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Chief Executive: Mr D Judson, BEd, NPQH
Head of School: Mrs A Sweeten, BA (Hons), MA, NPQH
Deputy Headteacher: Mr S Rawle, BA (Hons), MA

18th July 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Ofsted Report Letter (0174-21ASW)

On the 5th and 6th April 2022 Longfield Academy was inspected by Ofsted. We have now received the final report; and this has been published on our website; please note the report will be published on Ofsted’s website no later than the 26th July 2022.

I became Head of School on Monday 25th April 2022 and the report does not reflect my leadership or the changes that have been implemented since my arrival. What the report does portray is the period of time following a difficult return from the pandemic, during which the academy had a sustained period of staff absence during January and February 2022.

Since my appointment as Head of School and with the support of the Trust and Governors, we have updated our School Improvement Plan and it covers all areas highlighted by Ofsted. I have shown below the areas of improvement highlighted in the Ofsted report and what action we have already taken to date.

Issue raised in the report	Improvements to date
Provision for pupils with SEND is not well developed.	The role of the SENCO will be to focus on driving Quality First Teaching throughout the academy. Wave 2 and 3 provision will be enhanced through the development of a Personalised Learning Centre and therapy / regulation room. Four additional Teaching Assistants are to be appointed to support learning in the classroom.
Assessment processes are not well planned with clear links to the intended curriculum.	Assessments will be clearly identified within subject curriculum plans to ensure they are fit for purpose and are utilised to impact on future planning. Heads of Department will control the frequency and purpose of the assessment.
Leaders have not supported staff sufficiently to ensure that poor behaviour is consistently dealt with.	The new Choices Policy has ensured consistency and enables teachers to teach and children to learn. For pupils who display poor behaviour, choices give them the opportunity to modify their behaviour, but pupils are removed from the class if they persistently disrupt the learning of others.



Issue raised in the report	Improvements to date
Pupils are not confident that if they reported bullying it would be effectively dealt with by staff.	We have introduced an SOS (Speak out Safely) button on the website for pupils to share issues or concerns. This is monitored to ensure that incidents are dealt with effectively and quickly. SOS Forms are also available from Connect and the Library, and we have introduced an SOS drop-in session each Monday during term time, between 3:30pm and 5:00pm. Raising awareness of any form of child on child abuse / bullying, will continue to be a priority and staff have also been trained on how to respond.
Leaders do not take into consideration the views and opinions of all staff.	We have recently completed a staff survey reflecting on the changes since Easter. The outcome was overwhelmingly positive, and a staff forum has been set up to continue to develop a positive, solution-based focus for continuous improvements in staff wellbeing and workload.
Trustees and governors do not effectively challenge leaders to improve the school's performance	The leadership roles have been explored to ensure roles are fit for purpose and the needs of the academy. We have appointed a new Chair of Governors, who is not only a successful business leader but also a parent of a child at Longfield Academy and therefore, has an invested interest in ensuring Longfield Academy becomes a great school. Governors have attended INSET on Quality Assurance.

In addition to the improvements above, split lunches have ensured that unstructured times are calm and purposeful. Year 7 have their own allocated break and lunch time. I have been visiting local Primary Schools, welcoming Year 5 and Year 6 pupils into the building, we have a short Summer School planned for the end of July and our local Councillor has also visited. We will re-invigorate the School Council next year and will continue to engage with the local community through a new 'pledges' initiative.

As part of the next steps for the school, we will be visited by a team from Ofsted to verify how we are progressing, I look forward to their visits and will be encouraging them to visit us at the earliest opportunity.

Having improved many schools over my career as a Head Teacher, I am confident that Longfield Academy will rapidly become a great school. I extend a warm welcome for you to visit the school at any point, to see the significant improvements we have already made and to see the school in action.

I appreciate that the timescale in which the report has been published leaves you with little time to respond with questions before the summer holidays. Therefore, Mr Rawle and I will be available in the academy to respond to calls until Friday 22nd July 2022 between 8:30am and 3:00pm. We will be available in person if an appointment is made.

Please contact **Mrs P Rutter, Academy Administration Manager** via: enquiries@longfield.swiftacademies.org.uk or on 01325 380815 to arrange a visit or just drop in.

I wish you all a very happy summer.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs A Sweeten
Head of School