



**LONGBENTON**  
HIGH SCHOOL



Evolve  
Create  
Discover  
Perform  
Achieve

**Prospectus**  
2016-2017

LONGBENTON HIGH SCHOOL



# Contents

Welcome	5
Challenging curriculum	6
Academic excellence	9
Care, welfare and support	11
Inclusion	13
Discover and achieve	14
Beyond the classroom	16
Creativity	19
Progression	21
Transition	24
Our new school	26

# **Everyone should have the chance of a great future**

Welcome to Longbenton High School







**“We aim to  
be the best  
that we can be  
in all that we do.”**

# Welcome

**Thank you for taking time to read our school prospectus. Choosing a secondary school for your child can be quite stressful. In this prospectus we shall show you that Longbenton High School is the right choice for your child.**

At Longbenton we aim to be the best that we can be in all that we do. I believe that we are the natural choice for parents within our local community as we provide a first class education to our students. We provide fantastic care, welfare and guidance from our committed and talented staff who look out for each and every individual, especially during the potentially worrying time of transition from primary school. I know from talking to our pupils and their parents that students settle very quickly into our ordered and friendly school reinforcing existing friendships whilst quickly making many new friends too.

Longbenton is a high attaining school where our students are inspired to learn and enjoy all aspects of their education. As a school we consistently achieve excellent academic results judged both by the attainment of students, and the progress that they make while at Longbenton being above national averages or expectations. This comes about through the high standards of teaching that we deliver and the high expectations that we have of our students in all that they do. This is reinforced through the many and varied opportunities that we offer beyond the classroom including through sport and the arts.

This is a very exciting time for us as we move into our fantastic new school. We have loved watching it becoming a reality after years of waiting and look forward to our students and staff enjoying state of the art learning facilities to inspire to even greater heights. This will be an exciting opportunity for all of the young people who will join us in future years.

I also know that Longbenton High School is an excellent school because of what our students and their parents and the wider community tell us. Many of the students go on from Longbenton to extraordinary things such as going to some of the top universities in the country including Oxbridge.

My wish is that all of our students will take hold of all that Longbenton High School has to offer, and in so doing absolutely flourish; so many of them are clearly already doing that.

I hope that you enjoy finding out about Longbenton High School. If you have not yet had a tour round the new school you would be welcome at any time. Please contact me to arrange a convenient time for a visit.

**Paul Quinn,  
Headteacher**

# Challenging Curriculum

We wish to challenge our students to learn in greater depth and explore new ideas. We do not believe that all students will necessarily learn at the same rate or learn in the same way, but we do believe that all of our students can make excellent progress with the guidance and support that we give them.

Students are placed into academic groups in Year 7 based on their ability, taking into account advice given by their primary teachers. This enables them to make progress and learn at a level appropriate to them. There are challenging targets to be achieved by all students in whatever group they are placed. Students can be moved between sets, depending on the progress that they make.

It is not only in academic subjects where challenge is provided. All of our students are able to benefit from an inspiring curriculum that fulfils the requirements of the National Curriculum as well as providing additional options. In particular, our curriculum provides breadth, relevance and personalisation with a particular emphasis on the use of technology to improve learning.

**“Students study a full and imaginative curriculum.”**

Ofsted, 2015



LONGBENTON  
HIGH SCHOOL



**“My daughter has thoroughly enjoyed her time at Longbenton. She has particularly thrived in the sixth form and has been taught by some fantastic teachers.”**

Parent

**76%**  
achieved A\*-C  
in English

**71%**  
achieved A\*-C  
in Maths

**Over  
90%**  
of Year 13 students  
are continuing to  
University

## Academic Excellence

We are a caring community, but we are also challenging. That's why our excellent and highly qualified staff never lose sight of our overriding commitment to consistently excellent teaching and learning. Longbenton students consistently do well in public examinations and staff put in a lot of time and effort to ensure that students achieve high grades. Each year about two thirds of our Year 13 students go on to study a broad range of courses at universities across the country.

Our results show that as a school we make a real difference by helping our students achieve more than would have been expected from their starting points. We are proud of this and a lot of focus in school is on all students making the best progress possible across their subjects.

We believe that homework is an essential part of the curriculum offered to our students. The school endeavours to ensure that the importance of homework is seen by both students and parents. Homework enhances student learning, improves achievement and develops students' study skills and is integrated into the Scheme of Work of each curriculum area. In Key Stage three, the expectation

is that students will spend about three hours each week on homework. A KS3 homework timetable is published for each year group and made public to parents and students.

As a school we make it our business to know exactly how well each student is doing in every subject so that if they start to fall behind where they should be, we can step in quickly. We know that parental support makes a huge difference to the success of our students and actively encourage parents and carers to talk to us at any time with any concerns or questions relating to their child's progress in school.



# Care, welfare and support

At the very heart of our school ethos is the belief that every single student is of vital importance. We pride ourselves at all students being known well and understood by staff.

We always say to students that the most important person in their life in school is their form tutor. Students are placed in tutor groups on entry into school, and their form tutor will meet with them each day, dealing with any problems they may have and looking after their overall welfare. Tutors will also lead them in their assembly for the day and many other activities such as checking progress with homework or discussions about topical news coverage.

The tutors are led in this work by a Year Leader who is an experienced teacher with expertise in supporting and advising students. In turn, the team is supported by senior staff from our leadership team as we carefully monitoring the progress of all students to ensure that they are on track to achieve their academic targets, as well as them developing socially and emotionally.

In addition to pastoral support and guidance Year 7 students get support from a trained team of older peer mentors who are attached to their tutor groups and who regularly meet and socialise with them.

Part of our supporting and caring ethos is ensuring that behaviour is of a high standard. Our system of behaviour for learning seeks to reward students for good learning and good contributions to the school as well as giving appropriate consequences for poor behaviour.

Our partnership with parents is very important to us. Parents are very welcome to discuss the progress of their children with members of staff, either by appointment or on special occasions such as parents' evenings.

In all matters of safeguarding the welfare and safety of the young person is of paramount concern. We create, provide and maintain a safe environment of trust for our young people.

**“We are so lucky to have such wonderful teachers caring for our daughter.”**

Parent

# Fame



OUT OF  
THER



# Inclusion

Longbenton High School welcomes students of all abilities and backgrounds. The curriculum is personalised to meet the needs of individuals and particular groups of students. Some students need extra support in key areas, and for those students there may be in-class support in specific subjects, or booster sessions in core subjects. Other students may receive more intensive input and have a carefully adapted curriculum. There are early morning clubs available to support students, for example, Literacy Club to help with reading and spelling, or Connect Group which aids in developing social skills. For some, their curriculum is amended to allow additional focus on core literacy or numeracy skills.

Incorporated within the High school, we have an additionally resourced provision, our Melrose Centre, which caters for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Students spend the majority of their curriculum time within the supportive environment of the Melrose Centre, but many do access lessons or facilities within the main body of the school.

If your child has additional educational needs we offer a range of targeted support to ensure they experience success. Constantly developing our staff training ensures that we have a highly knowledgeable staff team who will strive to ensure that your child makes progress and achieves their potential both academically and socially.

Parents are always very involved in the support process.

**"My son has ASD which can make things difficult for him and makes him feel very anxious. But he has been given outstanding support in The Melrose and enjoys coming to school."**

Parent

**"Students with disabilities and special educational needs achieve well."**

Ofsted



# Discover and achieve



# Reuben

A\* Maths, A\* Further Maths,  
B Music - going to read  
Maths at Leeds University

# Charlotte

A\* Maths, A\* Further Maths,  
A Physics - going to read  
Maths at Warwick University

# Victoria

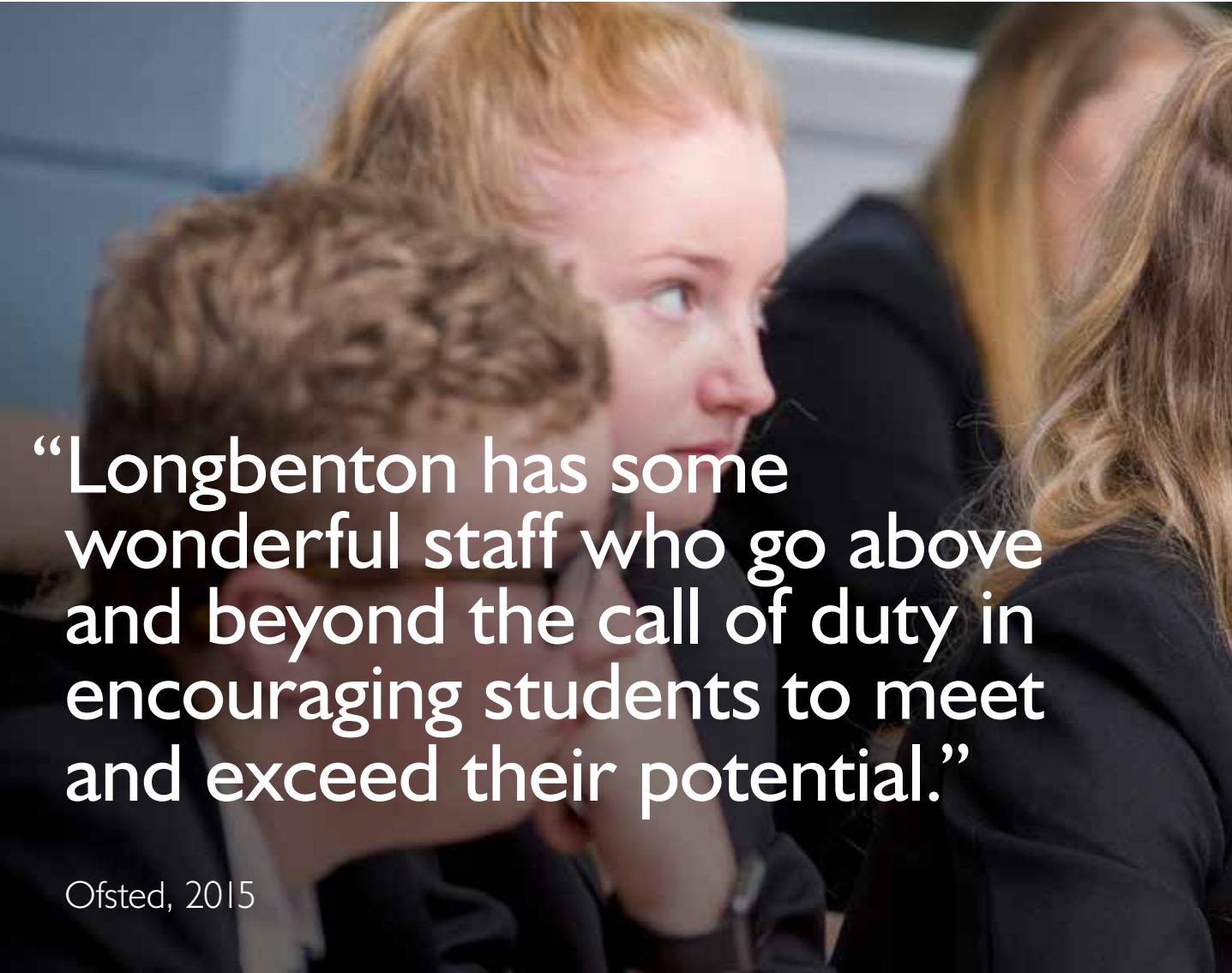
A\* Maths, A Chemistry,  
A Further Maths - going to read  
Chemical Engineering at  
Newcastle University

# Toni

A\* Art, A\* Product Design,  
A Spanish - going to read  
Graphic and Communication Design  
at Leeds University



# Beyond the classroom



“Longbenton has some wonderful staff who go above and beyond the call of duty in encouraging students to meet and exceed their potential.”

**STEM club, sailing, reading club, skiing, peer cats, guitar legends, junior choir, senior choir, TICE, orchestra, photography club, Duke of Edinburgh, homework club, Qurious Dragens and so much more.**







# Creativity

Creativity is one of the aspects of life that makes Longbenton High School very special. Students are encouraged to use their creative gifts to achieve things that they never thought possible. There is a uniqueness about the school's approach to the creative and performing arts.

School productions are of exceptionally high quality. Our annual drama productions are very challenging for the young people who take the leading roles. They are highly acclaimed by the audiences who come each evening to be enthralled by the gifted young people who spend months rehearsing for them.

We have a tradition of putting on musical productions at the Whitley Bay Playhouse with our sixth production "We Will Rock You" being an amazing success in July 2016 in front of a full house to rave reviews from the audience. Students know that the teachers really inspire the students to do their best in putting on productions of such a high standard.

The Senior Choir plays a major role in the life of the school. It has developed a tremendous reputation as a result of its performances within the local, regional and even international community.

Students start young in performance at the school, and even before they start

with us. The Pyramid Music Festival is a major annual event, when children from our feeder primary schools take part alongside the older school students in an excellent evening of music.

Art is an important, popular subject that allows students to be creative. Students produce highly imaginative pieces of work which go on display either in school or in the community. A number of students have also had experience of the Creative Enterprise programme where they are able to work with professionals from different creative industries with a final exhibition at Northumbria University. In addition, art students have exhibited at The Customs House in South Shields, The Rising Sun Country Park, and the Biscuit Factory, as well as other places.

**"My daughter has had the opportunity to experience the many extra-curricular activities that are available in the Art department. Encouragement from the teaching staff has evoked a passion within her and this is shown when she sits down to 'create' regardless of the media she chooses. She feels confident and supported in finding new ways in exploring and using materials to express herself in an artistic manner."**

Parent





# Progression

Our post-16 students have a range of over thirty "A" level or other Level 3 courses to choose from, covering the arts, maths and sciences, social sciences and applied subjects. These courses promote academic excellence, although we are able to offer some vocational courses too.

It is not only the courses that encourage the students to return to our Post-16 provision, but also the quality of teaching. Students achieve excellent results and make much better progress at Longbenton when compared to national expectations. Indeed our most recently validated results show that we add significant value to the outcomes of our students after two years of Post-16 study with us, as a result of the excellent teaching they receive.

The students give testament to feeling well supported by the Head of Post-16 and the tutor team. This support includes preparation for going on to university, which for most is the next step in their education. Indeed about two thirds become undergraduates across the country, a high proportion going to Russell Group universities.

We encourage younger students to have high aspirations and look forward to joining the Sixth Form in the future with A' Levels being a stepping stone for many going on to university, college, employment or Advanced Apprenticeships. Recent ex-students have progressed to take highly challenging degrees such as engineering, medicine and history, while securing places at prestigious universities like Oxford and Cambridge.

Our Post-16 students take the lead in all sorts of activities across the school, including drama, music, the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, dementia champions, supporting younger students in their learning and helping various charities through fund-raising or work placements. As such, they are excellent role models for our younger pupils to encourage them to aim high and aspire to be the best they can possibly be. Our Post-16 students relish the extra responsibilities which help them develop as individuals and give them greater independence.

**“The school makes a strong contribution to the personal, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students. The wide array of extracurricular activities and visits, including links with schools abroad, enhance students’ confidence and self-esteem.”**



# Transition

Our aim is to make transition from primary to secondary school as smooth as possible. We achieve this through the strong relationships that we have with key staff in our feeder primaries as well as seeking to involve parents and carers, in partnership to make the transition an exciting and beneficial experience. Increasingly, we welcome a number of students from beyond our catchment and we work hard to ensure that we take the same care with the transition arrangements for these young people too. We look to pay particular attention to the social and emotional wellbeing of every young person who is joining our school so that they settle quickly into learning and enjoying school.

Transition is made easier through a variety of planned special activities and events. We hold Open Evenings and Visit Days, for parents and students in both our feeder primaries and those further afield, which showcase the work of the school. Our staff go into primary schools and regularly take lessons, particularly in Maths, Design Technology, Languages and Music. Our PE staff run sporting festivals for our primary schools, using our own and the primary schools' facilities.

We have a wonderfully successful Pyramid Music Festival where choirs and orchestral groups from each of the pyramid schools perform alongside Longbenton High School choirs and orchestra; this event has now been running for 35 years. Additionally, primary school students come to the school for special events. These include master-classes in Maths and Science as well as days such as "The Big Sing".

Staff from our school meet regularly with the teachers of the pyramid schools to plan events and share strategies across the pyramid. 'Partnerships with Parents' meetings are held in the summer term when parents meet their child's form tutor and obtain information regarding starting school in September.

Before the students start with us they join us for induction events which prepare them well for starting at the school, including a full day with us and an evening meeting with parents and students in June.

We work really closely with the primary schools to ensure that we know the students who are transferring to us and we build effectively on the excellent work being done in our feeder primaries. Senior staff from our school interview all of our new Year 7 towards the end of their first term with us. They always enthuse about how quickly they have settled, how many new friends they have made and how much they have enjoyed the challenges of high school.







## Our new school

**“The new school has been designed with the best facilities and as an environment to inspire young people.”**

As of September 2016 we have rebranded: on moving from our old buildings, which were Longbenton Community College, to our fantastic, state-of-the-art facilities that are Longbenton High School. We are grateful to our builders, Galliford Try, for delivering such a wonderful school on time and to have listened and worked alongside us so closely to customise the build to our requirements. Thanks are also due to North Tyneside as a local authority, for their expert support and guidance during the design and build phase of the project, as well as to the Government's Education Funding Agency for their involvement and oversight of the project.

Longbenton High School has been built to a higher specification than other local schools recently built. All of our accommodation has been replaced and demolition work will be completed in early 2017 to provide additional playing fields, an outdoor wetland learning environment and social areas for our students to benefit from.



However, Longbenton High School is not just a collection of bricks and mortar; it has been designed as a dynamic learning environment to inspire young people and to give teachers the very best facilities to give students the tools to be architects of their own future. The design of the building maximises the use of natural light, offers intelligent natural ventilation and has efficient heating and cooling systems. Our new school facilities allow all types of learning to be explored with dedicated curriculum spaces giving us high quality specialist facilities for all areas, including creative and performing arts, sport and science.

We are particularly looking forward to all of our classrooms being under one roof. Our old school comprised a number of blocks spread around our site, resulting from its post-war origins as separate girls' and boys' schools. Longbenton has long since been recognised as a school with a very caring

and dedicated staff and we will be grasping the opportunity in our new build to take this to new heights: we will work and learn together in our new school as a harmonious community based on mutual respect. This is an exciting and inspirational time to be part of that community.

We welcome all enquiries from parents of prospective students and are happy to arrange a personal school tour so that you can see our specialist facilities, find out about our approach to learning, see classes in action, meet key staff and ensure see that we meet the needs of your child.



**“Our students are inspired  
to learn and enjoy all  
aspects of their education.”**





# **Evolve Create Discover Perform Achieve**

**Contact us to arrange a visit...**

Hailsham Avenue, Longbenton, Newcastle upon Tyne NE12 8ER

**Telephone 0191 218 9500   Fax 0191 270 6760**

**Email [lhs@lblearning.com](mailto:lhs@lblearning.com)   [www.longbenton.org.uk](http://www.longbenton.org.uk)**