

20th February 2025

Dear Parent / Carer,

RE: February Half-Term Letter (0084-24ASW)

Longfield Academy is going from strength to strength following our good grading in all Ofsted categories. We are extremely proud of our school, the respect and positive noticing our pupils display daily, and the positive relationships we have engendered with pupils and families.

Our 2024 results place us fourth in Darlington according to Ofsted top 5 schools in Darlington as reported by the Northern Echo. [The Northern Echo - Top 5 Schools in Darlington](#)

The 'New' Longfield Academy

You may have noticed the new logo on this letter. We are in a really exciting stage of development as Northern Arch Learning Partnership (NALP), and following our Ofsted success, it felt like an appropriate time to signify the 'new' Longfield Academy. Headteachers across NALP are working together to ensure our Trust truly reflects our community and we are in the planning stage of some collaborative strategies that will benefit all of our young people. Over the coming weeks, our new logo will be rolled out across our online presence and the school site.

Changes within the Pastoral Team

As we approach half term, I wanted to let you know about some changes within the pastoral team. Miss Harrison - Year 7 Year Manager, and Mr Thornton - Year 9 Year Manager, will be leaving us at half term. Miss Harrison is returning to her previous role in Social Care, she has been a significant member of our pastoral team for many years and will be missed.

Whilst we recruit the right candidate, there will be a period of time when Year 7 and Year 9 will be without a specific Year Manager. Please be assured that the support we offer pupils will continue and Miss Wheatley - Head of Behaviour and Welfare will coordinate support for both year groups using the existing team. However, please be mindful that there may be delays in communication with parents / carers during this period. In the interim, Miss Wheatley is the Senior Leader Link for Year 7 and Mrs Leverton for Year 9, please contact them directly via reception on T: 01325 380815 or by email should you require immediate support.

Miss Wheatley (Year 7 Link) – rwheatley@longfield.nalp.org.uk

Mrs Sweeten (Year 9 Link) – jleverton@longfield.nalp.org.uk

Headteacher: Angela Sweeten

longfield.nalp.org.uk

📍 Longfield Road Darlington DL3 0HT

☎ 01325 380815 | 01325 380816 ✉ enquiries@longfield.nalp.org.uk

Uniform Information

As you will be aware following our brief communication earlier this week, our uniform supplier Elizabeth's Embroidery has ceased trading with immediate effect. We are currently in discussions with potential suppliers and will update you all as soon as possible after February half-term.

As a result, parents / carers will not be able to purchase school uniform at this time. Should you need support in this area, please email enquiries@longfield.nalp.org.uk or contact reception via T: 01325 380815 and we will endeavour to help.

In terms of the new logo, we will accept either logo and simply phase the old logo out over time to avoid any financial burden on parents / carers.

Upcoming Parents' Evenings

- Year 11 Parents' Evening – Thursday 6th March 2025, 4:00pm – 6:30pm
- Year 9 Options and Parents' Evening – Thursday 20th March 2025, 4:00pm – 6:30pm

Forthcoming Change of our Management Information System (MIS) and ClassCharts

We would also like to inform you that we have recently changed our Management Information System (MIS) from SIMS to Arbor. This system will enable us to work faster, smarter and more collaboratively with all parents / carers.

Following the Easter break in April 2025, it is our intention to move communication and behaviour information to Arbor and provide parents / carers with a cloud-based portal. The parent portal will make information sharing more easily accessible as we can share live updates about your child. The Arbor parent portal app will replace our current ClassCharts app.

We will provide further information about the changes after half term and again just before Easter. When the parent portal is live, we will send you a welcome email telling you it is available and how to access it. Until then, please continue to use ClassCharts daily.

February Half Term

School reception is open from 9:30am to 12:30pm on Monday 24th February 2025 for targeted Year 11 Intervention only, after which it will be closed for the remainder of half-term.

We wish our pupils and families a pleasant half-term and look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Monday 3rd March 2025.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Sweeten
Headteacher