



Longdendale

H I G H S C H O O L

1st May 2020

Dear Families,

I hope you and your family are all safe and well during these uncertain times. I just wanted to get in touch to update you on some of the things that have been happening over the last week in school. We remain fully focused on our learners and trying to ensure they are provided with the best provision possible. We are really missing having all of our learners in school and are looking forward to a time when we have our Longdendale family all together again. As you have no doubt seen in the national news there is much speculation about when this might be, but we have no further information regarding this at the current time.

During this period of school closure staff have been continuing to attend school on a rota basis for the children of key workers. Staff have been maintaining a collaborative approach to planning through online conference meetings, and we have an online conference professional development session next week in order to support all of our staff with remaining up to date with their professional development in order to provide all of our learners with the best possible learning experiences.

We are continuing to review the process of home learning and welcome any feedback that you have. The packs of home learning that are being posted for learners with no ICT access are being further developed and improved to ensure it is really clear what is expected of learners when the next fortnightly pack arrives. We have been delighted to see the fantastic work our learners are completing at home during this period, and as a staff, we are exceptionally proud of the levels of hard work and commitment our learners are demonstrating. To see just some examples of this work, please see our school twitter feed through our website.

We recognise that this is not an ideal situation and for some learners the work load as well as the situation may be feeling overwhelming, and we just wanted to reassure you and our learners about our expectations. We thank you for all of the support and encouragement you are giving your children at home with their learning. Please aim for your child to be sticking to their normal timetabled subjects for each day, they should be spending no more than one hour each day on each subject (unless they have two lessons for a subject in a day). If they have done a full hour of work and not completed it, please reassure them that they have done their best and they have done enough. If you feel you do not have all of the resources you need at home to support the home learning, please just let us know. Our teachers are available every day via email if your child has any specific questions regarding the work set, or if they need some further guidance. If you are having any difficulties making contact then please get in touch via the main school office.

If you have any overall suggestions or comments please contact your child's subject teacher in the first instance, or alternatively you can get in contact via the following email – homelearning@lhs.aspireplus.org.uk. Please avoid replying to the email sent to learners with their set work, as you may accidentally reply to other learners as well as the member of staff. As outlined above you can follow lots of wonderful examples of home learning as well as some useful links to additional information using our twitter account @AspirePlusTrust.

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For all learners form tutors are now starting the process of fortnightly phone calls so that we can discuss any individual queries and concerns that you may have. Our tutors will want to speak to both you and your child to understand if there is any additional support we can put in place for you at this time.

For our Year 9 learners the options process will begin on Monday 4th May to allow them to make their final two option choices before the start of all of their Key Stage 4 courses in September. Families of Year 9 learners will receive all of the information they need to complete this process shortly, and a member of the senior leadership team will be in touch by telephone to offer you and your child personalised information and guidance to support with this decision.

For our year 10 learners we will be sending out revision information in the next few weeks so that they can be preparing for their mock exams which will happen when we do finally return to school. This is in addition to the daily home learning being set by subject teachers, and it is essential that they do continue to revise and prepare for their final exams on an ongoing basis. Year 10 learners will also be receiving revision resources in the post to further help support them at this difficult time. Please be assured that we are already planning for how we can best support our Year 10 learners on their return to school in order to ensure they are fully prepared for their final exams next summer.

Whilst thinking about all of our current learners, we are also preparing a lovely welcome and introduction to Longdendale High School for current Year 6 learners who will join us as our Class of 2025 in September.

We fully appreciate and understand that this is a very difficult for some families for a variety of reasons and, if families are experiencing difficulties with emotional wellbeing or have had the sadness and upset of losing a loved one, they can request a call from Mrs Noble, our Mental Health Lead. Mrs Noble may be able to offer support directly or be able to signpost families to the most appropriate support. We would also like to remind you that we have a number of support tips and ideas on the school website, which can be accessed through the pop up box which appears when you first open up the website. A member of the safeguarding team and a member of the senior leadership team are available every day in school if you need any further support or information during this period.

I hope you and your families stay safe and well and if we can be of any further help please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully,

Andrea Jones
Headteacher

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