

Newsletter

Headteachers Welcome...

It has been a real pleasure to welcome back all of our students over the past few weeks, and I would like to take this opportunity to particularly welcome the families of our new Year 7 students.

Staff and students alike have returned with a renewed sense of enthusiasm and positivity as we look forward to another successful year. It has been amazing to return to school to our brand-new library, which is a wonderful space for our students to use. You can see some photographs and more information about this later in this newsletter. Alongside this, we have a fully refurbished ICT suite as well as the creation of additional learning and intervention spaces across school. With the support of the Stamford Park Trust, we are continuing to develop our school environment so our students have access to the most up to date resources, equipment and opportunities.

It has been fantastic to see our students return to school looking so smart in their school uniform, and this professionalism has been reflected in their impressive work around school in these early weeks. All of our current year groups are in a fantastic position and well placed to continue to make great progress and achieve.

We are exceptionally proud of the achievements this summer of our Class of 2022 students, who have achieved the highest results in the school's history. In a time of significant challenge throughout their Key Stage 4 due to the pandemic, they demonstrated huge levels of resilience and sheer hard work, and we are delighted that all their efforts have paid off and been so richly rewarded in these impressive results.

I am proud to work alongside a team of such highly skilled and dedicated staff, who work hard to ensure the success of all of our students on a daily basis. Staff and students alike really do live our ethos of "Excellence and Ambition for all".

In order to build on these successes, we worked with staff and students across the Trust to determine our new mission statement and core values. These have been launched with all students since the return to school in September,

and we have been extremely impressed with how they are already being demonstrated as part of our daily ethos, and how well our amazing students are living up to everything they represent. The mission statement below sets out our inclusive approach to ensuring all our students are provided with every possible opportunity to achieve in all areas of school life and to be successful in terms of realising their true academic potential as well as making positive contributions to the wider community:

Through excellence in education we are an inclusive community, that embraces choice, opens doors and creates opportunities. With kindness and collaboration, we empower everyone to be the best version of themselves. We are confident, curious and creative individuals who contribute positively to our community.

Our values of Respect, Resilience and Aspiration are shown on the next page. They are the core characteristics that both staff and students believe underpin what it means to be a successful Longdendale student and member of the wider community. The vast majority of our students demonstrate these on a daily basis in everything they do, and we will continue to work with all of our students and staff to ensure that these values are at the heart of everything we do.

Longdendale is a happy, friendly and inclusive school with an emphasis on exemplary standards in all that we do. We remain ambitious for our students and our community and have high expectations of our relentless improvement to become a truly world class school.

I look forward to working together with you all in another successful year for our whole school community, and thank you for your continued support.



Andrea Jones
Headteacher
Longdendale High School



Longdendale
HIGH SCHOOL

Part of



**STAMFORD
PARK TRUST**

Our Vision

Excellence and Ambition for all.

Our Mission

Through excellence in education we are an inclusive community, that embraces choice, opens doors and creates opportunities. With kindness and collaboration, we empower everyone to be the best version of themselves. We are confident, curious and creative individuals who contribute positively to our community.

Our Values



RESPECT

Be polite and considerate

Listen to others without interruption

Respond promptly and positively

Have pride in our environment and our community



RESILIENCE

Have a positive attitude

Work hard, never give up

Learn from mistakes

Embrace challenges



ASPIRATION

Aim high

Believe in ourselves

Accept only our best

Celebrate success

A message from the Trust CEO

It has been a busy year in the life of Stamford Park Trust. Whether working hard to develop the quality of education we offer to all of our students or in investing in the facilities our students use, there has been a lot going on!

We have been working hard to ensure that we reflect our vision, 'Excellence and Ambition for all' in all aspects of the work we do through collaborative events. For example, students participated in a Forensic Science transition day, hosted by Ashton Sixth Form College, managing to solve the case and catch the criminals, and were also given the opportunity to grill the Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, Angela Rayner MP, in a robust question and answer session. As part of Stamford Park Trust, we are able to provide a broader range of opportunities to students from all three academies. Teachers have benefited from working more closely together to further develop the quality of teaching, learning and assessment, ensuring that our students receive the very best quality of education.

We have also invested heavily in the facilities for our young people across the Trust, building new science laboratories, a new food technology room, improved IT facilities, a mock hospital ward and nursery, a brand new state of the art TV studio and brand new libraries for each of the schools. We aim to have the very best facilities for our students so they have the best chance of success.

Students from all three academies are benefiting from our Trust wide Realising Aspirations programme, providing opportunities for all students to explore the next steps in their education, whether in further or higher education, higher level apprenticeships or preparing them for entry into the world of work.

The Trust is already bringing significant and tangible benefits for all. We are at the very start of our journey, yet it is clear that the future is bright for Stamford Park Trust.



Anton McGrath
CEO
Stamford Park Trust

Head Boy & Head Girl

We would like to welcome Seb and Charlotte into their new roles as Head Boy and Head Girl. They have already made an impact as they took on some of the roles last year whilst our previous students did their GCSEs.

We would also like to say a huge congratulations to our new Deputy Head Students Chloe and Keira. They have already taken ownership of managing the student leaders for each department and those who will be helping out at Open Evening.

We are really looking forward to seeing all the fantastic work the team will do this year.



Library News

We are thrilled to announce that our Learning Resource Centre has undergone a full refurbishment over the Summer period. We have had major works completed to provide our students with a brand new larger, fantastic learning space to use. Our new library consists of modern bookcases and soft furnishings. There are 20 state of the art, brand new computers available for students to use during break times and lunch times.

We have a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction books which are updated yearly with the most recent releases to keep the students actively reading and entertained. We also stock a selection of short stories that are dyslexia friendly books for students to enjoy. Our new library is now organised by genre. This will make it easier for students to find books that encourage their individual interests.

We have a number of events and competitions that are planned this academic year:

Halloween Competition: 3rd - 20th October

Black History Month: Throughout October

Christmas Festivities: 2nd - 20th December

World Book Day 2023: Thursday 2nd March

National Poetry Month: Throughout April

Mental Health Awareness month: Throughout May



“We are already welcoming students into our Learning Resource Centre however this will be officially opened by our special guest, Manchester poet Tony Walsh, on Friday 7th October.”

New ICT Suite

Our Information Communications and Technology Suite has been fully refurbished over the summer. Business and Computing classes are already benefiting from the wonderful new space with students able to develop their computing skills with access to brand-new resources to support their learning.



Celebrating best ever results at Longdendale

The students of Longdendale High School secured fantastic GCSE results this summer, which were the best results in the school's history! These results for the Class of 2022 reflect all of the hard work and dedication the students put in over the last 5 years at the school despite the challenges and disruption to their education over the past few years.

Initial analysis shows that the results this year are above the national and local averages in all key measures, and 17 subjects have performed above the national averages. This is a significant improvement on previous years, showing staff and students alike really do live our ethos of "Excellence and Ambition for all!"

Alongside superb results in many subject areas the school is particularly pleased with the performance of the Maths, English, Science, Art, and Drama departments which have once again secured very strong results. The school has also been able to celebrate outstanding success in many other subjects including Music, Business Studies and Computer Science, Geography and French.

We are incredibly proud of our class of 2022 and wish them every success as they take their next steps. During a period that has seen the most significant disruption to the GCSE examination process and education nationally, it is especially pleasing to see these excellent and well-deserved results of our students. We have been delighted to see that, here at Longdendale, the hard work and resilience our students have demonstrated during their time at the school, supported by the commitment and dedication of the staff have been so richly rewarded.

These results support the future opportunities for the students as they go on to their chosen routes in further education and training and we are delighted that the vast majority of our students are now pursuing their chosen pathways into further education at sixth form colleges, with several having secured some fantastic work-based apprenticeships. It is especially pleasing to see so many of our students continuing their education within the Trust at Ashton Sixth Form College.

On Behalf on everyone from Longdendale High School and the wider Stamford Park Trust we'd like to say a huge thank you to all our students!



Stamford Park Trust Aspirations Programme

Last term, students in Years 7 - 10 visited Ashton Sixth Form College as part of our Aspirations programme. Students enjoyed taster sessions in subjects including Maths, Science, English, Criminology, Psychology and Law. There are more visits planned for later this year.

ASFC students are at Longdendale every Friday this term, providing maths and science tuition within lessons. This is beneficial for all; our students gain from their tutoring and the tutors gain valuable experience that will help support their UCAS applications.





Year 10 Work Experience

The end of the summer term marked a milestone in the Longdendale High School calendar – Year 10 Work Experience Week.

As part of the Longdendale High School CEIAG provision, Year 10 students are given the opportunity to find out about the 'world of work' by completing a week long work experience. They are encouraged to find their own placements, learning about the resilience and commitment needed to keep knocking on doors until someone says 'yes'!

For those who struggled to find a placement, we secured a programme of Virtual Work Experience with Fortem, thanks to Speakers for Schools. We also introduced students to Spring Pod and The Forage, who both offer a range of virtual, online experiences throughout the year, free of charge. These are accessible for all students independently, should they be interested in kick-starting their career by exploring different options and gaining some independent experience.

The face-to-face placements were a great success. This year saw 130 students engage in a range of employer placements from solicitors to supermarkets, childcare to animal shelters, all providing each student with an invaluable, real-life appreciation of what 'work' involves. Some students secured summer jobs from the fantastic impression they made in their placements and others have built strong connections to an area of work they wish to pursue in the future.

Students were given a 'Work Experience Log book' in which they recorded their daily activities and tasks as well as reflections on what they have learnt during the week. They will be sharing these with their form tutors over the next couple of weeks as well as completing an evaluation and debrief task.

If you ask anyone what they did for work experience, they will always remember it – whether this was because it deepened and strengthened their commitment to their chosen career, or maybe because they loathed every minute of it! For our Year 10s, it is a significant learning experience and stepping stone in their school life; one that will help to inform and focus their planning and aspirations as they start to think about their post-16 intentions.

Thank you to all parents and employers who made this possible, alongside the form tutors who kept track and checked in during the week.



Can you help?

If you would like to offer a work experience placement to one (or more) of our students, or volunteer to contribute to Careers Education and Guidance in any other way (e.g. assembly, careers talk etc.), please contact Mrs Moffat on 01457 764006.

“We will be launching the Work Experience programme for July 2023 with the Class of 2024 before Christmas; to give them the chance to start sourcing their summer placement.”



Induction and Transition

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of our new families who have joined the Longdendale community with the class of 2027.

Over the course of two days in July, Year 6 students from primary schools far and wide attended Longdendale for their eagerly anticipated induction days. They had the opportunity to meet their new Form Tutor for the year ahead and immerse themselves in everything 'Longdendale'.

The students were given a flavour of our school with lots of fun and diverse activities. With the sun shining and temperatures soaring the students gave every challenge their all. The Trust gifted each child a book called 'The 1000-year-old boy' by Ross Welford, which they used as a foundation for activities around the theme of friendship and identity. The students used this theme to write a letter to their year 11 future self and put together a 'time capsule' for them to open at the end of their Longdendale journey. Our core values of Respect, Resilience and Aspiration were launched and the students were given the opportunity to explore what these values mean to them and why they are important to us all.

On the final afternoon the celebration assembly was well attended by eager families wanting to share in their child's success and watch them being awarded their Longdendale tie. The experience allowed them to feel part of our community and generate a buzz of excitement for their September start.



"I am delighted to welcome our Class of 2027 to Longdendale High School. They have already impressed me with their professional attitudes and enthusiasm. I am looking forward to working with them over the next five years as they grow into highly successful and responsible young adults."

Andrea Jones - Headteacher

The class of 2027 joined us officially on the 5th September. The Year 7 students began their day in their tutor groups, participating in a number of different activities with their Form Tutor and new peers. With the support of pastoral staff and some of the older Transition Student Leaders, they were gently encouraged to get to know each other and make new friendships. As the day progressed the students became more confident with secondary school life and better prepared to embark on their Longdendale journey.

We are proud at the way they have so quickly settled in. All those understandable first day nerves are quickly diminishing. The corridors are now full of excited voices and smiley faces.





Enrichment Week

The final week of term at Longdendale High School is when we have the wonderful opportunity to offer a medley of enrichment opportunities.

In July 2022 we had planned a programme of enrichment to last three days, covering sports day, a tutor challenge day and a reward trip. Students in Year 7 were embarking on a Pirate Tutor Challenge and a trip to Chester Zoo; Year 8 were taking part in a trip to Alton Towers and a "Whodunnit" Tutor Challenge and Year 9 were also heading to Alton Towers and participating in a Public Services Day. There were additional opportunities to engage in social action and to venture up into the Peak District for a hike.

However, all was not to go to plan - as the excitement for the week heated up, so did the weather, which meant unexpected alterations to what was promising to be a great adventure for all.

Not all was lost though! On the Friday all students got to participate in one of their three planned activities. Year 7 had an amazing sports day, Year 8 enjoyed their murder mystery challenge and Year 9 had the chance to let off some steam at Alton Towers. We were also fortunate enough to be able to move the Chester Zoo trip for current Year 8 and the Alton Towers Trip for the current Year 9 to the 30th September instead.

We are returning to our pre-Covid enrichment week programme this coming July. Look out for the menu of trips, workshops and experiences that Years 7-9 will be able to choose from after Christmas.

Hollingworth Juniors Football Club.

Over the summer we have re-invested back into the grass football pitches at Longdendale thanks to the support and renewed school/community partnership we now have with local junior football club, Hollingworth Juniors. Not only have we improved the pitch drainage and playing surface we have also upgraded all 11-side goals thanks to funding contributions from Football Foundation & Hollingworth Juniors. PE students and after school clubs can now make use of the fantastic facilities alongside weekend community fixtures that will take place throughout this 2022-2023 football season.



Kickboxing World Championships 2022

Our talented Year 11 student Adie has been chosen to represent Great Britain at this years WAKO World Championships being held in Italy during October.

Best of luck Adie from everyone here at Longdendale.



Sports Day 2022

On 15th July, Year 7 took part in their first-year group sports day. The morning sessions got the day off to a glorious start with teams competing in a range of sports against opposing tutor groups. The Year 7 tutors worked hard to ensure we had a range of teams from each class to maximise participation in Tchoukball, Dodgeball, Football and Rounders.

The afternoon held the athletic track events, including the 100m and 200m sprints, the 400m and the 4 x 100m Relay, the atmosphere of the crowd in encouraging their athletes was superb. Thank you to Mr Brown for compering and Mr Emanuel for the music that added to the occasion.



“Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.”

As we start the new academic year, it has been truly wonderful to see all of our new Year 7 students with their copies of ‘The 1000 Year Old Boy’ gifted to them before the summer holidays. Mr Gregson (Head of Year 7), Miss Walker (Literacy Coordinator) and the Year 7 tutor team have been incredibly impressed with the effort and quality of work that students produced for the summer literacy project and the winners have received a literacy award. There has been a real buzz around books and reading for pleasure since we have returned, and it has been great to hear of students taking time out over the summer break to escape and read some of our recommended ‘summer sizzlers’.

Last year saw the introduction of ‘DEAR’ time (drop everything and read), delivered one morning a week by tutors during form time. This has now been successfully implemented and will continue to provide us with a powerful way of modelling fluent reading of texts, alongside discussions and exposure to a wide range of vocabulary enabling students to become more confident readers and speakers.

Why read? Reading is an important part of our lives that shapes our personality and influences our mental development. It is the ultimate form of self-care and research has shown that it can reduce stress levels by 68%. It doesn’t take much to read a lot of words. Read for just 20 minutes a day, and you’ll read a staggering 1,800,000 words a year! With the opening of our new library, providing students with a safe space to read and a wide range of books, and lots of new competitions, this really is going to be our most exciting year yet!

The overall Year 7 champions for the collated points of their morning team events and the track events were 7R. This year we also awarded a Team Spirit Award for the tutor group that demonstrated the most resilience and determination throughout the day; this was awarded to 7P.

Finally, we were delighted that during the afternoon we had a visit from the Commonwealth Games Torch; Sam and Brynna led this on a lap of the track before passing it on, to continue the journey around Tameside and Greater Manchester.

Congratulations again all round and thank you to the PE staff and wider staff for their support on the day.



School Production

On Tuesday 12th & Wednesday 13th July, a number of our Year 7-10 students performed in our first production in three years - High School the Musical. After six months of rehearsals, planning and stress, both shows went perfectly and received fantastic reviews from the live audiences.

Delicious hot food was prepared and served by Mr Kilkenny, Miss Hamilton and Miss Nicholson during the interval which showcased the brilliant collaboration between the Art, Performing Arts and Technology departments.

Huge thanks go to Miss Healey-Wilde for her help with choreography and to Mr Emanuel for his assistance with the technical aspect of the show. Also, none of this would have been possible without Mr Brown who worked tirelessly to get this production off the ground.

Finally, another huge thank you to the performers and their families for the hard work and dedication they gave to ensure the shows ran smoothly and efficiently.



Year 11 Prom

In June, it was lovely to reflect on Year 11s 5-year journey with us in their Leavers' Assembly and Prom; the first time either of these events have been able to take place for the past three years.

The Year 11s donned their best outfits and arrived in style for the special occasion at The White Heart, Lydgate. We wish them every success and happiness as they embark on the next stage in their education or training.



Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

This week we have launched the applications for Anti-Bullying Ambassadors. Students fill in an application which is then looked over by the Senior Student Leaders. It is a vital role in school as these students act as support for the wider student body. We are looking forward to welcoming all of our new student leaders this year and we will keep you up to date with all the brilliant work they do this year!

National Fitness Day

On Wednesday 21st September we celebrated National Fitness Day at Longdendale High School. Director of Stamford Park Trust Sport & Community, Mark Storie, delivered a taster HIIT session for a group of Year 8 students as part of their PE lesson. The group did brilliantly and put in a great deal of effort. They were also given access to lots of free workout content online to help them become more physically active outside of the school day with without the need for expensive equipment or subscriptions.



Sports Hall Community Use

We have recently begun a phased opening of the school sports facilities for community use, with Tameside Netball Club U10s and Tameside Vikings National Mens Team making use of our facilities. Extending our community provision is a key priority across all Stamford Park Trust venues. Schools are very much the hub site of each of the school's communities and by offering high quality education during the school day and being open for community sport & activities in the evening and weekend, we are helping to create more active and engaged communities with the school at the heart of this. The income generated from our community hire will be re-invested back into each of the schools to further enhance equipment and facilities over the course of this academic year.



School Football Success

As part of the Manchester United Emerging Talent Programme, our Year 9 boys football team finished a very close second in a tournament last week. They achieved fantastic results in their group games and showed huge professionalism and respect throughout.

Our Year 7 football team also played brilliantly, getting through to the second round of a cup competition after an emphatic 10-0 win against Hyde High School. Year 8 (pictured below) won their first game of the season 3-1 and are into the second round of their competition too.



HRH Queen Elizabeth II

Longdendale staff and students were saddened by the death of HRH Queen Elizabeth II. Teachers took time to help their tutor groups and classes understand the significance of this extremely sad moment in our history. Students were respectful during a minute's silence held in memory of the Queen and a book was placed in the new Library for those who wished to express their messages and condolences.

Students from Longdendale along with those from Rayner Stephens High School and Ashton Sixth Form College joined the Tameside Civic Mayor, Mayoress and councillors to lay beautiful floral tributes.



Student Leadership

At the end of last year our students were given the chance to apply for multiple roles including Transition Leaders and Charity Leaders. Year 10 were also given the chance to apply for the role of Subject Leader; within this role they will support with clubs and enrichment opportunities within their designated department.

We received more applications than ever before for all of these roles. It was a fantastic testament to how much our students want to be involved in all aspects of school life.

After careful deliberation our Senior student leaders have made their decisions. For those who have not been selected this time round there are plenty more opportunities throughout the year to get involved. The lists of the successful students chosen will be announced this coming week!



RESPECT 
 **RESILIENCE**
ASPIRATION 



Longdendale
HIGH SCHOOL



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