

26th June 2020

Dear families,

We hope you and your family are well during these uncertain times. We wanted to get in touch to update you on some of the things that have been happening recently in school. We remain fully focused on our learners and ensuring they are provided with the best education possible.

We have an ever increasing number of key worker learners in school and a high proportion of our Year 10 learners returned to school this week. Lots of care and consideration has been given to the work that learners are being set. There is a balance between new learning and recapping of prior learning and effective practice has been shared between Heads of Department with regards to how learning is being set and how feedback is being given to learners.

For the Year 10 learners returning to school detailed meetings and planning have taken place around how to best use the learning sessions in school to support their home learning and overall progress through the GCSE specifications. Our Year 10 learners are currently having face to face sessions for English, maths, science, history, geography, French and Spanish in school. The curriculum has been remodelled where necessary so that all learners continue to make progress with their knowledge and skills during this period of home learning.

If you have any suggestions or comments about home learning please contact your child's subject teacher, alternatively you can get in contact via the following email – homelearning@lhs.aspireplus.org.uk. You can follow lots of wonderful examples of home learning as well as some useful links to additional information using our twitter account @AspirePlusTrust.

On their return to school each Year 10 learner has had a welcome meeting with a member of the senior leadership team to review how they have been during the period of lock down and how they have managed with their home learning. We have really enjoyed these meetings with our learners and it means we can provide further personalised support for learners and families where needed.

We are following the government updates very closely and whilst we are planning for a full return to learning in September, in the weeks remaining before the summer break there will be a small number of Teams Live Event lessons trailed. If a full return to learning is not possible in September, Teams Live Event lessons will become part of our blended approach to home learning.

There is a clear link between physical and mental health. With this in mind, our PE department have been fully focused on ensuring that our learners are as active as possible and this week our learners have been participating in our virtual sports day. We are delighted and proud that our PE department have been awarded the School Games Virtual Award 2020 from Tameside School Sports for this event. This recognises their hard work in offering the event and our learners' engagement with it.

We have also been busy planning a virtual enrichment week for our Year 7 – 9 learners and you will be receiving details of this very shortly. We hope that our learners enjoy the suggested activities and we are looking forward to seeing their progress with the activities and rewarding our learners for their engagement in enrichment week. As work experience has not been able to go ahead as planned, our Year 10 and Year 11 learners have had access to an online interview course provided by Eton

Longdendale High School Spring Street, Hollingworth, Hyde, Cheshire, SK14 8LW **Headteacher:** Mrs A. Jones **CEO:** Mr M. Bowler
e: admin@lhs.aspireplus.org.uk **t:** 01457 764006 **f:** 01457 766483 **w:** www.longdendalehighschool.org.uk



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College. This experience has been very well received and learners have developed their interview skills which are critical in a competitive job marketplace. This will further support all of the Careers Education Information and Guidance our learners have already been given.

Current Year six learners who will join us as Year seven in September have all been sent a transition learning pack and we will soon host an online Induction Evening for these families to welcome them to our community.

We are looking forward to having our Longdendale family back together very soon. We hope you and your families stay safe and well and if we can be of any further help.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Andrea Jones
Headteacher

Miss Sally Ayre
Deputy Headteacher

Mr Chris Major
Deputy Headteacher

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