



October 2024

Dear Parents, Carers & Students

I am delighted to share some highlights from this past half term at LHS, which has been filled with positivity, hard work, and community spirit. You can find this personal development **newsletter** on our website [here](#). This includes upcoming events on the first page, but they are also included at the bottom of this letter.

We have also produced a **parent summary** of all of our main logistics and expectations at LHS which you can find on our website [here](#) - there is also a screenshot at the end of this letter. This summary includes information related to uniform, mobile phones, GCSE Pod, email contacts and so on, so that it is easy to reference in one place. If there is something that you feel is missing from this that you would like us to add, drop us an email and we will include feedback in an update next half term.

One of the reminders on this summary is mobile phones and I would like to bring to your attention again the increasing national concern around **teenage social media and phone use**. We have had a **mobile phone 'ban'** at LHS (in that phones should be off and away) for a long time at LHS. Unfortunately, students sometimes still text parents asking them to collect them if they feel unwell; we would appreciate parents using the correct channels to communicate with their child during the school day to avoid this. Josh MacAlister MP recently led the debate on the Safer Phones Bill in Parliament, which aims to make smartphones less addictive for children and empower families and teachers to reduce screen time. We strongly believe at LHS that students should have a break from their phones during the day. The [NSPCC website](#) offers some helpful guidance for parents on managing social media usage and its impact on young people.

Our **Sixth Form Open Evening** was incredibly well attended this week, as have been our **Year 6 parent tours** for those applying for Year 7 places next September. We have shown almost 70 families around during the day across the past 4 weeks, with increased interest from Amberley and Westmoor families in particular this year. 60% stated that our improved reputation was a significant factor in their interest in choosing our school. [Applications for Sixth Form](#) can now be made by Year 11 for September 2025 via our online form.

Finally, a quick update on **attendance**, which continues to be our number one priority this year at LHS. We expect all students to aim for an attendance rate of 95% or higher, as we know this is a strong predictor of success and happiness

in school. Our current whole school attendance has dropped as the term has progressed to 92% and we need parental support to help shift this in the right direction. Please continue to prioritise your child's attendance; in doing so you are helping to build strong foundations for their future success.

We **reopen after half term on Monday 4th November** at 8.45am. I wish you all a lovely half term with your families and loved ones.

Kelly Holbrook
















Headteacher

Upcoming events

- Half Term 2 start - Monday 4th November
- **Year 13 Mock Exams** - week beginning 4th November
- Year 7 War Horse Trip - 7th November
- Year 11 MFL Speaking Mock Exams - start 11th November
- Flu vaccinations - 12th November
- Year 10 Careers Event at Burnside - 14th November
- **TRAINING DAY/SCHOOL CLOSED - 15TH NOVEMBER**
- **Year 11 Mock Exams** - week beginning 18th November
- Year 7 Parent/Tutor Evening - 19th November
- Year 7 Showcase Coffee Morning - 6th December (timings TBC per tutor group)
- Christmas Concert - 11th December
- Last day of term - Friday 20th December

Parent Reminders - Our school on a page...

 <p>Timings of the day are unchanged this year: 8.45am start; 3.15pm finish (2.30pm finish on Tuesdays) Clubs run from 3.15-4pm.</p> <p>Tutor time: 8.45-9am; 2.45-3.15pm each day. Y7-8 and Y9+ still run on <u>same</u> split timings with separate break and lunch.</p> <p>Our attendance update was sent to parents on 26th September. Please ensure you have read this for updates to our attendance policy.</p> <p>Punctuality procedures mean students who arrive at school after the gates have closed at 8.45am are <u>set a 15</u> minute lunchtime reflection.</p> 	 <p>Formal black trousers or black skirt (not jeans, leggings or combat trousers) Skirts should be straight, and should not be informal (eg they should not be frilled, leather etc). NEW: From Oct half term, if students wear skirts they must wear opaque black tights - this is an amendment to our policy. Tights should not be patterned or laddered / fishnet. Sports socks should not be worn over tights</p> <p>Shoes should be plain black. Trainers and trainer style shoes are permitted but they must be plain black eg NOT Converse.</p> <p>Uniform consists of a black blazer, white shirt & tie (not optional). A plain v-neck knitted jumper is optional.</p> <p><i>Please note that students will be asked to loan and wear uniform from our school stock if they are missing items</i></p>	 <p>Students should not use their phone while on the school site.</p> <p>Students should not phone or text parents (for example if they are feeling unwell) and parents should avoid contacting their child via mobile during the school day.</p> <p>Our pin code and facial recognition system in the dining hall should preclude students from needing to access their phone in the dining hall - we would prefer students not to use phones for contactless payments.</p> <p>Mobile phones should be OFF and AWAY in school.</p>
 <p>We are a Google school. Students should be able to log into Google Classroom and should have a link to access online classrooms for subjects and for their year group. Contact us with any issues accessing this.</p>	 <p>NEW: From Sept 24 Bromcom covers all behaviour and safeguarding elements. We will no longer use CPOMs or Class Charts.</p> <p>We are slowly rolling out more functionality for parents and students as the term progresses.</p>	 <p>Please contact your child's tutor/year team via the appropriate inbox eg year7@longbenton.org.uk, Year 12 and 13 can be accessed via post16@longbenton.org.uk</p> <p>Other main contacts: attendance@longbenton.org.uk send@longbenton.org.uk</p>
 <p>NEW: From Sept 24 we will be using GCSE Pod for KS4 homework. Your child should be able to log into this - please check. Students in Y7-11 have been given access.</p>	 <p>The Day is still our main reading and current affairs / news resource for tutors to use each day with tutor groups. You can access the resources at home via this link. It is a brilliant resource, full of topical news, interesting photographs, quizzes etc. Please use it at home! www.theday.co.uk/?id=FF55489-7432-4833-9EFA-6647BEF4CFF9</p>	 <p>We work with several partner agencies to ensure we can provide the right support to each child in school. Some agencies we work with include the School Nurse, Someone Cares, Connect Mental Health Service and NE Youth. If you think your child would benefit from additional support, please contact us.</p>
 <p>Vaping and smoking are banned on site/near the school entrance. Parents should be aware of an <u>update</u> from local police/ the Local Authority regarding 'mazza' and other ingredients found in some vapes. We are investigating the installation of new vape detectors in toilets after half term to deter students from trying to use vapes in school.</p>	 <p>NEW: Student support has moved. Students can no longer just leave a classroom and go to support on their own; it is in an access controlled part of the building. Reset has also moved and is in a separate access controlled part of the building with a separate door/timings. All referrals to both need to go through the appropriate triage put in place by the Inclusion Team for use of this space.</p>	 <p>The DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) in school is KIM HAY.</p> <p>If your family needs support, or you currently work with an external agency, please contact us via the school office.</p>