

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

Dear families,

As this first half-term draws to a close I would like to provide you with an update about how the school is progressing and a couple of changes after half term. In the main we have been very pleased with how the learners have returned to the school after what was, in many cases, a long absence from the school site. Many aspects of what used to be our normal school day have changed and I am impressed with the way learners and colleagues alike have adapted so quickly. Where issues have arisen they have been swiftly addressed and I am pleased with the calmer and productive environment that has developed. There is more work being undertaken in many areas of the school to ensure these and future improvements are secured and developed. Many of you have already helped the school by completing several of the surveys we have sent to you over the last few weeks. In this time of Coronavirus and for our continuous school improvement purposes we have found that this is the safest and generally most convenient method for you. Your responses are valued and most appreciated.

You may be aware that there have been a very small number of confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the school and that some learners and colleagues have been required to self-isolate as a precaution. The systems we have implemented have worked well and have kept the numbers of learners who have needed to work remotely to a minimum whilst meeting our responsibilities to protect the wider school community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our learners and families for their ongoing support in helping us to manage suspected and confirmed cases of coronavirus within the school community. Could I please ask that if, over the half term, any learners develop any symptoms of coronavirus, are having COVID tests or obtain test results, that parents immediately share this information with school via the school's dedicated coronavirus email address: covid@lhs.aspireplus.org.uk. We will send a reminder to families about coronavirus related absences after the half term break.

We are further developing and refining the systems we have in place to minimise the disruption to school attendance that future cases of Covid-19 may bring. After the October half term when your child has core PE/dance they will be expected to attend school for the full day in their PE kit. Learners will need to wear their school jumper and blazer whilst not taking part in their PE lesson. I must stress that in order to maintain uniformity this must be the Longdendale PE kit as it appears in the Uniform Policy, please do not allow your child to make adaptations to what is the expected clothing for their lessons. It is acceptable for your child to wear their school trousers/skirt or Longdendale (no other brands please) jogging pants over the top of their shorts but the changing rooms will not be available for this purpose. This change will further reduce the numbers of learners required to adopt remote learning in the event of a case of Covid-19. Please note that this applies only to core PE/dance lessons and not Year 10 and 11 option classes; option classes are much smaller and will continue to use the changing rooms.

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**Longdendale High School** Spring Street, Hollingworth, Hyde, Cheshire, SK14 8LW

**Headteacher:** Mrs Andrea Jones **Interim CEO:** Mr Anton McGrath

**e:** admin@lhs.aspireplus.org.uk **t:** 01457 764006 **f:** 01457 766483 **w:** www.longdendalehighschool.org.uk



# Longdendale

H I G H S C H O O L

We have made great efforts to ensure that the standard of uniform worn by the learners is improved and I thank you for your support in this respect – the vast majority of children turn up every day looking smart and ready to learn. Please continue to help us by ensuring your child wears the correct uniform correctly. Following the October half term we will maintain this focus and the uniform of each child will be checked. Any learner who is not wearing the correct uniform without good cause should expect to serve a sanction at the end of that day. In September the face covering was introduced as a mandatory item of equipment for school attendance; please ensure that your child brings a plain face covering and bag to store it in when not being used.

It's the time of year when the clocks change and we all try to remember if "this is the good one"? I can confirm that yes it is "the good one". What this also indicates is that the days are getting much shorter and the learners will be travelling to and from school in less daylight. Please ensure that your child wears a coat that makes them easy to be seen and that any bicycle used by your child has working lights, brakes and tyres.

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Thank you once again for all of your support during this first part of the new academic year, I hope your child has a good break and we look forward to seeing them back at school on 2 November 2020 (red week).

Yours faithfully

**Mr Chris Major**  
**Deputy Headteacher**

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