



6 January 2021

Dear parents and carers

Good afternoon everyone. Another day of remote learning is over and I would like to thank you for all the positive feedback and comments we have received so far. Your kind words really do help staff by boosting their morale at this time. Likewise I would like to thank parents who have shared feedback on the elements that are not quite where we would want them to be at the moment. As I said yesterday the vast majority of these are technical issues and our ICT team are aware of them and are dealing with them as quickly as possible.

As usual a few reminders from things that have arisen today and some developments on larger issues:

January Examinations

Mrs Embrey has now written to any student due to sit an examination this week or next. We ran our first one this morning with a 100% attendance. We have looked carefully at whether we can deliver these exams safely and we believe we can. This was demonstrated this morning. I would therefore encourage any student due to sit an exam in this series to read Mrs Embrey's letter carefully and then decide whether they wish to attend or not.

Summer examinations

I am sure you will have heard the announcement today that GCSE and A Level examinations are cancelled this summer. However, there is still a lack of detail about how grades will be awarded other than 'Teacher Assessments' and we cannot assume it will be the same process as last year. It is therefore vital that students attend all lessons on Teams and complete all the work set to a high standard as it may be needed as evidence for any teacher assessment grades used as part of the process. There are also rumours that examinations may still take place in English and Mathematics.

Mass Testing

We have established or testing bays on site and we are busily recruiting staff to support rolling these out. I know many parents have volunteered and I would like to thank you for doing so. With schools now closed the demand and numbers needed will not be as high but we will be in touch if your services are needed. I thank you for your support.

Careers Meetings

These will begin for students in Year 11 from tomorrow. All students have been notified of their appointment, which will take place on Teams. Students need to request permission to leave live lessons to attend these appointments and they must ensure any work missed is completed. Staff are aware that this is happening and will support students leaving and rejoining lessons.

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



Key worker students

Please remember to sign your child up if you wish them to attend school as a key worker or vulnerable student. The link was included in the update yesterday and will close at 6pm Friday.

From next week Monday 11 January, students will be able to wear Longdean PE kit on the days that they have PE as we are now in a position to support live delivery of this subject on site.

Rest of the week

Please remember that for the rest of this week there is no remote learning for students in Years 7,8 & 12. Year 11 and 13 live lessons will continue tomorrow and Year 11 will continue to have live lessons on Friday.

Year 9 & 10 students will be invited to join their options lesson on Friday and are expected to dial in.

Key worker and vulnerable students are still welcome to attend school tomorrow and Friday.

From next Monday 11 January all students will receive 25 hours of live lessons per week as per their school timetable

And finally

As Shakespeare said 'we have seen better days' but we are all doing everything we can to make the best of this current situation for our students and the community we serve. During this lockdown it is crucial that student learning and well being is put front and centre in everything that we do in our role. We have made a great start in achieving this goal and for your support in getting to this point I thank you.

Best regards

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

Graham Cunningham
Headteacher