



MLP/StudentSupportStructure/LH
2 July 2018

Dear Parent /Carer

At Longsands Academy, we take great care to ensure that we have appropriate structures and personnel in place in order to support the personal development, behaviour and wellbeing of all of our students from Years 7 through to 13. As such, we routinely review our structures and personnel to ensure that we are able to discharge this responsibility effectively. I am writing to inform you of some changes to our student support structure from September 2018.

In Key Stage 3, the vertical school system (Maple, Aspen and Willow) will be replaced by a year-based structure with Heads of School changing to Heads of Year. This will enable staff to not only provide wellbeing and behavioural support, but also enable a more focussed overview regarding the progress of students in a specific year group, in much the same way as happens in Key Stage 4. This reflects recent changes to GCSE exams which have become linear with greater content and a more rigorous assessment procedure, requiring students to be better prepared for this challenge by the end of their Key Stage 3 studies. As such, the Key Stage 3 Team will comprise the following staff:

Senior Assistant Headteacher, Director of Key Stage 3 – Mrs Breakspear
Head of Year 7 – Mrs Postins
Head of Year 8 – Mr Powell
Head of Year 9 – Miss Bingham
Year 6 Transition Coordinator – Mrs Griffiths

In addition, each Head of Year will be supported by a Student Support Officer.

In Key Stage 4, Mr Owen will continue in his role as Senior Assistant Headteacher, Director of Key Stage 4. I am delighted to inform you that, following Miss Furlonger's decision to return to Canada at the end of this academic year, Mrs Hills (current Head of Girls PE) will become our new Head of Year. Therefore, when the current Year 10 students return from Work Experience on the 9th July, Mrs Hills will become their Head of Year and will lead the year group throughout Year 11 until they sit their external examinations in the summer of 2019. Mrs Parsons, will remain as Head of Year 10 and is already working with Key Stage 3 colleagues to begin the transition of the current Year 9 students ahead of their progression to Key Stage 4 in September. Mr Breakspear will continue to support both Mrs Hills and Mrs Parsons in his role as Deputy Head of Year in Key Stage 4.

I remain confident that these changes and appointments will continue to ensure that we provide all of our students with the support necessary to ensure they secure the best possible experience, learning and outcomes throughout their time at Longsands.

Yours faithfully

Martin Paine
Headteacher