



LONGDEAN
SCHOOL

CHALLENGING
INNOVATIVE
SUPPORTIVE

PROSPECTUS



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Challenging:

We encourage and expect all our students to be the very best that they can be.

A WELCOME FROM THE HEADTEACHER

At Longdean School, we are dedicated to delivering an excellent education – one that gives all our students the tools to develop into confident citizens who can contribute to the world.

A mixed-sex, multi-denominational school based in Hemel Hempstead, Longdean caters for more than 1,400 pupils aged 11 to 18. We provide them with a friendly, supportive learning environment and a high standard of teaching that enables them to excel and gain the qualifications and skills they need to do well in life. The school is regularly oversubscribed and a popular choice within the local community.

The school's values are reflected in our school motto – Rejoice in Thy Youth. We celebrate childhood and make sure that, along with gaining an education, students enjoy unique opportunities including enrichment activities and educational trips at home and abroad, which help them to become well-rounded individuals and build positive relationships with staff.

Our school building and facilities are bright, spacious, modern and kitted out with the latest equipment and IT.

We have high expectations of our students, and our personalised curriculum is challenging, flexible and innovative – offering both academic subjects and vocational courses that meet the needs of students and employers. Our high expectations are regularly met – as our successful exam results consistently show.

Our popular Sixth Form has more than 180 students, who benefit from their own fantastic two-floor centre, a personalised curriculum, and the excellent pastoral support that all young people at Longdean receive. Advisers and experienced sixth-form tutors are also on hand to offer advice on apprenticeships, work and further study pathways so students can take control of their future and progress confidently into work, training or higher education. For more details, download our special sixth-form prospectus at www.longdeanschool.co.uk.

If you would like to find out more about our school, come along to one of our open events where you can talk to students and teachers, or visit our website which offers more details on life at Longdean.

We can't wait to welcome you to our school.

Mr Graham Cunningham



CURRICULUM AND LEARNING

At Longdean School, we have high aspirations and expectations for our students both academically and personally. We believe that all our students are entitled to an education that will enable them to develop their full potential. We recognise that each has individual needs, and so we put personalised learning at the heart of our teaching and lessons. We encourage our students to develop a love of learning that will hopefully be lifelong, and we value honesty, respect and a strong work ethic.

To deliver our curriculum, our highly motivated teachers work closely together as part of a diverse, supportive team, sharing best practice, to give our students the best education possible. We also offer cutting-edge learning facilities and equipment; we operate a laptop leasing scheme for students across the whole school.

Our flexible, innovative curriculum and high-quality teaching are well-placed to provide students with the skills they need in the world beyond school. Our four school houses – Franklin, DaVinci, Gates and Pascal – also encourage healthy academic and sporting competition between students, as well as fostering a sense of belonging.

Key Stage 3 students are encouraged to follow a timetable that makes the most of their interests and talents. After the first term, we invite pupils we think will benefit to join one of two specialist streams – Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) or Performance Arts, which includes dance and drama. Both streams study the same broad curriculum, but students spend more time focusing on their stream subjects.

Key Stage 4 students are offered a choice of one- and three-year courses, enabling them to develop a wider portfolio of qualifications than traditional routes and giving them a competitive edge when they leave school. They follow a core curriculum of English, Maths, Science, Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), Ethics, and Physical Education, with some having the option to study a modern language – French or Spanish. They can then choose one three-year option from Computer Science, Geography, History or Triple Science, as well as four or five one-year options which include subjects ranging from Art to Engineering and Travel & Tourism. Students can choose from a wide range of qualifications – from exam-based GCSEs, to BTECs and CNATs, which are more coursework based but equivalent to GCSEs. Students who fall behind in English and/or Maths in Years 10 or 11 can follow a catch-up programme instead of doing one of their one-year options.





Key Stage 5 or sixth-form course options are reviewed every year to reflect students' interests and employers' needs. Students can choose from a broad range of academic and vocational courses, with the opportunity to study both. A level subjects include Modern Foreign Languages, Sciences, Humanities, Art and Design and Product Design, while vocational courses span everything from Business Studies to Forensic and Criminal Investigation, Health and Social Care to Sport. Our lesson-free Flexible Fridays enable students to balance study and paid work, to study independently or to take part in extra-curricular activities.

High-performance students are supported through differentiated lessons and inspiring enrichment activities, while **students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)** follow a curriculum and study subjects they are interested and can succeed in. Their progress is monitored and the support they receive is adapted to meet their learning needs.

We get results

Since September 2010, Longdean School has retained a 'good' Ofsted report. Two-thirds of our students achieve Grade 4 or above in GCSE English and Maths, while almost two-thirds achieve grades A* to B at A level. The school has one of the best 'value-added' scores locally, with all students going onto higher education (often to Cambridge or Russell Group universities) or finding employment after their time with us.

Alongside our broad curriculum offer, at Longdean we also provide excellent careers guidance, work experience and mock-interview opportunities, so students can leave school with the skills and knowledge they need to take their next step into work, study or training.



STUDENT SUPPORT

Longdean School is renowned for its excellent, supportive pastoral care and its commitment to getting to know and getting the best out of each student. We empower our students so that they can become confident, responsible citizens.

Our older students support our younger pupils to deal with their transition from primary to secondary school. In addition, our experienced team of staff, including pastoral care managers and form tutors, oversee students' care and welfare.

In our Sixth Form, we provide each student with personalised support, ranging from practical advice on creating compelling applications for university, employment or traineeships, to advice on emotional, social or other issues they may be experiencing.

Weekly tutor group sessions give students the chance to meet others outside their subject areas, to discuss their progress with their tutor and seek support if they need to. While we foster students' independence and help them prepare for young adulthood, we also recognise the important role families play in their lives. Tutors are the link between our Sixth Form and home, and will normally be the first point of contact for parents.

Longdean aims to be an inclusive school community and we provide practical support to achieve this. Our bursary scheme for students from lower-income families, who are committed to studying at Longdean Sixth Form, helps meet the cost of, for example, school trips, books, clothing, university visits and transport to and from school. We encourage any families who may be eligible for our bursary to apply. We also operate a laptop leasing scheme for students across the whole school.

While the school's house system encourages academic and sporting competition among our students, it also fosters a sense of belonging and camaraderie within Longdean.





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Supportive:

A school environment that empowers students to become confident, responsible and contributing citizens.

ENRICHMENT AND FACILITIES

While Longdean School focuses on providing a high-quality education and excellent pastoral care, we also pride ourselves on the wide range of enrichment opportunities we offer our students.

Beyond the classroom

On top of gaining an educational advantage, through our enrichment activities students can also develop the social skills and adaptability they need to succeed, enabling them to embrace the new challenges that life throws at them. Our supportive environment means everything we do in the classroom and beyond is designed to make our students feel safe and happy at school and to promote positive student-teacher relationships.

Longdean School offers a variety of groups, clubs and activities to spark new passions and talents, and promote healthy competition. These include everything from chess and cookery clubs to community volunteering, public speaking and sports. Students are also encouraged to play their part in shaping school life through our Sixth Form Student Leadership Team, who advocate for students and work closely with staff to make improvements.

We also enrich students' learning and life experiences by organising educational visits to local sites of interest, such as St Albans, and trips abroad to countries including Iceland. Participants involved in award and world-challenge schemes, such as the Duke of Edinburgh, have been able to explore new places, try new things and make new friends. We are proud to count Olympic and Paralympic champions among our former students.



Our school facilities

Having undergone a major rebuild in 2012, Longdean's purpose-built buildings are bright, contemporary and spacious. They are set on an attractive greenfield campus with state-of-the-art facilities and access for disabled students. Our facilities include:

- a fully equipped gym
- a sports centre, including indoor and outdoor courts, grass and artificial pitches
- a dance studio
- a theatre and drama studios
- a music recording studio
- a library
- well-equipped spacious science labs
- fully kitted-out food tech rooms
- cutting-edge IT and design and technology suites
- a designated two-floor, sixth-form area, offering quiet study zones and communal exercising and socialising spaces
- a wildlife pond area.

COMMUNITY MINDED

At Longdean, we believe it's important to forge relationships with local communities and with those around the world. This enables us to promote and reinforce our values of social responsibility and caring for others.

Local links

We share our school and sports facilities with local people, and our students take part in local sporting and academic competitions. Every year, we organise fundraising activities, where students and staff get together to raise money for local charities.

Through our alumni network, we work with former students, who share their experiences and skills learned since leaving school, to help us motivate, inspire and boost the confidence of current students so they can make informed choices about their futures.



Our students also have unique access to other schools, businesses, charities, higher education institutions and employers through our involvement with the East Dacorum Cooperative Learning Trust. This collaboration means they are able to take advantage of special educational and work opportunities.

Reaching out globally

Through our international schools work, students have been involved in an array of important projects in different countries, including the creation of an ICT suite for a junior high school in Bedomase in Ghana, as well as a secondary school for the village.

Partnership with parents

Parents' views are canvassed regularly, and staff are accessible via email, phone and meetings, which means we are able to foster a genuine and positive partnership with the parents and carers of our students.



WHY JOIN US AND HOW TO APPLY

Thanks for reading our prospectus. We hope you agree with us that our outstanding school has so much to offer. Here's just a few reasons why you should consider joining us:

- Our **results** speak for themselves:
 - since September 2010, Longdean has retained a 'good' Ofsted report
 - two-thirds of our students achieve Grade 4 or above in GCSE English and Maths
 - around two-thirds of our students achieve grades A* to B at A level
 - all our students go onto higher education or find employment after their time with us.
- Our **wide-ranging curriculum** offers students both academic and vocational subjects, giving students a wider range of subjects and skills and a competitive edge.
- Our second-to-none **pastoral care** helps student grow as individuals and make the most of their time with us.
- Our **high expectations** – we value honesty, respect and a strong work ethic.
- Our **motivated** teaching and support staff provide students with a high-quality education and personal support.
- Our state-of-the art **facilities**, both teaching and sporting, are modern, spacious and well equipped.
- Our **extra-curricular** activities help to nurture new talents, broaden experiences and promote positive relationships between staff and students.

How to apply for a place

Students can join us at Longdean School in Year 7 from primary school, when moving in-year from another secondary school, or as members of our Sixth Form.

To apply for a place in Year 7, follow the Hertfordshire County Council applications process by visiting www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/home.aspx.

For in-year and sixth-form places, visit www.longdeanschool.co.uk and go to the Admissions page in About Us to complete our in-year and Sixth Form application forms.

For more information on the school, our curriculum and life at Longdean, or if you would like to visit us, please head to www.longdeanschool.co.uk, email us at admin@longdean.herts.sch.uk or call 01442 217277.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school.





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Innovative:

A forward-thinking curriculum that engages students and meets the demands of the modern world of work.



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