



## Longbenton HIGH SCHOOL

March 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

This is a somewhat lengthy letter - apologies - but there are some important updates on the following:

- Forthcoming mobile phone complete ban (from June 2025)
- Uniform reminders
- Behaviour update
- Survey links (smartphones and general parent feedback)
- Sixth Form admissions

### Smartphones

At Longbenton High School we are seeking to create a distinctive culture with respect to mobile phone use and screens, one which intentionally limits and restricts mobile phone use in order to prioritise deeper knowledge and face to face relationships. We have long had a mobile phone rule - that phones are off and away. However, over time, we have been seeing them creep back into everyday usage, with some students deliberately disregarding this rule, or using them covertly. **We are therefore in the process of planning for a distinctive change - from 'no phone visible' to completely 'phone free'**. We have recently been trialling voluntary hand in and using lock boxes with small groups of students in preparation for this. It seems particularly timely given the public discourse regarding *Adolescence* on Netflix at the moment, which you may have seen.

After Easter we will get in touch again to explain more about what this will look like for students, with a **plan to roll out a complete smartphone ban from June**.<sup>1</sup> The reason we are raising this now is due to the reliance of some students on using phones to make contactless card payments at lunch. The ability to do this will be removed from April - so students will need to use the other payment systems we have in place (and will need to plan for this change with your support if they currently use their phone):

- Facial recognition cameras linked to MCAS accounts
- PIN codes
- Contactless bank cards

We would like to invite you to take part in a short survey to gauge wider opinion as part of this process. The survey should only take 5 minutes and is completely anonymous. We would like to hear your views and appreciate your time in completing it: [LHS Smartphone Parent Survey](#)

If you are interested in finding out more in the meantime, please check out <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>  
Any parents who might be interested in forming a parent working group to work alongside the school on this, please get in touch!

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<sup>1</sup> There will be some exceptions - for example students who need to use apps for medical reasons (eg diabetes monitoring). Sixth Form students will not be part of this ban but we will ask them to keep them off and away when not in the sixth form area.



## Longbenton High School

### Uniform

As the Easter holidays approach, you may be reviewing children's growth and looking at uniform. Please be reminded - if you are purchasing items - of the following key expectations regarding uniform. Please be careful before purchasing expensive trainers that they meet our criteria.

- Students must wear the school **blazer and tie**; the *jumper only is optional*.
- Jumpers should be **plain black and v-necked** [like these](#). They should NOT be sweatshirts or round necked.
- Shoes must be **plain black**. If they are trainers they should be plain black with no colours or visible logos. For example, students should not be wearing Converse high tops as they have a visible logo. ***See visual guide at the end of this letter for reference.***
- **Trousers and skirts should be plain black**. If wearing a skirt, this should be worn with tights, NOT knee high socks. Underwear should not be visible. Shorts can be worn but they must be tailored ([like this](#) or [this](#)).

### Behaviour

Some parents may have noticed that we have recently tightened our protocols for internal truancy. We cannot have students repeatedly refusing to go to lessons throughout the day and disrupting corridors. Students will be removed to our Alternative Provision space (AP) if they continue to internally truant and will be placed in Reset or 'Super Reset'. We do have a 'Remove' room that is staffed for students struggling to regulate, but if they refuse to use this space, they will consequently be taken to the AP. Students repeatedly removed from lessons will also be taken to the AP. Parents need to support our expectations with regard to consequences; you will receive a notification from Bromcom if this relates to your child.

To end on a more positive note, it is worth noting the following which was shared with students recently about behaviour since September, which is fantastic:

- **92%** of students have **NEVER** had a suspension
- **40%** have NOT received any negative consequences
- Nearly **80%** of students in school have received 20 or fewer negative points

### Parent Survey

Our Spring Parent Survey is still open; you can complete this here: [LHS Spring 25 Parent Survey](#) It is very important that we hear from you!

The data from the Autumn 2024 survey is below. Thank you to those who completed this; we are working through some of the suggestions on issues such as school communication, to see how this can be improved.



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Parental Satisfaction Feedback - Survey Data		
Question	Autumn Term 2024 Agree/Strongly agree/Yes	June 2022 Ofsted survey Agree/Strongly agree/Yes
My child is happy at this school.	93% ↑	91%
My child feels safe at this school.	93% ↑	90%
The school makes sure its students are well behaved.	83% →	83%
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn throughout the year.	77% ↑	66%
The school has high expectations for my child.	85% ↑	80%
My child does well at this school.	95% ↑	89%
I would recommend this school to another parent/This is a good school.	93% ↓	100%

**Sixth Form**

We were informed last week that GSHS will no longer be moving forward with plans to join Pele Trust. This has no bearing on our plans to continue with our solo sixth form, which is still moving ahead from September 2025. Current Year 12 moving into Year 13 will be the last year group with any shared teaching or travel to GSHS.

We have had almost 100 applications to join our sixth form in September. The application form is still live; all students intending to stay on with us should have been invited to a guidance meeting with the sixth form team to discuss course choices and entry requirements.

Warm regards,

Kelly Holbrook

Headteacher



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