

Newsletter

Summer Term

Headteacher's Welcome...

Welcome to the last edition of our newsletter for this academic year. It has been an exceptionally busy summer term, and this newsletter is a celebration of just some of the fantastic opportunities and experiences our students have taken part in over the past term. As always, our students continue to have demonstrated our core values of Respect, Resilience and Aspiration through their active participation, and I am certain that they have developed a range of new skills, which will support them as they continue their educational journey with us.

As we work together to live and breathe our vision of 'Excellence and Ambition for All', our students continue to amaze us and make us exceptionally proud on a daily basis. All of the opportunities they are provided with would not be possible without the ongoing hard work, commitment and dedication of our staff. I know you will join me in thanking them for another action-packed year in which student success and engagement have been clearly visible in every aspect of school life.

As a school, we have much to be proud of regarding what we have achieved over this past academic year - I shared with you earlier in the year that we were delighted to be re-designated as a national Flagship School for Inclusion and more recently, we have been awarded the Leading Parent Partnership Award in recognition of our work with families to engage and support our young people. Year 11 approached their final exam period with a real sense of purpose and maturity and it was lovely to reflect on their 5-year journey with us in their Leavers' Assembly and Prom at the end of June. We look forward to sharing in all of their successes and achievements on results day in August, and wish them every success and happiness as they leave us for the next stage in their education or training.

As one year group leaves, another one joins and it was a pleasure to welcome our Class of 2028 for their induction period - students spent the day with us learning about life at Longdendale; our core values; and experiencing a range of lessons and enrichment activities to support a successful transition from primary school. We were extremely proud of the professional way in which they approached their induction, and we are looking forward to getting to know them over the next five years.

Last week, it was a real privilege to take a trip down memory lane and watch our students performing our 'Back to the 80s' showcase. Seeing our students perform with such talent, enthusiasm and confidence was wonderful and our students provided some superb catering for this event. Students across year groups have recently visited Ashton Sixth Form College as part of our aspirations programme, and it is great to see these opportunities being offered as part of the Stamford Park Trust. In this newsletter you can read about a whole range of wider opportunities our students have enjoyed over recent months.

Thank you for your ongoing support - we value and appreciate the partnerships we have with our families and recognise the role they play in the continuing success of our students and our school. We wish all of our students and families a happy and healthy summer. Please enjoy reading the rest of this newsletter and we look forward to working with you in the new school year.



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

It gives me great pleasure to contribute to the final newsletter of the academic year. As a Trust, we are now two and a half years into our journey together; our community grows closer as each year passes and this year has been no exception.

The summer term has been as busy as ever with a huge number of events reflecting the great work taking place across the school. Some of these have been to celebrate events of national and historic significance such as the Trust's recognition of the accession of King Charles III to the throne following the death of the late Queen Elizabeth II. Others have formed part of the rich tapestry which is school life with numerous performances, sports events, transition days and enrichment opportunities.

It was also time to wave goodbye to the class of 2023. This year's Year 11 cohort have been a pleasure to teach, and managed the examination series with determination and resilience. The end of their school days was marked with a wonderful Prom which gave an opportunity to say goodbye in a more relaxed and enjoyable setting. Good luck to all students who are awaiting their examination results this August. I know you have given it your all and I'm sure you will be handsomely rewarded for your efforts. All the best for results day and good luck for your futures, whether in education, training or employment.

And finally, I would like to thank the staff at Longdendale High School, all parents and carers, and the student body for their tireless efforts this year. The dedication and hard work of all staff working at the school is second to none, and they have been ably supported by parents and carers in their determination to provide the very best in education for each and every one of our students.

I hope you manage to find some time for rest and relaxation over the summer period and we look forward to seeing many of you again in the new school year.

Warm regards



Anton McGrath
CEO
Stamford Park Trust

Head Boy & Head Girl

Our Headteacher, Mrs Jones, along with the Head of Year 10, Miss Hamilton, were extremely impressed with all the students who put themselves forward for the roles of Head Boy and Head Girl for the upcoming academic year. Students were interviewed and asked a series of questions about what they would bring to the roles they were applying for.

The outstanding quality of applicants made it an extremely difficult decision for Mrs Jones and Miss Hamilton to make, but it is with great pride that we can announce our Head Boy and Head Girl as Logan and Lottie. We would like to offer many congratulations to you both.

Logan and Lottie have thrown themselves into the role already, speaking with confidence at our welcome evening for the families of the Class of 2028, and we can't wait to see what they will achieve next year.





Induction and Transition

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new families who have joined the Longendale community with the class of 2028.

On Thursday 6th July Year 6 students from primary schools far and wide attended Longendale for their eagerly anticipated induction day. They had the opportunity to meet their new Form Tutor and immerse themselves in everything 'Longendale'. They were supported magnificently by the recently trained Transition Peer Mentors, who worked hard to make sure every student felt welcomed into school.

The students were given a flavour of our school with lots of fun and diverse activities. With the rain holding off for the day, the students gave every challenge their all. They looked at diversity and explored their own views around 'difference' by examining different texts. Our core values of Respect, Resilience and Aspiration were launched and the students were given the opportunity to discover what these values mean to them and why they are important to us all.

In the afternoon we celebrated all the young people's success from the day and welcomed each individual student, each being awarded their Longendale tie by Mrs Jones, Headteacher. The experience allowed them to feel part of our community and generate a buzz of excitement for their 5th September start.



"I am delighted to welcome our Class of 2028 to Longendale High School. They have already impressed me with their professional attitudes and enthusiasm. I am looking forward to working with them over the next five years as they grow into highly successful and responsible young adults."

Mrs Jones, Headteacher





Coronation Celebrations

Our celebrations for the coronation of King Charles III took place in May with a number of events to mark the occasion.

All year groups learnt about King Charles III and the significance of his coronation in year group assemblies and activities in the library.

Students enjoyed a fantastic coronation themed lunch in our school dining hall, and also took part in our coronation quiz. Congratulations to Sophie in Year 7 who scored the most correct answers and won a free breakfast!

In tribute to his Majesty the King's public service, all students were encouraged to take part in the 'Big Help Out' on Monday 8th May. Inspired by this, we challenged our students to plan an activity either as a tutor group, small group or as an individual to pledge to help out or volunteer in their communities.

"We are going to do a litter pick around the school area to help the community and the environment."

Year 9 student

Students made some great pledges, including litter picking, dog walking, donating to food banks, babysitting and running sports sessions for younger children. Participating students were then awarded special Coronation badges by their Head of Year.

To mark the occasion and create a lasting memory, Stamford Park Trust CEO, Anton McGrath, was joined by our headteacher, Mrs Jones, and the top achievement point holders from each year group, to plant an oak tree and bury a time capsule for students of the future to learn about this historic event. The capsule contained a specially written poem, which was very well read by Year 9 student, Sian, during the ceremony plus memories of the Queen and photographs of school life. It will hopefully provide future generations with an insight into life at Longdendale in 2023.





80s Night Showcase

On Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th July, over 40 students performed in our 80s night. Students showcased 80s inspired music, dance, drama and more. Both nights performances went brilliantly and received fantastic reviews from those in the audience.

Students and staff created and served a wonderful selection of 80s food and drink for the audience to enjoy throughout the evening. The Art department created wonderful display boards featuring student work inspired by the decades best icons and memories.

The production was a huge success and highlighted the brilliant collaboration between the APT (Art, Performing Arts and Technology) department. Well done to all students who performed and those who contributed behind the scenes. Many thanks to all the teachers and technicians involved and a special thanks to Miss Hamilton and Mr Kilkenny for co-ordinating the teams.



“80s showcase was a fantastic event which saw all of the arts subjects music, dance, drama, art and technology working together in collaboration to create a thrilling upbeat celebration of the arts. The students had the times of their lives showcasing their talents and it was amazing to see all of the staff working together to provide such a fantastic community event.”

Mrs Lowe, Assistant Headteacher





National School Sports Week 2023

In June, we took part in National School Sports Week. The theme for the week was 'Play for fun, play for 60', encouraging young people to be active for at least 60 minutes a day. Our PE department organised daily after school activities and invited local clubs into school to lead sessions in various sports.

Students started the week with some fantastic efforts in mountain biking and golf. A special well done to Year 7 student Abraham who with help from Mr Paradiuk went from a non-cyclist to a confident solo rider within just one session. Students also took in some top golfing tips and techniques from Mr Boardman with Year 7 student Ben mastering a great swing.

Ashton Fencing Club, Evolution Martial Arts, Start2Jog Running Club and The Cheer Lab held great sessions which the students really enjoyed. Many thanks to our PE department and all the local clubs for your time and dedication in providing our students with such fantastic new sporting experiences.



Hiking

Year 7 and Year 9 undertook hikes in June as part of the national curriculum for outdoor activities.

Year 7 put up with some very wet weather for their trip up Hobson Moor. Year 9 managed a less rainy but challenging hike up Hollingworth Moor completing 5 miles / 13,000 steps. They were rewarded with breathtaking views. Students displayed great enthusiasm and resilience.

A date for the current Year 8 students to hike in the local area will be arranged in the Autumn term.



Goodbye Year 11

The Class of 2023 have now completed their Longdendale journey. It was an interesting road, two years interrupted with Covid, lockdowns and isolations, but we managed to get to the end. To celebrate we had a leavers assembly that included a staff TikTok and a Kahoot's quiz.

Finally, we had the Year 11 Prom, speaking personally I have never felt prouder of the year group, they were all dressed to impress, and all had an amazing night of good food, dancing and prizes. A special congratulations also goes to our prom King and Queen, Adie and Molly.

Mr Rea - Head of Year 11



Pre-Loved Prom

The Prom Committee would like to offer a big thank you to each and every person who donated items or services to our pre-loved prom event.

It was wonderful to be able to invite our Year 11 students and their families into school to browse and borrow dresses, suits and more.

Several students were incredibly grateful to find high quality outfits and attended the prom looking stunning. We intend to hold the event again next year so if any individuals or businesses have anything to donate or have any services they could offer our students, please do get in touch.





UK Military Mentors

Well done to Tyler and Bailey, both in Year 9 who have undertaken training with the Manchester based company, UK Military Mentors. This has included hiking, map reading and learning about car care/mechanics.



Pre-loved Uniform

We would like to thank all parents who have donated items of uniform to our pre-loved uniform initiative. We have been able to offer items to parents at low cost at Parents' evenings, school events and through ParentPay online.

All money received has been invested back into student-led activities throughout school. Most recently, this has helped fund 50 places on the Lego Robotics workshop held in June.

If you have any Longdendale uniform that you'd like to donate, please drop items into our main school office - thank you.



Cricket Achievements

Huge congratulations to Year 10 student Eleanor who has been selected to play for Cheshire County Cricket Girls Under 15s for the 2023 County season. Eleanor is photographed above with her Cheshire teammates.

Well done also to Olivia in Year 9 who has become the first female ever to play for Hollingworth Cricket Club's Senior Second team. This is a fantastic achievement and Olivia was awarded a Head Teacher Award for Aspiration last week in recognition of this.

National Thank a Teacher Day

June 21st was National 'Thank a Teacher Day'. To celebrate the day, students wrote postcards for their teachers to show their appreciation. There were some lovely messages to read.

Year 10 student, Eden, thanked Miss Hulston: "I'd like to thank you for never failing to make me smile in your lessons, and helping me understand Spanish better. Adios!"

Wrestling & Boxing Success

Well done to Arona in Year 10 who took part in the English Wrestling Championships in Nottingham earlier this year and finished 2nd, claiming a silver medal against a very competitive and talented group of 10 opponents.

Arona also became a North West regional champion in boxing back in the Spring and has since competed in the National Junior Amateur Boxing Championships.

It's always great to hear about the various extra-curricular activities our students take part in so thank you so much for sharing.

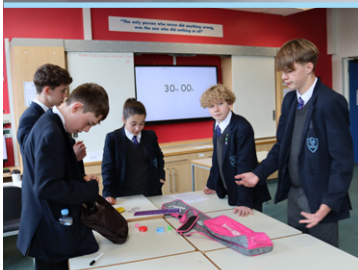
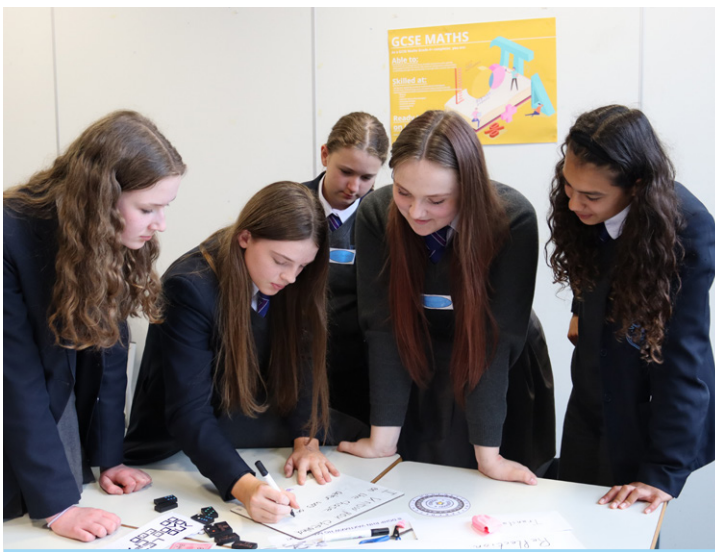
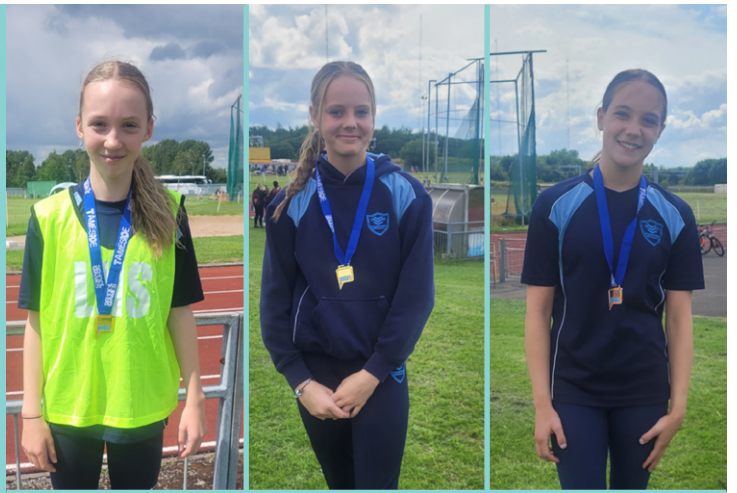
Athletics Success

On 4th July, our PE department took the Longendale High School Athletics team to the Tameside Secondary Schools Athletics Championships held at the East Cheshire Harriers and Tameside Athletics Club in Ashton Under-Lyne.

We were delighted that 10 of our students came away with medals. Huge congratulations go to:

- Neve (Year 10): IG Tameside 100m champion
- Lily-Jade (Year 8): JG Tameside Discus champion
- Niamh (Year 8): IG Tameside High Jump champion
- Leah (Year 10): Silver Medal - High Jump
- Harrison (Year 7): Silver Medal - Long Jump
- Nathan (Year 9): Bronze Medal 1500m
- Eva (Year 9): Bronze Medal 300m
- Sam (Year 8): Bronze Medal 200m
- Zach (Year 10): Bronze Medal Javelin
- Charlotte (Year 10): Bronze Medal Triple Jump

All students were a credit to the school - they conducted themselves brilliantly during the day and put great effort into the events they competed in. Well done everyone.



Year 8 Visit to ASFC

A group of Year 8 students visited Ashton Sixth Form College in May as part of the bespoke Aspirations programme exclusively available to students within Stamford Park Trust.

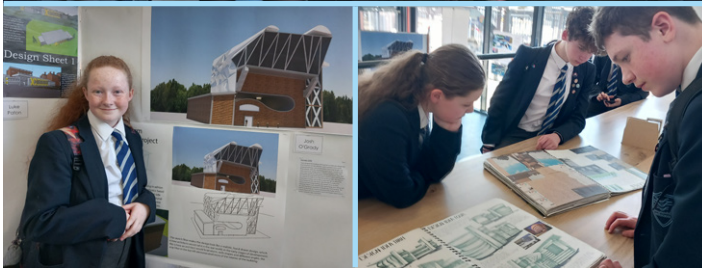
The theme of the day saw students take part in a murder mystery event, using their skills in the core subjects of Science, English and Maths.

In Science, students learnt how to protect a crime scene, gather and analyse evidence and form conclusions on who could be the guilty suspect. English saw students discover how linguistics can be used in solving a crime, by looking at clues in the suspects social media posts and text messages. In Maths, students worked in groups to solve a range of challenging puzzles to crack codes and open locks in an escape room style challenge. Eventually this helped them discover coded messages and parts of a jigsaw that when combined, unlocked the code of the leading suspects iPad which contained strong evidence as to the perpetrator of the crime.

The students showed commendable team working skills throughout. It was a great experience and our thanks go to everyone at Ashton Sixth Form College involved in organising the event.

Year 9 Visit to ASFC

Year 9 Technology students enjoyed visiting Ashton Sixth Form College in May to see and hear the colleges 3D Design students present their ideas for the future. It was great for our students to see the innovative ideas on show.



ASFC English Festival

A group of Year 9 students from Longdendale joined students from other local schools at Ashton Sixth Form College's English Festival in June. Congratulations to one of our students who won the English Language & Literature competition from over 100 entries!



Year 10 visit to Oxford

Twenty-five Year 10 students attended a visit to the University of Oxford at the end of May. As part of the day they were taken on a tour to view the university colleges and take in the stunning architecture, history and culture of the city.

Our students also had the opportunity to speak to current university students and take part in taster lectures. When asked about their favourite part of the day, many students highlighted these sessions with one remarking "my favourite part about the trip was the question and answer session with the university students to learn more about life at Oxford" and another commenting "the Maths seminar was fabulous".

The students thoroughly enjoyed the day and displayed our school values perfectly - they were an absolute credit to our school.

Year 9 Visit University of Leeds

On the 25th April, Year 9 high prior attainer students visited the University of Leeds to attend an aspiration visit into higher education.

The students took part in specific workshops in medicine and dentistry professions within the NHS as well as workshops in radiography and cardiac physiology. Students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and many said the visit has made them consider future careers in the science industry and related careers options.





The Jack Pullen Foundation

On July 12th we welcomed the Jack Pullen Foundation into school to speak to all year groups about water safety. For those who may not know, Jack was a student at Longdendale and tragically lost his life in the River Etherow soon after leaving Year 11.

Students learnt about the danger of entering open water and the vital life skill or what to do in a water-related emergency. Thank you to the foundation for delivering these vital sessions to our students so sensitively. To learn more, please visit: www.jackpullenfoundation.org.uk

Maths Challenge

In April, 30 students from Year 7 and 8 participated in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. They sat an exam style paper with some tricky maths questions in. The following four students achieved a Silver Certificate; Martha in Year 8 and Sam, Holly and Eve in Year 7. Bronze certificates were awarded to Alice in Year 8 and James, Charlotte, Jiyah, Kian and Elizabeth in Year 7. Special congratulations to Sam in Year 7 who was also our best in school. We are very proud of these students and we look forward to next year when the Year 8s will get a chance to try the Intermediate Maths Challenge.

Lego Robotics Workshop

In June, we invited Buxton based business, Brick Corner, into school to run Lego Robotics workshops for 50 students. The day was funded by money raised from the pre-loved uniform initiative that launched earlier this academic year.

Students worked in pairs to construct the robots from kits, before programming and modifying their creations to carry out simple commands.

It was a fantastic day, where students with special educational needs or disabilities, Lego enthusiasts and those interested in coding all had the opportunity to get involved.





Dance Performances

In May, over 80 students from Years 7 – 10 were involved in two fantastic nights of incredible dance performances.

This years “Just Dance” saw students perform a range of styles from classic Fosse jazz to contemporary dance inspired by Christopher Bruce as well as commercial, lyrical and musical theatre such as “Six”.

The commitment, dedication, enthusiasm and professionalism shown by the students was incredible. Well done to everyone involved.



Reading Rewards Initiative

Reading is rewarding enough by itself, of course, but to celebrate those who are doing that extra bit of reading, students can work towards their Bronze Reading Badge – and earn themselves achievement points too!

Students can complete reading challenges to earn a Literacy Award (25 Achievement Points). Students who collect 100 Literacy Achievement Points (four tasks) will earn a bronze reading badge! For full information, and to see the reading challenges, please visit:

www.longdendalehighschool.org.uk/school-life/curriculum/departmental-information/lhs-library

Young Geographer of the Year Competition

The theme for the Young Geographer of the Year competition 2023 is: **A blueprint for the future.** This is an international competition, open to all year groups.

What is your plan for our planet? Our World is changing. The big geographical issues of today need to be addressed now to protect the future of our planet and the people who live on it.

We are looking for innovative ideas to address problems in areas such as food production and supply, energy and sustainability, water security, resources, population growth, economic crisis, transport, travel, urbanisation, risk management, trade, environmental management, biodiversity and more.

For full competition details, please visit:
www.rgs.org/schools/competitions/young-geographer-of-the-year/2023-competition/

Pride

The month of June is famously known as being Pride month. There were a host of activities in school during the month, including creating themed decorations to brighten up our entrance hall and a scavenger hunt for students.

We also invited a guest, Joshua Silver, into school to deliver year group assemblies. Josh is an author of an LGBTQ+ book and also a mental health nurse. He spoke about his writing, teen mental health and the struggles he went through whilst growing up.



RESPECT 
RESILIENCE 
ASPIRATION 



Longdendale
HIGH SCHOOL



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