



6th September 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

At the start of my 5th year here as headteacher, I am delighted to welcome you and your children back to LHS for the start of the new academic term. We remain committed to providing a nurturing and stimulating environment here, where your children can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. We are oversubscribed this September for the second year running and it was a joy to welcome our lovely new Year 7 cohort into the school on Wednesday. We also have high numbers returning to our sixth form in Year 12 following some fantastic summer exam outcomes. This summer our GCSE 4+ pass rate matched national levels at 68% and 21% of our Year 13 students achieved A*-A grades (our C+ average grade matched the Local Authority figure and schools such as Kings Priory).

A key area of focus this year for us is attendance. Our target for all students is 95%. We will be in touch with you to support and challenge if your child is missing from school at the earliest opportunity. Please bookmark our attendance email in your contacts: attendance@longbenton.org.uk

Staffing changes reminder

Your child's tutor should always be your first point of contact for any issues via lhs@longbenton.org.uk. A reminder of some of our key new staff and changes to roles are outlined below.

Pastoral Team	Year Leader 7-8 year7@longbenton.org.uk year8@longbenton.org.uk	Mark Wilkinson
	Year 7 Pastoral Manager	Gemma Richardson
	Year Leader 9-10 year9@longbenton.org.uk year10@longbenton.org.uk	Danny Harold
	Year Leader 11-13 year11@longbenton.org.uk sixthform@longbenton.org.uk	Emily Doucet
	AP Lead	Phillippa Chaplin
Senior Leadership Team	Deputy Headteacher (Culture & Ethos)	Joe Elliott
	Assistant Headteacher (Behaviour & Attitudes)	Kim Hay
	Assistant Headteacher (Personal Development)	Alex Maughan
Extended Leadership Team	Associate AHT Y7-8	Kat Lambert
	Associate AHT Y9-10	Nicola McPherson
	Associate AHT Y11-13	Abby Potts

Behaviour Policy updates - September 2024

Whilst our full behaviour policy remains unchanged we have made the following tweaks from this term onwards to deal with patterns of persistent disruptive behaviour with a minority of our students:

- O2 (Opportunity 2) - these will now be recorded and reported to parents via MCAS
- 5 instances of O2 across a week will result in a 45 minute after school reflection
- If students are late after 9am without a valid reason this will lead to a 45 minute reflection
- Internal truancy from a lesson will now result in a R2 (90 minute reflection)
- Removal from a lesson for persistent disruptive behaviour will result in an R2 (90 minute reflection)

If your child receives an R2 school will be in touch directly to inform you and to discuss the situation.

MCAS

Most parents have already successfully made the shift from Class Charts to Bromcom's My Child At School (MCAS). Thank you for your patience and understanding with this process, which is designed to streamline all of our systems. On the parent dashboard you will be able to see dinner details (what your child has purchased and eaten that day), timetable information, and the dinner balance summary. We will be adding more functionality to this as we go forward. If you have any problems with your account set up, please contact the school office who will be happy to help.

Mellors catering

Please find our September menu attached. You will need to access MCAS as outlined above to add funds to your child's account. The facial recognition system we have invested in is the fastest form of service at our tills; if you have yet to give consent for your child to use this, please contact the school office.

GCSE Pod / Homework and Google Classroom

Homework at LHS will be set weekly in most subjects and this will be done via Google Classroom. Tasks and completion dates will be uploaded into the Google Classrooms which are in place for each class and subject area. It is essential that all students accept invitations to classrooms they are added to and check these regularly. This year we have invested in GCSEPod, the award-winning digital content and revision provider used by over 1,700 schools. This means your child will have access to GCSEPod's library of over 6,500 'Pods', 3-5 minute videos designed to deliver knowledge in short bursts. There is also a KS3 resource library for Y7-9. You can download any Pod to your child's mobile device, and then they can watch them at any time, in any place, with or without the internet.

Students will be shown how to use GCSE Pod over the coming weeks. We recommend that you talk about GCSEPod with your son or daughter – check that they've successfully activated their account and encourage them to make use of this resource. Once they've activated their account, they can browse the GCSEPod library and create their own playlists – just as they would when they're listening to music. For more ways to support your child using GCSEPod, please visit www.gcsepod.com/parents where you'll find lots more information, including a specially created Parent Toolkit with information on making the most of your child's subscription.

Key forthcoming dates for your diaries

- Year 7 Parents Information Evening - 17th September (5.30-6.30pm)
- *Open Evening for 2025 admissions - 24th September (4-7pm)*
- KS4 (Y10 & 11) Parent Revision Support Evening - 3rd October (5.30-6.30pm)
- Sixth Form Open Evening - 25th October



Longbenton
HIGH SCHOOL

→ October half term - week beginning 28th October (normal finish time on Friday 25th October)

We encourage you to stay connected with the school through our regular communication channels - we use Bromcom/MCAS for all of our formal messaging. Links to our official social media channels on X, Facebook and Instagram are below. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Wishing you and your families a wonderful term ahead.

Yours faithfully

Kelly Holbrook

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Holbrook". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Headteacher

[LHS Instagram page](#)

[LHS X page](#)

[LHS Facebook page](#)