

18<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Dear Parent / Carer,

# **Re: End of Year Letter (0172-24ASW)**

Since our Ofsted gradings of good in all four areas at the start of this academic year, we continue to go from strength to strength. Our goal is now to create an outstanding educational experience for all our children, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the overwhelming support we have received from parents / carers.

To give us a true sense of how you feel about our improvements, we would appreciate the completion of a short online questionnaire. [Longfield Academy Experience Questionnaire](#)

As you may know, the Trust has appointed a Director of Education who is responsible for developing our communications with parents / carers. A termly VLOG will be available to view to give you a sense of what is happening in the Academy. The first one can be viewed here: [Longfield Academy Headteacher's Vlog - July 2025 Ep 1](#)

The below information outlines some of the changes, and some reminders ahead of the new academic year.

## **Staff Changes**

As always, we say goodbye to some staff this summer and welcome new staff starting in September:

Leavers / Vacant Positions	Replacement / change of role
Mr Rawle will leave us temporarily for a year to support Hurworth School.	Mr Tattersall has been appointed as Acting Deputy Head for 2025/26.
Mrs Douglas will leave us temporarily on maternity leave from October 2025.	Mrs McGregor has been appointed as Assistant Headteacher to oversee Y11 intervention and the examination strategy.
Mr Blount (Music) is leaving to work in SEND education.	Mr Heath – Teacher of Music
Mr Conlin (DT/Art) is moving to a school closer to his home in Hartlepool.	Mr Bastow joins us in September as his replacement.

Headteacher: Angela Sweeten

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Ms Edwards (History) is emigrating to Australia.	No replacement needed.
Ms Carter, Teacher of Business and Computing	No replacement needed.
MFL part time teacher (on going vacancy).	Ms De Manuel Marin will join us in September whilst we recruit a permanent MFL teacher.
Mrs Smith, Teacher of English will leave us temporarily on maternity leave from September.	Mr Catmur has been appointed as temporary Teacher of English.
Ms Awford, Attendance and Wellbeing, left earlier this term.	Miss Wardell will join us in September to support the pastoral team.
Mr Hall (reception) - It is with great sadness that James has left us due to ill health. I know many of you will miss him on reception, we certainly do.	Ms Richardson will join us on a permanent basis from the 8 <sup>th</sup> of September to take up the role of receptionist.
Miss Patton, Organisation Manager is leaving to complete the final year of her degree in Counselling Psychotherapy.	No replacement needed.
Mrs Smith, Careers Advisor – is leaving to enable her to work part-time.	We are currently recruiting for this vacancy.
Mrs Jennings (reception) is retiring at the end of September.	We are currently recruiting for this vacancy and have interviews planned before the end of July.

<b>Change to Positions / New Roles</b>
Mr Saunders will officially become part of our team having been a TA apprentice for the last two years.
Mr Willan, Assistant Headteacher, is stepping down from his Assistant Headteacher role to become a Teacher of Maths.
Mrs Mattless will have a change of focus from September and will no longer be the Director of Science. Instead, she will support the SEND agenda, leading on access arrangements and Quality First Teaching in the classroom.
Miss Sweeten will join us as a temporary cover supervisor to support staff absence.

I am sure you will join me in thanking all staff who are leaving or changing role for their commitment and dedication to the children of Longfield. We are really excited about our new appointments and look forward to developing new ideas and foci.

### **School Day Timings**

The school gates open at 8:20am and **pupils must be in their form room by 8:30am each day**. Please discuss this with your child to ensure they are aware. Lates have greatly improved this year. However, we are striving for 100% punctuality as this is a life expectation that will support future job prospects.

The school day overview can be found on our website via: [The School Day](#)

## Links to other key information:

- [Longfield Academy - Term Dates](#)
- [Form Group Organisation](#)
- [Year Manager and SLT Contacts](#)

## Uniform

We recently issued communication regarding our new uniform provider. If you have not yet had an opportunity to read this letter, please visit: [School Uniform Provider Letter](#)

As you will be aware, we have a new logo. Consequently, our school uniform and PE kit required an update.

New Year 7 pupils will all have the new uniform items with the new logo.

Current pupils can wear the new uniform however, we will continue to allow the old design until your child requires replacements. We then ask that you purchase the new branded items from [Tees Valley Schoolwear](#).

**From the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 (following the October half-term and the current summer uniform period)** we will no longer have a winter / summer uniform. From this date, **all children are expected to return in a shirt, tie and jumper**. This is to comply with the DfE regulations of minimising branded items.

Pupils can choose between a long or short sleeved white shirt. Jumpers will be expected to be worn as these are the only item with our school logo. Please note, permission will be given to remove jumpers (and ties) when the weather dictates.

A reminder that skirts are no longer part of our uniform.

**For children with diagnosed sensory issues, we have an embroidered white polo shirt. This should be purchased and worn all year, instead of a shirt and tie. Our jumper is also required. Please contact Tees Valley Schoolwear via telephone or email to purchase a polo shirt, we have provided them with the names of pupils who have been given this reasonable adjustment.**

Please support us to ensure that the following items of uniform are compliant with our expectations. Failure to comply may result in pupils being required to borrow items from the school.

### **Uniform Expectations:** -

- Black school shoes – not trainers.
- Trousers must have a **button and zip** fastening (not just decoration). Leggings are not permitted.
- Please ensure **all** uniform and PE kit has your **child's name written on the tag** so we can return it if it gets misplaced.
- All jewellery must be left at home (with the exception of a conventional watch – smart watches are not permitted). If jewellery is worn, it will be confiscated and while every attempt will be made to keep it safe, we will not take responsibility for lost items.
- Piercings of any kind are **not** allowed. This is for health and safety reasons. **New piercings will not be accepted as a reason to wear / refusal to remove them. Retainers will not be accepted.**

## **We have introduced the following expectations regarding head coverings and braids:**

All head coverings worn for religious purposes should be black. They must be of suitable length for health and safety reasons during practical lessons.

Hair braids should also be a natural hair colour.

For further information regarding uniform, including information on how to access financial assistance or second hand uniform, please see our [School Uniform Policy](#).

## **Equipment**

Pupils must arrive equipped for their learning:

- All pupils **must have a school bag** - carrying items in pockets is not acceptable
- Pupils should purchase additional equipment such as a 30cm ruler, highlighters and additional pens
- A scientific calculator must be purchased (they can be purchased from the maths department)
- A pupil organiser will be given to pupils free of charge on the first day we return. Replacements can be purchased.
- Basic stationery will also be provided on the first day, such as: black, green & red pen, pencil, 15cm ruler, rubber and pencil sharpener, additional stationery can be purchased from school.

## **Dates / Events for September 2025**

- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025, Year 7 Photographs
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025, Year 7 Photograph Catch-Up Session
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025, Year 5/6 Open Evening, 5:30-7pm
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025, Year 11 Spoken Language Official Exams
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025, Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning (Y7&8 Families), 9:30am -11am

## **Reception Opening Hours Throughout Summer Holidays**

- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2025, open 9:00am to 3:00pm
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2025, GCSE Results Morning, open 9:00am to 12:00pm
- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2025, open 9:00am to 3:00pm

**Reception is closed on all other days throughout the summer holidays.**

Last but not least, the staff and I wish you all a safe and happy summer break. We look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025**.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs A Sweeten  
Headteacher