

# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## AUTUMN TERM 2025

### DEAR FAMILIES AND STUDENTS,

As we reach the end of a busy and successful autumn term, I am delighted to reflect on all that has been achieved by our Longdendale community. This newsletter captures just a snapshot of the many opportunities, events and successes that have taken place over recent months, and I hope it fills you with the same pride that I feel every day as Headteacher.

Throughout the term, our students have consistently demonstrated our core values of respect, resilience and aspiration. From outstanding conduct in school, to impressive participation in trips, competitions and enrichment activities, students have embraced every opportunity to grow both academically and personally. The strength of our Longdendale Legacy is evident in their commitment, kindness and ambition.

I would like to thank our staff team for their dedication and high expectations, which continue to drive improvement and ensure that students are supported and challenged to be their very best. I am also grateful to you, our families, for your ongoing partnership and support, which plays such a vital role in our students' success.

As you read through this newsletter, I hope you enjoy celebrating the achievements of our students and gaining an insight into the vibrant life of our school this term.

I would like to wish you all a restful and enjoyable break and look forward to welcoming everyone back as we continue our journey towards excellence and ambition for all.



**Mr Chiles**  
Head of School

### 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 term. Well done to our top points holders:

1. **Jess** (8C) with 1,177 points
2. **Nikhita** (10A) with 769 points
3. **Leon** (10C) with 735 points
4. **Jiyah** (10A) with 732 points
5. **Lucas** (10C) with 609 points



#TheLongdendaleLegacy

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Back in October, a group of our Year 11 students attended the Ashton Sixth Form College student leadership conference - a day dedicated to inspiration, collaboration and personal growth.

The event brought together 130 students from establishments across Tameside for a day of activities and thought-provoking talks, all focused on personal growth and exploring what it truly means to be a leader. Students discovered how leadership is built through connection, courage and authenticity.

Four exceptional keynote speakers shared their unique journeys into leadership and students then took part in interactive workshops, contributing ideas, solving challenges and working collaboratively with their peers from other schools.

The conference was a tremendous success, leaving our students feeling motivated, empowered and eager to apply their new leadership skills within school.

Thank you to Ashton Sixth Form College for hosting such an inspiring and memorable event.



## YEAR 10 STEM CONFERENCE

Year 10 students from Longdendale were delighted to be invited to the XL Academy Conference: The STEM Summit, hosted at Ashton Sixth Form College in November.

The day began with icebreakers, warm-up activities and a welcome talk. Students then took part in a series of STEM taster lessons, delving into a range of fascinating and complex topics. In maths, they explored Fibonacci's sequence and discovered how number patterns can be used to solve real-world problems. In physics and computer science, they learned about atoms, black holes, coding and calculating velocity.

They heard from Martin Bryant, founder of Big Revolution, author of PreSeed Now, and editor of the Geekout social media industry newsletter. He shared his story, unpacked complex ideas and inspired our students to continue exploring the world of STEM.



## 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

To celebrate the countdown to the holidays, we launched our festive 12 Days of Christmas challenge in school. The run-up to the holidays has been filled with excitement, festive spirit and plenty of opportunities for students to get involved.

Students have been aiming to maintain 100% attendance and no C2 behaviours to be in with a chance of winning fantastic prizes, including skip-the-queue lunch passes and selection boxes.

Not every event has been a competition however and many activities have simply been about spreading Christmas cheer throughout the school! Events such as our Disco Lunch, Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Dinner and Golden Ticket assembly ensured everyone could join in the fun.

With over 500 students successfully maintaining perfect attendance and behaviour throughout the 12 days, the whole school was rewarded a Christmas quiz on the penultimate day of term.



## TRUST GIFT APPEAL

We were proud to support the Stamford Park Trust gift appeal once again this year. The Trust work closely with Tameside primary schools and family liaison teams to identify children and families in genuine need of support over the Christmas season.

As a school, we were delighted to donate more than 50 individual gifts, including toys, books, games, toiletries and more - all generously contributed by our students, their families, staff and the wider community.

The team at Astley Sports Village worked exceptionally hard to organise, wrap and distribute every donation, ensuring they reached families in time for Christmas.

Thank you to everyone for your kindness and generosity in donating either gifts or financial contributions. Because of your support, many more local children and families will be able to experience the magic of Christmas this year.







## ICELAND SCHOOL TRIP

During the October half-term, a group of over 40 students set off on an unforgettable school trip to Iceland - a country filled with dramatic landscapes and unique natural wonders.

The adventure began with a visit to the remarkable Lava Tunnel near the capital city of Reykjavik where staff and students explored the vivid colours and rock formations carved by ancient volcanic eruptions. The first night brought a real highlight of the trip, as everyone witnessed the breathtaking Northern Lights across the Icelandic sky.

The following day the explorers travelled to Thingvellir National Park, an area that straddles the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, where the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates are drifting apart very slowly. Students walked amongst the rifts, capturing stunning photos of the dramatic scenery.

The next day, everyone explored the geothermal wonders at Geysir, the world-famous spouting hot spring that lent its name to geysers across the globe, then stopped to admire the powerful Gullfoss waterfall, one of Iceland's most spectacular natural landmarks. The day ended with an ice plunge pool challenge between students and staff and a dip in the Secret Lagoon, a naturally heated geothermal pool - the perfect way to unwind.

On the last day, the group set off for a glacier walk under clear, perfect conditions. Equipped with helmets, crampons and ice picks, the students climbed steadily across the ancient ice, eventually reaching the summit where they enjoyed breathtaking views. They even had the chance to chip away at the glacier itself, gaining a deeper understanding of its age and formation.

From there, the group continued to the dramatic Black Sand Beach, famous for its volcanic coastline. Their final stop of the day was the majestic Skógafoss Waterfall, where they were treated to an unforgettable sight - a double rainbow arching through the spray.

The trip was truly extraordinary from start to finish, offering students a blend of adventure, education and awe-inspiring natural beauty. A huge thank you goes to the dedicated staff team who planned, organised and led this remarkable experience. Their hard work made it possible for students to explore one of the world's most unique landscapes and create memories that will stay with them for years to come.



## OPEN EVENING

It was a pleasure to welcome over 300 local families to our annual Open Evening, held early in the autumn term. Guests learnt about the Longdendale Legacy from Mr Chiles, discovered the many advantages of being part of Stamford Park Trust and explored everything our school has to offer prospective students.

Our fantastic students led guided tours around the school and supported departments with a wide range of interactive demonstrations. Visiting families were full of praise for the Longdendale students they met throughout the evening, and we cannot thank all our volunteers enough for their contribution - each and every one of them was a true credit to our school.

Prospective students enjoyed an exciting programme of activities, from taking part in game shows in maths, to exploring rationing and evacuation in history. They also enjoyed solving the case of the missing trophy in science - a big well done to Lucy, Willow and Orla, whose excellent powers of observation and deduction helped them identify the culprit and win the science department's prize draw. Many visitors also impressed us with their efforts in our Golden Legacy Builder challenge throughout the night; well done to Riley who won the top prize of an Amazon Kindle in our prize draw and Alfie, Esme, Willow and Eleanor who all won book tokens.

Meanwhile, our current students demonstrated their exceptional talents with outstanding performances in music, drama and dance, all of which were thoroughly enjoyed by our visitors.

Overall, it was a hugely positive evening - one that showcased the enthusiasm and creativity of our students and the dedication of our staff to providing excellence and ambition for all.







## YEAR 11 FUTURES ROADSHOW

Earlier this term, our Year 11 students took part in the Futures Roadshow, an important event designed to help them explore their post-16 pathways and gain a clearer understanding of the opportunities available to them after their GCSEs.

Throughout the event, students engaged with representatives from the colleges, sixth forms, and employers listed below. They were able to browse prospectuses, ask questions and gather materials to support their ongoing research into further study and training options. Many thanks to all our visitors on the day.

- Ashton Sixth Form College
- Army Foundation College Harrogate
- Clarendon Sixth
- Greater Manchester Higher
- HMRC Careers
- Loreto College
- Marple Sixth Form College
- Oldham College
- Tameside College
- The Manchester College
- Xaverian College

Informative presentations gave students valuable insight into the different qualifications and training routes on offer, including details on course entry requirements, application processes, and the range of enrichment activities available at each institution.

A special thank you goes to Logan, former Longdendale Head Student, who returned to share his experience of life at Ashton Sixth Form College. Hearing from a past student provided our Year 11s with relatable and reassuring guidance as they start planning their next steps.

The event highlighted the wide variety of pathways open to our students including A levels, T Levels, vocational courses, combined study options, and work-based learning such as apprenticeships. We hope this has equipped our students with the knowledge and confidence they need to make informed decisions about their post-16 education and training.



## PRESENTATION EVENING

It was wonderful to come together and celebrate the many achievements of the Class of 2025 at our presentation evening in November. The event was a fantastic opportunity to recognise the hard work and dedication our students demonstrated throughout their time at Longdendale. It was a joy to see so many proud families, friends and staff joining us for the occasion. Mr Hulley, as Head of Year, was especially proud to see the year group recognised for their accomplishments.

We would like to express our gratitude to the families and carers who supported their young person during their time with us at Longdendale, helping them to achieve their best both in and out of school. Ongoing encouragement from families plays a vital role in success. And of course, well done to the Class of 2025 on being such a fantastic year group!

Many thanks to our current students who showcased their musical talents on the night. Their performances added a wonderful sense of celebration and highlighted the incredible range of skills and talents our students possess. From confident vocalists to accomplished instrumentalists, each performance contributed to a truly special evening. A big thank you also goes to our catering team, whose thoughtful preparation and delicious refreshments greatly contributed to the warm, welcoming, and celebratory atmosphere of the occasion.

***Class of 2025*** - we are immensely proud of you and all that you have accomplished. As you move forward into the next chapter of your journey, please stay in touch - we would love to hear about your adventures and achievements in the years ahead.







## DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD CELEBRATION EVENING

In November, we were proud to host our annual Duke of Edinburgh's Award celebration evening, a special event recognising the hard work, resilience and personal growth of our students who completed their Bronze and Silver Awards this year. It was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate their achievements and reflect on the memorable journey they have taken.

This year saw an impressive 29 students achieving their Bronze Award and 14 students achieving their Silver Award - a testament to their commitment and determination in undertaking all sections of the programme successfully.

Throughout the evening, we shared funny and unforgettable moments from the expeditions, from unexpected wildlife encounters to triumphs over tricky map-reading challenges. Each story highlighted the teamwork, perseverance and positivity shown by students.

Students were then formally presented with their Bronze or Silver certificates, celebrating not just their expedition success but also their volunteering, physical activities and skills development. The event concluded with a photo montage showcasing highlights from all expeditions - a wonderful reminder of just how far our students have come. We are delighted to have 33 students embarking on their Bronze award over the next year and 25 progressing onto Silver.

A huge well done to all the students on achieving their awards and adding proudly to their Longdendale Legacy. And a very big thank you to our dedicated DofE staff team, whose guidance, encouragement and selflessness in giving their time make these valuable experiences possible.





## TAMESIDE CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to all students who took part in the Tameside Cross Country event. Taking place on a bright but cold December day, the competition brought together hundreds of runners from secondary schools across Tameside.

A special well-done goes to Zach in Year 9, who finished 1st and is now the Under-14 Tameside Champion - an exceptional achievement! Congratulations also to Sam in Year 11, who placed 2nd in the boys' under-16 race, and to Brynna, our Prime Legacy leader, also in Year 11, who secured an impressive 5th place in the girls' under-16 race.

Throughout the event, our students demonstrated fantastic participation, effort and behaviour, proudly reflecting our school values in action. Well done to everyone.

## DANCE & PE NEWS

In November we welcomed former student Frankie back to school to lead an engaging workshop with our Year 7s.

Now in her second year of a musical theatre course at Pendleton College, Frankie shared valuable insights into her dance journey so far and the pathway into post-16 performing arts.

She also taught students an energetic routine from Mrs Doubtfire: The Musical, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

Congratulations to all Key Stage 4 BTEC dance students and Key Stage 3 dance elective students who performed in this years dance production "Dance Collective".

With over 44 dance numbers across the two nights of performances, the showcase of talent and choreography demonstrated was superb. Well done to all involved.

Our boy's football teams have represented the school with pride and enjoyed success in recent competitive fixtures - keep it up! Best of luck to our girls' teams as they begin their cup and plate campaigns in January.





## REMEMBRANCE

On Remembrance Sunday, our Prime Legacy leaders, Brynna and William, represented the school with pride as they laid a wreath at the local war memorial, paying tribute to those who bravely fought for our freedom.

On Tuesday 11th November, Longdendale joined the nation in observing the traditional two-minute silence. The entire school community paused together to remember and reflect, with our cadet students wearing their official uniforms in honour of the occasion. Members of our Student Council joined students from fellow Stamford Park Trust academies at Ashton Sixth Form College for a special Remembrance service, paying tribute to all those who lost their lives in conflict.



## YOUNG GREEN BRITON

This term, our Year 9 students have officially begun the Young Green Briton Challenge, a dynamic year-long programme that blends climate education with innovation, business and citizenship skills.

Working in teams, students have explored local climate issues from energy use and waste to biodiversity and transport sustainability and designed entrepreneurial solutions to address them. Students will build valuable skills in critical thinking, teamwork, problem-solving, communication and project management.

Students who have chosen to develop their product as part of the Spring Term EcoVision elective will be working towards competing nationally and on successful completion will be able to secure an HPQ (Higher Project Qualification) that is equivalent to half a GCSE.

We're looking forward to seeing the positive impact Year 9 will make as they take on this inspiring environmental challenge.





## FUNDRAISING

In November, students came together to support BBC Children in Need through a lively non-uniform day and a student-run merchandise sale. Their combined efforts raised an impressive £612.87 for the charity.

Students also wore odd socks in support of Anti-Bullying Week, to celebrate individuality and kindness.

The final total of money raised reflects the enthusiasm and generosity of everyone involved, helping to support vulnerable children and young people across the UK.

WE'RE SUPPORTING

**BBC**  
**CHILDREN**  
**IN NEED**



#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK



## NEW KILN FOR ART DEPARTMENT

Many thanks to Balfour Beatty and National Highways who generously donated a brand-new kiln to our art & technology department through their community engagement fund.

This support means our students can now create high-quality ceramics, explore new techniques, and bring their creative ideas to life from start to finish.

The kiln will make a real difference in enriching our curriculum and inspiring young artists for years to come.

## LIBRARY EVENTS

This term has been a lively one in the library, with a range of competitions and creative options designed to encourage reading, writing and imagination for all students - there has been something for everyone to enjoy.

Students enjoyed a pop-up book stall early in the term. This featured a wide range of titles from bestselling fiction and graphic novels to intriguing non-fiction books.

The annual creative writing Halloween competition was another highlight of the term. Many congratulations to Dantaya in 7A who won the competition with her chilling tale titled "Whispers in the Walls."





## IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND UPCOMING DATES

### TERM DATES

Students return from the Christmas holidays on **Tuesday 6th January 2026** - for our term dates for the academic year, please click [here](#).

### YEAR 11 PARENTS' EVENING

Thursday 15th January

### INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE

Wednesday 28th January

### APPRENTICESHIPS WEEK

Starts Monday 9th February

### FEBRUARY HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February

### NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK

Starts Monday 2nd March

### BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

Starts Monday 9th March

### YEAR 9 PARENT'S EVENING

Thursday 12th March

### YEAR 8 PARENT'S EVENING

Thursday 26th March

### END OF SPRING TERM

Friday 27th March

*Celebration of the Spring term with our golden ticket raffle.*

## 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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