

Longfield Academy
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Headteacher: Mrs A Sweeten, BA (Hons) MA, NPQH
Deputy Headteacher: Mr S Rawle, BA (Hons), MA

8th December 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: Christmas and End of Term Letter (0048-23ASW)

As we approach the last day of the Autumn term on Tuesday 19th December 2023, I would like you to know that whilst we have Christmas themed activities planned for the remainder of the term, lessons will continue to be educational and relevant to the curriculum. Therefore, pupil attendance is expected each day.

Festive Activities and Rewards

This week, we've held Form Tutor and Head of Year rewards assemblies to celebrate those our pupils who have demonstrated being PROUD: passionate, respectful, organised, united and determined in their daily life at Longfield.

From next week, right up to the to the last day on the 19th December 2023, we will continue to celebrate the theme of 'giving' with: -

- 12th December – 19th December, **Rewards Trips** to Bowling at The Dolphin Centre and Snow White at the Hippodrome
- Thursday 14th December, 1:30pm – 3pm, **Senior Citizen Festive Afternoon Tea Party**
- Monday 18th December - **Christmas Jumper Day** (non-uniform day for pupils and staff).
- Monday 18th December 6pm – 8pm, **Longfield Live Christmas**, £2 per ticket, on sale from reception
- Monday 18th December and Tuesday 19th December – **Festive lunch** options available for pupils to purchase.

Christmas Jumper Day – raising fund for 'Save the Children' – Monday 18th December 2023

As we have in previous years, pupils and staff will be supporting the national 'Save the Children - Christmas Jumper Day' campaign by taking part in a voluntary Christmas themed non-uniform day on Monday 18th December 2023. Pupils and staff will be asked to make a voluntary suggested donation of £1.00. The usual rules surrounding non-uniform apply, sensible shoes; no cropped t-shirts; no jewellery; or fake nails. Parents / Carers and staff can also donate online by visiting our JustGiving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/Longfield-SaveTheChildren>

Kings Church Donations

Thank you to everyone who has donated gifts for our Kings Centre collection. We know how important these donations will be for families in and around Darlington and we're sure they will be very gratefully received. Donations are welcome up to 9:00am on Thursday 14th December 2023.

Staffing

Thank you for your tolerance and understanding around staff shortages. This is never an easy situation to resolve due to the nature of how the teaching profession works, coupled with the fact that there is a national shortage of teaching staff particularly in the areas of science, humanities, and maths.

Staff Changes

We welcome the following new staff in the new year. Ms Mattless as Director of Science. I have had the pleasure of working with Ms Mattless in a previous school and she brings a wealth of experience with her. Ms Barnett will also be joining the science department and has extensive experience as a Head of Department. We have the continued support of Mr Majeed and Ms Taylor also in science. Mr Bland is joining as our new Head of History, and we look forward to bringing his expertise to Longfield.

This term we are saying goodbye to some teaching staff. Mr McHugh is moving to a school closer to home; and following a long period of illness Mrs Horner, Mrs Parkinson and Mrs Glover are leaving the academy. We wish them good health for the future.

Key Dates for January 2024

- Wednesday 3rd January 2024 – Pupils and staff return for Term 2
- Thursday 4th January 2024 – Year 7 Parents' Evening, 4pm - 6:30pm
- Wednesday 10th January – Friday 2nd February 2024 – Year 11 Mock Exams

Please note, Y9 Parents Evening / Options Evening scheduled for Thursday 25th January 2024 has been postponed. A new date will be confirmed in the new year.

Assessment

Due to absences in science and design technology, we have been unable to do accurate assessments for pupils across the year groups. This will be referenced on individual assessment reports. Rather than give inaccurate predictions in these two areas, we have made the decision to postpone the assessments until the following term. We feel this is in the best interests of our pupils and parents / carers so that we can ensure the information you receive is an accurate reflection of your child's performance in school.

Uniform

Thank you to everyone that has supported the change to our winter uniform of trousers, shirt, tie and jumper. Pupils look incredibly smart however, there are still a small number of pupils without the full uniform.

We would like to clarify that pupils must have a school tie and jumper, and these must be worn every day. Blazers are optional and are not part of the compulsory uniform.

Further uniform information can be found in our [School Uniform Policy](#)

To purchase school specific uniform such as ties, jumpers and P.E kit, please visit the Elizabeth's Embroidery website [Longfield – Elizabeths Schoolwear](#). They will also assist via telephone T: 01642 674973 or by visiting their shop in Stockton.

Equipment

Pupils must arrive every day equipped for their learning.

- All pupils **must have a school bag** - carrying items in blazer / coat pockets is not acceptable.
- All pupils must bring their planner and pencil case
- Pupils should check their timetable each evening to ensure they have the necessary equipment / ingredients for practical lessons.

If pupils lose their planner / pencil case, they can purchase replacements in school. Planners are £3.50 each and a full pencil case is £1.00.

Attendance and Punctuality

We would greatly appreciate your support in terms of attendance and punctuality. Please remind your child of the importance of arriving to school on time. Late arrival not only affects your child's attendance and education but disrupts the learning of others. The school gates open at 8:30am and pupils should make their way to form straight away for a prompt start at 8:45am.

Temporary Change to School Day Timings – January 2024

From Wednesday 3rd January 2024, we will temporarily adjust the school day timings to facilitate the Year 11 Mock Exams. We have included the temporary changes on the final page of this letter and will notify parents / carers and pupils when we revert to the standard school day timings.

On a final note, the staff and I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. We thank you for the support we've received so far this year and look forward to a promising 2024. We welcome pupils back to school on **Wednesday 3rd January 2024**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A Sweeten".

Mrs A Sweeten

Headteacher

Temporary School Day Timings for January 2024

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Gates open 8.30					
08:30	Eased Entry	Eased Entry	Eased Entry	Eased Entry	Eased Entry
08:45	Tutor	Tutor	Tutor	Tutor	Tutor
09:15	Lesson 1	Lesson 1	Lesson 1	Lesson 1	Lesson 1
10:15	Lesson 2 (Split Part 1)	Lesson 2 (Split Part 1)	Lesson 2	Lesson 2	Lesson 2
10:20					
10:25					
10:30					
10:35					
10:40	Break	Break	Lesson 2	Lesson 2	Lesson 2
10:45					
10:50					
10:55	Lesson 2 (Split Part 2)	Lesson 2 (Split Part 2)	Break	Break	Break
11:00					
11:05					
11:10					
11:15					
11:20	Lesson 3	Lesson 3	Lesson 3	Lesson 3	Lesson 3
11:25					
11:30	Lesson 4 (Split Part 1)	Lesson 4	Lesson 4	Lunch	Lunch
12:30					
12:35					
12:40					
12:45					
12:50	Lunch	Lesson 4	Lesson 4	Lesson 4	Lesson 4
12:55					
13:00					
13:05	Lesson 4 (Split Part 2)	Lunch	Lunch	Lesson 4	Lesson 4
13:10					
13:15					
13:20					
13:25					
13:30	Lesson 5	Lesson 5	Lesson 5	Lesson 5	Lesson 5
13:35					
13:40					
13:45					
13:50					
13:55	Lesson 5	Lesson 5	Lesson 5	Lesson 5	Lesson 5
14:00					
15:00	Enrichment	Enrichment	Enrichment	Enrichment	Enrichment
15:45	Enrichment	Enrichment	Enrichment	Enrichment	Enrichment