

Welcome to our Spring newsletter!

May 2022



Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to the Spring Term edition of our newsletter. 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. The activities and events they have been involved in over the past term alongside members of the local community have been particularly impressive, and our students have been demonstrating a real commitment to raising money to support a range of local and national charitable causes. They continue to make us all proud on a daily basis. Our team of highly committed student leaders have been at the forefront of many of these activities, and they are fantastic role models for the younger year groups, and really do make a difference to life in school.

Our students have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of enrichment activities across subjects and more widely across school, and it is fantastic to see so many of them developing new skills and interests whilst taking part in such enjoyable and rewarding experiences. After such a long absence of such opportunities, it has been lovely to welcome families back into school to watch music performances, dance shows and drama productions, as well as a range of sporting activities. We are all looking forward to our whole school production of 'High School Musical' next term.

As I write this, our Year 11 students are coming to the end of their time at Longdendale. They have impressed us so much with their resilience, maturity and professionalism throughout what has been an incredibly difficult and unprecedented last two years of their education with us. We are confident all their efforts will be rewarded and we wish them all every success over the coming months as they prepare to sit their final exams and move on to the next stage in their journey. Alongside this, we are really excited to welcome our new Year 7 students and their families as they embark on the start of their Longdendale journey, and we're looking forward to meeting them all very soon.

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.

Andrea Jones, Headteacher



@LHS_HighSchool



/LongdendaleHigh

Attendance



There have been challenging times lately in many areas of life and we are pleased to say that the school is well on its way into addressing the issues that Covid presented us and that our efforts to address the challenges are progressing well.

Many students and their families were learning and working from home and we know that some parents and carers still are. These changes have made it difficult for some to get back into the routine that we all had before Covid and this has impacted on every school's attendance.

The quality of a child's education is a significant factor when they look to their future career options, the best place for the vast majority of all children is in an educational setting learning from skilled and trained professionals. The evidence is clear; the more learning a child misses, the less chance they have of achieving their potential. We work hard to support our students with their challenges and we only resort to enforcement as a last option. This approach is working for the school. Whilst our current whole school attendance is still not at the level we enjoyed two years ago, at 90.1% it is above the national average for secondary schools. There is more work to be done in order to reach the school's target. To further improve attendance the Trust has employed an Education Welfare Officer to work across both Trust secondary schools. Mr Dooley will be working with families who have children whose attendance is of concern and will seek to find solutions to the reasons for not attending regularly or being frequently late.

Thank you for doing all you can to ensure your child receives a full education, their attendance really matters. Please ensure that your child attends school, on time, every day that they possibly can. Please don't request holiday absences during term time and do take a look at Class Charts to help you understand your child's attendance. Please contact your child's Head of Year if you need any support in this area.

City Inspires Cohort



You will remember from previous newsletters that we have been working with Manchester City's education charity called 'City Inspires'. Manchester City's 'City in the Community' charity has been operating since 1986 and have a long history of engaging with their wider community.

The Year 10 cohort started their fortnightly sessions in September and will continue the course until the end of Year 10.

They are very close to completing the ASDAN qualification as part of the programme, which is fantastic recognition of the range of skills they are developing through their participation.

It was with some sadness that the Year 8 cohort came to a scheduled end in February. Their engagement with the programme was excellent and, when they're asked, they say how much it's helped them to understand their place in the world and why working together is so important. The ending of the Year 8 has allowed the Year 9 group to start. They have only attended two sessions so far and their attitude and engagement has been exemplary. The Year 9 group will run until the end of the school year and we look forward to updating you on their progress then.

During the last week of term, the students involved in the programme will be taking part in the Blue Run. This is an offshoot from the main Blue Run event that took place on 26 March 2022 and raises money for the charity's mental health work across Manchester. All the participants will receive a medal and runner's t-shirt.



CEIAG (Careers, Education, Information and Guidance)



In the lead up to selecting their options for GCSE, Year 9 had a focus on careers in their PSHE lessons, so they could consider key employability skills. They also used Xello to investigate employer career matches, based on their latest interests and skills. Students had the chance to exercise self-advocacy by making choices and important decisions leading up to the selection of options. They learnt how to understand their CEIAG needs and to know what kind of support might help them for careers. All parents/carers and students in Year 9 were given an Information and Guidance Appointment for individualised careers advice as part of the process and we are delighted to say that all options choices have been successfully submitted, ready for processing! During National Careers Week 2022 students had the pleasure of meeting Lee Mason from Stately Strategic Recruitment Group, who held sessions on "Aspirations and Mentality" with clear messages on how to choose

your path, define your future, reach your potential.

A group of Year 10 students had the chance to engage in a careers webinar led by FTI Consulting's Corporate Citizenship Team. Students were informed about a career in corporate social responsibility – working with charities through volunteering, fundraising and providing pro-bono expert advice, as well as an introduction to the role and career pathways. We were also really pleased to have been able to host a GM Higher virtual workshop in the Spring Term for some of our Year 10s on the topic of 'Not Going to Uni' as part of National Apprenticeship Week.

Dates for your diary!

Upcoming events for the summer term will include:

- The introduction of Xello to Year 7 to get them thinking about their personality, career choices and careers of interest.
- CEIAG lessons for Year 8 as part of PSHE, where we investigate the link between school lessons and careers, learning pathways and an introduction to industry professionals.
- A Work Safari for a group of Year 9 students to Findel Education in Hyde to learn about their full process from buying and sourcing products, to them being made and then subsequently sold by Findel's selling channels. They will also receive a talk on HR and other career pathways.
- The launch of Work Experience for Year 10 for the summer term (11th-19th July). As well as opportunities to visit Manchester College and Ashton Sixth Form College for taster sessions.

We look forward to introducing students to Alex Hodgkiss as our new Enterprise Advisor, who is helping us to put a wide variety of careers opportunities at the heart of young people's education. If you are a parent or carer who would also be able to help out with our careers programme, or an ex-student of Longdendale High School who would like to be part of our alumni, please get in touch using the contact form on our school website.



@LHS_HighSchool



/LongdendaleHigh

Doing our bit for charity



World Book Day was another huge success organised by Mrs Emery. Staff really got involved and we had lots of fantastic costumes!

The Science Department used the book of elements to organise their costumes, this won them the best dressed department! Mr Brown dressed up as Dobby, out of Harry Potter, and committed to wearing the plastic feet all day!

The students enjoyed World Book Day lessons throughout their school day across all subjects, the School Council said that they really enjoyed these lessons! Thank you to all staff for getting involved and making it a brilliant day!



We also hosted a bake sale for Maggie's this half term which was organised by Rhianna in Year 10!

We managed to raise £360 pounds from this. Maggie's wrote to us to say how grateful they were for this donation and what a huge difference it will make.

They also said how grateful they were to Rhianna for her continued charity work for Maggie's.

Well done Rhianna!

In March we also had Red Nose Day. This was another fantastic charity day and raised over £100! The students took part in a Red Nose Day Quiz in tutor time and we had a KS3 and KS4 winner.

The Year 7 winner was Eva and the Year 10 winners were Grace and Ava, Congratulations!

Our biggest Charity event of the year has been the Race for Life organised by Miss Harrison and Ruby in Year 11.

This will continue into the next term so watch this space in the next Newsletter for our grand total!



A visit to the theatre



On Tuesday evening, we took a cohort of Year 8 students to see the performance of 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time' at The Manchester Opera House Theatre.

Once we arrived and were seated, the students engaged in an exciting show filled with drama, suspense and fantastic special effects.

All students represented the school spectacularly, with members of the public even commenting on how well they were behaved.

After the performance had finished, we received lots of happy responses from the students expressing how much they loved the performance.

Year 8 will now be looking forward to studying the play in English lessons. We would like to say a massive well done and thank you to staff and students who attended. We look forward to many more out of school educational experiences.

Year 8 Gateway



This term, a selected number of Year 8 students were invited to the University of Manchester to take part in a familiarisation visit along with other schools from around Manchester.

The Gateways Programme provided learners with the opportunity to find out more about Higher Education, including the range of courses available, and to develop their key skills in areas that will help to raise attainment and the probability of success in post-16 education.

The visit provided students with the opportunity to see the University campus, developed their communication and team working skills as they participated in group work with students from different schools and they met current university students who hosted a Q&A session for the students.

Our students were absolutely amazing and represented the school with such pride. They are a credit to Longdendale High School.



@LHS_HighSchool



/LongdendaleHigh

Eco club



Since September, Eco Club have been working hard to improve the impact the school has on the environment. Our aim is to reach Green Flag status and we hope to apply by the end of this academic year.

One of our first steps was to conduct a survey in order to identify the areas that need the most improvements. Therefore we selected Energy, Litter and Biodiversity.

The focus for this term has been on litter. We are especially proud of the achievements for decreasing the amount of litter across our school site.

Seb in 10A delivered a brilliant assembly on the problems of litter and how we can overcome it.

Then the eco club members set about organising a litter pick. We were delighted with the number of volunteers across the three year groups of 7, 8 and 9 who took part and who demonstrated a clear passion for improving our environment.

We were extremely lucky with the weather. It was lovely to see so many students wanting to make a difference and improve the environment around the school!



We also ran a poster competition alongside the litter pick to create further engagement and to advertise the litter pick.

It was really hard to select a winner for each year group but a massive well done to: Aoife and Lucy in 9R, Bethany in 8P and Lois in 7P.

For the final term we will be focusing on both Energy and Biodiversity.

Finally we want to give a massive shout out to the Eco Club members for their continued hard work and engagement. They are a source of inspiration for all members of our school community and we couldn't ask for a more engaged, eager and hard working group.

Thanks to: Sian 8A, Helen 8A, Olivia S 8A, Alexandra 8S, Alice 8A, Lena 8R, Madison 8A, Emily 8R and Tehillah 8A.

A particular mention must go to our Head Girl Grace, Head Boy Louis and Eco Club Ambassador Lily for their incredible input.

We are really excited to put into action some of their great ideas. We have lots of exciting things planned for the summer term and are looking forward to seeing the difference we can make to the environment of the school and our local community.



@LHS_HighSchool



/LongdendaleHigh

World maths day

World Maths day was on the 23rd March.

This is a competition held around the world on the Mathletics website. Our students competed against students from around the world to answer as many questions as possible in 60 seconds. There was a lot of excitement in lessons with students competing against each other. During the 48 hours that the competition ran, we answered 72,687 correct questions as a school!

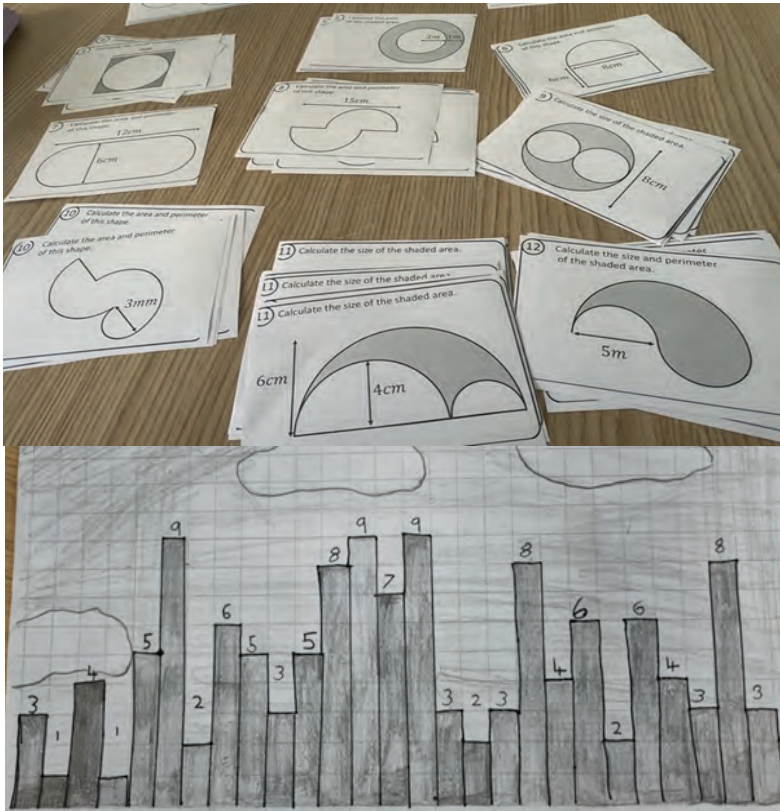
We completed 32 hours worth of maths on the website during school hours BUT 137 hours outside of school hours! We have given out lots of certificates and prizes to the students who did particularly well. The students who came top of their year groups were William M in year 7, Wiktoria in year 8 and Max W in year 9.

Certificates to the highest points totals went to Milan in year 9 with over 7000 points and Lena in Year 8 and Charlie in year 9 who both got over 5000 points. The best maths classes were 9b1 with 14,314 questions correctly answered, 8e with 9,786 and 9a1 with 9,046!

Well done Longdendale! Maybe next year we can get all the staff signed up too and see which students can beat the maths teachers?!



International Pi day



The 14th March is known as Pi day because Americans write that date as 3.14, the beginning of Pi, rather than 14.3, as we do in the UK.

On Pi day we held a school competition to see who could recall the most digits of Pi.

A few amazing students could do so, to well over 30 digits, including Sian, Marissa and Aimee! In our lessons, we reflected on the importance of Pi within circle calculations.

Year 8 took part in a relay race of circle calculations while other years considered the artistic importance of Pi.

Dance production



For the first time in two long years Longdendale's annual dance production returned with two sell out performances of Back to the Beat on the 23rd/ 24th March.

With over 140 cast members split into two separate night performance teams, the show demonstrated work from component 3 exam work from Year 11 BTEC exploring hard hitting themes such as mental health and domestic violence as well as Year 9 and 10 Component two dance skills work, which evidenced styles including Bob Fosse Jazz, musical theatre from Little Shop of Horrors and Urban dance. Key stage 3 was brilliantly represented by Year 7 dance club who performed with enthusiasm and energy and much of this was down to the hard work and commitment of dance leader Georgia and Matilda.

It was great to see a full audience capacity who gave the students such encouragement and a huge thank you to Mr Emanuel for all his support in music edits, lighting and stage technics.

PE and Dance



During the week of the 9th March we took part in the 'Let Girls Play' campaign to promote the participation of girls' football and, alongside football focused lessons, we also raised the profile of the sport with a fantastic form tutor presentation on the history of women's football by sports leader Beth as well as a girls' football match after school with Miss Harrison.



Astley Sports Village - a big thank you to Mark Storie and ASV for allowing our BTEC students to complete their fitness training programmes in the gym this term, we look forward to further using the facilities as our links within the Stamford Park trust develop.

Born and Bred Dance Company/ Stute Theatre- Emily Bronte dance literacy workshop

Year 9 had a fantastic opportunity to take part in a workshop at the end of March which focused on the life of the literacy icon Emily Bronte and was explored through contemporary dance. The group had a really mature response and dance director Olivia Peers reported " Such a fun group of young women to teach. I loved their energy and they looked brilliant performing the sequence"



The Race for Life took place during PE lessons week beginning 4th April 2022, this event was a huge success and all students participated, some even in fancy dress and received medals! Thank you so much to the PE team, Miss Woods and last but not least Ruby and friends for arranging this event. Please donate your sponsor money online, by post or by phone using the reference number on the sponsor form or return to the school main office asap! Thank you to everyone for supporting this great event and fantastic cause.



Tameside Schools Indoor Athletics Championships - Well done to the Year 8 girls' team and the year 9 girls' and boys' teams that participated in the Tameside Schools Indoor Athletics heats, the year 9 girls team got through to the finals and came 5th overall! All students performed to a high standard, whether it be running, jumping, or throwing and represented the school extremely well!

Rewards



Students across all year groups have achieved much success in the Spring Term both inside school classrooms and for their engagement with extra-curricular activities outside of school. For their hard work, outstanding effort, teamwork and outstanding commitment to the wider school community students have been amassing achievement points, many of which were subsequently cashed in for Easter eggs which the students were rewarded with to enjoy over the Easter break.

A larger than usual number of students were awarded with a Headteacher Award this term for outstanding contributions to school. On receiving their well-earned achievement badges and additional achievement points the students were individually recognised by Mrs Jones for their achievements and their families informed about how proud we are with their child's positive contributions to our community.



As reported home in the individual year group newsletters at the end of term, all of the Heads of Year are extremely proud of the students in their year groups, Mr Hulley, Head of Year 7 wrote " A guest speaker who recently ran an assembly for the year group commented on the calm, professional and respectful way each student entered the assembly and attentively listened, even going on to say it was the best-behaved group she'd had the pleasure of seeing in a secondary school! This is just one of the many compliments I've had about Year 7 and their exemplary conduct: I'm really proud of this group and the way they work hard and strive to be the best they can be".



Mr Paradiuk, Head of Year 8 offered "a huge well done to everyone in Year 8, it has been amazing to see so many of you dedicated to your class work and professionalism. In the inter-form football tournament this Half Term run by KS4 students the feedback they gave in terms of the level of respect and teamwork skills used, was fantastic to hear. As a year group we have made so much progress and we need to make sure that we now push on from here to all be the best that we can be".



Mr Baxter-Smallwood, Head of Year 9 reported that "It has been an incredibly busy term in Year 9 since the Christmas holidays. All GCSE options have now been submitted and we have well and truly set off along the road towards GCSE qualifications. I am pleased to report that attitudes to learning in Year 9 remain excellent and I am thoroughly enjoying watching every young person transform into a young adult as time is passing this year."



Mr Rea, Head of Year 10 exclaimed "what an extremely busy second term we have had in Year 10! All students have embraced getting back to normal school life and are fully engaged with their GCSEs on the right path for exam success." Additionally, A special congratulations from the entire school community to Adie in Year 10, who has again won a world championship in kick boxing!



Mrs Frangleton, Head of Year 11 commented "that teachers will agree when I say it has been refreshing to see so many students working hard in lessons and attending so many revision sessions. The students have been working diligently to prepare themselves for their impending examinations, we couldn't have asked for more considering the recent challenges they have had to experience as a result of Covid. With their resilience and positive attitudes, they deserve to do well, and I am confident they will. I wish every single student the best of luck in their upcoming GCSE exams. I am sure you will do yourselves and us all proud!"



Student leaders



This term some of our Year 10 students have taken part in the Bright Leaders Course. This has been focused on working on the student's leadership skills both within themselves and within the group. The sessions ran both in school and at home via Zoom. We have had some brilliant feedback from both the Students and from the course lead Chris. Chris shared that he was really impressed with the group and that their professionalism and kindness to one another really shone through. The students had a celebration breakfast with Mrs Jones and Miss Woods in the final week of term to receive their certificates and badges. During this they also voted for the leaders within award which went to a member of the group who had enhanced their leadership skills the most through the course. The prize went to Seb who showed throughout what an impeccable leader he is! Seb shared that the course had encouraged him to reach

out to local Car Dealerships to try and get himself some work experience, which we are sure he will secure and display in the wider community the leadership skills he has taken from the course!

Beth, our Senior Sports Leader and Louis, our Head Boy have worked incredibly hard on creating an outstanding Interform football competition that has ran this half term during tutor time. Along with the other Senior Student Leaders they have led these competitions with the usual professionalism and care that they approach everything that they do in school. KS3 have loved getting involved and representing their forms, the competition was close but there was a front runner in each year group. We will continue this following the Summer exams with Year 10, we've been assured the Year 10 forms are already discussing team tactics in preparation.

This term has also been the launch of our Head Boy and Head Girl Applications. We have had lots of applications and we will be ready to launch our Election after half term. Keep an eye out on our social media for our student manifestos for each of our Candidates, and we wish all of them the best of luck. Our students make us exceptionally proud every day.



Year 11 drama



On Wednesday 30th & Thursday 31st March, the Year 11 GCSE Drama students performed their scripted pieces in front of a live audience and examiner. These pieces were 10-minute extracts from published plays that the students chose themselves. They sourced the costume, music and planned the whole piece over a period of only 10 weeks. There were six pieces overall which tackled various hard-hitting subjects. The year 11s performed their work with fantastic and mature attitudes and as their teacher, Mr Brown couldn't be prouder.

The first piece was a play called Vinegar Tom which told the story of a woman accused of Witchcraft and the turmoil she faced during her trials. It gave the audience an insight into how women were treated during that time period and also shown the workings of witchcraft.

Piece number two, entitled 'Punk Rock' took place in a comprehensive school and explored a group of three friends and their troubles and pressures within school. It culminated to one characters issues coming to ahead and ending tragically.

The third play was 'As We Forgive Those' and explored the story of a troubled girl who wants to reconnect with her long-lost sister. However, it's revealed that the night before they meet, the girl had attacked her sisters' flatmate. This meant the tension put strain on the girl's sister who had to make a difficult choice between her sister, and her best friend.

After the interval, some students performed a play called 'Di and Viv and Rose'. This explored the story of three friends who met at university and covered many years in their life. Throughout the play, the three friends encounter abuse, addiction and loss but their friendship allows them to overcome all the tragedies.

The penultimate piece was a modern play entitled 'The Unseen', about a troubled man who kidnaps and imprisons two men and keeps them in a secure underground torture chamber. Inspired by the Drama practitioner; Artaud, the audience were able to experience the torture these characters endured and also learned about the troubled character who imprisoned them.

The final piece was a modern retelling of The Little Mermaid called Mermaid. This followed a similar narrative to the original but with some dark twists. The piece embodied the genre of Physical Theatre which meant the students told the story through dance and movement, making a visual spectacular for the audience.

Although these plays tackled some serious topics, the students all performed them with maturity well beyond their years. Both nights received fantastic reviews from all the audience members and it was a fantastic end to their performing lives at Longdendale High School.

It is now full steam ahead with preparation for the written exam in mid-May.

Another huge well done from Mr Brown, and another massive thank you to all who came to show their support.



Inclusion Quality Mark – A Flagship School once more!



Longdendale High School has been recognised yet again as a centre of excellence for its commitment and quality of inclusive provision.

The award, which recognises only a handful of schools each year, was awarded to the school for a fourth year running recognising the strong leadership role the school plays in developing inclusion best practice across a network of schools.

Longdendale was described in the report as a “superbly inclusive secondary school” as a “Trust (they) have a shared belief that the young people of Tameside should have access to the best education provision so that the students in their care are able to realise their ambitions for their future and their life chances are

improved by embedding outstanding practice across the Trust”. Mr Gill, the Assessor said he was “extremely impressed by the students. They are a credit to themselves and the school”. He went on to exclaim that “It was a privilege to meet with them and showed the undeniably inclusive way that the staff and students work together. He also complimented the school on its “strong relationships with students and families” and the commitment of staff to the school who are “highly valued by the Leadership Team and each other”.

Headteacher, Andrea Jones, said “I am so proud of this achievement which is testament to the hard work of our staff, students and wider school community. Inclusion, care, nurture, and support is at the core of everything that we do and is naturally ingrained in every aspect of school life. Congratulations to everyone”. The full report is available to read on our school website.



Mr Gill, the Assessor said he was “extremely impressed by the students. They are a credit to themselves and the school”.



@LHS_HighSchool



/LongdendaleHigh