



Longdean School
'Rejoice in thy youth'

Longdean Link

Edition 1

15.09.2023

Dates for your diary

23-27 Oct - Half term

02 Dec— Occasional day

21 Dec—End of term

03 Jan '24—Term starts

19-23 Feb —Half term

29 Mar—End of term

A note from the Headteacher

Dear parents and carers

Welcome back to a brand new school year, a start that has been greeted with some unseasonably high temperatures and glorious sunshine.

I am very excited about the year ahead and I wanted to use this first edition of the link to share with you our school priorities. I have outlined these below but in essence we are trying to ensure that we are adaptable in all aspects of our school practice in order to enable all students to develop both academically and socially during their time at Longdean School. These priorities are displayed in every classroom and office around the school and are the focus of all our staff training this year.

School Priorities 23-24

Adaptation achieved through:

1. Quality first teaching

We want to make sure all teachers help you engage with your learning

2. Literacy

We want you to be able to read and write the most common words we use and improve your reading

3. Curriculum

We want your curriculum to be accessible and relevant to you all so you can develop skills and knowledge as you move from Year 7 to Year 13

4. Behaviour Management

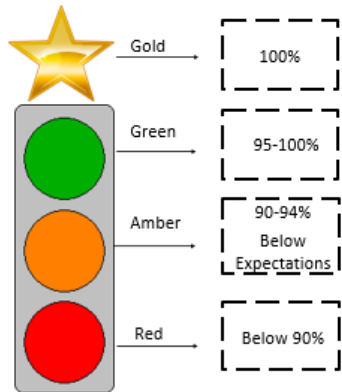
We want to understand why you sometimes make mistakes with your behaviour so we can support you in changing it

Aside from these priorities I would also like to remind parents of the importance of excellent attendance and punctuality at school. Research into this issue has clearly highlighted a link between attendance, educational outcomes and future earnings when students leave education and enter into employment. The magic figure seems to be that an attendance figure of 95% or above makes students three times more likely to achieve a good pass in English and Mathematics and achieve their target grades. I have summarised this information for you in the chart below. Please share this with your children at home and support them and the school by ensuring they attend school daily, on time. I would also remind parents that term time absence is for exceptional reasons only and holidays will not be sanctioned.

Our target for school attendance is
95%



- * A student who ends the school year on 90% attendance will have missed four complete weeks of school.
- * 90% over 5 years at secondary school equates to half a school year and the achievement at GCSE will be one grade lower



Students whose attendance is 100% will be able to make the best of all the opportunities available to them.

Students who have very good attendance are more likely to gain 5 or more Level 4 or above GCSEs or equivalent qualifications.

If a student's attendance is below expectations for their entire school career, they will have missed over one year of education!

91.1% attendance=missing 17 days/85 lessons of school in one year.

Missing 17 days a year also means dropping 1 GCSE grade (on average).

Students with poor attendance are less likely to gain 5 A*-C 4 – 9 grade equivalent to a GCSE Pass grade

82.1% attendance = missing 34 days / 170 lessons of school in one year. Poor attendance will have a serious impact on education, work ethic and life chances.

Wherever possible please make medical and dental appointments outside of school hours.



How punctuality impacts your attendance

If in a school year, you are late every day by...	You would have lost approximately...	or you would have missed approximately...
5 Minutes	3.5 Days from School	18 Lessons
10 Minutes	7 Days from School	35 Lessons
15 Minutes	10 Days from School	50 Lessons
20 Minutes	14.5 Days from School	73 Lessons
30 Minutes	22 Days from School	110 Lessons

I have been sharing these points with students in assemblies this week and I have urged them to 'do what they have to do in order to do what they want to do.' By this I mean taking control and responsibility for the things they can control in relation to their education like attendance, behaviour, work ethic and to show resilience and problem solving abilities when things are tough. As an organisation we are in a strong position to do this. We return to school on the back of some excellent GCSE and A Level results and to a school site that has undergone some changes and development over the summer, resulting in more teaching spaces and upgrades in lots of our equipment and learning environment. We are full, with a waiting list, in all years and our Post 16 numbers are the highest we have ever had as a school. This is due to the work of our ensure school staff, the attitudes of the students and the support we receive from you as parents.

I am certain that this will be another great year for our school and I look forward to working with you in the weeks and months ahead.

Graham Cunningham
Headteacher

Word of the week

A is for approximation

A number or result that is not exact. Numbers are sometimes approximated (or rounded) to make them easier to work with. For example, $43 + 28.7$ will become $40 + 30 = 70$

How many Mathematical words starting with the letter "A" can you think of?



Qu

These are the finishing times of 4 competitors in a 333 m speed skating competition.

Laura	45.910 s
Olena	44.076 s
Tanya	44.845 s
Zi	45.918 s



Who won the gold, silver and bronze medals?

Martin Lewis:

Financial education matters...



PERSONAL LOANS

A personal loan is an agreement between an individual (the borrower) and the financial organisation which is supplying the money (the lender).

Personal loans are usually taken out for a term of between 1 and 10 years and are usually unsecured (read the previous 'Did you know' to find out the difference between secured and unsecured borrowing).

You can apply for a personal loan through a bank, building society, credit union or an online financial company. Each will advertise their interest as a "typical" or "representative" APR, but remember, this may not be the rate you actually receive as it will be based on your individual circumstances.

On agreement, you will be provided with a repayment schedule. This shows all the repayments you will need to make over the term of the loan – these are usually monthly but can vary according to the Terms and Conditions of the loan. Once you are happy with the agreement, you will be asked to sign a contract and the money will be transferred to your bank account.

Answers

Answer:

Olena – gold, Tanya – silver, Laura – bronze.

PE department: extra curricular activities timetable 23/24

	7		8		9		10		11		Sixth Form
Monday	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
	Basketball (MJ)	Football (BH)	Rugby (DJ/SPB)	Football (BH)	Football (OJ)	Netball (ES)	Rugby (HD)	Netball (ES)	Rugby (HD)		
Tuesday	Football (DG)	Step Aerobics (AC) Basketball (MJ)		Step Aerobics (AC) Basketball (MJ)		Step Aerobics (AC)	Football (OJ)	Step Aerobics (AC)		Step Aerobics (AC)	Step Aerobics (AC)
Wednesday	Rugby (DJ)	Netball (SPB) Body Conditioning (AC)	Basketball (MJ)	Netball (ES) Body Conditioning (AC)	Rugby (HD)	Football (BH) Body Conditioning (AC)		Football (BH) Body Conditioning (AC)	Football (DG)	Football (BH) Body Conditioning (AC)	Body Conditioning (AC)
	Trampolining	Trampolining	Trampolining	Trampolining	Trampolining	Trampolining	Trampolining	Trampolining	Trampolining	Trampolining	Trampolining
Thursday		Rugby (SPB) Dance Fit (AC)	Football (HD)	Rugby (SPB) Dance Fit (AC)	Basketball (MJ)	Dance Fit (AC)	Basketball (MJ)	Dance Fit (AC)	Rugby (DJ)	Netball (ES) Dance Fit	Rugby (DJ) Netball (ES) Dance Fit (AC)
Friday	Boxing	Boxing	Boxing	Boxing	Boxing	Boxing	Boxing	Boxing	Boxing	Boxing	Boxing

CATCH UP FOR CNAT, GCSE, CTEC

Science SOS

Confused by Chemistry?
Bamboozled by Biology?
Puzzled by Physics?
Science getting you in a
sweat?



Come to Science SOS!

The Science team will solve your science problems!

Need help with science revision? Worried about an upcoming test or exam? Just want to chat about science?!

Be soothed by Science SOS!

Every Monday after school in S4, 3.10pm—4.10pm

A Level Chemistry support on Thursday lunchtimes in S4



Biology Boggling your Brain?
Chemistry turning you Crackers?
Physics getting you in a Pickle?

Science SOS has the answer!





BOARD GAME CLUB

KS4: Tuesday lunchtime, LG8

KS3: Wednesday lunchtime, G18

Tuesday afterschool (all years): LG8

Variety of games available.

Be prompt, be respectful.



Clubs



Dungeons & Dragons club will be running again in the new slot of Thursday lunchtime and the new location of LG8 for KS4 students



Newbies, experienced dungeon masters, everyone is welcome to come and help us slay all manner of goblins, dire wolves and kobolds! I will also be looking to recruit students as Dungeon Masters to run regular sessions, so if your child is keen to get involved, please get them to come and see me.

If your child can't make Thursdays but would still like information, they can come and find me in S9 or the Science group area opposite S4 at break or lunch.

Please note, KS3 is still being confirmed.

Neil Munday

Dungeon Master Extraordinaire

Sports Shoes Donations

We are supporting One Impossible Thing, a charity that provides nearly new astro boots, blades and trainers to children. If you have any donations you feel are suitable, please drop them off to Reception.



ONE IMPOSSIBLE THING
SPORTS SHOE NETWORK

What we do

We collect pre-loved and outgrown sports shoes and redistribute them for free to those who need a little extra help.

We believe a lack of sports shoes shouldn't be an impediment to children and adults taking part in sport. Especially as sport can help people build confidence, self esteem and lead healthy lives.

We work in West Herts and Luton to redistribute the shoes through youth groups, schools, refugee groups and charitable organisations.

How you can help

We are running a Shoe Drive at school, so collect all your discarded and outgrown sports shoes lurking in the back of your wardrobe.

Football boots, astro boots, trainers and running shoes are all accepted.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook or Instagram and help spread the word about what we do.

 @1impossiblething

 @oneimpossiblething

e: contact@1impossiblething.com

Information



**Try Girls Rugby for free
on Sunday 17th Sept**

1pm - 2:30pm

Open to all girls - 10yrs to 18yrs

register at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/free-taster-session-girls-rugby-tickets-708449520587?>

Fullerians RFC, Coningesby Drive, Watford, Herts, WD17 3BD

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>

Here 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 GCSE Pod, BBC Bitesize, Mathswatch, Tassomai, Educake, MyMaths and others, as advised by the departments.

www.mymaths.co.uk — students have an individual username and password from their Maths Teacher.



Link Dates The Longdean Link is published every two weeks, via the in touch e-mail system to all those for whom we have an e-mail address.

Reporting Absences from School - Contact Numbers

If, for any reason, your child is absent from school or needs to be collected for an appointment, please contact one of the following numbers as soon as possible. Any messages will be picked up at the beginning of the school day.

Please call each day your child will be absent.

<i>Year 7:</i>	<i>01442 205703</i>
<i>Year 8:</i>	<i>01442 205760</i>
<i>Year 9:</i>	<i>01442 205758</i>
<i>Year 10:</i>	<i>01442 205707</i>
<i>Year 11:</i>	<i>01442 205706</i>
<i>Sixth Form:</i>	<i>01442 205720</i>

Student travel



Do you or your child travel to University, College or School by bus? If so, we've got the perfect solution!

Arriva Student and Child Saver tickets are valid for anyone in full time education and, is a cost effective and flexible way of paying for travel costs.

Unlimited Travel - You'll get unlimited access to travel on any Arriva bus, at any time, across all routes in your chosen area.

No Restrictions - The Saver tickets will cover your travel to and from University, School or College, evenings, weekends and throughout the holidays too at any time of the day.

Flexible Payments - Arriva's Direct Debit scheme allows you to spread the cost of your ticket over affordable monthly payments. It's an easy way to pay for travel and there's no contract involved, making it an ideal way to get reduced bus travel for the whole Academic year, without paying upfront.

Sign up in advance – Either set your direct debit a future date for when you need the ticket or, you can start your ticket now to get used to the local bus routes

Plan your journey – Please use our 'Plan a journey' tool on our website to work out which bus you require

It's a simple process to apply, to arrange your Direct Debit please visit the website below and, select the region the school, college or university is in

www.arrivabus.co.uk/monthlytickets

Once registered you can select either to receive your monthly pass by post or sent to your mobile phone, so you won't have to worry about paying every time you board the bus.

This ticket will rollover every month for as long as the direct debit remains active.

For any queries regarding the scheme, please email: talktous@arriva.co.uk

***Our tickets do not cover Arriva London/TFL routes**





LONGDEAN
SCHOOL

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raising standards
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(Hemel Hempstead)

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Assault
Course

Football

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