

Newsletter

Autumn Term

Headteacher's Welcome...

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter at the end of a fantastic and busy first term of 2023-24. 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.

Our students make us all so proud on a daily basis and they continue to be great ambassadors for our school and local community. They have been demonstrating a real commitment to raising money to support a range of local and national charitable causes this term. This has included the recent Toy Appeal, a collection for the local foodbank as well as supporting a number of other charitable causes including Manchester Children's Hospital, Ruben's Retreat, Believe and Achieve and Willow Wood Hospice.

Our students also have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of enrichment activities 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 the Christmas concert, where many of our talented students entertained the audience with their festive performances. It has also been wonderful to see so many students involved in Forest School, where they have developed a range of skills and demonstrated our core value of resilience as they battled with the weather conditions. We are also looking forward to working with a large number of Year 9 students as they embark on their Duke of Edinburgh Award next term.

The recent Presentation Evening was a real highlight in terms of celebrating 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.

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





Longdendale
HIGH SCHOOL



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

A message from the Trust CEO

Dear parents, carers, students and members of the Stamford Park Trust community.

It's been another very busy term for the Trust with many events taking place since the start of September. Firstly, a huge congratulations to the Class of 2023 on their impressive GCSE results. Once again, our students worked hard and earned their success in the summer, achieving excellent results which set them up for the next stage of their educational journey. Many have chosen to stay in the Trust family by joining Ashton Sixth Form College; we wish them all the success in their futures.

I was honoured to be invited to the awards celebration for the Class of 2023 in November this year. It was fantastic to see so many successful students collect their awards and celebrate with their teachers; it was clear to see the strong bond between the students and their teachers further demonstrating the strength of the community at Longdendale. I'd also like to praise the quality of the band and the singers who performed during the evening; what a performance!

The Trust family continues to grow from strength to strength, and we anticipate new schools joining us in the near future. Our vision of excellence and ambition for all is realised each and every day in all of our academies, with each member of staff working hard to support our students. This year, we have launched our Excellence and Ambition Academy which aims to provide students with unrivalled opportunities to gain experience across a wide range of topics from further and higher education as well as local and national businesses, and experts from a wide range of fields. The feedback so far has been positive; we hope more students take up the offer as the programme rolls out across the rest of this academic year.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy the festive break and we look forward to seeing you in the new year.



Anton McGrath
CEO
Stamford Park Trust

Trust Christmas Gift Appeal

It was great to be able to support the Stamford Park Trust Christmas Gift Appeal led by Astley Sports Village again this year.

The initiative sees the Trust partner with five primary schools with close links to the Trust academies, in order to help local families in need of support at this time of year.

As a school, we were able to donate 72 individual presents to the appeal. These were collected by Mark Storie from Astley Sports Village and added to a fantastic haul of donations.

The gifts have since been wrapped and delivered to the partner schools, including Hollingworth Primary School, ready to distribute to local families in time for the big day.

Thank you to everyone who donated - your generosity has made a real difference to local families this Christmas.





Open Evening

It was a real pleasure to host over 300 families with primary aged children at our Open Evening early in the Autumn term.

Our fabulous students helped in departments and acted as tour guides to escort families around school to visit the different subject areas, where they could take part in a great selection of activities; including trampolining in the Sports Hall, catching Pokémon characters in the Library, exploring probability and cracking codes in Maths and rationing sweets in History. The visiting children were able to enter our prize draw and five lucky Year 6 students won themselves an Amazon Kindle with access to over 1,000 childrens books.

Our current students also demonstrated their talents by putting on some fantastic live performances in Music, showcasing extracts from the latest school production in Drama and performing live workshops in a range of Dance styles from contemporary to jazz.



"It was an absolute pleasure to see so many local families at our Open Evening and share with them all our school has to offer. Our current students were amazing ambassadors and it was wonderful to see them show such pride in their school."
 Andrea Jones - Headteacher





Social Action Project

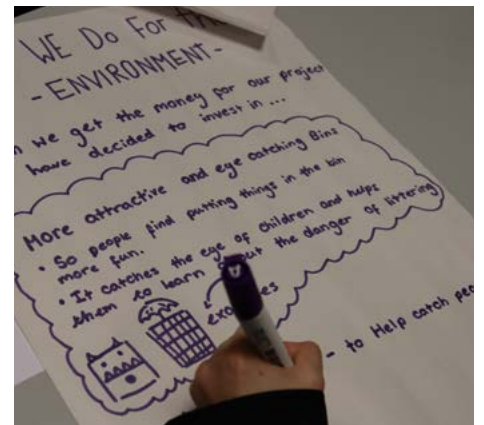
Back in October, our Year 8 and 9 students from the Pursuing Individual Excellence (PIE) 'Into the Mix' group, visited Manchester Central Library and Manchester Metropolitan University to explore opportunities and learn about the benefits of social action.



Since then, they have been joined by ten Year 7 students and the whole group have met weekly to share and develop ideas for their social action campaign, 'Clear Skies'.

As part of the campaign, students have gifted plants to their teachers and designed posters for their classrooms advertising the benefits of indoor plants for both wellbeing and the environment. They have also created wellbeing packs for their fellow students, prepared prizes for a wellbeing tombola they held one break time and taken part in a litter pick around the local school site.

Lastly, they took part in a hack day at Manchester Metropolitan University where they presented their project to students from other participating schools. It was great for everyone to hear about the different social action projects that have been developed and provided a great opportunity for students to share thoughts with other participants involved in the programme.





Aspiration Day

Students in all year groups took part in a various activities for Aspiration Day on 20th October for our first drop down day of the academic year.

Year 7 developed leadership, teamworking and communication skills by working in their form groups and developing their own year group brand. This included creating their own branding on tote bags. At the end of the day, they delivered fantastic presentations to share their ideas as a year group.

Students in Year 8 took part in a Dragons Den style enterprise day and also listened to firefighters from Greater Manchester Fire Service speak about the danger of bonfires and fireworks.

Year 9 students took part in a Current Events Global Citizenship Day, learning about the rule of law and current events in Israel, Gaza and the Ukraine amongst other topics.

Students in Year 10 enjoyed team building activities, music and creativity sessions, learnt more about Remembrance Day and created some fantastic artwork related to this.

Year 11 focused on their futures and discussed revision techniques, financial literacy and interview skills and also took part in a cost of living workshop and sat mock driving theory tests.

All of these activities linked to the British Values and enhanced students social, moral, economic and cultural development.





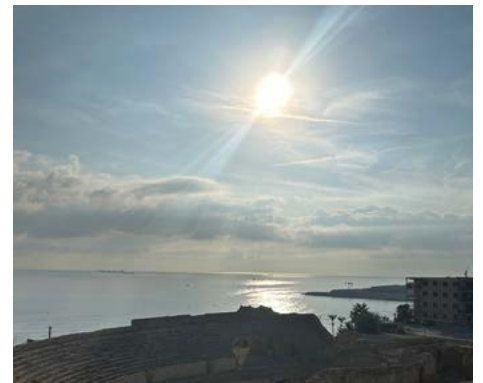
Barcelona

In October, 40 of our Year 11 students had the opportunity to visit Barcelona in Spain. They spent four days exploring Barcelona and got to see some famous landmarks, including Las Ramblas, The Gothic Quarter, Port Vell and the Sagrada Familia. Students also tried some tapas and spoke lots of Spanish on their trip.

The trip was an amazing opportunity for students to practice everything that they had learnt in the classroom and all students were a credit to Longdenale High School, demonstrating our core values of Respect, Resilience and Aspiration throughout the trip.

“I really enjoyed the Spanish trip as it gave me a great chance to learn a range of new Spanish vocabulary and was also a really fun experience with school!”

Charlotte, Year 11 student



“Barcelona was a lot of fun and a great experience with a large choice of activities to learn about Spanish culture. We spoke a lot of Spanish and it has helped me to become more confident in speaking the language.”

Sam, Year 11 student





Black History Month

To celebrate and recognise Black History Month we had a variety of events over the course of October.

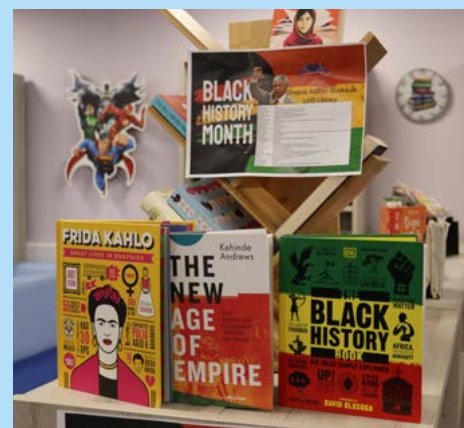
Ms Kerfoot led inspiring assemblies on the theme of 'Before Windrush' an exploration of the lives and stories of the Black Britons who were living in the UK before the arrival of the Empire Windrush in 1948.

All departments also chose a subject role model to highlight to students. A fantastic range of black role models were chosen for this, from Marcus Rashford to Marie Maynard Daly, the first African-American woman to earn a PhD in Chemistry.

Our canteen served a range of African-American food on 19th October including jerk chicken, spicy chicken wings, rice and peas, sweet potato mash and corn on the cob. Our catering students also learnt about and cooked a range of different cuisines during the month.

We also held competitions in dance, drama, literature and poetry. Many congratulations to the following students who won prizes:

- Jacob, Year 7 - Poetry
- Sophia, Year 7 - Art
- Keira, Year 7 - Art
- Ava, Year 8 - Dance
- Leonor, Year 8 - Dance
- Mathilda, Year 8 - Drama
- Charlie, Year 8 - Biography
- Lexi-Mai, Year 8 - Biography
- Robyn, Year 8 - Biography
- Elizabeth, Year 9 - Drama
- Louis, Year 9 - Art
- Will, Year 9 - Biography
- Nathan, Year 10 - Drama
- Emily, Year 10 - Drama
- Aimee, Year 10 - Drama
- Verity, Year 11 - Art
- Lottie, Year 11 - Dance





Aspiration Presentation Evening

The Class of 2023 celebrated their fantastic achievements in their GCSE examinations during Aspiration Presentation Evening at Hyde Town Hall on Thursday 23rd November 2023. It was wonderful to see so many happy faces collecting their GCSE certificates. Staff commented on how grown up and mature the Class of 2023 were and that it was a privilege to take part in their celebration.

Whilst the evening was a joyful one, there were also some tears shed as the Class of 2023 were able to see their favourite teachers for the last time. A huge thank you is needed for all the staff who made the evening happen and for Tony Walsh and his inspirational and profound renditions of some of his most famous poems and speech to encourage the Class of 2023 to become the best version of themselves.

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



RESPECT

*Year 7
Keira, Oscar*

*Year 8
Cameron, Dexter*

*Year 9
Evie, Joe*

*Year 10
Eva, Prosper*

*Year 11
Caitlin, Georgia*



RESILIENCE

*Year 7
Orla, Riley*

*Year 8
Maisy, Mathilda*

*Year 9
Will, Madison*

*Year 10
Archie, Brooke*

*Year 11
Henry, Ali*



ASPIRATION

*Year 7
Joel, Olive*

*Year 8
Ben, Eve*

*Year 9
Issy, Noah*

*Year 10
Olivia, Sian*

*Year 11
Frankie, Isobel*



PE News

It was great to host our Primary Sports Festival early in the Autumn term where students from Hollingworth and Tintwistle Primary Schools joined us for a morning of sport. Our visitors learnt about the sporting activities we offer here at Longdendale and heard about the fixtures, events and productions our students have recently taken part in. They then took part in dodgeball, benchball and football tournaments. The morning was a great success and we were really impressed with the energy levels and enthusiasm shown by the students.

In other news, we took over 30 students to the Tameside Secondary Cross Country competition early in December. All runners were a credit to both themselves and our school, displaying true resilience in some extreme weather conditions. The following students in particular raced very well:

- Zachary, 5th place in Year 7 boys race
- Sam, 4th place and George, 14th place in Year 8/9 boys race
- Martha, 17th place and Eve, 18th place in Year 8/9 girls race
- Nathan, 13th place in Year 10/11 boys race

Congratulations also to students attending Year 7 and 8 after school dance clubs whose commitment has been really impressive. These clubs will recommence weekly in the new year as we prepare for our annual dance production.

Key Stage 3 girls have been involved in friendly football fixtures this term and we look forward to the cup competition games that begin in the new year. Training is on after school on a Wednesday and we welcome new players to get involved. A huge well done to those already committed to the team.

Some of our students have also achieved individual sporting success outside of school recently. Many congratulations to Ellie-Mae in Year 10 for securing 1st place in a recent theatrical dance competition. Congratulations also go to Arona in Year 11 for his recent title fight which makes him the current champion at 54kg in Mixed Martial Arts.



Year 11 Futures Roadshow

In order to support Year 11s' future aspirations beyond Longdendale, we hosted our annual Futures Roadshow Event in the Autumn term.

The day involved all Year 11 students taking part in a workshop led by Ashton Sixth Form College.

We also invited a range of local employers into school to offer information and guidance to students about employment. Presentations were delivered to develop students' knowledge of further education linked to A-levels and vocational qualifications.

Students also took part in a careers fair with stands from all of our feeder colleges and this really motivated them to consider their next steps after Longdendale.



Forest School

A small cohort of Year 7, 8 and 9 students have been taking part in our forest school sessions throughout the Autumn term. During these sessions they have learnt lots of new skills such as fire lighting, roasting marshmallows, and whittling. They have also had the opportunity to learn how to safely use a variety of tools to create some fantastic natural masterpieces from bird feeders and log reindeer's to woodland mobiles.

Forest school sessions offer students a great opportunity to show off their talents while enjoying being outside in nature. They build friendships through communication and work on new life skills.



Library Halloween Competition

Our school Library run a host of competitions throughout the year. For Halloween, students were challenged to write a short spooky story or poem using less than 100 words.

Well done to all students who entered - there were some fabulously spooky entries! After much deliberation, first prize was awarded to Ethan in Year 7 for his short story; 'Cursed Echoes of the Forgotten Forest'.



Anti-Bullying week

Anti-Bullying week was held during November, with the theme "Make a Noise About Bullying". As well as wearing odd socks to represent the importance of respecting our differences, students learnt in assembly about how bullying is addressed at Longdendale and also how important it is that we all work together to speak up when bullying occurs.

As part of this we are launching a student leadership opportunity and have received some fantastic applications from prospective Year 9 Anti-Bullying Ambassadors. Watch this space in the New Year as this gets up and running to give students the opportunity to take ownership as we continue our anti-bullying work throughout the year.



Year 11 Drama

Our Year 11 Drama students performed their GCSE devised pieces in November in front of a live audience. The students wrote all the performances themselves using stimulus provided by the exam board, and sourced music, costume and props showing a huge dedication to their work.

The performance included explorations on the fear of clowns, the Rochdale grooming gang, COVID-19 and notorious murderers using techniques from practitioners Bertolt Brecht and Antonio Artaud.

The performances were fantastic and Mr Brown could not have been prouder. It's now all systems go for their next performances in March.



BBC Children in Need

In November, our students raised money for BBC Children in Need.

Student leaders sold wristbands and other merchandise in the Entrance Hall at break and students in Years 7 - 9 took part in the sponsored Pudsey Bearpee Challenge. Students completed their burpees whilst taking part in competitive relays during their PE lessons.

The grand total raised by students in sponsorship for their burpees was a massive £577.10. Well done to everyone who got involved, especially Year 7 who raised the most money per year group.



World Kindness Day

To celebrate World Kindness Day in November, our Library ran a 'Caught you being kind' event where staff and students could nominate anyone they saw showing kindness within school.

The event ran for a week, in which time there were a fantastic amount of staff and students nominated for their kind actions. The winners, chosen at random, were Bethany in Year 7 and Holly in Year 8, both nominated for being kind and helpful towards others. Congratulations to our two winners and well done to everyone for being kind or recognising others kindness and taking the time to nominate them.

Remembrance

In the week leading up to Remembrance Sunday, we came together to reflect on the sacrifices made by our brave service men and women with year group assemblies and a variety of activities in school.

Students who are cadets in the Army, Navy and Air Force supported during the assemblies and sold poppies and British Legion merchandise at break times, raising £140.48 for the Royal British Legion. The cadets were also able to wear their service uniform in school on Friday 10th November.

Year 10 students created some stunning artwork and messages to remember those who lost their lives defending our freedom.

On Remembrance Sunday, our Head Boy and Head Girl, Logan and Lottie, proudly walked with the community procession and laid a wreath at the Hollingworth War Memorial on behalf of everyone at Longdendale High School.



RESPECT 
 **RESILIENCE**
ASPIRATION 



Longdendale
HIGH SCHOOL



STAMFORD
PARK TRUST