



# Longhill News

October 2015

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## Letter from the Headteacher

Dear Parents, Carers & Friends,

Fantastic news and outcomes from the Challenge Partners Review. Affirmation that our judgements are accurate and we are at the point of going for 'Good' as an overall Ofsted rating.

I have placed the full report on the school website to enable you to read and, if needed, ask the school further questions or raise any issues.

I am looking forward to Ofsted's arrival. The School's judgements and areas of progress may be seen on the School website; "Executive Summary, Self-Evaluation". You may see from reading this document that we have an interesting level of confidence in our achievements and forthcoming results. This has been achieved by a consistent and unrelenting sense of purpose to arrive at a place where Ofsted agree that we are a good school.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, our parents, carers and families, for your support and confidence that enabled this journey to take place.

Our staff, teachers and support teams here equally worked tirelessly in enabling the School to reach this point and I share my gratitude and professional respect with them.

Please take some time to have a look at our School calendar, parents' events, School production and yes, it's that time, the annual Carol Service at Rottingdean St Margaret's Church!

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Haydn Stride  
**Headteacher**





## Quality Assurance Review finds Longhill Ready for Ofsted

Headteacher Haydn Stride was delighted by the results of a recent review by Longhill's Challenge Partners who found that, in response to its last Ofsted inspection, the school can now be considered **good** in many areas and **excellent** in others.

Challenge Partners, which is a national group made up of peer school leaders, was recently evaluated by the independent Institute of Education who found that, "*It is only through robust peer reviews that schools can calibrate their self-evaluation, reassure their governing bodies, gain from insights into other schools and grow their leadership capacity through what teachers constantly describe as 'the best professional development they have ever had'.*" Matthews and Headon, 2015

Challenge Partners found that:

- *The documents produced by the Headteacher indicate that there is a high level of well-focused drive and ambition. The School Improvement Plan addresses all the key issues.*
- *Independent learning was a feature noted during lesson observations. This was because teachers provided well-pitched challenges that encouraged students to take responsibility for their own learning.*
- *During lesson observations, there was strong evidence of extremely good teacher/student relationships and, as a result, students were impeccably polite and helpful.*
- *Strong evidence was seen of teachers making strategic use of assessment data so that individual student needs could be better met.*
- *A robust and comprehensive system of assessment is a **developing area of excellence** within the school. Data collection and analysis is **exemplary** and the available information is being put to increasingly better use in the classroom. This results in students being well supported and many examples were seen of students responding positively to feedback.*
- *The work done to develop and embed an approach to **staff appraisal** at this school has clearly been very effective and is **an example of excellent practice**. Procedures are intensive and have resulted in significant improvements in both teacher performance and student progress.*

Mr Stride concluded, "Our response to Longhill's last Ofsted inspection has been robust and far-reaching; I am extremely pleased that our Challenge Partners have recognised this and have focused on so many good and excellent practices here. We are proud to be a beacon of exemplary practice in our staff appraisal systems and will now strive to build and consolidate all our practices to make even further improvements across teaching and learning throughout the school."



## Exam Highlights

**A\* - C**  
**Double Science 75%**  
**(19% above national)**

**A\* - C**  
**History 69%**  
**(15% above national)**

**A\* - C**  
**PE 79%**  
**(9% above national)**

**A\* - C**  
**Chemistry 100%**  
**(9% above national)**

**A\* - C**  
**English 73%**  
**(8% above national)**

**A\* - C**  
**Art 80%**  
**(4% above national)**

**A\* - C**  
**Physics 93%**  
**(1% above national)**

**A\* - C**  
**Business Studies 65%**  
**(Equal to national)**

**A\* - C**  
**Spanish 80%**  
**(8% above national)**

**A\* - C**  
**Computer Science 78%**  
**(13% above national)**

**A\* - C**  
**BTEC Performing Arts 96%**  
**(12% above national)**

**A\* - C**  
**BTEC Construction 91%**  
**(39% above national)**



## Open Evening a Resounding Success

Open Evening at Longhill was a resounding success this year. Staff and students welcomed hundreds of visitors to the school for an evening of education, information and entertainment. Thanks to the Premises Team, the school was looking its best and students were eager and proud to welcome guests to Longhill and to show off all the interesting activities that were taking place throughout the school.

Every department offered something informative and engaging to prospective parents and their children, with Science and English proving very popular. A wealth of experiments, from turning coins into brass to dissecting a rat were on offer – always very popular with our more curious visitors!



Visitors were able to try their hand at being creative, with the opportunity to work with textiles, try pattern printing or sculpting jelly fish.



A visit to the history department would have taken you on an interesting journey showing medicine through time, which is an alternative GCSE course offered to Longhill students.





Head of English, Ms Catherine Bradley, came dressed for the evening as a character from the acclaimed children's novel 'Holes'.



Modern Foreign Languages gave visitors a flavour of France with their pavement café, offering the music of Paris and a sample of French patisserie!



Geography students from Year 7 were keen to take visitors on a trip around the world of food!

We hope that all our visitors enjoyed the evening as much as staff and students did. If you would like to have a tour of the school, please call our Reception to book an appointment on 01273 304086.



## Young Leaders Programme

Longhill are very proud of four year 11 students who have won a place in the first Brighton Young Leaders Programme, designed by Active Change Foundation. Josh, Rebecca, Lily and Matilda completed a detailed application and passed an interview to win their place.

The programme aims to develop young leaders who would be able to tackle real life issues, through workshops and residential trips. The four students have to develop a campaign for something they are passionate about. Josh told us, "I will be campaigning for a safer online environment for younger people. I feel at the moment the internet can be a strange and daunting place for teenagers, especially if they don't know how to use it properly. I will be working alongside the other young leaders to ensure that the internet is a safe, easy to use and friendly place for people of all ages."



Rebecca said, "My cause is campaigning for equality across all genders. While this is something that has been looked at before, I don't believe a big enough difference has been made. I hope to raise awareness of the issues surrounding inequality and provide an understanding of the modern day obstacles that people face."

The four students were very proud and excited about the journey they are about to undertake which will work towards an all-expenses-paid trip to Boston, USA for 12 of the successful 30 students in the programme. We wish them all the best and look forward to supporting their campaigns.

## School Council

The school council is in full swing and working towards their global and local campaigns. After half term Longhill are hosting a food drive to support our local campaign, 'Food Security'. We are going to support the Whitehawk Food Bank, run by the Trussell Trust, which will help our local community. From Monday 9th November students will be asked to bring in a non-perishable item to place in their mentor box or bag. These boxes will then be taken to the main hall to be collected and taken to the Food bank. The House contributing the most donations will win points towards the House trophy presented at the end of the academic year.



Pankhurst House has had a busy and rewarding start to the school year. A very warm welcome to our year 7 students who have made a fantastic start to their Longhill and Pankhurst journey.

This term launched with a new Student Leadership team, a new Junior Leadership Team and a whole host of activities which are beginning to take shape. Next term we will be taking part in the Harvest Food Drive and beginning our inter-house competitions....watch this space!

This month we are taking 4 students to see Brighton and Hove Albion vs Bristol City at the Amex. We are lucky enough to have season tickets and can select students each month to attend this fantastic trip. This reward is open to everyone in Pankhurst and each month we will select 4 students we feel deserve to be rewarded. We also announced this month our plans for the reward trip to Thorpe Park, something many of our students are very excited about and a goal for those students who perhaps just missed out this time.

Rewards and praise are an ongoing focus for Pankhurst. We aim to highlight the unique talents, the kind and positive natures, the hard working and resilient attitudes of Pankhurst students and throughout the term their achievements will be praised and rewarded.

I'd like now to wish you all a lovely half term and hand over to our year 10s for our first student newsletter contribution.

*Welcome to the Pankhurst Newsletter by Megan Lambert-Baker, Beth Waite and Sam Wilkinson.*

*First off, we'd like to welcome the new Pankhurst Year Sevens to our school! We'd also like to give an update on the things going on in Pankhurst House this term and the next.*

*So what's gone on this term? We've had our new House Captains and Senior Leaders chosen, so congratulations to all of you! For Year Eleven we have Tilly Blackford and Harry Wood, Aisha Gilbert and Yasmin Samaroo. For Year Ten we have Megan Lambert-Baker and Sam Wilkinson, Beth Waite, John Holden-Sinclair and Alex Emery.*

*An outside of school point we'd also like to mention is that the new Suffragette film was released on the 12th of October which features Meryl Streep as our house icon, Emmeline Pankhurst, which we highly recommend watching!*

*Next half term is an extremely exciting time for the Pankhurst Junior Leadership Team. Firstly, we will be starting to present our first House and year assemblies of the year. These meetings together will be a great chance to share and celebrate our achievements each week. Also happening next term will be the harvest food drive so it would be great if you can donate to that.*





## Longhill School Combined Cadet Force



On Thursdays now, we are welcoming a good number of cadets and after a wobbly start we did have a good number of keen new recruits ready to take up the challenge. Pleasingly, we seem to be increasingly popular with the girls and the large majority of our new recruits are female.



The end of last summer term saw the contingent attending 11 Brigade Central Camp at Crowborough. This camp was a week long and involved a series of 3 training days followed by a competition day and a final overnight exercise. The training days were split into three themes: Ranges, Military Skills and Fieldcraft. The camp was attended by schools from all over the UK.

Our cadets had immense fun and worked hard throughout the week, their conduct was, as always, exemplary and they excelled on the competition day winning the three major events. These were the march and shoot, first aid and drill, finally finishing 2nd overall.



Most pleasing, we also won the Commander's Award for the best contingent during the whole week. This is awarded to the contingent who demonstrate the most enthusiasm, best conduct and effort throughout the whole week. The final cherry on the cake was our own Miriam White winning the best cadet for the whole week. This award is given to the most outstanding cadet amongst all those attending the camp which numbered almost 400 cadets. Well done Mim and well deserved.

We are now looking forward to October camp which will bring new challenges to all our cadets whether they be new or more experienced. A huge thank you goes to Lt Tester for his efforts and for taking on some new responsibilities within the contingent.





It gives me great delight to also welcome 2Lt Walker into the contingent and on receiving her Queens commission. We look forward to utilising your vast knowledge and enthusiasm.

At the end of last term we have had to say goodbye to a few cadets as they move on to pastures new. They have all been a great credit to the school, contingent and themselves. We all wish them the best of luck in the future.

Particular thanks go to Rory Donovan for his commitment, leadership, enthusiasm and impeccable example to cadets and staff alike. Rory, you will be missed and we have no doubt you will be a huge success in whatever you choose to do.



Mr A Pringle  
(CAPT).



## Drama Department News

The Drama department would like to welcome back all students, teachers and parents. We have had a busy but successful first half term.

Our year 10 GCSE class went on a theatre visit to see a production of 'Rebecca' by Knee High Theatre Company at the Brighton Theatre Royal. Students went to see the show as part of their GCSE course and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

We have also auditioned and cast for our winter production 'Our Day Out' by playwright Willy Russel. It uses comedy to explore the real issue of social class divide, following a group of students who are part of the 'progress class' as they embark on their first ever trip out of the city to visit Wales. The show will be performed on the 9<sup>th</sup> December and information regarding ticket sales will be announced next half term; we look forward to seeing you all there.



Finally a big thank you to all those students who helped our department on open evening. It was great to have such wonderful support and you really did our department proud. Well done!



## Forget Cash – Remember sQuid

### **What is sQuid and why should you be using it?**

sQuid is a secure online payment system that eliminates the need for your son or daughter to bring cash into school. It can be used to pay for school trips, lunches and any other expenses that may be incurred at school.

### **International payment network**

sQuid is a pre-paid online account with cleared funds; where you never get in to debt. sQuid is a pre-pay network where funds are pre-loaded on to a secure online account and then spent via the sQuid network using a contactless smart card, an online account or unique biometric identifier, enabling digital stored value to be securely transferred

### **eMoney**

As such sQuid is electronic money (or eMoney) a new kind of cash, that can be used to pay for the little things in life: coffees, school dinners, snacks, all the things you keep cash for.

### **More than just a payment partner**

sQuid is used across many different sectors and is already widely used across the UK as well as internationally. sQuid work with local Councils, Transit operators, Schools, Colleges, Universities, and International Aid agencies. Uniquely offering a multi-wallet account, sQuid also offer cashless payments with integrated loyalty.

### **Where will I find sQuid?**

On the front page of the Longhill High School website <http://www.longhill.org.uk/>

You can easily set up your account – just follow the instructions. If you already have an account, but have forgotten your login details, please email [studentservicesstaff@longhill.org.uk](mailto:studentservicesstaff@longhill.org.uk) and we will help you get back into your account.

**We would like to encourage you to use sQuid whenever possible – it is easy, safe and avoids the need to bring cash to school.**





## Up and Coming

Year 7	10.12.15 – Year 7 Subject Surgery
Year 8	10.12.15 – Year 8 Subject Surgery
Year 9	03.12.15 – Year 9 Parents Evening
Year 10	13.11.15 – RE London Trip 19.11.15 – Ski Trip Meeting 26.11.15 – Year 10 Subject Surgery
Year 11	12.11.15 – Year 11 Parents Evening 16.12.15 – Year 11 Hoodies Issued
Whole School	20.11.15 – <b>MANDELA HOUSE DAY</b> 07.12.15 – Carol Concert 08.12.15 – School Production – ‘Our Day Out’ 11.12.15 – MFL Trip to Amiens 11.12.15 – <b>SPENCER HOUSE DAY</b> 18.12.15 – INSET DAY

## Term Dates

<i>Autumn Term</i>	<i>02 November – 18 December</i>
<b><i>Christmas Holiday</i></b>	
<i>Spring Term (1)</i>	<i>05 January – 12 February</i>
<b><i>Half Term</i></b>	
<i>Spring Term (2)</i>	<i>22 February – 24 March</i>
<b><i>Easter Holiday</i></b>	
<i>Summer Term (1)</i>	<i>11 April – 27 May</i>
<b><i>Half Term</i></b>	
<i>Summer Term (2)</i>	<i>06 June – 22 July</i>
<b><i>Summer Holiday</i></b>	

## INSET Days

18<sup>th</sup> December 2015  
01<sup>st</sup> February 2016



# GYMNASTICS

Years 7 & 8

**MONDAYS**

6.00 - 7.00pm

**£5** taster session is available for your first session, for more information or to book a place please contact us or come and visit us after school.



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[www.longhillsportscentre.co.uk](http://www.longhillsportscentre.co.uk)