

Dear Families,

As we come to the end of this academic year, I want to start by sharing how proud we are of our students, and how they continue to meet and exceed our expectations on a daily basis. This has been the most challenging year that any of us in school have ever experienced, and we are fully aware of the impact of the pandemic and the lengthy periods of school closures on our young people. Our students have demonstrated such resilience, creativity, independence and determination throughout this time. As we have all adapted to new ways of working in so many ways, they have engaged with their learning and continued to make great progress across their subjects. We also recognise that this would not have been possible without the support and encouragement of our families. Thank you for all of your ongoing support throughout the year – by working in partnership we will continue to provide the best opportunities possible for your children to succeed.

It has been wonderful to see the students taking part in so many enrichment activities over the past term as things slowly return to normal, and in particular the range of exciting opportunities they've had over the past few days as part of our enrichment week. Seeing them taking part in sports days, rewards trips, work experience, making time capsules, and learning some important outdoor survival and life skills has been such a pleasure and I know they will have developed a range of skills and hopefully some new interests. As we would expect, our students have participated in these opportunities with enthusiasm and energy.

Our Year 11 students worked exceptionally hard as they completed all of their assessments in preparation for the awarding of their GCSE grades, and whilst we were so disappointed we were not able to celebrate the end of the educational journey with us in the usual way due to ongoing Covid restrictions, we would like to wish them all every success as they move on to new adventures. We are so proud of how they rose to the challenge and approached their final year with us in these unprecedented times. We look forward to sharing all their successes with them later in the year.

I would also like to recognise and thank the team of dedicated, talented and highly committed staff that we have here at Longdendale. It is a pleasure to work alongside a team of people who care so deeply about our young people, and who go above and beyond every day to ensure our students are provided with the best opportunities in all areas of school life.

Since January, Longdendale has been part of the Stamford Park Trust, and we are already seeing the positive impact of being part of such a forward thinking, collaborative and supportive Trust. The students are at the heart of every decision, and in September we will share with you the plans for ongoing school improvement alongside the impact of the work done to date.

We are now looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students, many of whom are joining us for our Summer School provision during the holidays, and just a reminder that the new term starts at 8.30am as follows:

Friday 3rd September – Year 7 only
Monday 6th September – Years 7, 10 and 11
Tuesday 7th September – All year groups.

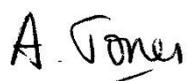
Please do support us in maintaining the highest of professional standards expected by making sure your child attends school every day in full school uniform. Just a reminder that if your child chooses to wear a skirt they must wear plain black tights of at least 60 denier, and they must reach no more than one inch above the knee. Please also make sure that shoes are leather look plain black school shoes and no trainers or branded sports type shoes should be worn. Please refer to our website for further details regarding school uniform, and the letter sent out recently from Dr Glancey.

During the course of the summer you will receive details of our new parent engagement app "School Gateway". This will replace the existing INSIGHT app and will be available on Android, Apple and web devices, for both parents and students. On the "School Gateway" parents will have access to timetables, behaviour and achievement information, detention notifications, texts/push notifications and emails from school. We ask that where possible you download the app to ensure you are kept fully up to date with all aspects of school life.

We have been advised that on our return to school in September students will no longer be expected to remain in 'bubbles', and many of the restrictions we have been required to implement this year will no longer be necessary. However, we have been informed that we will be expected to provide two tests for students on their return to school in September. We will write to you again later in the summer with more details regarding this.

In the meantime, thank you for your ongoing support with your child's education, and I wish you and your families a restful summer break. I look forward to continuing to working in partnership with you over the next academic year.

Yours faithfully,



Andrea Jones
Headteacher