

2 September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you have had a fantastic summer.

All staff have spent the day preparing for the students' return later this week. We are looking forward to welcoming Year 7 and 12 students to the academy on Wednesday and the rest of the school on Thursday.

It has been a busy summer with over £150 000 of investment in our academy. We are mid-way through phase one of the window replacements and there are new toilets being installed in F Block. There will be some ongoing work for the first week or so, but I am looking forward to sharing pictures of the completed work with you next week in my weekly bulletin.

It was also lovely to celebrate the GCSE and A-level results with students in Year 11 and Year 13 just a short time ago. These outcomes represent a real improvement on last year's results. They are a testament to the hard work of both students and staff at the academy.

Finally, I am aware that a post has been published about me on a private Facebook page and I wanted to write to clarify that when I took up the role to lead Longsands, I knew it would be challenging. Malicious, personal posts about my role as principal are upsetting, but they do not stop me from coming into work and doing the job I love.

The reason I became a head teacher was because I wanted to be able to give children access to a good education, which I believe to be the passport to move on to what they would like to achieve in life. I think that can be reflected in the great results that we have seen this year.

The question around Ofsted's work is a live one and is in the news today as I write this. I am proud that Longsands were recognised by Ofsted as a 'good' school, although Ofsted did measure Longsands behaviour as 'requires improvement' again, something we are working hard to improve. I would ask you to support and help your child, if they are starting at Longsands in Year 7, or as they come back to join the new school year. We want your children to do well and feel nurtured at school, and I look forward to seeing all the students back at school in the next few days.

We will be scheduling school tours again in the coming weeks and would welcome any parent or carer to come and visit to see what life at Longsands is like and then meet with me if you have any questions or concerns.

**Dr C Cusick**  
Principal