



Longdendale

HIGH SCHOOL

# OCTOBER 2021 NEWSLETTER



## HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

Welcome to the first edition of the newsletter for this academic year. 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 to the Longdendale High School community. 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 fantastic to see our students return to school looking so smart in their school uniform, and this professionalism has been reflected in their work around school in these early weeks, which has been very impressive indeed. All of our current year groups are in a fantastic position and well placed to continue to make great progress and achieve.

We are extremely proud of the achievements this summer of our Class of 2021 students, particularly given the challenges and disruption they have faced over the past 18 months. Students and staff alike have met the challenges with real resilience and hard work. I am proud to work alongside a team of such highly skilled and committed staff, who work hard to ensure the success of all of our students.

We are also delighted to welcome the following new members of staff to the Longdendale team: Miss Detheridge (Pastoral Support Worker for Years 10 and 11); Mr Emanuel (Teacher of Music); Miss Hamilton (Pastoral Support Worker for Years 8 and 9); Miss Haymes (Catering Assistant); Miss Nicholson (Food Technology and Art Technician); and Miss Winkler (Teacher of RE).

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. We are extremely proud that our students have been awarded over 21,000 achievement points in the first 3 weeks of term in recognition of their outstanding effort in lessons and their contributions to the wider school community. We are delighted with the exemplary attitudes to learning and behaviour that our students are demonstrating on a daily basis as they engage with their learning opportunities in a calm and purposeful way. To keep up to date with the latest news and events in school, please follow our twitter page on @LHS\_HighSchool and our facebook page on /LongdendaleHigh

Please enjoy reading the rest of this newsletter – particularly the range of enrichment activities the students took part in at the end of the summer term, and the opportunities they've already had since the return to school in September. As always, our students continue to be great ambassadors for our school and I am certain their experiences have helped them to develop new friendships, skills and interests.

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.

Mrs Andrea Jones  
Headteacher



@LHS\_HighSchool



/LongdendaleHigh

# EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME



On behalf of the staff and students at Longdendale High School (Stamford Park Trust) I would like to extend a warm welcome to our school.

We are delighted when families from the local community we serve choose to send their children to us.

Many students who join us in year 7 will have already experienced life at Longdendale, through our fabulous Primary transition programme.

Expectations of our students are high from the moment they arrive with us. We take pride in getting to know our students and their families, working in partnership to get the best possible academic results for our children, whilst providing them with a wealth of enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities.

Belonging to a Trust of schools affords our students even greater advantage, through shared staff expertise and the opportunity to compete in sporting and extra-curricular activities. We have developed an exciting Aspiration and Enrichment programme, working in partnership with Ashton Sixth Form College; by working together as a group of schools, the students and staff across Stamford Park Trust have increased opportunities to develop and thrive.

There is a clear focus at Longdendale on the importance of academic studies, which includes a particular focus on literacy and numeracy skills and developing independent learners. Our expert teachers consistently provide opportunities for students to develop their minds and encourage their curiosity in the classroom. We are passionate about academic success and want our students to develop a passion for the subjects they learn. Teachers are experts in their subjects, passionate and knowledgeable about how to get the most out of their students. It is also important that students have the opportunity to develop their talents and interests. We live in an incredibly culturally rich world and want our students to experience this richness. They can do so by learning a foreign language, learning to play an instrument, acting in the school production, debating or putting on a dance showcase. Pursuing interests and hobbies with other likeminded students and expressing their individuality is what gives our students the confidence to stride out into the world and make a difference.

Longdendale High School benefits from a very successful sports programme which includes football, rugby, handball, basketball, tennis, badminton, table tennis, rounders, softball, athletics and cricket amongst others. They have access to Astley Sports Village; Aston Sixth Form sporting facilities and the Trust is a partnership school with Manchester City Football Club.

We are proud of the purposeful and inspiring learning environment in which we have created for our students. As the Executive Principal, I am determined that this school, our staff and students continue to make a positive difference to the local community. It's an exciting time to be part of our school and Stamford Park Trust. I look forward to welcoming you to Longdendale High School and working together to ensure we are a beacon of inspiration and success for our students and our community.

Melanie Wicks  
**Executive Principal**

# MEET OUR HEAD BOY & HEAD GIRL



Who are we? We are both in year 11. We have both been actively involved in pretty much all the applicable student leadership opportunities in school. We both are involved in a vast variety of super curricular and extracurricular activities, for example in both STEM and the Performing Arts. We are both academically minded, and keen to get the best grades possible out of our GCSEs and beyond.

We have been student leaders from the outset in year 7, in roles ranging from anti-bullying ambassadors to English and performing arts leaders. This has afforded us links across the school and community and allowed us to give others the opportunities that we have had, for example the school productions. We have also been selected to represent the school in international events, for example with the developers of Snapchat, and many other opportunities besides.

We will both do our utmost to ensure that everyone can make the progress they need to. We will, in essence, be a voice that the students can comfortably come to, and the teachers trust. The students can express their voice through the School Council which we run each week.

The purpose of the School Council is to listen and work in harmony with both students and staff. That's why we have such a wide variety of student leadership opportunities, creating an organised system that promotes both individualism and creativity with collaboration to create the best result. We always encourage all learners to take these opportunities, to take some responsibility.

The school represents the accumulation of community and students, the sum of its constituent parts. We succeed together, we thrive together. That is why we are proud to represent the school; by doing so we represent a fantastic community.

Our job as a school is not just to make sure you have the best numbers possible handed to you on a sheet of paper after your final exams; our job is also to ensure that you grow as a person, in what is probably the most important yet difficult period of your life. The best way to facilitate this, to grow as a person, is to get involved. Whether it be student leadership or clubs, super curriculars or charity work, you will progress, you will become a more well-rounded individual.

Louis and Grace  
**Head Boy and Head Girl**

# STUDENT LEADERSHIP



Our new Student Leadership team has made a strong start to the 2021/22 academic year. Lots of students have started their new roles including our new head boy and head girl and the new Senior Student Leadership team. They had already made lots of contributions before Summer but have been able to really start their roles now the new academic year has begun. The students have lots of fantastic ideas and events to come which I am sure will be advertised on social media and in our upcoming newsletter. The Senior Student leaders will support in the running of an effective School Council and ensuring all students have their voices heard. Our head boy and head girl will have weekly meetings with Headteacher Mrs Jones to raise any issues highlighted at School Council.

We are looking forward to seeing all the fantastic things they have in store for us this year!



Our transition leaders did a great job of supporting our new Year 7s on their transition day. The Year 7s got to meet their form tutors and have a taster of some of the subjects they would be doing this year. The transition leaders rotated around these lessons, helping out in areas such as Art and Food Tech. Our transition leaders are a friendly face around school for the new Year 7s to be able to ask for any help or guidance. Although not all of them could join us on the day, they continue to support the Year 7s with their transition.

Finally, we have a new role within our Student Leadership structure this year Mental Health and Well Being Ambassadors. These students will help to ensure as a school we have activities and systems in place to support positive mental well-being. These students will run regular student voices to gauge which areas the students feel they need more support with. We are really excited about this new role and have already had lots of applications!

# ANTI-BULLYING LEADERS



Last year we created a strong team of Anti-Bullying Ambassadors. This year we intend to continue to grow that team. Applications have already been coming in as students have seen what an impact these Ambassadors have had around school and want to get involved. Working alongside our Mental Health and Wellbeing Ambassadors these student leaders will work to ensure all students in our community enjoy their time at Longdendale and always feel they have someone to go to if there is a problem. The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors will continue to take part in the Diana Award, a nationally recognised Anti-Bullying training programme. This has been an invaluable opportunity for the learners and one which we hope to continue. The projects the students do linking to

this will gain them badges and awards from the The Diana Award.

# RESULTS DAY 2021



Our class of 2021 received their GCSE results on Thursday 12th August. We are very proud of all of the efforts of our class of 2021, who maintained a fantastic level of focus and determination through all of the challenges and alterations to learning and assessments they experienced through both their Year 10 and Year 11. Students were assessed through exam based assessments using exam board papers, mark schemes and grade boundaries. The results achieved by our students reflect their determination and hard work. This year group will be greatly missed in school and we wish them well for the amazing futures we are sure they have ahead of them.

## COMIC BOOK CLUB



The Longdendale Library launched their Comic Book Club on Tuesday 21st September. Students had the opportunity to meet Dan Whitehead, who was invited as our special guest at the event. Dan Whitehead is a Comic Book writer from the North West. All students received a signed copy of Dan's latest Comic Book. They were thrilled to be given this and also had so much fun meeting staff superheroes who supported the promotion of the event. Comic Book club will take place in the LRC every Tuesday break time. Students must register to join this club with a member of the LHS Library staff.



Remember, "There is a superhero in all of us, we just need the courage to put on the cape."  
- Superman

Comic Book Club  
every Tuesday  
in the LRC  
Sign up now!

# ISABELLE COMPETES AT BWC



Isabelle in Year 8 competed at the British Weightlifting Championships in February 2021, Isabelle managed to snatch 24kg and clean and jerked 32kg for competition bests weighing in at only 39kg bodyweight. Isabelle's fantastic efforts saw her walk away with a first-place medal.

Fantastic achievement Isabelle.



## INDUCTION AND TRANSITION



We would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new families who have joined the Longdendale community with the class of 2026. Over 115 of our new cohort were able to join us for summer school between August 9th and 13th. They participated in numerous different activities such as poetry, art, climbing, escape rooms, music and dance. By the end of the week they were awarded for their resilience, engagement, effort and achievements. The experience allowed them to feel part of our community and generate a buzz of excitement for the new term.

The class of 2026 joined us officially on the 3rd September 2021. The Year 7 students had the school to themselves for the day and had their first opportunity to familiarise themselves with the building. They 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 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 the students participated in 'taster' lessons, in subjects such as drama, art, music, cooking, science and languages, culminating in a full year group celebration assembly at the end of the day, delivered by Mr Hulley, the Head of Year. Each student was individually called up to the front and presented with their Longdendale tie, thus welcoming them officially to the Longdendale family.

Despite a challenging end to their primary school education due to Covid, all of the cohort have demonstrated fantastic resilience and engagement. We are proud at the way they have so quickly settled in to life at Longdendale. All those understandable first day nerves are quickly diminishing. The corridors are full of excited voices and smiley faces.



"I am delighted to welcome our Class of 2026 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".

- Mrs Jones, Head teacher

# REWARDS



It was great to present so many Year 7 students with their Bronze Reading Awards this week. Students had read the gifted book *Hatchet* which we gave out at Summer School, completed activities and wrote a review of it. We have more to hand out next week as well. It's lovely to see how enthusiastic they are about reading.

# SORA



Year 7s also logged onto Sora, our online reading platform and were shown how to check out books and explore the library. You can now find a collection made specifically for our Year 7 students in the digital library. Sora is designed to complement our physical library, of which all Year 7s have now visited and been encourage to take out a book.

If students read for 20 hours on Sora they will receive their Bronze Award, 100 hours Silver and 200 hours their Gold. Students can also receive these awards for reading physical books and must provide 1 book review for a Bronze, 5 for a silver, and 3 for a gold. Audiobook reviews are also acceptable. More information will be given to parents about our Reading Reward System this week.

# VOCABULARY



Across school this term teachers are focusing on explicit vocabulary teaching, and retrieval practice. Students will learn about the etymology and morphology of words in different subject areas, along with meanings of common prefixes and suffixes. They will also be exposed to synonyms and antonyms, to widen their word banks and make links between words in different subject areas. We want our students to become 'word conscious' in order to expand their verbal and written vocabulary. Research from the National Literacy Trust shows that developing vocabulary can significantly improve results and outcomes for young people.

# FESTIVAL OF LANGUAGES



On Thursday 23rd September, Longdendale celebrated the European Day of Languages! All week Miss Rogers delivered an assembly to students about the importance of learning languages and how languages can be beneficial in life. She shared some of her own experiences and also some google translate fails! In lessons, students were answering to the registers in a number of foreign languages and also completed a range of exciting learning activities in lots of their lessons in either French or Spanish. Staff also took the opportunity to dress up as someone famous who speaks another language to spark conversations about different languages. It was a fantastic day and it was brilliant to see such enthusiasm about foreign languages from both students and staff!

# YEAR 10 VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE



As part of their enrichment provision at the end of last year, our Year 10 students had the opportunity to complete a virtual work experience with real employers over a week-long period. Students were provided with a schedule of meetings and workshops in which they interacted with the employers they were working with.

Students had to take responsibility for checking the daily agenda sent out each morning to ensure they attended their meetings and workshops. These were delivered by employers from a range of career sectors, from the BBC to Barclay's Bank, and covered a broad spectrum of topics, including the place of technology in the working world, how to deliver exceptional customer service and what a typical day is like in high pressure jobs such as journalism and medicine – to name just a few! Students even had the opportunity to connect with global employers such as architectural company in Boston, USA.

As well as learning about important aspects of the world of work, students could also attend sessions to hone their skills linked to gaining employment. Former Apprentice finalist, Adam Corbally, delivered a workshop on interview skills and Rob Dawson, a football reporter for ESPN, advised students on how to get into highly competitive career pathways. There were a range of workshops students could choose from each day.



The third strand to the virtual work experience was the Project-Brief, whereby students could choose a project to work on throughout the week and then submit to an employer for some feedback. There were seven projects for students to choose from, depending on their ideas, talents and interests. Some students chose to develop fundraising ideas for MacMillan Cancer Support, while others chose to work with a company called 'My Community', looking at how green spaces can be protected in their local community. All students that submitted their project received a certificate at the end of the week in recognition of their hard work. Well done to all students who successfully completed the programme.

# YEAR 11 SCRIPTED



In May 2021, only a few weeks before their Longdendale journey ended, the GCSE Drama Class of 2021 performed scripted monologue pieces to a live audience of their teachers and school community. The students chose a range of text from contemporary drama, Shakespeare's Macbeth to Antigone which is a challenging piece of Greek theatre. Due to restrictions, the students performed solo pieces which added extra pressure onto their performances. It was clear to all that each student thrived under this pressure and produced a fantastic performance to end their GCSE Drama journey. The professionalism, dedication and talent were evident in each performance, and they have set the bar for the classes who follow in their footsteps in years to come.

This year 100% of the cohort achieved at least a pass which is a true testament to the commitment and hard work of such a fantastic cohort of students, despite the challenges and wearing masks whilst rehearsing.

# YEAR 11 DEVISED SHOWCASE



In November 2020, our GCSE Drama Class of 2021 performed their Devised pieces of theatre in front of their teachers and school community. The students had been developing these for many months prior and worked tirelessly in lesson, at home and in their free time to ensure they put on a fantastic performance, which they did! Those who were lucky enough to see the showcase commented how professional and fantastic each groups performance was and they certainly did myself and themselves proud.

# ENRICHMENT WEEK



It was a delight to host a fulfilling and enriching programme for all our Longdendale Students during the very last week of the summer term. After a lengthy time of virtual events and creatively rethinking enrichment activities, the opportunity to get out and about with peers, discover our talents and build new friendships was much appreciated by all.

From pirate challenge days for Year 7, to exploring public services in Year 9 (where Mountain Rescue 'popped out' for a real-life rescue!); students also had a World Class Citizenship Day where immigration, youth justice and human rights were explored. We were blown away by the creativity of the students who took part in a national time capsule competition, offered by Place2Be and Oak Academy.

The icing on the cake for many was the chance to take part in a long-awaited reward trip. A fantastic way to say thank you to all students who have worked tirelessly and in challenging circumstances in a very unusual and unforgettable academic year. Memories to last a lifetime!



# ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME



At Longdendale High School we strongly believe that enrichment gives students opportunities to try new and varied activities that may not strictly fit into the curriculum, but that develop talents and interests, character, resilience, motivation, and encourage them to pursue wider goals.

Alongside helping to teach life skills, enrichment can develop an appreciation for cultural and community issues, teamwork and social responsibility.

Students at Longdendale High School are invited to take part in a range of activities outside of lesson time to further enhance their educational experience. Students may complete homework and independent study as part of the wider out-of-hours provision provided.

The Club timetable for 2021-2022 is currently being finalised and will be shared on our website and with students and families in the upcoming weeks. Offers will include Duke of Edinburgh Award, The Junior Award Scheme for Schools (JASS), a range of sports and creative clubs as well as those linked to curriculum areas. Watch this space!

# SPORTS DAY 2021



After the restrictions of previous months, it was fantastic to see year group bubbles come together at the end of the summer term in July to celebrate 3 days of sporting events.

The PE department's vision was to build a positive attitude to Sports Day with a diverse range of activities, accessible to all and to further embed the Inter Tutor Year Group Competition improving team moral with skills that will build on the foundations for an active lifestyle.



Students took parts in football, tchoukball, rounders and dodgeball during the morning sessions alongside the traditional athletic field events of long jump, triple jump and shot, the afternoon culminated in the 100m, 200m, 400m and 4x 100m relay track finals.

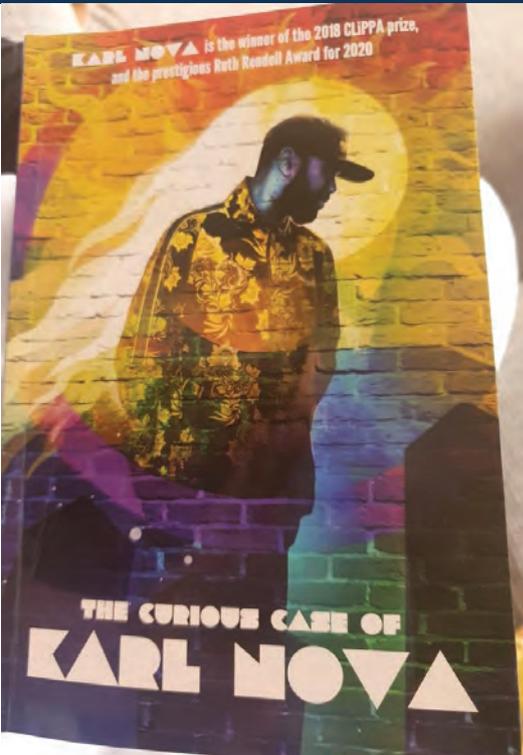
In glorious weather and to the atmospheric chants of "Sweet Caroline" the winning year tutor groups were announced as follows- 7A, 8P, 9P. Well done all involved.

# NATIONAL FITNESS DAY



Year 7 students at Longdendale were put through their paces with a Hit Cardio session as part of National Fitness Day on 22nd September by Mark Storie from Astley Sports Village. The students participated with real enthusiasm and energy, and Mark was impressed with their fantastic efforts. It's great to see so many of them attending the range of after school sports clubs on offer, and the PE team are looking forward to a successful sporting year for Longdendale.

# ENRICHMENT & ASPIRATIONS DAY



Due to the success of our Summer School, we are delighted to be welcoming back Karl Nova. Karl is a Hip Hop artist, author and poet. He is the winner of CLIPPA 2018 for Rhythm and Poetry, his first published collection. Born and raised in London as well as Lagos, Karl is a social commentator, creative writing workshop facilitator, broadcaster and cultural critic who creates platforms for other artists as he seeks to uplift, inform and inspire through this artistic expression. Karl will perform for our students, then support workshops where they will work in groups to learn about the history of the genre, then create and produce their own rap songs. Karl will award signed copies of his new book 'The Curious Case of Karl Nova' to lots of our lucky students.



# Summer School

During the summer holiday period, we were delighted to welcome 120 of our new Year 7s into Longdendale for our Summer School. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to get to know each other and the students took part in a range of exciting opportunities designed to support their literacy and numeracy, as well as developing a range of skills to support their future success at Longdendale and to make lots of new friends. We were so proud of how well the students engaged with the activities, and it was fantastic that we were joined by so many parents and carers at the end of the week to celebrate all of their achievements. We're looking forward to the five year journey with this amazing group of students.

## Literacy Survival Day



- Climbing wall
- Silhouette art
- Reading



On Monday students participated in a variety of activities, inspired by the book 'Hatchet' by Gary Paulsen. With its focus on survival and adventure, students showed bravery and resilience, as they took on the climbing wall and then developed their cultural capital learning about the scale of Canadian forests, and the wildlife within them. Next, they produced some silhouette paintings of the forests in the sunset. Then, inspired by images, the students produced some imaginative writing and finally worked on inference skills when reading the opening chapters of the book. All students got to take home a copy of the book Hatchet to read over the summer.

## Maths Escape Room

Teamwork was crucial in the Escape Room challenge as students had to work together, pooling their mathematical knowledge to answer a series of clues. The answer to the problem gave a number to unlock a new padlock. Each padlock released part of a clue making up the final challenge, where the answer unlocked the highly sought-after treasure... CHOCOLATE!



We had a busy day turning our Calculator Novices into Calculator Gurus in the Maths session. Each student had a scientific calculator to study. The first obstacle was finding out how to take the lid off! From then on, there was no stopping them, discovering new functions and how they worked. I was most impressed with how students helped each other, showing the true Longdendale spirit!

# 9<sup>th</sup> August – 20<sup>th</sup> August

## Sports

Students had the opportunity to get their blood pumping when they took part in a variety of sports during Summer School. They were able to have a go at boxing, learning new techniques and skills. Within the sports hall, a large circuit was set up with different exercises, such as sit-ups and skipping. Alongside this, students particularly enjoyed playing games such as dodgeball and rounders. Although the students were tired by the end, they had lots of fun and each went home with a new skill.

- Boxing
- Circuit training
- Games



## The Longdendale Diamond Heist



- CSI Investigation
- Critical thinking skills
- Practical experimentation

During Summer School, science ran a CSI 'whodunnit' day where students had to use various scientific techniques to identify which teacher stole the diamonds from the school safe! Students first showed off their practical skills by flame testing metal residue found on the suspects clothing. They then improved their technical skills by carrying out chromatography. They were able to interpret the results to identify which suspects pen was used to forge counterfeit cheques left behind by the thief. Finally, they compared the suspects fingerprints to those found on the safe. Over the course of the investigation all students became more familiar with lab safety and equipment, as well as testing their critical thinking skills by playing the role of detective.

# Summer School

## Year 7 and Year 8

During summer school, the students had the opportunity to explore the surrounding area of the school to understand the diversity of the area. Students participated in a range of activities throughout the session, beginning with reading a short story following the life cycle of a tree. Student then took part in a bug hunt around the school grounds whilst collecting materials found in nature such as; twigs, sticks, leaves, shells and feathers. Students creatively used these materials with very limited man-made materials, (wire and string) to design and make a hanging mobile. Students also had the opportunity to practice their observational drawing skills of a leaf. It was fascinating to see the students excel and express their creativity through their final pieces.



## Mandala Art



- Mono-printing
- Pattern
- Symmetry

Students were able to combine their maths skills with their creativity when participating in the mandala art session. Using the technique of mono-printing, which was a completely new process for many of the students, they created intricate designs in black block ink. Not only did this strengthen the students' art knowledge of pattern and shape, but it also allowed the opportunity to develop key mathematical concepts such as symmetry, proportion and repetition.

# 9<sup>th</sup> August – 20<sup>th</sup> August

## Urban Street

On Wednesday students took part in a hip-hop themed day, beginning with a performance by Karl Nova. Karl is a successful poet and hip-hop star, who performed his work and told his life story for our students. They then learned about the history of the genre, and produced their own work with Mr Marsh. Karl judged winning performances, and awarded copies of his book *Rhythm and Poetry*. Keeping with the theme, in Art they learned about the graffiti artist Banksy, and produced their own graffiti artwork using spray paints. Finally, they took part in a dance workshop with Victoria from Lane's Dance Academy. Here they learned a dance routine for Bruno Mars' song *Uptown Funk*. An energetic and tiring day for all!



- Graffiti Art

- Dance

- Poetry

## School of Rock

To end the week with a bang, students spent the morning in the music in specialist rooms playing and experimenting with different instruments. For some students this was the first time picking up an instrument and for others, it was enhancing their skills further, learning something more complex. Students worked together collaboratively rehearsing a song of their choice. Students excelled within their groups and successfully performed their pieces to an audience of staff and parents/carers during the showcase assembly. This was a fantastic way to end a very successful Summer School. Thank you to all the students who took part and for their engagement and enthusiasm throughout the week.



- Playing instruments
- Rehearsing in groups
- Performing as a class

