



Longdendale
HIGH SCHOOL

ENRICHMENT ELECTIVES

YEARS 7 & 8





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 bring to life our vision of *Excellence and Ambition for All*. We believe every student should have the opportunity to take part in enrichment activities beyond the curriculum - to explore new interests, develop talents, and reach their full potential.

Each academic year, you will take part in **three electives**, with each elective aligned to one of our **Pillars of Excellence**. By choosing electives across the different pillars, you demonstrate both the breadth of your character and your commitment to the *Longdendale Legacy*.

ACADEMIC ELECTIVE

This elective focuses on deepening your knowledge beyond the classroom. You will develop a love of lifelong learning, confidence in critical and enquiry-based thinking, and the ability to apply problem-solving approaches to both conceptual and practical challenges.

PHYSICAL HEALTH & WELLBEING ELECTIVE

Physical health and wellbeing are essential to living a healthy, successful life. These electives help you build strength, stamina, resilience, flexibility, teamwork, and coordination. You'll also learn strategies to support positive mental health and wellbeing, such as mindfulness.

COMMUNITY & LEADERSHIP ELECTIVE

As a community school, we are proud to strengthen our links with the wider community. We have worked with residential care homes, primary schools, nurseries, churches, and food banks - and we're passionate about helping you make a difference. These electives help you develop leadership, collaboration, oracy, and project-based learning skills, empowering you to support others and build confidence.

You must choose **four electives** that you would like to study in the **Spring Term**. During tutor time, your tutor will record your choices in order of preference. While we will do our best to allocate your first choice, this cannot be guaranteed, so please consider your reserve options carefully.

From Year 7 to Year 10, you will take part in **12 electives**, helping you to develop both your personal growth and cultural capital. Throughout each elective, your teacher will assess your participation, attendance, and behaviour, which will contribute to your Legacy Certificate at one of four levels: **Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum**.

Electives are a compulsory part of our offer for all students. Once assigned, choices cannot be changed for timetabling reasons. Electives commence on Wednesday, 7th January 2026 for the Spring Term and take place from 2:35pm - 3:30pm.

Please read this guide carefully before making your choices, and aim to select electives that will stretch and challenge your talents and interests.

Thank you in advance,



Mr J Bowland
Assistant Headteacher

ELECTIVE CHOICES FOR TERM 2

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ANCIENT WORLDS

Civilisations and their Secrets

Open to:

✓ Years 7 & 8



Overview

In this elective, students will embark on a journey through the ancient world, exploring how great civilisations rose, flourished, and sometimes mysteriously disappeared. They will investigate the secrets of ancient societies, uncovering how geography, innovation, and belief shaped human progress.

Through hands-on activities, creative projects, and storytelling, students will develop their curiosity, critical thinking, and historical inquiry skills. By the end of the course, they will have a deeper appreciation of how the achievements and mysteries of the ancient world continue to influence the modern era.

What transferable skills will I develop through studying this elective?

Research | Critical thinking | Analytical | Communication

Which value does this link with?



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



ASPIRATION

How does this elective support future study & careers?

Taking part in **Ancient Worlds: Civilisations and their Secrets** helps you develop research, critical thinking, and analytical skills - qualities that are valuable for future study and careers in history, archaeology, anthropology, and education. You'll learn how to investigate past societies, interpret evidence, and understand cultural developments over time.

This course also builds curiosity, attention to detail, and communication skills, showing that you can explore complex topics, make connections, and present your findings clearly.

BEYOND THE BOARD

The Mind and Mastery of Chess

Open to:

- ✓ All year groups



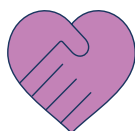
Overview

This elective is based on a two-player board game where the objective is to checkmate the opponent's king by strategically manoeuvring 16 pieces, and it is important because it develops crucial cognitive skills like problem-solving, planning, and critical thinking. The game's importance extends to real life as it fosters patience, teaches how to weigh consequences, and provides a framework for strategic thinking that can be applied to many other situations and challenges.

What transferable skills will I develop through studying this elective?

Problem-solving | Critical thinking | Patience | Resilience

Which value does this link with?



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



ASPIRATION

How does this elective support future study & careers?

Taking part in **Beyond the Board: The Mind and Mastery of Chess** helps you develop strategic thinking, concentration, and patience - skills that are valuable for future study and many careers. Chess teaches you to think ahead, analyse complex situations, and make decisions under pressure. These abilities are essential in fields like science, technology, business, and law, but also benefit everyday problem-solving and teamwork. By studying the game's strategies and mindset, you're strengthening both your logic and creativity - a powerful combination for success in any path you choose.

CODE CREATORS

Adventures in Scratch Programming

Open to:

✓ Years 7 & 8



Overview

This elective allows students to explore the world of coding, by developing a game from scratch, learning how to use variables, iteration and selection while creating your game. There will be tutorials on different aspects of game creation.

What transferable skills will I develop through studying this elective?

Problem-solving | Critical thinking | Resilience | Creativity | Strategic planning

Which value does this link with?



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



ASPIRATION

How does this elective support future study & careers?

Studying **Code Creators: Adventures in Scratch Programming** helps you develop problem-solving, logical thinking, and creativity - qualities that are valuable for future study and careers in computer science, software development, game design, and technology. You'll learn how to design, build, and debug interactive projects while applying programming concepts in a hands-on way.

This course also builds perseverance, project management, and collaboration skills, showing that you can turn ideas into functional digital creations.

DESIGN LAB

The Art of Visual Communication

Open to:

✓ Years 7 & 8



Overview

In this Graphic Design elective, students create a clothing brand from scratch, designing a unique logo and a series of print advertisements. Using Inkscape and Photoshop, you will develop a visual identity for your brand and select a celebrity to endorse it. This project blends creativity with what it is like to work as a graphic designer on a real-world project, giving students hands-on experience in branding, digital design, and the importance of a well designed brand.

What transferable skills will I develop through studying this elective?

Creativity | Problem-solving | ICT skills | Responding to feedback

Which value does this link with?



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



ASPIRATION

How does this elective support future study & careers?

Taking part in **Design Lab: The Art of Visual Communication** helps you develop creativity, technical skills and problem-solving techniques - qualities that are valuable for future study and careers in graphic design, marketing, media, and the arts. You'll learn how to convey ideas effectively through visual media, combining design principles with innovation.

This course also builds project management, attention to detail, and communication skills, showing that you can turn concepts into impactful visual messages.

PAWS AND PURPOSE

Understanding our Canine Companions

Open to:

✓ Years 7 & 8



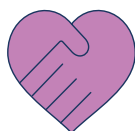
Overview

This elective course is perfect for dog lovers and curious minds alike. Over the term, you'll dive into the fascinating world of dogs, learning about their biology, behaviour, and the special bond they share with humans. Through fun activities and hands-on experiences, you'll gain a deeper understanding of our furry friends. Join us this autumn term for a journey of discovery, creativity, and fun! Please only choose this elective if you are not allergic to dogs as you might get the opportunity to 'Meet the Frenchie!'

What transferable skills will I develop through studying this elective?

Active-listening | Observation | Compassion | Communication | Problem-solving

Which value does this link with?



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



ASPIRATION

How does this elective support future study & careers?

Taking part in **Paws and Purpose: Understanding Our Canine Companions** helps you develop empathy, observation, and responsibility - qualities that are valuable for future study and careers in veterinary science, animal care, psychology, and education. You'll learn about dog behaviour, communication, and wellbeing, gaining practical skills in working with animals.

This course also builds problem-solving, teamwork and communication skills, showing that you can understand, support, and positively influence the animals and people around you.

PAWS, CLAWS & CARE

The Animal Wellbeing Project

Open to:

- ✓ All year groups



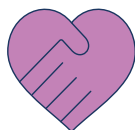
Overview

The key components of this animal welfare elective is based on an animal's five key welfare needs (health, environment, nutrition, behaviour and companionship). This course will identify common health issues around a variety of species, along with prevention. We will also look at dietary requirements of a variety of species, along with the basic accommodation requirements in order to maintain good health and behaviour. Within the course we will also look at the ethics and laws around keeping and caring for animals.

What transferable skills will I develop through studying this elective?

Communication | Empathy and compassion | Active listening | Teamwork

Which value does this link with?



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



ASPIRATION

How does this elective support future study & careers?

Taking part in **Paws, Claws and Care: The Animal Wellbeing Project** helps you develop responsibility, empathy, and practical problem-solving skills that are valuable for future study and careers in veterinary science, animal care, biology, and environmental studies. You'll learn about animal behaviour, welfare, and how to meet their needs through hands-on experiences.

This course also builds teamwork, communication, and ethical awareness - showing that you can care for living things and take initiative in real-world situations. It's perfect for anyone passionate about animals and making a positive impact on their wellbeing.

WIZARDS, WORDS AND WONDER

The Magic of Science and Storytelling

Open to:

✓ Years 7 & 8



Overview

Step into a world where science and storytelling collide! In this elective, you'll uncover the real-world science behind the magic of the wizarding world. From the chemistry of potions to the psychology of fear, from spells that defy gravity to creatures inspired by mythology, you'll explore how imagination and scientific thinking combine to create believable worlds of wonder.

What transferable skills will I develop through studying this elective?

Attention to detail | Creativity | Written communication | Presentation and public speaking

Which value does this link with?



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



ASPIRATION

How does this elective support future study & careers?

Taking part in **Wizards, Words and Wonder: The Magic of Science and Storytelling** helps you develop creativity, communication, and critical thinking - qualities that are valuable for future study and careers in science, writing, media, education, and the arts. You'll learn how to explore scientific concepts through storytelling, making complex ideas engaging and accessible.

This course also builds research, problem-solving, and presentation skills, showing that you can combine imagination with logic to inform, entertain, and inspire others.

DESIGN IN DETAIL

The Art and Craft of Jewellery Making

Open to:

✓ All year groups

**PHYSICAL HEALTH
& WELLBEING**

Overview

In this elective, students will explore the creative and practical techniques behind jewellery making. From beading and wirework to decorative and recycled materials, you'll learn how to design and craft unique pieces that express personal style and artistic flair. Along the way, you'll develop skills in planning, precision, and creative problem-solving - turning everyday materials into beautiful, meaningful creations. Whether you're inspired by fashion, storytelling, or craftsmanship, this course offers a hands-on journey into the art of jewellery design.

What transferable skills will I develop through studying this elective?

Problem solving | Attention to detail | Creativity and innovation | Perseverance | Collaboration

Which value does this link with?



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



ASPIRATION

How does this elective support future study & careers?

Taking part in **Design in Detail: The Art and Craft of Jewellery Making** helps you develop creativity, precision, and problem-solving skills that are valuable for future study and careers in jewellery design, fashion, product design, and the arts. You'll learn how to plan, craft, and refine intricate pieces, improving your attention to detail, patience, and hand-eye coordination.

This course also builds project management and creative thinking skills, showing that you can turn imaginative ideas into polished, tangible results - a skill set valued in many professional fields.

MIX, MEASURE, MASTER

Skill and Science in Baking

Open to:

✓ All year groups



Overview

In this elective students will get the opportunity to bake a variety of sweet and savoury bakes. Students will learn and use a range of skills including, different mixing techniques, knife skills, how to measure ingredients accurately and making and working with bread and pastry dough. The bakes will include cookies, gingerbread, flapjacks, apple pie, brownies, fruit scones, iced buns, cheesy garlic bread, pizza twists and cheese pasties. We will also have a session where we taste a range of different breads and biscuits and think about what makes them different and which ones we like and why.

What transferable skills will I develop through studying this elective?

Problem-solving | Following instructions | Numeracy | Interpersonal & communication skills
Teamwork | Patience and perseverance

Which value does this link with?



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



ASPIRATION

How does this elective support future study & careers?

Taking part in **Mix, Measure, Master: Skill and Science in Baking** helps you develop precision, creativity, and problem-solving skills - qualities that are valuable for future study and careers in culinary arts, food science, hospitality, and nutrition. You'll learn how to follow processes, experiment with techniques, and adapt recipes while paying attention to detail.

This course also builds time management, patience, and teamwork skills, showing that you can combine scientific thinking with creative flair to produce consistent, high-quality results.

MYTHIC MAKERS

Sculpting Beasts in Clay

Open to:

✓ Years 7 & 8



Overview

In **Mythic Makers: Sculpting Beasts in Clay**, students will explore the imaginative world of mythical creatures through the lens of artist Karolina Romanowska. Drawing inspiration from her sculptural practice, students will research mythical beasts from various cultures and use their findings to design and create their own unique clay beast mask. Throughout the elective, they will develop their creative making skills by experimenting with clay techniques and surface design, while also strengthening their creative visual language through drawing, design development, and reflective discussion.

What transferable skills will I develop through studying this elective?

Creativity | Visual communication | Resilience | Adaptability | Analysis skills | Problem-solving
Active listening

Which value does this link with?



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



ASPIRATION

How does this elective support future study & careers?

Choosing **Mythic Makers: Sculpting Beasts in Clay** helps you build creativity, imagination, and design skills that link directly to future study and careers in art, design, animation, game development, and even engineering. You'll learn how to plan, problem-solve, and bring original ideas to life through hands-on sculpting. This kind of creative thinking and attention to detail is highly valued in many fields, showing that you can think outside the box and turn imaginative concepts into real, tangible results.

PERFORM, MOTIVATE, INSPIRE

The Craft of Cheerleading

Open to:

✓ All year groups



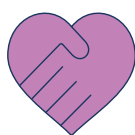
Overview

Longdendale High School won the first ever Tameside Cheer Competition to become borough champions. We are keen to re-establish these routes and create a new LHS Cheer Squad, with the aim to enter local competitions once the team is trained and established. If you have cheer experience already, we are looking for KS4 to become LHS cheer student coaches to assist and lead the club.

What transferable skills will I develop through studying this elective?

Athleticism | Teamwork | Courage | Organisation | Communication

Which value does this link with?



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



ASPIRATION

How does this elective support future study & careers?

Taking part in **Perform, Motivate, Inspire: The Craft of Cheerleading** helps you develop teamwork, leadership, and communication skills - qualities that are valuable for future study and careers in sports, performing arts, education, and event management. You'll learn how to coordinate routines, motivate others, and perform with confidence under pressure.

This course also builds resilience, discipline, and time management, showing that you can combine physical skill with creativity and leadership to achieve goals both individually and as part of a team.

POWER AND PLAY

The Spirit of Girls' Football

Open to:

✓ Years 7 & 8



Overview

Each week, we'll focus on building your skills, improving your teamwork, and getting match-ready for school competitions. You'll mostly play in your favourite position, but we'll also mix things up - trying out new formations and learning how to play smart, fast, and strong. Make sure to bring your football boots, shin pads, and socks every week - we'll be training hard and having fun! We'll also take part in Tameside cup games against other schools, so get ready to travel, compete, and show off your school pride! Come along, work hard, and let's make some football magic happen!

What transferable skills will I develop through studying this elective?

Teamwork and collaboration | Leadership | Resilience | Decision making | Communication
Respect | Discipline

Which value does this link with?



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



ASPIRATION

How does this elective support future study & careers?

Taking part in **Power and Play: The Spirit of Girls' Football** helps you develop teamwork, leadership, and resilience - skills that are valuable for future study and careers in sports, coaching, education, and health. You'll learn how to communicate effectively on and off the field, make strategic decisions under pressure, and work collaboratively to achieve shared goals.

This course also builds discipline, confidence, and time management, showing that you can combine physical skill with mental focus and determination to succeed both in sport and beyond.

THREADS OF THOUGHT

The Art and Craft of Cross-Stitch

Open to:

✓ All year groups



Overview

This elective explores cross-stitch as both a traditional craft and a contemporary medium for creative expression. Students will learn the fundamentals of stitching techniques while also examining the cultural and historical significance of embroidery across different societies. Through hands-on projects and reflective practice, students will develop their own stitched artworks. Threads of Thought encourages mindful making - where patience, precision, and creativity come together in every stitch.

What transferable skills will I develop through studying this elective?

Problem-solving | Creativity and innovation | Perseverance | Project management

Which value does this link with?



How does this elective support future study & careers?

Taking part in **Threads of Thought: The Art and Craft of Cross-Stitch** helps you develop patience, attention to detail, and creativity - qualities that are valuable for future study and careers in textile design, fashion, art, and craft-related industries. You'll learn how to plan intricate designs, work with precision, and bring ideas to life through careful craftsmanship.

This course also builds focus, perseverance, and project management skills, showing that you can combine creativity with meticulous execution to produce high-quality, visually engaging work.

CHORUS TO CONCERT

The Power of Performance

Open to:

- ✓ All year groups - by invitation only



Overview

Join us on Wednesday afternoons for our brand-new concert elective, where singers from Years 7 to 10 prepare for a major school performance taking place in July 2026. Unlike our themed concerts of the past - such as 80s Night or 90s Night - this event will be a celebration of all kinds of pop music. Pupils will choose songs they love, develop their vocal skills, and work together to create an exciting, high-quality show. If you enjoy singing and want to be part of a fun, creative project with a fantastic final performance, this is the elective for you! Please note that all students in this elective will be expected to perform.

What transferable skills will I develop through studying this elective?

Problem-solving | Critical thinking | Resilience | Creativity | Strategic planning

Which value does this link with?



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



ASPIRATION

How does this elective support future study & careers?

Taking part in **Chorus to Concert: The Power of Performance** helps you develop confidence, teamwork, and communication skills - qualities that are valuable for future study and careers in music, performing arts, education, and event management. You'll learn how to rehearse, perform, and collaborate with others to deliver polished musical presentations.

This course also builds discipline, creativity, and time management skills, showing that you can combine artistic expression with focus and collaboration to achieve powerful, memorable performances.

KINDNESS IN ACTION

Creating Positive Change

Open to:

- ✓ All year groups



Overview

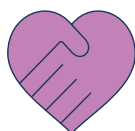
Kindness in Action is a creative, community-focused elective designed to help students make a real difference through acts of kindness and charity work. The elective gives students the opportunity to plan and take part in a variety of fun and rewarding projects that support both the school and local community.

Students will take the lead in organising and running small charity events such as bake sales, sponsored challenges, and donation drives, while also building meaningful connections with local care homes, charities, and community groups. Activities might include writing letters or creating care packages for elderly residents, collecting items for local food banks, or hosting awareness campaigns for chosen causes.

What transferable skills will I develop through studying this elective?

Empathy | Organisation | Teamwork and collaboration | Communication | Leadership

Which value does this link with?



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



ASPIRATION

How does this elective support future study & careers?

Throughout this course, students will learn how kindness can create positive change and will develop essential life skills such as teamwork, leadership, and communication, and experience the joy of giving back. **Kindness in Action: Creating Positive Change** aims to build empathy, confidence, and a lasting sense of social responsibility - all while having fun and working together for a good cause. It will foster business management skills and through public speaking will support leadership roles that are evident in many career paths today.

THE REFRAME PROJECT

Reframing Gender Roles and Stories



Open to:

- ✓ All year groups

Overview

The Reframe Project is an empowering elective designed to explore and challenge perspectives on equality, women's rights, and social justice. Through research, discussion, and creative projects, students will examine historical and contemporary issues affecting gender equity and representation. The course emphasizes developing strong communication and advocacy skills, offering students opportunities to engage in public speaking, lead awareness initiatives, and present proposals or reflections to the school. By reframing narratives and amplifying diverse voices, students will learn how to become confident, informed changemakers within their community.

What transferable skills will I develop through studying this elective?

Presentation and public-speaking | Written communication | Research | Analysis | Emotional literacy

Which value does this link with?



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



ASPIRATION

How does this elective support future study & careers?

Taking part in **The Reframe Project: Reframing Gender Roles & Stories** helps you develop critical thinking, empathy, and communication skills - qualities that are valuable for future study and careers in media, education, social sciences, and advocacy. You'll explore how women's stories and roles have been portrayed, learn to challenge stereotypes, and create narratives that highlight female perspectives.

This course also builds creativity, research, and collaboration skills, showing that you can think critically, engage with important social issues, and amplify female voices effectively.

ROOTS OF KNOWLEDGE

Exploring Nature Through Gardening

Open to:

✓ Years 7 & 8



Overview

Roots of Knowledge is an experiential elective that invites students to connect with the natural world through hands-on gardening and ecological exploration. Blending science, sustainability, and creativity, this course teaches the fundamentals of plant growth, soil health, and ecosystem balance while encouraging students to cultivate their own garden spaces. Through observation, reflection, and teamwork, participants will discover how gardening fosters environmental awareness, personal wellbeing, and a deeper understanding of humanity's relationship with nature. Whether tending to vegetables, herbs, or native plants, students will grow both knowledge and appreciation for the living world around them.

What transferable skills will I develop through studying this elective?

Patience | Organisation | Resilience | Problem-solving | Creativity and innovation

Which value does this link with?



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



ASPIRATION

How does this elective support future study & careers?

Taking part in **Roots of Knowledge: Exploring Nature Through Gardening** helps you develop responsibility, observation, and problem-solving skills - qualities that are valuable for future study and careers in horticulture, environmental science, biology, and education. You'll learn how to plan, grow, and care for plants while understanding ecosystems and sustainability.

This course also builds patience, teamwork, and project management skills, showing that you can combine practical hands-on work with curiosity and care for the natural world.

THE COLOURS OF SPAIN

Culture, Creativity, and Community

Open to:

✓ Years 7 & 8



Overview

Immerse yourself in the vibrant world of Spanish culture! This elective explores the traditions, art, and everyday life that make Spain unique. From colourful festivals and music to creative projects inspired by Spanish design, you'll gain a deeper understanding of how language connects to culture and community. Through hands-on activities, collaborative tasks, and cultural storytelling, you'll develop creativity, communication skills, and cultural awareness - perfect for anyone curious about languages and the world beyond the classroom.

What transferable skills will I develop through studying this elective?

Creativity and innovation | Verbal communication | Written communication | Active listening | Presentation and public speaking

Which value does this link with?



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



ASPIRATION

How does this elective support future study & careers?

Taking part in **The Colours of Spain: Culture, Creativity, and Community** helps you develop cultural awareness, creativity, and communication skills - qualities that are valuable for future study and careers in languages, international relations, the arts, and tourism. You'll learn about Spanish traditions, art, and community life in Spain and gain a richer understanding of the country itself.

This course also builds teamwork, adaptability, and presentation skills, showing that you can engage with new cultures, think creatively, and collaborate effectively in diverse environments.

WORDS THAT WIN

The Power and Practice of Debate

Open to:

✓ Years 7 & 8



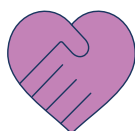
Overview

This elective allows students to get a taste for the art of debate and explore real-world topics within the school environment. Students will learn how to effectively research a range of topics, build their viewpoints and argue them with their peers - with the opportunity to potentially debate other teams from schools within the area. From fun practice rounds leading up to debates around hard-hitting headlines, Words That Win asks students to cut through the noise and find the sticking points that hit home - developing their critical thinking skills, resilience, public speaking and writing ability in one fell swoop.

What transferable skills will I develop through studying this elective?

Confidence | Self-motivation | Active listening | Teamwork

Which value does this link with?



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



ASPIRATION

How does this elective support future study & careers?

Taking part in **Words That Win: The Power and Practice of Debate** helps you develop communication, critical thinking, and persuasive skills - qualities that are valuable for future study and careers in law, politics, media, and business. You'll learn how to construct arguments, analyse information, and respond confidently under pressure.

This course also builds research, teamwork, and public speaking skills, showing that you can think logically, express ideas clearly, and influence others effectively.

 RESPECT
RESILIENCE
ASPIRATION