

7th May 2021

Dear Families,

It has been lovely to welcome our students back to school after the Easter break, and we are exceptionally proud of how they have returned. It has been a very positive first few weeks, and our students have engaged exceptionally with their learning and with the new behaviour policy that has been introduced this term. As expected the vast majority of our students continue to meet all of our expectations, and are a real credit to themselves, their families and their school. The introduction of the new rewards system has highlighted yet again some of the amazing contributions and achievements our students continue to have on a daily basis. In the first 12 days since its launch 17,486 achievement points have been awarded to our students, which is absolutely fantastic, and we are looking forward to seeing the first students wearing the brand new rewards badges with pride on their blazers.

I had the privilege of meeting with all of the students who took part in the recent 'Empathy Project' and to listen to their presentations about some of the issues both on a local and an international scale that they feel strongly about. The information they shared, and most importantly, their ideas for how they can make a difference were incredibly powerful to listen to and I am exceptionally proud of all of those who took part. Well done to all those students in all year groups who participated, and we look forward to sharing some of their successes with you as they work on their projects.

We are delighted to inform you that on the last day of the Easter term, we had our annual review of our Inclusion Quality Mark Flagship status, and we are pleased to report that we have once again been successful in this. The assessor met with a range of staff and students, and he was impressed by how proud they all are to be part of our school community, and by the ongoing inclusive provision across all areas of school. He found that "Longdendale High School is a setting where the commitment to superb care, nurture and support are at the very core of its inclusive approach." He added that the students he spoke to "clearly enjoy attending and participating in school life as it is a happy, friendly, stimulating and vibrant learning environment with a clear focus on helping everyone to develop their potential." We will write to you separately over the coming days with a copy of the full report, but I would like to thank our highly skilled and committed team of staff, who work tirelessly every day to support our young people in all areas of school life, as well as the students themselves for their active and positive engagement with the opportunities offered to them.

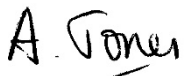
We have had some extremely positive feedback from both the staff and students about the new behaviour policy and the impact it is already having in school. Since we returned to school 96% of lessons have had no disruption to learning. In the small number of lessons where there has been any disruption, these students have been removed from the classroom and placed in our newly designed Reflect area to ensure that there is no further interruption for other students.

As part of our drive to ensure that learning opportunities are maximised, and to help develop important skills for life, we would like to remind you that we do expect all students to be in school fully equipped for the day by 8.30am. If a student is late to school without a valid reason, they will receive a same day 15 minute detention after school. If they have two occasions or more of late within one week, they will then be issued with a same day 30 minute detention for each occasion of lateness. We are delighted to report that attendance to school remains above the national averages. Thank you for your support in ensuring that your child continues to attend school every day – it's essential that they are in school and able to maximise every learning opportunity provided for them on a daily basis.

We really appreciate the huge amount of positive feedback from staff, students and families about the introduction of our new behaviour policy, and we look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you over the coming weeks and months. Please remember to follow us on Twitter on [@LHS_HighSchool](#) to keep up to date with the latest news and to see some of our students' achievements and successes in a wide range of areas.

In the meantime, please do get in contact with us in school if you have any queries or if there is anything we can support with.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

Andrea Jones
Headteacher