

Newsletter

Headteacher's Welcome...

We have had a fantastic and very busy first term of 2022-23 here at Longdendale, and I am sure you will enjoy reading about some of the activities and opportunities our students have had during this time. These are an ongoing reflection of the hard work and dedication of both our highly skilled team of staff and the students themselves. In September we launched our new core values of Respect, Resilience and Aspiration, and it has been wonderful to see our students embrace these and demonstrate them on a daily basis in so many areas of school life.

As always, our students continue to make us all proud on a daily basis and they continue to be great ambassadors for our school and local community. The activities and events they have been involved in over the past term alongside members of the local community have been particularly impressive, and our students have been demonstrating a real commitment to raising money to support a range of local and national charitable causes. This has included the recent Toy Appeal, collection for the local foodbank and our student leaders organised an afternoon tea for the staff to raise money for two water safety charities.

Our students also have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of enrichment activities across subjects and more widely across school, and it is fantastic to see so many of them developing new skills and interests whilst taking part in such enjoyable and rewarding experiences. One of the highlights of this term has certainly been enjoying the Christmas concert, where many of our students entertained the audience with festive performances that showcased some amazing talent.

The recent Presentation Evening was a real highlight in terms of celebrating some of the successes of our students past and present, and I would like to thank everyone involved in school life for supporting our students to reach these standards. It has been fantastic to witness such commitment from everyone in school, and we are looking forward to building on these successes as we are working hard to ensure that Longdendale continues to improve and become a truly world class school with opportunities to match.

Best wishes to you and your families for a peaceful and restful Christmas holiday, and we look forward to welcoming your child back in January ready for another successful term in school.



Andrea Jones
Headteacher
Longdendale High School

International School Award

We are delighted to announce that Longdendale High School, as part of Stamford Park Trust, has been successfully re-accredited with the British Council's prestigious International School Award.

This is a fantastic achievement for our school and rewards us for showing a strong commitment in embedding both international awareness and understanding within our students.

The school will hold this award until 31st August 2025 and we look forward to enhancing the scope of our excellent international activities in order to benefit the school community in the years ahead.



**International
School Award**
2022-25



Longdendale
HIGH SCHOOL

Part of



**STAMFORD
PARK TRUST**

Our Vision

Excellence and Ambition for all.

Our Mission

Through excellence in education we are an inclusive community, that embraces choice, opens doors and creates opportunities. With kindness and collaboration, we empower everyone to be the best version of themselves. We are confident, curious and creative individuals who contribute positively to our community.

Our Values



RESPECT

Be polite and considerate

Listen to others without interruption

Respond promptly and positively

Have pride in our environment and our community



RESILIENCE

Have a positive attitude

Work hard, never give up

Learn from mistakes

Embrace challenges



ASPIRATION

Aim high

Believe in ourselves

Accept only our best

Celebrate success

Christmas Concert

Well done to everyone who took part in our annual Christmas concert held last week. We are incredibly proud of our talented musicians and singers who delivered some exceptional performances on the night.

The audience felt suitably festive by the end of the evening and all staff who were lucky enough to hear both the rehearsals and the main event were full of praise for those involved.



Trust Christmas Card Competition

Congratulations to our Year 7 student, Holly, who has won the Stamford Park Trust Christmas card competition 2022.

The competition was open to all year groups across the Trust so we are delighted that Holly's card was chosen as the winning design.

This has now been printed and sent electronically to our colleagues, partners and communities.



Christmas Jumper Day

For our Christmas Jumper day, held on Friday 16th December, we asked for donations to our local foodbank. The response we had to this was fantastic and the Tameside South and Longendale Foodbank were delighted with the items. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

On the same day, we also held our Christmas Dinner in the dining room. Students looked fantastic in their festive jumpers and everyone enjoyed the traditional meal. Many thanks to the catering team for all your hard work.



Trust Christmas Gift Appeal

Thank you so much to all of you who donated gifts, wrapping paper and more to the Stamford Park Trust Christmas Gift appeal led by Astley Sports Village.

This fantastic community appeal aims to help bring the magic of Christmas to local families in need of support. Over 50 local families received donations last year and 2022 looks to have been another very successful year.

Your kind donations were collected by Mark Storie from Astley Sports Village and have been wrapped and delivered ready for the big day.





Aspiration Presentation Evening

Our annual Annual Presentation Evening is always a fabulous event and this year was no exception. Our guest speaker, poet Mike Garry, captivated the audience with his inspirational and emotive speech and it was a fantastic opportunity for us all to celebrate the academic, social and extra-curricular achievements of our former and current students.

The musical performances showcased by our current students were incredible. A Trustee who attended the evening remarked that the musical performances get better each year!

After achieving the best GCSE results in the school's history, it was lovely to see our class of 2022 students again. Students collected their exam certificates and there were awards given out for outstanding efforts and success in so many areas. Special mentions go to Louis, Erin, Alex, Ruby, Bradley and Lily.

Our current students were rewarded too, with students from each year group awarded with our Core Value awards; Respect, Resilience and Aspiration. It is never easy for our Heads of Year to choose who will receive these awards so we congratulate not only those who were awarded but also all students who demonstrate our values on a daily basis.

Respect Award winners

Katie, Elijah, Alice, Eve, Briony, Laramie, Ruby, James, Katie and Ollie

Resilience Award winners

Sadie, Caitlin, Will, Riley, Elizabeth, George, Emily, Charlie, Grace, Emily & Isabella

Aspiration Award winners

Megan, Ben, Dexter, Angelina, Nathan, Emmie, Neve, Henry, Brooke and Lola



RESPECT 
RESILIENCE 
ASPIRATION 



Library Official Opening

Linking in with National Poetry Day, our new Library was officially opened in October, by our special guest, local poet and writer, Tony Walsh (Longfella). Tony works around the UK and internationally, writing and performing for both children and adults.

Tony joined Longendale and Trust staff, students and guests from two local primary schools in opening the Library in what was an inspiring and memorable occasion for all involved.

Tony managed to capture the importance of libraries in schools eloquently with his words and poetry. After the official opening, he held a "Rhythm and Rhyme" masterclass with nominated students from each year group; this was a fantastic session that the students engaged with brilliantly.



"We at Stamford Park Trust agree that school libraries are essential and have invested significantly to ensure that the students at Longendale have the very best facilities we can offer".

Anton McGrath - CEO Stamford Park Trust



The Library is a great resource which students are benefiting from every single day. Reading is a life-long skill and is important for the whole curriculum. In addition to this, the Library hosts a fantastic schedule of events and competitions for students to get involved with. We have National Storytelling Day coming up in January and World Book Day in March.





Open Evening 2022

It was absolutely fantastic to host our first in person Open Evening in two years back in September. Over 300 local families, most with primary aged children, joined us to discover what Longendale has to offer.

Our fabulous students took visitors on tours of the school and helped out with subject demonstrations. Visiting families were full of praise for their tour guides for the evening and we really cannot thank these students enough for their help - without exception, every student was a credit to our school.

“We were very busy, and families were so impressed by the warmth our school exuded, as well as the very obvious care, enthusiasm and positivity of our staff. As you would also expect, our wonderful students also did us proud and so many parents stopped me to share how brilliant our students had been during the evening.”

Andrea Jones - Headteacher

Prospective students were able to join in with departmental activities around school, including making their own lino printed card in the Art department, having a go at flame testing in Chemistry and taking part in trampolining and badminton in the Sports Hall. Our students also demonstrated their breadth of talents by putting on some fantastic performances in Music, Drama and Dance for visitors to enjoy.

A group of students put their journalistic skills to the test by creating a newsletter on the night and printed this off for families to take home. The students worked so hard on this and it was really well received by our visitors on the night.



Maths Week 2022

Monday November 14th was the start of Maths Week England. In Maths lessons we were able to join some Zoom sessions through The Advanced Maths Support Network. These included "Maths is Everywhere" where we looked at maths in different subjects including Business Studies and Psychology, "The Connected World" where we saw how we are connected to other people across the world and "Which Career". Some classes also watched some of the Gresham lecture on "Where do Mathematical symbols come from?" and attempted writing numbers in Egyptian and Greek. We also looked at lots of different puzzles in lessons which tested the students' problem solving skills.

Students were also able to take part in a treasure hunt around the school; each teacher had a number on their lanyard and students had to identify a teacher who had a square, cube, even number etc. and some lucky students won some chocolate. Staff also had the opportunity to try some maths puzzles themselves.

In the run up to Christmas the Maths Department will also be taking part in the GCHQ Christmas Challenge. In the New Year we will be entering the Intermediate Maths Challenge.



Eco-Schools Green Flag Status

We are proud to announce that Longdendale High School have been awarded Eco-Schools Green Flag Status. This is an internationally recognised award for excellence in environmental action and learning.

The Eco-Schools programme provides a unique opportunity that empowers young people to lead change within their school and have a positive impact on their wider community. The programme encourages students to work together to develop their environmental knowledge and awareness.

Our Eco Club, founded in September 2021, worked hard throughout the last academic year to improve the impact the school has on the environment.

Humanities teacher Bethany Osbaldeston, who runs Eco Club says "I honestly couldn't ask for a more engaged, eager and hard-working group of students. It was a pleasure to receive such great feedback when we received confirmation of our Green Flag status".

Continuing with their great work, Eco Club members recently attended the Greater Manchester Green Summit at the Lowry theatre, where they were privileged to be able to discuss action on climate change with the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham.

We cannot wait to see what the Eco Club achieve this academic year and would like to thank all the members for the commendable contributions they have made since the club began.



World Kindness Celebrations

Our Library ran a fantastic event following World Kindness Day on the 13th November. Staff and students could nominate others by filling in 'kindness tickets' for anyone who showed them some form of kindness around school. This was a huge success and the Library were overwhelmed with the amount of kindness tickets completed. Laramie in Year 9 won the student prize draw for always showing kindness and the staff winner was Mr Pomeroy, who was nominated 5 separate times!

All those who were nominated received a sweet treat and the overall winners were awarded a bigger prize.



Library Halloween Competition

In October, the Library held a Halloween competition; students were asked to create a short spooky story or poem using less than 100 words.

This had a fantastic response and there were so many super spooky stories to read through. After careful consideration, the winner was Year 7 student Jiyah, who won the competition for her story 'I broke the Witches' Window'. Congratulations to Jiyah and well done to everyone who entered.



Y11 Futures Roadshow

Year 11 had the opportunity to explore their options for the years ahead with the Futures Roadshow which was held in September. This event in school provided students with the opportunity to meet with post-16 providers as part of the school day. It was fantastic to give them the chance to explore a mix of apprenticeships and college options, meet the armed forces as well as the National Citizenship Service and to get face-to-face answers to the many questions they had about their futures.

Year 11 Drama Exam

The Y11 Drama GCSE students performed their devised showcase on 8th November and were all amazing.

They selected topics such as the Amber Heard and Jonny Depp Libel case. A physical theatre piece about violence against women and a Brechtian piece of drama centred around the theme of 'Loss'.

The students excelled themselves and we are so proud of their achievements.

Thanks to Mr Brown for supporting with technical theatre and Mr Kilkenny with refreshments.



Pyjama Appeal

Longendale High School have supported the Children's Hospital Pyjamas Charity for the last two years with Miss Higgins running the appeal in school.

This year, with the support of student leaders Bella and Katie, all form groups in school were encouraged to take part. This has led to the most successful appeal yet. This year we have managed to collect 109 pairs of pyjamas which will be donated to local hospitals, including Tameside General Hospital. These will be distributed on Christmas Day morning to any children that have been admitted, and any leftovers will be used in emergency situations for the remainder of the year.

We have had many students getting involved independently with form groups 7A, 7I, 7E, 8P, and 11E being the standout forms! Thank you to everyone who took part in making a difference to our local community.

Remembrance 2022

At 11 o'clock, of the 11th day, of the 11th month, we remember those people who have given their lives for the peace and freedom we enjoy today. As a school we came together to silently reflect on the sacrifices made by our brave service men and women with a variety of activities.

During the first week back after half term, Ms Kerfoot delivered assemblies to our year groups, paying tribute to all those fallen soldiers from World War I and onwards. The tutor group activity for the week of 5th November focussed on 'Remembrance', in preparation for Remembrance Day on Thursday 11th November and the student leaders sold poppies and British Legion merchandise which raised nearly £150. At 11 am on the 11th November, Mr Marsh played a rendition of the Last Post and the whole school held a minute silence, to mark our respects further.



Our Head Boy and Head Girl proudly represented Longdendale High School in the community with the laying of the wreath at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday "In glorious memory of the men of Hollingworth who lost their lives in the European war 1914-1918, at the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."



Girls' Football

To promote 'Girls Play Football Day' on 8th November, ex student Bethany and current Year 10 student Leah, organised football events in school. All girls took part in football based PE lessons throughout the week.

Girls' football has taken place every Wednesday after school since September. Any students who would like to join should talk to Miss Harrison.



Show Racism the Red Card

As part of our Black History Month activities, a group of Year 11 students wished to raise awareness of racism through selling badges and cakes at break time to highlight the work of a prominent UK charity and to send a clear message about the importance of challenging racism in society through education.

Show Racism the Red Card (SRtRC) is the UK's leading anti-racism educational charity. It was established in January 1996, thanks in part to a donation by then Newcastle United goalkeeper Shaka Hislop. To this day Show Racism the Red Card continues to utilise the high-profile status of football and football players to help tackle racism in society and has also expanded into other sports. Well done to Anna, Melissa and Teniola for organising this for us!



Mental Health - Hello Yellow

Students at Longdendale raised the profile of Mental Health in school by wearing an item of yellow for World Mental Health Day on 10th October. There were quizzes and activities in tutor time, supported by our fantastic student leaders with the aim of reducing the stigma around mental health and encouraging everyone at Longdendale to feel more comfortable discussing mental health and seeking support if they need it. If you would like information about mental health in school please contact Mrs Gage.



Sports Achiever of the Year Award 2022

We would like to congratulate our Year 11 student and talented kickboxer, Adie, who has been awarded Tameside Sport and Physical Activity Young Sports Achiever of the year award for 2022.

Anti-Bullying Week - #ReachOut

The theme of Anti-Bullying Week this November was #ReachOut. After starting the week with "Odd Socks Day" each year group participated in an assembly which examined how we can all #ReachOut to others and the different roles people play when bullying occurs.

Tutor groups came together to write their own #ReachOut pledges to show how they will support others to #ReachOut or what they can do to #ReachOut when they are aware of bullying takes place. The "Safewatch" email address was relaunched (safewatch@lhs.spt.ac.uk) where students can raise their concerns as we know that sometimes face to face conversations can be daunting.

The Comic Book Club created their own brilliant Anti-Bullying Superhero - Noble. They talked to Mrs Gage about why they chose Noble's superpowers and also gave their feedback about how they think bullying should be addressed in school. Watch this space, as there are further developments coming in this area - Anti-Bullying at Longdendale is not just for one week.

Children in Need

Our Charity Leaders were key this year in fundraising for Children in Need. On Friday 18th November, they held a "Pudsey Fair" in the entrance hall, where students could buy Children in Need wristbands, have their faces painted or guess the name of the Children in Need Teddy Bear. It was lovely to see all the students together again, raising money to support this fantastic cause.



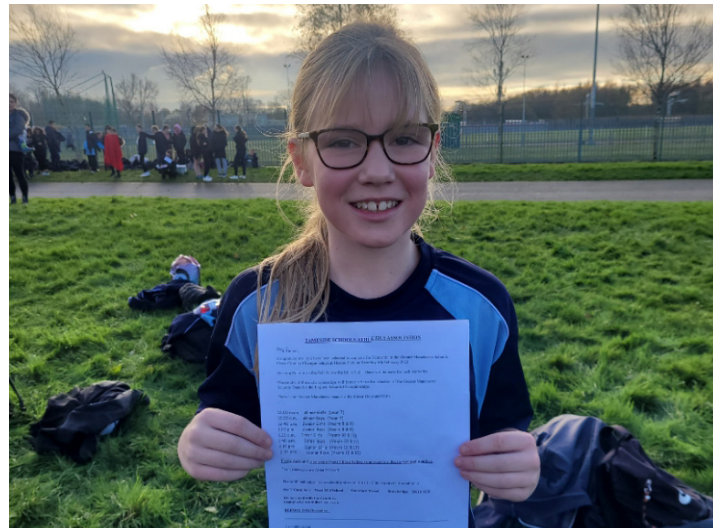
Tameside Cross Country

On Tuesday 6th December, our PE department took over 55 students in years 7 - 11 to the Tameside Cross Country inter-schools competition.

Our Under 16 girls put in some fantastic performances and came in 2nd place out of 7 schools attending. Well done to Isabella and Charlotte from Year 11 and Emily, Neve, Elise, Caitlin and Leah from year 10.

The boys in all years performed well with great resilience.

Finally, huge congratulations go to Eve in Year 7 who came 4th in the Under 12 girls and is now through to the Greater Manchester Championships.



Football Round-up

This half-term our Year 10 boys football team won 2-0 away at Droylsden with goals from Oliver and Wes. This was a fantastic game and the win has now put us through to the semi-final of the Tameside cup.

All other year groups have won their first-round fixtures and are now through to the quarter finals which will hopefully be played in the New Year.

Our Year 7 football team also got through to the final of the Manchester United tournament narrowly missing out on winning the tournament.

Every player across all the year groups have represented the school fantastically well, and we look forward to seeing more of the same in 2023.



Fitness Suite visits

Since October Half Term, a small group of students have been part of a Sports Mentoring Programme, where we have paired up with Astley Sports Village to allow our students the chance to access a Fitness Suite following 'Outstanding' attendance and behaviour.

The students have represented Longendale brilliantly and we have now built up great relationships with Astley Sports Village for any future events. This is due to the professionalism and respect the students, across all year groups have shown.

A big well done to Connor, Zennan, Alex, Oscar, Riley, Rhiley, Archie and Tyler.



RESPECT 
 **RESILIENCE**
ASPIRATION 



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