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11th October 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am delighted to share with you the school's second and most recent Ofsted monitoring inspection report from their visit to the academy on the 21st September 2023.

The below information has been shared with the local press and will be published in The Northern Echo within the next few days.

Serious weaknesses were identified at Longfield Academy during an Ofsted inspection in April 2022, but sweeping changes have been made since then, including the appointment of a new Headteacher, new members of the school's leadership team, chair of governors, pastoral lead, and special educational needs and disabilities coordinator.

Since the Ofsted report, progress at the school has been assessed through two monitoring visits with the latest taking place last month, and a monitoring report has now been published.

There is clear reference in both reports that the Ofsted inspector shares the school's belief that they are heading in the right direction.

It concludes that "leaders are taking effective action to improve the school" with the report stating that "during lesson visits, pupils behaved well and demonstrated positive attitudes towards their learning". It adds that all areas of pastoral care have been strengthened, and the "culture of safeguarding is strong"; whilst also reporting that "leaders work with external agencies to ensure that the most vulnerable pupils receive the support they need".

Progress is being made to improve the quality of education, with the report noting that "leaders have an accurate view of the school. They recognise that more progress has been made in some areas than others".

Leaders have reviewed the curriculum, although there are also still subject areas where staffing disruption is having an impact on the quality of education "leaders recognise this and have implemented new systems to monitor the curriculum and develop staff expertise," says the report.



Nicola Bales, Chair of Governors, who along with fellow Governors and Directors was recognised as having a strong understanding of the progress the school has made said: "It is amazing to be a part of the rapid progress that the school has made in a relatively short space of time. The monitoring report makes it clear that the school improvement plan is definitely on the right track, but we also acknowledge that there is still work to do, and there will be no let-up in our attempts to maintain the level of progress".

Dean Judson, Chief Executive of Swift Academies Trust, said: "I am delighted with this report, and it builds upon the excellent GCSE results in the summer, which places Longfield Academy amongst the highest performing schools in Darlington."

Headteacher, Angela Sweeten added: "The second monitoring report is continued confirmation of the progress we are seeing every day in the school. The school has changed significantly due to the dedication and commitment of all staff and the willingness of pupils and the community to embrace all the positive changes that have been introduced. We know there is work still to do, we have a strong improvement plan and I am confident we will achieve our goal."

The Ofsted report and subsequent monitoring reports can be found on the school website via [Ofsted | Longfield Academy | Swift Academies](#).

On behalf of the staff and governors of Longfield Academy, I would like to thank parents / carers and pupils for continuing to engage with us and for supporting our steps to improve the school.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs A Sweeten

Headteacher