



5 January 2021

Good evening to all parents and carers

We have successfully got through Day 1 of remote learning and have put together our plans for the next 6 weeks. Having been in school today with the Key Worker and Vulnerable students it has been great to see that vast range of learning activities that have been going on and the high standard of what has been offered. We are quality assuring the offer each day and we are aware that there have been some minor teething issues, mainly linked to the technology side of things. As I did in the last lockdown in March I want to write to you in order to feedback on issues that have arisen and keep you informed of our thinking as we move through this difficult period together.

Free School Meal vouchers and lunches

Vouchers have now been issued to all students eligible for free school meals to cover up to end of January 2021 period.

If your child is coming into school please can you ensure that you child has enough money on their Finger Id to pay for the food they order.

Remote Learning & Technology

Please report any issues to ithelpdesk@longdean.herts.sch.uk ensuring you include the child's name and year group. Passwords can be reissued and membership of TEAMS adjusted but it is time consuming, so some patience may be required. I apologise for any inconvenience this causes.

We are aware that some students have been placed in the wrong Teams as there have been some set changes since they were originally established. We are aware of this issue and are working through it. Apologies for the associated issues this causes.

We know that some of the new 1:1 lease machines have issues with the settings for sound. We are exploring this and we are hoping to resolve the issue via a small remote update for all machines.

If you do not have enough adequate machines at home to support remote learning we have some machines to loan out during this lockdown. Please can you let your child's Pastoral Manager or Director of Year know about this and we will do what we can as soon as we can. The 1:1 scheme is going to reopen shortly, but it's likely that deliveries of machines will take several months.

For students who do not have broadband or suitable Internet Access again please let your child's Pastoral Manager know and we will pass this information on. If you can provide as much detail as possible this will help us source a solution.

Key Worker Groups

Sign up forms – the for below is open for next week and will now include vulnerable children too. This form will be issued every Tuesday and will close every Friday at 6pm. You must sign your child up each week.

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](#)



We allocate staff to these groups based on the number of responses so if you do not sign up your child will not be allowed to join until the next available opportunity. Please note that students with an EHCP or allocated Social Worker also need to sign up from next week onwards.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=FKPgQBg02E-HRai-OC_x3KEw0GEGPxBHvf--O6T9quVUQ1VJTVowVEJZMDc4M1BWOUNRWII3VUwwOC4u

If your child comes to school as a Key Worker they must wear school uniform (not PE kit) and bring in a pair of headphones for Teams as well as a mask. They will also need their usual school equipment.

Mass Testing

As things stand we still intend to roll out this programme so please continue to complete and return the consent forms so we can begin training staff and establishing the testing bays. I will keep you updated as the situation around this issue evolves.

Examinations

As we stand the examinations in January are due to take place and no examinations have been cancelled in the Summer. It is therefore vital that students who are sitting exams in the next two weeks continue to revise and attend all relevant Teams lessons. We can deliver examinations safely with social distancing and ventilation as the numbers are relatively small and it is therefore imperative they arrive for the scheduled time. Mrs Embrey will write directly to the students involved.

Half Term 3 School Calendar

Just to give advance notice, this half term contains several events:

- Year 11 Option Evening January 12th
- Year 11 & Level 2 Parent Evening January 19th
- Year 13 Parent Evening January 26th
- Reports for Year 8 February 2nd
- Year 8 Parent Evening February 11th

At the moment we fully intend to operate these events remotely but I will keep you posted

Thanks again for all of your support.

Yours sincerely



G Cunningham
Headteacher