



**Longdendale**  
HIGH SCHOOL

# ENRICHMENT ELECTIVES

YEARS 9 & 10





## OUR MISSION

Through excellence in education we are an inclusive community, that embraces choice, opens doors and creates opportunities. With kindness and collaboration, we empower everyone to be the best version of themselves. We are confident, curious and creative individuals who contribute positively to our community.



**ACADEMIC**



**PHYSICAL HEALTH  
& WELLBEING**



**COMMUNITY  
& LEADERSHIP**

**RESPECT**

**RESILIENCE**

**ASPIRATION**

## DEAR STUDENTS,

The electives programme is designed to instil our vision of 'Excellence and Ambition' for all. We believe that all students should have the opportunity to take part in enrichment beyond the curriculum to realise their talents and interests to reach their full potential. With the electives programme, you can take part in three electives per academic year.

We would like you to pick one from each pillar academic, physical health and wellbeing and community. This will support developing your whole character.

### ACADEMIC ELECTIVE

This will focus on driving deep knowledge beyond the curriculum learning. In this elective you will develop a disposition for lifelong learning and be highly confident in applying critical, enquiry-based and problem-solving approaches to conceptual and practical challenges.

### PHYSICAL HEALTH & WELLBEING ELECTIVE

Part of physical health and well-being is paramount to leading healthy successful lives. In these electives you will develop strength, stamina, resilience, flexibility team-working and co-ordination skills. Additionally, wellbeing strategies which support positive mental health such as mindfulness.

### COMMUNITY & LEADERSHIP ELECTIVE

We are a community school and are always looking to strengthen our links with the wider community. We have worked with residential care homes, primary schools, nurseries, church and food banks and we are passionate about how you can make a difference. Community and leadership pillars are designed to support you develop skills and talents to support others building their confidence, oracy, collaboration, project-based learning.

You should pick five electives that you would like to study in term 1. Write down your choices in your masters of knowledge book. Your tutor will discuss the choices in reading with you. You must study from two contrasting pillars so pick electives in different pillars to support the selection.

If you are not successful with your first choices, you may be assigned this elective on a different term.

From Year 7 to Year 10 you will have the opportunity to take part in 12 electives which will strengthen your personal development and cultural capital.

Electives are part of our compulsory offer for all students. Therefore, once assigned these cannot be amended for timetabling purposes. Electives take place 2.35 - 3.30pm and commence Wednesday 10th September 2025 for term 1.

Please read the guide carefully before making choices to stretch and challenge your talents and interests.

Thanks in advance,

Miss G. Lowe (Assistant Headteacher)

# ELECTIVE CHOICES FOR TERM 1

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# CRIMINOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY



## Open to:

✓ Years 9 & 10

## Introduction

The aim of this elective is to develop critical thinking, awareness, and empathy about society and behaviour. This phase helps you understand social issues, crime, and the justice system, making you more informed citizens. By learning about these topics, you become more aware of their roles in the community and may consider careers in related fields, leading to a more socially aware perspective.

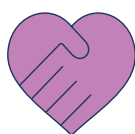
## What knowledge will I gain?

You will learn about different types of crime and their causes, including social and psychological factors. You will understand the criminal justice system's structure and roles of police, courts, and prisons. You will explore social inequalities related to race, class, and gender, and their links to crime. You will also learn about the impact of crime on victims and communities, crime trends, and how institutions like family, education, and media influence behaviour.

## What skills will I gain?

Research skills including data collection, reading skills and social and diversity awareness.

## Which value does this link with?



**RESPECT**



**RESILIENCE**



**ASPIRATION**

## How does it link to future study and careers?

This elective will support future study in A Level Sociology, A Level Criminology, Journalism, Social Work and Law.

## Further reading and information



Prospects: [www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/criminology](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/criminology)



Criminology - A Sociological Introduction: ISBN 9781138566262

# FINANCIAL AWARENESS AND PLANNING



## Open to:

✓ Years 9 & 10

## Introduction

This elective aims to increase your understanding of how money works in the real world. From budgeting your money to understanding how mortgages work, you'll gain some practical skills that will help you now and in the future. This elective aims to give you some insight and added confidence to make informed financial choices.

## What knowledge will I gain?

You will find out how mortgages work and learn about interest and investment related to saving and banking. You will discover how loans work and will gain knowledge about the risks of debt and how to borrow money responsibly.

## What skills will I gain?

You will gain basic budgeting and money management skill, learn how to recognise needs v wants, learn about impulse buying and gain an understanding of payslips.

## Which value does this link with?



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



ASPIRATION

## How does it link to future study & careers?

Financial awareness is a life skill that supports every career path. Whether you want to be a doctor, designer, engineer, or entrepreneur, understanding how to manage money can help you:

- Make informed choices about education, jobs, and spending
- Avoid debt and build savings
- Start your own business or manage your income as a self-employed person
- Work in careers like finance, business or retail.

# FILM AND MEDIA STUDIES

**ACADEMIC**

## Open to:

✓ Years 9 & 10

## Introduction

This elective is designed to impart knowledge of the different effects created in films through various techniques that filmmakers use. It will give you the opportunity to analyse films and enable you to view them in a different way.

## What knowledge will I gain?

Knowledge about techniques such as camera angles, use of sound, film promotion, script writing amongst many others.

## What skills will I gain?

The skill of being both analytical and creative in this form of media.

## Which value does this link with?



**RESPECT**



**RESILIENCE**



**ASPIRATION**

## How does it link to future study & careers?

This elective will support future study in GCSE and A Level English Language and would benefit those wishing to study media. Possible careers include filmmaking, creative writing and journalism.

# JAPANESE CULTURE CLUB

## Open to:

✓ Years 9 & 10



## Introduction

In this elective you will get the opportunity to learn about the different aspects of Japanese culture. In our sessions we will be learning about the geography of Japan, Japanese traditions, music, art, language and cuisine. We will be looking into Japanese manga and anime, as well as having the opportunity to make your own manga art.

## What knowledge will I gain?

You will gain the knowledge of another culture and learn about how others live. You will also have the opportunity to learn a new language and new customs.

## What skills will I gain?

You will gain new language skills, art skills and observation skills.

## Which value does this link with?



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



ASPIRATION

## How does it link to future study & careers?

In the future you may work in Japan or work with people who come from Japan, so it is really important to know about their customs and traditions.

# USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



## Open to:

✓ Years 9 & 10

## Introduction

AI has shifted from the world of science fiction right into the palms of our hands in the last few years, after ChatGPT was released late in 2022. Although AI has been around for over 50 years, it has never looked like this, and it has never been so accessible. Now is time to grasp AI with both hands and learn how it can be used for pleasure, education, business and productivity.

## What knowledge will I gain?

You will learn about different AI platforms, you will learn what they can do and how to use them. You will learn about AI that can help you learn in step by step chunks, how to make instant music, podcasts and maybe see what your pet cat looks like as a princess. We will consider the laws around AI and look at the feasibility of each platform for the job intended. Rather than AI being used as a tool to cheat or fool a system we will learn how to use it to improve our own learning and free up our valuable time.

## What skills will I gain?

In this exciting elective, you will gain a solid foundation in Artificial Intelligence through practical, creative, and thought-provoking activities. Skills students will develop include: understanding AI concepts, problem-solving with algorithms, data literacy, the basics of machine learning, critical thinking, creative application and collaboration and communication skills. By the end of the course, students will not only understand the technology shaping our future but will also be empowered to use it wisely and creatively.

## Which value does this link with?



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



ASPIRATION

## How does it link to future study & careers?

Artificial Intelligence is one of the fastest-growing areas in science and technology, and understanding it opens doors to a wide range of exciting careers. This course provides a strong foundation for future pathways such as: software development and coding, data science and analytics, robotics and engineering, cybersecurity, healthcare technology, game design, finance and business intelligence, scientific research and the creative industries e.g. music, film and art.

# WILDLIFE STUDIES



## Open to:

✓ Years 9 & 10

## Introduction

The natural world is full of an incredible diversity of living things, each one adapted to survive in its environment. From observing and researching the plants and animals that live around our school, to learning the many organisms found around the world, we will think about the incredible ways that life has evolved, and the many challenges species face in a time of biodiversity collapse and climate change.

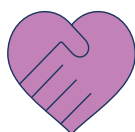
## What knowledge will I gain?

You will learn about how scientists understand and describe the types of life on Earth. We will discover what species live in the ecosystem around Longdendale and how organisms have evolved to be adapted to ecosystems on every continent. We will explore how species face multiple challenges due to global environmental crisis and you'll learn how you can play a part in protecting wildlife and the ecosystems life needs to survive and thrive.

## What skills will I gain?

You will learn how to conduct wildlife surveys, safely observe and measure plants and animals in their natural environments and measure and analyse data that helps us understand how the climate and biodiversity crises are affecting species. You will discover how to describe species scientifically and understand how they adapt over time.

## Which value does this link with?



**RESPECT**



**RESILIENCE**



**ASPIRATION**

## How does it link to future study & careers?

This elective will support study in the sciences. It could lead to an interest in careers working as an: agroecologist, ecologist, environmental consultant, field trials officer, forest manager, conservationist, soil scientist or zookeeper.

## Further Reading and Information



Prospects: [www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice)

# CAKE DECORATING

## Open to:

✓ Years 9 & 10



## Introduction

In this elective you will be provided with the opportunity to bake and be creative. The aim is to introduce you to try different skills and encourage you to think about different creations thus becoming more proficient and independent.

## What knowledge will I gain?

Patience and resilience as cake decorating is a challenging task to do skilfully.

## What skills will I gain?

You will learn how to decorate cupcakes, how to use different cake decorating tools effectively, design skills and how to be more resilient in giving different designs a try.

## Which value does this link with?



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



ASPIRATION

## How does it link to future study & careers?

This elective will support future study in GCSE and A Level food & nutrition or hospitality & catering. You may discover a passion for cake decorating and can think about going to college or night school to complete a cake decorating or baking course.

# HAIR DESIGN

## Open to:

✓ Years 9 & 10

**PHYSICAL HEALTH  
& WELLBEING**

## Introduction

You will build your own portfolio of hair designs ready to take to college and the world of work. You will research types of designs such as heatless styles, hair ups, festival braiding and recreate these in our elective sessions. We will look at best rated hair products considering costs and benefits to stylists and consumers.

## What knowledge will I gain?

Braiding methods and styling techniques.

## What skills will I gain?

Communication skills through consumer service and satisfaction; Hair styling skills and safe use of hair appliances.

## Which value does this link with?



**RESPECT**



**RESILIENCE**



**ASPIRATION**

## How does it link to future study & careers?

This elective will support future study in hairdressing courses at colleges and could lead to career opportunities in hair styling whether at a salon or mobile business.

# KNITTING

## Open to:

✓ Years 9 & 10

**PHYSICAL HEALTH  
& WELLBEING**

## Introduction

Knitting is a mindful activity, allowing you to be creative and productive whilst reducing anxiety. The programme is ideal for experienced knitters who wish to have a calm atmosphere to unwind or beginners who want to learn a new skill. You will learn basic knitting skills whilst working to create a blanket to be auctioned for charity.

## What skills will I gain?

Problem solving - working to correct mistakes and using purposeful practice to improve work.  
Creativity - using texture and colour to express individuality. Staying positive - repetitive action of needlework can induce a relaxed state like that associated with meditation and yoga.

## Which value does this link with?



**RESPECT**



**RESILIENCE**



**ASPIRATION**

## How does it link to future study & careers?

Knitting links to a range of careers in arts, fashion and the yarn industry. Further study post-16 could include A-levels in Textiles, Vocation A-level in Fashion & Clothing, BTEC Level 3 in Fashion & Textiles. Future careers may include knitting instructor, pattern designer, yarn dyer as well as jobs in the growing sustainable British wool industry.

## Further reading and information



British Wool: <https://shop.britishwool.org.uk/sustainability/>

# RUGBY

## Open to:

✓ Years 9 & 10



## Introduction

Students will learn the essential skills in rugby. You will develop an understanding of the rules and regulations within rugby league and then you will be able to apply the skills you have learnt to full game situations.

## What knowledge will I gain?

You will gain knowledge about the rules of the game, how and when to perform certain skills in game situations and the difference between rugby league and rugby union.

## What skills will I gain?

You will gain practical skills such as passing and tackling as well as improve on your communication and teamwork skills.

## Which value does this link with?



**RESPECT**



**RESILIENCE**



**ASPIRATION**

## How does it link to future study & careers?

This elective will support future study in BTEC sport and A Level sports science. You could pursue a career in teaching, sports coaching, sports journalism or as a professional sports performer.

## Further reading and information



World Rugby: [www.world.rugby/organisation/about-us/careers](http://www.world.rugby/organisation/about-us/careers)



England Rugby: [www.englandrugby.com/the-rfu/working-at-the-rfu](http://www.englandrugby.com/the-rfu/working-at-the-rfu)

# SALSA DANCING

## Open to:

✓ Years 9 & 10



## Introduction

Get your groove on and join the Salsa dancing elective. Get ready to step up your moves and get yourself in a spin. Salsa's core comes from the blending of Cuban musical traditions, including the Son and Rumba, which already drew on African rhythms and other cultural influences.

## What knowledge will I gain?

You will learn about the history and origins of Salsa dancing. In and around the 1920s, as jazz rapidly gained popularity, American jazz players had a hand in the salsa's growing popularity. They began blending their styles with that of Salsa, dancing the nights away with Cuban musicians.

## What skills will I gain?

Salsa is usually a partnered dance, though there are some styles that can be performed either alone or in a group, exchanging partners throughout the song. No matter how many people are dancing, this style is always marked by its energetic and rhythmic movements. You will learn the rhythm and style of salsa dancing.

## Which value does this link with?



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



ASPIRATION

## How does it link to future study & careers?

This would be a good elective for those studying or wishing to study BTEC dance. Future careers could include becoming a choreographer, professional dancer, performer, actor or instructor.

# CAROL CONCERT SINGING CLUB



Open to:

✓ Years 9 & 10

## Introduction

In this elective, you will prepare a range of music for the Christmas concert to be selected, rehearsed and performed for a live audience. Please note that all students who wish to be in the Christmas Choir must select this elective in term 1.

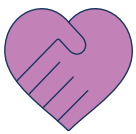
## What knowledge will I gain?

Knowledge of repertoire, styles, artists.

## What skills will I gain?

Performance skills, stage presence, vocal skills.

## Which value does this link with?



**RESPECT**



**RESILIENCE**



**ASPIRATION**

## How does it link to future study & careers?

This elective will support future study in GCSE music. Possible careers could be in the entertainment business. Other skills include confidence building that can benefit all other careers.

# CHILDCARE VOCATIONAL



## Open to:

✓ Years 9 & 10

## Introduction

In this elective you will have an introduction to the law and guidelines around childcare. This will prepare you for the looking after of young children in the future. You will complete a mini first aid awareness course to learn how to keep children safe. You will meet babies needs including handling, changing nappies and feeding. This includes planning and using appropriate activities and toys. You will also understand a checklist of dealing with challenging childcare situations. You will gain underpinning knowledge of childcare duties within a family setting for friends or relatives as employment.

Childcare has strong links with Hollingworth Primary to support with EYFS students and arranged parent and baby events.

## What knowledge and skills will I gain?

Knowledge of health and safety, laws, allergies, caring responsibilities, practical childcare skills and knowledge, awareness of appropriate first aid and keeping safe.

## Which value does this link with?



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



ASPIRATION

## How does it link to future study & careers?

This elective will support future study in BTEC child development. You will be able to develop skills which can support part time employment in this area. You can also add this to your CV or college applications for further training in childcare or community or public services courses.

# DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Open to:

✓ Year 9 only

**COMMUNITY  
& LEADERSHIP**

## Introduction

The Duke of Edinburgh award is an accredited qualification. If you love the outdoors, this is for you. As part of the Duke of Edinburgh award, you will need to upskill in several areas - this elective will mainly focus on preparing you for the expedition element of the award.

## What knowledge will I gain?

The course will look at the principal areas of preparation for the outdoor expedition. Navigation is the main skill required as you will be unattended during your trip. You will be required to create your own route cards. You will also cover camp craft, first aid and kit lists as well as being advised on how to pack your bag. You will look at nutrition, cooking and food preparation.

## What skills will I gain?

Navigation, campcraft, first aid and other expedition techniques.

## Which value does this link with?



**RESPECT**



**RESILIENCE**



**ASPIRATION**

## How does it link to future study & careers?

The Duke of Edinburgh award is a national award and is highly recognised on your CV. The award is more than just hiking with your friends. Your commitment to the expedition is just the start. You will complete physical and community aspects to the award which will prove to prospective employers that you are committed, considerate and well-rounded applicants.

## Further reading and information



DofE: [www.dofe.org/do/](http://www.dofe.org/do/)

# EVENT PLANNING

## Open to:

✓ Years 9 & 10



## Introduction

During this elective you will be planning an event/party. From designing invitations, to balloon arch making, outfit designing/planning, venue set up, creating a playlist, designing and selecting table toppers, flower arrangements and food selection. You will have a budget to plan your entire event. The event can be chosen by you; sweet 16 party, gender reveal baby shower, wedding, mini festival etc.

## What knowledge will I gain?

You will learn how to budget for an event, how to book a venue, how to make party props and decorations as well as the finer details of event planning.

## What skills will I gain?

You will gain budgeting, designing, organising and decision making skills whilst using plenty of creative thinking. It will give you life skills in organising events in the present and in the future.

## Which value does this link with?



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



ASPIRATION

## How does it link to future study & careers?

The knowledge and skills gained in the event planning elective will benefit many future study and career choices. Project management skills, managing budgets and liaising with suppliers are all transferable skills that can help lead to jobs in event co-ordination, wedding planning, catering management, marketing, public relations, conference planning and venue management.

# GRAPHIC DESIGN

## Open to:

✓ Years 9 & 10



## Introduction

This elective is designed to give you a feel for what it is like to be a graphic designer. A graphic designer is someone who uses their own set of skills to design and create logos, messages for websites, marketing campaigns, advertising, product packaging, and signage.

You will create your own unique brand for business and will design a range of materials such as a logo and a social media ad to support the advertising and promotion of the business idea.

## What knowledge will I gain?

You will learn the ingredients that are required to create a visually strong brand as well as elements of colour theory of how colours can affect people emotionally, physically, and psychologically.

## What skills will I gain?

You will learn the skills required to use various software packages such as inkscape and photoshop to create your range of marketing and promotional materials

## Which value does this link with?



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



ASPIRATION

## How does it link to future study & careers?

This elective will support you should you wish to pick GCSE information technology or should you wish to study any digital media or graphic design course at college. Ultimately the elective gives you an insight into life as a graphic designer.

## Further reading and information



Coursera: [www.coursera.org/gb/articles/what-does-a-graphic-designer-do](http://www.coursera.org/gb/articles/what-does-a-graphic-designer-do)

# PHOTOGRAPHY

## Open to:

✓ Years 9 & 10

**COMMUNITY  
& LEADERSHIP**

## Introduction

In this elective you will develop photography skills for complete beginners and keen amateurs. You will learn the principles of digital photography and have the opportunity to explore a range of styles. You will learn how to critically evaluate the work of others and your own work. You will also explore the purpose of images and be able to interpret images as you would other artwork. You will develop an understanding of composition, light, exposure, focal length, colour and critical evaluation. A gallery of work forms part of the display to the school community. Please note that having a camera phone or access to a digital camera is essential for this elective. Students will agree to a code of conduct to allow use of their phones for the purpose of this elective only.

## What knowledge will I gain?

You will develop an understanding of composition, light, exposure, focal length, colour and critical evaluation.

## What skills will I gain?

Photography and the skills listed above.

## Which value does this link with?



**RESPECT**



**RESILIENCE**



**ASPIRATION**

## How does it link to future study & careers?

This elective will support future study in GCSE and A Level art & design and BTEC photography. Career opportunities include the ability to progress into creative roles such as photography, however this would also support to develop transferable skills such as resilience, problem solving and interpersonal skills.

# THEATRE STUDIES

## Open to:

✓ Years 9 & 10



## Introduction

Our focus is on exploring both film and theatre productions, with a special interest in how creative decisions differ between the two. From script adaptations and set design to acting styles and directing choices, we dive into what makes each approach unique.

## What knowledge will I gain?

A deeper understanding of the key differences between film and theatre, including how storytelling, performance, and technical elements are approached in each medium.

## What skills will I gain?

Analytical thinking, collaborative discussion, communication, as well as a greater understanding of theatre.

## Which value does this link with?



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



ASPIRATION

## How does it link to future study & careers?

This can be a step into exploring film and theatre roles, including costume design, directing, set design, choreography etc. as well as thinking about reviewing and writing about film and theatre. It will help you with resilience, reading and understanding and approaching problems in a methodical way.

 RESPECT   
RESILIENCE  
ASPIRATION 