



2015 - 2016 Prospectus

Longsands is an 11 – 18 Academy with Specialist Status in Media Arts
and Investors in People Gold accreditation

Admission Arrangements for Year 7 September 2016

Children who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs that names the Academy will be admitted. Those children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs that does not name the Academy will be referred to Student Assessment to determine an appropriate place.

In the event of the number of applications exceeding the PAN, the following criteria will be used to determine the allocation of places:

Children who:

1. are children in care, also known as Looked After Children (LAC), and children who were looked after but ceased to be so by reason of adoption, a residence order or special guardianship order;
2. are applying for a Year 7 place for the next academic year and have the established attendance of a sibling at the Academy;
3. are the children of staff who have been employed at the Academy for two or more years at the time of application or have been recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage;
4. live in the catchment areas of the following village primary schools: Great Paxton, Great Staughton, Little Paxton, Newton School, Kimbolton Primary Academy and students who live within the village of Hail Weston;
5. live in the catchment areas of the following St. Neots Primary schools: Crosshall Junior, Priory Junior and the Round House Primary School;
6. attend one of the catchment schools named in 4 above;
7. attend one of the catchment schools named in 5 above;
8. are applying for a place in an existing year group and have the established attendance of a sibling at the Academy;
9. live outside the areas defined by 4 and 5 above.

As a tiebreaker in any category, children living nearest the Academy, measured by the shortest straight line distance¹, would have the highest priority.

Parents and other interested parties are advised to contact Cambridgeshire LA for further detail regarding the catchment areas of the primary schools identified above.

The process for Admissions into Year 7 2016

Parents should complete the Common Application Form included in the booklet *Admission to Secondary Schools in Cambridgeshire: a guide for parents 2015/2016*. This booklet is published by the Local Authority (LA), and is distributed via primary schools. The form should be returned **to the Cambridgeshire Admissions Team by 31 October 2015**.

Parents are also able to apply on-line. Parents who choose this method will have receipt of their application confirmed by email. They will also be able to amend their application up until the closing date. A series of security measures ensures that information cannot be inappropriately accessed. **The deadline for on-line application is also 31 October 2015.**

Access to the on-line facility is via the following website:

http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20059/schools_and_learning/363/apply_for_a_school_place/10

The LA seeks to allocate secondary school places by the beginning of March prior to September admission. The booklet and website provide detailed information on the process, including how you may appeal against the LA's decision.

¹ Straight line distance is measured from the reference point of the home to the Academy Reception entrance doors.

The Curriculum

The curriculum seeks to fulfil the core purpose of the Academy, *to secure the best possible experience, learning and outcomes for each young person for whom we have responsibility*. We aim to deliver an excellent all-round education, valuing personal development as well as examination success, building on prior knowledge and skills to ensure progression throughout each Key Stage and to a range of opportunities post-Longsands.

Course outlines for subjects in each Key Stage are available on the Academy website.

Key Stage 3

The KS3 curriculum fulfils National Curriculum requirements and aims to develop knowledge and understanding in a variety of subjects as well as securing the basics of English and Maths. Broader skills and attitudes necessary to be a good citizen are promoted throughout, e.g. the ability to work with others, positive attitude and a desire to learn; students participate in the Longsands Graduate programme throughout the Key Stage, as well as having access to a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities.

In 2015/16, the breakdown of the curriculum is as follows:

TABLE 1: KEY STAGE 3, DISTRIBUTION OF CURRICULUM TIME			
<i>Taught Subjects</i>	<i>Number of periods a week</i>		
	<i>Year 7</i>	<i>Year 8</i>	<i>Year 9</i>
<i>English</i>	3	3	3
<i>Maths</i>	3	3	3
<i>Science</i>	3	3	3
<i>Modern Foreign Languages</i>	3	3	3
<i>Physical Education</i>	2	2	2
<i>Design Technology</i>	1	2	2
<i>Every Child Matters programme</i>	1	1	1
<i>Geography</i>	2	2	2
<i>History</i>	2	2	2
<i>Religious Education</i>	1	1	1
<i>Art</i>	1	1	1
<i>Music</i>	1	1	1
<i>Performing Arts</i>	0.5*	1	
<i>ICT</i>	0.5*		1
<i>Creativity & Enterprise</i>	1		

**Year 7 students alternate between Performing Arts and ICT at approximately half-termly intervals.*

To assist the transition of students who may find the move to secondary education a greater challenge, the Academy runs an i2L (Intensive Literacy and Learning) course. Students are selected for this opportunity on advice from primary schools and in consultation with parents/carers.

Currently, Year 7 students are mainly taught in mixed ability form groups, with Maths setting during the Autumn term. Great care is taken to ensure the form groups are constructed to balance gender, feeder school and ability. From Year 8, the majority of lessons are taught in new “teaching groups” and setting is introduced in Science and Languages whilst continuing in Maths and English. On entry in Year 7, students study *either* French or German. Those who demonstrate ability in languages have the opportunity to study an additional language in Year 9, from French, German, Spanish or Latin.

In Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11), every student follows a core programme in English, Maths and Science with appropriate examination qualifications offered dependent on ability. In addition, greater flexibility is achieved by means of the Option process, which enables students to choose

up to four additional subjects from a range of GCSE, BTEC, VCerts and Cambridge National courses.

Key Stage 4

TABLE 2: KEY STAGE 4, DISTRIBUTION OF CURRICULUM TIME	
<i>Every student follows a core curriculum that occupies 15 of the 25 hours of the weekly timetable and consists of:</i>	
<i>Taught Subjects</i>	<i>Number of periods a week</i>
English	4
Maths	4
Science	4
Physical Education	2
Every Child Matters programme including Religious Education and Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural education	1
In the remaining 10 hours, students choose up to 4 other options from a range of GCSE, BTEC, VCerts and Cambridge National ICT Award qualifications. The Academy operates a two- weekly timetable; each option block is allocated 5 hours across the fortnight, 3 hours in one week, 2 hours in the other.	

Please note: students and parents receive extensive advice and guidance to help them choose options that will ensure success and facilitate progression. The following subjects are currently offered as part of the KS4 Option process:

BTEC Business	Economics	Media Studies
BTEC Engineering	Fine Art	Music
Business Studies	French	Physical Education
Child Development	Food & Nutrition	Photography
Computer Science	Geography	Product Design
Dance	German	Religious Studies
Drama	Graphics	Spanish
	History	Textiles
	ICT WJEC	Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSE)

In addition, a small number of students have the opportunity to study BTEC Hair & Beauty Level 1 and/or or BTEC Construction Level 1, delivered in a purpose-built facility on the Longsands Academy site. Additionally we facilitate BTEC's in Business Administration Level 1 and Cookery and Hospitality Level 1.

The Curriculum – Years 12 and 13

Students in Years 12 and 13 can select from an extensive range of 36 Level 3 courses:

Biology	German
BTEC Business	Government & Politics
BTEC Science	Graphics
BTEC Sport	Health & Social Care
Business Studies	History
Chemistry	ICT Cambridge Technical
Classical Civilisation	Law
Computing	Mathematics
Economics	Media Studies
English Language & Literature	Music
English Literature	Performing Arts
Film Studies	Philosophy and Ethics
Fine Art	Photography
Food	Physical Education
French	Physics
Further Maths	Product Design
Geography	Psychology
Geology	Sociology

The Learning Day

Monday/Tuesday/Thursday and Friday

08.45	Registration/Assembly
09.00	Start period 1
10.00	Start period 2
11.00	Break
11.20	Start period 3
12.20	Start period 4
13.20	Lunch
14.00	Registration
14.10	Start period 5
15.10	End of Academy day

Wednesday only

08.45	Registration/Assembly
09.00	Start period 1
10.00	Start period 2
11.00	Break
11.20	Start period 3
12.20	Start period 4
13.20	Lunch
14.00	Start period 5 (ECM or Longsands Graduate)
14.45	Individual/Group Mentoring
15.10	End of Academy day

Bells are rung at 8.40 and 13.55 to alert students to the fact that they should move to Registration or assembly.

Please note that the Academy may run a 'condensed day' on the final day of the Autumn and Summer terms and, in some years, the Spring term. This is done as a thank you to students and to provide an additional opportunity for all staff to meet. Study facilities are available for students needing to stay in the Academy until the usual finishing time.

Homework

The homework programme exists to encourage and develop independent work by students and to provide links between home and the Academy. We consider it important that all students undertake homework and a structured timetable exists for each Year Group. Our homework policy reflects the flexibility required to ensure appropriate learning activities are set. Extended project work may occupy students over a number of weeks for instance, whilst research tasks can sometimes be best completed at the Academy.

Physical Education at Longsands

All Key Stage 3 and 4 students participate in two lessons of PE each week. Our extensive facilities include an Astroturf pitch, 4 rugby pitches, 4 football pitches, 7 netball courts, a 400-metre athletics track with field events areas, two cricket squares (one artificial), a sports hall, two gymnasias, two hall spaces and a dance studio.

We aim to provide a Physical Education that:

- promotes a healthy lifestyle;
- sets appropriate challenges enabling students to reach their potential;
- encourages enjoyment and satisfaction through individual and co-operative success.

The aims above are achieved through **a wide range of sports**, including Rugby, Hockey, Netball, Football, Cricket, Rounders, Basketball, Cross-country, Gymnastics, Trampolining, Badminton, Volleyball and Tennis.

In Key Stages 4 and 5, we offer a wide range of examination courses, including BTEC, GCSE and A Level, alongside an extensive Sports Leaders programme. Within the 6th form students are provided with a range of opportunities to take part in sport, be it competitive or more recreational. In terms of competitive sport, students are able to take part in regular competitive fixtures within the major activities such as football and rugby. In addition, talented individuals are also supported through the new performer development pathway. Alongside the provision for competitive sport, 6th form students are also able to take part in a range of recreational sporting activities throughout the academic year. This includes working in partnership with outside organisations to deliver more 'alternative' activities, such as kayaking.

Our teaching staff are passionate about their subject and aim to provide the best possible sporting experiences for the students at Longsands. There are a wide range of sports specialisms and coaching qualifications held by members of the department.

We offer an impressive extra-curricular programme, where students have the opportunity to take part in sports clubs both at lunch time and after school in a wide range of sports. A number of residential trips are run by the department, including a yearly Ski Trip to Austria and a 3-yearly Hockey and Rugby Tour to South Africa.

As part of the St Neots Learning Partnership, we hold a number of collaborative events with Ernulf Academy throughout the year and also strive to foster links with local clubs in the community.

Special Educational Needs at Longsands

At Longsands, students with Special Educational Needs are mainly educated alongside their peers and have extra assistance appropriate to their special needs and personal development.

Resources for students with Special Educational Needs are committed in accordance with the needs of the student, based on professional observation of the student and consultation with parents and the student.

Further information can be found on the Academy website. The full Special Educational Needs Policy and information report is available from the Academy or via the website.

Child Protection

Under the Education Act 2002 (section 157), schools must make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Parents/carers should know that the law (Children Act 1989/2004) requires all Academy staff to pass on information which gives rise to a concern about a child's welfare, including risk from neglect, physical, emotional or sexual abuse. The staff will seek, in general, to discuss any concerns with the parent/carer, and where possible seek their consent to a referral to Social Care. **This will only be done where such discussion will not place the child at increased risk of significant harm.** Schools will seek advice from Social Care when they have reasonable cause to suspect a child may be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. Occasionally, concerns are passed on which are later shown to be unfounded. Parents/carers will appreciate that the designated person for child protection was carrying out his/her responsibilities in accordance with the law and acting in the best interests of all children.

Music at Longsands Academy

The aim of the Music Department is to encourage and develop musical understanding, appreciation and achievement through teaching tailored to the individual student, which includes one-to-one support.

Practical music-making is central to the curriculum. Through a wide range of challenging activities and experiences, students will improve their knowledge and understanding of music. They will develop their creativity, self-discipline and confidence.

The department is very well equipped and includes a full complement of percussion instruments, tuned and un-tuned, including African drums and South American Samba sets; over 80 guitars, electric and acoustic, and 4 drum kits. Both main teaching rooms are also equipped with computers linked to keyboards with up-to-date sequencing and score-writing software.

The Music Curriculum:

All students in Years 7 – 9 have class music. Teaching is based on the National Curriculum with lessons focusing on creativity, development and appreciation of a wide range of musical styles and genres through performing, composing and the use of ICT. Further study at GCSE and A Level is optional.

Key Stages 4 and 5

GCSE music is about making and listening to music. It covers performing, composing and listening in a variety of musical styles – popular music, world music and classical music. There are opportunities to use music technology including sequencing and recording.

GCSE music is a good preparation for further musical study and a solid foundation for the AS/A levels in Music as well as BTEC National Diplomas. Students may wish to take a GCSE in Music

for its own sake, perhaps to form the basis of a future interest such as a career in the music industry, publishing, entertainment or any job which involves communication and expressive skills.

Instrumental Tuition

At Longsands we are fortunate to be able to offer lessons on a variety of orchestral instruments as well as piano, voice and percussion. Instrumental tuition is organised and managed by the Head of Music. Where possible, the Academy employs its own peripatetic Music staff in addition to having links with Cambridgeshire Music (CM).

The provision for students:

- lessons are 20 minutes in length, during which time the student will be withdrawn from his/her normal academic timetable. Where possible, lessons will rotate so that students do not miss the same lesson every week;
- shared lessons will allow for two students of the same ability level to be taught together;
- instruments will be provided by parents. A number of certain types of instruments may be hired from the Academy or CM. Current charges are available on request;
- students are guaranteed 33 lessons per year.

Music groups are maintained to provide opportunities for students of various abilities to play together, both informally and formally; the nature of these groups will depend upon student interest and may, therefore, change from time to time.

Examination Results

The Academy offers a full range of academic and vocational qualifications, performing consistently above the national average at all Key Stages. In 2014, the percentage of students achieving the national benchmark of 5 or more A*-C grades including English and Maths was 61%, whilst 65% achieved more than 5 grades at A*-C overall. Both English and Maths showed strong performance, with 80% of students achieving A*-C in English and 75% in Maths. 97% of all students achieved at least 5 GCSE grades overall and 100% of students gained at least one GCSE grade.

Although there is a strong focus on traditionally academic subjects (28.5% of our students achieved the English Baccalaureate measure), the more recent introduction of vocational subjects in the form of BTECs (Sport, Business, Hospitality, Hair & Beauty and Construction) and ICT Technical and National Certificates has enabled a students to demonstrate wider skills; these courses have achieved very high success rates for students of all ability levels.

At Sixth Form level, the Academy continues to enjoy a high level of success, with many of our students going on to university courses – one student has taken up a place at Oxford University this year – or to apprenticeships. We were particularly pleased to see further improvement in our Year 12 AS grades, whilst we maintained a high level of achievement at A2 level, where 86% of students gained one or more A*-C grades and 100% of students passed at least one A Level or Level 3 equivalent. We were also delighted with our vocational results as, for example, in the BTEC Sport Diploma every student achieved a Double Distinction *.

A full breakdown of results and subjects is available on the Academy website.

Academy Uniform Years 7 - 11

It is important that students wear uniform with pride and look well presented at all times. Fashion garments are not appropriate for the Academy. The Academy will advise parents if there is any doubt over what is acceptable as part of the uniform. It is compulsory for Year 7-9 parents to purchase all tops, trousers and/or skirts from the approved Academy supplier.

Boys and Girls

Top	Navy polo shirt with Academy logo; navy sweatshirt with Academy logo.	
Trousers	Girls Leggings and black jeans are NOT acceptable. Trousers should be black, tailored, with finished hems and not have the appearance of jeans. They must cover the ankle and not be tight-fitting.	Boys Black, tailored. Jeans, or trousers which have the appearance of jeans are NOT acceptable.
Skirts	Black - of knee length.	
Tights /Socks	White/black/socks (plain) <u>or</u> black/flesh tights (plain).	Dark plain colours, not PE socks
Footwear	Black shoes. They should be low-heeled (maximum 4 cm) and of a style that is safe for the wearer and for others, i.e. no sling-backs, open toes or high platform soles. Plain black trainers (no logos, coloured or white) are acceptable. Brightly coloured soles and/or laces are not permitted. Boots and other unsuitable footwear (<i>including current fashions such as 'high tops'</i>) must not be worn.	
Makeup	The wearing of makeup is discouraged as inappropriate within the Academy. Only natural hair colouring is permitted and no extremes of style.	

All students are strongly recommended to have a workshop apron. Students must cover their Academy uniform in the workshops.

JEWELLERY

Students may wear a wrist watch, one earring (a small stud or sleeper) per ear, in the traditional lobe position only and one small ring. No other jewellery or body piercing is acceptable.

PE KIT

Please name every item of your son/daughter's kit

Each student should be equipped with:

Academy Rugby/Hockey shirt – red

Polo shirt – red

Shorts – **plain** navy

Socks, full length - red

Trainers, Indoor/Outdoor (non-marking soles)

Boots – Football/Hockey/Rugby – essential for safety

Optional:

Jogging bottoms – **plain** navy

Sweatshirt – **plain** navy

Kit bag

Toilet bag

Academy PE Fleece

Gloves/Hat – At teachers discretion in extreme weather (must be plain navy or black)

The items below are **compulsory** as laid down by the various Governing Bodies of Sport:

Shin pads – Football/Hockey/Rugby

Safety studs – Rugby

Gum shields – Hockey/Rugby

Additional Points

1. **Outdoor Coats.** The Academy has no formal specification of outdoor clothing in its policy. However, parents are asked to bear in mind the image of the Academy in relation to coats. We prefer coats to be plain and without slogans. Items likely to cause offence will not be allowed. Students are not allowed to wear hoodies at any time; any student found doing so is liable to have the item confiscated and returned at the end of the day.
Please note: Alternatives to the sweatshirt, such as jumpers and cardigans, are not permitted.
2. **Skirts.** Long, short and wrap round skirts are not acceptable.
3. **Jewellery.** All jewellery must be removed for PE lessons and other activities where safety could be compromised. Coloured nail varnish is not allowed, including current fashions, such as acrylic nails.
4. **Shoes.** Parents are requested to support our move for sensible and plain shoes. Platform soles and high heels are dangerous in a building with many flights of stairs. Trainers must be plain black, as coloured logos and soles detract from the otherwise smart appearance of our students. If students are wearing plain black trainers to the Academy they should bring an additional pair of trainers to wear for PE lessons, for hygiene reasons.

Longsands Primary Liaison: 2015/2016

Calendar of Events

Open Evening

Tuesday 20 October 2015

6.00 – 8.15 pm

31 October 2015:

Deadline for submission of applications for admission in September 2015.

*Forms should be returned by 31 October ***2015** to the Cambridgeshire Admissions Team.

Alternatively, see above for details of the on-line application process.

***March 2016:**

The Local Authority writes to parents with the offer of a secondary school place.

Spring and Summer terms:

Visits to primary schools by Longsands staff.

Monday 4 July 2015, 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm: New Parents' Evening

Ritchie Hall, Longsands.

5 & 6 July 2015

Longsands will host a 2-day induction experience for all Year 6 students. Details will follow nearer the time.