

School Newsletter

Autumn Term 2024

Dear Longdendale Families,

As we approach the end of the autumn term, I would like to take a moment to share the wonderful progress our students have made in embracing our core values of Respect, Resilience, and Aspiration. This term, we've seen an inspiring increase in the number of students earning Legacy Points by consistently demonstrating these values in their daily interactions and learning.

Our students have also fully embraced our new scholarly habits - Look, Cover, Write, Check, Flashcards and Knowledge Drops - which are empowering them to take ownership of their learning and work towards becoming true masters of their knowledge. These strategies have helped develop a strong foundation for their academic success and are a testament to their commitment to personal growth.

In addition to academic excellence, we have been excited to see the positive impact of our new electives programme. With offerings such as chess, debates, cooking, darts, sports, criminology, and animal care, students are exploring new interests and building their cultural capital. These opportunities not only enhance their learning but also broaden their horizons and help them develop valuable life skills.

We are also incredibly proud of the students who achieved the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. This initiative has shown a strong commitment to our school community, with the group collectively contributing over 450 hours of volunteering. It's a wonderful example of how our students are developing a sense of responsibility and giving back to others.

We look forward to celebrating even more achievements in the spring term. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in helping our students reach their full potential. Wishing you a joyful and restful holiday season.



Mr Chiles
Head of School

Legacy Points

Our Legacy Points system continues to reward students whose behaviour exemplifies our school values of Respect, Resilience and Aspiration.

Congratulations to Year 7 who are the year group with the most Legacy Points this term. Students with the most Legacy Points this term are:

1. Leo (9C) with 771 points
2. Mazie (8A) with 566 points
3. Ashleigh (9A) with 558 points
4. Euan (9A) with 554 points
5. Jasper (7C) with 550 points



#TheLongdendaleLegacy

A message from the Trust CEO

Dear parents, carers, students and members of the Stamford Park Trust community.

As we approach the end of another busy term, I'd like to reflect on the many events and accomplishments across the Trust since September. First and foremost, congratulations to the Class of 2024 on their outstanding GCSE results! Their hard work and determination have paid off, with excellent outcomes that prepare them well for the next steps in their educational journeys. Many have chosen to remain part of the Trust family by joining Ashton Sixth Form College, and we wish them every success in the future.

In November, I had the privilege of attending the awards celebration for the Class of 2024. It was truly inspiring to see so many students being recognised for their achievements and celebrating alongside their teachers. The strong bond between students and staff was evident throughout the evening, reflecting the vibrant sense of community at Longdendale. A special mention goes to the band and singers who performed that evening—what a fantastic display of talent!

Stamford Park Trust continues to grow stronger, and we are excited about welcoming new schools to our family in the near future. Every day, across all our academies, our vision of excellence and ambition for all is brought to life through the dedication of our staff and the hard work of our students.

As the festive season approaches, I would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy the holiday break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year.



Mr McGrath
Stamford Park Trust CEO



Stamford Park Trust Christmas Gift Appeal 2024

We were proud to support Stamford Park Trust's Christmas Gift Appeal again this year.

The initiative sees the Trust partner with local primary schools and family liaison workers to identify children and families in genuine need of support this Christmas.

As a school, we were able to donate over 70 individual gifts including toys, books, games, clothing and more, kindly donated by students, their families, staff and the local community.

Over 550 gifts were collected in total from donations across the Trust. The team over at Astley Sports Village worked exceptionally hard to organise, wrap and distribute gifts to families, ready for the big day.

Thank you to everyone for your generous donations. 102 children from 58 families will experience the joy of the festive season thanks to the kindness and efforts of all involved.



Open Evening

It was absolutely fantastic to host our Open Evening in October. Over 300 local families joined us to discover all that Longdendale has to offer prospective students.

Our fabulous students took visiting families on tours of the school and helped out within departments with hands on demonstrations. Visiting families were full of praise for the Longdendale students they met on the night and we really cannot thank these students enough for their help - every student was an absolute credit to our school.

Prospective students were able to join in with activities including creating a design based on oil printing in art, extracting DNA from cells in biology and taking part in trampolining and badminton in the Sports Hall. Our current students also demonstrated their breadth of talents by putting on some fantastic performances in music, drama and dance for visitors to enjoy.

A group of students put their journalistic skills to the test by creating a newsletter on the night and printed this off for families to take home. The students worked so hard on this and it was really well received by our visitors on the night.

Golden Ticket Winners

All prospective students were able to collect a passport on arrival which they could get 'stamped' as they completed activities around school.

Before leaving, they were able to exchange their passport for a chocolate bar. Five lucky students found a winning golden ticket inside their chocolate bar and won themselves an Amazon Kindle containing 1,000 books!

Well done to the visiting students for joining in so well and congratulations to our five winners. We hope you all enjoyed the night and hope to see many of you joining us as Longdendale students in the near future.



Electives

This term has been our first at launching our brand-new electives programme. It has been such a magnificent pleasure to see all our students developing their character in a fantastic variety of enriching opportunities.

Our students picked from a variety of thirty different activities under the pillars Academic, Physical Health and Wellbeing and Community and Leadership. Most popular choices included animal care, cake decorating, criminology and darts.

Key highlights from the term include our students caring for Rupert our rescue rabbit. He is a one eared rabbit for which the students have demonstrated such care and empathy. Our childcare elective has supported Hollingworth Primary with their upcoming nativity performances and hosted baby/toddler events. Photography students have learnt fantastic techniques to take and edit high quality images.



Eco Award students visited the local park to give back to the community helping to improve the environment.

There have been so many fantastic moments in our electives programme and it is amazing that every child can access quality enrichment to develop their character.

The new electives commence for Term 2 on the 8th of January 2025 and enables students to take part in a different pillar.

We look forward to introducing brand new electives in French for beginners, hair design, sociology, baking, film and media, cricket and gardening all of which are popular options once again!



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I had a lot of fun in logic problems, I learnt how to make a paper football and explored how to construct a strong building out of nothing but paper.

SOPHIE, YEAR 9



Tameside Cross Country

On Tuesday December 3rd, twenty four Longdendale students from Year 7 to 11 participated in the Tameside Schools Cross Country competition. Every single student displayed excellent effort and resilience and the whole group were an absolute credit to the school.

There were some outstanding individual performances with eight of our students being selected for the Tameside team to take part in the upcoming Greater Manchester Championships - these are great results considering each race on the day held 60 to 100 runners from Tameside schools. Well done to all students who took part and represented our school so well.

Congratulations to the following students on securing such impressive results:

- Year 7 students Finlay and Isaac who finished 5th and 6th place respectively in the under 12 boys
- Zac in Year 8 who came 2nd place in the under 14 boys race
- Brynna, Lois and Martha who came 13th, 14th and 19th respectively in the under 15 girls
- Sam in Year 10 and Nathan in Year 11 who finished 6th and 3rd respectively in the under 15 boys



PE News

Manchester City in the Community visited Key Stage 4 BTEC sport students in October for a morning of football coaching. It was great for our students to learn more about BTEC sport at Ashton Sixth Form College.

Our Year 10 boys' football team have played in the Tameside Cup this season - they beat Droylsden Academy on penalties in a hard-fought match earlier in December and are through to the quarter final.

Students also experience sporting success outside of school; in Year 10 alone we have students competing in horse racing, karting, hip hop dance, boxing, cheerleading, lyrical dance and basketball.



Forest School

We are thrilled to share the success of our Forest School programme, a vibrant and enriching initiative that has been flourishing every Tuesday at Longdendale High School. With three groups of pupils participating each week, Forest School has become a beloved part of our week, offering a unique blend of learning, personal growth, and outdoor fun.

The programme provides pupils with the opportunity to step out of the classroom and into nature, where they engage in hands-on activities that build essential skills and encourage self-discovery. Whether they are learning how to safely use tools, building shelters, or preparing delicious food over an open fire, the students are gaining experiences they'll remember for a lifetime.

Cooking on the fire is a highlight for many! From crafting homemade pizzas, chips, and donuts to experimenting with nettle crisps, our young chefs are developing cooking skills in the great outdoors. Weekly treats like hot chocolate and s'mores have become treasured traditions, bringing everyone together around the warmth of the fire.

But Forest School is about so much more than skills and activities. It offers pupils a safe and supportive space to share stories, chat, be themselves, and simply enjoy being outdoors. From playing games to solving challenges together, this time fosters teamwork, confidence, and resilience, helping our students grow in ways that extend beyond the forest.

A few key highlights from this term are shared below. We're so proud of the impact Forest School has had on our pupils and the sense of community it fosters. A huge thank you to our enthusiastic students who make every Tuesday an unforgettable adventure. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to celebrate the many successes of our Forest School programme!

Cooking Adventures



Students have mastered the art of outdoor cooking, creating delicious treats and learning valuable culinary skills.

Lifelong Skills



Activities such as fire-making, building shelters and woodworking build practical skills and self-reliance.

Personal Growth



Pupils have shown incredible growth in areas such as problem-solving, teamwork and resilience.



Aspiration Day

Aspiration Day 2024 was a tremendous success and the best one yet!

Year 7 completed their Young Green Briton Challenge and explored business skills and innovation to tackle local climate issues such as energy, water, waste and fast fashion.

Year 8 took part in employer speed networking and had the opportunity to interview key employers and entrepreneurs from companies such as EasyJet, AstraZeneca and Pets at Home. Thank you so much to all our guests for sharing their career insights. Year 8 also had presentations from the Fire Service about Bonfire Safety and keeping safe in the community.

Year 9 took part in a Social Action Project from PIE company. They created fantastic proposals using digital media, presentations and role-play. They tackled issues under the theme of respect such as tackling discrimination, anti-social behaviour, poverty and improving kindness.

Year 10 worked with EverFi and completed workshops on financial literacy and driving theory. They learnt exactly how much the cost of living really is in the UK in 2024 and explored how to pass their driving theory tests. They also understood key interview skills needed to secure future employment.

We had over 40 employers visit us which we are extremely grateful for. Our students thoroughly enjoyed the day, and it broadened their horizons to raising aspirations.



Year 11 Futures Roadshow

Year 11 students took part in our annual Futures Roadshow. They had bespoke presentations from Ashton Sixth Form College and Tameside Clarendon, learning about A-Level and technical qualification pathways. They also had the opportunity to meet Connell, Loreto, Marple, Xavarian and Oldham colleges for additional presentations.

This day enabled them to really reflect on their post-16 options as they complete their applications before the end of the current academic year.



Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

We were delighted to reintroduce the Duke of Edinburgh award at Longdendale last year. Over twelve months, a group of Year 9 students completed a huge amount of work to complete the requirements of the bronze award.

Students learnt and developed an amazing array of skills between them and volunteered in a wide range of settings – amassing over 450 hours of volunteering between them!

It was a pleasure to host the students and their families at a celebratory evening early in December. The students were presented with their awards and their success and achievements celebrated.

We would like to thank all families for their support. We would also like to thank the fantastic team of staff who made it possible to re-start the Duke of Edinburgh award here at Longdendale.

We are excited to be onboarding our next cohort of bronze award students as we speak and look forward to sharing their progress with you over the next year. Good luck to all students moving onto their silver award and many congratulations once again to every one of our students who successfully completed their bronze award – we hope you are as proud of your achievements as we are.

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The DofE Bronze award was great! I had a great time and it was a fantastic learning experience with friends.

XAVIER, YEAR 10

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award



Fundraising

In our final week of term, students and staff were invited to wear a Christmas jumper in exchange for a donation to the Tameside South and Longdendale Foodbank.

We also supported BBC Children in Need in November with members of our student council raising money by selling merchandise at break and lunch.

Finally, a massive well done to five Year 11 students who raised an amazing £440 by holding a bake sale in school. The funds raised have gone to 'Maisie Moo's Missions' a charity set up in memory of their friend.



Halloween

Our school Library run a host of challenges and competitions throughout the year. This Halloween students were challenged to write a short spooky story or poem using less than 100 words - this could be illustrated too.

Well done to all students who entered - the amount of entries and the quality of the stories and illustrations were the best we've ever seen.

After much deliberation, first prize was awarded to Daisy in Year 8 for her short story titled 'The Alleyway'.

Hits Radio Experience

Well done to Ben (Year 9), Brynna (Year 10) and Scarlett (Year 7) who spent a morning at Hits Radio in Manchester earlier this term along with students from other schools within Stamford Park Trust.

Ben, Brynna and Scarlett spoke about their own experiences since joining Longdendale and shared in their own words what they think makes our school such a special place to learn and develop.

Thank you to all three students for being such excellent ambassadors of our school - we hope you enjoyed the experience.





Remembrance

Early in November, we joined together in year group assemblies to reflect on the sacrifices made by our brave service men and women.

On Remembrance Sunday our Head Students placed a wreath at the Hollingworth war memorial on behalf of the school community. On Armistice Day the school fell silent as we observed the national two-minute silence.

Students in our craft elective created homemade poppies and our Remembrance elective students visited the war memorial to acknowledge and remember those who have died in war and the ongoing impact this has.

Anti-Bullying Week

We were proud to support Anti-Bullying Week early in November and promote the message that 'We are all unique and different, and let's be kind to each other and respect each other's individuality.'

A huge thank you to all staff and students who wore odd socks on November 12th to symbolise this message.

All students and staff have a right to feel happy, safe, and included in school. Assemblies held during the week focused on respect and the importance of establishing and sustaining positive relationships with others.



Presentation Evening

It was fantastic to see the Class of 2024 at our Aspiration Presentation evening in November as we celebrated the achievements of our former students.

It was a fabulous opportunity to recognise students who excelled in certain subjects and also reward those who demonstrated our core values of Respect, Resilience and Aspiration so well during their time here.

Many thanks to all guests, staff, students and our talented musicians who made the evening so special - we would like to wish the Class of 2024 every success in the future.

Important Information and Upcoming Dates

Changes to School Buses

We would like to inform you that Transport for Greater Manchester have re-franchised the bus services locally and therefore your child's bus may be run by another company in the new year (Go North West or Metroline). The bus times and numbers will not change.

PE Kits (Year 7 and 8 only)

From January, Year 7 and 8 students are to attend school wearing full PE kit only on the days they have PE. Please see our uniform policy [here](#) to ensure your child has the correct uniform.

10th - 16th February: National Apprenticeships Week

During this week we aim to highlight how apprenticeships are an excellent option for our young people to consider for their future careers and show them the varied opportunities available to them.

3rd - 8th March: National Careers Week

This is a dedicated week to help support young people develop awareness and excitement about their future pathways.

6th March: World Book Day

There will be activities in school as we celebrate authors, illustrators, books and the joy of reading!

Students return after Christmas on Tuesday 7th January, term dates for 2024/2025 are [here](#).

Our Vision

Excellence and Ambition for all

Our Values



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



ASPIRATION

If you have any questions regarding any of the information in this newsletter, you can contact us using the details below.

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