

# Newsletter July 2017



Welcome to the summer edition of the Longdendale High School 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 are making to the school and the wider community.



## Introducing the...



The AspirePlus Educational Trust is a newly formed multi-academy trust. The vision, mission and values of this Trust have evolved directly from the ethos for improvement that has been driven by the leaders of our founder and sponsor school here at Longdendale High School. Central to this new trust are our school's ASPIRE core values and our belief that all our students must be given every opportunity to succeed in life, by seeking to develop their academic and vocational abilities, their creative talents and their wider interests.

The AspirePlus Educational Trust has been set-up as a multi-academy trust following approval from the Department for Education. The trust is also an extension of the ambitious vision for educational improvement started by the original A+ Trust in 2013. The leaders of the A+ Trust all recognise that the different structures, freedoms and flexibilities of a multi-academy trust have been an essential and positive step to take.

The AspirePlus Educational Trust is fully invested in Tameside and our local community and has been established to support sustained educational improvement in the borough. Initially, this will be for the benefit of our two founder schools, and in the future, we will offer supportive solutions for other schools who may wish to join. Our two founder member institutions, Longdendale High School and the new school, Rayner Stephens High School in Dukinfield, both converted to academy status on 1st July 2017.

The vision statement for the AspirePlus Educational Trust is: We support, challenge and collaborate in our endeavour to provide world-class education that allows our whole community to flourish. We are very excited to be putting our vision into action and we know that it has the potential to be genuinely transformational for our students, our schools and our community.

As you will be aware, for the last 18 months our Executive Headteacher, Matthew Bowler has also been the CEO of the A+ Trust, a collaboration of seven Tameside secondary schools and Ashton Sixth Form College. During this period, Matthew has led the A+ Trust to develop an operational model of school improvement to support schools in the area. The impact of this work further supported his efforts in successfully developing the A+ Trust's application to form a multi-academy trust, which has been an essential and positive step for this organisation to take. From September 2017 Matthew will cease to lead the A+ Trust, choosing rather to concentrate full-time on leading the AspirePlus Educational Trust's vision and mission; supporting the vision for school improvement at both founder member schools and overseeing the growth of this new Trust when appropriate.

This newsletter highlights the end of another fantastic year at Longdendale High School. Over the course of this academic year, Longdendale continues to go from strength to strength in all areas. We started the year with the news that as a school we had been awarded the Gold Inspiring Information and Guidance Award, which recognises the high quality provision we provide for our students to support their future pathways after Longdendale; we also achieved the International Schools Award for the 12th consecutive year, which is testament to the work done across the curriculum to support students' intercultural understanding and tolerance alongside the range of exciting opportunities offered to them of an international nature. As the year has gone on we were delighted to retain the Inclusion Quality Mark Centre of Excellence, which highlighted the outstanding care, guidance and support our students receive on a daily basis to support their learning and their personal development. More recently, a full external review of our provision for students with any educational needs or disabilities was carried out, and we were delighted with the feedback we received which noted that "The school has a huge commitment to inclusion reflecting the strong moral steer that drives the school", "The school's vision has inclusion at its heart. The realisation of this vision of inclusion and equality is driven by a strong team of senior leaders" and that "There is strong team of support staff who make a considerable contribution to the academic progress and personal well being of pupils." These comments all reflect the work of such a committed team of staff to ensure that all students are supported to achieve and be successful.

This time of year is always tinged with sadness as we say our final goodbye to our Year 11 leavers, and the Class of 2017 has been no exception. As a school we are extremely proud of how they have approached their final exam period and we wish them every success in the future. We are also welcoming our new Year 7 students who have joined us for their induction period and we are looking forward to working with them and their families over the next five years.

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. We wish all of our students and families a happy and healthy summer. Please enjoy reading the rest of this newsletter and we look forward to working with you in the new school year.

Andrea Jones  
Headteacher

Matthew Bowler  
CEO



Longdendale  
HIGH SCHOOL



AspirePlus  
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## Governor Mark Award



As a school we have been supported by a fantastic governing body, who give so freely of their time to support and challenge the school and staff to ensure the highest quality provision and opportunities for all of our students. They have played a key role in securing the continuing improvement and success of Longdendale High School, and we were delighted that they were awarded the prestigious 'Governor Mark Award' in May this year. The assessor noted that "This is a highly skilled, reflective governing board where...the governing board's relentless drive for effective governance, strategic leadership and ensuring positive outcomes for all students is clear". She added that

"Each governor understands their core function and individual role in holding the school to account through commitment, appropriate support, robust challenge and debate." These comments reflect the relentless focus and work the governors put in to support the school and we would like to thank them for all their time, effort and commitment in paving the way for the future success of Longdendale.

# Inspiring IAG

## Inspiring Future Apprentices



On Thursday 16th February Longdendale High School hosted a fantastic careers event to allow our students to develop their knowledge of apprenticeships. The event was attended by 10 different companies and students in years 9, 10 and 11 all had opportunity to speak to the employers and find out about apprenticeships and current live vacancies. As a school we are committed to ensuring our students are fully informed about the wealth of opportunities on offer to them in the future.

## Mock Application and Interview Experience



On Thursday 25th May our Year 10 students participated in a mock interview day supported by Tradewind Recruitment. The students demonstrated the professionalism core value to the highest standard and were a credit to the school throughout the event. This event has provided them with real experience in preparation for their college applications and interviews in the very near future.

## Year 8 GCSE Options

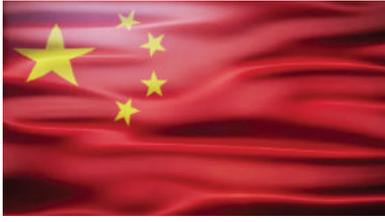
Year 8 students took part in a GCSE options day, focused on future pathways to enable them to make informed decisions about the subjects they want to continue studying until the end of Year 11. Parents and students attended IAG (information and guidance) meetings to enable a personalised discussion to take place, ensuring that all families had an awareness of the options available to them. Thank you to everyone who has supported this process, we look to our Year 8 students achieving every success in their chosen subjects.

## Spanish Exchange



May was a very busy month for our Spanish students in Year 9 and 10! At the beginning of the month, our partner school, I.E.S Alhadra came to visit us and we were able to show them all aspects of British culture! At the end of the month, we flew over to visit them where it soon became clear that lifelong friendships were blossoming! We saw the famous Alhambra in Granada, had a day in the Spanish school and the family day, where pupils spend a day with their partner, was by far the best day! Pupils represented Longdendale fantastically and used their Spanish language skills well in 'real life' situations!

## Chinese Visits July 2017



Longdendale High School has once again been a host UK school for Chinese Teachers and two large parties of students.

We have now built strong connections with the Suman Centre in Manchester, who organise the exchange trips from China to the UK. Earlier in the academic year, Longdendale hosted a group of Chinese teachers who were fascinated by the personalised pathways and the differentiated resources especially created by Longdendale staff. The schools in China provide work for classes of 50 students in single rows and all the students have to complete the same tasks set by their teacher.

On July 10th and 12th Longdendale welcomed two separate parties of students and teachers, whose main aim was to experience the British secondary school and learn about our practices and methods.

The Chinese pupils were welcomed with an introduction to Longdendale. After touring the school, the groups took part in a science experiment, had the chance to challenge some of our talented mathematicians with Mr Kerton, whilst Miss France led the English poetry workshop. Our Chinese pupils then listened to British music performances from our talented students and Mr Kilkenny led the cookery demonstrations before it was time for lunch.



Our Chinese guests particularly relish ordering treats from our school canteen and socialising with our students in the dining room. We are very proud that students interact so well with our visitors and this warmth is reciprocated at the afternoon presentation ceremony, when the school is presented with a wide selection of gifts as a token of gratitude.

This year the Longdendale students presented hand painted friendship stones to each visitor. Thank you to Miss France for making these special gifts, which will no doubt be a lovely way for the Chinese guests to remember their time Longdendale.

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## Drama Showcase

On the 26th April Year 11 performed their final exam performances to parents as a dress rehearsal. There were three contrasting pieces, including a naturalistic scripted piece called 'Road' by Jim Cartwright. This is a gritty 1980 text set in the Thatcher era about trying to escape from poverty.

Another powerfully devised piece centred on Human Rights. This piece was episodic, stylised and depicted 6 contrasting stories and periods of time such as the suffragettes to modern true accounts. Finally, students performed a dark thriller piece about Jack the Ripper set in the Victorian era. We also had 5 technical theatre students who produced fantastic portfolios for lighting, costume and make-up design.

An examiner and a colleague kindly attended and marked the students to support their final rehearsals. I am extremely impressed with their work and attitude to learning. They are such a talented year group of Drama students.



# LONGDENDALE DANCE DEPARTMENT

## Whole School Dance Production - Chance to Dance



The dance production on the 29th and 30th March sold out two performances in less than a week and was as usual a great success all round.

From the end of autumn term two Year 7 and 8 weekly dance clubs were established and as usual Year 10 dance leaders were keen to assist in the delivery and teaching of these groups. The Year 7 group worked hard to achieve three completed dance numbers and the Year 8 group again achieved three numbers with additional trio dances from our most able Year 8 cohort.

KS4 dancers performed in Contemporary, Jazz and Urban and these formed the basis for their formal assessments for their BTEC and GCSE dance courses. Proceeds went towards the Jack Pullen Foundation and the final amount for this will be presented at the end of the summer term.



The spring term saw Oldham College Performing Arts Department conduct a performance and workshop with all KS4 dance students. This gave our students more challenge and a real life world of work experience. Students from Years 9 and 10 and some of our most able Year 8 students took part in the two hour performance and workshops and their professionalism and focus was exceptional.

## Year 11 Prom

Thursday 29th June 2017 was a day to remember for our Year 11 students and the conclusion to a magnificent five years at high school. Following on from an emotional Leavers' Assembly in the morning, The White Hart Inn at Lydgate was full of great looking young men and women celebrating their final Longdendale High School day together. As well as speeches, awards and good food, the students were entertained with opportunities to win prizes and dancing the night away until midnight – with barely room to move on the dance floor! The amazing atmosphere and the way the year group celebrated together was a fitting end to their Longdendale High School careers and their journey into being young adults. We are immensely proud of them all and look forward to seeing them for their results day in August to celebrate their hard work this year.

Mrs Moffat, Learning Leader



## Teens and Toddlers 2017



The students at Longdendale complete another successful year on the Teens and Tots programme!

Longdendale High School has been involved with the programme for the last six years. Each year the feedback from Pinfold Primary School and their staff about our students just gets better and better. The students become such different people within a nursery setting. They rise to the challenge of making a difference to the toddlers they are assigned to on the programme. Each year we are amazed when listening to the students relay their experiences and how they have made a difference to the toddlers. As staff, we are able to visibly see how much they grow as individuals, in confidence, self-esteem and maturity.

This year's cohort was able to access a very unique experience, as they were approached to take part in some workshops, and contribute to the Manifesto of the Manchester Mayor candidate, Andy Burnham. So impressed was he with our students' contribution, that they were invited back on another occasion. They were involved in giving feedback and offering their views about what young people wanted and needed to see in their communities. Andy Burnham personally and publically thanked the students for their input and for being the only representatives of young people in attendance, showing once again what fantastic students we have at Longdendale.

A Headteacher's Celebration Breakfast was the order of the day, where students were able to retell their experiences over a sausage muffin and orange juice to Mrs Jones. Mrs Jones congratulated the students and presented them with those all important and hard earned certificates. A second cohort are expected to complete the programme during the last week of term. Certificates will be presented early in the new academic year in September.

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## “The Real Truth”



In March, The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation invited our students to be involved in an exciting opportunity. 47 Year 9 students devised two performances inspired by a box of stimuli. One performance was based on the Hillsborough Disaster, the other Homelessness. Students took part in workshops led by the theatre in order to develop their ideas, writing an original piece of drama from scratch.

On the 20th March students then performed these on stage at The Oldham Coliseum. Students showed professionalism and talent which was noted by other teachers from school in the Tameside area, along with other audience members. One audience member said: "It was a pleasure to be at the theatre on Monday and witness the amazing work being done! I really do hope it will be one of those memories the young people carry with them. Both your pieces were so moving - I was shocked really - both were very moving and I know during the dress rehearsal there were other pupils in the auditorium crying, and really moved." Another said: "The physical elements, the way they told the story, inhabited the characters and tackled difficult issues very maturely was a delight to see."

The Real Truth won a certificate of merit for the ensemble cast, whom the adjudicator, Carmel Bird, could not split apart, as she said all were equally as talented. She particularly liked the physicality of the performance which she described as almost 'balletic'. She was also impressed that the students tackled such topical and emotive subject matter so well. We also had two nominations for best supporting actors: Daniel Bynon as Dukenfield, and Ciaran Moss as Millichip.



# Uniform

We would like to extend a big thank you to all of our families for their support in ensuring their child meets Longdendale's professional expectations in the way they present themselves to school in our school uniform.

As the summer holidays are approaching a new school year usually sees the purchasing of new uniforms. May we take this opportunity to remind families of our uniform expectations:

School Uniform	
<b>Blazer/Jumper</b>	Year 7-10: Navy blue blazer with a V-neck grey jumper Year 11: Red V-neck jumper with navy blazer Blazer and jumper to display LHS logo.
<b>Tie</b>	Striped tie in school colours – Class of 2022: Purple, Class of 2021: Silver, Class of 2020: Turquoise, Class of 2019: Red. Ties to be worn with five stripes visible (no more than five cm above the waist).  Year 11 will wear a plain navy blue tie. Students in leadership positions will wear a light blue tie.
<b>Trousers/skirts</b>	Dark grey tailored trousers or pleated skirts. No jeans or skin tight trousers or skirts. Skirts should be worn at an appropriate length. No leggings.
<b>Shirt/blouse</b>	White shirt/blouse with collar that buttons to the top. Shirts/blouses should be tucked in at all times.
<b>Socks/Tights</b>	Plain navy, grey or black. Socks to be worn below the knee.
<b>Shoes</b>	Plain black shoes. No trainers, sports shoes, boots (including ankle boots) or canvas shoes. No shell toes.
<b>Jewellery</b>	A wrist watch and one pair of stud earrings worn in the earlobes. No ear spacers, stretchers or tunnels. No other jewellery eg bracelets, rings or nose studs.
<b>Bag</b>	Strong waterproof bag which is large enough to hold an A4 file.
<b>Make-up</b>	Discreet.
<b>Nails</b>	No nail varnish or acrylic nails.
<b>Hair</b>	No extreme hair styles such as shaved patterns or stripes. Hair should not be unnatural in colour. Hair accessories should be plain black, grey or navy. Head scarves should be plain navy.
<b>Outdoor wear</b>	All outdoor wear including jackets, scarves, gloves or hoodies are not to be worn in school.
<b>PE Kit</b>	Red school polo shirt with plain black shorts/cycling shorts. White socks. Trainers are compulsory (students may be asked to remove them for some inside activities). Optional red sweatshirt or red half zipped fleece.
<b>GCSE Dance</b>	GCSE Dance kit – Burgundy polo shirt, plain black leggings or tracksuit trousers. Suitable dance shoes, no trainers. Hair must be tied back.
<b>Summer Uniform</b>	Any change to the uniform, as a result of warmer weather, will be up to the discretion of the Headteacher. At this time jumpers will become optional
<b>T-Shirts</b>	If students choose to wear a T-shirt underneath their school shirt this must be plain white in colour with no logos or designs of any kind.
<b>Equipment</b>	High Five - Students are expected to bring their planner, pen, pencil, ruler and scientific calculator with them to all lessons.

All our uniform is available to purchase from Kidstop in Hyde and online from [Tesco.com/ues](https://www.tesco.com/ues). If you require any further information please refer to our website.

# Attendance



Longdendale High School is on a journey towards excellence. School attendance is a significant piece in the puzzle to student achievement. All members of our community share in our core ASPIRE values of Achievement, Success, Professionalism, Integrity, Respect and Endeavour. We encourage all students to demonstrate resilience and endeavour to attend school every day on time, equipping them with skills for future working life and ensuring they have the best opportunity to learn and achieve.

Longdendale recognises the accomplishment of a Year 11 student Megan Frost in attending school every day, on time, throughout her secondary school career. This is a feat to celebrate and we want to publically congratulate this young lady and her family on her achievement.

Another twenty-one Year 11 students have also gone on to secure a school career attendance of over 99%, a success deserving of recognition. Our heartfelt congratulations are therefore extended to these young people who embody our core value of professionalism. With their professional attitude to school these students have developed into confident young adults equipped with the resilience necessary to achieve great things with their lives. We hope all their hopes and dreams come true as they take their next steps in life.

# Longdendale Sports News

During the summer term, our students have enjoyed a wide range of academic and extra-curricular success and we are delighted to share these successes with you. As a team, we believe in providing our students with a wide range of sports opportunities to develop their physical, mental and social well-being and our vision is to provide high quality PE and school sport.

During the summer our year 10 GCSE PE cohort once again performed exceptionally well, with 14 students achieving full marks during our trip to Marple Rope Race, who provided two days of high quality climbing instruction. Students completed over twenty climbs. Well done boys!

## Longdendale Sports Day 2017

Sports Day 2017 Results - Winners	
Year	Tutor
7	7SW
8	8DHE
9	9KF
10	10MKE
SCHOOL	7SW – MOST POINTS - 87

This year's sports day was more competitive than ever and although some events were cancelled due to torrential rain, we moved our track finals indoors so we could complete the events and have tutor team winners. The highest scoring tutor groups who won were 7SW Miss Warnock, 8DHE Mrs Healey-Wilde,

9KF Mr Fox and 10MKE Mr Kennedy. Well done to all the athletes. Well done to 7SW who achieved 87 points – the highest scoring tutor group in the school and thanks to Miss Burton who organised a fantastic set of sports leaders who were extremely supportive and well organised to support the PE team over the two days.

## Tameside Athletics Championships 2017

Many students were selected by the school to compete against the best athletes from across Tameside and we achieved eight medals on the day with two gold medals for Callum Brierley (Year 10) in the intermediate boys 1500m and Ellie Moore (Year 8) in the junior girls shot putt. Overall boys position was 7th in Tameside and girls was 8th.

## Longdendale Olympic Legacy Competitions 2017



Longdendale once again entered into the Tameside Olympic Legacy and performed very well across the different competitions: relays, biking, strong star, triathlon and ultimate frisbee. The greatest success coming from the biking event, in which Longdendale achieved bronze. A huge thank you to Ms Harrison who worked tirelessly to organise the girls' teams for many of the events.

## Silver School Games Mark



In 2013, Longdendale were awarded the Bronze School Games Mark for their contribution to extra-curricular clubs and teams. Our goal was to then achieve the Silver School Games Mark, which would mean involving at least 30% of our students in regular sports extra-curricular opportunities during and after the school day. We knew 30% would always be challenging a number to achieve. After a lot of hard work by the team and the community, I am delighted that the PE department have now achieved the Silver School Games Mark. This is a prestigious award only held by a few schools in Tameside and is a recognition of our continued commitment and dedication to providing our young people with an extensive range of sports opportunities outside of the curriculum.