

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SPRING TERM 2025

DEAR FAMILIES AND STUDENTS,

As we finish the Spring term, it's a perfect time to reflect on the remarkable progress our students have made in demonstrating our core values that form the foundation of the Longdendale Legacy: respect, resilience, and aspiration. Throughout this term, we have seen our students demonstrate an unwavering commitment to these values, whether through academic pursuits, extracurricular activities, or personal growth.

This term has been filled with inspiring moments, as our students have actively engaged in a variety of events and initiatives. From celebrating the achievements of women around the world during International Women's Day, to exploring future pathways during Apprenticeship Week and Careers Week, our students have embraced opportunities to learn, grow, and shape their futures.

We also marked a special day of inspiration during Aspiration Day, where students were encouraged to dream big and set goals for their futures. World Book Day provided an opportunity for us to celebrate the joy of reading, while the library continues to serve as a hub of creativity and learning. Our Forest School initiative has been a great success, fostering environmental awareness and teamwork, while our therapy dog has brought comfort and support to students throughout the term.

The resilience, respect, and aspiration demonstrated by our students during these events are a true reflection of the Longdendale Legacy we are building together. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and look forward to the continued success of our students as they continue to embody these core values in all that they do.



Mr Chiles
Head of School

Thank you for your ongoing support and best wishes for an enjoyable Easter.

LEGACY POINTS

Our Legacy Points system continues to reward students whose behaviour exemplifies our school values. Congratulations to Year 7 who are the year group with the most Legacy Points this half term. Congratulations to:

1. Leo (9C) with 368 points
2. Annie (10D) with 365 points
3. Latisha (7G) with 313 points
4. Lily (8C) with 299 points
5. Louis (9C) with 292 points



#TheLongdendaleLegacy

A MESSAGE FROM THE TRUST CEO

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

As we reach the end of the spring term and approach the Easter break, we reflect on a busy yet productive period, highlighted by a visit from Ofsted. Our staff have been working diligently to support our Year 11 students as they prepare for their upcoming May examinations, with many already having completed parts of their assessments.

The recent Ofsted visit was a valuable opportunity to showcase our collective achievements. While we are unable to share specific details, it was evident that inspectors acknowledged the progress being made. As always, our students conducted themselves impeccably, representing the school with pride.

A heartfelt thank you to all students and their parents/carers who contributed to the inspection by providing feedback. Wishing you all a restful Easter break, and as always, thank you for your continued support.



Mr McGrath
Stamford Park Trust CEO



**STAMFORD
PARK TRUST**

FUNDRAISING & MEMORIAL

As part of International Women's Day, student leaders sold purple ribbons to students and staff to raise funds for women's charities, showing our support for gender equality and empowerment.

£68 was raised in total which was donated to the women's charity 'Breast Cancer Now'. This charity was chosen by the Student Council as the donations they receive goes towards both research into the disease and also offers support to all those affected.

On Friday 21st March our student council joined the national effort to raise money for Comic Relief. So far the charity has raised over £34 million for worthwhile causes in the UK and abroad. In school we sold 'red-nose' pin badges at break and lunch time, which the students were keen to pin on their lanyards. We were able to donate £44 to the well deserved charity.

We now have a memorial bench in our market garden as a reminder of our dear colleague, Sharon Walker, who passed away earlier this year. A group of Longdendale students asked for a place they could remember her and came up with the idea of the memorial bench.

**BREAST
CANCER
NOW** The research
& care charity





INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

During National Careers Week and in celebration of International Women's Day, students from Longdendale High School took part in a series of inspiring activities designed to foster excellence and ambition. The week showcased the Trust's vision of Excellence and Ambition for All, offering students invaluable insights into diverse industries and empowering them to dream big.

One of the week's highlights was the "Empowering Futures" event hosted by Stamford Park Trust. Students had the unique opportunity to explore careers in fields where women are often underrepresented, such as the Army, Construction, and Engineering.

Trailblazing women from Stamford Products Ltd, The RAF, and Russell WBHO shared their stories, offering practical advice and shedding light on the possibilities available to young women in these dynamic sectors. Students participated in engaging activities, asked thoughtful questions, and left feeling inspired to pursue their ambitions.

The wisdom and inspiration of women within our own communities was also celebrated. Female teachers, support staff, and leaders shared the quotes they live by and the advice they would offer to young women.

APPRENTICESHIP WEEK AND NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK

Tameside College held a presentation for students in Years 7 - 10 during National Apprenticeship Week, explaining how apprenticeships combine real work with training and study. Students learnt that apprenticeships are on offer in a range of sectors and explored the routes into these.

Throughout National Careers Week, students engaged in a range of activities. Careers-themed lessons took place across all subjects ensuring every student gained valuable insights into career pathways. A whole-school careers quiz challenged students to match teachers to their qualifications and career journeys.

Year 10 students welcomed Ada National College for Digital Skills for an exciting session on digital careers, including workshops in Computer Science. A small group of Year 10 students also visited the University of Manchester and took part in a careers workshop, enriching their understanding of future opportunities.



ASPIRATION DAY

Students across school took part in a wide selection of activities on our second Aspiration Day of the year, designed to give them information on career choices and broaden their future aspirations.

Huge thanks to Tameside College who gave students in Years 7 – 10 a fantastic experience with 'Tameside Explore' – introducing students to the breath of options open to them in the future, whether that be future study or the world of work with interactive workshops linked to technical qualifications. Students enjoyed hands on

Year 7 took part in a murder mystery with a focus on finding and looking after evidence. They then took part in a fantastic practical drama/film making workshop with our alumni guest, Ciaran Moss.

Students in Year 8 linked in with British Science Week and amongst other activities explored the effects of acid rain on bird's eggs and the differences between natural and manmade fibres.

Year 9 were introduced to the options process as they start to choose which subjects they'd like to study at GCSE next year.

Students in Year 10 learnt about extremism and conflict and looked at careers in ICT and the media. Many thanks to our guest speaker, Emily Smith, Head of Data Science at Pets at Home for educating our students about data science and how this is used by companies throughout the world.

Year 11 concentrated on preparing for their GCSE exams in the summer with walk-through mock exams. Students also focused on either cross-curriculum maths to support geography and other subjects or undertook intervention in specific subjects to maximise their chances of success.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this Aspiration Day so enjoyable and successful. Students gained knowledge that will ultimately help them make informed decisions about what they would like to achieve in the future.



WORLD BOOK DAY

For World Book Day, students across school enjoyed book challenges and activities in our library and our craft elective students decorated the shelves with some wonderful book themed bunting.

The library book drive is now in full swing. Students can earn Legacy Points for reading and reviewing books. Well done to all students who have joined in with this and congratulations to the top 10 students on our reading rewards leaderboard shown below. Lily in Year 8 has written some incredible book reviews this term and has won herself an art set!

1. Lily (Y8) with 120 points
2. Libbie (Y7) with 40 points
3. Mae (Y8) with 40 points
4. Freya (Y7) with 40 points
5. Leo (Y9) with 30 points
6. Angel (Y10) with 20 points
7. Rose (Y10) with 20 points
8. Xavier (Y10) with 20 points
9. Oscar (Y8) with 20 points
10. Luke (Y7) with 10 points

UPCOMING LIBRARY EVENTS

Mental Health Awareness week runs from 12th - 18th May. Our mental health team are always available in school to speak to students in need of support. Our library also have mindfulness and therapeutic colouring activities available for students at break and lunch - this can help students relieve anxiety in a calm and quiet environment.

PRIDE month runs in June. A large range of childrens LGBTQ+ books are available to read and borrow year round from the library, including the Heartstopper book series which also features on Netflix.

The school library is a safe and inclusive space for all students to read, research and study. We will be running PRIDE themed activities during June where students can ask questions, share their thoughts and celebrate PRIDE month together.



FOREST SCHOOL

Throughout this term students have been working on establishing their Forest School site. Using recycled logs and branches they have built a fantastic new teepee hut, creating the perfect space to enjoy some of the delicious treats they have been cooking on the fire - chocolate fondue, jacket potato's and Esthers famous French toast being some of their favourites.

Our thrill-seeking Year 7 girls have enjoyed creating an obstacle course between the trees and building their very own rope hammock, while our Year 8 and 9 boys have created an outstanding dam and a secure visible path through the woods.

Forest school students also completed some remarkable work in the community alongside the Friends of Hollingworth to help plant new trees in our local park.



THERAPY DOG

This term we have trialled the possibility of offering therapy dog provision within school.

Therapy dogs can provide affection, comfort and support to people, therefore improving their wellbeing.

Daisy has made a great impression on so many of our students and staff with her calm and sociable nature. It has been lovely to see the students interact with her.

SEND COFFEE MORNING

Families of Longdendale students with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are invited to join us at our coffee morning on Friday 16th May.

This is an opportunity to meet the SEND team here at Longdendale, and speak to our governor for SEND, Alison Bradshaw.

Our Kids Eyes parent group and SENDIASS have also been invited to attend.



Longdendale
HIGH SCHOOL



SEND COFFEE MORNING

FRIDAY 16TH MAY

9AM - 11AM

PRIMARY EVENTS

We had a great time in January when Year 5 students from Mottram C of E primary school visited Longdendale to spend time with our languages department.

Together we learnt lots of Spanish vocabulary, tried some Spanish treats and decorated a paper plate with our favourite Spanish foods!

Many thanks to our Year 8 language ambassadors for supporting the morning - you were incredible ambassadors for our school and for the department.

Later in the term we hosted students from Tintwistle primary school for a morning of maths activities.

Well done to our visitors from both schools - we were extremely impressed with each and every one of you and hope to see you again in the future.



WELCOME TO LONGDENDALE!

We would like to offer a very warm welcome to the new families and students who will be joining Longdendale in September 2025.

Over the next few months, we will be meeting our new families and students in preparation for the Year 6 students joining us for two induction days in the summer.

Our current students play a huge part in welcoming new students to our school and our Student Transition Leadership Team, made up of current Year 7 and 8 students, will be on hand during the induction days to help our new students settle in and answer any questions they may have.

Further details on our transition programme are available on our website:
www.longdendalehighschool.org.uk/admissions/transition/

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I was a bit worried about moving up to high school but I have really enjoyed Year 7 - I've made lots of friends and am loving school so far.

YEAR 7 STUDENT

ELECTIVE NEWS

The second term of our electives programme has been a highlight of the week for many students. Having made their choice from over 30 activities on offer under the Academic, Physical Health & Wellbeing or Community & Leadership pillars, students have excelled in a wide range of fulfilling enrichment opportunities.

It has been wonderful to see and hear students rehearse for the upcoming production of Matilda which is going to be absolutely amazing from all accounts. Students in the set design elective have also been able to play a huge part in preparing for the production by creating some fantastically creative props and backdrops.

Elsewhere, students in our baking elective have learnt the steps involved in baking bread, and have put these skills to good use baking pizza and garlic bread. Those in our childcare elective enjoyed meeting a pair of young twins, which gave them a great opportunity to ask questions about parenting and child development during the first year of life.

The planters our horticulture students created have really brightened up the front of school and it has been great to see the students skills improve so well in our hair styling, cricket, cross-stitch and cheer electives, to name just a few.



MANCHESTER MUSEUM CAREERS DAY

The History Department in partnership with Manchester University organised a careers enrichment visit to Manchester Museum on 3rd March 2025.

Manchester Museum opened its doors just for Year 10 History students, for a museum careers showcase where they were given the opportunity to find out about some of the different roles that, together, make Manchester Museum. From curators and conservators to marketing, design, and social media, educators and fundraising to the shop staff, the visitor team and café staff.



UK MATHS TRUST

In January, thirty students from Year 9 and 10 took part in the UK Maths Trust intermediate maths challenge. The challenge is designed to encourage mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency.

All students received a certificate for their efforts. Congratulations to all students who took part. The junior maths challenge, for students in Year 7 and 8 will take place in the summer term.



LANGUAGES PERFORMANCE

Earlier this term we invited Onatti (a foreign language theatre company) into school to perform a show completely in Spanish for Year 9.

It was about two young people getting ready to go on their first date. The Year 9 students engaged really well with the performance and understood a lot more than they expected - the feedback was really positive.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND UPCOMING DATES

TERM DATES

Students return to school after Easter on **Tuesday 22nd April**. Term dates are available to view on our website [here](#).

YEAR 11 DANCE PERFORMANCE

Wednesday 23rd April

Parents/carers of our Year 11 Dance cohort are invited to watch the performance.

EARLY MAY BANK HOLIDAY

Monday 5th May (school closed)

SEND COFFEE MORNING

Friday 16th May

Families of Longdendale students with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are invited to join us at our coffee morning.

SUMMER HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May

NATIONAL SCHOOL SPORTS WEEK

Monday 16th June - Friday 20th June

A great week of extra-curricular sporting opportunities from external providers offered to students. There will also be whole year group hikes in the local area.

ENRICHMENT WEEK

W/C Monday 14th July

Includes sports day for each year group and many enrichment trips.

END OF SUMMER TERM

Friday 18th July

Whole school assembly.

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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