

# 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.

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.

Our Year 10 students are currently completing their work experience, and it has been wonderful to hear from their employers how well they are doing – some have even been offered jobs as a result of their professionalism and performance. We couldn't be prouder of them and what superb ambassadors they are for the Longdendale community.

The highlight of my week is when I get the opportunity to present our students with their Headteacher's Award for when they have made a significant contribution to our school or community or when they have demonstrated real success in an area of their studies. I have been incredibly impressed by the students who have achieved this award and it's great to see them wearing their badges with such pride.

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*

## Key Dates

**Students Return**  
Tuesday 16th April 2024

**Year 8 Parents' Evening**  
2nd May 2024

**Dance Production**  
8th & 9th May 2024

**Year 8 Visit to  
Ashton Sixth Form College**  
22nd May 2024

**Year 7 Parents' Evening**  
13th June 2024

**National Sports Week**  
17th June 2024

**Year 11 Prom**  
27th June 2024

**Year 10 visit to  
Ashton Sixth Form College**  
4th July 2024

**Year 7 visit to  
Ashton Sixth Form College**  
10th July 2024



**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

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Listen to others without interruption

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Respond promptly and positively

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Have pride in our environment and our community



### RESILIENCE

Have a positive attitude

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Work hard, never give up

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Learn from mistakes

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Embrace challenges



### ASPIRATION

Aim high

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Believe in ourselves

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Accept only our best

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Celebrate success



## A message from the Trust CEO

We've managed to pack a lot in during this short term with plenty of activity across all of the Trust's academies. Staff and students are working hard in preparation for the upcoming examination period which will start shortly after the Easter break. I'd like to wish all students taking examinations or completing other assessments all the best as they approach the finishing line. The efforts you make now will pay dividends later in the summer when you receive your results.

As a Trust, we understand the importance of ensuring that our staff and students have the very best facilities we can provide for teaching and learning. Building is about to commence at Ashton Sixth Form College on an extension to the Sports Hall which will add much needed classrooms and office space. Work has already commenced on a new heating system at Longdendale, with a new resource base for students with Autistic Spectrum Disorder also starting in the next few months. We are also close to beginning our performing arts space at Rayner Stephens High School which will be an exciting addition to their estate.

This term has also been busy for a number of reviews and reaccreditations. Longdendale successfully retained its IQM status as a flagship school for inclusion, whilst Ashton Sixth Form College received a glowing report on the quality of its SEND and Inclusive Learning provision from NASEN.

I hope you find some time for rest and relaxation over the Easter break. Hopefully, the weather will begin to feel more spring-like as the evenings lengthen so you can enjoy some time together.

Warm regards



***Anton McGrath***  
*CEO*  
*Stamford Park Trust*

## Ashton Sixth Form College visit

Year 9 enjoyed their Excellence and Ambition academy session in January - a programme available to all schools across the Trust to support students in broadening their horizons and achieving their ambitions.

First up Ashton Sixth Form College Director of Curriculum and Progression, Rachel Smirke, talked about employability and the skills students can work on now to prepare for their futures. Lee Mason, managing director of Stately Strategic Recruitment Group then shared his experience of getting into work.

Students had the chance to learn a little more about university and how to make informed choices about their next steps through the College's Realising Aspirations Programme delivered by Alexandra Noble.

Finally, students spoke to the College's careers advisors about the skills needed in the workplace and then explored different routes into various sectors of work with a fun and interactive session to end the day.





## Year 10 XL visit to Ashton Sixth Form College

On Friday 24th January Mr Pomeroy took out a group of students to Ashton Sixth Form College for an XL visit for Maths, Computer Science and Physics. The day was centered around the enjoyment and enthusiasm for these subjects but also gave students the opportunity to see what it would be like to study these subjects at A Level.

The first session was all about Computer Science and students were asked to try and write a code to calculate if they could escape being sucked into a black hole based on certain parameters.

After break students went to a session on Maths where an investigation took place into Pascal's triangle and students were able to see just a few of the ways in which Pascal's triangle were useful at both GCSE and A Level. This was followed by a talk from Keynote speaker Tom Cheesewright, applied futurist, who talked to the students about the job prospects for 2030 and beyond. We were all blown away by the possibilities for the future and how we could use our skills in these key subject areas to develop jobs for the future.

The final session of the day was where students learned about black holes and actually attempted questions on how to calculate the radius of a black hole.

The day gave us all plenty to think about, whilst offering insights into what certain subjects would be like at A Level. Thank you Year 10 for being a credit to the school!



## English Language and Literature Event at ASFC

On Friday 23rd February, 5 Year 10 students attended the English XL event at Ashton Sixth Form College. The day gave students an insight into what both English Language and Literature are like at A-Level, as well as giving them an insight into possible career pathways through studying English.

The undoubted highlight of the day was an hour long talk and performance from the world famous Manchester poet, Tony Walsh. The students took a lot from his messages about the importance of English and where the subject can take you in life outside of an educational setting.

The 5 students were a credit to Longdendale High School on the day, fully participating and contributing to all of the sessions, even producing some inspiring infant literature that impressed the college teachers and fellow students alike.





## Aspiration Day

On 28th February we had our second Aspiration Day of the year.

Years 7, 9, 10 and 11 have watched an informative theatre in education performance and workshop on Child Criminal Exploitation and knowing how to keep themselves safe. Y8 watched this performance the previous week and they were particularly engaged by the acting skills giving such a powerful message.

Year 7 have taken part in a murder mystery with a focus on using their literacy and problem-solving skills to solve the case. They have also learnt about democracy and the careers linked to the court system.

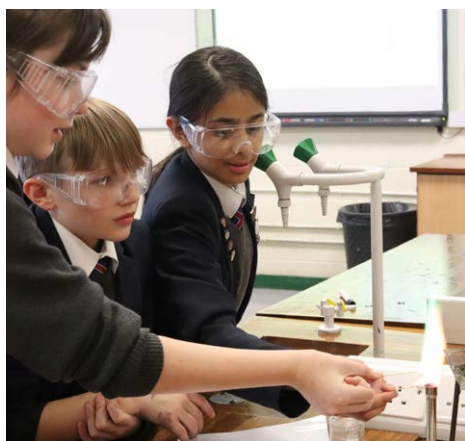
Students in Year 8 have focused on Science with the Pfizer Breakthrough Science programme and have also taken part in a data science foundation workshop understanding how data analysis is used in a variety of different careers.

The GCSE options process was shared with Year 9 and they have undertaken careers workshops run by Findel Education who sell stationary products to schools in marketing, digital and merchandising, learning about apprenticeship opportunities in these areas.

Students in Year 10 have discovered more about crime and punishment and have also focused on skills for work including a focus on ICT, media and spreadsheets.

Year 11 concentrated on subject specific projects as they continue to prepare for their GCSEs.

Thanks to all of our visitors who supported making the day a great success and the departments for planning such engaging sessions.







## World Book Day

We had a fantastic time celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. Teachers shared their favourite books with students by way of a scavenger hunt – students were challenged to match a blurb from a book to the book's title and then find the teacher who had the cover of their favourite book displayed on their lanyard. It was great to see students engaging so enthusiastically. Entries with the most correct answers have been entered into a prize draw.

Several competitions have been held in school to celebrate books and promote reading for pleasure amongst our students. The response to these has been particularly impressive and due to both the number and quality of the entries, we will be announcing winners after the Easter holidays. The top prize for the winner of each competition in each year group is a Golden Ticket entitling the holder and one friend to visit Cadbury World on a school trip later this year!

Well done to 7S who were voted as winners of the library bunting decoration competition – the library looked absolutely amazing with the World Book Day bunting that our Year 7 form groups had created during tutor time.

Our library also held events on the day, including challenges, quizzes and more! Many congratulations go to Vienna in Year 7 for winning the library writing challenge, and to Izzy in Year 7 and Nikhita in Year 8 for winning the 'Where's Wally' competition prize draw.

Reading has so many benefits including reducing stress levels, improving concentration and boosting our imagination and creativity. Studies have shown that regular readers perform better in their GCSEs – not just in English, but in every subject. Our library has a great selection of books to choose from and there are recommended reads on offer for all year groups.

The Catcher in the Rye and To Kill a Mockingbird have been enjoyed in Book Club on a Blue Tuesday after school recently. If any students in Years 9 – 11 fancy joining, please see Mr Baxter. This month's book is JRR Tolkien's The Hobbit if any keen readers fancy joining!







## Forest School

This term our enthusiastic Forest School students have taken part in lots of activities to help protect our planet. Learning about the five R's - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repair and Repurpose, Year 7, 8 and 9 students pro actively started litter picking and recycling rubbish found around school while Year 10 students reused plastic bottles to make bird feeders, rain catchers and plant pots for daffodils.

Although the weather hasn't been too kind to us over the last couple of weeks students have shown real resilience and determination through continuing their efforts to help evolve our Forest School site. Using different cutting tools and materials our Forest School Leaders have successfully built a waterproof den, a working tool table and a soon to be log store.

Cooking is a big part of Forest School and some tasty treats have been prepared, cooked, and enjoyed by our students this term, including homemade bread, chocolate cake, noodles, fruit fondue, hot cross buns and s'mores.

Forest School at Longdendale aims to build healthy minds and a welcoming community where students can thrive, learn, and enjoy being outdoors.

To shape our future provision, we asked current Forest School participants for feedback on their experience - there was an overwhelmingly positive response, with many students saying that Forest School had been a fun activity that had many benefits.



### Top 5 Forest School activities



Fire lighting



Whittling



Den building



Trying new foods



Time in the hammocks

95%

Would like to attend Forest School again

90%

Would recommend Forest School to a friend

77%

Felt like they developed new skills at Forest School





## PE News

Our Year 8/9 girls' football team have celebrated some fantastic results recently. They beat Alder Community High School 6-1 in their first cup fixture, backed this up in their next match with a solid 2-0 win over Hyde High School and beat All Saints 5-2 this week which takes them into the cup final!

We joined in with the 'Let Girls Play' campaign in March. All girls in Years 7 - 9 were given the opportunity to play football in PE lessons and special mentions go to Lucy, Niamh, Sunny, Lily-Jade, Olivia, Eve and our Pastoral Support Worker Mrs Clare who all showed great accuracy in the crossbar challenge that was held one lunchtime.

Year 7 boys travelled to Manchester United's training ground back in February for an inter-school tournament. Although they didn't win, it was a fantastic experience for all involved. The boys showed great resilience and represented the school with pride.

It is always great to hear about our students participation in sport outside of school. Thank you to the following students for sharing their success with us recently - many congratulations to all of you.

- Kaitlyn in Year 7 won gold in the under 12 regional synchronised swimming championships in February.
- Arona in Year 11 defended and retained his national champion MMA belt in March. He has also joined up with the Great Britain wrestling squad recently.
- Year 11 student, Caitlin, played her first match for the Cheshire Country under 16 women's rugby team earlier this month.
- Ellie, Keira and Max in Year 9 have won two bids to perform at the world cheer and dance championships in America next year with MCR cheer and dance club.





## Primary Languages Festival

It was fabulous to host students from Hollingworth Primary School at our languages festival back in January. Year 5 students joined our modern foreign language teachers Miss Humphreys and Mrs Jones for a morning full of engaging Spanish and French activities.

Supported by our four language ambassadors; Christopher and Olivia in Year 10, and Nell and Olivia in Year 8, our guests enjoyed a continental breakfast, where they were encouraged to practise speaking in Spanish and French.

Next, the students were split into groups, where they took part in classroom games and activities in Spanish. It was great to see everyone joining in so enthusiastically. The students then came together at the end to decorate plates and be awarded prizes and certificates for their participation.

Many thanks to Hollingworth Primary for joining us – it was a pleasure to have the Year 5 students here with us and we hope many of them will enjoy studying languages with us in the future.



## UKMT Maths Challenge

In February, 30 students from Years 9, 10 and 11 participated in the UKMT (United Kingdom Maths Trust) Intermediate Maths Challenge.

They sat an exam style paper with challenging maths questions in an hour. Laramie and Tom in Year 10 were both awarded gold certificates, Nathan in Year 10 and Jamie from Year 11 received silver certificates and Keira in Year 10 and Elise from Year 11 both received bronze certificates. Tom was also best in school.

We are so pleased with these students and their achievement. We are proud of all the students who entered. The next maths challenge will be in April for our Year 7s and 8s.

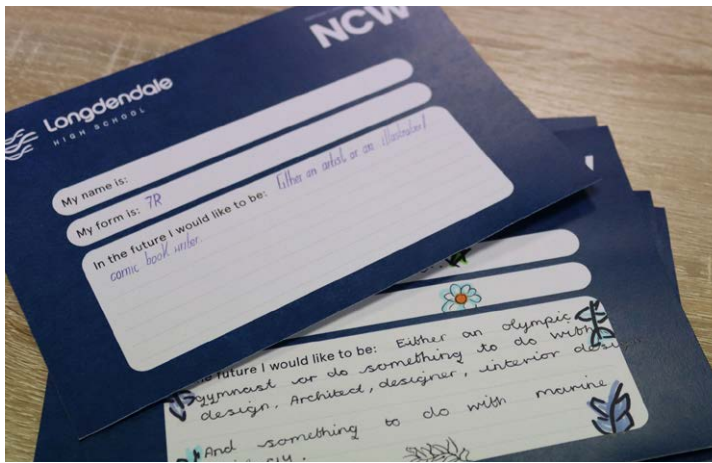
## Welcome to the Class of 2029

We are oversubscribed for 2024 so a huge congratulations to those students who were able to secure a place with us for September. You should have received your welcome packs filled with a few goodies and some useful information about our induction programme. We are very much looking forward to meeting our new families at our welcome evening on Monday 1st July. However, if you have any questions in the meanwhile please do not hesitate to get in touch. In addition to this we also have some useful transition information on our website, contained within our frequently asked questions section.

The transition process has now begun in earnest, over the forthcoming weeks the wider team, including our SENDCo, will be visiting all of our feeder primary schools, talking to staff and students in preparation for our induction days on the 4th and 5th of July, which we anticipate as being the best yet! Please keep the afternoon of the 5th July free for a shared student and family assembly in which our new cohort will receive their school tie in a traditional ceremony.

We wish you all the best with your forthcoming SAT exams and final weeks at Primary School, work hard, be respectful, demonstrate resilience have the highest of aspirations for yourself! See you soon...





## National Careers Week

Earlier in March students explored the skills, roles, pathways and technical routes into different career options. Teachers displayed their own careers journey on their classroom doors and students were challenged to a quiz about teachers previous roles as well as career and qualification terminology. Year 7s completed postcards detailing their future aspirations – these will then be returned to them in Year 11. It will be interesting to see if their aspirations change over time.

## Primary Maths Day

Thank you to Year 5 from Hollingworth Primary School for joining us for a morning full of maths activities. Miss Woods met the children and introduced them to our Year 9 helpers, Marcelina, Isabelle and Angelina, as well as former Longdendale students Georgia and Keira who now study at Ashton Sixth Form College.

Our visitors were very quick to apply their maths knowledge whilst exploring axes on a giant chalk drawn graph. They accurately plotted data by placing themselves in the correct position on the graph using the x and y-axis, worked in teams to create shapes and discovered what happened when they all stood on a point where  $x = y$ .

Later on, the Year 5 students were given some money! They used their knowledge of percentages to work out the correct amount of money they needed to give the bank for their rent, bills, food, tax and travel, and they could then exchange their remaining money for activity vouchers such as meals out and holidays or choose to add the money to their savings.

It was a pleasure to have the younger students visit us here at Longdendale. Miss Woods was really impressed with the Year 5s' mathematical ability and is really excited to hopefully see some of them again in a couple of years' time!



## Brilliant Club

Many congratulations to Year 10 students Lena, Isabelle, Olivia, Alex, Madison, Daniel, Nathan, Sian, Elizabeth, Elliot and Bailey who completed the Brilliant Club programme in February with a visit to the University of Sheffield.

Students toured the university, had opportunities to speak with current students, took part in a study skills session and celebrated their achievements with a graduation ceremony.

During the programme, students worked closely with a PhD tutor to study concepts beyond the national curriculum. Their final assignments demonstrated the subject knowledge, written communication and critical thinking skills they have developed throughout the programme.





# BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

## Exploring Time for BSW2024

On the 30th anniversary of British Science Week, the theme for the year was 'Time'. Students in Years 7 – 9 were challenged to find the best way to accurately and reliably measure 10 seconds. They explored different methods to measure time and learnt how angles and speed can influence how long an object takes to travel a set distance. There were some very creative ideas and some great teamwork displayed by the students whilst conducting their experiments.

Students were also encouraged to enter various British Science Week competitions including designing a poster, completing a science quiz, creating a visual timeline of their life so far and writing a piece of creative writing about time travel. Well done to everyone who entered and many congratulations to the following students who were awarded prizes for winning their entries.

**Year 7:** Isla, Orla, Vienna and Larissa

**Year 8:** Leonor, Nikhita and Elizabeth

**Year 9:** Martha, Molly, Lucas, Charlotte and Emily

## Childrens Mental Health Week

For Children's Mental Health Week in February, we were visited by Tameside, Oldham & Glossop Mind who spoke with students about the support they can offer young people locally and how this can be accessed. In addition to this, we highlighted some of the many ways in which our students can access support in school, all year round.

On Mondays, Julia is based at Longdendale. Julia can offer 1-1 counselling by appointment for students who may be experiencing low-medium level mental health concerns. She is part of the NHS Mental Health Support Teams in Schools (MHST) who also offer coffee mornings and workshops for young people experiencing issues such as low mood and anxiety.

Ginny is a school health mentor who visits us each Wednesday. Ginny can help students with general health concerns and can also help students who might be having difficulties with friendships, at home, with how they are feeling about school or how engaged they are with their school work. She can offer interventions in anger management, self esteem and anxiety.

Hayden from the primary care network, Healthy Hyde, visits school every Thursday to help improve students social, emotional and physical well-being. Hayden works with a maximum of 6 students at a time, building positive relationships and running fun team games which offer students a comfortable, safe environment in which to open up and discuss their mental health and well-being. Hayden can advise on strategies to help students deal with challenges they may be facing.





**RESPECT**   
 **RESILIENCE**  
**ASPIRATION** 



**Longdendale**  
HIGH SCHOOL



STAMFORD  
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