

The Longfield Legends

5th January 2026 - 23rd January 2026

Issue No. 31

Shaping Futures: Our Annual Careers Fair

The academy was buzzing with ambition and opportunity last week as we hosted our highly anticipated Annual Careers Fair. The event was a cornerstone of our commitment to ensuring every student is well-prepared for their next steps, providing a vibrant platform for them to explore a diverse range of industries and educational pathways.



The theatre was transformed into a hub of professional networking, featuring dozens of exhibitors including local and national employers, higher and further education providers and businesses offering various forms of pathways such as apprenticeship routes.



Students across the academy had the chance to circulate, engage in meaningful conversations, and ask the "big questions" about entry requirements and prospects.



The impact of the day was clear to see. Many students experienced genuine "lightbulb moments" as they discovered career paths they hadn't previously considered. By connecting classroom learning to real-world applications, the fair helped students understand the value of their current studies and the vast array of possibilities awaiting them.



An event of this scale would not be possible without the incredible support of our community. We would like to extend a massive thank you to all the business partners, institutions, and volunteers who gave up their valuable time to inspire our students. Your expertise and enthusiasm have a lasting impact on our students' aspirations.

We wish to remind students that they can make full use of their Unifrog account (which they can access with their "Google Sign In"). The platform contains a huge range of resources on a wide selection of careers and industries, making it a perfect one-stop-shop for all future planning. It also has a wide range of information about the routes available, such as apprenticeships.



Panto Success for James

We are absolutely delighted to celebrate the success of James Sweeney in year 7, who over the festive period appeared in the pantomime "Aladdin" at The Orchard in Dartford. James appeared in a total of 19 shows. Congratulations to James!



Bank of England Visit Longfield Post-16

We were privileged to welcome Paula Bolt, a representative from the Bank of England, to the academy this week to speak with our Post-16 students. This was an incredible opportunity for our young people to engage with a professional from the heart of the UK's financial system and gain a deeper understanding of the world of economics.



Beyond the technicalities of finance, Paula also shared valuable insights into the diverse career pathways available within the Bank of England. From data analysis and research to policy-making and communications, our students were encouraged to see that the world of finance offers opportunities for a wide range of talents and interests.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Paula for her time and for providing such an inspiring and educational experience for our senior students. It is partnerships like these that help our students feel confident and informed as they prepare for their own "next steps" in the professional world.

International Innovation: Welcoming Our Dutch Colleagues!

On 22 January, our academy was proud to host a delegation of educators from The Netherlands. The visit marked a significant milestone in our commitment to global collaboration, as our visitors spent the morning deep-diving into our digital strategy and touring our state-of-the-art facilities.

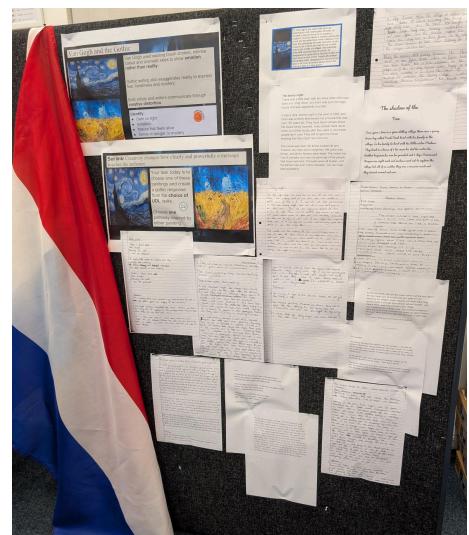
The delegation was particularly impressed by how seamlessly we integrate technology into the daily learning experience, allowing for a more dynamic curriculum. For our staff, it was a fantastic opportunity to exchange pedagogical insights with international peers who are equally passionate about the future of education.



To celebrate our guests, groups of students across the academy immersed themselves in Dutch-inspired cultural activities, some examples included:

- **English:** Our Year 7 students channeled their inner authors, using the swirling, emotive landscapes of Vincent van Gogh's paintings as inspiration for atmospheric Gothic creative writing pieces.
- **Design & Technology:** The DT department was in full bloom as students practiced their textile skills, crafting beautiful handmade felt tulips, a vibrant nod to one of the most famous symbols of The Netherlands.

The enthusiasm shown by our students was remarkable. By engaging with Dutch art, history, and craft, they didn't just learn about another country - they developed the **international mindedness** that is so crucial for success in our modern world.



This visit is just the beginning. We are already in discussions about how we can build on the success of this visit to create **long-term international collaborative projects**. We envision future digital exchanges, shared projects and other exciting opportunities for our students.

Hosting these educators has enriched our school community, reminding us that while we may be miles apart, our commitment to excellence is universal.



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

Important Contacts

General Enquiries
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Safeguarding Team
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SEN Team
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Other Contacts
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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?

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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.](#)