

"I truly believe that Larches saved my education. Before I came here I was content with going into life with no GCSEs. But now, with incredible additional support, I have hope again."

Year 11 Leaver 2023



"I felt as though I have truly flourishes and come out of my shell since coming to Larches. Thankyou."

Year 11 Leaver 2023

"Thank you so much for all your efforts whilst my child has been at Larches. Being at Larches has had a massive impact on her in a positive way and I am truly grateful to each and every one of you!"

Year 9 Parent July 2024

Larches High School

Parent/Carer Information

Booklet

"I think the connection you have with the teacher is unique and nice. It's like having multiple parent figures."

Year 11 Leaver 2023

"When I was told my son was going to Larches I thought the worst. Now I believe it is the best place for him. He has a voice, is heard, they understand him. Thank you for giving my son his voice back and supporting my family."

Year 9 parent June 2022

"The smaller classes are a benefit to me"

Year 11 Leaver 2023

Head teacher: Mrs C Mitchell

Address: Blackpool Road, Preston PR1 6AA

Telephone: 01772 792412

Email: head@larches.lancs.sch.uk

Website: www.larcheshigh.co.uk

Twitter @LarchesHigh



LARCHES
HIGH SCHOOL

Improved Relationships – Improved Opportunities – Improved Life Chances

“Not every child has an equal talent or an equal ability or an equal motivation, but every child has the right to develop their talent, their ability, their motivation” JFK

Welcome to Larches High School

We recognise that our pupils are individuals and that “one size does not fit all”. We also understand that many of our pupils have not had a positive experience of education and we believe that it is our duty to re-engage them with the learning process. This will then enable them to gain the appropriate skills, knowledge and qualifications so that they are able to reintegrate back into mainstream education or on to further education, employment or training.

The school aims to support the pupils whilst they

- learn new ways of managing their behaviour
- improve their self esteem
- understand communication with others
- set goals for their futures
- achieve all they are capable of

At Larches High School pupils are taught in smaller groups than in a mainstream setting.

Staff at Larches School are an experienced and committed team who will work with your son /daughter to ensure that they achieve their potential.

The curriculum offered at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 follows in general that of a mainstream school so that reintegration is as smooth as possible. We work in partnership with Preston Vocational Centre (PVC) and other external providers to ensure our pupils have access to a wide range of vocational options at Key Stage 4. We work alongside Inspira and have a Careers Enterprise Coordinator to provide independent support and advice around applications for college, training and employment.

The school day operates from 8.55am and 2.30pm and we hope that you will support us by ensuring your child is punctual to school and attends every day.

Larches High School is committed to the creation of teaching and learning environments where the learning and social and personal needs of young people are adequately addressed. We aim to empower pupils to achieve in an atmosphere of safety and mutual respect. Everyone is expected to behave in a reasonable way, to accept responsibility for their behaviour and to encourage others to do the same. We hope that you will support us with these aims.

Should you have any queries or concerns around your son/daughters education please do not hesitate to contact us.

Christine Mitchell

Head Teacher

Larches High School Staff

Head Teacher / DSL / PREVENT Lead : Christine Mitchell

Deputy Headteacher / SENCO / SLT : Amy Shorrock

Deputy Headteacher / SLT : Anita Shaw

School Business Manager / SLT: Zoe Ellis

Attendance / Pupil Support Manager / DSL / SLT: Chrissy McLean

Attendance Manager : Lorraine Morrow

Pupil Support Manager / DSL / SLT: Eileen Lumsden

Behaviour Support: Chelsey Reed

Behaviour Support: Dave Alveston

Behaviour Support:

Lead Teacher for English: Val Evans

English / Drama Teacher: Paul Owen

English / Media Teacher: Mathew Purnell

Science Teacher : Jolene Burns

Science Teacher : Sukhbinder Mahay

Lead Teacher for Maths: Daniel Wilson

Maths Teacher : Emil Bowe

Maths Teacher: Lydia Dougill

Personal Development / Careers : Sharon Settle

PE Teacher / EVC : Darren Magill

Humanities / PE Teacher : Ian Hughes

Art / Design Technology Teacher: Erica Sutton-Little

Art / Design Technology Teacher: Simon Dewhurst

Food Technology: Bryony Nettleton

Hair and Beauty:

Construction Instructor: Michael Harper

SEN Teacher: Olivia Cawley

Cover Supervisor : Karen Sanderson
Teaching Assistant : Michelle Sheridan-Wood
Teaching Assistant : Vanessa Whalley
Teaching Assistant : Mark Pennington–Hurst
Teaching Assistant : Sarah Hallmark
Teaching Assistant : Sarah Webster
Teaching Assistant : Amanda Cumpsty
Teaching Assistant : Mark Holbrook
Teaching Assistant : Halim Saoud
Teaching Assistant : Opeyemi Akingbade
Teaching Assistant : Ivor Davies

Pupil Induction : Maxine Watson
Pupil Intervention : Emma Whitehead
Pupil Intervention : Amanda Crozier
Pupil Intervention : Aimee Lloyd

Family Support / Attendance Assistant : Natalie Thomas
Family Support / Attendance Assistant : Bethany Welsh
Family Support / Attendance Assistant : Lauren Williams

Admin Support / Admissions / Exams: Sharon Romain
Admin Support: Lizzy Hart
Reception : Antonia Balint

Site Supervisor: Mick Llewellyn
Site Supervisor Assistant: Andrew Kelly

Larches High School Positive Behaviour Expectations

All pupils will

- Wear the correct uniform
- Arrive on time
- Attend all lessons
- Listen and make positive behaviour choices
- Use polite language
- Look after our school
- Be kind
- Follow school values

All staff will

- Build positive relationships
- Meet and greet pupils
- Recognise and reward
- Listen, Engage and challenge
- Support and celebrate success
- Participate and value restorative processes

Positive behaviour will be recognised by

- Green slips and points
- Phone calls, texts, emails and postcards home
- Rewards
- Value Reward Trips

Positive behaviour will be encouraged by

- Listening
- Guiding and supporting
- Resolving and reflecting

Consequences will be

- Clear
- Fair
- Consistent

We expect high standards of behaviour within school as well as whilst pupils travel to and from Larches High School. Larches High School will use restorative approaches as part of their behaviour management policy.

The Larches High School expects Parents / Carers to:

- Support the school with attendance and punctuality by informing the school of any absences or lateness
- Inform the school of any factors which may affect the behaviour of their child
- Support their child by attending regular review, parents open afternoons and other meetings
- Be aware of and support the Larches High School Behaviour Policy

WHAT	WHY	EVIDENCE
Communicate appropriately	Everybody has a right to learn and achieve	Everybody uses appropriate language and speaks calmly and politely Everybody listens and expects to be listened to Everybody is supported and enabled to grow and make progress
Make positive contributions to learning and school	Everybody has a right to learn / teach and achieve	Everybody is on time: uses the clock or wears a watch Everybody stays in lessons /school until the end Staff should be well prepared by planning appropriate challenging lessons and providing regular feedback on progress Everybody keeps hands, feet, objects and personal comments to themselves Everybody looks after the buildings, grounds, displays and equipment All visitors are welcomed
Follow guidance given	We all have the right to feel safe in school	Everybody follows the rules for health and safety Everybody is in the right place at the right time Everybody behaves appropriately and behavioural issues are resolved through discussion Everybody is dressed appropriately All mobile devices are handed in All food and drink is consumed in appropriate places and at appropriate times – Chewing gum, fizzy drinks, energy drinks and sweets are not permitted. All concerns as regards bullying will be taken seriously, investigated and appropriate action taken

WHAT	WHY	EVIDENCE
Proactively develop positive relationships with all pupils	Improved relationships Improved life chances	Staff develop positive working relationships with all pupils. Staff meet and greet pupils as they arrive at the lessons. Staff engage with pupils in unstructured times. Staff plan appropriate activities for form groups and hold weekly reviews of green slips, red slips and attendance. Staff engage in restorative approaches. Pupils' behaviour is managed calmly and as a staff team. Staff show an interest and engage with all pupils. Offer wider curricular and extra-curricular opportunities
Have high expectations of all pupils which match their individual learning and emotional needs	Improved opportunities Improved life chances	Staff celebrate pupil success. Plan challenging and differentiated lessons. Use pupil entry information to inform planning. All pupils make progress and achieve. All pupils are engaged in their learning. Meet individual pupil need via targeted interventions.

All pupils are expected at the start of the day to hand in any items which may cause problems with behaviour during the day eg phones, tobacco, lighters, large sums of money, bus passes. Staff have the right to ask pupils to allow them to search them for any item banned under the school rules and then to search them and their possessions.

Larches High School has a **NO SMOKING POLICY**. Staff and pupils are not allowed to smoke/vape on site at any time. This also applies when pupils are off site for curriculum or extra curricular activities and when being transported to and from school. Support and advice will be given to pupils who are smokers to help them.

Larches High School has a policy of Care and Control where learners present a danger to the building, themselves or other members of the school community. See Policy on our school website.

E-Safety is addressed through PSHE and ICT lessons. Having the skills to stay online safely is vitally important within a digital age. Frequent changes and developments can often leave parents and pupils exposed to risks.

Our E Safety curriculum covers all aspects of E Safety from selecting appropriate passwords, grooming and exploitation awareness and the dangers of social media. Parent / Carer support sessions are held termly within school. All resources used are from CEOP (www.thinkuknow.co.uk). Within school there is a strict filtering system in place limiting websites that pupils are able to access.

If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

Admissions and Reintegration

A designated group of staff coordinate all the admissions into Larches High School and the reintegration of pupils back to mainstream/specialist Provision or on to further education, employment or training.

All pupils will spend up to 3 half days on entry to Larches High School with this team of staff so that all initial baseline assessments can be completed so we can monitor your son /daughters progress and achievement. These days also give pupils time to understand our school rules, meet their teaching staff and their class group.

Contact between Home and School

Absence: If your son / daughter is unwell and unable to attend school for eg a medical or dental appointment please ring the school on 01772 792412 Ext.219

Achievement and Progress:

We will contact you regularly to discuss your child's progress, to give you positive feedback or discuss concerns. A termly open afternoon will enable you to meet teaching staff and discuss progress and future plans. Termly tracker reports will be provided for you. Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss your son / daughter's progress.

We hope to work closely with you to enable your child to be successful and ask that you contact us directly if you feel that there is anything we should be made aware of e.g. change of circumstances, medical concerns.

Uniform

All pupils at Larches High School are expected to wear our school uniform to a high standard. We appreciate your support in maintaining a high standard of dress.

It consists of:

- Black school trousers or skirt
- White shirt or white polo shirt
- Navy blue sweatshirt
- Black shoes / plain black trainers

Items of uniform can be purchased from most supermarket chains. Blue sweatshirts can be purchased from school.

Please note that jewellery needs to be kept to a minimum: ie a watch and one pair of stud earrings and that any facial / mouth jewellery (including tongue bars) is not allowed. Nails need to be kept to a short length.

PE Kit: Pupils need to bring trainers with them along with a plain top, black shorts or tracksuit bottoms.

School Day Timings

8.55am – 9.05am	Registration/Form
9.05am – 9.50am	Lesson 1
9.50am – 10.35am	Lesson 2
10.35am – 10.45am	Break
10.45am – 11.30am	Lesson 3
11.30am – 12.15pm	Lesson 4
12.15pm – 12.45pm	Lunch
1.00pm – 1.45pm	Lesson 5
1.45pm – 2.30pm	Lesson 6
2.30pm	Home time for children

School Term Dates 2025/2026

AUTUMN TERM 2025

Re-open to students	Wednesday 3 rd September 2025
Mid Term Closure	Monday 27 th October – Friday 31 st October 2025 (inclusive)
Closure after school on	Friday 19 th December 2025

SPRING TERM 2026

Re-open to students	Tuesday 6 th January 2026
Mid Term Closure	Monday 16 th February – Friday 20 th February 2026 (inclusive)
Closure after school on	Friday 27 th March 2026

SUMMER TERM 2026

Re-opens	Tuesday 14 th April 2026
May Day Closure	Monday 4 th May 2026
Mid Term Closure	Monday 25 th May- Friday 29 th May 2026 (inclusive)
Closure after school on	Friday 17 th July 2026

Staff Inset days: Monday 1st & Tuesday 2nd September 2025, Monday 5th January 2026, Monday 13th April 2026 and Monday 20th July 2026

Safeguarding and Health and Safety

The Governing Body at Larches High School and the school have high standards as regards Safeguarding, Child Protection and Health and Safety. Our policies are available to view on the school website. Our Designated Senior Safeguarding Leads are: C Mitchell (PREVENT), C Mclean, E Lumsden and L Morrow.

The Governing Body aims to

- Establish and maintain a safe and healthy environment throughout the school and to establish and maintain safe working procedures amongst staff and pupils
- Lay down procedures to follow in case of an accident
- To teach safety as part of the school curriculum as appropriate

- To provide and maintain adequate welfare facilities and to make recommendations to the LEA as appropriate.

If any pupil has any concerns or is worried about how they are treated in school, then they should speak to the Head Teacher or Deputy Head teacher. Their concern or worry will be investigated sensitively and appropriately.

Leaving the School site

Staff at Larches High School have a duty of care for all pupils. If any pupil voluntarily leaves the school site the following actions will occur. The pupil will be asked to return and given 10 minutes in which to do so. If they return within 10 minutes they will discuss with a member of staff the reasons they left the school site and will be readmitted. If the pupil does not return parents /carers will be notified who may choose to notify the police. If parents / carers are unavailable Larches High School will contact the police.

Healthy Eating

We are a healthy eating school and therefore promote this approach with all our pupils.

At break drinks, toast and fruit are offered free of charge.

Lunches are ordered on arrival, prepared in our school kitchen by our Catering Manager.

Pupils are not allowed to bring chewing gum, fizzy drinks, sweets or energy drinks into school.

Listening to your concerns

We care about what you think.

At Larches High School we always aim to put the child first. We do our best and have high aspirations for all of our pupils. Your views help us plan for the future and we welcome your feedback, positive or negative.

If you are unhappy with the way your son / daughter is being treated or any of our actions or inactions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We understand that it can be difficult to challenge a school however we welcome your input and will respect and listen to your views.

We will always deal with your concern or complaint honestly and politely

We will look into the concern or complaint thoroughly, fairly and as quickly as possible

We will keep you up to date with what we are doing

We will apologise if we have made a mistake

We will tell you what we are going to do to put things right

If you have a concern about anything please contact us by telephone, in person or in writing. If any of these are difficult for you a friend / advisor can speak to us on your behalf. Our aim is to resolve concerns and complaints as quickly and effectively as possible. Most complaints or concerns will be sorted out quickly either by putting things right or explaining our actions and decisions.

If you have already told us about a concern but are not satisfied with our response you may wish to make a complaint. Please contact the school and we will provide you with the relevant paperwork and a copy of our complaints procedure.