



Dear Families,

The first term back to school has been an incredibly busy one for the class of 2021, but one that no doubt has given the learners in the year group invaluable experience, skills and knowledge in their journey towards achieving their potential.

Throughout the term there have been many successes in and out of school. Two of our learners, Evan G and Alyssa K in 10R, are heading on an exciting trip to Kenya next summer. Their expedition will include helping support local communities through project work such as supporting schools by building desks, painting classrooms or constructing water tanks, or even helping to build elephant deterrents for tribes and their villages! During their four week stay, Evan and Alyssa will also have the opportunity to explore some of Kenya's amazing wildlife and learn some of the traditional ways of the tribes who they will visit. Both learners are funding the trip by themselves and have put a tremendous amount of work to raise funds through various activities in and out of school. A massive well done to both learners on their dedication and commitment to what I'm sure will be an incredible experience. Another learner raising funds is Alana G in 10P, who has taken part in a Santa Fun Run with air cadets, which has generated plenty of money for various charitable causes.

The 'Brilliant Club' has also been another excellent experience some of our Year 10 learners have engaged with. Jack B, Leonna M, Tom O, Ellie W, Grace A, Jack Bl, Darcey E, Gulliver H, Cole-Reece L, and Ella R all represented the school impeccably when they visited Sheffield University last month. The learners had their first taste of a lecture and seminar, studying DNA and stem cells, and have progressed their learning with further seminars in school and through writing essays and assignments.

The whole year group were involved in the school's 'World Class Citizenship Day' in late November, which really showcased Year 10 learners' enthusiasm and engagement, as they learned about the UK's Criminal Justice System; during the day, a vast number of learners demonstrated critical thinking and well thought-out ideas and opinions on a number of legal and moral issues. The debate and discussion I saw across the year group was a privilege to listen to and demonstrated how quickly Year 10 are maturing and developing. Many staff were hugely complimentary about Year 10 and their exemplary attitude on the day, which is strongly encouraging as they speed towards becoming our Year 11s.

Year 10 have also had a number of sporting successes during the first term. Jack S in 10I has recently achieved a number of titles in his fledgling boxing career. Jack won the Northwest Title and also won National Bronze, amongst other accolades; Jack is an exciting prospect, and all of us at Longdendale are excited to see how he progresses over the next few years. Kian W in 10P has also been in the ring and has had some success, boxing locally, whilst Lucy W, also in 10P, has been on an impressive winning streak in girls' football. The boys' team that represents school has been on an impressive run of their own, starting with an 11-1 thrashing of Hyde Community College back in October, and they have since recorded a multitude of



winning results. Congratulations to all our learners involved in their respective sports, and the best of luck in your continued sporting endeavours.

I'd like to thank the Year 10 tutor team for all the support and guidance they offer to their tutees on a daily basis. Their excellent work on providing the Class of 2021 with opportunities to develop character and life skills has been invaluable.

Finally, I'd like to thank all the families who work alongside our staff at Longdendale. Your support is greatly appreciated, and our continued cooperation will undoubtedly bring success to our school community.

Have an enjoyable and restful Christmas break, and a happy new year,

Mr A Hulley