

Spring Newsletter



Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to the Spring Term edition of our newsletter. After such a long period of our students learning remotely, it has been absolutely fantastic to welcome all of our community back into school, and we are really proud of how well our students have engaged with their learning and with all aspects of school life.

As you read this edition, you will see it is a celebration of some of the fantastic opportunities and successes our students have experienced, and the positive contribution they continue to make to our school and the wider community. It's lovely to see so many of our students learning new skills and enjoying taking part in the enrichment clubs, which are starting up again, and we look forward to this continuing to build over the coming weeks.

The introduction of our new behaviour policy has been hugely successful – the vast majority of our students continue to meet and exceed our expectations on a daily basis, and the new rewards policy is making a real difference in ensuring our students' ongoing successes and achievements are recognised and celebrated.

As I write this, our Year 11 students are coming to the end of their final assessments and their time at Longdendale. They have impressed us so much with their resilience, maturity and professionalism throughout this difficult time. We are confident all their efforts will be rewarded and we wish them all every success over the coming months as they move on to the next stage of their journey.

Later in this newsletter you can read more about our recent Inclusion Quality Mark review, which took place in March. We are delighted to report that we have been re-designated for the third consecutive year as a National Flagship School for Inclusion in recognition of all of the work we do in ensuring that all of our students and families are cared for and supported in all aspects of school life. There are only approximately 100 schools in the country that hold this status, and this is a reflection of both the ongoing commitment and hard work of our team of dedicated staff, and the way in which the students demonstrate our core values in everything they do.

Thank you for your ongoing support – we value and appreciate the partnerships we have with our families and recognise the role they play in the continuing success of our students and the school. Please enjoy reading the rest of this newsletter and we look forward to continuing to work with you over the rest of the academic year.

A message from our Executive Principal



Dear Longdendale families,

It's been a busy start back after the Easter holidays, with the launch of our new behaviour for learning and rewards policy, Year 11 students preparing for their final assessments and our extra-curricular programme beginning to get back to normal.

I have really enjoyed my first month as Executive Principal. It's been a pleasure to meet all the staff and this week I have been meeting with all our year group student councils. I have been extremely impressed by everyone's commitment and dedication to ensure that Longdendale continues to make rapid progress on its journey to ensure we achieve excellence for all.

Feedback from the students so far has been overwhelmingly positive about our new ways of working, especially our new rewards system – over 18,000 reward points have been issued so far! Students have told me how enjoyable their lessons are and how they believe their teachers care about them and support them with their learning and with any issues they have.

I hope, as covid restrictions begin to relax, I will be able to meet with parents and carers face to face to discuss the next steps in our school improvement journey.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Miss Wicks

Behaviour Policy



Before the school broke up for the Easter holiday you will remember that we wrote to you to explain the new approach to behaviour that was being taken when students returned on 20 April 2021. We are now three weeks in to the new approach and I am delighted to be able to report that the implementation has been a great success. The purpose of the changes is to cause a reduction in the number of lessons interrupted by low level disruption and to improve

respect. The early figures certainly demonstrate that the changes we have made are having a significant impact in lessons and around the school. During the first two weeks 96% of lessons were uninterrupted by poor behaviour; that leaves 4% which have become a key focus for the school. Alongside these high expectations we are pleased to offer a significant number of interventions for children who struggle with school; there are over 90 interventions that are offered by school colleagues! We would like to thank all parents and students for their support during this time; everyone is benefitting from the improvements in this area. Please help us to provide the best education for your child by ensuring that they arrive to school in plenty of time, are dressed correctly and have all the equipment needed for their day. If you have any questions about this or any other aspect of school, please don't hesitate to make contact with us.



On 1 April 2021 Longdendale High school was visited by the Assessor for the Inclusion Quality Mark; we are delighted to share that for the third year running, we have been successful in continuing to hold Flagship School status. We first achieved the honour of being awarded Flagship status in 2019. Only around 100 UK schools have achieved IQM Flagship School status. The award recognises those unique schools who have held IQM Centre of Excellence status for at least 3 years; and played a strong leadership role in developing inclusion best practice across a network of schools.



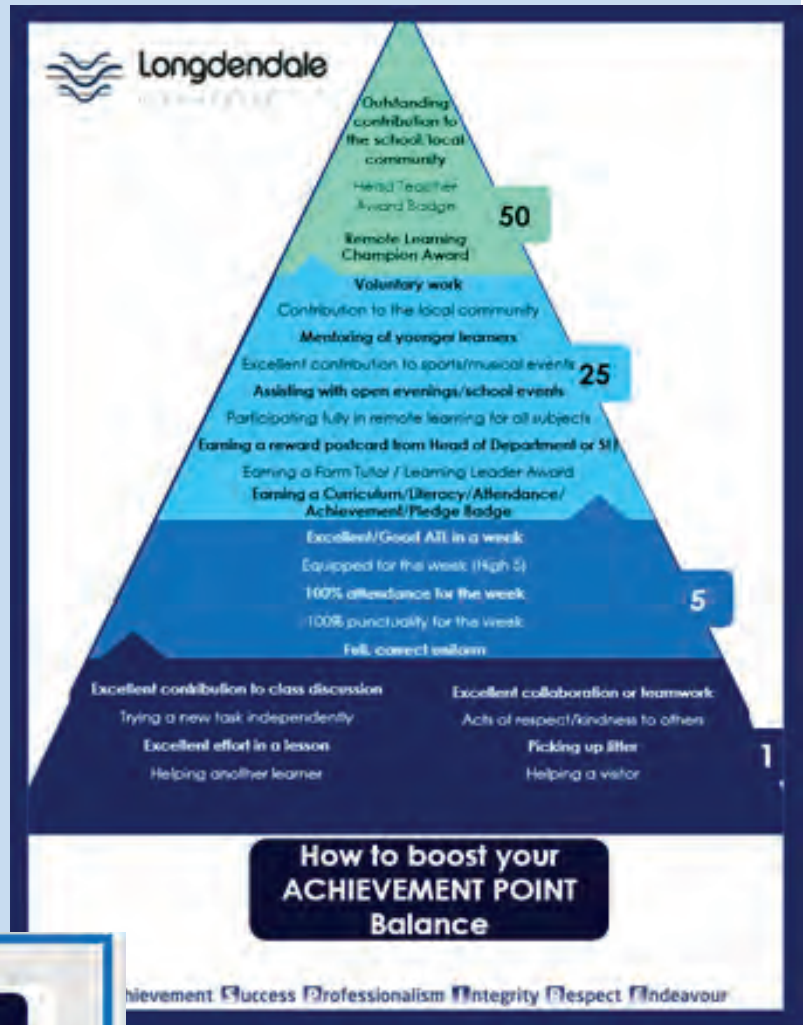
The learners were once again one of our school's biggest assets. The Assessor was gushing about their professionalism, their pride and their loyalty to their school family. Mr Gill, the Assessor spoke about our 'outstanding youngsters' and remarked that we have 'young people that we can be proud of'. We certainly agree! Your children did themselves proud, their families proud, their school proud and their community. He went on to write in his final report 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, whatever that might be. They were a pleasure to talk to and were articulate and mature in the way in which they discussed their experience of the school and they felt that LHS is an extremely inclusive place and had gone above and beyond to ensure there were very few gaps in their learning moving forward. This is a fantastic accolade for the staff in the school". We couldn't agree more and are filled with pride with the positive contribution all of our learners make to our school community every day.

New Rewards

With the launch of a new behaviour policy, comes the exciting opportunity for a review of our school rewards. We are therefore delighted to launch our new reward system and to share with you how our students are recognised and celebrated for their achievements, effort and behaviour.

Through Student Council, students shared with us that the most valued ways we have recognised their contributions and successes within our school community are through praise and encouragement, achievement points, postcards home, certificates and badges, attendance awards, celebration assemblies and reward trips.



In order to build on this feedback we have added value to our achievement points, as students can now earn badges and certificates as they boost their balances.

Longdendale staff have now awarded our students with 25,738 achievement points, and more than half of these are as a result of excellent effort in lessons, well done to our current Top 10 Learners.



TOP 10

Lottie C - 8E	119	Ellie-Mae S - 7A	90
Emily G - 8P	109	Nikola M - 7R	90
Sian W - 7A	102	Chloe G - 9E	90
Lena P - 7R	101	James E - 8R	83
Helen B - 7A	96	Alice H - 7A	83
Thomas W - 7E	95		

New Rewards

As we know our students also love to have some spending power, we have introduced a school rewards shop where achievement points can be redeemed for smaller, useful items or saved up for a bigger reward across the academic year.

If you or your child wish to know what their achievement point balance is or if your child wishes to redeem their achievement points, this can be done through INSIGHT.



<div>REWARDS SHOP</div> <div>Spending Your Achievement Points</div>	
Points	Prizes
2000	£25 Donation (to charity of your choice) / £20 Amazon Voucher
1000	£10 Love to Shop Voucher / £10 Restaurant Voucher / £10 Cineworld Voucher
700	Sketch Book / Revision Guide / Reading Book
500	£5 Amazon Voucher / £5 Love to Shop Voucher
200	Reusable Drink Bottle / School tie
75	Freddo Chocolate Bar
60	Kadnor Still Drink / Flapjack
50	Single Stationery Item (laminator, highlighter, whiteboard pen, glue stick, pencil, sharpener, revision cards)
50	Jump the Queue Pass for one week
50	Break Time Snack (Popsicle, Fruit Icecream)
40	Small Drinks Carton (milkshake, juice)
20	High-5 Basic Stationery Item (pen, pencil, 15cm ruler, highlighter)

Student log-ins are identical to those used for accessing the school email account and school portal. If you are struggling to get on to this, please contact the school office or your child's form tutor.

Achievement point balances will reset each September, so please encourage your child to check their points on INSIGHT and spend what they have deservedly earned.



Finally, we have revamped our suite of reward badges by adding the Headteacher Platinum award for students who have an excellent attitude to learning across all subject areas and for those who have earned all six Headteacher Awards, we have also added an Executive Principal Award – not to mention the bronze, silver and gold Achievement point badges to our collection.

We are looking forward to sharing further student successes and rewards on our Twitter account. Please follow us @LHS_HighSchool.

Careers Provision

It has been a busy couple of weeks at Longdendale; we have been encouraging learners to think about their futures and potential career paths.

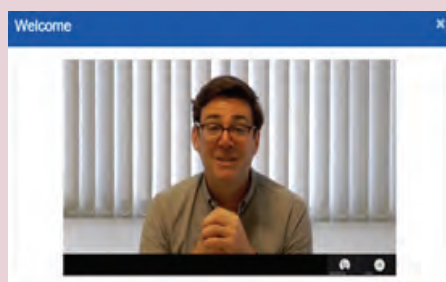
Employer Speed Dating Event – Year 8

On 26th March we ran an Employer Speed Dating event whereby learners in Year 8 were able to meet virtually with a range of employers, including the police, the RAF and local companies such as Code Computer Love based in Manchester. Learners listened to a presentation from each employer about how they got into their career and what a typical day in their job looks like. Learners were also able to ask questions and to then reflect on the career that most interested them. Feedback from our learners was really positive: Arona in Year 8 commented, "I enjoyed hearing about what the different jobs were like and I'm now considering the RAF or the police in my future."

Futures Event – Year 10

On 21st April our Year 10 learners started the process of planning their Life after Longdendale. Learners participated in two workshops delivered in school and then attended Skills NorthWest as a virtual event.

The first workshop prompted learners to think about their post 16 options. Local colleges and apprenticeship providers sent us videos, information and even some freebies to share with the learners. During the workshop, learners explored the various options and began thinking about their preferred option. This will give them a starting point when they have their individual appointment with our careers advisor in the next few months. The second workshop enabled learners to consider post 18 options, including the possibility of going to university and potential future careers. Learners were informed of the current top five employment sectors in Greater Manchester and considered which roles within these sectors they could be interested in.



Skills NorthWest then provided learners with the opportunity to connect virtually with colleges, apprenticeship providers and companies across the NorthWest. Learners were welcomed to the event by mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, and could then visit booths to chat with representatives from the various companies and go to the virtual auditorium for pre-planned sessions about a variety of topics.



Maggie in Year 10 commented: "The day was beneficial. I particularly enjoyed looking at the different colleges, seeing their facilities and hearing from their students about college life."

Options Event – Year 9



On Friday 23rd April we launched the options process with Year 9. Learners were provided with their Options Booklet and were informed about the process of and how to make the right choices around their option subjects. Learners were also able to watch taster videos that had been prepared by our staff and to then go into an ICT suite to do some research into their post 16 options and potential future careers. This event was followed by a presentation to parents and an individual appointment with a senior

member of staff for further advice and guidance. Our Year 9 learners showed great enthusiasm for choosing their options: Josh said, "I got all the information I needed so making a decision about my options was easier than I expected."

Quality in Careers Standard



Having been re-accredited with the Quality in Careers Standard in December 2019, we recently had the annual review as part of the ongoing assessment of careers provision at

Longdendale. We are pleased to announce that we passed the review and that Longdendale "continues to meet the requirements of the standard" (Annual Review Report – April 2021). This award recognizes that the school meets the Gatsby Benchmark requirements including supporting individual learners with their future choices, providing them with the opportunities to meet with a range of employers and giving them the chance to explore further and higher education options.

Extra-Curricular Activities



All the clubs have been a huge success and it has been great to see lots of learners getting involved. The KS3 Rounders clubs have proved popular and a number of learners are playing rounders for the first time.

Star learner goes to Leah W; Miss English was impressed with her own fantastic rounders game in which she coached the group. Star learner for Table Tennis goes to Emily C who has great motivation and always gets involved. Star learner for Year 8

Trampolining goes to Olivia D who has shown great improvement.

Huge well done to the year 11 GCSE PE learners who recently took part in their Football and Basketball moderations. Mr Paradiuk and Mr Boardman were really impressed by the excellent team spirit and effort.

The sign-up sheets are on the OPC office door. Please ask a member of the PE team if you have any questions.

Monday- Year 7 Rounders. Year 11 GCSE PE

Tuesday- Year 8 Rounders. Year 11 GCSE PE

Wednesday- Year 7 Table Tennis

Thursday- Year 7 Athletics. Year 8 Trampolining. Year 11 BTEC Dance intervention

Student Leadership

We have had lots of exciting things launch for our learners and Student Leaders over the last half term.



Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors recently took part in some training delivered by the Diana Award. The learners explored different types of bullying and how social media has had a big impact on the role of Anti-Bullying Ambassadors in school. The learners each came up with an idea for a project, we will be picking a few of these projects to launch next half term. These projects will go towards the learners earning Anti-Bullying Ambassador badges from the Diana Award.

This half term has also seen the launch of our Debate Club. This is a fantastic enrichment opportunity being delivered by Unloc, a company we are working with who specialise in courses to enhance learners skills outside of the day to day curriculum. We are excited to see our learners grow in confidence in debating their ideas and public speaking.

Finally we are currently in the process of selecting our New Head Boy and Head Girl. All our candidates have written applications which outline their vision for the role and had to undergo an interview in recent weeks. Well done to all the candidates applying for this very important role! Announcements about the successful candidates will be made soon.

The Brilliant Club



**The
Brilliant
Club**

In the summer term, 12 of our students took part in a virtual launch trip to enrol onto The Brilliant Club. The Brilliant Club is an award-winning charity that exists to widen access to highly-selective universities for students from underrepresented groups. Enrolment onto The Brilliant Club entitles our students to six university style lectures or seminars, based on cutting edge science in exciting new fields, delivered

by current PhD researchers at Universities here in the North West. The overall aim of The Brilliant Club is to inspire, enthuse and ignite a deep and lasting passion for learning and studying at higher levels. We are sure our students will complete The Brilliant Club with the knowledge, skills and ambition that drives them to secure places at highly-selective universities.

The virtual launch was a fantastic day for our students, where they exemplified professionalism, endeavour and integrity and in doing so, made all at Longdendale High School extremely proud on the day. The students took part in a University seminar, virtual tour of a university campus and halls of residence, and were introduced to the world of further education. Watch this space for a further update after our students have completed The Brilliant Club and have attended their celebration event at another world-leading university in the final half-term.

Longdendale Library Newsletter

World Book Day Competiton



The LRC Launched the 'If I were an Author' competition for World Book Day 2021 in March. Students loved taking part in this and created some fantastic stories and book ideas. All students that entered received a biscuit treat and certificate for their fantastic efforts.

Congratulations to: Bentley 7S Winning the WBD 'If I were an Author Competition'

Welcome Back!

Library Sessions: The LHS Library team were so happy to welcome back students into the LRC. The library had to close due to Covid regulations. This was really hard for many of our students who love spending time in the library and borrowing our wonderful collection of books. When learners returned after the Easter holidays the Library was able to open to each Year group. All Tutor groups have now been invited to the Library to choose a book of their choice. It has been amazing seeing students get so excited over our new book collections.

Fantastic Book Reviews

The LHS Library has received some fantastic reviews from Lottie 8E, James 9P and Preston 9P.

Leaving book reviews via the LHS Library System on the school website allows other students to know what book you are enjoying! There are rewards for the best reviews!

New Stock



The LHS Library has added to our growing collection over the past few months. We have some amazing new authors and titles that students from all reading abilities can enjoy. Our new collection of super readable Barrington Stoke books are flying off the shelves. We have also extended our very diverse, non-fiction range that includes: Mental Health and Wellbeing, Teen problems, Religion & Spirituality, Health, Fitness & Dieting, Politics & Social Sciences, Cook Books, Relationships and Gender. Our graphic novel collection is also getting increasing popular with our students. The LHS library has big plans from September for the students who love the graphic novels. Watch this space!... Please see our website for all updates on new events happening in the LRC.



Empathy Action Project



At the end of February, whilst in lockdown, students across the school engaged in their Life Skills drop-down lesson, which introduced them to **Empathy Week** and the theme for 2021 of '**Resilience and Diversity**'.

Empathy Week is a platform for young people to turn empathy into action. Students engage with a journey of cinematic real life stories before taking part in a global 'Empathy Action Project' where they begin to shape a more empathic world and develop the #EmpathyGeneration.

The ethos behind Empathy Week is to join young people all over the world and mould them into resilient, conscious and empathetic leaders, so they can transform their world tomorrow.

At Longdendale High School, students were introduced to the 4-step model of how to build their Empathy Action Projects:

DISCOVER

The first stage involves identifying a challenge in their area - making sure they're aiming to fix something that is actually broken!

DEFINE

Spelling out the specific problem - e.g. recycling of plastic bottles in school (not - climate change which is too broad)

DEVELOP

Get creative! Students develop their ideas, test them and refine. This is now about doing things right!

DELIVER

Time to put your solution out to the world - maybe it is a new app, a new technology or even just a bake sale fundraiser. It is time to deliver!



On Friday 23rd April, fifteen LHS students presented their research, ideas and the impact of their Empathy Action Projects to a panel in school. Congratulations to Ellie-Mae S; Helen B; Erin S; Lilly M; Heidi F; Isobel B; Mia S; Jamie-Leigh B; Aimee H; Bethany T; Emmie O; Lena P; Nikola M; Lottie C and Emily G for their entries.



The calibre of presentations and dedication to independent work was fantastic and resulted in some challenging decisions. A special mention must go to Bethany T for her depth of research and to Emmie O for her creativity.

We are delighted to announce that our three winners: Lena P & Nikola M; Lottie C and Emily G have had their outstanding projects submitted to the global Empathy Action Awards competition and if shortlisted, will attend the virtual celebration in June 2021.

Lit in Colour



The English team at Longdendale are thrilled to have been selected as one of only 100 schools across the country to act as **Lit in Colour Pioneers**. Run by **Penguin Books** and our exam board, **Pearson Edexcel**, the programme aims to ensure that students across the UK are given access to books by Black, Asian and minority ethnic writers and those from a range of backgrounds, to ensure a better reflection of contemporary culture and society, and to provide students with both experiences beyond their own and experiences that may resonate with them.

In application for the programme, Mrs Baxter-Smallwood spoke about some of the incredible work LHS learners have completed celebrating diversity, as well as the fantastic empathy and understanding our learners show when we explore challenging topics in English. It's with enormous thanks to every one of you who engages so well with issues surrounding race, culture and identity in English that we have been chosen to take part in and represent such an important cause.

As well as receiving copies of **new texts to be taught in class**, we will also receive **a donation to the school library of 300 Penguin books by Black, Asian and minority ethnic writers designed for all age groups**. Look out for updates in Mrs Emery's reading newsletter for when these books will become available for you to start reading them!

As well as this, the *Lit in Colour* programme offers pioneer schools a unique opportunity for learners to take part in a **Student Ambassador Programme**. Anyone with an interest in student leadership, promoting and celebrating diversity and, of course, a love of literature, look out for updates as and when we find out more!



For achievement points, tweet us **@LHSTeamEnglish** with recommendations of your favourite books that celebrate diversity and inclusivity!

