



Longbenton High School

21 December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Staffing Update

Over the past few months, we have conducted a review of our school's organisational structure to ensure that we are best positioned to meet the evolving needs of our students. As such, the following changes will be applicable from January 2024.

Staff		Contact details	Notes
Deputy SENCO	Amy Blackburn	SEND@longbenton.org.uk	Amy is joining the expanded SEND team with Joanne Walton & Joe Elliott and will be focusing primarily on Year 7 & 8.
Y7 Pastoral Manager	Macy Hindhaugh	year7@longbenton.org.uk	Macy replaces Amy Blackburn who is moving to work in SEND (see above).
Y10 Pastoral Manager	Kelly Harding	year10@longbenton.org.uk	Kelly replaces Frazer Vodden, who is leaving us at Christmas to work for the NUFC Foundation.
Attendance Officer	Laura Green	attendance@longbenton.org.uk	You will know Laura from our main office. She has already replaced Allison Philips who left earlier this month.
Office Admin	Suzanne Moutter		Suzanne is currently a technician in the Create department. She replaces Katie Stark who is leaving us at Christmas to train as a social worker.

We will be advertising a number of key posts in the new year, the first of which will be Assistant Headteacher. This is due to the fact that **Val Short, who has worked at Longbenton High School for 25 years, will be retiring in the summer.** Val has spent 31 years working in education across 4 schools. Many of you will know her well and I am sure will be sad to hear this news, but also pleased for her in equal measure. She will be a huge miss.

In addition, **Kevin Leigh will be stepping down as Year 9 RSL in January.** Kevin has worked within the pastoral team since 2015 and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for the work he has undertaken to support young people in that time. **Kay Clark will stay in post as Year 9 Pastoral Manager** and will have some added capacity in order to support the cohort until we can fill the RSL post. Kevin will continue to teach within the science department.

Our primary goal at LHS is to create a safe and supportive environment for your child's academic and personal growth, and we are confident that these staffing changes will contribute positively to achieving that goal. Thank you for your ongoing support and faith in us.

Have a wonderful Christmas.

Yours faithfully



Kelly Holbrook
Headteacher



This time of year is a reminder of the importance of family, friendship, and the endless possibilities that lie ahead. We hope you can embrace the spirit of joy, love, and hope that Christmas brings. To our students: as you reflect on the past year and look forward to the one ahead, remember that each challenge is an opportunity for growth, and every success is a testament to your dedication and hard work. We look forward to seeing you at the start of next term: Monday 8th January

Merry Christmas
from all the students and staff at



LongBENTON
HIGH SCHOOL

Key Dates for next term

- ★ Start of Spring term: Monday 8th January 2024
- ★ Y10 Work Experience - Parent Information Evening: Wednesday 17th January 2024
- ★ Y11 Parents Evening: Thursday 18th January 2024
- ★ Y9 Parents Evening: Wednesday 25th January
- ★ 6th Form Open Evening: Thursday 1st February
- ★ Y12/13 Parents Evening: Thursday 8th February
- ★ February half term holiday: week beginning Monday 19th February (students return Monday 26th February)
- ★ Y10 Mocks: 26th February - 8th March 2024
- ★ Y11 Mocks: 18th March - 28th March 2024

Uniform reminders for January

Uniform plays a crucial role in creating a positive and focused learning environment for our students. Wearing the designated uniform promotes a sense of unity and equality among students, eliminating distractions. Your support in ensuring that your child follows the uniform guidelines is instrumental in maintaining the desired atmosphere within the school. Please take a moment to review the [uniform policy](#) and ensure that your child arrives at school each day in the appropriate attire. If you have any concerns or questions regarding the uniform policy, feel free to

contact your child's tutor/Raising Standards Leader/Pastoral Manager

Students are not permitted the following:

- leggings
- tracksuit bottoms
- false nails (must be removed before returning in January)
- excessive false eyelashes
- excessive makeup
- bracelets
- multiple ear piercings
- other facial piercings with exception of one single nose stud

We have also seen an increase in girls wearing fluffy coloured socks with tights; these should not be worn.