

## Principal's Message

As we approach the end of the autumn term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly successful year.

Together, we have achieved so much, and as we look forward to 2026, there is a great deal to celebrate and even more positives on the horizon.

### Recognising Excellence: IB MYP Re-evaluation

We were absolutely delighted with the outcomes of last week's IB MYP re-evaluation visit. It is always a pleasure when visitors and inspectors experience firsthand what makes our school truly special.



The reviewers used powerful words to describe our academy, including inclusive, safe, purposeful, progressive, and amazing. These descriptors go to the heart of our vision: empowering our students to participate successfully in a democratic society. I was also particularly pleased to see our dedication to developing global mindedness recognised in their feedback.

## A Year of Enrichment

Our calendar has been full of vibrant experiences that bring learning to life. This year alone, we have seen:

### Academic & Future Milestones:

University visits to Cambridge and Christ Church Canterbury, Science workshops, and a highly successful Futures Day event focusing on preparing our students for their future career pathways.

### Creativity & Sport:

Inspiring musical concerts, high-energy sporting competitions, and our international-inspired cooking event which saw students trying to create dishes from around the world.

### Global Connections:

Our quest to develop international mindedness has flourished. Students have engaged with penpals in France, celebrated Japanese culture across the curriculum, and we have been honoured to welcome esteemed colleagues to share in our academy's excellence from Japan, Korea, Pakistan, and China.



## Looking Ahead to 2026

As we move into the New Year, the opportunities ahead are incredibly exciting. We are already preparing to welcome visiting students and colleagues from Holland and China.

Furthermore, our personal development programme continues to expand with the upcoming ski trip to Italy, the life-changing volunteering experience in Borneo, and the continuation of our popular Duke of Edinburgh's programme.

As Principal, I feel truly blessed and proud to lead this wonderful community of learners. We improve each day, and our journey together has been immensely rewarding. While I see the excellent work our staff and students produce daily, it is even more encouraging to hear such positive feedback about our academy from the wider world.

My promise to you is that we will continue to leave no stone unturned as we work towards "achieving beyond expectations".

I hope that the coming weeks offer you moments of rest and precious time with your loved ones. I wish you a peaceful Christmas and a very happy New Year, and I look forward to being back in touch in January.

## MYP Re-evaluation

On 11th December and 12th December, Leigh academy Longfield undertook an IB re-evaluation. This is a process when experts from around the world visit the academy to review our practice, identify strengths and suggest next steps moving forward. We have found this to be a genuinely reflective experience and are pleased that this involved the whole school community.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Commending our teaching and learning, inclusivity, excellent resources, personal development, leadership at all levels, the excellent academic attainment and character of our students; as well as the commitment evident amongst all stakeholders to use education to make a better world. All of these elements have been noted as strong practice, that should be shared as good practice with schools across the world. We are delighted with this feedback and we want to commend all students and families, as it was noted that the children were exceptional role models.

If any parents/carers are interested in attending an upcoming MYP parent group meeting, please contact [joe.lane@longfield.latrust.org.uk](mailto:joe.lane@longfield.latrust.org.uk).



## Design Technology (DT) phone pouch creations

This module as part of a textile project, year 9 students have been designing mobile phone pouches that are inspired by pop art.

We have been very impressed with the student's creativity and craftsmanship; with some beautiful designs being made. We hope they enjoy using them!



## Food Preparation Festive Cooking Projects

In the run up to the festive season, students in all year groups of Food Preparation have been making some delicious treats for the holidays - they look exceptionally tasty, we hope they enjoyed eating them afterwards!



## Centre Coffee Mornings

We were delighted with the success of the Spectrum Centre's annual coffee mornings for both parents/carers, and for local senior citizens. Our students did a fantastic job of making all of our visitors feel welcome, socialising, engaging in Christmas activities and serving delicious cups of tea and coffee.



We would like to express our profound gratitude to everyone who has made these events possible, including the staff from both our Spectrum Centre, our local Community Wardens and the staff from local care homes.



## Christmas Jumper Day

Our annual Christmas Jumper Day appeal has raised over £200 for Save The Children. Thank you to everyone who donated and took part in this wonderful event!



## BEBRAS Competition

We are absolutely thrilled to celebrate the dedication and success of the 22 students who took part in the challenging BEBRAS Computational Thinking Challenge this November!



The competition tests essential problem-solving skills, and our students demonstrated incredible logic and determination. Each of them has received a certificate celebrating their success.

A special congratulations goes to Freddie, who achieved a Gold award! This exceptional score places Freddie in the top 10% nationally, a brilliant achievement that reflects his computational talent. Well done to every student who participated - you are all shining examples of computing excellence!



## Upcoming events

- 5/1/26 - **INSET Day - no students in school**
- 6/1/26 - First day of Module 3: All students return for module 3
- 16/1/26 - Careers Fair (*An event for our students only. Students will be taken down at a set time from their lessons to attend*)
- 19/1/26 - Year 10 Parents Information Event
- 22/1/26 - Year 11 Parents Consultation Evening (in-person)
- 29/1/26 - Year 13 Parents Consultation Evening (in-person)
- 12/2/26 - Year 9 Parents Consultation Evening (in-person)
- 12/2/26 - Last day of Module 3
- 13/2/26 - **INSET Day - no students in school**

View the [academy term dates](#) on our website

## Academy Notices

Module 3 will begin for students on 6th January 2026, as Monday 5th is a staff INSET day. We would like to wish all our students, staff and their families a restful break.



## Important Contacts

### General Enquiries

[info@longfield.latrust.org.uk](mailto:info@longfield.latrust.org.uk)

### Safeguarding Team

[safeguarding@longfield.latrust.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@longfield.latrust.org.uk)

### SEN Team

[senco@longfield.latrust.org.uk](mailto:senco@longfield.latrust.org.uk)

### Attendance

[attendance@longfield.latrust.org.uk](mailto:attendance@longfield.latrust.org.uk)

### Other Contacts

[leighacademylongfield.org.uk/contact-us/](http://leighacademylongfield.org.uk/contact-us/)

## Follow our Socials

We post regular updates about events and other academy news on our social media channels. Are you following us on Facebook and Instagram?

	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/leighacademylongfield">leighacademylongfield</a>
	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/leighacademylongfield">leighacademylongfield</a>

## Safeguarding & Wellbeing

At Leigh Academy Longfield, the safety and wellbeing of children at school, at home and online is our priority.

You can find additional information about our safeguarding practices, and what to do if you are worried about a child, on our website.

[Click here for our safeguarding website.](#)