

25th September 2026

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: Year 7 Setting Arrangements (0015-26ASW)

Due to a delay in receiving Key Stage 2 SATs results, it was not possible to finalise Year 7 teaching sets at the start of the academic year. As a result, pupils have been working in mixed-ability classes since joining the school. From **Monday 5 October**, new teaching sets will be introduced.

We have now received SATs data and completed our own baseline assessments in English, mathematics and science. Using this information, we have reviewed and reorganised the year group to ensure pupils are placed in the most appropriate teaching sets.

Due to timetabling commitments, it is not possible to have separate sets for English and maths. In some cases, a child may have a high English score but a low maths score. Where this occurs, we have determined the set that provides the best overall fit. In most situations, it has been based on maths.

This is not an exact science. Therefore, we have tried to ensure that set 1 and set 5 have similar educational requirements which will ensure extra challenge and support is factored into planning.

Sets 2, 3 and 4 are loosely set with an element of mixed ability. This is to ensure we have equity in class sizes across the year group. We have also considered class dynamics and listened to advice from primary schools regarding any personality conflicts.

Please be assured that teachers are expected to plan for specific need not generic class ability. Therefore, previous high attainers in set 4, for example, will still receive the same rigour of expectation and quality teaching.

Should you have any queries regarding this, please contact reception with any questions or concerns and the appropriate member of staff will contact you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "A Sweeten".

Mrs A. Sweeten
Headteacher

Headteacher: Angela Sweeten

longfield.nalp.org.uk

📍 Longfield Road Darlington DL3 0HT

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