

Leigh Academy Longfield Awarded Prestigious Inclusion Quality Mark

Leigh Academy Longfield is immensely proud to announce that it has officially been awarded the prestigious Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) Inclusive School Award, following a rigorous assessment. The IQM award recognises schools that demonstrate an exceptional commitment to equality, diversity, and fostering an environment where every student can thrive regardless of their starting point or individual needs.

Following an extensive evaluation process that involved learning walks, book looks, meetings with staff, parents, governors, and students, the IQM Assessor highlighted the deeply embedded ethos of care and high ambition that defines our academy family.

"There are not enough words to convey the warmth of feeling, the sense of family, the kindness, the care, the respect, and complete belief in inclusion demonstrated by every single member of the Longfield community."

– IQM Assessor

The assessment gave special recognition to our small school college model, which ensures that every student is **"seen, heard, valued, and known."** It also highlighted our specialist

provision, The Spectrum Centre, as well as the seamless, "invisible inclusion" that takes place across all mainstream classrooms through meticulous personalised support strategies.

"I went to another school and when I compare the two I realise that it is much better here – they focus on us and how we progress."

– student to the IQM Assessor

Highlights of the report include:

- **Strong Sense of Community:** The assessor observed how senior leaders and staff welcome students at the front gates every morning and to their lessons, creating a safe, caring environment where students feel respected.
- **Exceptional Aspirations:** The report celebrated stories of remarkable student growth, noting examples ranging from significant reading progress, to a now Sixth Form student who joined the school initially non-communicative, and is now applying to study medicine at university.
- **Equal Access:** The assessor praised our commitment to ensure 100% of students participate in enrichment and extracurricular activities, supported by initiatives like dedicated academy minibuses for after-school transport and adapted arrangements for accessible participation.

- **Positive Student & Parent Feedback:** Parents described the academy as life-changing, with one parent sharing that staff "get to know you as parents and it really is just lovely here." Students unanimously praised their teachers, describing the academy as "a safe space where you can be yourself and don't feel judged."

In light of the academy's exceptional practice, the IQM assessor has formally recommended that Leigh Academy Longfield apply for Centre of Excellence status – a milestone that places the academy among an elite group of benchmark schools nationwide.

Commenting on the achievement, Principal Felix Donkor shared:

"Inclusion is not just a policy at Leigh Academy Longfield; it is the fundamental engine that drives everything we do. We are delighted that the assessor experienced the true warmth, ambition, and 'family' ethos of our academy."



Malaysian Ministers of Education Tour Longfield's Exceptional Digital Strategy

Leigh Academy Longfield was proud to host a high-profile international delegation, as Ministers of Education from Malaysia, supported by representatives from Google and their delivery partners in Malaysia, visited our academy to observe our leading Digital Strategy in practice.

The visit focused on how the academy leverages cutting-edge technology and digital systems to transform classroom experiences, streamline school operations, and enhance student outcomes. Guided by our outstanding Sixth Form Ambassadors, the delegation completed a comprehensive tour of the academy, stepping into a wide array of lessons to see our digital strategy in action.

Highlights of the Ministerial Visit:

During their time at the academy, the delegates explored five core aspects of Longfield's digital strategy:

- **Seamless Teaching & Learning:** Observing how Google tools and digital platforms are integrated directly into daily lessons.
- **Chromebook & Class Tools in Action:** Examining specific, high-impact use cases for student Chromebooks alongside classroom management tools.
- **Streamlined Management:** Learning about our robust infrastructure and best practices for managing

devices at scale across the entire academy.

- **AI in the Classroom:** Discovering practical, age-appropriate applications of Artificial Intelligence that support personalised learning and digital literacy.
- **Administrative AI:** Gaining insight into how AI tools are utilised behind the scenes to optimise workflows and reduce staff workload.

Future-Ready Leaders:

Our visiting dignitaries expressed immense praise for both the confidence of our students and the sophisticated integration of technology across all key stages.

Particular credit goes to our Sixth Form Ambassadors, who represented the academy with exceptional professionalism, answering questions and showcasing the real-world impact of our digital vision.

This international visit underlines Leigh Academy Longfield's position as a trailblazer in modern education. By continuing to innovate with Google and emerging technologies, we remain dedicated to equipping our students with the skills, digital fluency, and global mindset needed to thrive in the modern world.



Leigh Academy Longfield Sixth Form Open Evening

Is your child currently in Year 11? Come and see our **OUTSTANDING** Post-16 provision at our **Sixth Form Open Evening!**

Our team of experienced teachers will be present to showcase the key the wide range of courses we offer, the entry requirements for those and the careers and further education opportunities available to the students as a result. We are very proud to say that our Sixth Form provision was judged as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in the last two inspections.

Open Evening

No booking required:

 Thursday 5th November

 4.30pm-6.30pm

 Principal's Talk at 5.45pm



Thursday 5th November 2026

4.30pm – 6.30pm (Principal's Talk: 5.45pm)

Join us at our Post 16 Open Evening for information on the pathways and subjects on offer in our Outstanding Sixth Form, enrichment opportunities, and a tour of our fantastic facilities.

Main Road, Longfield, Kent, DA3 7PH
leighacademylongfield.org.uk/admissions



We look forward to welcoming you at the Open Evening. Should you have any questions in advance of the event, you are most welcome to get in touch with us via post16@longfield.latrust.org.uk

New Director and Deputy Director of Post-16

We are delighted to announce key new appointments to our Post-16 leadership team.

We welcome **Mrs Shepley** as our new **Director of Post-16**. Mrs Shepley brings exceptional expertise, vision, and dedication to higher education and career pathways. She is passionate about ensuring every Sixth Form student receives an outstanding education, reaches their full academic potential, and develops into a confident global citizen ready for their next steps.



Joining her in leading the sixth form, **Mr Booker-Keep** has been appointed as **Deputy Director of Post-16**.



Under their guidance, our Post-16 provision will continue to embody our core academy values of Respect, Aspiration and Care, empowering our young adults to achieve their highest goals.

Please join us in offering a huge congratulations to both Mrs Shepley and Mr Booker-Keep on their appointments!

Mr Rutherford Appointed Galileo Head of Year (KS3)

We are delighted to announce that Mr Rutherford has been appointed as the new Head of Year for KS3 (years 7-9) Galileo College!

Bringing a wealth of passion and experience, Mr Rutherford is looking forward to leading our Galileo students through an ambitious and successful academic year, upholding our core academy values of Respect, Aspiration and Care.

Please join us in giving Mr Rutherford a warm welcome to the Galileo College team.



Inspiring the Future: Alumni Kyla Returns to Share Pathway to Success

We were delighted to welcome back Longfield alumni Kyla, who returned to deliver an inspiring and insightful presentation to our Year 11 and Year 13 students.

Drawing from her own journey since graduating, Kyla offered invaluable, real-world advice to our students as they prepare for their next big milestones. Her session focused on three key areas:

- **Navigating Destinations & University:** Kyla discussed the higher education application process, sharing tips on how to choose the right university and course.
- **Mastering Revision Skills:** Students gained practical revision strategies to maximise study time and manage exam stress.
- **Quality Work Experience:** Kyla emphasised the power of proactive networking and shared actionable steps on how to stand out to potential employers.

A huge thank you to Kyla for taking the time to give back to the Longfield community and embody our core value of Aspiration!



Bringing 960 Years of History to Life: The Battle of Hastings Live Workshop

Year 7 students at Leigh Academy Longfield enjoyed a special live History workshop celebrating the 960th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings. The interactive experience brought the events of 1066 to life, immersing students in the story of the Norman Conquest and exploring the key individuals, decisions and turning points that shaped English history.

Through engaging storytelling and visual representations of the past, students developed their historical understanding while making meaningful connections between evidence, cause and consequence. The workshop also supported our IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) approach, encouraging students to think critically, ask questions and explore how historians interpret the past.

It was a fantastic opportunity to bring nearly a thousand years of history into the present, inspiring our young historians to deepen their curiosity about the past and understand its lasting significance today.



Trafalgar Day Parade

On Sunday 11th October, Gravesend hosted this year's regional Trafalgar Day Parade, bringing West Kent Sea Cadet units together for a memorable celebration. A special congratulations goes to Year 10 student Marc, who took part in his very first Trafalgar Day parade. Serving as part of the Guard, Marc represented the unit with exceptional drill standards, performing brilliantly throughout the ceremony while also being recognised as a skilled marksman. It was a fantastic achievement for Marc and a superb showcase for the Gravesend unit as hosts.



Y10 Information Evening

Thank you to all who joined our Year 10 Information Evening on Thursday 15th October, delivered by Ms Taylor and Mr Jarvis. The session highlighted the strength of our home-school partnership, focusing on building strong GCSE foundations, utilising active revision techniques, attendance insights, the Work Experience Programme and post-16 pathways. We look forward to helping every student achieve beyond expectations!

Globe Players Visit

On Friday 16 October, our Year 7 and Year 8 students were treated to a lively and engaging performance of What You Will by the Globe Players. Designed as an entertaining introduction to Shakespeare, the show brought the Bard's classic themes, comedy, and characters to life in an accessible, fast-paced format. The performance sparked plenty of laughter and gave students a fantastic insight into the magic of live theatre. It was an excellent opportunity to ignite their enthusiasm for literature as they begin their secondary school journey. A huge thank you to the Globe Players for delivering such an inspiring end to the week!



'No Limits' Conference

We were delighted to be invited to Kent Virtual School's annual 'No Limits' conference. This fantastic event had a focus on raising aspirations with a number of excellent workshops and guest speakers, including a talk by Alfie Watts - winner of Race Across the World. Alongside this, students were given the chance to visit the "marketplace" which housed a number of different stalls linked to different careers pathways.

Year 11 & 13 Half Term School

Over the October holiday, we will be running an array of interventions for year 11 and 13 students, who will be sitting their exams later this year. Students have already been invited to attend sessions published by Mr Jarvis, and communication will be sent to parents/carers to this effect.

Last year, we found that our Half Term and Saturday interventions were very well attended and popular with students. If you have been invited to join a session, we encourage you to take part so that you do not miss out on the opportunities provided.

Year 11 OCT Half-term timetable

Mon 19th Oct AM	Mon 19th Oct PM	Tues 20th Oct AM	Tues 20th Oct PM	Wed 21st Oct AM	Wed 21st Oct PM	Thurs 22nd Oct AM	Thurs 22nd Oct PM	Fri 23rd Oct AM	Fri 23rd Oct PM	Mon 26th Oct AM	Mon 26th Oct PM	Tues 27th Oct AM	Tues 27th Oct PM
9.30-11.30	12-2pm	9.30-11.30	12-2pm	9.30-11.30	12-2pm	9.30-11.30	12-2pm	9.30-11.30	12-2pm	9.30-11.30	12-2pm	9.30-11.30	12-2pm
Food & Cookery Ms Atkins B104	Food & Cookery Ms Atkins B104	DIT Ms Baxter B103	DIT Ms Baxter B103	11P1 Biology Ms Liasu B106b	11P2 Maths Ms Umeokoli B104	Geography Mr Aldridge B104	Geography Mr Peace B104	History Mr Pearson B003	History Mr Pearson B003	Grade 6-9 English Consultant B105a	Grade 4-5 English Consultant B105a	Grade 6-9 English Mrs Hurt B105a	Grade 4-5 English Mrs Hurt B105a
DIT Ms Baxter B103	DIT Ms Baxter B103	11P1 Maths Mrs Dolny B106b	11P1 Chemistry Mr Jarvis B106b	Foundation Maths Dr Donkor B105a	Foundation Maths Mr Kozak B106a	Dance Ms Clements B106b				NCFE Health and Fitness Mr Anderson B104		Foundation Maths Mrs Shanthan B105a	Higher Maths Mrs Shanthan B105a
11P1 Maths Mrs Dolny B106b	Higher Science Ms Taylor B106a	Foundation Maths Mr Kotamo B105a		11P2 Maths Ms Umeokoli B104									
Foundation Science Mr Warren B105b		Higher Maths Dr Donkor B104		11Q1 Maths Mrs Shanthan B003									

Year 13 OCT Half-term timetable

Mon 19th Oct AM	Mon 19th Oct PM	Tues 20th Oct AM	Tues 20th Oct PM	Wed 21st Oct AM	Wed 21st Oct PM	Thurs 22nd Oct AM	Thurs 22nd Oct PM	Fri 23rd Oct AM	Fri 23rd Oct PM
9.30-11.30	12-2pm	9.30-11.30	12-2pm	9.30-11.30	12-2pm	9.30-11.30	12-2pm	9.30-11.30	12-2pm
Psychology Ms Shepley B107	Psychology Ms Shepley B107	Sociology Ms Holmes B107	Sociology Ms Holmes B107	Chemistry Mr Jarvis B107	Biology Ms Liasu B107	Geography Mr Peace B107			
Economics Mr Keys B105a	Business Studies Mr Keys B105a								

We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to all the staff who have agreed to give up some of their holiday time, to come in and support the students so they can achieve beyond expectations.

You can find the full timetable, along with more information about it, on our academy website.

Mr Mitch Jarvis

Assistant Principal (Matisse College) and Raising Standards Lead

Upcoming events

- 2/11/26 - Start of Module 2
- 5/11/26 - Post-16 Open Evening (4.30-6.30pm)
- 11/11/26 - Remembrance Day
- 16/11/26 - Y11/13 Mock Exams Begin
- 27/11/26 - Y11/13 Mock Exams End
- 2/12/26 - Year 8 Parent/Carer Consultation Evening (4-7pm, in-person)
- 14-15/12/26 - Christmas Panto
- 15/12/26 - Academy Christmas Lunch
- 18/12/26 - End of Module 2

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

Important Contacts

General Enquiries

info@longfield.latrust.org.uk

Safeguarding Team

safeguarding@longfield.latrust.org.uk

SEN Team

senco@longfield.latrust.org.uk

Attendance

attendance@longfield.latrust.org.uk

Other Contacts

leighacademylongfield.org.uk/contact-us/

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Academy Notices



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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.](#)