

1960

How it all began ...



Longsands Official Opening, 1960

When it opened, the school had four year groups accommodating 600 boys and girls. The fifth year group was started in 1961 for those pupils staying on beyond school leaving age (then 15) who were taking the GCE at O level.

The school's four houses were Rutherford (after physicist Ernest Rutherford), Britten (after composer Benjamin Britten), Eliot (after poet Thomas Stearns Eliot) and Moore (after sculptor Henry Moore).

The name 'Longsands' was decided after Mr C.F. Tebbutt explained that Longsands was the name of the field on which the school was built. The cost of the buildings and all site works were executed at an approximate £184,300.

September 1960 saw the first ever intake of students at 'Longsands School', a secondary modern, under Headmaster Harold K Whiting assisted by Deputy Head Mr Denny and Head Mistress Miss K C Flowerdew.



At the official opening on 21 March 1960, a speech was given by Mr Kenneth F Thompson, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education.

The School Motto '*DONATA REPONERE LAETI*' '*rejoice to repay the gift*', was an important message that is still relevant today, although often interpreted as '*we are happy to repay the attention we have received*'.

The school crest is made up of sheaves of corn representing the agricultural area which the school serves. The water represents the River Great Ouse on which St Neots stands and the book represents learning.



Class of 1975



First Staff Photograph, 1960

Subsequently, Longsands became a comprehensive school and acquired a Sixth Form after it was heavily expanded. This expansion came in 1969 when Longsands merged with Bushmead Secondary School and the school roll doubled overnight. (Bushmead then became a Primary School.)

It was known as 'Longsands Community College' until the late 1990s before being shortened to 'Longsands College'.