

Newsletter

Spring Term

Headteacher's Welcome...

Welcome to the Spring Term edition of our newsletter. As you read this edition, you will see it is a celebration of some of the fantastic opportunities and successes our students have experienced, and the positive contribution they continue to make to our school and the wider community. The activities and events they have been involved in over the past term have been particularly impressive, and our students have been demonstrating a real commitment, as always, to raising money to support a range of local and national charitable causes. They continue to make us all proud on a daily basis.

Our students have had 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. It has been fantastic to see our Year 11 students showcasing some of their amazing talents in both the drama and music performances recently, and we are looking forward to our wider school dance production, sporting events, and a performing arts spectacle in the summer term.

As I write this, our Year 11 students are coming to the end of their time at Longdendale. They have impressed us so much with their resilience, maturity and professionalism throughout their time with us, and particularly during this past year as they work towards their final exam period. We are confident all their efforts will be rewarded and we wish them all every success over the coming months as they prepare to sit their final exams and move on to the next stage in their journey. Alongside this, we are really excited to welcome our new Year 7 students and their families as they embark on the start of their Longdendale journey, and we're looking forward to meeting them all very soon.

Later in this newsletter you can read more about our recent review of our SEND provision that was carried out by the National Association for Special Educational Needs (NASEN). We are delighted to share that the review highlighted many strengths in our provision for our students with SEND.

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 the school. Please enjoy reading the rest of this newsletter and we look forward to continuing to work with you over the rest of the academic year.

We wish all of our students and families a restful and enjoyable Easter break.



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 has been another busy term across Stamford Park Trust as students from Longdendale High School joined others from Rayner Stephens High School and Ashton Sixth Form College in a number of collaborative activities. Students from Year 10 joined others from a number of Tameside schools to participate in a STEM masterclass. Students enjoyed talks focused on progression to competitive universities and a session about Ashton Sixth Form College's XL programme before joining taster sessions for science and maths. In the same week, Year 9 students from Longdendale High School joined their colleagues from Rayner Stephens High School at Ashton Sixth Form College to begin planning for life beyond school. The sessions helped students to focus on their GCSE options and to begin thinking about the next stage of their educational journey. The feedback from both events was fantastic; the students clearly enjoyed their visits!

Longdendale students from different year groups will also have a chance to participate in events at Ashton Sixth Form College later in the year. Year 7 students will visit the college to learn about subjects such as psychology and law, Year 8 students will become detectives, taking part in workshops in English, maths and science to solve our murder mystery, and Year 10 will have an opportunity to join taster sessions across the curriculum to help them with their post 16 options as well as an introduction to the college's XL programme.

As we move into the final term of the academic year, thoughts turn to the summer exams. Year 11 are working incredibly hard to prepare for this period in their school life, well supported by all the staff at school. As the parent of a son who is also taking GCSE exams this summer, I understand the importance of this time for students and their families. Use the time still available to complete your preparations, but make sure you also find time to do the things you enjoy. Finding a healthy balance between work and play will help students successfully navigate the next few months. So, finally, I would like to wish every student taking exams this summer all the very best of luck. We are looking forward to celebrating your success in the summer.



Anton McGrath
CEO
Stamford Park Trust



Year 10 STEM Conference 2023

In aid of British Science Week, Ashton Sixth Form College recently held a STEM Conference for over 60 Year 10 students from the local area.

After a warm welcome from Centre Principal, Lisa Richards, and talk from the Ashton XL manager, Damian Windle, about progression routes to competitive universities, students took part in taster sessions in Maths and Science. The sessions were tailored to match with the British Science Week theme for 2023; 'Connections'.



Students then received a talk from Professor Julie Gibbs from the University of Manchester. Professor Julie explored her own work and research on the human body clock, the immune system and inflammation pathways. Students found the talk very interesting and came away with lots of new knowledge gained!



Stamford Park Trust Aspirations Programme

Year 9 high achieving students from Longdendale High School and Rayner Stephens High School paid a visit to Ashton Sixth Form College recently as part of the bespoke Aspirations programme exclusively available to students within Stamford Park Trust.

CEO Anton McGrath kicked off the day by reiterating the importance of working together across the Trust to make our shared vision of 'Excellence and Ambition for All' a reality.

For the first session, Ashton Sixth Form College XL Manager had students working on their critical and analytical thinking as well as their resilience - a taster of the skills needed to join the XL Programme. Next up was a taster of the ASFC Realising Aspirations Programme, which prepares students for life after college through university-level teaching and explores the opportunities at degree-level. Asking students 'why can't it be you?' when it comes to university. Finally, students got a taste of college life with a tour of campus.

There is real strength in our collaboration, that's why we encourage all students to participate in our flagship Aspirations programme, designed to help students develop both academically and personally, and prepare for a bright future ahead. All students, from Year 7 to 11, have the opportunity to work with the college, local universities and prestigious employers to help them become the very best version of themselves.

Students were very engaged on the day, with many saying they are now starting to think about what their future holds after school and college.



"It was fantastic to see Year 9 students from both Longdendale and Rayner Stephens High Schools at Ashton Sixth Form College to learn about their options post 16 and beyond. Our Realising Aspirations Programme supports our core ambition of excellence and ambition for all, and helps students think carefully about their futures.

CEO Anton McGrath



NASEN SEND Review

Last month a full external review of the provision for our students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) was carried out by a specialist team from the National Association for Special Educational Needs (NASEN). This was carried out as part of the Stamford Park Trust monitoring and review process to support our school to continue to offer the best possible provision in all areas for all of our students.

The review included a thorough scrutiny of the school's own evaluation of our SEND provision, as well as the plan in place to develop and improve this further. The reviewers also visited a wide range of lessons to see the provision and practice first hand.

We are delighted to share that the review highlighted many strengths in our provision for our students with SEND, and the support in place to ensure all students are able to make strong progress across the curriculum and achieve their full potential. As a result, our SEND students are well prepared for their future lives and careers, and leave Longdendale with results that are above national averages for this cohort of students, and go on to successfully access a wide range of post-16 opportunities. This review also recognised that students with SEND at Longdendale attain the relevant skills for progressing to the next stage of education, employment or training.

The review highlighted that students with SEND at Longdendale have full access to all areas of the curriculum and all areas of school life. This is based on a culture of high expectations and aspirations for all students. The report notes:

“The leadership team have a clear vision for SEND and know what needs to be developed. The vision is communicated to and understood by all staff. The headteacher and senior leadership team have a clear and ambitious vision for SEND curriculum provision and outcomes in the school based on a culture of high aspirations for all pupils.”

“Relationships are extremely positive between staff, parents and students and this is due, in large part, to extremely effective methods of communication.”

NASEN SEND Review



“Pupils with SEND have full access to extra-curricular activities and data is available to enable tracking of this”

NASEN SEND Review



National Careers Week 2023 and Raising Aspirations Day

National Careers Week (NCW) is a celebration of careers guidance and opportunities in education across the UK.

It aims to promote the importance of good careers education in schools and colleges and provides an opportunity to support and engage young people to develop awareness and excitement about their future pathways and the world of work.

Providing quality CEIAG resources and linking education with the world of employment can help students get an important insight to the future of work and further learning. At Longendale High School we celebrated National Careers Week (6th - 10th March) for all students through our **Raising Aspirations Day** on 8th March.

All students had an introduction to Labour Market Information for Greater Manchester and the careers section of our school website. They have also looked at the Personal Development Learning Journey for Longendale High School and how the skills they develop at school through personal development opportunities fit into their future career path.

Each year group also took part in different Raising Aspirations events:

- **Year 7** had an introduction to Xello, created hope boards to reflect upon their aspirations for the future, explored careers in different sectors and the routes into them, considered their own skills and investigated the employability skill of Team Work.
- **Year 8** investigated what an entrepreneur is, looked at sustainable business ideas and took part in the 10X Challenge. With just a £10 initial investment (provided by the 10X challenge) and 4 weeks, teams have to create, market, organise and financially manage their own business with the intention of making a profit.
- **Year 9** students explored the options process at Longendale High School, learnt about T levels as a post-16 option, considered their own personal strengths and explored apprenticeships through a multiverse webinar.
- **Year 10** prepared for Work Experience, explored T levels as a post-16 option, practised Interview Skills with Barclay's Life Skills, explored the NCW2023 careers fair and learnt more about apprenticeships.
- **Year 11** students analysed what makes a good CV, created their own CV, looked at routes into hospitality with a workshop provided by Nandos and explored the NCW2023 careers fair.

If you would like any further information about the careers programme at LHS, please look at our website.



Longdendale Climate Summit 2023 - COP1

On Friday 24th March, the Humanities Department hosted their first Climate Summit around the theme of 'Energy'.

Invited to the event were children from local primaries and key guest speakers; Jonathan Reynolds MP, Councillor Dan Costello, Councillor Jacqueline Owen and Councillor Lee Huntbach.

Our Head Boy and Head Girl, Seb and Charlotte, introduced the guests who all gave informative talks regarding the complexities around climate change and what we can do about it both collectively and as individuals. The day then moved onto practical workshops. Children from the local primaries were grouped with Longdendale students for the activities.

Sydney Jones-Jackson, Geography and Geology teacher from Ashton Sixth Form College led the first workshop around 'Mining'. The groups learnt about why mining is carried out and what the environmental impacts are. They then had to decide what to do with the waste products (rocks) left over from mining. The groups came up with some great ideas, including using the waste rocks to build habitats for wildlife, creating coastal defences and turning them into car park extensions!

The second workshop was led by our Head of Humanities, Ms Kerfoot. The groups were tasked with deciding upon 3 pledges for their school to help reduce waste, save energy and reduce their carbon footprint. Students were encouraged to think about the financial costs of their choices and then signed their 'Charter for Change'. They explained their pledges to everyone and finally, they were given an oak tree sapling to take back to their school.

We were so impressed with both the children from our local primaries and our own students - everyone listened really well and showed fantastic teamworking skills. Thank you to everyone who made this day a success, including the guest speakers, students and visitors. We can't wait for next year's summit!





World Book Day

A curious collection of items made their way into school on Thursday 2nd March. Students were asked to consider what yellow Play-Doh, a snow globe or a stuffed ginger cat might possibly show, suggest or symbolise about their teachers' favourite books...

There was a real buzz around school celebrating World Book Day this term. Students competed to complete the teachers' "Recommended Reads Scavenger Hunt". We asked staff at Longdendale to share their favourite reads – either recent reads or old favourites – with students, using an object as a clue to create a talking point around the book. Miss Hulston showed real dedication to the cause, wearing vampire teeth all day to share her love of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, whilst Mrs Healey sported ballet shoes and boxing gloves to recommend Melvin Burgess' *Billy Elliot*. With bonnets, medals, golden snitches and spyglasses, to mention just a few mystery objects, there was plenty to ignite students' intrigue in our favourite books.

Well done to Holly (7A), Josh (7S), Megan (7E), Annie (8E), Imogen (8S), Katie (8A), Lucy (8S), Erin (9I), Briony (9A), Zach (9A) Jess (10E), Milly (10E), Matty (11A) and Will (11E) who were the winners on the day and have prizes coming their way!

In the library, a whole host of activities were on offer to celebrate the joy in reading. Miss Payton set up an audiobook corner, inviting students to come in and have a listen to some new or favourite stories. As well as this, lots of students engaged in the World Book Day Bonanza Quiz! Finally, those students who engage all year with the library were rewarded with a special World Book Day Cupcake – a little thank you to those students who help in keeping the library tidy, in requesting new titles and in chatting with us and making the most of our fabulous new library space. Well done and thank you to Sophie, Ava, Maisie, Elizabeth, Nikhita, Lucy, Chloe and Mathilda in Year 7; to Archie in Year 8, to Aimee, Jason, Nikola, Elizabeth, Erin, Ryan, Lena, Wiktoria, Emily and Harry in Year 9; and finally to Lucas, Daniel and Anthony in Year 11.

Finally, Mr Baxter-Smallwood and the Creative Writing Club have hosted a World Book Day inspired writing competition. Students have been asked to reimagine their favourite book, to write a prequel or a sequel, or to rewrite their favourite book character into a completely new setting – all in under 1,000 words! These creative pieces will be judged in the coming weeks – so look out for winners being announced soon!

A massive thank you to all staff and students – it was a joy to see such a buzz about books!

Launching Soon... Recommended Reads!

Keep an eye on our social media accounts as we will soon be launching a list of Longdendale teachers' **'Recommended Reads'**.

These will vary in genre and reading level and we hope there will be at least a few titles in the list that will appeal to everyone.

Welcome to our class of 2028

The class of 2028 will be joining us in September and we would like to offer a warm welcome to our new students and their families. We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to our school community over the next few months.

All Year 6 joining us in September should have received a welcome pack in the post - we hope you liked it! Inside you will have found a pack of sunflower seeds; if you're wanting to grow them inside to start with, it's an ideal time to start planting now!

We'd love to see how your sunflowers are getting on so take lots of photos and ask your parent or carer to email or share with us on social media. We will be awarding prizes to the best sunflowers in lots of different categories (including the tallest) when you arrive with us in September!



DONATE YOUR

♥ PRE-LOVED ♥

PROM ITEMS

Pre-Loved Initiative

We would firstly like to thank you for sending in your donations of Pre-Loved uniform. You may have seen on our social media pages that we were able to hold our first Pre-Loved uniform event during the recent Year 11 Parents' Evening.

With the current difficulties many families are facing and to support environmental issues (reduce, reuse, recycle) we are hoping to extend the Pre-Loved theme further by opening a one-stop shop for Pre-loved Prom items.

Thank you to those of you that have already donated items to our prom shop. If you have any of the following items and wish to donate them, donations can be brought into the school office. Prom dresses, bridesmaid/occasion dresses, handbags, shoes, suits, smart jackets, smart trousers, shirts and ties.

Sports Round-Up

It has been a busy term for PE at Longendale High School.

Work is well underway for the whole school dance production, please note the new date for this is Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th May. More information will follow closer to the time.

In BTEC Dance, Year 11 have shown fantastic focus, commitment and progress towards their component 3 coursework choreography and log books. We are excited to confirm Year 11 will have their own performance night on Tuesday 25th April.

Tickets for all dance production events will be available soon.

In Core PE we have been delighted to welcome Marianne, the Women and Girls Club Development Officer - Stockport, Trafford, Tameside and Macclesfield and Cheshire Girls U13 Lead Coach for the Cheshire Cricket Board, who has been working weekly with Year 7-9 girls to inspire and develop their cricket skills. Also in girls PE, Miss Harrison has organised teams in Year 7-9 to take part in the Tameside, "Off the Block's" indoor athletics competition. We are very proud of all team members taking part in this event and especially well done to Year 8 who narrowly missed the top 3 spot coming 4th in Tameside.

Year 11 BTEC sport are near the completion of their course. Well done to Mr Paradiuk and those students who attended the gym sessions at Astley Sports Village as part of their training unit planning to strengthen their fitness and training coursework.

Headteacher Awards

One of the highlights of the school week is the opportunity on a Friday morning to meet with some of our students to celebrate some of their wonderful achievements and successes across our school and beyond. Students can be nominated for a Headteacher's Award by any member of staff in school in recognition of a particular success or achievement they may have had in any area of school life, or for an outstanding contribution to our school or the wider community.

We are exceptionally proud of all of our students, and reading why students have been nominated for these special awards is always such a moment of pride and inspiration. This term has been no exception, and students have received awards for a wide range of truly fantastic reasons, ranging from sporting achievements, helping members of the community, raising money for charities, going above and beyond in their classwork or homework across subjects and excellent engagement in some of the opportunities such as baking number inspired cakes for national Number Day. Well done to all our students who have received one of these prestigious awards this term, and it is fantastic to see so many badges being worn with pride on blazers.



British Science Week

The theme this year for British Science Week was 'Connections'. Connections are all around us, and the science department chose to look at connections that are in the news such as food and climate change.

The students began by investigating climate change impact, water use and health benefits of some foods. The students gathered information about the impacts of certain foods. For example, for steak it includes the impact of growing food for the cow, as well as methane from cow burps and poo! Students were encouraged to plan a meal and use information on each food to calculate the total climate impact of their lunch.

Later in the week the students looked at climate change, and the effect rising temperatures, floods and droughts have on crops. Students planted cress seeds in soils with different moisture levels to investigate how the climate influences plant growth. This linked nicely to stories currently in the news around food shortages.

Hopefully the students enjoyed the week's activities, and it has encouraged them to consider healthier, more climate friendly food in the future!



National Apprenticeship Week

National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) 2023, held in February, was the 16th annual week-long celebration of apprenticeships.

The week brought together businesses and apprentices across the country to shine a light on the positive impact that apprenticeships make to individuals, businesses and the wider economy.

The theme for National Apprenticeship Week this year was "Skills for Life"; reflecting on how apprenticeships can help individuals to develop the skills and knowledge required for various rewarding careers, and businesses to develop a talented workforce that is equipped with future-ready skills.

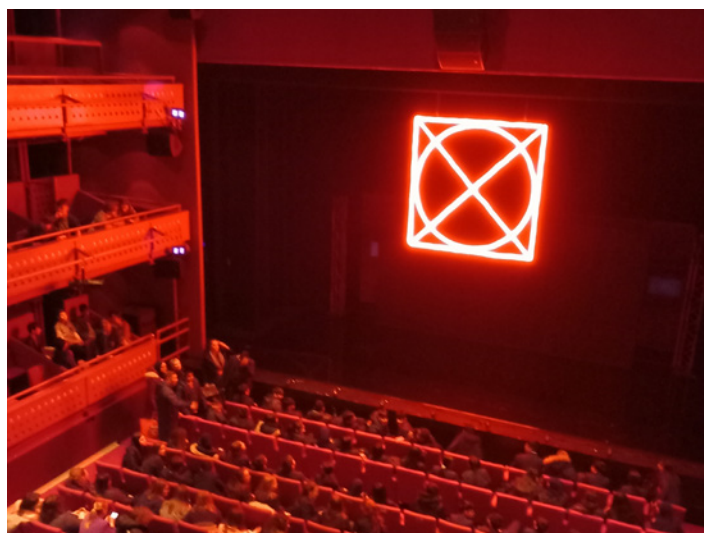
At Longdendale High School, all year groups were invited to join the GMCA "Meet your future" webinars which focused on many sectors, including hospitality, digital skills, energy and digital banking. Year 10 were delighted to welcome our former student Claire who visited from Findel Education in Hyde to share her career journey. Claire's session on the pathway she followed using apprenticeships was inspiring and informative. It was great to see so many students asking questions and thinking about their options for the future.

**National
Apprenticeship
Week #NAW2023**



New books for the Library

Students were overjoyed to receive a delivery of over 300 comic books and graphic novels recently. These were very kindly donated by the team at Thought Bubble UK, the UK's biggest comic art festival after our librarian, Miss Payton, nominated the school for a free comic give-away back in 2021.



Theatre Trip

On Wednesday 18th January, Mr Brown took the Year 10 GCSE Drama class, and a group of Year 9 students to see a stage version of Malorie Blackman's award winning novel; 'Noughts & Crosses' at the Lowry Theatre in Salford Quays.

The students all commented on the technical ability of the performance which incorporated lots of Physical Theatre elements. This trip will inform part of the Year 10 GCSE exam and allow all the students to use the show to inspire their drama work within school. The students behaved fantastically throughout, with many members of the public commenting on their politeness and respect. They were a credit to themselves and the school and it meant Mr Brown could sit back and enjoy the show too!

Inter-School bowling event

In February, Year 9 students represented Longendale at the 10 Pin Penathlon Event. Although beaten by rivals at Rayner Stephens High School, all students received medals, and Jason in particular was recognised for his talent due to his many strikes.

It was fantastic to see our young people enjoying a different sport, especially considering some of them had never been bowling before. We're excited to see what the next event will be!



The Aspire Centre

As the heart of the school the Aspire Centre has become a hub of activity for students at break time. This term students have enjoyed card and board games, Lego challenges, sewing, reading, crafts and battleships.

It has been wonderful to see how our young people are working with staff to shape their experience in the Aspire Centre. We are looking to include clay modelling as part of our offer for next half term. Following student voice we now have a supply of fresh fruit and water available for students too.

Social times can be overwhelming for many young people however it is clear that our Aspire Centre is assisting students to have the support they need during the unstructured time of their school day.



Number Day

Friday 3rd February was National Number Day. We joined over 8000 schools to celebrate maths and raise money for the NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children).

This year we asked students to bring in a cake, cupcakes or bakes that celebrate maths and numbers! We had an amazing response and it was really hard to choose just one winner, so the Maths department came up with twelve different winning categories from Most Creative to Most Puzzling. Our overall favourite was the Pi cake that looked like a pie both inside and out! We finished by selling off the cakes and raised over £80! Congratulations to:

- **Most imaginative** - Isabella, Year 7
- **Best effort** - Megan, Year 7
- **Most mathematical** - Josh, Year 7
- **Most creative** - Elizabeth, Year 7
- **Most numbers** - Jackson, Year 7
- **Well plotted** - Charlotte, Year 8
- **Most puzzling** - Robyn, Year 7 and Annie, Year 8
- **Cute cupcakes** - Lucy, Year 7
- **Marble masterpiece** - Ava, Year 7
- **Most decorative** - Nathan, Year 8
- **Realistic artwork** - Marty, Year 7
- **Most accurate** - Ben, Year 7

Year 11 BTEC Music gigs

Our Year 11 BTEC Music students treated their audience to some incredible individual and group performances over two evenings in February.

Following months of learning and practising their music, the performances went extremely well and the students demonstrated a huge amount of talent on various instruments which the audience clearly enjoyed.

Both the live performances and the rehearsals form part of their assessment for the course so we'd like to congratulate all the students for the fantastic attitude they showed in preparing for the gigs. The confidence with which they performed on the night was testament to this.

A huge thank you to the families, friends and staff who came to watch and lend support.



Brilliant Club

We would like to congratulate Year 10 students Sam, Ruby B, Georgina, James, Summer, Charlotte H, Anne, Ruby M, Milan, Jamie, Gabriella and Charlotte W on their recent graduation from the Brilliant Club Scholars Programme, held at the University of York.

The day comprised of a tour of the campus, an information and advice session and an opportunity for the students to celebrate their achievements during a graduation ceremony.

During the Brilliant Club programme, students have completed varied assignments, working closely with a PhD tutor to study concepts beyond the national curriculum. This has enabled them to gain the skills, knowledge and confidence to complete a challenging essay based final assignment.

Well done to all of you, this is a fantastic achievement and a great reward for your hard work and dedication.

Holocaust Memorial Day

To mark Holocaust Memorial Day, students in Year 7 were invited to attend a special in-school reward event to commemorate the date on Thursday 26th January 2023. They were selected based on their attitude to learning in both History and English.

The students had the opportunity to learn about Holocaust Memorial Day, listen to the testimony from a Holocaust survivor and create a memorial flame display. They listened to Tom Palmer discuss his book 'After the War' and listened to some of the primary sources he used to create the story.

The students were exemplary in their attitude and demonstrated our key core value of Respect.



RESPECT 
 **RESILIENCE**
ASPIRATION 



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