

# Longdean Link – Edition 14 – 6 May 2011

## Headlines

Dear Parents and Friends

I hope that you had an excellent Easter break; certainly the weather has been kind to us. The Bank Holidays and the Royal Wedding have created quite a disjointed start to the term, particularly at a time when exams are imminent for so many students, but I am very pleased with the enthusiasm and approach that the students have taken to their studies. Year 12 will start their study leave on Monday 23 May and return to normal lessons on Monday 13 June, whilst Year 13 students' last day is Friday 27 May. Year 11 will start their alternative timetable to support revision sessions for each exam on Monday 16 May. Letters and timetables have been sent out today. Clearly, it is a very important time for so many students and our advice is simple. Work as hard as you can but within sensible boundaries that ensure students eat healthily, drink plenty of water, go to bed earlier rather than later and are organised. This means having the right equipment for each lesson leading up to the exam and for the exam itself, using planners or mobile reminders to help meet deadlines, attending any revision session that is being offered and revising in shorter chunks of time, remembering to write and take notes and not just read as that alone will not maximise your time spent on your studies.

I wish every student good luck over the next few weeks and would remind students that the more you practise the luckier you get!!

Best wishes



**R D Bryant**  
Headteacher

### Maths Trivia – answer overleaf

What do mathematicians call a regular polygon with eight sides?

Miss F Penfold

### Link Dates

The Longdean Link is published every two weeks. We send the Link using the **Schoolcomms** e-mail system to all those for whom we have an e-mail address. It is also available on our website and the Longdean Learning Platform.

Next Links:      20 May                      9 June

### Letters that have been sent home recently:

- A Level Business Studies/ICT Trip to Barcelona
- Schoolcomms - all general letters will be sent via e-mail from now on. Please check your e-mails regularly and let us know if you change your e-mail address.
- Year 12 Reports
- Year 11 examination timetable
- Personal Finance session Wednesday 18 May 3.40 to 4.30 pm

### Year 11 Examinations

Students are reminded that they need to arrive for all examinations in full school uniform and with all relevant equipment (two black pens, as well as protractors, pencils, calculators, compass and rulers for Maths, Technology, Geography and Science) enclosed in a clear plastic bag or pencil case.

**G Cunningham, Deputy Headteacher**

### Important Dates:

Yr 10 Parents' evening  
Academic Mentoring

Thursday 12 May

Tuesday 17 May – Yr 9 students and those who did not attend the previous academic mentoring session as guided by DoH

GCSE Exams begin  
Half Term

Monday 16 May

Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June

Do you have something you would like to add to the next Link? Let us know using our email address:

[link@longdean.herts.sch.uk](mailto:link@longdean.herts.sch.uk)



LONGDEAN LINK



### Science Museum

Longdean Science Department staff are very excited about the upcoming visit by the Science Museum with their Roadshow. The whole of Year 8 will watch the show on Wednesday 18 May. The show is about high voltage electricity; let's hope it's not too shocking.

**Miss C Collacott, DoL Science**

### The Times Spelling Bee - 3rd May 2011

Longdean recently took part in the Times Spelling Bee competition which takes place annually for Year 7 students. Our team for 2010 - 2011 consisted of Jack Wolf, Ayoub Haddouch, Devang Joshi and Joshua Dick.

There were two rounds to the competition; one being an individual knock-out round and the second involving the entire team spelling as many words as possible correctly in just two minutes. The Longdean team did very well indeed and finished in a creditable 4th place overall, finishing ahead of several selective schools. The boys each received a gift bag for entering the competition and will gain House points in recognition of their efforts.

**A Purser, Assistant Headteacher**

### Easter Concert

Thank you to everyone who supported the Easter Concert on Thursday 31 March. We had a fantastic time and it was lovely to see so many students participating. We had record numbers, with over 60 taking part. Our African Drumming group performed their debut piece, with the fabulous Mr P providing the finale. It was great to hear so many bands and soloists too. Well done to you all.

**Miss Cheney, Miss Foster, Miss Scott - Music Department**

### Maths Trivia Answer: An octagon

### Dacorum School Sports Partnership Dance Competition

Longdean entered two dances in this year's School Sports Partnership Dance Competition at Hemel Sportspace. One dance was entitled 'Eclipse' and included boys and girls from Years 7 to 11. The second dance was performed by the girls from the Livewire Dance Club and was called 'Too Cool for School'. Both sets of dancers performed excellently in front of the 500 strong audience. 'Eclipse' also had the honour of finishing as runner up in the Secondary Schools category. Congratulations to all those students involved.

**N Merrett, SSCO**

### House Points Update Week 27

|          |        |          |        |
|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| Da Vinci | 14,146 | Franklin | 13,564 |
| Gates    | 14,032 | Pascal   | 13,083 |

### Young People Leading the Way Conference

In March the four of us were invited to attend the Hertfordshire Young People Leading the Way Conference at Herts Sports Village in Hatfield. During the day we took part in a number of activities that developed our personal, learning and thinking skills in relation to sports leadership. These activities focused on helping us improve our confidence, our ability and of course our leadership skills. We were also introduced to the inspirational athlete Mike Mullen. Mike is an amazing BMX rider who has twice won the BMX World Championship. He spoke to us about how he taught himself to do BMX tricks and how important it is in life to be a good leader.

All in all it was a great day and I'm sure everyone who attended had a fantastic time. We came away from the Conference looking forward to using the skills that we had developed in sports leadership back in Longdean School.

**Georgia-Marie Howells (Yr 9), Jonny Compton-Weight (Yr 9), Gabby Brown (Yr 8) and Jordon Duffy (Yr 8)**

### Headteacher's Questions

These are some of the Headteacher's Questions from the School Parliament held on Thursday 7 April:

**With all the education spending cuts, what is the thing you would protect at all costs? Graham Glass, Pascal**

- The core purpose for us is to give you a rounded education of good quality. I would like to protect class sizes and the quality of teaching and learning. I would also like to protect things like the School Parliament and trips.

**With university fees rising to £9,000 per year, and loans being paid back with interest, students leaving college with debts of £40,000 and high graduate unemployment, is it really worth going to university? James French, Da Vinci**

- One of the advantages of university is that over a lifetime you will earn more, so I wouldn't let debt put you off university if it is what you want to do. There are all sorts of help and support and not everyone will have to pay £9,000 per year.

**Is the government's plan to make everyone stay on in school or college until they are eighteen a good idea – surely this is not the right thing for everyone? Romario French, Gates**

- Currently the government are giving us less money for Sixth Form and saying that students should stay in school. However, I believe that the government should provide improved services for any individual, including apprenticeships.