



**Longdendale**  
HIGH SCHOOL

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**Head of School**

Andrea Jones

**Executive Principal**

Melanie Wicks

8<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Families,

It is with very mixed emotions that I am writing to inform you that, after dedicating the last 22 years of my career here, I will be retiring at the end of this academic year as Headteacher from Longdendale High School. It has been a very difficult decision for me to make personally, as Longdendale has been a huge part of my life for so long, and is a truly special place with amazing young people and staff.

I have had the privilege of working alongside an extremely talented and committed team of staff, who I will miss hugely. I have also been well supported by a dedicated and skilled Local Governing Body and Board of Trustees from the Stamford Park Trust. Over the years, I have also enjoyed working with parents, carers and our wider community, who have also always provided constant support for our school.

Most importantly, 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 have every confidence that, with the support of the Stamford Park Trust, Longdendale has an exciting future ahead as it continues to develop from strength to strength to ensure that all of our students are provided with every opportunity to succeed in all areas of school life and beyond. Longdendale is fortunate to be part of such a forward-thinking and supportive trust, which is wholly committed to providing our students with the highest quality education and wider opportunities to support their future life choices and aspirations. The Board of Trustees have started the recruitment process for a new Head of School, and will update on this at a later date. I of course remain fully committed to Longdendale High School, and will remain in post and continue to work to ensure our students are fully supported in their education until my retirement in the summer, and to help support the transition to a new Head of School over the coming months.

I have loved being part of the Longdendale community, and the memories of my time at the school will remain with me forever. We have achieved many great things and overcome many challenges as a school community, and I am proud to have been part of that. Whilst I am extremely sad to be leaving Longdendale and our wider school community, I am looking forward to taking some time to enjoy with my family and am excited for the future and the next chapter.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support throughout my time at Longdendale High School - I will always appreciate it and never forget it.

I wish you, your family and our wider community all the very best for the future.

Yours sincerely,

Andrea Jones  
**Headteacher**

