

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

The end of the school year provides an opportunity to reflect on all that has been achieved and to identify where the school will be heading in the future. Moving into our new school building has been an enormous change for the entire school population but one that will provide the solid foundation for the school to continue to grow and improve in the future. I would like to thank and commend all the students, staff and parents for their patience, understanding and flexibility in what has been an extraordinary year. The move has taken place with minimum disruption to learning and with students and staff continuing to demonstrate the great personal relationships that are at the heart of our school.

The move to the new school has come on top of other changes imposed on the school by external factors. This year the Year 11 students have been the first cohort to sit examinations in the revised GCSE specifications, complete with new grading schemes and even higher demands placed on the students. Longdean students have risen to this challenge admirably and I am certain that their efforts will be rewarded when the results are published in the summer.

We have worked hard this year to review and enhance our relationship with parents and I wanted to take this opportunity to outline to you some of the changes we have made to our working practices based on your feedback. Earlier this year 147 parents completed an on line survey outlining how our relationship with you could be improved. The overwhelming area for improvement was the format of parents' evenings. We built on these initial views via parent focus groups and wider consultation with staff about how these evenings could be run. From September we will make the following changes to these evenings:

- Parents' evening bookings can be made on line.
- Meetings with teachers will take place in a greater variety of rooms across the school and not solely in the school hall.
- There will be a series of parental workshops at parents' evenings designed to inform parents about aspects of schooling and how they can support elements of their child's performance at home.

We will trial this approach for one year and then review it with you as we move forward.

In addition to parents' evenings we have also investigated communicating with parents via text messages as well as phones and emails. This again is in response to feedback from you. We have also looked at the scheduling of school reports to coincide more readily with parents' evenings and to also have video links for parents to use alongside the report focussing on how they can support their child at home. A further suggestion was to display staff photos and contact details on the website. This would enable parents to put a name to a face prior to contacting the school or attending events at school. This will be in place from September.

Finally our relationship with you has been highlighted as one of our priorities for improvement in the next academic year. I have listed this and our other priorities below:

- Further improve the Progress 8 score for all groups of learners in the school.
- Further develop Leadership at all levels in the school.
- Develop students' written and spoken literacy in different contexts.
- Further improve transition arrangements & attendance for in year admissions
- Further enhance the engagement of parents
- Further improve outcomes of AGT students at Longdean

I am certain that our relentless focus on improving what we do will only benefit your children. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you and your children this year and I look forward to continuing to do so when we return in September.

Mr G Cunningham  
Headteacher

# Numeracy

Last Issue Answer:

50

## Tesco Bags of Help

Tesco has teamed up with Groundwork to launch its community funding scheme, which sees grants of £4,000, £2,000 and £1,000 – all raised from the 5p bag levy – being awarded to local community projects.

Bags of Help offers community groups and projects across the UK a share of revenue generated from the 5p charge levied on single-use carrier bags. The public can vote in any of the local stores from Saturday 1 July to Thursday 31 August on who should receive the £4,000, £2,000 and £1,000 awards. You will receive one token per transaction and it's not necessary to purchase a carrier bag in order to receive a token.

One of these groups is Leverstock Green Playgroup with whom some of our students have been able to complete Work Experience.

## Reminders

### [Examinations Office: Reminder](#)

[Results days are being held in the Main Hall on the following dates.](#)

[GCE A2 and AS Level - 17 August at 10.00](#)

[GCSE, BTECS - 24 August 10.00-1pm](#)

Any Y11 and Sixth Form Students expecting to leave school for other education establishments or employment, should send in an A4 (300mm x210mm) **stamped addressed envelope** so that all certificates can be posted to them at the end of November. This does not apply to any students remaining in school next year. A collection box will be available in the Main Hall on Results Days.

# Information

## Independent Learning and Homework at Longdean

Please remember to discuss your child's Independent Learning and Homework set on Show My Homework using the app or the website <https://longdean.showmyhomework.co.uk/school/homeworks/calendar> where you can find the entire school's homework and filter by subject, teacher, or class without logging in. For specific details about your child's homework, please log in to this website or the app. We recommend half an hour a night, Monday through Thursday, on sites such as Sam Learning, GCSE Pod, BBC Bitesize, Linguascope and MyMaths. Links to these sites can be found on the Exam Support and Homework sections of the LLP.

Mr R Muskett - Assistant Headteacher



<http://www.gcsepod.com/parents> for a parent's guide.



[www.samlearning.com](http://www.samlearning.com) Centre ID: HP3LS Username and password are in the format: DDMMYYII, for example Mr Muskett's would be 050582RM.



[www.mymaths.co.uk](http://www.mymaths.co.uk) - students have an individual username and password from their Maths Teacher.

MFL—Ask your Teacher for the username and password for Linguascope.

Further e-learning links can be found at: <https://moodle.longdean.herts.sch.uk/mod/tab/view.php?id=8888>

## Reporting Absences from School - Contact Numbers

*If, for any reason, your child is absent from school, please contact one of the following fix numbers as soon as possible. Any messages will be picked up at the beginning of the school day.*

**Da Vinci: 01442 205706**

**Franklin: 01442 205707**

**Gates: 01442 205760**

**Pascal: 01442 205703**

**Sixth Form: 01442 205720**



## Access to Longdean School

As you are aware construction on site continues at a rapid pace. Please be aware that new arrangements for accessing Longdean School, from September, will be issued to all parents via School Comms during the summer holiday period.

Thank you for your patience whilst this work continues.

A Wheeler  
Premises Manager

# Duke of Edinburgh

## Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

Last weekend, 50 year ten students successfully completed their Bronze Qualifying Expedition, walking for two days and camping at Green Park, Aston Clinton. Students walked approximately 20 miles, whilst navigating along the canal, through fields full of cows, Wendover Woods and up a large hill to finish! Students displayed excellent camp craft through pitching their tents and cooking dinner in their groups – pasta with sauce was a popular choice! Entertainment in the evening was football, Frisbee and hair braiding.

We would like to congratulate all students who persevered through the tough weather conditions and despite sometimes losing their way, never gave up and got themselves back on track. You all demonstrated true resilience and we hope to see you next year for your Silver Awards.

New Year 10's, we will be advertising the Bronze Award shortly. Get those walking boots at the ready!

Miss Lilley and Miss Neilan



# Literacy



## Book of the Week...

**That Summer** by Sarah Dessen

*For fifteen-year-old Haven, life is changing too quickly. She's nearly six feet tall, her father is getting remarried, and her sister—the always perfect Ashley—is planning a wedding of her own. Haven wishes things could just go back to the way they were...*



Longdean School Supports



## Word of the Week...

**Penultimate** (adjective)

**Last but one in a series of things; second last.**

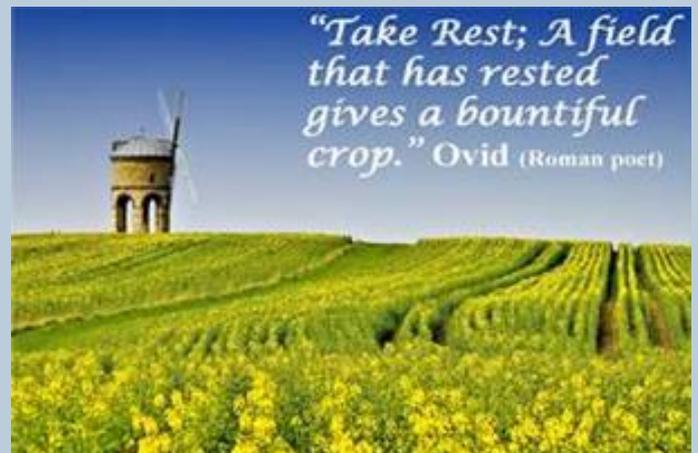
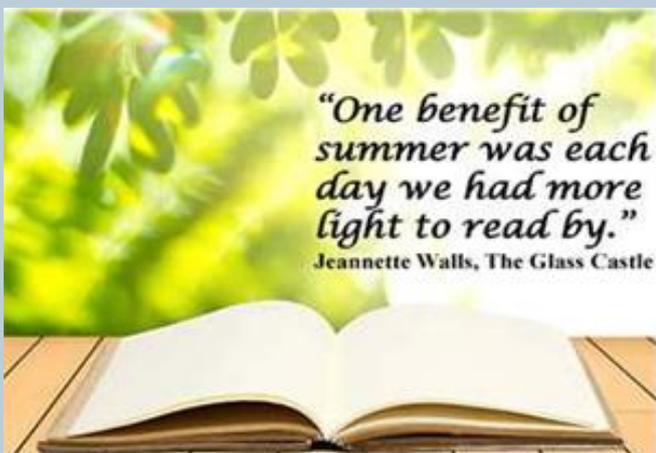
'It was the penultimate week of term.'

Longdean School Supports



## Summer Holidays

As the summer holidays approach we would ask that you encourage your child to continue to read and write. This could be through ensuring that homework is properly completed or perhaps getting your child to complete a written project or diary. Students should also be reading for at least 20 minutes a day in order for progress to continue. Please ensure that your child has a suitable reading book and preferably one that challenges them. Encourage your child to look up the definitions of any new words and talk to them about the book they are reading. We also appreciate that it is a holiday and your child has had a busy and demanding year, with the change of schools and work to complete for a number of subjects. Please do ensure that your child has time to relax and enjoy the holidays as a good rest can lead to a sense of rejuvenation and is every bit as important as hard work. I would also like to thank you for supporting our literacy initiatives this year and hope you have a wonderful summer holiday. **Mr J.Gavigan - Leading Practitioner**



# World Challenge

World Challenge students Maisie Forsdike and Julia McGrattan represented Longdean along with Mr Cunningham at the Leverstock Green Fete on Saturday 8 July. Mr Cunningham showed photos of the new school building and answered questions for the public and our local community. The girls raised funds for their World Challenge Expedition to Sri Lanka which is due to take place this time next year. They sold arts and crafts and home baked cakes as part of their fund raising efforts before next year's adventure and had some success on the sales front!

The World Challenge expedition will take place in the Knuckles range in central Sri Lanka, followed by a night climb of the religiously important Adam's Peak. The students will also run a community project in a rural village supporting a local school or environmental project and then gain some well-earned R and R time of their team's choice. The World Challenge teams will be working on their fitness levels over the summer and will undergo bleep tests in September and a practise expedition to Ashdown Forest in November.

Please support the students wherever you see them fundraising! They will be running events including quizzes in association with the LSA after the summer holidays.

Happy holidays!

Mr M. Macdonald

World Challenge Coordinator



# LSA

## Parents, the LSA needs you

We meet 6 times a year and would love to see more parents representing the various years. All funds raised go towards the school for the benefit of the students. This year we have donated a large sum of money to the school for the following new items which we hope will be in place for September 2017:

***New Trophy Cabinet***

***Two outside Table Tennis Tables***

***For Performing Arts: A Glitter Ball, Wings and LED lighting***

**Next meeting:** AGM and Meeting - 18 September 2017 (7-9pm)

Future meetings to be held at 7pm-8.30pm:

Mon 20 November 2017

Mon 15 January 2018

Mon 5 March 2018

Mon 23 April 2018

Thurs 7 June 2018



Sadly, we fear that future fund raising efforts will be in jeopardy without further Parent volunteers. We would love to hear from any Parents/Guardians who may be interested in coming to a meeting to see what happens and for any suggestions/ideas of fundraising events you would like to see at Longdean School. Should you have any questions about the committee and what we do, please contact us via [lsa@longdean.herts.sch.uk](mailto:lsa@longdean.herts.sch.uk) or visit the website for more details: <http://www.longdean.herts.sch.uk/index.php/parents/lsa.html#the-lsa>

S. Gale  
Treasurer

## Join the Longdean 100 Club

Become a member and make a vital contribution to much needed school funds - half of each monthly contribution will go to the LSA. The holder of the winning ticket receives a financial prize.

For a monthly direct debit payment of £5, members are allocated a number between 1 and 100. Each month the purchased numbers go into a draw for a portion of the total money raised that month. Half of the money raised is donated to the school, the other half is divided into first, second and third prizes.

Last year (2015/16) the 100 Club raised over £950 for the school which means that prizes totalled over £950 too. For more details please visit the Longdean Learning Platform for an application form or email [LSA@longdean.herts.sch.uk](mailto:LSA@longdean.herts.sch.uk)

**Draws will be held during our next meeting in September 2017.**

*The LSA Committee would like to wish you all a very good Summer break and look forward to seeing you at events in the next academic year.*



# Important Dates



Longdean School  
A School of Mathematics & Computing Science

End of Term	Tuesday 25 July 2017	<b>Letters that have been sent home recently, via Schoolcomms where appropriate:</b>  All Years—Pedestrian Access  All Years—End of year Letter  All Years—Lockdown Letter  All Years—Changes to parents' evening  Pascal House—Race to Thorpe Park Letter
GCE Exam Results	Thursday 17 August 2017	
GCSE Exam Results	Thursday 24 August 2017	
Inset Day	Friday 1 September 2017	
Start of Term	Monday 4 September 2017	
Study Support Session: September 2017		

# Attendance



*Pascal*

96.5%



*Gates*

96.5%



*Franklin*

95.4%



*Da Vinci*

95.8%

0%

100%

**Whole School: 95.6%**

Link Dates

The Longdean Link is published every two weeks, via the Schoolcomms e-mail system to all those for whom we have an e-mail address, and on the LLP. Next issue: 8 September 2017