

February 2021

Dear Candidate

Thank you for taking the time to find out more about Longbenton High School and our main scale teaching post. This post gives you the exciting opportunity to join a strong team in a vibrant, happy, inclusive school and to make a real difference to the lives of our young people. I hope this letter provides some useful context and helps you to decide whether you would be a good ‘fit’ for our school. I joined the school as deputy headteacher in 2016 and was appointed to lead the school as headteacher from September 2020. I can absolutely attest to this being a wonderful place to work: the students; the staff spirit; the professionalism; the facilities and inclusiveness of Longbenton are all very special. We have a new Deputy Headteacher who also started in post in September 2020. The senior team work together very closely, openly and honestly without any jostling over ego or status –which in my experience is an incredibly rare find. Our middle leaders work together in the same way; they are a fantastic group of professionals, and the whole staff body is very much one team.

My ambition is that every student and member of staff at Longbenton High School thoroughly enjoys their time with us. A strong partnership with parents and carers is essential to the success and happiness of each student and the positive impact our school can make. My commitment is that every student at Longbenton High School feels fully supported and seizes every opportunity, opening as many doors for them as possible. I have very high expectations of myself, our staff and students and hold important values for the whole school community: kindness, positivity, honesty, determination, manners and ambition. Our most recent Ofsted report, from November 2018, is now a little out of date, but will give you an idea of our strengths and the challenges we face as an RI school. It is a very honest reflection of where we were at the time, but we are proud of our achievements, and we have changed significantly since then. We know we can do even better.

If you share our commitment to educational excellence and feel that you can make a difference during the school’s next stage of development, we would love to hear from you. To apply, please read our school information guide for applicants on our website, where you will also find the application pack. I would also encourage you to watch our 2020 Open Evening welcome film. I hope that this is the right opportunity for you; good luck with your application.

Kelly Holbrook

Headteacher