



# About Longdean Sixth Form

One of the greatest changes you experience upon entering the Sixth Form is that you become a student: 'one who studies...'. We believe that, as you grow towards adulthood, an important task of the Sixth Form is to provide a bridge between the restrictions of adolescence and the responsibilities of being a mature young person. This implies not only a willingness, interest and self-discipline regarding academic matters but also a commitment to the development of a thoughtful, enquiring and considerate attitude to personal and social responsibilities. The purpose of the Sixth Form is to provide opportunities which fulfil these dual responsibilities. We encourage students to participate in recreational and sporting activities, engage in Community Service either within school or in the wider community and to organize a wide range of social and academic activities. Many school clubs and sports teams welcome the support and leadership of the Sixth Form, and Sixth Formers play an important role in helping younger pupils adjust to secondary education and in offering assistance in lessons.

In coming to a decision about whether or not to stay on into Longdean's Sixth Form you might wish to consider the following advantages:

1. **Range of subjects** - We offer a very broad range of A Level subjects including many which will be new to you such as Economics, Forensic Science, and Government and Politics.
2. **Open Access** - We are NOT wholly selective by academic ability. We are proud of the fact that our Sixth Form can and does offer appropriate courses for a wide range of abilities. We take great care in matching students to appropriate courses where they can be successful.
3. **Continuity of Staff** - You will probably already know the staff who will be teaching you. They know you not only from an academic point of view but as an individual. They are well-equipped to help you and this may well be reflected in the progress you make and the academic results you attain.
4. **Settling in** - You will know your teachers, your fellow students and the environment. There will, of course, be plenty of new experiences but you will not have to go through the worrying process of finding your feet in a new setting. You only have one or two years before the next phase of your life – university or work – and can ill afford to waste any time or energy.
5. **Smaller classes** - Classes will normally consist of ten to twenty students; this will give you closer contact with your teachers and some opportunity for individual



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help when you have difficulties. In many subjects you will be taught by more than one teacher for different components of the course.

6. **Track Record of Examination Success** - Longdean has an excellent record of success at all levels post-16. The outgoing year 13 students achieved the best (Value Added) grades in Hemel Hempstead. We generally expect about 70 students to gain access to degree courses, including the most competitive such as Oxford, Cambridge and the 'Russell Group'. Many others gain places on sought after apprenticeships.
7. **Facilities** - The Sixth Form Study Centre provides a base for recreation (break and lunch), debate, discussion and group working. There are also private study areas and computers. The canteen is open most of the day for Sixth formers and there is an area for tea and coffee making as well as a microwave. There are 36 laptops available for Sixth form use. Miss Segalini and the Post 16 Manager are based nearby to be accessible to students.
8. **Pastoral Care/academic support** - You will have daily contact with your Form Tutor who is responsible for your personal well-being. In addition, the Assistant Head in charge of post 16 and the Post 16 Manager are responsible for monitoring your academic and social progress. There is always someone available for advice on any issue, whether personal, study or career-related. Staff are present to assist you throughout the time you are in the Sixth Form, and the provision of Sixth Form Pastoral Care was highly rated in the OFSTED Inspection in December 2015. Form Groups are attached to their current Houses. House Captains and Vice-Captains are elected from the Sixth Form. PSHCE is taught by the Sixth Form Tutor team exploring Sixth Form issues such as the UCAS (university) application process. Students and parents are informed of progress formally by three Reports and a Parents' Consultation Evenings, and more informally at Welcome to Sixth Form and Next Steps Evenings and by contact from subject teachers, Form Tutors, Miss Segalini or The Post 16 Manager if concerns arise over attendance, punctuality, behaviour or work. These contacts are, of course, always intended to support students if there are difficulties.
9. **Four day week** - We understand that for many the need to balance their education with paid employment. In the past we have been aware that many students spend much of their evening/weekend time at work and it encroaches into their study time and has a negative impact on well-being. We are now offering students the opportunity to balance their school work and/or paid work more effectively by introducing the four day week. Level 3 students will be expected to be in school full time from Monday to Thursday but will be able to use Friday how they need. For some they may wish to come into school and use the facilities to study, for others they may wish to gain paid employment, others may simply work from home. Students must commit to studying for an additional 12 hours per subject per fortnight (36 hours) and ensure all work is completed to a high standard and all deadlines are met but the 4 day week



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allows a little more flexibility with this. *It is to be noted however, that this is a privilege and not a right. If students find themselves in breach of contract and/or falling behind we may insist they attend school and have supervised study.*

10. **Extra-Curricular Activities** - We are proud of our very broad range of extra-curricular opportunities including sport, music, drama, dance, visits, trips abroad, Young Enterprise etc. Access to these activities is open to all Sixth Formers. The bi-annual 'World Challenge' trip is growing in popularity, so far destinations include India, Swaziland, Costa Rica, Zambia, Sri Lanka Coming up: Cambodia in summer 2020
11. **Responsibility** - You will be expected to exercise responsibility for the more junior members of the school. All Sixth Formers are Prefects and as such represent role-models for the rest of the school; we consider it a valuable component in your training. Most careers involve a degree of responsibility for others and the Sixth Form is a good preparation for this. In addition, you will be expected and helped to develop much greater independence and responsibility for your own learning, time-management and participation.
12. **Cost** - You may be asked to buy some text-books and specialist equipment and to finance field-trips and school visits. But if you are eligible there is a bursary available to support.. Examination fees are paid for by the school. Sixth Formers pay a small annual subscription of £5 for the upkeep of tea/coffee supplies and shared facilities in the Sixth form study centre. If you are eligible for Bursary (In brief if the family income is less that £25,000 per year) the school can support the spending as described above as well as uniform, transport and stationary costs. Please ask for details.