



LONGACRE SCHOOL

Background Information on Longacre School

School Organisation:

Longacre School is a co-educational Independent Preparatory Day School for pupils aged 2½-11. The school has a Pre-School encompassing a Nursery and Kindergarten of 15 and 32 children respectively. The Pre-Prep and Prep School consist of Reception to Form VI, two classes per year group with approximately 16-18 places in each class.

Whilst there are organisational differences between the ways in which school life is structured for Early Years, Pre-Prep and Prep pupils, the school still operates as one unit from Nursery to Year 6.

The majority of pupils transfer through the entire school and proceed to their first choice of Senior School at the end of Form VI, many with Scholarships and Exhibitions including academic, art, music and sports awards. Since Longacre does not have a Senior School, the choice of Senior School is guided by the strengths of each individual pupil so that the most appropriate School is chosen.

The School has a Senior Leadership Team which includes the Head, a Deputy Head, Director of Studies, Head of Pre-Prep and a Bursar. The team meets weekly chaired by the Head to discuss organisational items.

Pupils follow a broad and balanced curriculum with the additional benefits of the 7C's, which is Longacre's own take on Building Learning Power and an extensive enrichment programme, in and out of school. Academic achievement is high and the School has particular strengths in art, music, drama and sport. Pupils are predominantly taught by their Form Teacher in the early years with some specialist teaching in Languages, Art, IT, Games, and Music moving to specialist teaching from Form IV onwards. The School has a Learning Support Team led by a SENCO and with Teaching Assistants in every class from Nursery- Form III.

Pastoral care and pupil welfare is paramount in the school and all pupils meet with their Form Teacher three times per day to ensure they are happy, confident and successful. All children have buddies and all staff have a mentor and a grandparent!

The School:

Longacre School was founded in 1942. It is a co-educational school set in 9½ acres of gardens and woodland, located in the picturesque village of Shamley Green near Guildford in the heart of the Surrey Hills. It has approximately 260-300 pupils aged between 2 ½ and 11 years. It operates a five day week and provides wrap around care from 7.30am to 6pm including Early Morning Club, After School activities and After School Care. We operate a no smoking policy at the school.

Facilities

The School occupies a number of buildings including the Old School House, Pre-School, Pre-Prep and Prep Buildings, all of which are arranged around a central quadrangle. In addition there is a fantastic sports hall with creative arts studio, astro pitch and large sports fields.

The original School House is predominantly offices as well as the Medical Room and fabulous Dining Facilities. All members of the Leadership team have an office space in this building, individual or shared with access to administrative support.

Nursery and Kindergarten are situated in the Pre School and have their own designated gardens specifically designed to cater for younger children's needs. Reception and Form I occupy the Jubilee Block, Form II to VI occupy purpose built classrooms located in the Founders Building and two further purpose built blocks. The Founders Building also boasts an Art Studio, an IT suite and a Science Laboratory.

A Sports Hall, Creative Arts Studio and four music practice rooms are housed in our state of the art building, opened in June 2015, named The Palmer Hall. Phase 3 is currently under review.

Staff:

Longacre School provides a stimulating and exciting working environment where staff are given challenges, opportunity and autonomy. We offer a thorough induction programme where staff are fully supported on their entrance to the school, and a continuous professional development programme through a structured performance management process where all staff are given opportunities to continue to learn and develop in their careers. Staff are supported through a mentoring and a 'grandparent' system which provides a less formal support structure throughout their time at Longacre. We are a close knit family and have a number of social events throughout the year to ensure we have the right balance of work and play!

The School enjoys a talented, committed and loyal teaching staff. The ratio of teachers to pupils is low and a generous level of non-contact time is provided to enable staff to undertake their job effectively in school. Work life balance is an essential part of Longacre and working parents are supported in 'having their cake and eating it!' In addition to Form Teachers, there are specialist teachers for PE, Games, Art, Languages, IT, Science, Learning Support as well as a plethora of Peripatetic Music Teachers. Form Teachers, in addition to subject specialists take on subject leader roles.

All staff, who teach at the School make contributions to school life outside their own specialisation as well as to our co-curricular programme and in pastoral support across the School. The school has a strong community feel and new members of staff invariably speak of the supportiveness and friendliness of their colleagues and the pupils. NQTs are given full support in their official induction year towards acquiring Qualified Teacher Status.

Staff meetings are held weekly and may be general in nature or consider a particular subject or aspect of school development and life. Meetings are manageable and we ensure that they are neither unnecessary nor time consuming: everyone needs a little time to take stock!

Support staff includes the Bursar, Head's PA, Receptionist, Marketing & Communications Manager, Registrar, IT Manager, School Accountant, HR and Compliance Officer, Estates and Facilities Manager and the Grounds and Maintenance Assistant.

There are Teaching Assistants in every class from Nursery to Form III, as well as further assistants working across the Prep School. The SENCO has two designated Learning Support Assistants and there is designated staff to provide After School Care, Breakfast Club and support at lunch time. Catering staff are supplied by an Agency however are considered and included as Longacre Staff.

Learning at Longacre:

Longacre learning enables children to prepare for a world in which simply absorbing and regurgitating bite size chunks of knowledge will be worthless. Our pupils undertake a 21st century education, where they become armed with a toolkit of learning skills which are transferrable to their future education and the inevitable demands of the workplace.

Pupils learn through collaboration, the development of resilience, reflectiveness and resourcefulness, skills which are encased within a formal academic curriculum. We aim to equip our children to work well with others, think creatively and distinctively, to explore and take responsibility for their learning through questioning, curiosity, courageous risk taking and ongoing reflection.

Children of all abilities are enabled to broaden their own potential by truly believing that their ability is expandable, not fixed. We talk to the children about strategies, teach them to think independently, explore and use their initiative in seeking the answers.

We are producing the next generation, a cohort of creative, excited and innovative young people who will write the next Harry Potter series, invent a world changing product and discover life on Mars! We would expect to do nothing less than make each and every one of our pupils feel that they can also change the world. Children should 'dream large'.

The school a child wants to be in is one which will teach them how to live, which will abandon the exam rat race and instead create thinking individuals who can reason, learn to understand fellow human beings and above all, think creatively and originally. Schools are not simply invented for little people to become the same as big people, but for the pupils to learn how to move into the world.

Our education is innovative.

Curriculum:

The School not only focuses on core subjects such as Maths, English and Science, but provides a broad curriculum including Languages, Art and DT, Music, IT, Humanities and Sport.

The Creative Arts are particular strengths of the School. Musical opportunities abound through choirs, orchestras, jazz groups, pop bands, as well as concerts both informal and formal throughout the year. Art and Drama afford opportunities for the children to explore their creative side. Drama takes place in the curriculum every week. There are productions in all Form groups each year as well as Form Assemblies both individual and joint across Year groups. Every pupil has the opportunity to perform and take to the stage. Art and DT lessons take place every week in a designated Art Studio. Visiting artists inspire children's imaginations and bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to them.

Sport is another strength. Pupils follow a varied programme of activities which include rugby, football, hockey, netball, rounders, gymnastics, athletics and dance. Weekly fixtures for all children are held against neighbouring schools inspiring not only competitiveness but also a recognition of

being part of a team and participation. Excellence is fostered whilst always adhering to a policy of sport for all. Sports Day is a highlight in the School Calendar.

Pastoral:

Pastoral care is primarily in the hands of the Form Teachers and overseen by the Deputy Head. There is a simple and effective system of rewards and sanctions. A House System is in place and all children and staff are associated with one of the four houses. The children are able to earn House Point for good behaviour, kindness and academic or sporting achievement. All staff are responsible in helping to ensure that all the children are happy in school. The school prides itself in its outstanding pastoral care.

Marketing:

All members of staff are ambassadors for the school and are expected to support the Head in Marketing the School.

Terms and Conditions:

The School has a salary scale which is more generous than maintained schools. The school operates a number of different pay scales depending upon the role, responsibility and seniority. There is a strong policy of supporting teachers' professional development; in addition to internally organised staff training, teachers at the school are encouraged to attend courses, conferences, undertake post graduate or graduate training and visit other schools which will further their expertise and career.

Finale:

Longacre is a truly unique school where children are genuinely happy and develop a love of learning within a family orientated community. We believe that children achieve academic success when they are happy and fulfilled, where each child is recognised, cherished for their individualism, fully supported and enabled to grow and develop at their own unique rate.

As a small school, all our children have the chance to shine, to discover their talents and their strengths in addition to dealing with their inevitable weaknesses. All children have the opportunity to compete in school teams, perform in assemblies and concerts and most importantly, be valued for their individuality. Everyone is someone at Longacre, no matter what they contribute to the school.

Our aims at Longacre are:

1. To inspire academic success
2. To nurture the individual
3. To prepare children for their future, whatever that may entail
4. To assist parents and children in gaining their first choice of senior school, one in which the child will thrive and succeed

More information can be found on the School Website at www.longacre.surrey.sch.uk