



Longdendale
HIGH SCHOOL

Newsletter December 2020



At the end of this extremely challenging term, we have taken the time to reflect on how brilliantly our young people have adapted to the changes in school life and how well they have risen to the new way of working. We are exceptionally proud of all of their ongoing achievements and successes, and in particular, the way they have engaged with the opportunities offered to them both in school and during the periods of remote learning at home. We do also really appreciate all the support from our families, who have worked alongside us to ensure our learners continue to engage with their learning opportunities. Thank you for all of your ongoing messages of appreciation and support – they really do make a difference.

Despite the impact of Covid-19 and the challenges that presents, we have had a very busy first term of 2020-21 here at Longdendale, and I am sure you will enjoy reading about some of the activities and opportunities our learners have had during this time. These are an ongoing reflection of the hard work and dedication of both our highly skilled team of staff and the learners themselves. I would particularly like to recognise the resilience and creativity of our fantastic team of staff, who have worked tirelessly to provide our learners with a wide range of learning opportunities both in the classroom and at home.

During this term, we have held a virtual Open Evening, a virtual Presentation Evening for our Class of 2020, and our first virtual parents' evenings as well as a number of Information and Guidance Evenings for families. Our student leaders have played a key role in supporting these events, and as always, our learners continue to be great ambassadors for our school and local community. The activities and events they have been involved in over the past term have been particularly impressive given the current national context and raising money to support a range of local and national charitable causes. At a time when so many families have been impacted by the pandemic, our learners have been demonstrating a real commitment to supporting our local foodbanks and other charities. They continue to make us all proud on a daily basis, and it is fantastic to see so many of them developing new skills and interests whilst taking part in such enjoyable and rewarding experiences.

Best wishes to you and your families for a safe, peaceful and restful Christmas holiday, and we look forward to welcoming your child back on January 5th ready for another successful term in school.

Andrea Jones
Headteacher

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Student Leadership/ School Council and Charity



This term, Student Leaders and The School Council have worked exceptionally hard to maintain and even develop their roles in school despite the current circumstances.

In the first term, Head Boy and Head Girl were involved in representing the school virtually at both virtual open evening and virtual presentation evening. They enthusiastically presented speeches at both. Moreover, they have continued to be proactive in developing the Student Leader, School Council team and learner voice across school.

Student Leaders in Y10 and Y11 were also involved in representing their departments by appearing in the department virtual opening evening videos in order to promote what their subjects are like from a learner perspective. Furthermore, the Y10 leaders created videos to promote their departments extra-curricular clubs and activities to be presented for Y7 virtual enrichment fair.

The School Council has also been established this first half term; the form representatives have been elected across all year groups. Initial meetings have taken place with the form representatives, in order for them to share their initial ideas, thoughts and feelings regarding school.

Finally, a whole school initiative was launched for charity as Longdendale learners are promoting the Christmas Collection for the local food bank. Form representatives have been proactive in coordinating and supporting their form tutor, in order to collect all the items desired. They have also been involved in creating and making cards to be delivered with the items. This has been a fantastic opportunity for all learners to be involved in such an important cause before the end of this half term.

It has been fantastic to see how the Student Leaders and School Council have adapted to the current circumstances in order to still succeed and even develop their roles this half term.

DRAMA SHOWCASE



On bonfire night of this academic year, the Year 11 GCSE Drama learners performed their devised pieces as part of their GCSE Drama examinations. After 6 months with no drama lessons, the learners worked tirelessly to get their pieces ready for the performance. There were 3 pieces overall which tackled various hard-hitting subjects. The year 11s performed their work with fantastic and mature attitudes and as their teacher, I couldn't be prouder. The first piece told the story of an abusive religious cult, which manipulated young people into joining their beliefs. Done in the style of Physical Theatre, it explored the notion and vulnerability of war veterans, domestic abuse victims

and miscarriage sufferers. Piece number 2 was a tribute to the world's emergency services and the fantastic things they do across the globe. It told the stories of how emergency services reacted to a school shooting, the 9/11 disaster, domestic abuse, knife crime and the Manchester arena tragedy. Also done in the style of Physical Theatre. The final piece was a Brechtian style performance about protests throughout time. A informational and interesting piece about the Suffragettes, the Nazi Regime, LGBTQ rights and the March for Our Lives cause. All the learners handled these topics with confidence and maturity well above their ages. A huge thankyou to their teachers who came to support them in the absence of family and friends who unfortunately couldn't attend due to the current restrictions.

Achievement **S**uccess **P**rofessionalism **I**ntegrity **R**espect **E**ndeavour

Presentation Evening 2020 - Class of 2020



The class of 2020 had a very unusual end to their life at Longdendale. Unfortunately, the class of 2020 not only had their opportunity to take their GCSE examinations taken away from them, their chance to celebrate their success was also interrupted. Not being content to let our class of 2020 finish their time at Longdendale with a whimper, we pioneered a brand new, virtual Open Evening Presentation. A great deal of staff worked tirelessly to prepare the presentations, order certificates, prizes and trophies, and to collate everything together into an amazing presentation evening. We celebrated the success of all our Year 11 learners as well as celebrating the success of learners who excelled

academically in different subject areas, and those who made the most progress within individual subjects. We had some excellent musical performances from some of our Class of 2020 and a moving message from their Learning Leader, Mrs Moffat. We hope all our Class of 2020 enjoyed the presentation evening and we wish them all the best in their future success.

Gateways Programme with The University of Manchester



A selection of learners within each year group are being chosen to enrol on the Gateways Programme in collaboration with The University of Manchester. The programme traditionally involves a visit to the university each academic year, where the learners engage in a variety of activities including financial guidance, interactive workshops with University standard equipment, debates and learning opportunities. The programme provides an opportunity for learners who come from families / areas which are underrepresented at University to gain the confidence and aspirations that they can be a success and go to University. We have

held sessions for Year 8 and 10 so far and look forward to Year 7 and 9 in 2021. Unfortunately, at the moment learners cannot attend a visit to the university. However, as soon as the national picture improves, all learners selected for this programme will be offered the opportunity to visit The University of Manchester in 2021.

National Tutoring Programme



Learners in Year 11 who meet the criteria nationally, have been selected to engage in a programme of online tuition in English, Maths or Science. Our learners have been enrolled into at least two of these subject areas depending on their need. This is an amazing opportunity for these learners to access online tuition. The programme started in December 2020 and will continue until Easter 2021. The tuition is completely free for our learners, something which can often cost £30 or more per session. Our learners will have 15 sessions per subject! The

company we are working with have an excellent track record of improving learner progress by up to 6 months during their tuition. We look forward to watching our learners make rapid progress, increase their confidence and ultimately, achieve higher standards in their upcoming GCSE examinations in 2021.

CAREERS

Life After Longdendale



The Covid restrictions have meant that we haven't been able to run our usual programme of events to support Year 11 learners around planning their options after leaving Longdendale in the same way. However, in October we were able to facilitate a College Focus Week in the place of our annual Futures Roadshow. The local colleges sent recorded assemblies, presentations, virtual links to open evenings, college prospectuses and even the most sought after freebies in to school for our learners. In tutor time, the learners were given the opportunity to access all of this information and discuss the various options open to them after they leave Longdendale. Feedback from the event was really positive, with many learners identifying that the week's activities prompted them to investigate local colleges and to start completing their applications.

All of the materials shared with learners are available on the school website under Careers and Guidance. We have planned a similar approach to supporting learners with applying for apprenticeships in the new year. Please contact school if you would like further support from our careers advisor, Steph Senior.

Virtual Careers Events



This term we have also been able to run careers events for our Year 9 and Year 10 learners, although these too have been delivered virtually.

Year 9 attended a World of Work workshop; they had the opportunity to hear from people in various professions and what a typical day in their job was like. Learners could then submit

questions to find out more about any of the jobs they were interested in. Year 10 attended a Work Preparation workshop, hearing from various employers about how to be successful in an interview.

Again, learners were given the opportunity to submit their questions to the employers. Learners commented that they were grateful for the opportunity to hear from different employers and how they could best impress potential employers at an interview.

REWARDS

When faced with the uncertainty and disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, it is easy for schools to let recognition fall by the wayside, but it has never been more essential to keep our learners motivated and to recognise their efforts for a job well done.

At Longdendale High School we are proud to have continued to reward learners with achievement points, which is something that can easily be done whether working remotely or from within the classroom. We were particularly keen this year to ensure that no learner was disadvantaged by having to work from home when self-isolating.



We have continued with our much-coveted reward postcards and have introduced some new designs this year. We also have a virtual option that can be emailed to learners, or a stringently Covid-friendly hand-over of a physical postcard (with plenty of hand sanitiser, of course) so it can be brought home and put on the fridge for all to see. As staff, we love the excitement a postcard brings to a learner when they have wowed us and earned one!

Of course, the weekly rewards have also changed to comply with Covid-19 restrictions: moving from cinema vouchers (as Cineworld temporarily closed) to a pick n mix movie deal for delivery straight to home; ensuring lunch time jump the queue passes are bubble friendly - just to mention a couple of the adaptations made, with something for everyone's tastes.



It has been a joy to provide learners with the chance to celebrate Learning Leader and Head teacher awards within their year groups and we have seen a surge in the number of these awarded by staff since returning in September. Longdendale Learners are quite evidently keen to get back in the swing of things and make up for lost learning time.

At Christmas and Easter, learners who have consistently met expectations are invited by their Learning Leaders to join us on a year group reward trip. Despite the current regional context, this has not fallen by the wayside either. Learners who qualify will be rewarded with an in-house treat.

In the last week of this term, we will reward subject successes in year group assemblies. Although we cannot all come together as a community in the sports hall in the usual way there will be many opportunities to celebrate what we have accomplished as a school since September.

Since feeling connected is something most of us are missing right now, it is especially important to give rewards a sense of community, where members of our school community can reward each other or get rewarded collectively. We will be launching Praise Postcards to give learners and staff the chance to say thank you whether it is to someone who has supported them over a period of time or for something small that made a difference to their day.



Finally, if you would like to keep up to date with rewards – either as a parent/carer or as a learner - there are two ways to do so. A learner's individual achievement point balance can be viewed via INSIGHT (see example left).

Or through following our Twitter feed @AspirePlusTrust

If you require any further information on how to access INSIGHT, please contact the school office.

Achievement **S**uccess **P**rofessionalism **I**ntegrity **R**espect **E**ndeavour

LITERACY

National Poetry Day



On Friday 2nd October, to celebrate National Poetry Day, we welcomed Luke Wright and Harry Baker into school, two performance poets, who performed for learners in Years 9-11. Thank you to all parents and learners who took the time to complete our surveys. This really does help us when planning going forward.

Please see below some of the fantastic work produced by our learners on National Poetry Day:

V- Vision is something you
I- Imagine. Vision is something you can
S- See
I- I can see myself going places
O- Over the mountains, over the sea and if I stick to
what I want to be
N- Nothing can stop me.

Dylan- Year 10

The Vision of a Paramedic

Flying down the streets
Constantly receiving information about the patient we're going to treat.
Hopefully we can get to them in time.
With blue lights flashing,
And the cars hopefully not crashing
Each call is a race against time.

Cries of help come in all day
And of course we do our best to save the day
But it's not always possible.
Even though we use the defibrillator
And the blood pressure measurer
We can't save them all.

But sometimes it doesn't take that
As some people just need a chat,
A chat to express their feelings
Which will begin the process to healing
There is more than one way to save a life

Flashbacks of previous callouts.
Can cause multiple fallout,
F times when we were unsuccessful
In saving the innocent lives

Sometimes it gets hard
But it helps to have my partner by my side.
We do our best everyday,
Trying to keep you living for another day.

They've been covered in human fluids
But some people intentionally do it.
Why should they help us when many don't give them
The respect that they ultimately deserve?

Bethany- Year 10



Achievement **S**uccess **P**rofessionalism **I**ntegrity **R**espect **E**ndeavour

Book Recommendations

One of the best ways to encourage young people to read for pleasure, is to talk about the books you are reading with them. The staff at Longdendale are keen to develop the love of reading in our learners, and will therefore be sharing their thoughts on Young Adult Fiction titles they have recently read, which may inspire your child to want to try one of their recommendations!

Mrs Emery Recommends



This book was recommended to me by Mrs Willis when I was compiling the department reading lists. She told me this book would be great for our learners who want to develop their resilience, and told me I would love it if I read it. So this half term I decided I would read it. It was amazing. This book is narrated in the voice of Melody, an 11 year old girl who suffers with cerebral palsy. Melody cannot speak, or move her body. Her only means of communication is through blinking. Doctors gave up on her

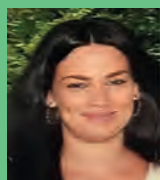
when she was 5 years old and told her parents they could move on with their lives if they put her into a nursing home. But Melody's parents knew she was clever, and that they would never give up on her. This story is heart warming, emotional and uplifting all in the same breath. It makes you reconsider your own outlook on life, and if you've ever said something is too hard, you can't do it, or given up on something you've found difficult, then Melody's story will change your life. Just see what she is able to achieve, despite her many barriers. A must read for all young people in my eyes!

Miss Wither Recommends



I am enjoying this book; the character Lucy Gray is a compelling love interest for Snow, and reminds me of a less tamed, more secretive Katniss. I haven't finished the book yet, but I would recommend, as it's an enjoyable read. However, it hasn't got the same sense of realism and grit as The Hunger Games, in my opinion, so this makes it seem a little less adult and believable to me. I reserve judgement though, until it's finished. Definitely worth a go! **This book is available as an audio-book on Sora!**

Mrs Baxter-Smallwood Recommends



This book appealed to me immediately as a twin. It tells the story of Noah and Jude-teenage twins who allow love, life and tragedy growing up to tear their relationship apart. The sweet nuances exclusive to their twin relationship made me think of my own twin sister. Jude and Noah's instinctive understanding of one another their ability to communicate with just a look and the games they play as children that exclude the rest of the world feel very familiar to me!

Overall, I'd say this book has an awful lot of heart- perhaps too much for some- it's a deep exploration of the twins' harrowing and emotional experiences growing up. It definitely deals with more adult teenage experiences and would be more appropriate for older readers who enjoy exploring the emotions, stresses and strains of growing up.

This book is on our recommending reading lists for Mental Health and Well-being, but has strong links to Art too. Art, painting and sculpture are beautifully written and described throughout the novel and if this theme is of interest to you it is definitely worth a read. If your copy looks like mine, there are nice messy visuals on the page too! **This book is available to borrow on Sora!**

Miss Burton Recommends



'I am 4' is the first book in the Lorien Legacies by Pittacus Lore. The series of books follow the last surviving members of an alien race, who have been sent by their elders to hide on earth from an enemy (the Magadorians), whose aim is to hunt them down, kill them and end the race of the Loriens. If you enjoy Science-fiction and Fantasy novels, such as the Divergent series, or The Hunger Games, you'll enjoy this series. **This book is now available to borrow on Sora!**

GEOGRAPHY

Geographer of the Year Competition

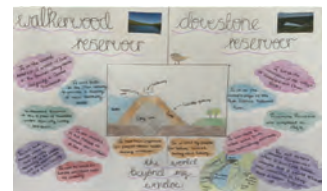
Over the course of the last six months many learners have risen to new the challenges of online learning in the Geography Department at Longdendale High School. We wanted to use this opportunity to share some of their outstanding work with you.

During the summer term, eight KS3 learners participated in a competition by the Royal Geographical Society on the theme "The World Beyond My Window". Learners used their geographical skills to research their local area and explain how they are connected to this area. The learners created outstanding, hand drawn maps and images to illustrate their excellent posters. Aimee, Emily, Finlay, Jamie-Leigh, Jack, Jake, Lottie and Seth were amongst the learners who submitted fantastic pieces of work.



Jack (Y9) prepared a poster on how the physical geography of a region can affect windsurfing conditions and how windsurfing can provide economic opportunities for local communities.

Emily (Y9) explained the location and historical relevance of Dovestone reservoir. Emily's poster also stresses the importance of reservoirs and other places of recreation for people during lockdown and the COVID-19 pandemic.



Aimee (Y9) completed outstanding research on local reservoirs. She explained how the reservoirs were created in the 19th century to provide water for Greater Manchester. Aimee reminds us of the importance of avoiding water and air pollution so that future generations will be able to enjoy the beauty of our local area.

Jake (Y9) prepared an outstanding poster on wildlife in the Peak District. He explains how species such as the hare have adapted to the local biomes of the Peak District National Park. Jake also reminds us of the importance of protecting these species through conservation efforts and sustainable tourism in the area. He explains why the Treak Cliff cavern attracts many visitors.



PRINCE'S TRUST

Prince's Trust Award



This term we are proud to share that as a school we nominated one of our current learners, and a 2020 leaver for a National Prince's Trust Award. Our 2020 leaver raised an incredible amount of money for Healthy Young Minds by selling planters that he made to order during the Summer Lockdown. The other nominated learner was Lucy in year 10. Lucy's progress within the Prince's Trust Achieve programme and in other aspects of school life has been outstanding, and we're incredibly proud of the progress that she has made this year. Both young people have been recognised for their nomination and even got a special message from the singer Craig David on behalf of the Prince's Trust.

Achievement **S**uccess **P**rofessionalism **I**ntegrity **R**espect **E**ndeavour

LIBRARY

Black History Month Competition



During October the Longdendale Library celebrated Black History Month and held a competition for learners to write a short story about the most inspirational moment they had heard about Black History Month. Students could also write a poem or even create an illustration. The winner of the competition was Aaliyah in Year 10 who created a fantastic piece of work. Aaliyah was awarded the full series of books by award winning author Malorie Blackman as her prize.



Christmas Card Competition

The LHS Library Christmas card competition is always very popular with Longdendale learners. We have over 40+ entries each year. Learners love to explore their creative side and get into the festive spirit. All entries receive a sweet treat for their efforts and the winner has their Christmas illustration professionally printed on a card 20 times to give to their family and friends and a high street voucher to spend on what they like. Our Christmas card competition 2020 winner is Ella-Mae from 7P.



Above: Winning Card Design

YEAR 7

A Message from Mr Paradiuk



I would just like to say a massive well done to all of Year 7 for successfully making it through your first term, in what has been a very different and challenging start for all of us. I promise it will get easier and you will be allowed to move around the school site at some point soon. You have had a fantastic attitude across all lessons and you have conducted yourselves really well during your first term at Longdendale. I know that your tutors are incredibly proud of you and we have really high hopes for Year 7 to achieve great things.

I would like to congratulate all those learners who have received awards this term for your behaviour and attitude and I hope after the Christmas break we see many more names added to that list. Keep up the good work!

I hope you have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year, stay safe. Mr Paradiuk.

7A - Mr Marsh



It's been a very strange start to life at Longdendale for 7A, but you have definitely made the most of your time so far.

The behaviour of the vast majority of learners in our tutor group has been excellent and it has been great to see all of you arriving at school each day with the correct uniform and equipment. 7A learners have a keen interest in the world and we have enjoyed many discussions about matters inside and outside Longdendale. Many of you followed the recent American Presidential election with great fascination and were able to speak with knowledge about this and other events.

You've also been keeping safe at school by remembering to wear your masks and adhere to all the Covid safety precautions.

Many pupils in 7A have accumulated a high number of achievement points and awards such as good news postcards, Learning Leader awards and Headteacher awards and I am sure this will continue after Christmas.

We have also had a marvellous response to the food bank appeal with many of you bringing items in for people in need.

Have an enjoyable Christmas break and I will see you in January.

Mr Marsh.

YEAR 7

7S - Miss English



7S have had an excellent first full term at Longdendale! It has been a pleasure to see the tutor group all enjoying and settling so well into life at Longdendale! They are always well equipped and prepared for each day and eager to learn. Numerous class teachers have commented on how polite and hardworking the tutor group is.

I am so proud to say that 7S have the most achievements points in year 7 with 27,066 points. I am sure we can continue this! Several learners have also achieved Learning Leader and/or Subject Leader awards through showing excellent work.

7S are also heavily involved in lots of extra-curricular activities, such as Badminton and Science club. This has helped the learners be well on the way to achieving their pledges. There will be plenty more fantastic opportunities in the New Year!

It has been a great first term and I am so excited to see what they all achieve going forward. Now it's time to rest up over Christmas and be ready to continue to work hard in the New Year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Miss English

7P - Miss Penn



7P have had a fantastic second half term, building and improving on the first half term. In total this term they have achieved 17,342 achievement points and learners within the form have been awarded both subject specific and Learning Leader awards.

Lots of learners within 7P have already achieved their bronze pledge award, with some already reaching silver and gold! Many of 7P regularly attend science club and have taken part in exciting and innovative projects. Aside from this, learners have eagerly been completing online pledge activities or attending other school clubs. It can't be long before someone reaches platinum level!

The learners have fully settled into life at high school now, have formed friendships and are progressing across subjects. Now they can have a well-deserved Christmas break and come back to school ready to learn in January. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Miss Penn!

7I - Mr Murtagh



I would like to congratulate 7I on what has been a fantastic first term at Longdendale. It has been a very different first term than I have ever experienced at Longdendale before, but it is massive credit to the learners how well they have adapted and continue to succeed in these difficult times. It is great to see how well they have started on their pledges with many of 7I already achieving a bronze award, they have also done well at getting achievement points and have managed to keep their attendance high. Many of 7I have been attending the different clubs around school and are getting fully involved in the school life.

7I have been making good progress in their different lessons and it has been really pleasing to hear about how well they are doing from their different teachers. Finally, I would like to take this chance to wish 7I a happy Christmas enjoy the break have a good rest and I hope that Santa has seen what a good tutor group you are and gets you something nice.

YEAR 7

7R - Miss Os and Ms Kerfoot!



I am super-impressed with the excellent start 7R have had to the start of their Longdendale journey. This second half term has been even better than the first and I am so proud of each and every form member. In total this term they have achieved 19,790 achievement points which is an incredible total. A special shout out to the following learners for achieving over 900 achievement points: Ellie, Rebecca, Laramie, Grace, Lily, Lena, Thomas, and Euan.



They have continued this excellent progress through extra-curricular activities and the enrichment pledges. Many of the members of 7R have made an excellent start to their pledges. They have completed a variety of the different enrichment activities which is amazing to see and some have even begun to achieve bronze. I can't wait to see this fantastic progress continue throughout the school year.

Congratulations also to our two form representatives Lena and Sam. They have both taken on this role incredibly well and continue to make excellent contributions to the wider school community.

All the learners of 7R have fully immersed themselves into life at secondary school. They are making fantastic progress across all the different subjects and have made truly great friendships. They should be proud of what they have achieved this half term and have a well-deserved Christmas break. Let's come back in January fully rested and continue this positive and fabulous start into the New Year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Miss Os and Miss Kerfoot!

7E - Mr Millbrook



Even through challenging times 7E have worked hard to become valued members of the Longdendale community. On top of the fantastic work we see in lessons, 7E have been contributing to the life of the school by involving themselves in pledge activities. Taking selfies at named locations, cooking, creating, and watching virtual events. Individual learners are also starting to show their personal qualities, Kyle for instance, who distributes the learner books at the start of each lesson without being asked to. Daniel and Taylor have been voted in as form reps and feedback our opinions to the school council. So far, we have amassed 22410 achievement points, which is a great success, helped on by our top 5 highest earners Taylor, Lily, Daniel, Ellis and Noah - keep up the good work! I hope you have a restful and safe Christmas and a great start to the New Year. Mr Millbrook.

YEAR 8

A Message from Mr Baxter-Smallwood



I feel an immense sense of pride when I think about the way Year 8 have finished 2020. It has been such a difficult year for so many of us, but your constant hard work, amazing achievements and determination to succeed have genuinely made me proud to call myself your Learning Leader. I am sure you will all continue to show everyone how great you all are in 2021 and beyond. Enjoy Christmas with your families and we will see you all in the New Year.

Mr Baxter-Smallwood

8A - Miss Rogers/Mr Hill



Merry Christmas to all the learners and their carers/families in the amazing 8A! September seems so long ago now! We would like to take this time to congratulate 8A on the resilience they have shown since returning back to school. It hasn't been easy adapting to school with all the necessary changes but we have all worked together to make the best of it. Mr. Hill would also like to thank all the lovely learners for being so welcoming and kind to him as soon as he joined the 8A family! At the time of writing, 8A has a collective total of 16,825 achievement points which is testament to how hard they have worked this term. Since September we have started to work on our charity pledges and we are so

looking forward to putting our plans into motion in the New Year! Have a wonderful, safe and happy Christmas! Bring on 2021!

Miss Rogers and Mr Hill

8S - Miss Dillon



Well done to 8S I am very proud of the way you adapted to all the different ways we are currently working in school. Many of you have received postcards home, which is an amazing achievement, keep up the excellent work. You have been keen readers on the new Sora app and are working your way through your latest favourite title. You always present yourselves well in your uniforms and come to school equipped with all your High 5, keep up the great start to the year. Enjoy your Christmas break and have a well-earned rest, ready to begin 2021!

Miss Dillon

YEAR 8

8P - Miss Higgins



As 8P's new form tutor I have been really impressed with the fantastic start they have made to this school year. I have been particularly impressed with how they have committed to their charity pledge where they have chosen to collect pyjamas for the Children's Hospital Pyjamas collection, as well as making and sending Christmas cards to local care homes. They have also engaged well in the Life Skills curriculum and even decorated the form room with rainbows to help raise awareness of mental wellbeing. Many of them are regularly accessing SORA during their reading time in form as well as in their own time out of school, with some even asking for more books to be added onto SORA for them to read. I have received lots of positive comments about their attitude to learning from many of their teachers. Keep up the good work next term 8P!

Miss Higgins

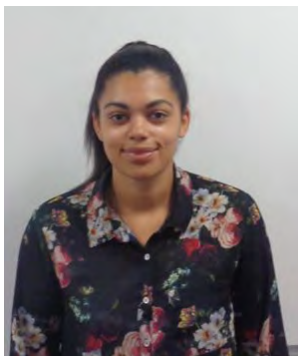
8I - Mrs Healey-Wilde



In what has been a strange and unprecedented start to the school year, 8I have made an absolutely brilliant start, impressing myself and all of their teachers this term. We have worked together to raise money for the Manchester Mind charity, completing a sponsored run and step up challenge – a special mention must go to Tim who completed 65 laps of the sports hall circuit! A special mention must also go to Ruby, as she has ended the term on the most achievement points across the whole of Year 8! Additionally, Nicole and Izzy finished first and second respectively in the Sora reading challenge. Have a great Christmas and New Year 8I and let's continue to achieve greatness in 2021!

Mrs Healey-Wilde

8R - Miss Lambert-Thompson



Although this year has been a strange one, in 8R the learners have shown great integrity and have had a fantastic start to the academic year. To bring some cheer to our local community we have made Christmas Cards for the NHS staff at Tameside and we plan to give even more gifts of kindness after the New Year. As well as this, many learners have been nominated and received Head Teacher and Learning Leader awards. Eden also won prizes for having the most achievement points in Year 8 for the first half term. I just want to say a massive 'Well done'! I am very proud of all that you have achieved, and I want to wish you all a lovely Christmas!

Miss Lambert-Thompson

YEAR 8

8P - Mrs Dop-Hughes/Miss Burton



We are so pleased at how well 8E have settled into a new routine at school and of how conscientious they have been about following the covid-19 rules. It hasn't been easy adapting to only using one or two classrooms in school and remembering the one way system but they have risen to the challenge and done wonderfully. It has also been nice to see how eager they were to do something charitable for the community and as a form we have created some beautiful Christmas cards to send to a care home for the vulnerable people who may not be able to see family and friends over the festive period. We also want to say a

big well done to Callum who raised money for Reuben's Trust by selling homemade furniture polish and beeswax candles. Keep up the good work in the New Year!

Mrs Dop-Hughes & Miss Burton

YEAR 9

A Message from Mr Rea



What an extremely busy and unusual first term back. We have had a number of learners isolating and completing some outstanding remote work. I hope moving forward we can see all of year 9 in all of the time, continuing their Longdendale journey.

As we enter our second term as Year 9, I hope learners continue in the excellent effort they have shown since starting the year, in following our ASPIRE core values and competencies. I hope you all have a relaxing, enjoyable Christmas and get to see friends and family safely! I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all families for their continued support they give to school, with regards to attendance and the professionalism of our young people.

Merry Christmas.
Mr Rea

YEAR 9

9A - Miss Wither



I would like to congratulate 9A on an amazing year so far, even with the impacts of Covid. You have been a great form and I am super proud to be your form tutor. Well done to everyone who has won a learning leader or head teacher award, and congratulations to all of those learners who have amassed a high number of achievement points.

I hope you all have an amazing Christmas and a good rest, but above all a safe holiday.

Miss Wither

9S - Miss Woods



We have reached the end of what has definitely been the strangest term we have had together. I haven't had much opportunity to see you through various periods of myself isolating and then you guys. You have still managed to make it a lovely term and have still managed to achieve lots during this time. We are usually a very sporty form and lots of those opportunities have been taken away so far this year, but I am sure we can continue next term with another year full of sporting achievements! Well done to those people who have maintained a high attendance and have had no behaviour points so far this year, you are a shining example of what we expect as Longdendale learners and it is a pleasure to have you in my form! We said goodbye to Seth this half term as he starts a new adventure, I am sure you can all join me in wishing him our best, he will

be missed in 9S! Finally, a huge well done on completing what I know has been a difficult term, you have adapted so well to our new ways of learning. Over Christmas we have the chance to reflect on the year and look forward to a year hopefully filled with our usual school experiences.

Enjoy some quality time with your families and I will see you all in the New Year!

Miss Woods

9P - Miss Weber



Dear 9P, Well done for returning to school after summer and for completing an exciting term at Longdendale High School. I am pleased with your achievements in your lessons and your hard work at home when you were self-isolating. You adapted to this new format of learning really quickly and overcame any technological challenge! I am really proud of Anthony, Aimee, Charlotte, Alice and Alaric who were awarded a Headteacher award this term for their endeavour, professionalism and achievements. It has been a pleasure to welcome Anna and Ruben into our form! I hope that you will have many more opportunities to work as a team with our new members of the form in the months ahead.

It is time to say goodbye to you as I am going to leave Longdendale High School at the end of this term. I wish you all the best for your future and will always cherish the good times we had as a form. Thank you for everything that you have accomplished so far, and good luck to everything you will endeavour to achieve in the future! Have a great break and enjoy your holidays when they arrive!

Yours, Miss Weber

Achievement **S**uccess **P**rofessionalism **I**ntegrity **R**espect **E**ndeavour

YEAR 9

9I - Miss Palma Varo



Dear 9I, Congratulations on completing your first term in year 9. It is not a normal year and it has not been a normal term. That is the reason why I need to say well done to everyone, because it has not been easy for us all. Especially for you, as learners, who have had to face challenges since September (new rules in school, remote learning, self-isolating, etc.). You have done amazingly great.

As a form tutor, I am very pleased to say that you have genuinely impressed me these first three months, each one of you individually, and also as a group. Despite all challenges, you have always been professional. On the one hand, teachers would tell me how amazing you have been in these last weeks for Art, History and

Science... On the other hand, some of you were awarded a Head teacher award for your achievements. I am very proud of you all.

I do not know what the next terms are going to be like, but I do know you all will be great or even better. Keep working as usual, help one another but, most importantly, stay safe so that we all can see each other again as soon as possible.

All in all, it has definitely been a very good experience to start with you as a form at Longdendale High School. Have a lovely Christmas, enjoy to the fullest, because you deserve it. But remember, all I want for Christmas is that you stay safe!

¡Feliz Navidad!

Sincerely,
Miss Palma Varo.

9R - Mr Mirfin



To 9R, Firstly I just wanted to say that I'm really impressed with how well you have all handled the craziness that has happened this year so far. You've all had so much change with a new tutor, the school day being changed, the way that you interact in school has been completely different and you have all taken that in your stride and coped much better than anyone could have expected.

Our performance in the inter-form competition has been steadily improving; we are currently in 3rd place. While so far this year we haven't been able to do any clubs at school I know that some of you are still doing what you can in various sports and dance clubs through the wonders of the internet which is really impressive. You have all been working and cooperating really well with each other as well as with the school as a whole.

Finally I just wanted to say thank you to all of you for being so welcoming and lovely to me. I hadn't had a form at this school yet until this year and I feel really lucky to have you guys! Have a lovely Christmas!

Mr Mirfin

YEAR 9

9E - Mr Kilkenny



It's Christmas time and it's the end of the first term of year 9. The days are getting colder and the nights are getting longer. To make things worse, we have had Covid to deal with. But, 9E has smashed it! We have had a fantastic start to year 9. Behaviour incidents are down, achievement points are up. We won the first terms inter-tutor competition and we are on track to win the second.

This year has been extremely different. It's been challenging, unpredictable and at times disconcerting. However, you have not wavered. You have contributed well to the life skills curriculum and shared our views maturely on areas such as race, anti-bullying, the US election and careers. You have made a great start in your lessons, with many staff complimenting you in the corridors and in the staff room. You have been diligent and professional throughout.

We have welcomed two new faces to the form and said goodbye to 2 more. Chloe and Matty have settled in really well and have contributed well to the ethos and personality of the form. Lockdown made last year quite lonely but we have come back to school with a really strong team spirit and the form is closer than ever. I hope we can build on this as we progress through the rest of the year and into the important KS4 years. You will soon be selecting your option subjects and you will need the support of your friends and peers over the next couple of years in order to get the best possible GCSE grades.

I hope you have great 2-week break, enjoy the festivities and come back in the New Year refreshed and ready to continue the great start.

Merry Christmas 9E and a Happy New Year!

Mr Kilkenny

YEAR 10

A Message from Mrs Frangleton



It's been a challenging year so far for too many of us. Throughout these difficult and so very different times year 10 have remained professional and mature. It has been a pleasure working with, and getting to know them over the past year as their Learning Leader, their resilience and positivity has been amazing.

Although we have had many challenges returning to school, year 10 have worked extremely hard around attendance, achievements and behaviour. I often receive comments from teachers regarding the positive atmosphere around year 10 both inside and outside of their lessons. I hope all learners, and their families have a well-deserved rest over the Christmas break. Thank you for being such amazing young adults year 10!

Merry Christmas,
Mrs Frangleton

YEAR 10

10A - Mr Fox



I have been delighted with the form group that I inherited this year. As your new tutor I was apprehensive about the task of taking on a group in year 10. It is a credit to you all that I have been made very welcome as the custodian of 10A. Thank you. This is a group with a superb attitude that will undoubtedly serve them well as they progress through year 10 and into year 11.

2020 is definitely the year no-one will forget and 10A have managed the turbulent waters with a confident determination that belies their age. They have a maturity and professionalism that sets them apart from other forms I have had. I have been hugely impressed with the standards of uniform and the consideration we have for the safety of others when moving around school. Our form have engaged with some deep and thought provoking topics in Life Skills. Dealing with loss, religion and eating disorders have provided us with a wider perspective of the real world and an understanding of what some people go through. I have been especially impressed by the contributions of Ryan, Kaitlin, Dylan, Grace and Alex during these lessons.

Despite grass roots sports being cancelled across the area, I have enjoyed hearing about the sporting interests of Eleanor, Tommy, Owen, Kaitlin, Beth, Grace, Oliver and Louis.

Well done to Louis and Lily for accepting the roles of Form Reps and being our voice to share our views in a wider forum. Staff around school have paid attention to the efforts of individuals in 10A. Learning Leader and Head teacher awards have gone to Abbey, Lily, Bethany and Louis this term for a wide variety of exceptional contributions across school. All the form have embraced school's reading policy during DEAR time and have taken the opportunity to download reading material from SORA.

Well done 10A, keep up the great work and have a very merry Christmas.

Mr Fox

10S - Mrs Shields



I have really enjoyed getting to know 10S this term, they have made me feel very welcome. They are a pleasure to be with in the morning.

So many of you have had a fantastic first term in year 10. The following learners have 100% attendance: Ella S, Joshua, Finley, Amisha, Grace M, Sadie, Joe H, Grace H, Poppy, Erin, Liam, Ella A, Elliot, Joe M, Callum, Sophie and Jake.

Many of you deserve congratulations for your many successes in year 10 so far. The learners that have achieved the most achievement points this term are: Josh, Ella, Finley, Joe H, Betty, Jess and Ella A. It is also brilliant to see so many of the 10S learners haven't received any behaviour points: Joshua, Ella S, Betty, TJ, Lucy, Finley, Tom, Amisha, Hannah, Grace M, Sadie, Joe H, Grace H, Poppy and Erin. I hope you keep making the right behaviour choices and doing so well for the rest of year 10.

During Life Skills and Drop Down lessons I am always really pleased and proud of how many learners volunteer to read, answer questions and volunteer their opinions. Grace M and Joe H are also doing a great job as our student representatives.

I hope you and your families have a relaxing break, a fantastic Christmas and a happy and healthy new year. Mrs Shields

YEAR 10

10P - Miss Hamilton



10P have had many successes to celebrate so far during year 10 and we are only one full term in. I am extremely pleased with how well all learners in 10P have settled into their GCSE classes. Each member of staff has informed me that they are incredibly proud with their enthusiasm and their work ethic shown so far despite the rather strange situation we find ourselves in currently.

Firstly, a huge well done to our 12 superstars; Maggie, Oliver, Gabriel, Brooke, Jess, Daniel, Summer M, Summer L, Cadee, Erin, Jacob, Kade and Tia who throughout this first term have not received a single behaviour point! This time last year (Year 9) I only had three names on this list, so this shows how positive our start to GCSE year 10 has been already!

10P have excellent attendance on the whole with the following fabulous 10 learners achieving 100% attendance so far this year; Sam, Oliver, Robert, Gabriel, Lucca, Jess, Daniel, Summer M, Kade and Mason. Again huge improvement from last year as we only had 4 learners with 100% attendance last Christmas.

A further congratulations to the following learners achieving the academic excellence awards; Lucca – D&T and most improved awards; Kade – French, Jorge – Art, Hannah – Drama and Dylan – PE. All learners have already shown success with the large amount of achievement points awarded so far, however, I would like to say a special well done to the learners in the top five positions; 1st place Kade with 885, 2nd place Gabriel with 825, 3rd place Mason with 820, 4th place Summer L with 795 and in joint 5th, Daniel and Jacob with 785. A extra well done to the following learners who have secured over 700 achievement points and are chasing the tails of the top five learners; Brook 775, Summer M 760, Lucca 740, Amy and James 725, Jess 720 and Jasmine 700.

I am extremely proud of the start of our year so far. A special thank you and well done to Summer M who is continuing with her role of form rep and to Erin who has took on this new role this year; Summer M and James who continue to be our smile team members.

Unfortunately, I am not able to share our usual success due to the current situation but I am certain that our dancers Maggie, Aaliyah, Jasmine and Summer L would have taken part in our school concert. That our football lads, Gabriel, Lucca, Dylan and Mason would have continued to represent and support our school on the football team and finally Summer M who I am certain would have bagged another main role in the school's production had all of these events been able to take place. This would also apply to all of our fantastic learners who would usually be taking part in their out of school activities. I am hoping for these to resume so I can celebrate your many successes.

One last special mention to Jorge, who recorded the 'Last Post' for our whole school remembrance virtual assembly and has also recorded 'A Christmas Carol' for Tameside music services and will be broadcasted on Tameside radio to open the brass and carol service on the 18th December. Huge well done, I am extremely proud.

I am bursting with pride with my tutor group's successes so far especially during such a strange and challenging time. Every member of 10P has had some fantastic successes this year and it is only term 1! I am looking forward to what the rest of the year will bring and many more successes and achievements. As their form tutor, I could not be prouder.

Have a well-deserved rest and I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Miss Hamilton

YEAR 10

10I - Mr Hollin



I want to start by thanking every single learner in 10I for welcoming me into your form this term. It has been a very unusual term, however it has been great to get to know all of you. Many learners in 10I have made a fantastic start to year 10 and here are just a few, sorry in advance for not being able to mention every achievement.

The following learners have achieved 100% attendance this term, which is amazing considering the current situation we find ourselves in, Bradley, Niamh, Isabella, Isaac, Kira, Jessica, Henry, Luke, Shaun, Grace, Stanley, George and Poppy. Well done to you all.

The following learners have not received a single behaviour point this term. This is a fantastic achievement, meaning you are consistently making the correct choices, Bradley, Niamh, Ceinwyn, Isabella, Isaac, Jessica, Henry, Abigail, Ciaran, Taylor, Erin, Karlie, Charlotte, Grace, Stanley, Poppy, Oliver and Caitlyn. Well done to every single one of you.

As you are all aware learners receive achievement points for outstanding achievement in class and around school. The following five learners have achieved the most achievement points so far this school year, I will update the top five every term. Henry 680 points, Stanley, 710 points, Niamh 720 points, Abigail 730 points and Erin 750 points. Well done you five, fantastic.

I would also like to say a huge well done to Erin for being nominated for a Head Teachers Award, by Miss Hamilton, for her fantastic contribution to the year groups' notice boards around the life skills curriculum we have followed in form time. Well done Erin

Although all of the above is based on school achievements, I would love to praise learners for their amazing achievements outside of school, as I feel passionately that learners should have hobbies outside of school. If your son / daughter has made you proud by something they have achieved outside of school, please share with me at m.hollin@lhs.aspireplus.org.uk

Finally may I take this opportunity to wish all learners at Longdendale High School and their families a very merry Christmas and all the best for 2021.

Take care
Mr Hollin.

YEAR 10

10R - Mr Brown



Huge well done to 10R on a successful start to the new school year!

The form have been extremely engaged with some of our life skills lessons and have developed new understandings of religions, mental health and the effects of bullying with a mature and open mindset.

Firstly, I want to say a massive thank you to Kady-Anne and Ella who volunteered to be our form reps for this academic year. The two are fantastic representatives of the form and I know they will use their role successfully in the coming terms.

A huge shout out goes to Hannah P, Ella, Kady-Anne, Maisie-Jayne, Daniel, Meagan, Alex K, Marissa, Adam, Hanna, Joe and Ethan who have gone the whole term without picking up a single behaviour point. This is a fantastic achievement and something you should all be very proud of.

A further shout out goes to Ryan, Daniel, Adam, Kady-Anne and Freya who have been battling it out at the top of our achievement leader board since the start of the year, each achieving over 730 achievement points.

Another congratulations go to Summer and Alex K who have both picked up LL awards this term for their outstanding attitude and commitment to school.

Although all of the above is based on school achievements, I would love to praise learners for their amazing achievements outside of school, as I feel passionately that learners should have hobbies outside of school. If your son / daughter has made you proud by something they have achieved outside of school, please share with me at j.brown@lhs.aspireplus.org.uk

Every member of 10R is showing great promise for this year and have made a fantastic start to their first GCSE year. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break, a Happy New Year and I will see you all in January. Mr Brown

10E - Miss France



Congratulations 10E on a successful start to the new and very different school year!

Despite the challenges and changes that have taken place for everyone this year, our form has made a fantastic start to their year by engaging thoroughly with the start of their GCSE courses and the Life Skills curriculum we cover in form time. We understand and appreciate what a difficult time it has been for many in our local community and we have gathered together as a form in support of our local causes such as food banks and looking at different ways others in the community have spread kindness and support. I would like

to say a huge well done to Mair-May and Fearne, who have been elected as our Form Reps this year and I am sure that they will do a fantastic job in taking their views and ideas of our form to the school council.

In particular, it is important to recognize our outstanding students, Fearne, Beth and Katie, who have demonstrated an excellent attitude to learning in all subject areas. Many teachers across school have recognised the exceptional efforts of 10E and we were praised as being the tutor group with the least number of behaviour incidents in the year group which is something that we should all be really proud of. Every member of 10E is showing great promise for the start of their GCSE courses and I couldn't be more proud of their resilience and adaptability they have shown in the face of all that 2020 has brought. I hope you have a wonderful Christmas break and I wish you all the best for the New Year!

Miss France

YEAR 11

A Message from Mr Hulley



Dear families,

Hopefully you are all safe and well, particularly as we approach Christmas where, fingers crossed, you will have the opportunity to enjoy your festive traditions in as normal a way as possible.

Having experienced nearly eleven years working in education, I know how fast the final few months of a Year 11's school career can fly by after returning from the Christmas break. January is therefore a vital time for the year group to recognise that the finish line is in sight, and prepare appropriately; and not just in an academic sense, but also in a sense that one chapter of their lives will close and another will begin. It can be such an emotional rollercoaster, and quite saddening for both learners and staff to say goodbye. My advice would be to try and embrace and enjoy the last

few hurdles, and to leave Longdendale with no regrets.

But, as you know, it's not just the 'normal' hurdles that Year 11 have had to clear; the effects of the Coronavirus continue to be a disruptive presence for staff, parents and learners alike. I'd just like to say a huge thank you to the learners and to you also, for your patience and support throughout the year so far, but especially during the mock exam week. Many learners had to isolate before and during the exams, which is clearly far from ideal; however, I've been so impressed by the response of so many learners in the year group, who have done everything they can to sit these exams to the best of their abilities, despite the interruptions and the different sets of circumstances in which learners had to complete their work.

The recent announcements regarding some modifications to the exam season in the summer will hopefully be of some comfort to us all, as the results for learners are hugely important in their futures; it's been interesting and encouraging to see the variety of different directions learners are taking in their next steps beyond Longdendale, and, having been involved in supporting some learners in applying for further education, it makes me proud to send on such impressive and ambitious applicants from our school.

Having these ambitions will undoubtedly bring extra pressure, and whilst we want learners to be working hard to achieve the best possible grades, it's vital they have a healthy balance. Of course, we're here to support learners every step of the way, and I strongly encourage you, or themselves personally, to speak to a relevant member of staff should they feel they need support, advice or guidance: this could be their form tutor or I in the first instance. It's even more important considering the current situation, so please don't hesitate to contact school should you have any concerns.

Finally, I'd like to thank all staff who are involved in supporting Year 11, from the Year 11 tutor team, to Year 11 teachers, to our pastoral staff. Their tireless efforts have supported the year group significantly throughout first term, and I know they will continue to play a key role in ensuring the best outcomes for the Class of 2021. And, as always, a huge thank you to you for your ongoing support in what has been a hugely challenging year for us all; let's hope 2021 will mark the start of plenty of positives.

Have a great Christmas break,

Mr A Hulley