



Vertical Tutor Groups



Information Booklet

#BELongClose



"I like being back in school, it gives me something to do in the week and it's fun and enjoyable. The Vertical Tutor Groups are great because there is a huge variety of people to talk to. LCS has a brilliant variety of teachers who all love their subjects, and they all push us to do our best. My best moment was getting an excellent mark in Science. I got a 7 embedded!" Freddie, Year 7

What are vertical tutor groups?

Tutor groups are organised into groups of students of different ages – Y7-11 . It is a system that is already established in schools nationwide. The Long Close School Senior Leadership Team believe there are significant advantages to this structure.

What are the advantages?

Tutors are the key to learning as a whole school process, and vertical tutoring will provide them with additional time and structure to achieve this. Learning relationships between people (student, parents and tutors) are also the basis for successful outcomes.

Other schools already using vertical tutoring report:

- A better family atmosphere in the school where everyone is approachable. Perceived obstacles to interacting with students of different ages have been removed.
- Peer mentoring happens naturally as older students talk to younger students about things such as option choices, preparing for exams, post 16 choices.
- Smaller year group clusters in each tutor group mean more time for tutors to mentor students as individuals about personal as well as learning matters.
- Students are provided with better leadership opportunities.



"I like being back at school because I have made new friends! I like the Vertical Tutor Groups because I can make friends with people in the older years. The best thing about this term is coming back to school as lock down got really boring! LCS is a very good school because the teachers care about your future and look after and care about you very much." Arvienne, Year 7

How are Vertical Tutor Groups structured?

In compiling the groups, students personalities, interests, abilities and friendships are considered in order to create balanced groups and avoid anyone being isolated.

Tutor time only accounts for about 6% of the total school day so students still see other friends in lessons and are still be based in year group social areas for break and lunch times.

Assemblies are held with vertical tutor groups attending them, but there are occasions when an entire year group may need to come together for specific events or information sharing e.g. Y9 Options, Y10 Work Experience Launch, Post-16 HE events.

Research, and experience, suggests that older children are a positive influence on their younger peers. An in-group loyalty develops as students get to know each other and grow in confidence. Tutors will still have responsibility, supported by the Pastoral Leaders, for making sure a strong tutor group 'bond' is maintained.

Depending on the size of each Year Group, we average around 8 tutor groups and each tutor group has about 12 students made up of clusters of approximately 2/4 students from each age group.

The Advantages of Vertical Tutor Groups (VTG)

The VTG structure enables staff to get to know students, to recognise their achievements and address their concerns more effectively. Tutors can focus on small clusters of students as they approach significant points in their school life, for example, when Y11 students require academic mentoring the tutor only has to offer guidance to 3/4 students instead of 17.

In VTG students can learn a lot from each other. When Year 7 students start the school they will meet and get to know older students which reduces some of the fear they may have about being the youngest in the school again.

When students coming to the end of KS3 or 4 are discussing their plans, older students can share their perspective on subjects and choices in an informal rather than a contrived way. In tutor time, and especially the opportunities for discussion of key issues and current affairs, students will learn to listen to, respect and learn from the views of others.

The structure also fosters a sense of loyalty and responsibility to others in the Form. In this way, vertical tutoring helps to develop positive values and a stronger community ethos.

Very rarely in the rest of our lives do we operate only with people of the same age as ourselves, so VTGs can be a good preparation for life beyond school.



"My first day at Long Close School was the best because I made lots of friends from different years. I like being back in school, interacting with friends and making lots of new friends. I like the KS3 bubbles, they allow us to socialise with other year groups and they keep us safe. The school is very kind a caring environment and everyone is very welcoming. Someone is always happy to help your figure things outs." says Suryansh.

Get in touch

Long Close School is Slough's only independent school for boys and girls age 2-16 years.

We are currently holding Virtual Open Mornings and 1-2-1 Tours of the school.

Email

admissions@longcloseschool.co.uk

Phone number

01753 520095

Website

www.longcloseschool.co.uk

