

## SCHOOL OF THE WEEK...

## WORD FROM THE HEAD



## Future is looking bright

I CAN hardly believe that my second half term at Longhill is over already – it's been such a whirlwind of activity since I arrived at the beginning of June. I am immensely proud and excited to be headteacher at such a lovely school with so many wonderful students who make every day so satisfying and interesting.

It's not only the students who make Longhill so special; the staff are quite exceptional too. Everyone worked extremely hard last year to help our senior students achieve the best set of exam results ever; up by six per cent on last year, making Longhill the second most improved school in the city. This upward trend is one that we are all eager to continue with and build on this year and long into the future.

I'd like to extend a big thank you to all our local primary schools who have made me feel so welcome during my visits over the past seven weeks. I've been fortunate enough to meet many parents during these visits and have been able to speak to them face to face about their aspirations for their children. This is a vitally important time for parents as they consider the all-important next step for their child into secondary education.

Many of our local primary children, particularly those in the Deans Partnership, will be familiar with Longhill. They may have attended one of our sports tournaments or perhaps enjoyed one of our Saturday science workshops. We look forward to welcoming many more of our primary pupils to up-and-coming events and activities at Longhill.

Longhill is a very special place and plays a huge part in the life of the local community. Our students are generous with their time, involving themselves whole-heartedly in community and charity events and initiatives.

I think the spirit of Longhill was exemplified for me at the end of the summer when the whole school community came together on a lovely sunny morning and gathered on the sports field. In the shadow of the beautiful South Downs, students and staff stood together with pride to spell out the name of our wonderful school. The future is looking bright for Longhill and I am so proud to be part of it.

**Kate Williams, headteacher of Longhill High School**



Students proudly spell out their school name



The French exchange



Staff and students at the rugby festival

Everyone works hard to be involved in community

# Where pupils flourish between land and sea

A SCHOOL is set for fresh success with a new headteacher and a big improvement in this year's GCSE results.

In August, Longhill High School celebrated 56 per cent of students achieving A\* to C grades including English and maths – up from 50 per cent last year.

As well as continuing to work hard to achieve great results for their students, Longhill, in Rottingdean, plays an active role in the area and strives to be an asset to its community.

Children from local primary schools recently gathered for a fun afternoon of rugby at the school. The festival of rugby was organised by Longhill PE department's Nick Rolf and Deans School Sports Partnership's Darren Hambrook and sponsored by The Rugby Football Union.

Pupils from Years 3, 4 and 5 came together to learn basic rugby skills and familiarise themselves with the game.

Mr Rolf said: "Rugby is an inspiring activity for these children and we hope that it will help such activities to become a lifestyle choice for them."

**By Andre Rhoden-Paul  
Reporter**

andre.rhoden-paul@theargus.co.uk

"We believe that it teaches them the core values of discipline, respect, enjoyment, sportsmanship and to be a team player.

"These are valuable lessons for school and for the world of work too."

Longhill has a proud history of playing rugby at the school and the school has both male and female teams.

Lucky students, Lois Martin and Daisy Law from Year 7 and Gene Ronaldson and Oscar Lake-Gouhari from Year 8 were chosen to design a bespoke rugby shirt for the Longhill team.

The rugby shirt design is part of an RFU all-schools initiative.

The students spent a day at Hove Rugby Club, where they looked at the history of their school and the area and designed the shirt around those elements to give pride and identity to their team

Oscar said: "It was a chance to mix with other schools and share ideas, to learn about our local his-

## factfile

**FOUR** student were lucky enough to be chosen to design a bespoke rugby shirt for the Longhill team as part of an RFU all-schools initiative

The new shirt incorporates dolphins from the Brighton and Hove coat of arms, which is also on the Longhill crest, together with the Rottingdean windmill and the Longhill colours of blue and yellow.

"The Latin motto 'between the land and sea we flourish' is very apt for our philosophy at Longhill," said Nick Rolf. "The students used the motto and our core values as their inspiration and have done a fantastic job with their design."

The unique rugby shirt will be launched, along with the shirts from other Brighton schools, at a future international rugby match at Twickenham.

tory and what it all means."

Longhill has also developed links internationally, following a French foreign exchange visit.

The school hosted 26 French students and their teachers from Collège les Garettes, in north-western France. The visit proved to be an interesting experience for the French students whose school has 200 students and 20 teachers, roughly five times smaller than Longhill.

The French visitors went to the Royal Pavilion and the Lanes in Brighton and attended lessons, including some they don't have in

France such as drama, music and childcare. They also took part in a Year 7 French class and a PE lesson.

For Longhill pupils the exchange was a valuable opportunity to make new friends and practise their language skills.

Year 9 pupil Faith Howard said: "It was a great experience and interesting to see how good our French was and how good their English was."

The school is now hoping to visit the school in France next year, with skype calls during language lessons in the meantime.