



**LongfieldAcademy**

## **CURRICULUM POLICY**

**Updated: September 2016**

**Review Date : September 2018**

The Academy provides a curriculum that is appropriate to the students it serves. The offer is described in the Prospectus so that prospective parents know what we provide and can take account of it in deciding if Longfield Academy is the right school for their son or daughter. In general, the aims of the overall curriculum can be defined thus:

- To meet all statutory requirements.
- To meet the needs of all students.
- To increase students' enjoyment of school.
- To educate 'the whole child'.
- To continue to raise performance.

The curriculum model is reviewed regularly in full consultation with the Longfield Governing Body and the Trust Academic Standards Committee which reports to the Main Board. Significant changes in the curriculum are considered and approved by the Longfield Governing Body and recommended to the Main Board.

The curriculum meets the terms of the Academy's Funding Agreement. In addition to the subject-based curriculum there are several cross-curricular themes which are covered in more than one subject area — for example, Information Technology, Economic and Industrial Awareness, Enterprise and Careers, Sex, Health, Multi-cultural and Environmental Education. Each academic year is completed around the end of June where the timetable is 'rolled over' into the subsequent year of study. The academic year is organised around six modules of learning with reporting on student progress happening at the end of each one.

The Academy operates a longer school day, adding a total of five additional weeks of learning per year. Most lessons are organised into two hour blocks, described as 'Flexible Learning'.

### **KEY STAGE 3**

In Year 7 all students study the same broad curriculum and spend around 60% of their time physically located within their College and 100% of their time within College based groups. The exception to this is the Foundation Band which is streamed based upon literacy levels for academic subject areas in order to address the needs of academically weaker learners. All groups study a

Modern Foreign Language which is Spanish. In Year 8, most teaching is organised by College group, except for the Express Band, where streaming of the top third for academic subject areas begins as students move into Year 8 in June of their first year of study at the Academy ('Rollover'). Composition of the Express Band is reviewed every module. In Key Stage 3, therefore, students study Mathematics, English, Science, Design & Technology, Spanish, Humanities, Drama, Music, Art, PE and Enrichment.

Express Band students begin Key Stage 4 at the start of Year 9. Other students do so at the start of Year 10.

#### **KEY STAGE 4**

At Key Stage 4, there are three learning pathways. Baccalaureate (approx. 50% of cohort), Mainband (approx. 40% of cohort) and Vocational (approx. 10% of the cohort). Baccalaureate and Mainband students follow English Language (most also study English Literature), Mathematics, Double Science (GCSE or BTEC) and PE (Sport BTEC). Students then take four options. Within these options, Baccalaureate students must study a Modern Foreign Language (currently Spanish), and History and/or Geography. Mainband students must study ICT as one of their options. The remaining options are entirely 'freechoice' selected from a broad range of subjects from across the spectrum.

Vocational Pathway students study Mathematics, English Language, Double Science (BTEC) and one further school-based optional subject. In addition, they follow a work placement, an 'off-site' vocational course and study a broad complement of qualifications with Skillforce.

In addition, all students are provided with cross-curricular learning opportunities in Careers, RE, Enterprise Education and PSHE, through Focus Days. The Academy KS4 Options Booklet is issued in January of Year 9 (Year 8 for Express students).

#### **KEY STAGE 5**

Students joining the Sixth Form are encouraged to follow a broad, challenging curriculum. The normal expectation for Level 3 students is that they will take four AS (or equivalent) subjects in Year 12 and three A2 (or equivalent) subjects in Year 13. Level 2 students will take 3 Level 2 options or a full-time C&G Diploma. Students can also opt for a combination of Level 3 and Level 2 courses where appropriate as a result of flexible timetabling arrangements. The Academy offers a three year Sixth Form for students who require it.

In addition, all students are offered opportunities to re-take GCSE Mathematics and English Language, and can select a range of Enrichment options. The Academy provides subject specific conferences for students as well as events focusing on aspects of PSHE such as Sexual Health.

The Academy operates within the Leigh Academies Trust (LAT) Post 16 Consortium, enabling it to offer a broader range of courses. The LAT Post 16 Brochure is issued in November of each academic year, giving course details, option block arrangements and entry criteria.

**This policy is reviewed annually or more frequently if that is required.**