



Longdean School
Rejoice in thy youth

Longdean School

**Rejoice in
thy youth**



Longdean School

**Pride,
Perseverance,
Ambition, Respect**

Welcome to Longdean School



I joined Longdean as Headteacher in September 2025, and I am incredibly proud to lead such an ambitious, vibrant and inclusive school community.

Longdean is a mixed-sex, multi-denominational school in Hemel Hempstead, welcoming more than 1,400 students aged 11 to 18. We are regularly oversubscribed and proud to be a popular choice for families within our local community.

Our Sixth Form, which is home to more than 240 students, provides an exceptional environment in which young people can thrive. Students benefit from their own dedicated two-storey centre, a new café, a personalised curriculum, and outstanding pastoral, further education and careers support. Across the school, our state-of-the-art buildings and facilities provide bright, spacious and modern spaces designed to support students in their learning and development. At the heart of Longdean are our four core values: Pride, Perseverance, Ambition and Respect. These values underpin everything we do and are shared by our staff, students and parents. Together, we work to ensure that every young person is supported to fulfil their academic potential while developing the confidence, character and aspirations they need to succeed.

We want every student to learn in an environment where they are truly known, valued and supported; where they feel a strong sense of belonging; and where they are encouraged to flourish in their individual ambitions, interests and talents.

Our school motto, “Rejoice in thy youth,” captures an important part of our vision. Education is about much more than academic achievement. We are here to challenge and guide our students in their learning, while also ensuring that they enjoy their time at Longdean, make lasting memories and embrace every opportunity that school life has to offer.

We warmly invite you to attend one of our open events, where you will have the opportunity to meet our students and staff, explore our facilities and discover what makes Longdean such a special community.

We look forward to welcoming you to Longdean School.

Ruth Georgiades, Headteacher

“At Longdean School I have excelled in Maths and now really enjoy my lessons; it was a subject I found difficult before. I particularly enjoy rugby and tennis club.”

Year 7 student



Longdean School

Pride

Brief History of Longdean School

In the 1950s, as the new town of Hemel Hempstead New Town grew, two new schools were built to educate the town's children: Apsley Grammar School and Bennetts End Secondary Modern.

Following the latest educational developments as Longdean does, these two schools were merged in the 1970s as part of the inclusive comprehensive education movement in the UK. A new central block was added in the late 1980s with a bespoke library, video conferencing and computing facilities added to link the schools – the Information Services Centre (the ISC) was where Longdean first connected to the web to learn from and teach students remotely around the globe.

Around the turn of the century, we built a dedicated Sports Centre to serve the school and local community and developed our existing PE spaces into dedicated learning spaces supporting SEND (the TLC) and Sixth Form students (the SSC) as the school grew into our 'Maths and Computing' Specialism.

We moved into our current state of the art building in 2017 and continue to develop our facilities with our latest Sixth Form Cafe enabling 'Coffee Shop' style working; our new 3G astroturf and our Special Resource Provision supporting students with particular educational needs and bridging the gap between specialist provision and mainstream education.

Longdean has a track record in enabling students to be their best selves in different facets of their lives, from national sporting representation with Paralympic and Olympic Golds through to cutting edge Science & Engineering at 'redbrick' Universities including Oxford and Cambridge through to setting up their own businesses or being nominated for BAFTAs.

More seasoned members of staff now teach alongside colleagues they taught, who's children also attend the school reflecting the community and family focus of the school.

We have long worked with community partners, our latest as part of the Scholars Education Trust family of schools, providing students and colleagues opportunities to collaborate and share expertise, developing our curriculum and learning technologies to equip students for their next steps in an increasingly digital world at work, at home and beyond.

“Longdean is a friendly and nurturing school. The school provides a broad and ambitious curriculum.”

Ofsted, March 2025

A young male pupil with short brown hair, wearing a dark school jacket with a crest, a white shirt, and a blue tie, is sitting and reading a book. He is in a library, with bookshelves filled with books visible in the background. The lighting is soft and focused on the pupil.

“Pupils study a range of subjects and courses that reflect their interests and career aspirations.”

Ofsted, March 2025

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 built on perseverance.

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 are proud of the cutting edge learning facilities and equipment across the whole school.

Our flexible, ambitious curriculum and quality-first 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. During the Summer Term of year 6, we invite students to join one of two specialist pathways – Science, Computing, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) or Performing Arts, which are open to passionate students who have a skill or talent in either STEM subjects, or Dance, Drama or Music. Both

pathways study the same broad curriculum, but students spend more time focusing on their pathway subjects. Students undergo a selection process and there are up to 30 places awarded on each programme.

Year 9 has become a transition year where students are offered the benefits of enrichment opportunities outside of the classroom, the development of skills that they need for KS4 through a diverse and inclusive curriculum, and the chance to gain a greater understanding of the subjects that they will select in Years 10 and 11.

Key Stage 4 students select four two-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 will choose from a selection of subjects, which include subjects ranging from Art to Business 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 options. Our curriculum balances the level of choice, that the school prioritises, with our pursuit of academic excellence and pastoral support specific to the needs of each individual student in our care, so that everyone is offered the greatest opportunity to achieve their ambitions, regardless of their ability level.

EdTech at Longdean School

At Longdean School we use EdTech (Educational Technology) to extend and enhance learning across the curriculum and beyond.

Examples of our use of EdTech

- Students enrol in the iPad scheme in year 7, and can then use their iPads in the classroom and for independent learning
- Film, edit & evaluate drama / dance routines / science experiments, using iPads
- Collaborate using Teams & OneNote
- Online quizzes
- Recall practice in class & at home using iPads
- Use iPads to organise homework
- Support students to organise themselves using Bromcom
- Access animations in and out of class to support understanding
- Access a wide library of ebooks and audiobooks, free to students on SORA
- Develop reading and comprehension skills using Reading Plus

Educational Websites

To enrich their learning experience, students regularly use a variety of trusted educational websites and digital tools. A selection can be found below.

- BBC Bitesize
- PHET animations
- Physics and Maths Tutor
- Educake
- Carousel Learning
- SORA Reading
- Reading Plus
- MathsWatch
- ISAAC Chemistry / Physics
- Seneca Learning

Longdean School

Perseverance

A photograph of two sixth-form students, a young woman with long dark hair and a young man with short brown hair and glasses, both wearing school uniforms (white shirts and ties). They are sitting at a desk, looking down at a book or paper, and smiling. The background is slightly blurred, showing other students and classroom decor.

“Sixth-form students are well prepared for their next stages in education, training, or employment.”

Ofsted, March 2025

Post 16

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 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.

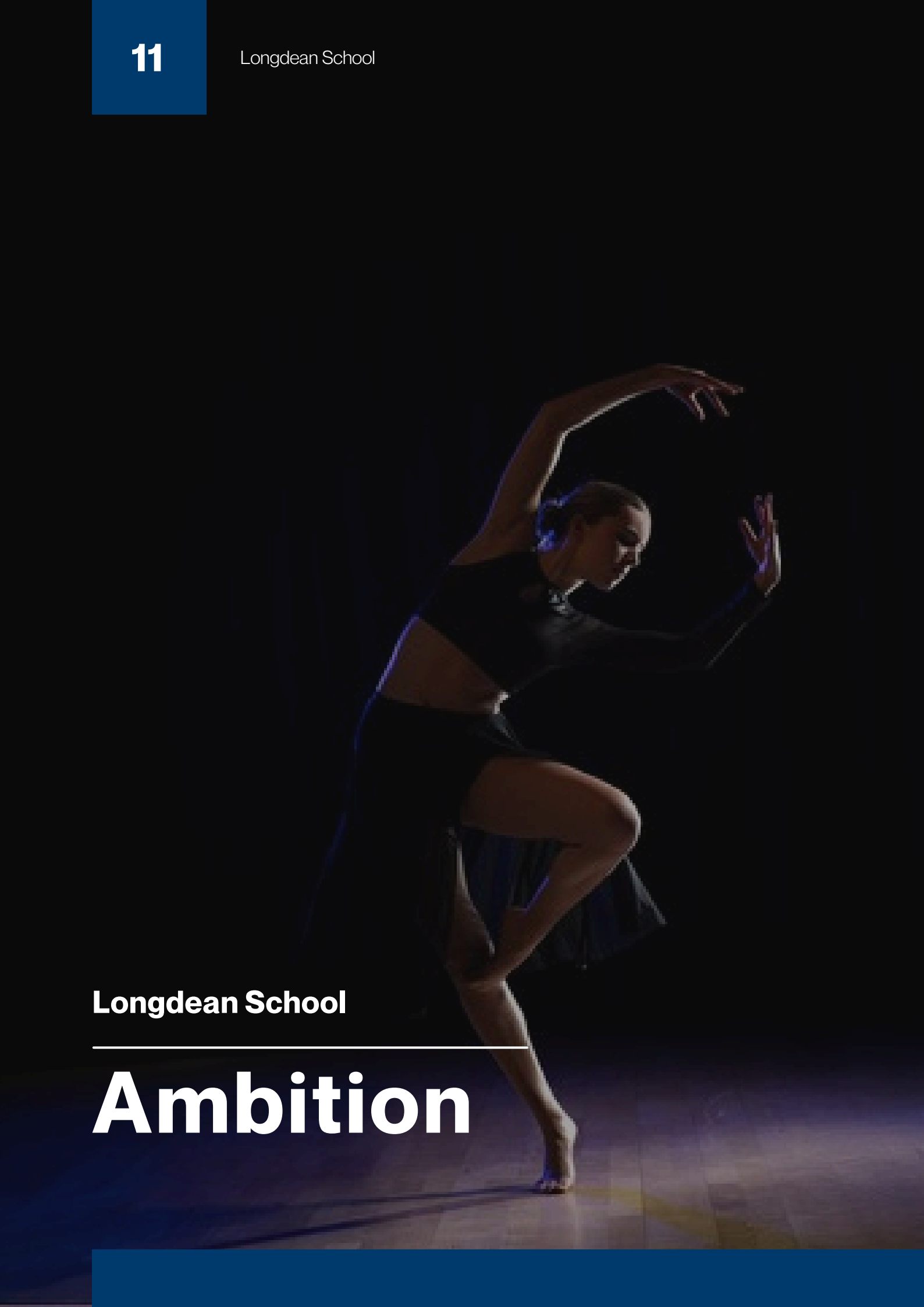
High-performance students are supported through differentiated lessons and inspiring enrichment activities, while students with **special educational needs and disabilities** (SEND) follow a curriculum and study subjects they are interested in and can succeed in. Their progress is monitored and the support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

We proudly provide a Careers Curriculum to all students throughout years 7 to 13. Students are given the opportunity to explore the world of work and begin to develop an understanding of linking skills and personal attributes to their future career aspirations, through work shadowing days, work experience, Higher Education visits, mock interviews, and employer presentations, to name a few. All students by the end of Year 11 and Year 13 are provided with a one-to-one meeting with a Level 6 Qualified Careers Practitioner offering impartial advice and guidance. The PSHE

curriculum is tailored to expand their personal development and support them in becoming well rounded individuals as they move on to their next steps. Each year our students progress to courses at a range of universities and employment with most successful companies.

Students with special educational needs are well catered for by our experienced Inclusion Department and they are given all the help they need to achieve their full potential.





Longdean School

Ambition

Making Longdean Unmissable

At Longdean, we believe that education extends far beyond the classroom. Alongside our broad and ambitious curriculum, we offer a rich programme of clubs, activities, trips and experiences designed to inspire students, develop their talents, and encourage them to discover new interests.

With a wide range of enrichment opportunities, there is something for everyone. Students can take part in sports including basketball, badminton, cricket, athletics and football, while creative opportunities include Art Club, Sewing Club, Cookery Club, and Creative Writing. Popular groups such as Dungeons & Dragons, Anime and Geek Club, and Technology and STEM Club allow students to explore their interests, develop new skills, and spend time with like-minded friends.

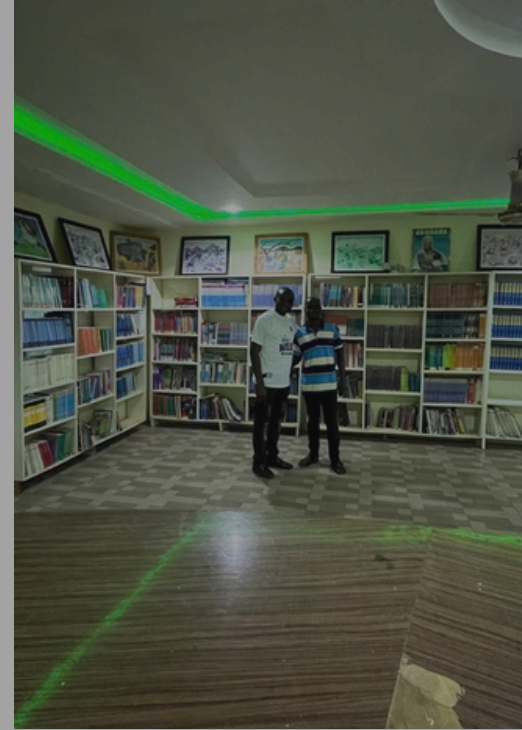
We are proud to celebrate the diversity of our school community. Our Longdean Equality and Diversity Club (LEAD) gives students a voice and enables them to make a positive contribution to school life. One of the highlights of the year is our Culture Day, organised with support from LEAD and Sixth Form students. Through food, activities, lessons and our vibrant Culture Day Fashion Show, students and staff come together to share and celebrate their cultural heritage.

Giving back is equally important to us. Our annual 10km Charity Walk brings the whole school together to raise money for a charity chosen by students. Last year, our community raised nearly £1500 for Dementia UK, reflecting the generosity and community spirit of Longdean.

Our extensive programme of trips and residential experiences gives students opportunities to explore new places, build confidence, and challenge themselves. Year 7 students can enjoy a three-night PGL residential, while older students have recently travelled to Valencia, Barcelona, Paris, the Alps and Cambodia through our World Challenge programme. We have also offered skiing trips across Europe and America, alongside the Duke of Edinburgh's Award for students seeking adventure closer to home.

Day trips further enrich learning, with visits linked to subjects including Geography, English and the arts, both locally and further afield.

Whether performing on stage, competing in sport, travelling overseas, supporting a charity, developing a creative talent or trying something completely new, we want every Longdean student to find something that inspires them. These experiences help our students grow into confident, curious, and well-rounded young people, ready to embrace the opportunities ahead.



Engaging with the World

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 several major fundraising activities, where students and staff get together to raise money for local charities through the School Walk and Culture Day.

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

Reaching out globally

Through our British Council accredited 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 the Ashanti region of Ghana, as well as supporting the building and development of a successful and growing secondary Senior High School for the community. This work includes funding and resourcing a library, IT suite and curriculum links over many years. Our school's diverse and global community is also celebrated and valued and we have annual expeditions through World Challenge and subject trips abroad, building on the strong ethos of service and community work developed in the popular Duke of Edinburgh scheme.

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.

Sustainability

Sustainability and community projects have been at the heart of our school community for many years. We have created our own Climate Action Plan which reflect the aims of the Scholars' over-arching strategy, and we follow the Trust's objective that all schools will be working at leadership level in this area at the end of the three-year strategy. This coupled with our recent Eco Schools accreditation show the hard work and interest of our students.

At Longdean School, we have conscientious and engaged students who genuinely want to make a difference to their planet and their future. Each year we organise local sustainability and wider international projects that have a genuine impact on communities both local and further afield.

We also attend the annual Trust's Climate and Sustainability Conference, which unites the young people across the trust and engages with local, regional and national leaders and experts in sustainability. This is an opportunity for our students to interact with other students from all of the schools across the Scholars' Education Trust, spanning both primary and secondary phases and discuss particular climate issues.

Longdean School

Respect

Every Longdean Student Known

At Longdean, we ensure that every child is known, everyone belongs and everyone can thrive.

Our pastoral care is built around understanding each student as an individual — their strengths, interests, aspirations and the things that matter to them. From the moment they join us, every student has a dedicated team of professionals behind them, advocating for them, championing their achievements and supporting them through every stage of their journey

Our Pastoral teams include, Form tutors, Pastoral Managers, Heads of Year, PP Champions, Mental Health and Wellbeing professionals, Careers Lead, SLT links, and Key Stage Leaders

Our pastoral teams, tutors and wider staff work together to understand each young person and provide the guidance, encouragement and support they need to succeed.

From their first days in Year 7 through to the Sixth Form, students are surrounded by adults who know them, listen to them and believe in their potential. We celebrate their successes, help them navigate challenges and make sure they always have someone to turn to.

Because when students know that they are known, valued and believed in, they can develop the confidence to aim high.

Our values of **Respect, Ambition, Pride and Perseverance** underpin everything we do. They shape the relationships we build and the culture we create, ensuring that our students feel valued, confident and ready to make the most of every opportunity.

Everyone has a place at Longdean.

Our four Houses — **Pascal, Franklin, Da Vinci and Gates** — create a strong sense of identity, community and belonging across the school. Every student proudly wears their House colours on their ties and has opportunities to take part in a wide range of activities, competitions and team-building experiences.

From sport and public speaking to academic and creative challenges, our House system gives every student the opportunity to contribute, discover new talents, build friendships and celebrate success together.

Our older students also play an important role in welcoming and supporting younger students, helping to build a community where students look out for one another and take pride in belonging to Longdean.

We have a strong PSHE program, delivered by dedicated staff, which prepares our students for success in the wider world, from building and maintaining healthy relationships, applying for jobs, navigating ever changing society, to finance and budgeting.

Most importantly, we always work closely with families throughout this journey because we know that young people thrive when the adults around them work together.

At Longdean, every student has a team behind them, a community they belong to and the opportunity to become the very best version of themselves.



Scholars' Education Trust

Longdean's collaborative approach to teaching and learning is further enhanced by being part of Scholars' Education Trust. Founded in 2012, the trust is now comprised of 13 schools, providing a high-quality cross-phase education for nearly ten thousand children between the ages of 3-18.

Teaching and Learning leads from SET meet regularly, taking a collegiate approach to pedagogical development across our schools. Regular peer reviews ensure that we can draw upon voices beyond our own schools, using the approach of a 'critical friend' to highlight areas for further development. Our annual conference gives staff the opportunity to meet and collaborate with professional peers in other schools, setting a clear direction for teaching and learning priorities across the Trust. Beyond that, The Trust also gives us the capacity to connect informally with like-minded peers for input and a fresh perspective into any decisions we make.

Our Trust also benefits from the professional development offered by 'Transform inSET' - an exciting and innovative approach to staff development that draws upon our cross-Trust pool of expertise to deliver a rich variety of high-quality CPD that meets the diverse needs of our staff group. This will allow countless opportunities for development – through delivery as well as participation – and, as always, providing our students with the best possible classroom experience lies at the very heart of the process.



Scholars'
Education Trust
Education for a changing world

Why Join Us and How To Apply

Thank you for reading our prospectus. We hope you agree with us that our outstanding school has so much to offer.

How to apply for a place

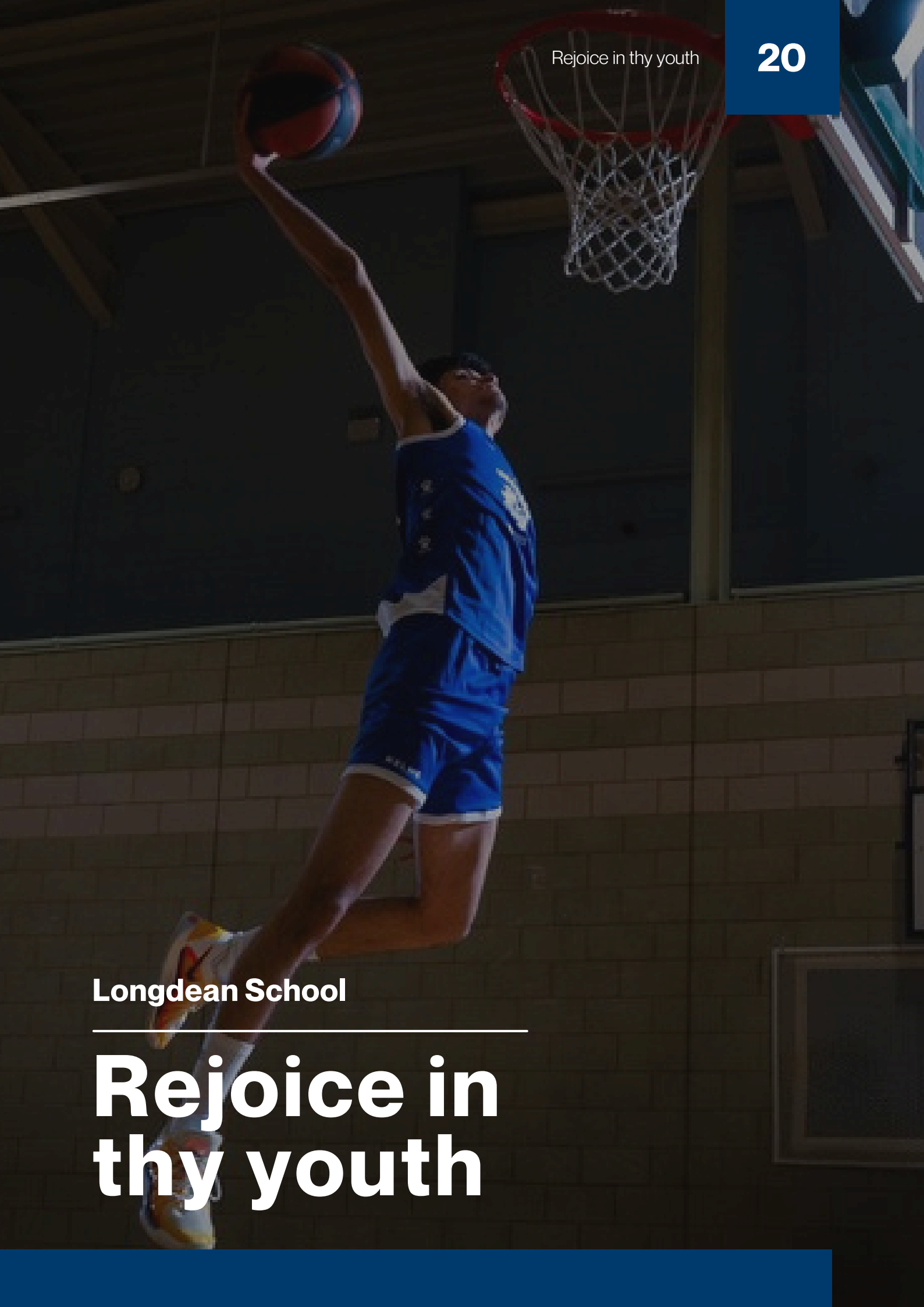
Students can join us at Longdean School in Year 7 from primary school, when moving in-year from another secondary school, or as members of our Sixth Form.

To apply for a place in Year 7, or for an in-year application to another year group, follow the Hertfordshire County Council applications process by visiting www.hertfordshire.gov.uk

For sixth form places, visit www.longdeanschool.co.uk and go to the How to apply page in the Sixth Form tab to complete our Sixth Form application form.

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.

A low-angle, vertical photograph of a basketball player in a blue jersey and shorts, jumping high to shoot a basketball into a hoop. The player is in mid-air, with their right arm extended upwards holding the ball. The background is a brick wall and a dark sky. The basketball hoop and net are visible in the upper right corner. The overall tone is dramatic and energetic.

Rejoice in thy youth

20

Longdean School

**Rejoice in
thy youth**



Longdean School
Rejoice in thy youth

Rumballs Road, Hemel Hempstead HP3 8JB

Telephone: 01442 217277

Email: admin@longdean.herts.sch.uk

Website: www.longdeanschool.co.uk



Scholars'
Education Trust
Education for a changing world

Scholars' Education Trust was formed in 2012 with the aim of enabling its member schools to work in genuine partnership to strengthen themselves and their communities. Its focus is to produce responsible young people of whom all can be proud, who have achieved more than they ever believed possible and who are prepared to make a contribution to their local, national and global opportunities.