

Newsletter

Summer Term

Headteacher's Welcome...

It is with very mixed emotions that I am writing for the last time at the end of the school year. As always, we have had an incredibly busy and successful term in so many ways. The past 22 years at Longdendale have been an incredible journey, and I couldn't be prouder of our wonderful students. This year has been no exception and in this newsletter you'll get a flavour of just some of the fantastic opportunities and successes our students have enjoyed over recent months.

We are also saying goodbye to other colleagues this summer, who have dedicated their hard work and time to working with our young people to support their school experience. I am sure you will join me in thanking Miss France, Mr Paradiuk, Mrs Gill, Mr Brown, Miss Werner, Miss Nicholson and Miss Clegg for their service to our school community and we wish them all every success in the future.

I have had the privilege of working alongside an extremely talented and committed team of staff, who I will miss hugely and who I am sure you will join me in thanking for all their hard work and dedication in providing our students with such a fantastic range of learning opportunities both in and out of the classroom.

This term, we have enjoyed a wonderful dance production, as well as a fantastic trip back to the 1990s as part of our performing arts showcase, and our students have made the most of our beautiful surroundings by taking part in a number of hikes and outdoor activities. As I write this, we have students taking part in visits to London and Barcelona. Our student leaders have been exceptionally busy leading our Student Council and organising a range of charity events to support important causes both locally and wider.

This is the term where we have said our goodbyes to our Class of 2024 – it has been a real pleasure watching them develop and mature into the hard-working and resilient young adults they are today, and we look forward to celebrating all their fantastic achievements in the summer. At the same time, it has been wonderful to welcome our new Year 7 cohort as they have taken part in their induction days. They filled our school with their enthusiasm and positive energy, and I wish them every success over the next five years.

Over the past 22 years, I have had the honour of seeing a large number of wonderful young people develop, progress and flourish during their time as students at Longdendale High School. It has been a unique privilege to share in their many successes and achievements, and this is one that has always filled me with pride and been a true inspiration. I know they will go on to achieve great things in their lives, and I look forward to hearing about their future successes. I will miss them all.

I wish you all a happy and safe summer and all of our students every success and happiness in the future.



Andrea Jones
Headteacher
Longdendale High School



Longdendale
HIGH SCHOOL



STAMFORD
PARK TRUST

Our Vision

Excellence and Ambition for all

Our Mission

Through excellence in education we are an inclusive community, that embraces choice, opens doors and creates opportunities. With kindness and collaboration, we empower everyone to be the best version of themselves. We are confident, curious and creative individuals who contribute positively to our community.

Our Values



RESPECT

Be polite and considerate

Listen to others without interruption

Respond promptly and positively

Have pride in our environment and our community



RESILIENCE

Have a positive attitude

Work hard, never give up

Learn from mistakes

Embrace challenges



ASPIRATION

Aim high

Believe in ourselves

Accept only our best

Celebrate success

A message from the Trust CEO

Dear parent / carer

As we approach the end of the academic year and look forward to the summer break, it is important to reflect on the year we are leaving behind and forward to a new beginning in September. This has been a year filled with success and achievement all across the Stamford Park Community and, especially, at Longdendale High School. But it will also be a year of significant change. After over two decades of service at Longdendale, Mrs Jones, Head of School, retires at the end of this term. I would like to thank Mrs Jones for all her hard work and dedication to the school and, more recently, the Trust. She has been a fantastic colleague who has made a real difference to the life chances of thousands of young people who have attended Longdendale over the years. We all wish her the best of luck as she moves into a new stage of her life.

But with that goodbye, comes a welcome. We welcome Mr Chiles to Longdendale as the new Head of School from September. Mr Chiles has been working with the Trust, the school and members of staff over the past term in preparation for his start in the autumn term.

So, to finish, thank you for all your support this year; we could not do our job without the support of our parents and our wider community. I hope you manage to find some time for family, rest and relaxation over the summer.

Take care



Anton McGrath
CEO
Stamford Park Trust

Head Students

Our Headteacher, Mrs Jones, along with the Head of Year 10, Mr Paradiuk, and link to the student council, Mrs Willis, were extremely impressed with everyone who put themselves forward for the role of Head Student for the upcoming academic year.

The Head Student is a prestigious leadership position within our school community. The role involves representing the student body, working closely with school leaders and fostering a positive school culture.

Candidates expressed their views via a video presentation this year, with both Longdendale staff and students being able to vote for their top candidate. Following this, several students were interviewed to answer a series of questions about what they could bring to the role.

The outstanding quality of applicants made it an extremely difficult decision but after very careful consideration we are delighted that our Head Students for the next academic year are Nathan and Tiarmi. Many congratulations to both of you on behalf from everyone at Longdendale.





Longdendale 90s Night

Well done to all students involved in the two nights of 90s music concerts on the 3rd and 4th of July. Sell-out audiences witnessed two fantastic shows featuring students from Years 7 to 11 performing a host of 1990s bangers!

The students took parents and supporters on a musical trip down memory lane with songs by Oasis, Blur, The Spice Girls, Nirvana, B*Witched, Destiny's Child and more.

The production was a huge success and showcased the amazing talents of our students. Well done to all who performed and to those who contributed behind the scenes too. Thanks to Ms Healey for collaborating with Mr Marsh on the choreography, Ms Hughes for her amazing 90 inspired artwork such as lava lamps and Nokia 3310 phones, Mr Emmanuel for all his music support for our students and to Mr Kilkenny for providing the refreshments.

Not forgetting the event could not happen without Mr Marsh who worked tirelessly rehearsing with our students to give them the best musical experiences. Another fantastic event for the performing arts department to end the academic year on a high.





National School Sports Week 2024

In June, we took part in National School Sports Week. This is always a busy week in school and once again our PE department organised a great selection of after school activities for the students. Our PE teachers ran taster sessions in various sports and local clubs were invited into school to give students opportunities to try sports they may never have considered previously.

The sessions were very well attended which was great to see. With golf, mountain biking, fencing, running, mixed martial arts, fencing, cheerleading and football on offer, there was something for everyone. Many students were trying some of these sports for the first time so very well done to everyone for showing great enthusiasm and giving new things a go.

Many thanks to Evolution Martial Arts, Ashton Fencing, Start 2 Jog and The Cheer Lab for running sessions. Thanks also to the PE team for facilitating a great week and giving our students such an excellent array of activities to try.



Hiking

Year 7, 8 and 9 undertook hikes during National School Sports Week as part of the national curriculum for outdoor activities.

Year 9 experienced rain, wind, sun and hail during their 6.9 mile hike, but their resilience was rewarded with stunning views of the local area.

Year 7 enjoyed the best weather of the week for their hike on the Friday.

Many thanks to the PE and wider staff team for supporting the hikes and well done to all participants!



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 2029.

On Thursday 4th and Friday 5th July Year 6 students from primary schools far and wide attended Longdendale for their eagerly anticipated induction days. They had the opportunity to meet their new Form Tutor and immerse themselves in everything 'Longdendale'. They were supported magnificently by the recently trained Transition Peer Mentors, who worked hard to make sure every student felt welcomed into school.

The students were given a flavour of our school with lots of fun and diverse activities. Our core values of Respect, Resilience and Aspiration were launched and the students were given the opportunity to discover what these values mean to them and why they are important to us all.

In the afternoon we celebrated all the young people's success from the day and welcomed each individual student, each being awarded their Longdendale tie by Mrs Jones, Headteacher. The experience allowed them to feel part of our community and generate a buzz of excitement for their start on Wednesday 4th September.



"I am super excited to get to know all of my new year group. They all have such smiley faces. I can't wait to get to know their families and watch them form long lasting friendships. I am lucky to have an amazing team of form tutors to assist me with the Class of 2029".

Miss Hamilton, Head of Year 7





Pride

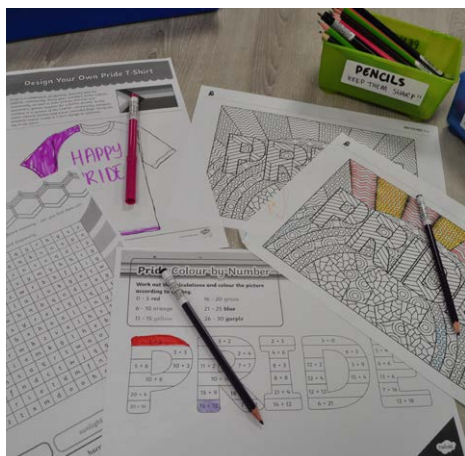
For this year's Pride Month we wanted to focus on self-expression and learning about the different ways we can express our pride in ourselves. In the library the shelves and walls were decorated with posters and with pride flags. Together we explored all the different self-identification flags that we could see, learned which correspond to which orientation and then made toothpick flags so that we could show off our own pride!

There was a big display in the library of many books from our large collection of fiction, non-fiction and comic books that feature LGBTQ+ people. A real favourite this Pride month was the Heartstopper series, which was borrowed by 8 different students during the month of June!

Along with this display we had a booklet featuring important LGBTQ+ people from History that we could learn about, and some even had books in the library for us to check out such as Oscar Wilde and Harvey Milk. This display also had some important flashcards on it that taught us the definitions of many key words that came up in the books we were reading, as well as some info sheets on understanding different identities and a quiz that taught us how to be an ally.

On the activities table there were so many activities and puzzles that we could do together, such as mindfulness colouring of rainbows and Pride posters, and even a colouring challenge that involved some mathematics to work out what colour to fill in the section with! We also made pride boxes where we could decorate each side with something we were proud of, and designed our own Pride t-shirts!

Everyone really enjoyed getting stuck in and learning about the way people can express themselves differently. It was lovely to see so many students colouring gifts for their friends to celebrate Pride month, or proudly waving their toothpick flags!





Class of 2024

The Class of 2024 had an amazing end to the year. We were extremely impressed with how sensible and mature they all were during their GCSE examination period. It was lovely to celebrate their time at Longdendale following their exams with a leavers' assembly and prom.

Their Head of Year, Miss Hamilton, commented "the Year 11s amazed me more than ever this year. I am immensely proud of how they have all managed the exam period, taking everything within their stride".

She went on to say "I could not be any prouder of each and every 165 of our Year 11 students. They have grown into such amazing, kind and caring young adults and Longdendale will not be the same without them. It has been an absolute delight being Head of Year to the Class of 2024".

We are extremely proud of everything this group of students have achieved over their 5 years with us and look forward to seeing them again when they collect their GCSE results in the summer.



Pre-Loved Prom

The Prom Committee would like to offer a big thank you to each and every person who donated items or services to our pre-loved prom event.

It is wonderful to be able to have a stock of items to offer our Year 11 students such as dresses, suits and more.

Several students were incredibly grateful to find high quality outfits and attended the prom looking stunning.

We intend to hold the event again next year so if any individuals or businesses have anything to donate or have any services they could offer our students, please get in touch with our school office.



Duke of Edinburgh

At the start of the academic year, we were pleased to be able to bring DofE back to Longdendale. Year 9 students were all offered the opportunity to take part.

Fast forward a year and we have had a fantastic time supporting 26 students through their various elements of the award. Students have shown so many skills over the last 12 months, commitment, teamwork and resilience, especially during the expeditions with our lovely summer weather which consisted mainly of rain.

The award had four elements that the students are encouraged to complete within 12 months Volunteering, Physical, Skill and the expedition. The students have all engaged with all the elements and along the way picked up additional skills to help them in the future.

A number of students selected cooking for their skills and have shared some great looking examples on their eDofE pages, with some students making it a Come Dine with Me experience. The skills ranged from learning a new sport, learning to play an instrument, sign language and many more.

Through the award the students have also given back to the community with their volunteering. These range from helping at local food banks and animal rescue centres, to coaching in various sporting fields. Students have also volunteered to help elderly neighbours.

To prepare for the expedition students took part in a skills day in school which was followed by a practice walk. The walk certainly prepared the students for the heavy kit bags they had to carry, and took place on one of the only hot days we have had this year - the students certainly demonstrated endeavour and team work on this day.

Over the last couple of weekends, the students have completed their overnight expeditions. All students rose to the challenge and demonstrated their navigation skills over the 2 days along with their cooking skills. What stood out most was their support of each other, always supporting each other in their teams. We are really pleased to hear that some of the students are keen to move onto their silver awards next year.

At this point, I do need to thank all the staff that were involved over the year in getting the DofE up and running in school. As you can imagine we have had to start from scratch, fund raising for school kit, building resources and completing training to accompany the students on the expeditions. We have been in the fortunate position of having a team of 9 staff dedicate their time to supporting the students, without these staff this would have not been possible. Finally, thank you to the families for your support. We will be in touch after summer to update you on your students' progress on the award. Please remind them to complete all their elements on the eDofE account and submit their assessors reports once these have been obtained from their assessors. Have a good summer.

Football Champions

Our Year 8/9 girls' football team became Tameside Cup champions back in May!

After a series of solid performances on route to the final, they took part in a 3-way final, beating Alder Community High School 2-0 before securing a 3-0 victory over St Damian's.

Huge congratulations to the whole squad. The following students have all contributed to this fantastic success:

Year 8

Layla R, Eve W, Eve L, Mia, Alexis, Imogen, Jiyah

Year 9

Lily-Jade, Alice, Brynna, Lois, Sunny, Ellie C, Lucy P, Erin, Martha P, Isabelle S, Niamh B, Madison

Year 11

Leah W (referee/manager)

Coach and Teacher of PE, Mrs Lucas-Stokes, added "the quality of football in the final by all teams was the best I have ever seen at school level - credit to all girls in the competition." She went on to speak about the team, saying "the girls were sensational on all levels - I am incredibly proud of them all and it is an amazing achievement to be Tameside champions".



Boys Football

Our Year 10 boys team played brilliantly in a friendly against Rayner Stephens High School earlier this term.

Longendale won 7-1 with a great team performance. Goals were scored by Oscar (4), Archie, Ethan and Harvey.



Leah Gymnastics

Many congratulations to Leah in Year 7 for her recent success in gymnastics. As the youngest competitor in the over 13 age group, Leah won two individual events which is fantastic achievement - well done!

Dance Production

Our annual dance production in May was a huge success with over 44 dance performance pieces performed over 2 nights.

Well done to all performers from Key Stage 3 and Year 9 and 10 BTEC dance - your commitment, dedication and enthusiasm lit up the stage.

Many staff watched the production and were full of praise for all the performers - what a show!



Tameside Athletics

The Longdendale athletics team had an excellent day at Sportcity in Manchester for the Tameside Secondary Athletics competition earlier in July.

The Junior Girls (JG) and Intermediate Girls (IG) relay teams got through their heats and into the finals, along with Eve in Year 8 who made the 200m girls final, Dexter in Year 8 who made the 200m boys final and Eva in Year 10 who made the girls 100m final. Very well done to all of you.

Many congratulations go to the following students who placed in the top 3 individuals out of competitors from 16 Tameside secondary schools:

- Nathan Intermediate Boys 1,500m: 3rd position and bronze medal winner in 4 minutes 43 seconds
- Zach Junior Boys 1,500m: 2nd position and silver medal winner in 5 minutes 17 seconds
- Sam Junior Boys Javelin: 3rd position and bronze medal winner with 21.55m
- Jiyah Junior Girls Discuss: 1st position and gold medal winner with 17.5m



Cumbria Trip

34 of our Year 9 and 10 geography students travelled to Castle Head in Cumbria in March where they undertook a range of outdoor activities including bush craft, rivers fieldwork, raft making, obstacle courses, hiking and camping.

This residential trip had a strong focus on team building exercises whilst gaining a fantastic outdoor experience of our Physical UK landscape.

Students investigated the River Eea from its source in the Lake District National Park to its mouth at Morecambe Bay. Working in small groups, students made measurements of the river features and all data was recorded. The students also discussed the surrounding land use and management of the river and had the opportunity to produce field sketches and examine the impact of a river on its surroundings.

The students experienced a fun, albeit a bit wet, night camping out whilst staying within the centre grounds. It was great to see the students getting involved in all the activities - well done to everyone and many thanks to the team of staff who facilitated the trip.



University of Oxford

On 2nd May a group of Year 10 students visited Corpus Christi University in Oxford. This was an exciting event and our students were immersed into student life at this prestigious university.

The day consisted of a tour around the city and a full campus tour including how lectures work. They also visited the different societies and considered the wider life of students. This raised aspiration for students post-16 choices and future career pathways.



ASFC Science XL

A group of Year 10 students took part in an XL Science event at Ashton Sixth Form College in May. The theme of the day was Chemistry, Biology and Geology, with students participating in workshops throughout the day.

Students extracted their own DNA and inserted this into jewellery during Biology. They then used molymods to construct different isomers of pentene in Chemistry and used this to look at the physical and chemical properties of isomers. Students also observed how climate can effect microfossil formation and how this can be used for evidence of climate change over time (linked to Geology).

Guest speaker Juliette Hilton, a Newcastle University MPharm Graduate spoke about 'The Antibiotic Resistance Crisis and the Role of the Pharmacist' which generated great discussion between the students.

The day gave everyone a fantastic insight into what it would be like to study these subjects at A Level and all students were an absolute credit to themselves and the school.



Teddy Bears' Picnic

6th June was our Teddy Bears' picnic. This was a fantastic event for both our students and the local community.

Our catering students made the picnic considering dietary needs of the toddlers and pre-schoolers as part of their qualification.

A group of students from Years 8-10 interested in working with nursery and early years children supported the event. We had messy play, art and crafts, sporting activities and paired reading to engage our visitors.

We also had a pop up book shop in which the funds raised support our library. A great afternoon was had by all.



Primary Science

In June we welcomed Year 5 students from Discovery Academy for a morning of science.

We looked at how different insulating materials would affect how fast a snowman melts.

The students were very enthusiastic and extremely polite. Thank you for visiting and well done Discovery!



National Thank a Teacher Day

To celebrate National Thank a Teacher Day on 19th June, we asked all students if they would like to leave a message of thanks to one or more of their teachers or staff at Longendale. There were some lovely messages received:

Lola in Year 7 gave thanks to Miss Hulston "I'd like to thank you for teaching me Spanish - always having a smile and making lessons fun".

Isabelle in Year 8 thanked Mrs Baxter-Smallwood "I would like to thank you for being the best teacher I could ask for. You are the one who made me love English and reading stories".

James in Year 7 gave his thanks to Mr Boardman "I'd like to thank you for being a really good Head of Year and PE teacher. Your lessons are really good fun".

We would like to thank all teachers and staff across the school for everything they do - it was clear from the messages that the students appreciate each and every one of you.



Hollingworth Primary Visit

It was great to have Year 5 students from Hollingworth Primary School visit our food technology department in July.

The Year 5 students listened well and made their own pizzas, including making their own dough.

There were some fantastic looking pizzas made. We hope all our visitors had fun and enjoyed tasting their creations!

COP

Student and staff delegates from Longendale High School hosted six of our feeder primary schools at our annual Climate Summit on Friday 28th June. We all shared a common purpose, to protect our environment and unite to fight against climate change.

This year our theme was 'Re-wilding'. We were fortunate to be able to call on the expertise of the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and our Forest School to deliver talks and lead workshops. We spent much of our day outside in nature, we conducted a school-grounds re-wilding feasibility study and sampled Forest School field craft. All of the students had a fantastic day and have renewed their commitment to working together for a better ecologically sustainable future.



RESPECT 
 **RESILIENCE**
ASPIRATION 



Longdendale
HIGH SCHOOL



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