



Longridge Towers School



Why Longridge?

Here are just some of the reasons why parents and pupils choose Longridge:



Community Ethos

"Carpe Diem" - "Seize the Day" is the School motto, and everyone is encouraged to do so. At Longridge Towers School, we encourage our pupils to immerse themselves in the opportunities which arise through our holistic, whole person, approach.

Longridge is characterised by its nurturing and caring environment. Individuals develop and gain confidence throughout their experiences at school. We challenge our pupils and have high expectations of them as scholars and young people, offering them a curriculum that is broad as well as inclusive, innovative and exciting. This provides our pupils a learning environment that is safe and invigorating. Caring for our pupils is of equal importance: our ethos at Longridge is our supportive approach to education, and the core values of respect and kindness are reinforced in everything we do.

This ethos permeates the School's aims and mission and is supported by the School's values and beliefs. We have an active school community where everyone plays their part in ensuring that this ethos is an enduring one.

Pastoral Care

Longridge is small enough to focus on the individual needs of every pupil yet large enough to offer a broad, flexible curriculum. The School's inclusive ethos enables us to take the welfare of our pupils very seriously. In the Senior School, each pupil has a Form Tutor and a Head of Year responsible for individual welfare and pastoral care. We welcome regular contact from parents to discuss any aspect of pupils' well-being, academic performance, achievement, and personal development.



Our Site and Location



We are privileged to have on our doorstep some of the most beautiful and scientifically important landscapes in the country. Pupils have access to pristine beaches strewn with fossils, whilst the coastal geology is world renowned. Nearby St Abbs Head and Seahouses are famous for seabird breeding colonies and boat trips to see the Farne Islands. The River Tweed system was a crucible for engineering developments for centuries such as the nearby Union Bridge, and we are close to the outstanding historical sites of Bamburgh Castle, Alnwick and Holy Island. We, as a school community, are enriched by these local important and exciting places, and pupils have many opportunities to value, enjoy and benefit from them.

Our onsite facilities include a library, science laboratories, a specialist music room, dedicated art studio, design centre, sports hall and an elegant Main Concert Hall as well as a theatre. Outside, the setting for our sports fields is breath-taking, with mature trees and open views across the Tweed Valley. We have extensive grass areas for rugby, hockey, cricket pitches, an athletics facility and we benefit from an all-weather sports pitch. We recently invested in more land to extend our sports further. Cricket, football and rounders are often played in our walled garden area, and cross-country routes can be through dense woodland, up and down hills and across flat country, with plenty of mud along the way.



Our secluded extensive grounds and countryside location provide a secure, clean air environment for all pupils, whilst our proximity to the historic cities of Edinburgh and Newcastle allows for enriching cultural days out and easy travel access. The grounds are used as an outdoor classroom for science study, projects, nature watching, art and treats such as camps and treasure hunts, and our younger pupils always enjoy a Teddy Bear's Picnic.



Our Curriculum

Longridge offers a flexible range of academic subjects, together with exciting programmes in art, drama and music which encourage participation, creativity and individuality. Our library provides a bright and comfortable environment in which to study, read or research. Our sports teams enjoy regular local and regional success, often against much larger schools. Beyond the classroom, we provide a diverse and interesting range of activities, trips and events which are designed to engage our pupils in skills and experiences they may never have come across before, and which help develop their Life Skills and aspirations.



We provide small year groups and small teaching sets. Public exam results are always above the national average for a non-selective school. We carefully measure a pupil's progress and provide individual, targeted support to enable each pupil to achieve at their best personal level. The majority of Longridge pupils go on to full-time University education at their first-choice institution.

- *The Times* – ranked 8th in North East, 2022 (Top independent secondary schools: *The Times Schools Guide*).
- *The Telegraph* – ranked 19th in the UK, 2019 (A-Level results: small independent schools)

Here at Longridge, we strive for excellence in all aspects of school life. This approach pervades pupils' approach to their academic and extra-curricular activities, as well as to the way we create a nurturing environment in School and in boarding. Our teaching staff are of the highest calibre and our administration

systems ensure that pupils, staff and parents are well informed at all times.



All our pupils are encouraged to believe in themselves and their individual abilities. We encourage them to grow, to grasp every opportunity and to challenge themselves, be it on the field, in the library or in front of the class when acting or presenting. All pupils are supported to realise their own goals, be they personal or academic. Preparation is supported

for important steps such as entering the Senior School, the Sixth Form, or moving on to university or employment.

Sport

At Longridge, we know that access to and enjoyment of physical exercise can benefit every aspect of a pupil's school life and beyond.

It will:

- Improve physical strength, stamina and general health
- Increase self-confidence, resilience and self-belief
- Enhance mental health and wellbeing
- Build friendships, teamwork, and leadership skills
- Engender positive behaviour and a 'can do' attitude
- Create openness to learn new skills and embrace new experiences but above all, at Longridge we ensure that sport is a lot of fun!



The sporting facilities we have at Longridge allow all our pupils, from Early Years to Sixth Form, to access the widest range of sports as part of the curriculum – netball, hockey, football, lacrosse, cricket, rounders,



tennis, gymnastics, badminton, basketball, volleyball, athletics and cross country can all be delivered on site in our extensive grounds. In partnership with Live Borders, the pupils from Early Years to Form 2 attend regular swimming lessons. This enables all our pupils to experience the widest possible range of sporting activities as part of their PE lessons and games. Our enrichment sports clubs encourage everyone to practise skills and techniques and be part of our competitive teams. We have also fostered strong links with other local sports clubs.



Outdoor Learning, Forest School and Duke of Edinburgh



Forest School and Outdoor Learning is a child-centred inspirational learning process, that offers opportunities for holistic growth through regular sessions. It is a long-term program that supports play, exploration and supported risk taking. Our Junior children and Forms 1 to 3 have Forest School and Outdoor Learning every week throughout the year. It develops confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands-on experiences in our natural woodland environment. The children have opportunities to gain knowledge and skills in shelter building, rope, string and knots, wood craft and tools, fire lighting, cooking and nature. The children often choose to explore cross curricular themes, taking their classroom learning outdoors.

These activities provide children with many opportunities to explore problem solving tasks and to experience success which helps to develop resilient, confident, independent, and creative learners.



At Longridge, we are delighted to be associated with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. The DofE award helps pupils gain essential skills and attributes for work and life such as resilience, problem-solving, team-working, communication, and drive, enhancing CVs and university, college and job applications.



Creative



Music, Drama and Art are a vibrant and exciting part of Longridge life. They are supported within the curriculum, through our enrichment programme and by peripatetic specialists.

Music groups include Junior and Senior choirs and orchestras, as well as specialised ensembles. There is an Inter-House Music Festival during the year, with all pupils participating in the House Choir Competition. There are many opportunities for our young musicians to perform, including formal recitals and informal concerts, as well as at major school and public events. Music tuition on an

individual basis is available for a variety of instruments in our dedicated music building, used by peripatetic teachers. There is the option to prepare for Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music examinations, which are frequently held at Longridge as an examination centre, thereby reducing impact on timetables.

Two drama performances are scheduled throughout the year, and there is an Inter-House Drama Festival during the year, as well as a Senior and Junior drama production.

LAMDA

LAMDA exams are overseen by the prestigious London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art and may be described as a drama equivalent of music grades.

LAMDA is the UK's largest Speech and Drama board and offers a nationally recognised qualification in communication and performance. Preparation for LAMDA examinations is designed to support pupils in developing their ability to communicate clearly, their vocal and physical technique, as well as their language awareness. The course of study also supports pupils' creative, intellectual, and social development as well as an opportunity to develop important life-skills, such as self-confidence and public speaking. Pupils who have taken LAMDA exams say that they enjoy the courses and have learnt about themselves; they are not all studying drama.

Classes are available to all pupils as an extra-curricular option, timetabled into the school day. Pupils can choose to take examination either individually or in small groups. LAMDA exams cover a range of disciplines including:

- Acting
- Speaking Verse & Prose
- Miming

- Reading for Performance
- Speaking in Public



There are a range of exams including Introductory Level, Entry Level, and Levels 1 to 3 (with the latter including Bronze Silver and Gold Medals). Exams are assessed on interpretation, technique and knowledge and are graded (over 50%) as Pass, Merit or Distinction.

LAMDA exams are recognised all over the world and can be included on a CV or application to university; and some exams also carry UCAS points that may help with university entry. Not only that, but the qualifications provide extra confidence in any university or future career interview.

Enrichment

At Longridge, we push beyond the academic curriculum by including activities in the school day which complement the subject specific timetable; we consider the development of pupils outside the classroom to be vital for their self-confidence and sociability. Our enrichment programme of activities is an important feature of integrated school life; pupils can develop independence, problem solving, leadership, communication, self-awareness and self-confidence. Designed to enable pupils to learn more of themselves by expanding on existing interests and discovering new ones, they also create the foundation for friendships, pastimes and pursuits which generally last long into the future.



Some life skills take place as part of activity periods which are timetabled during the school day. Others take place at lunchtime or after school. We offer an exciting and diverse range of enrichment activities ranging from: car mechanics, robotics, Duke of Edinburgh Award to archery, cycling care and safety, choirs and sports. Over the years, we have offered over sixty interesting options. These listed are but a few as the activities on offer can change depending on the take up of places and the availability of tuition and supervision.

Study or coursework support sessions are also available as an enrichment option. These sessions offer pupils a constructive and supportive environment in which to work towards completing homework or on-going coursework tasks. Pupils are able to select their options at regular intervals throughout the year.



Early Years Foundation Stage – Towers Tots



At Longridge Towers, we focus on developing the whole child, encouraging them to reach their full potential. Each child is unique, learning in different ways and at different rates; our aim is to nurture resilience, capability, and confidence. Children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and staff. At school this is achieved through personalised learning in small class groups allowing the member of staff to focus on the needs of the individual. This caring environment with extensive grounds providing an outdoor classroom, together with many educational visits and experiences, lends itself to providing a very positive, stimulating, and rich education for each child.

We deliver personalised learning, development, and care to help children get the best possible start in life. At three years old children may enter the school into the Early Years Foundation Stage (E.Y.F.S.); an important part of a child's learning. It is the foundation of a child's education process encompassing some of the most important child development and experiences of early skills with the environment playing a key role.

Our woodland walkways and pathways allow children to develop healthy bodies and minds. Physical Education is taught by PE specialists using the sports hall and the considerable grounds, including our walled garden. All children swim from September to June at Eyemouth Swimming Pool.

Our Towers Tots, take part in drama workshops and productions, assemblies and informal music concerts. At this early age the foundations of the Spanish language are introduced by a language specialist supported by the class teacher.

Our school is unique in atmosphere. We have a lot of fun with the children and the special Longridge atmosphere is created by staff who really care and go 'the extra mile' for our pupils.



There is no such thing as a typical day in Early Years – every day is different and full of fresh challenges.

Junior Pupils – J1 to J6

At Longridge, we aim to help our younger pupils develop their individual talents and interests from an early age in a friendly, safe, and stimulating environment.



The department holds its own assemblies, has a different lunch time to the Senior School and, of course, 'Juniors' enjoy a variety of exciting extra-curricular activities and visits to enhance their learning.



Whilst we place particular emphasis on literacy and numeracy, pupils are also encouraged to develop their creativity and independence. The curriculum is based on the National Curriculum but is considerably enhanced according to the personalised needs of our pupils. Good behaviour, good manners, high levels of self-esteem and a sense of fun underpin everything that we do.

Younger pupils are taught in the Jerningham building while the older 'Juniors' are taught in the Stobo building which in addition to other classrooms has sports changing rooms.

From Nursery to J2 (3–7-year-olds) the class teacher does most of the teaching while from J3 to J6 (7–11-year-olds), there is increased input from subject specialists in PE, Art, Music and Spanish.



Regular contact between parents and teachers is actively encouraged to ensure that each individual pupil benefits fully from their time in the Junior Department.

Senior Pupils – Form 1 to Form 5

We cater for pupils from 11 years of age. Teaching takes place in small classes.

We aim to provide our pupils with the very best possible care as they grow and mature, fostering their talents, nurturing, and developing them to reach their full potential as they work towards the next important stage of their development, GCSEs. We endeavour to maximise the opportunities available to pupils so that when they leave for the wider world, they are capable and confident young adults, ready for the next steppingstone in life.



Our modern curriculum is broadly aligned with the National Curriculum (NC) but is enhanced to provide breadth and depth. Pupils make their final choice of GCSE subjects towards the end of Form 3 (Year 9). Our options system is designed specifically to be flexible and adaptable in order that we can cater to the individual needs of most pupils. We consult closely with parents and pupils to help them make the best choice of subjects for the pupil.

Throughout their time in Senior School pupils will receive advice and guidance for careers and work experience, this supports them in choosing the appropriate career path. This will include input from external advisors and is designed to help pupils make informed decisions at the relevant stages regarding subject choices and further education or employment. Pupils will undertake a week's work placement during Form 4 which is designed to enhance their skills through real life experiences and support decision making when it comes to choosing an appropriate career path. Sixth Form students receive individual guidance and support when applying for university, apprenticeships, or jobs.



Sixth Form (Lower and Upper Sixth)



Generally, students must have at least 5 GCSE grades 9 – 5 or equivalent Scottish Highers qualifications for entry to the Sixth Form. Internal candidates are very likely to exceed this minimum requirement with an average 9 GCSEs. It is usual for a student to have achieved a Grade 6 or higher in their chosen areas of study.

Students are invited to choose up to 4 A' Level subjects for study over Lower and Upper Sixth. The Extended Project Qualification, Sport, Careers and UCAS lessons complete the weekly timetable. The Sixth Formers have study time in the library or Sixth Form study area and school

community service which can include mentoring or coaching sport alongside members of staff.

The Executive Committee is made up of School Captains, Deputy Captains and Heads and Deputies of the three School Houses. They are appointed through a rigorous application process including an interview with the Headmaster, Governors and the Head of Sixth Form. The Executive Committee are given office for the academic year and are in charge of the Sixth Form Common Room, school charity events and regularly represent the School at public events.

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a Level 3 course which is taken alongside A' Levels. Pupils will be required to complete a project on a topic of their choice. The project can be in the form of an essay or report or an artefact e.g., a musical composition, piece of artwork or dramatic project (although these must be backed up with a written report). Depending on the grade you achieve, you can gain between 8 - 28 UCAS points. An EPQ will help develop a useful range of extra study skills, helping you prepare for the demands of university work. It is valued by higher education institutions as it demonstrates your dedication to independent learning and is often included in offers made by institutions to applicants.

The vast majority of the Sixth Form students go on to university. Pupils receive dedicated careers and UCAS advice, and continual support and guidance from the Head of Sixth Form. The School community makes a very valuable contribution to the Sixth Form with parents, former pupils and school friends visiting the school to informally discuss with the pupils their professions and the pathways that they took to get to their employment.

At the beginning of the Upper Sixth parents and pupils are invited to a UCAS information evening which also details university funding arrangements. Visits to local universities are also included on the School calendar alongside representation from further afield universities. For those pupils wishing to apply for Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Veterinary Sciences or Dentistry, tailored tutorial support is made available.



Other pupils leave to join local colleges often to complete foundation degrees. These students are given the appropriate support through their application process. Equally those wishing to continue directly into work or an apprenticeship are advised and tutored accordingly. Several students each year choose to pursue a 'gap' year, often in a voluntary capacity. Several presentations from the voluntary agencies such as the Worldwide Voluntary Service are made to the Sixth Form to help them make a well-informed decision.

Boarding

Longridge has a happy, thriving boarding community and our commitment to strong pastoral care is aimed at ensuring pupils are supported, encouraged and nurtured while they are with us.

The non-teaching, dedicated House Parents maintain excellent and supportive relationships with the boarders and create a homely atmosphere. Every effort is made, particularly in the case of young or first-time boarders, to ensure they settle happily. House Parents are very quick to spot occasional signs of homesickness, dealing with it sensitively and with understanding, creating 'a sense of belonging' for all. There is a culture within the school and boarding house of mutual trust and support, with very positive relationships amongst the boarders themselves and with staff.



Boarding is never boring at Longridge! Birthdays are always celebrated with a cake and there are trips every weekend; perhaps a simple day out to the beach, or an intense, thrilling experience tubing on a lake, ice skating, go-carting, indoor climbing or the fun-filled trampoline centre. All activities take place under safe, licensed, and expert guidance and supervision.

The centre of boarding house life, shared by all boarders, revolves around the large common room with its comfortable, relaxed furnishings and wide screen television while the games room includes table tennis, pool, a TV and other games. All our bedrooms are either single or shared by a maximum of three, have been recently redecorated and each contains facilities for individual study.



Longridge's extensive facilities, combined with the all-inclusive boarding fees that cover tuition, textbooks, meals, trips and laundry along with the stunning, safe and accessible location, make it ideal as a 'home-from-home' environment.

Please note we do not have exeat weekends. Generally, the only time that the school is shut is during the half term holidays.

Getting to Longridge

Our extensive catchment area is covered by our network of buses which provides pickups and drop-offs for pupils throughout the region.



- 🚦 Main East Coast Rail Line from London which stops at
- 🚦 Berwick upon Tweed Railway Station which is 5 minutes from School
- 🚦 Newcastle International Airport: 1 hour 15 minutes
- 🚦 Edinburgh International Airport: 1 hour 15 minutes
- 🚦 What three words: //suffice.including.expansion



For more information and to discover all that Longridge Towers School has to offer, please visit: www.lts.org.uk
email: enquiries@lts.org.uk or phone: 01289 307584