



13 January 2021

Dear students

I hope that this email finds you all safe and well. I am writing to you directly as once again and for the second time in under a year we are unable to be together at school. I am sorry that this is the case. We all worked so hard to keep the school open and running since our return in June and I hope we will all be back together again soon.

I know how challenging this is for all of you regardless of the year group you are in. Those of you in Year 7 had settled well at school having missed so much of Year 6 and you were beginning to make a positive mark on our school. In Year 12 you had settled in well to Post 16 life and you were establishing yourselves as positive role models for the school. You were growing into more than just Year 11's in suits. In Year 8 you were working towards your option choices and making those initial decisions about your educational futures. Year 9 were very engaged in their first ever option and were looking forward to building on the feedback from your prelims.

For students in Year 11 and Year 13 I recognise how much uncertainty there is at the moment about examinations and your frustrations and anxieties around this are genuine and are shared by your teachers. As I write this we are currently waiting for the consultation on what will happen to be released. As soon as it is released I will share it with you and your parents so you can be involved in the process and if you can, take a full and proper part in it. I promise you that as a school we will always put your interests front and centre in our responses and will fight to ensure that you get the grades that your efforts over all your time in school deserve.

I have been incredibly impressed by the way you have responded to full time remote learning since half term. Everyday I hear great reports from your teachers about the excellent work you are producing and the high levels of engagement you are showing. Your parents have also been very supportive of what we are trying to do and are also sharing with us the things that are going well and how we could improve what we are doing. Before half term we will gather your views on this so we can acknowledge the positives and correct any problems. All I ask is that you keep up the high academic standards you have set so far. With the uncertainty around Summer Examinations and the importance of continuity in your learning it is vital that you continue to attend every lesson.

Aside from your high levels of academic engagement your personal qualities are also shining through at this time. In many ways, for most of us, coming to school to learn and socialise is easy. We do it everyday throughout our childhood. It is normal. The atmosphere we are learning in now is not normal and it is testing us all. This can be very difficult physically and emotionally. You have shown amazing resilience and depth of character to remain upbeat and to keep going when one of your usual support frameworks has been taken away from you. A small tip to keep going is to set yourself small, achievable daily targets related to your school work and personal well being. Do not set a target for the week or month ahead but for the next day, the morning or afternoon. Reward yourself if you achieve this and make sure you have time to engage in the things you can still enjoy within the current lockdown rules. Try to find time each day to exercise and endeavour to limit your screen time, especially before you go to bed.

Rumballs Road
Hemel
Hempstead
Hertfordshire

Main School: 01442 217277
Fax: 01442 233098
admin@longdean.herts.sch.uk
finance@longdean.herts.sch.uk

Pupil Absence please call

Year 7: 01442 205758
Year 8: 01442 205706
Year 9: 01442 205703
Year 10: 01442 205760
Year 11: 01442 205707
Year 12: 01442 205720

Social Media:

PE: @LongdeanPE
Science: @LongdeanScience
History: @LongdeanHistory
Film Studies: @LongdeanFilm



Finally, whilst this current situation is challenging for everyone in society I recognise that young people are having things especially tough. You are away from school, away from home and you are unable to meet up with your friends and wider families in the way you normally would. We must however all adhere to the current rules and remain at home as much as possible in order to return to normality as soon as possible. If there is anything school can do to support you please contact your form tutor, Pastoral Manager or Director of Year. If the question is about a subject please contact your teachers. The email format is initial.surname@longdean.herts.sch.uk. In the interim please continue to show the same fortitude, courage and positivity that you have shown so far. You are a great group of students and we will all be back together soon.

Best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cunningham', written in a cursive style.

Mr Cunningham