

21st October 2022

Dear Parents & Carers

As we come to the end of a busy but rewarding half term, I would like to thank you all for your continued support of the school and staff. I hope that your child has taken the opportunity to attend our Period 6 extra-curricular clubs and activities and have enjoyed the fact that school life seems to be returning to 'normal' post-pandemic.

New House Captains

Congratulations to our new House Captains, who have been announced this week following a rigorous recruitment process with Mr Towler. We are looking forward to working with them to shape student voice in the school and on House team and community projects as the year progresses. They are from across the age range, from Year 7 up to Year 12:

Alnwick: Amelia Atherton-Brand, Luke Ferry, Millie Briggs, Carrie-Anne Righton, Ayshe Gubbins

Bamburgh: Isaac Swansbury, Maisie Sampson, Alisha Merrett, Theo Brice, Bhumika Arora

Dunstanburgh: Ben Burton-Payne, Isobel Ross, Lily Stephenson, Rowan Hogg, Laura Goodwin, Lydia Latimer

Warkworth: Ella Davidson, Lauren Howorth, Ashton Proctor, Noah Breakwell, Ewan Whitfield, Kacee Sultman, Caleb Farrow



Feedback from Year 4-6 Parents & Open Evening

Our Open Evening event last month and follow up tours have been incredibly well attended. Feedback from prospective new parents and families has been exceptionally positive: 74% felt our reputation was better or the same as other local schools and 26% felt our reputation had changed and improved. 73% have stated their intention to name us as their first choice school for admissions in September 2023. The students who supported staff in showing families and students around our school were amazing and we had some lovely comments from visitors about how polite, friendly, confident and knowledgeable they were. You can view our new prospectus [here](#).

Black History Month

Throughout October we have been raising awareness of black history and culture as part of Black History Month. This year's theme is 'Sharing Journeys': an exploration of the lives and stories of the people who came to Britain in the 19th and 20th centuries and helped lay the foundations of today's diverse black British community. Our school Equalities Team have helped to share resources and lead assemblies here at LHS; House forms have completed activities connected to this theme; and Longbenton Pride Group have been working on a display to celebrate queer people of colour through history. In KS3 history lessons, staff have also been reading from a historical fiction novel (*Two Sisters* by Kereen Getten) which is set during the Atlantic Slave Trade era. You can find out more about Black History Month [here](#).

Year 11 & 13 Mock Exams

Thank you to those parents and students who attended our information and support event earlier this week. You can find all of the resources and further guidance [here](#) on our website. The revision guide advice is applicable to both Year 11 and Year 13 students.

Exams are going ahead as normal in summer 2023 with fewer mitigations than before (it is being viewed as a return to pre-pandemic exam season). It is crucial that students take mock exams seriously and as a first key test of how they are doing in relation to targets.

Student Mental Health

If you are concerned about Y11-13 stress levels or your child's preparation for mock exams, please get in touch with the relevant RSL (year leader): NMC@longbenton.org.uk (Year 11) and ALP@longbenton.org.uk (Year 13).

The [Parent Guide to Teenage Anxiety and Stress](#) (scroll to the bottom of the web page to find it) is also a useful reference tool for parents. Please ensure your Year 11 or 13 child gets plenty of rest over the half term break.

The Mental Health Support Team have also developed a number of Padlets designed to help parents support their child's emotional wellbeing. They can be accessed at the following links:

<https://hiveconnect.padlet.org/peterhiggins2/SecondarySchoolParents>

<https://hiveconnect.padlet.org/peterhiggins2/d7btsncnchtsgmh4>

Punctuality

Thank you for your support in ensuring students arrive to school on time; we have seen some huge improvements this half term. Punctuality is extremely important to ensure there is no lost learning. Please be aware of the following expectations:

- A bell rings at 8.25am to signal students to move to form classes. A second bell rings at 8.35am to signal that they should be in form ready to start registration.
- If students are not in form by 8.35am then they are late and will receive a late slip. They will be required to attend a meeting at break time in the main hall. If they fail to attend this meeting then they will automatically receive a C2 30 minute detention that night.
- If students are late 3 or more times in a week (to school and/or between lessons) then they will complete a RSL detention on a Thursday night.

Uniform

We have high expectations of all students when it comes to uniform. It is school policy that all students must wear school uniform in Years 7 to 11. Please ensure your child follows the school uniform guidelines below.

They must wear:

- School blazer with badge and House tie

- (Optional - Plain black V neck jumper - *not* round necked sweatshirts)
- Plain white shirt with collar
- Black trousers or black skirt
- Black or white socks or plain black tights without a pattern
- Plain black shoes (if trainers, no coloured logos or trims, must be all black)

The following items are NOT allowed:

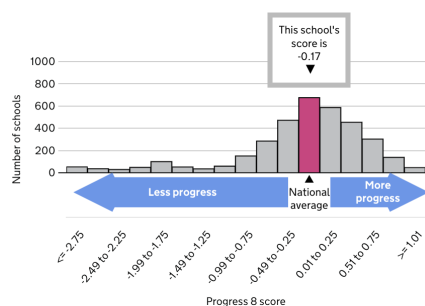
- Jewellery, which includes *more than one* pair of stud earrings, finger rings, bracelets and necklaces
- Any piercings other than one pair of stud earrings (including expanders). This includes nose, lip and other facial piercings, which are not permitted
- Excessive amounts of makeup including false eyelashes
- Long acrylic painted nails (in the interest of safety and hygiene)
- Extreme hair styles e.g. hair which is cut particularly short or dyed an unnatural colour

Performance data for summer exams 2022

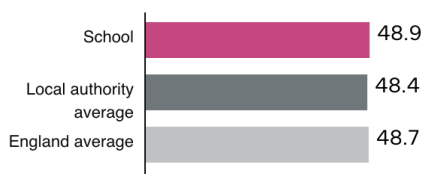
This week, the government has published performance data from the summer 2022 exams for all secondary schools, sixth forms and colleges. This is the first time that data has been published since the start of the pandemic. The Department for Education has been clear that, given the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on different students, schools and colleges, this data should be treated with caution.

The data published today about our school includes the following key headlines. There are further FAQs at the end of the letter about the new performance tables should you want to find out more.

- **Our school Progress 8 figure, which is -0.17.** This shows the relative progress of our students in eight subjects, compared to students with similar levels of attainment at the end of primary school. Our figure is a huge improvement on 2019 and is in line with the local and national average.



- **Our school's Attainment 8 figure, which is 48.9.** This is the raw score achieved by our students in the same eight subjects. This is again in line with the local and national average.



- The percentage of our students who entered the **Ebacc** (25%); a government measure which means students took all of English, maths, sciences, a language, and history or geography GCSE. In addition, our school/college's Ebacc average point score: 4.13 (our students' average score in the same Ebacc subjects).
- The percentage of our **students achieving a grade 5** or higher in both English and maths GCSEs: 46%
- **Our school's average result in A levels**, applied general qualifications (AGQs) and vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs): progress score of +0.01
- How many of our students **stay in education or employment** after Year 11 (89%) and Year 13 (87%)

Forthcoming dates

- **Training Day** (school closed for students): Friday 18th November

- **Year 10 Parents Information Evening** (in school face to face event): Wednesday 2nd November
- **Year 7 Book Fair Parent Event**: Wednesday 9th November 4-5pm
- **Year 13 Mock Exams**: start week beginning Monday 7th November
- **Remembrance Concert**: Monday 14th November
- **Year 11 Mock Exams**: start week beginning Monday 21st November
- **Christmas Concert**: Monday 19th December
- **Last day of term**: Thursday 22nd December

Parental Feedback

Finally, we would like to ask you to complete a short survey to canvas some feedback on how you feel the first half term has gone. There is a Year 7 specific survey and a Year 8-13 survey; please click on the correct link below.

[Year 7 Parent Survey](#)

[Year 8-13 Parent Survey](#)

Wishing you all a lovely half term break.

Yours faithfully



Kelly Holbrook
Headteacher

Performance data for summer exams 2022 - FAQs

What's different this year?

The government has made a number of changes to the website where they display school and college results (www.find-school-performance-data.service.gov.uk)

Why can't data be compared this year?

The government, and the schools' inspectorate Ofsted, acknowledge that the impact of the pandemic was not the same across all schools and colleges. Even within a local area or town, the impact of the pandemic was very different. Therefore, they are clear that data can only tell us so much and should be used as the basis for a conversation rather than being used to directly compare one school or college with another.

How were results arrived at last year?

In 2020 and 2021, exams were cancelled due to the pandemic, and grades were based on teacher assessments (with exam boards ensuring consistency). This different form of assessment led to grades, overall, being higher in 2020 and 2021 than they were in pre-pandemic years, when students sat exams.

Last summer saw the first return of exams since 2019, albeit with significant adaptations to recognise that students' learning had been significantly affected by the pandemic. Nationally, it was determined that grades would, overall, fall roughly halfway between 2019 and 2021. This would enable grades to gradually move back to pre-pandemic levels, while still being as fair as possible to students taking exams in 2022.

The national data that we are compared to reflects this and is higher than in pre-pandemic years.

Why are there no progress figures for post-16?

Normally, the Department for Education publishes progress figures for A levels and for post-16 students retaking English and maths GCSE. However, because the 2022 cohort received centre-assessed grades in 2020, and the government committed to not using these for accountability purposes, no progress data has been produced for last summer.

How will our results be used?

The publication of results does not directly impact students at all. Students already received their own GCSE, A level and VTQ results in August. These results will be used by the government and by Ofsted if we have another inspection, with the context in which they were achieved taken into account.

How do our results compare to local schools?

As explained above, the ability to rank schools is no longer available, as the government is clear that schools cannot be compared this year. One of the measures included in the government website mentioned above is our Progress 8 figure, which is a relative measure based on students' progress from primary school in eight subjects. A score of 0 means the school adds an average amount of progress to students. A score between 0 and 1 means the school adds an above average amount of progress to students. A score between 0 and -1 means the school adds a below average amount of progress to students. You will also be able to look at the local authority average for all the key measures, but not be able to directly compare schools.