



# Longdean Link

## Headlines

Edition 5– 16 December 2016

Dear Parents, Guardians and Neighbours

Christmas is always an exciting and poignant time of the year when we look forward with anticipation to what is to come and at the same time reflect on all that has happened in the year. This is especially true of Longdean at this time. On Friday 16 December we will say farewell to a set of buildings that have served and educated countless numbers of students throughout their lifetime. These same buildings have provided many positive experiences to students and adults and have ultimately played a large part in shaping the people they are today.

Longdean is a very special place to work and the ethos and values of our school are unlike any that I have worked in. This was highly evident on Thursday when I saw the final ever performance in our current theatre. The standard of performance, commitment and enthusiasm was as high as ever and the support given by friends, family and staff was there for all to see. As I said to the audience and performers at the Christmas show 'Working hard with a smile on your face, showcasing your talents to the important people in your life and being prepared both academically and socially for the world you will enter is central to what Longdean stands for, reflecting our motto to 'rejoice in thy youth.'

The camaraderie and relationships that exist between the students and the staff and students are evident every day at Longdean. They are seen in the lessons, the corridors, the extra-curricular activities and clubs. They are seen beyond the boundaries of the school when we take students on trips be they local, national or global. They are witnessed in the charities we support, for example Bedomase, our link school in Ghana, or the partnerships we develop like the East Dacorum Cooperative Learning Trust. All of our initiatives and curriculum ideas, the one year option or DEAR, are built on these principles and values of helping people have control and choice over their lives.

On December 28, 2016 I will be given the keys to our new building and we formally take possession of our new school. Whilst it will be wonderful to move into a new learning environment, with new furniture, equipment and state of the art facilities, it is imperative to me that we do not lose sight of what makes our school such a special place to work and to learn. Buildings can change, people will come and go, but what the school and the individuals within it stand for and work towards must remain a constant.

I wish all of you a very merry Christmas and a peaceful new year. I look forward to working with all of you in 2017 when the next chapter in the history of Longdean will begin.

Graham Cunningham  
Headteacher