

Dear Longdendale Families,

## Re: Key Messages from Our Recent Ofsted Inspection

We are writing to share the key findings from our recent Ofsted inspection, which took place on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2025. We are pleased that the report recognises the significant strides we have made in improving the quality of education at Longdendale High School, and we would like to thank you for your continued support throughout this journey.

The report acknowledges that since the last inspection, students are now benefiting from *considerable improvements* across the school. Inspectors were particularly impressed by our *strong and determined leadership*, which is driving standards upwards and creating a school environment that is ambitious for all.

Students told inspectors they feel happy and safe in school. They understand and live by our values of *respect, resilience and aspiration*, which are evident in classrooms and throughout the school day. This is helping them to build their Longdendale Legacy. Inspectors observed calm and purposeful classrooms, and our new rewards system is motivating students to attend regularly and strive for success. Inspectors observed that students enjoy a wide range of opportunities for personal development – from darts and football to cake design and criminology – and they are well-prepared to make informed, respectful choices in their lives.

## Key Strengths Identified:

- **Leadership:** Leaders across the school, alongside the Trust and Local Governing Body, are united in our ambition to raise standards for every student.
- **Curriculum Design:** Our curriculum has been carefully designed so that learning is well-sequenced and builds on what students already know. Inspectors noted that this is helping students to deepen their understanding across a wide range of subjects.
- **Teaching and Learning:** Many teachers use their strong subject knowledge to design engaging lessons. This is ensuring real progress in the classroom.
- **Reading Support:** Students who need help with reading are now benefiting from a more targeted and effective approach.
- **Personal Development:** The report highlights our strength in personal development – including the way students learn about healthy relationships, diversity, and future careers through well-planned lessons, activities, and visits.

The report identifies several areas for us to work on to further improve. This is something that we acknowledged with the inspectors and have already put in place strategies to address them.

This report reflects the significant journey we are on and reinforces our belief that Longdendale is a school where students can thrive. Staff, students, and families should feel proud of the progress we are making together.

Thank you for your continued support. If you would like to read the full Ofsted report, it is available on our school website and the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely,



Mr M Chiles  
Head of School

Yours sincerely,



Mr A McGrath  
CEO