

Sixth



LONGDEAN
SIXTH FORM

September 2021



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.

A warm welcome to Longdean Sixth Form

Whether you are joining us from the main school, or coming into Longdean for the first time at Year 12, we promise a warm welcome at Longdean Sixth Form. Our teaching team are enthusiastic about their subjects and committed to helping every student do the best that they can.

I'm pleased to say that 'supportive' is the word most used by families to describe our school, and that applies as much to our approach at Sixth Form as it does in all other years.

The impact of that support can be seen in our results – for example 60% of our students achieve grades A* to B at A level. It can also be seen in the fact that Longdean has one of the best value-added scores locally. That means that we consistently help students to achieve progress in excess of what was predicted for them.



In the following pages you will see how we can support your success through:

- A broad and flexible choice of subjects designed to make sure that every student can build an interesting timetable that is personalised to their strengths, interests and optimal way of learning
- A dedicated Sixth Form area over two floors, with spaces to study, exercise and socialise so that students can develop emotionally and socially, as well as intellectually through their studies
- Personalised careers support, including help with applications to university, employment and traineeships
- Support for wellbeing via our dedicated counselling team, and wide variety of extra-curricular activities to get involved with
- Providing opportunities to grow as a person through mentoring younger pupils, community volunteering and developing leadership skills.

We look forward to you joining us.

Mr Graham Cunningham
Headteacher

Lewis, Year 13

Studying Physics, Maths, Further Maths and Chemistry



♡ 210 likes

I have got an offer from the University of Cambridge to read Engineering, and I am planning to go there in September. After that, I am not sure. I might get a job at an engineering firm, or continue into academia.

#sixthform #sixthformers #Alevels #didnthedowell
#cambridgeUni

Individual support for every student

As a small Sixth Form of around 200 students, we can get to know each student well, and provide personalised support based on your needs and ambitions. This support can range from practical advice on creating compelling applications for university, employment or traineeships, right through to support with emotional, social or other issues that may arise during your time with us.

Weekly tutor group sessions provide an opportunity to meet students outside of your subject groups, and also to discuss your progress with your tutor and seek guidance where needed. While we encourage Sixth Form students to develop independence and prepare for young adulthood, we also recognise the important role that family can play in our students' lives. Your tutor will act as the link between Sixth Form and home, and will normally be the first point of contact for parents.

Our practical support extends to a bursary scheme for students from lower income families who are committed to studying at Longdean Sixth Form. For those eligible, the bursary can help

pay for school trips, books, clothing to enable you to meet the dress code, stationery, university visits, transport to and from school etc. We strive to be an inclusive community and strongly encourage any families who may be eligible for our bursary to apply, rather than miss out on the opportunity of a first-class sixth form education.

To ensure that all our Sixth Formers have access to the right equipment, we offer a 1:1 leasing scheme for laptops, which can be used within school and also taken home.

Flexible Fridays

Our four-day week means that students who need to balance paid work with studying can work on Fridays as an alternative to working evenings or weekends. As there are no lessons on this day it also provides an opportunity to come into Sixth Form to study independently and take part in extra-curricular activities amongst other options.

Broad choice of A level and vocational options

We want all students to find a relevant and interesting set of subjects to study at Longdean Sixth Form, choosing from a wide range of academic and vocational courses, with the option of taking a blend of each. We review our course selection each year, adapting our options based on student demand. For September 2021, for example, we have added French and Politics A levels and a Criminology Applied Diploma to our subject choices.

While A Level assessment is linear with some coursework and all exams at the end of Y13, for vocational courses the assessment is modular. Coursework and exams are spread across y12 and Y13. Our comprehensive vocational courses offer spans everything from Business Studies to Forensic and Criminal Investigations, Health and Social Care to Sport. Our choice of A levels is equally diverse, with Modern Foreign Languages, all three Sciences, Humanities and both Art and Design and Product Design amongst the choices on offer.

We are also one of very few Sixth Forms that offer an A level foundation course. This is designed to equip students who haven't achieved Grades 4 or above in English and/or Maths, to take the next steps in their academic or employment journey. Our A level foundation course includes GCSEs in English, Maths,

Biology, Financial Studies and an HPQ (Higher Project Qualification, equivalent to a GCSE) which gives students the opportunity to write an extended essay on a subject of their choice. This innovative, second chance Foundation course is a real success, every year more than 50% of students go on to pursue Level 3 qualifications at Longdean, or a different college of their choice.

To support the all-round development of students, we also offer an hour of PSICHE and one prefect duty each week, plus two hours of community volunteering every fortnight. These sessions allow students to play a vital role in both the school and their community, and to build vital communication, mentoring and work experience skills.

We have one of the best value-added scores of all local schools at Key Stage 5, meaning that students make better than expected progress with us. At A level 60% of students achieve grades A* to B and more than 30% achieve exclusively A* and As.

Ninety-eight per cent of students leave Longdean Sixth Form and go into employment, training or university. Each year 25% of students get offers to top universities including Russell Group and Oxbridge.

Nathan Year 13

Studying History, Sport and Business (a combination of vocational and A level qualifications).



♡ 210 likes

My favourite subject is sport. It has always been a keen interest of mine and I have enjoyed learning more about areas of sport I didn't know much about, such as the anatomy and physiology of the human body.

#Sixthform #sixthformer #sport #alevels #vocationalqualification

Alice, Year 13

Studying Geography, Computer Science and English Literature



♡ 210 likes

My favourite memory of sixth form so far was the computer science trip to Berlin. The trip itself was a great experience and we did so many activities in the few days we were there. It was also a good chance to get to know some of people who I had never really spoken to before.

[#Sixthform](#) [#sixthformer](#) [#berlin](#) [#favouritememory](#)

Dedicated area to learn, exercise and socialise

While there are many benefits to being part of a school environment, we understand that our Sixth Formers appreciate their own dedicated area to learn and socialise. Our dedicated Sixth Form area occupies two floors and provides comfortable, quiet working spaces, as well as communal areas to socialise. Our newly-refurbished gym and brand new café, scheduled to open in September 2021, means we can provide a full range of services for a productive school day without the need to leave the school, although of course our Sixth Formers are entitled to do so if they wish!

As well as leaving us with a great set of qualifications ready to take their next steps, we encourage Sixth Formers to take advantage of the range of opportunities we provide to develop as well-rounded people. These are aimed at building confidence, developing leadership, communication and collaboration skills and allowing students to demonstrate resilience and responsibility.

Opportunities include participating in recreational and sporting activities, engaging in community volunteering, either within school or in the wider community and taking part in a wide range of social and academic activities. Many school clubs and sports teams welcome the support and leadership of our Sixth Form, and Sixth Formers play an important role in helping younger pupils adjust to secondary education, as well as offering assistance in lessons.



Ready to apply?

Students applying to our Sixth Form will be expected to meet two conditions.

The first is academic and concerns performance at GCSE.

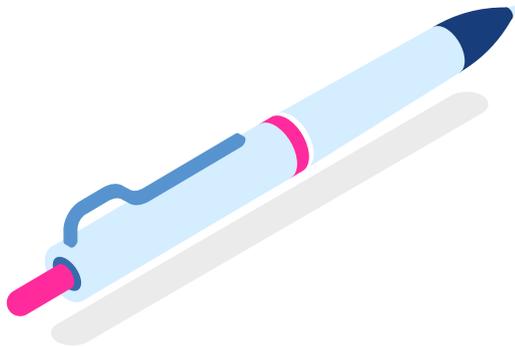
- Students wishing to join us for A levels or vocational courses need to have achieved 5 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above (including English and Maths.)
- For students who do not have these grades there is the option to take the Level 2/A level foundation year, for which students need GCSEs at Grades 2 or 3.

You should only apply to the course if you match the above conditions, plus the conditions attached to the courses you would like to do. You can find information about those conditions at [this link](#).

The final condition relates to behaviour and attitude to work.

Much is expected in the way of self-discipline, motivation and ambition. Applicants must have demonstrated these qualities during their GCSE years to qualify for admission to our Sixth Form. Each Sixth Former must sign and adhere to a contract covering all aspects of Sixth Form life, including: attitude to learning, punctuality and attendance, dress code and meeting deadlines. Any students found to be in breach of this contract will be sanctioned, may lose the privilege of the four-day week, or may ultimately be asked to leave.

Each student taking three A levels will also be required to take up a weekly enrichment activity to support their studies. It will be either an EPQ, additional study skills or community service. Some students may be directed to take study skills if it is deemed necessary.



Hanying, Year 11

Looking to study A levels in Sciences, Maths, Physics and Computer Science



♡ 210 likes

I find the support that Longdean provides, not just in school, but outside of school to be outstanding and I personally would not believe I can be achieving the grades that I am getting now without the excellent teacher support at Longdean school. After finishing my GCSEs, I plan to go to sixth form, to study A levels in Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics and Computer Science.

#sixthform #sixthformers #Alevels

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