



Longbenton High School

27th October 2023

Dear Parents & Carers

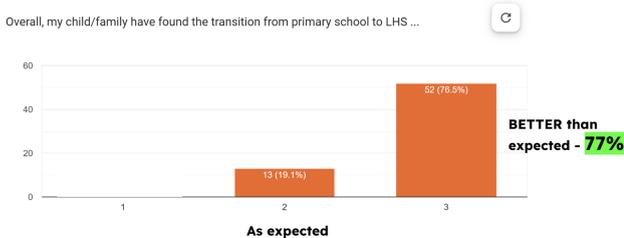
As we come to the end of a busy but rewarding half term, I would like to thank you all for your continued support of the school and staff.

Feedback from Year 7 Parents & Open Evening

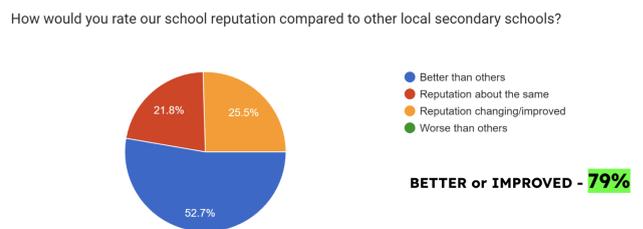
Our Open Evening event last month and follow up tours have been incredibly well attended. We are now heavily oversubscribed and expecting this to continue next year. You can view our new prospectus and films [here](#) and [here](#).

Our Year 7 parents have provided some feedback on their transition experience which was exceptionally positive. If you have yet to do so you can still complete the survey here: [Year 7 Transition Survey](#)

Why choose our school? Parent Voice



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Mock Exams

Thank you to those Year 10 and 11 parents and students who attended our information and support event last week. Exams are going ahead as normal in summer 2023; it is crucial that students take mock exams seriously and as a first key test of how they are doing in relation to targets. **Year 13 mocks** take place week beginning 6th November and **Year 11 mocks** start week beginning 20th November (with speaking exams in French and Spanish the week before).

Attendance, punctuality & uniform

Thank you for your support in ensuring students arrive to school on time and in uniform. We have seen huge improvements with uniform; thank you for your support with this. **Please be reminded that leggings** are not part of our uniform policy.

We are still seeing too many students arriving late to school. Punctuality is extremely important to ensure there is no lost learning and students are set up for the day ahead. Please be aware of the following expectations:

- A bell rings at 8.40am to signal students to move to form classes. A second bell rings at 8.45am to signal that they should be in form ready to start registration.
- If students are not in form by 8.45am then they are late and will receive a late mark. Once they have accumulated 3 late marks they will receive a 45 minute reflection after school.
- If students are late 3 times to lessons they will also receive a 45 minute reflection after school.

We have written to families this half term if we are concerned about **attendance levels** - and to celebrate strong attendance. Attendance is crucial so that young people can take full advantage of the educational and social development opportunities available to them. Our ambition is to unlock the potential of all children and remove barriers to aspiration. Our approach to attendance at LHS is embedded in our KIDMAP values (having the *determination, ambition and positivity* to strive to attend school each day) and is rewarded via our daily HERO points (*here, equipped, ready to learn, on time*). **Regular attendance is a vital component of school success at LHS; when students are present, engaged and involved they have the greatest opportunity to learn. When children attend school consistently they are not only more likely to do well academically, but also build strong relationships and feel connected with our school community.**

By attendance we do not just mean the classroom; we also mean attendance at registration with form tutors and in our Inspire curriculum from 3.15-4pm (our refreshed and updated timetable will be out soon, please see here on our website: [Inspire Timetable](#)). We also mean engagement in the classroom: the degree to which students are involved in lessons and motivated to learn. The more time students spend in school, the more time they can spend in a positive and safe setting with their peers. This in turn boosts social skills, confidence, resilience and self esteem. Students who miss school frequently can quickly fall behind and this affects their ability to access the classroom. We know that those with 98% attendance do almost twice as well in their GCSEs than those with attendance below 90%. Our experience shows that an holistic approach is required when it comes to tackling attendance issues which can be complex. **Please get in touch for support if you are worried about EBSA (emotional based school avoidance) or other issues affecting your child's attendance.**

SEND Parent/Carer Coffee Mornings

We are planning to host two SEND parent/carers coffee mornings in November. These are a key part of our Autism in Schools project; the aim for these is to improve relationships and communication between parents and school. These are 'peer support sessions' and are available to any parent carer who has a child/young person with SEND (whether this is formally diagnosed or awaiting diagnosis). The first coffee morning will be on Tuesday 7th November 9.30-11.30am and will be led by our SENCO/AHT Joe Elliott. The second on 21st November will be supported by the Education Psychologist. You do not have to sign up in advance; please come along for support and discussion - or just a coffee!

Parent/Carer Governor Vacancies

As a result of several parent governor term(s) of office coming to an end, the Governing Body of Longbenton High School now has **vacancies for Parent Governors**. All parents (including carers) of registered students of compulsory school age at the school are eligible to stand for election. Parents have an important role to play in the education of children and being a Parent Governor can give you an opportunity to contribute to the education of all children at your school. Training and support for Parent Governors is provided by both the school and the LA. To improve equality, diversity and inclusion, I am keen to have a Governing Body filled with governors from different ethnic and social backgrounds. For that reason - and in order to better represent our increasingly diverse school community - I would particularly welcome applications from those parents/carers identifying themselves as being from ethnic minority backgrounds. **I will be in touch with those parents who have expressed an interest so far after half term; thank you to those that have done so already.**

[Link to parent governor information on our website](#)

Complaints

Can I remind parents that we have a complaints procedure that we need to follow. Our starting point for relationships with parents and carers is our home school agreement and code of conduct which are on our website

here: <https://longbenton.org.uk/learning/personal-development> In the first instance, please **raise a concern**, verbally or by email. This can be dealt with by any member of staff. Where as a result of raising a concern you still feel that the issue has not been addressed, or further investigation is needed, parents and carers can progress by making an informal complaint. Please note that governors will not deal with complaints until Stage 3 (formal appeal panel). The school will not deal with aggressive, malicious, or unreasonable complaints.

Forthcoming dates

- **October half term:** week beginning 30th October
- **Year 13 Mock Exams:** week beginning 6th November
- **SEND Parent/Carer Coffee Morning:** Tuesday 7th November 9.30-11am
- **Year 11 Speaking Exams (French & Spanish):** week beginning 13th November
- **Year 11 Mock Exams:** 2 weeks starting 20th November
- **Training Day (school closed for students):** Friday 17th November
- **Apprenticeship Fair Y12-13:** Tuesday 21st November
- **NHS Careers Event Y8:** Tuesday 21st November
- **SEND Parent/Carer Coffee Morning:** Tuesday 21st November
- **Theatre Visit Y7:** Monday 27th November
- **Paris Trip:** 9th-12th December
- **Last day of Autumn 2023 term:** Friday 22nd December
- **First day of Spring 2024 term:** Monday 8th January 2024

Wishing you all a lovely half term break.

Yours faithfully



Kelly Holbrook
Headteacher