



Longfield School receives 'Schools Excellence' Award from educational supplier, RM

Longfield School in Darlington is celebrating having been chosen to receive the coveted Schools Excellence Award from ICT provider RM.

Launched in 2004, the award recognises excellence in the use of ICT, and with near astronomical improvements in attainment levels over the last two years, Longfield became an obvious recipient for the accolade. Having been a low achieving school for many years, Longfield specifically started a programme of investing in ICT equipment as a means of improving pupil engagement. It is anticipated that this year's GCSE results will be the best ever in the school's history.

By its own admission, the school is very much equipped for the 21st Century and it fully embraces the latest technological advances - every classroom is fitted with an interactive whiteboard to help provide a stimulating education experience and several new ICT suites and conference room have added to the school's technology facilities. All students are encouraged to look further than the confines of the classroom or textbook when conducting research and many internet resources are suggested to them to this end.

Before news of its latest success with the receipt of the Schools Excellence Award, Longfield had already been recognised with the "ICT Mark" for its good practice in this area.

Longfield School is also heavily involved in the 21st Century Learning Alliance, a nationwide organisation comprising of industry, government and teachers aimed at helping to make 21st century learning a reality. Indeed, the school often opens its doors to guests from other areas to share its experiences of how ICT can engage learners, and recently played host to some visitors from Leeds.

Speaking of the school's latest success, Headteacher Mr Cotgrave, said:

"Staff, students and parents alike have been very supportive of the rollout of ICT here at Longfield and the results really speak for themselves – our attainment levels have risen markedly, we are lending advice and guidance to others considering making such an investment in technology, and we continue to be recognised on a national level for what we're doing – we really are delighted at this latest award from RM."

Tim Pearson, CEO of RM, added:

"To say that ICT has made a real difference to Longfield School would almost be an understatement. The school now acts as an ambassador for what careful and planned use of ICT can do to turn things around – pupil engagement obviously being central to this. The school should feel justifiably proud of its achievements and we wish it all the best for its future success."

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Notes to editors:

- RM is the leading supplier of ICT to UK education, providing industry-standard, educational software, services and systems to schools, colleges and universities
- Founded in 1973, RM rapidly became a pioneer in the application of technology to education and the company's range of products and services has continued to expand to meet the needs of educational establishments since that time

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