

Longfield Academy  
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**Chief Executive:** Mr D Judson, Bed, NPQH  
**Headteacher:** Mrs A Sweeten, BA (Hons) MA, NPQH  
**Deputy Headteacher:** Mr S Rawle, BA (Hons), MA

28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope you are all safe and well.

We have received the first secondary school allocations list from the local authority, and I wanted to say thank you for choosing Longfield Academy for your child's educational future.

I wanted to write to introduce myself and to say how much I am looking forward to welcoming your child to the Longfield Academy family. As a parent, I know how important it is to be reassured that you have made the right choice for your child.

I started at Longfield Academy after the Easter break in April 2022. Since then, we have implemented many strategies and systems to ensure all children feel safe and supported and this has been acknowledged in every Ofsted monitoring visit we have had since 2022. I would like to reassure you that Longfield has changed significantly, and visitors frequently comment on how welcoming the academy is. Furthermore, we achieved the second highest exam results in Darlington in the summer of 2023. The below comments give you a snapshot of the academy: -

**Parent:** "I just wanted you to know how amazingly supportive your SEN team are. They have made a difference to my daughter and it's important to know they are appreciated greatly".

**External Organisation:** "I just wanted to say how great, adaptive and supportive Longfield school is. Following a significant period of time out of education, a young person I'm working with is now attending school and Longfield have progressively supported this pupil beyond our expectations. I just wanted to say A Huge THANK YOU to the school!".

**Member of the Public:** "I just wanted to contact you to say that my mum and I attended the pantomime on the 8th of December at Darlington and we were seated next to your school. Your pupils were so well behaved and polite, and a credit to your school".

In addition to this letter, I have included a letter for your child to say a personal hello and welcome. We all appreciate that this can be an anxious time and we are doing all we can to mitigate against any worries or concerns.

My letter to your child invites them to write to me to introduce themselves and to tell me a little bit about how they are feeling, or to tell me anything they would like to let me know. They can include information about their hobbies, favourite book or sport for example. Their response can be emailed directly to a specific email that I have created so I can be sure not to miss hearing from them.



## School Information

When your child joins us in September, they will have the advantage of a **Year 7 only** lunchbreak, and they will have this throughout Year 7. Furthermore, our Choices Policy, together with the Behaviour Policy, ensures all children can learn in an environment free from low level disruption.

The transition page of our website has lots of information to start to engage your child, so they begin to feel part of our community. Information includes things like how the cashless catering biometrics system works for dinner money accounts, the welfare and SEND offer, and frequently asked questions with answers as well as useful links. Find out more via:

[Transition | Longfield Academy | Swift Academies](#)

You can also find out information about subjects and the curriculum via:

[Curriculum Content | Longfield Academy | Swift Academies](#)

As a parent, I also appreciate that you may have your own questions and concerns. Please email the transition team on [transition@longfield.swiftacademies.org.uk](mailto:transition@longfield.swiftacademies.org.uk) who will deal with any practicalities such as transport, special educational need requirements, and general enquiries.

Please also ensure you have accepted your place via Darlington Borough Council. Should you need to do this, or to speak with the Admissions Team, please contact T: 01325 40633

[schools.admissions@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:schools.admissions@darlington.gov.uk)

## The Academy Trust

You may or may not be aware that our trust name is changing. At present, we are part of Swift Academies however, as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2024 the trust name is changing to Inicio Academies as we merge with Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College (Q.E). The name change will not affect any aspect of school life or what your children will see or feel around the academy. As with any rebrand, the trust logo, website and email addresses will change however, the current website links and emails will continue to work for some time. As with all changes like this, there can be teething issues but please be reassured they will be resolved quickly, and you can contact us at any time during the school day if you have any queries.

We are available to speak to directly between 8:30am and 3:30pm Monday to Friday during term time. Please contact Mrs Phillipa Rutter at [prutter@longfield.swiftacademies.org.uk](mailto:prutter@longfield.swiftacademies.org.uk) if you wish to meet with me or any of the staff.

We place a huge importance on communication, and I hope this is the start of a strong partnership between home and school, and the first of many positive correspondences that will continue throughout your child's education with us.

I look forward to seeing you all during our transition evening. We will write again in the coming weeks with further information regarding the transition induction evening, school uniform, your child's application form and key dates for your diary over the next few months.

In the meantime, enjoy the Easter break and the last few months of your child's time at primary school.

Kind regards,



Mrs Angela Sweeten  
Headteacher

Dear Pupil,

Hello! My name is Mrs Sweeten and I am the headteacher at Longfield Academy.

I just wanted to write to you personally to let you know that I am really looking forward to welcoming you to Longfield. I know that this may be a time of mixed feelings. You may be feeling excited, worried or confused, so I wanted to let you know that myself and all the teachers at Longfield Academy are thinking about you and looking forward to being able to meet you in person at the induction evening in June 2024.

Some of you may already know that I joined Longfield Academy as Headteacher in April 2022. In fact, having started just after Easter, it's coming up to my two-year Longfield anniversary. Some of you may have met me at your primary school, or at the Year 5 & 6 activity days we held last year. But if not, please don't worry, I will meet most of you on the induction evening in June and on the transition days which are the 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024. However, if we don't manage to meet you on these days, here are some facts about me!

I have been a headteacher in four other schools. In Ripon, North Yorkshire which I managed to make into an outstanding school, a school in Redcar and Cleveland that became the highest achieving school in Redcar, a school in Ormesby, Middlesbrough and a school in North Durham. I love my job, and particularly like to spend time talking to pupils. I am very rarely in my office, and you will see me around the academy all the time.

My favourite subject is art. I am an art teacher, but unfortunately, I don't get the privilege of teaching very often. My favourite books to read have stories that have unusual twist and turns. My favourite teenage author is Patrick Ness. If you like a bit of sci-fi, check out his Chaos Walking trilogy which was made into a film in 2021 (but read the books first!).

I have two children. Mia who is at university in Birmingham and Finlay who is in his final year at 6<sup>th</sup> form college. I have two cats and some fish in a pond.

Anyway, that's just a little bit about me and I would love to get to know you. So, I am inviting you to send me a short letter via email, telling me a little bit about you! You can put anything you would like in the letter. Maybe you want me to know your hobbies, what you might be worried about, or maybe you'd like to know what the food is like at Longfield ... anything at all! Email your letters to Mrs Sweeten at:

[Y7-2024@longfield.swiftacademies.org.uk](mailto:Y7-2024@longfield.swiftacademies.org.uk)

I look forward to hearing from you soon and to hopefully meeting you in person in the not so distance future.

Kind regards,



Mrs Sweeten  
Headteacher

