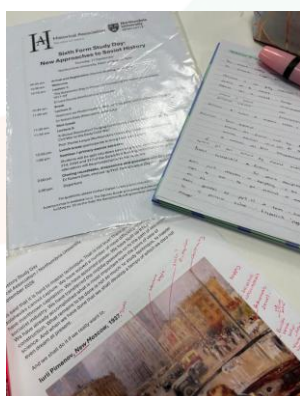
Educational visits and events:

Our students have also been representing Longbenton brilliantly off-site. Following a recent fieldwork trip, I received a lovely email from a member of the public praising our students for their exemplary behaviour and politeness while travelling on the Metro.

'The biggest impression however was their behaviour. It was exemplary in every sense'

Too often, wider media focuses on negative stereotypes surrounding teenagers, which is why I was so heartened to hear our Year 11 students praised so highly while out in the local community.

They represented Longbenton impeccably—well done to everyone involved!



Year 13 - Soviet History Event:

Our A-Level historians recently visited Northumbria University for a full-day Soviet History symposium. Students attended a series of university-level lectures focusing on three key chronological themes from their Unit 2 course, followed by an afternoon seminar session.

Despite the scale of the event—which brought together over 70 students from across the North East—our Year 13s contributed significantly to group discussions. The visiting lecturers even singled out our students to praise the high quality and depth of their work. We were incredibly proud of their academic maturity.

Year 8 Be Safe Event:

Year 8 took part in an interactive 'Be Safe' event, exploring personal safety themes around a range of topics. Throughout the session, their behaviour and engagement were outstanding,



putting our core **KIDMAP** values (Kindness, Integrity, Determination, Manners, Ambition, and Positivity) into direct practice.





The Big Future - 'Student Voice':

The Children's Commissioner emailed us on Monday to ask for your help in making sure the children and young people at Longbenton High School have the opportunity to take part in the 'Big Future' national survey. The Big Future is asking children and young people about their lives, their experiences and their hopes for the future.

The government will be using what they say to build a national picture of what matters to children today and to ensure their views are heard. So far, the Children's Commissioner has only heard from approximately 35 children at our school. With hundreds of thousands of children and young people already taking part across England, I would like to make sure as many of our pupils as possible have the opportunity to add their voices. The survey takes just a few minutes to complete and can be accessed here:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>

Every school has a different community, and every child has a different experience. That is why it is so important that the picture the government builds reflects children from every part of England, including our pupils.

Communication:

As part of our continuous school improvement this term, we are focusing closely on how we communicate across our school community. Our goal is simple: to ensure all families receive clear, effective, and timely information.

To help us get this right, we will shortly be sharing a brief survey with all parents and carers via the **'My Child at School'** App. We want to understand what is working well for you, as well as areas where we can refine and improve our approach. Your views are hugely important to us in strengthening our home-school partnership, and we would be very grateful if you could take a few moments to share your feedback when it arrives.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs R Watson
Headteacher