

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

I have great pleasure in presenting the Board of Governors Annual Report for 2019-2020. This has been an extraordinary year in every sense but the resilience and creativity of the Longstone staff has ensured that the education and well-being of every pupil has remained the focus in these very challenging times. The Governors commend the Principal and staff for responding so positively to the unprecedented situation that quickly evolved after the mid-term break in February and disrupted the remainder of the school year. On-line learning is not easy for both pupils and teachers and much planning has gone on behind the scenes to ensure that pupils' needs were met as much as possible and plans laid for a return to school.

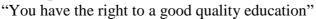
It was, and continues to be, a very challenging time in school for everyone. I would like to take this opportunity to record the Governors' thanks to Mr Skarmoutsos for his excellent leadership and to the staff both Teaching and Non-Teaching for their dedication and commitment to the Longstone pupils in these uncertain times. As we move through this pandemic I thank you, the parents, for your continued support and understanding. I trust that you will enjoy reading the Governors' Annual Report and that you and your family will remain safe and well.

J G Cooper Acting-Chairman



Welcome from The Principal

Rights of the Child Article 28





Dear Parent/Guardían

Welcome to our 2019/20 Board of Governors Report. The purpose of this report is to give you an insight into all the curricular and extracurricular activities that took place in Longstone last year, as well as to inform you of any changes in relation to issues such as staffing, enrolment and building.

As you can imagine although the 19/20 school year was one with many achievements for our pupils, it was also one of many challenges due to the Covid19 pandemic. We should not however allow the school closures to take away from our children's successes. As you will find in this report there is a vast amount of curricular and extra-curricular activities that took place and enriched the learning experiences for all of our pupils.

From March onwards, our teachers rose to the challenge and adapted very quickly to ensure that education continued online with the use of a variety of resources e.g. SeeSaw, Google Classroom, Website etc.

This has been a very difficult time for everyone and I would like to express my gratitude to all our parents for the patience and co-operation with the school.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our management team and all our staff for their hard work during the 19/20 school year and also our Board of Governors for their support and positive input.

Yours sincerely,

Ioannis Skarmoutsos

[Principal & Secretary to the Board of Governors]

BOARD OF GOVERNORS REPORT TO PARENTS 2019/20

The main purpose of this report is to keep our parents informed of the continued work and development of our school. This involves commenting on the many varied and diverse areas of school life that contribute to Longstone School. The Board of Governors hope that you will find this report both informative and interesting.

2019/20 PUPIL NUMBERS

Nursery 10 Primary Department 85 Secondary Department 117

Behaviour Resource 80 pupils given Outreach Support over the year, 17 of

whom had placements in the Unit

Learning Support Unit 10

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The members of the Board of Governors for the 19/20 term were as follows:

EA South Eastern Region Representatives:

Mr G Cooper (Acting Chairman) Mr A Newell (Vice Chairman) Mr T Allan

Parent Representatives:

Mrs J Jordan Mr S McCauley

Teacher Representative:

Mrs A McArthur

DENI Representative:

Dr J Betts

STAFFING:

This year saw the retirement of Mrs A McDonnell, one of our classroom assistants—we wish her well.

Congratulations go to Mrs Campbell on the birth of her son James, to Mrs Gordon on the birth of her daughter Hope, to Ms Mitchell on the birth of her son Bobby, to Mrs Cowan on the birth of her daughter Ellie and to Mrs Armstrong on the birth of her daughter Emma.

PASTORAL CARE:

The Education and Training Inspectorate noted that the school provided evidence that arrangements for safeguarding continue to reflect the guidance issued by the relevant departments. Arrangements evaluated are reported as comprehensive. (Education & Training Inspectorate (ETI))

There is an inclusive ethos and nurturing environment that permeates all aspects of the school. The pupils respond positively to the high expectations of staff and, through the School Council, have taken key roles in developing the new positive Behaviour for Learning policy. The school celebrates the achievements of pupils through assemblies and the many displays in the school. The pupils are taught to care for others and have participated in a number of events to raise funds for a range of charities.

The school was awarded the Gold Standard for the Rights Respecting School Award in June 2019.

Mr J. McIlmoyle



GETTING READY TO LEARN – "Little Stars Nursery"



In nursery we enjoyed another year of our Getting Ready to Learn programme. Once a month parents joined together for a workshop and then a 'stay and play' session. During our workshops we covered topics including: behaviour, routines, communication, sensory play and bedtime stories. We enjoyed sharing experiences and new ideas together over a cup of coffee. After our workshops, our parents joined their children in the classroom for a 'stay and play' session, where they could experience the nursery session with their child and explore some of the concepts discussed in the workshop in the classroom. Children also enjoyed taking home their weekly book pack full of topic related bedtime stories to enjoy with Mum or Dad.

PEACE IV – SHARED EDUCATION

In September 2019 our Shared Education Project continued with Dundonald Primary School and Tor Bank School.

Once a month pupils from our Year 2 and Key Stage 2 classes joined with groups of pupils from the other schools to share and enjoy a range of activities. The activities were planned to facilitate the needs of all of the pupils involved and promote relationships with one another while developing a range of cross curricular skills.



In Year 2 we had fun with an 'Autumn sensory play day'; while the pupils in Key Stage 2 enjoyed a 'Potions and Spells' day in Dundonald Primary School. At Christmas we invited them to watch our school play, share break and party activities together afterwards.



As the programme continued it was apparent that positive relationships were developing amongst the children as they became more familiar with one another. Although our plans came to an early finish, we look forward to re-connecting with our friends in Tor Bank School and Dundonald Primary School in the future.





This project is supported by the European Union's "PEACE IV Programme", managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)

EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

Learning through play has continued to provide a strong focus for the early years department with an emphasis being placed on outdoor play.

The year 1 & 2 termly planning has been under review and after piloting a topic based approach we have found that with the addition of detailed weekly planners this has allowed us to further improve teaching and learning through play both indoors and outdoors.

We have continued to use educational visits to support our topic based approach with visits to such places as the farm and Knock Fire Station proving highly successful.





Mr McCune and Mrs Wilson completed the STEPS into Leadership course whilst Mrs Watson completed the Senior Leadership Pathways course during the 2019-20 academic year. Both courses were run by the Education Authority Schools Development Service and were invaluable to our professional development.

All members of staff were faced with challenges when the school was required to close due to the coronavirus pandemic. However, thanks to detailed knowledge of the seesaw app we were all able to provide remote learning for our pupils. Teachers provided activities for all areas of the

curriculum, and pupils had access to the activities either on-line or through printed packs. One of the highlights was each class participating in a virtual sports day at the end of June.

This school year was exceptional in many ways and again all staff in the early years Foundation Stage Department excelled in supporting our pupils.





OUTDOOR LEARNING

Outdoor learning has been providing opportunities to both explore and transfer learning within Foundation and Key Stage 1. Pupils access Outdoor learning on a weekly basis (Foundation Stage 2 times per week) and are provided with opportunities to learn through and explore the natural environment, gross motor skills, small world play, sensory play and role play.

The pupils enjoy exploring a range of play areas including the Nature Nook where they can develop their confidence and resilience by learning through creative tasks, take risks, discover personal strengths and follow interests.



INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP – KENYA TRIP (September 2019)

This year pupils at Longstone have developed links with two schools, one primary and one secondary in Kangundo, Kenya.

It has been a rewarding opportunity for all of our pupils to engage with a new culture and develop their Global Awareness. In September 2019, Mr McCune and Mrs Plunkett travelled to Kangundo in Kenya to visit the International Partner Schools to meet the children and teachers and develop a sustainability project.

In the future two teachers from the International Schools in Kenya will hopefully be able visit Longstone to continue the sustainability project and experience what school life in Northern Ireland is like.



KEY STAGE 2

Mathemagicians Club

Every Wednesday between 1pm and 2pm we enjoyed meeting together in Mr Melin's class to develop and showcase our mathematical knowledge and skills. The children took turns to play the games and answer questions. There was mutual benefit to all of the children as they worked together. They were rewarded with special "I am a Mathemagician" stickers and a fabulous fizzy "magic wand". We enjoyed these activities so much.



100 Days of School

Always a highlight, we did lots of 100 themed activities and Mr Melin rose to the challenge (again!) of the 100 cup stack! Well done.

<u>Trips</u>

KS2 classes enjoyed educational visits to W5, Streamvale Farm, Aunt Sandra's Candy Factory, Ikea as well as regular local walks and visits to the park.

Remote Learning

Throughout Lockdown we supported our children with Seesaw. Through the days and weeks our staff showed creative ingenuity as we sought to engage the children and pursue learning. We managed to have a virtual sports week, a Teddy Bear Activity week (complete with picnic!), rainbow art, seed planting, clay bears, story reading and delivering the curriculum to the best of our ability every day.



G Cummings, J Hagan, J Melin, L McCracken, S Seawright KS2 Teaching Staff

ENGLISH

Entry Level Qualification (ELQ) in English was awarded to our pupils in August 2020. Through studying Entry Level English our pupils had the opportunity to;

- engage with techniques and features in still image media;
- engage with poetry and respond creatively or personally;
- engage with drama and respond appropriately;
- explore moving image media genres and respond creatively;
- engage with a range of prose texts, be able to offer opinions and respond in writing to them; and
- communicate personal information and gather information on a topic of interest.

Our pupils received Level 3 English, Level 2 and Level 1.

Well done to all our pupils on their fantastic success.

M O'Connell

TECHNOLOGY & DESIGN

ELQ Occupational Studies - Technology

August 2020 results delivered a qualification in Entry Level Occupational Studies technology, where six technology units were selected that,

- Facilitates learning in a practical situation;
- Motivates learners;
- Develops employability skills;
- Prepares learners for work and adult life; and
- Provides progression to higher learning.

These units included painting and decorating, car mechanics, plumbing and joinery skills.

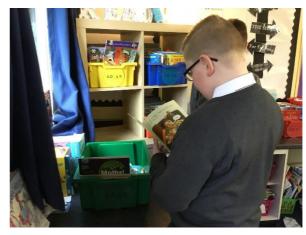
Our pupils passed at level 3 which is a terrific result!

M O'Connell

ACCELERATED READER

Accelerated reader is a computer-based program that schools use to monitor reading practice and progress. It started as a trial with Year 8 and Outreach Support in 2017. Year 9 joined us in 2018 as a new literacy initiative. This proved to be a great success and was rolled out to cover Year 10 in 2019/2020.

During this time no one could have predicted COVID 19. It was then, in April 2020, we were able to link our



Accelerated Reader and pupil scores with "myON" online reading. Google Classrooms were set up and pupils were able, via a link on their Accelerated Reader google classroom, to access thousands of books at their own level and for us to monitor their success remotely. This proved to be very successful for both pupils and their parents. One pupil quoted "It is just like a fancy Kindle, but it can do even more!" Some pupils got totally "hooked" on reading at home and we were able to monitor and celebrate in their success. In school each week pupils received certificates in assembly and during lock down pupils still received weekly certificates on-line. Pupils were able to read at any time of the day and also at weekends.

Google Classroom- Online Star Readers for the Year 2019-2020 are:

8a - Kaya Ucar

8b - Ammie-Louise Merchant

9a - Ryan McCaulev

9b - Jake Irvine

10a - Luke Dobson

10b - Jessica Scott

We are very impressed at the amount of reading books and online news articles pupils read and also the reviews that pupils gave on both their book and on-line reading.

Next year (2020-202) we feel that it is important and necessary to engage all pupils in online learning. Accelerated Reader and "myON" will play a major part now for all pupils in Key Stages 3&4. The new way forward has got benefits and opportunities.

With our parent/guardian help, pupils can access online books both in school and at home! This will prove to be invaluable for home, school and blended learning.

Mrs A McArthur.

KS4 MATHS

The pupils accomplished so much in their learning of mathematics. Year 11 had the option of doing CCEA ELQ maths or OCN Entry Level Numeracy. Year 11 were studying Number work and using positional language. There were lots of fun activities throughout the courses. Year 12 and one pupil in year 11 sat their first mock exam and their first official exam!! The results of both ELQ and OCN were fantastic displaying a true reflection of the work that had been done. Congratulations to the pupils of 2019/2020!!

There were 3 pupils entered for Entry Level Qualification Maths. This course is accredited through CCEA. The pupils worked through 6 fairly intensive units. Portfolios were collated and there were opportunities for practical and fun activities.

Here is a table displaying the overall outcome of results.

Level	1	2	3
Percentage		100%	

This year there were 13 entered for OCN Entry Level Numeracy. The pupils sat an exam for this qualification.

Level	1	2	3
Percentage	23%	7%	70%

Many students successfully accessed google classroom continuing their learning online which was quite an achievement with some very good results, well done!

S.Switzer

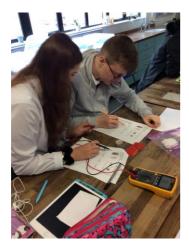


SCIENCE

Last year the pupils in KS3 & KS4 studied Science in accordance with the Northern Ireland curriculum covering all aspects of Science within the three major disciplines of Chemistry, Physics and Biology. The main focus of Science at Longstone is to promote the skills required to be a valuable member of a team and to become an economic contributor in society.

The topics studied encourage the pupils to think scientifically, covering the five skills areas; Self-Management, Being Creative, Managing Information, Working with Others and Problem Solving.





The course is designed to cater for the three learning styles of auditory, visual and kinaesthetic. There are also opportunities to use the Cross curricular skills of Communication, Using Maths and Using ICT.

Within the course the following Key Elements are covered: Personal understanding, Mutual understanding, Personal health, Moral character, Spiritual awareness, Citizenship, Cultural understanding, Media awareness, Ethical awareness, Employability, Economic awareness and Sustainable development

The KS3 course is designed to prepare the pupils for the Entry Level Qualification in Science which is studied over two years in years 11 and 12.

Entry Level One	Entry Level Two	Entry Level Three
1	6	12

The success of the Science course and the hard work of the pupils is evidenced in the KS4 results that the pupils achieved.

Mr E Guthrie

HOME ECONOMICS

All senior school pupils worked very hard throughout the year 2 year course and completed Level 1 / 2 Occupational Studies. They completed 2 units of work, Contemporary Cuisine and Patisserie and Baking. Results continue to grow from strength to strength each year and below is a summary of achievements. It is important to acknowledge that Level 2 is equivalent to GCSE.

To support pupil learning, practical workshops and demonstrations from external agencies including Big Ted and The Livestock and Meat Commission enhanced curriculum delivery.

Level 2 Merit	Level 2 Pass	Level 1 distinction
9 pupils	8 pupils	3 pupils

During the period of school closure, many senior school pupils continued to access learning via Google Classroom and I was delighted to see pictures of pupils cooking, baking and helping out at home. This was an opportunity for all to realise that Home Economics certainly helped develop skills for life!

Well done to all!

H Strain

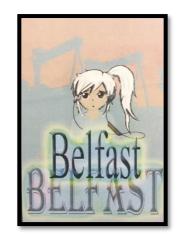
CREATIVE CRAFTS DIGITAL IMAGING: TOURISM PROJECT

Throughout 2019-20, Year 12 pupils worked on Creative Crafts coursework for which they developed designs suited to T shirts and bags. These images were to be based on the theme "Tourism in Northern Ireland". A mixture of Level 1 and Level 2 work was prepared for moderation with every pupil working to their full potential. The development of their skills showed off their hard work and talents, as well as their creative potential when using Photoshop and other digital imaging apps.

Below are examples of some of the work that they produced towards their coursework.













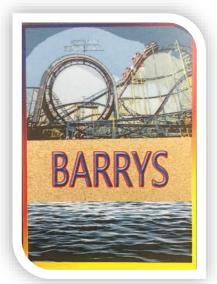


















I would like to wish the class of 2020 all the very best after a challenging year.

Mrs Cromie

MUSIC

Music continues to play an important role in the development of pupils here at Longstone school. All Key Stage groups have enjoyed the many opportunities to improve their musical and social skills by singing and performing on a variety of instruments in class. They have also enjoyed learning about many different musical styles and cultures, the music industry, as well as the role of music in the media and modern society.

Many pupils from Primary & Secondary School have welcomed the numerous opportunities to perform at the various annual whole school events including the Harvest assembly and the school show.

In addition, Secondary School pupils have also developed their ICT skills using music software on the iPads and school computers.

Whilst there is no doubt that the lockdown due to the Covid19 outbreak has been challenging for many, it has been an opportunity for staff and pupils alike to learn new technological skills through the use of Google classroom.

From a musical perspective, the response has been encouraging and the use of Google classroom in term 3 provided a platform for pupils to express their musical interests in a variety of ways.

Mr Fenn



OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES: PLANNING A LEISURE EVENT (KS4)

Our KS4 pupils completed the unit Planning a Leisure Event this year, as part of their Occupational Studies qualification.

The KS4 classes chose to run Sports events for our Primary & Secondary pupils. Some of the activities included Basketball, Badminton, Football and Dancing.

The pupils also organised healthy snacks for the customers.

Well done to everyone involved!

Occupational Studies Level 1 / Level 2 Results 2019 – 2020

Level 1 Merit	Level 1 Distinction	Level 2 Pass
3	5	1

Mrs S Plunkett



OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES: ENTRY LEVEL

We have continued to expand on the units that we offer from the Entry Level Occupational Studies specification. This is a qualification for pupils that respond better to practical rather than higher level reading & writing tasks, consisting of short units which develop key skills in their own chosen occupational interests. Our expanded offering means pupils are studying topics which are linked with their own individual interests and abilities, helping to improve motivation as well as achievement. We now offer 19 units for our pupils to choose from with new additions this year including Skincare, Nail Art, Making a Decoration and Using a Camera.

The pupils have enjoyed the practical aspects of the course and performed well in all assessment tasks.

Entry Level 1	Entry Level 2	Entry Level 3
0	9	7

Mrs S Plunkett













EMPLOYABILITY LEVEL ONE AWARD

All of our Year 12 pupils completed their Employability Level One Award. This qualification helped them develop their skills in job searching, completing application forms, performing in interview and understanding the business environment. To pass the qualification the pupils had to create portfolios of evidence that included written work and also evidence of their participation in practical tasks.

This is the final year we will be offering this qualification, as CCEA are withdrawing it and therefore from next year we will offer Prince's Trust Achieve Award at various levels from Entry Level 3 – Level 1, to suit individual pupil ability.

Mrs S Plunkett





ORCHARDVILLE CONNECT PROJECT

A small group of Year 12 pupils participated in Project Connect, which was a programme ran by Orchardville throughout 2019 - 2020. The project helped our Year 12 pupils prepare for the transition of moving into a new environment. It got our pupils used to the idea of leaving school and taught them independence skills.

The pupils who participated in the programme built friendships, grew in confidence and learned important life skills in the areas of Money Management, Cooking and travelling independently.

Orchardville also worked closely with the parents of our pupils, guiding them and giving advice about how to help their child prepare for leaving Longstone School.

BANGOR ALTERNATIVES YOUTH SAFETY PROGRAMME

Bangor Alternatives staff mentored a small group of KS4 pupils throughout the year of 2019 – 2020.

While school was open Bangor Alternatives staff came into school each Wednesday to work with the pupils on building self-confidence, developing resilience and raising aspirations. They also helped the pupils with their Literacy, Numeracy and Employability skills.

When school closed in March the mentoring programme continued, with mentors keeping in touch virtually and two pupils even completed their Essential Skills Literacy and Numeracy qualifications.

The Bangor Alternatives staff are fantastic role models for our pupils, and we are very grateful for the work they do.

BEHAVIOUR UNIT REPORT

It has been a busy yet strange and unprecedented year for everyone, including the Behaviour Unit staff and pupils. Throughout lockdown the Behaviour Unit staff continued to offer support to pupils who were in the midst of completing a temporary 12-week placement within the Unit at Longstone. Support was provided via resources uploaded to our school website, emails, videos and weekly phone calls. Staff and pupils were also able to come together to create 'lockdown memories' by completing and photographing fun challenges that were set each week. We have compiled these into booklets for each pupil to keep. Some of our outreach support pupils also availed of support throughout lockdown.

Last year, the staff were introduced to the Boxall Profile, a comprehensive assessment tool used to identify the social emotional and behavioural difficulties of children who appear to struggle to cope within the school setting. We explored the possible causes of the behaviours, how they can be altered and which areas to prioritise as targets for our pupils. This will help staff develop their observational skills and understanding through early identification and assessment, target setting, intervention and tracking pupil progress. This year the Behaviour Unit staff will continue to develop their use of The Boxall Profile.

We have had some staffing changes in the Unit. Last year we welcomed a new classroom assistant, Ms Claire Bogle, who is a great addition to the team. We also welcomed a new teacher, Miss Lauren Pollock. Miss Pollock's presence will mean that in the near future we can increase our Outreach Support Service, allowing even more pupils to be supported each week in their Primary School. In the meantime, she will be taking the place of Mrs Natasha Atcheson when she starts her maternity leave.

E. McConnell

BOOK WEEK

On the 27th February Longstone Book Week and Book Fair opened. The theme this year was selected by pupils throughout the school from nursery to Year 12.

Pupils enjoyed giving their ideas for Book Week, in their form class, to bring to the student council. The student council met up and counted the votes.

This was fed back to teachers and pupils, who took ownership of the theme. Pupils showed great interest in term 2 when the book fair arrived and book week commenced. The winning theme was Disney.

The Book Fair sold books worth £1106.30, which raised an amazing £663.78 for us to buy books for classrooms at a 60% return.

Pupils engaged in a number of activities throughout the week, dressing up and listening to stories from local author Sarah- Jayne. Book reviews were completed and prizes given for every class throughout school.

Book Week closed in style with our Year 11 and 12 pupils organising a cinema event with tickets to see Pirates of the Caribbean. Pupils enjoyed popcorn and drinks during the movie. A great successful week for everyone!



Mrs A McArthur

NUMERACY WEEK

Numeracy Week, entitled 'Maths on the Moon,' ran from Monday 7^{th} October to Friday 11^{th} October 2019.

This was yet another successful week, where a range of activities took place to celebrate the 50th anniversary of man landing on the moon.

Key Stage 1 and 2 had great fun developing key skills using the Numeracy Department's newest resource Numicon, within a range of space themed activities.





Key Stage 3 and 4 also had fun doing a range of activities based on space. Pupils made their own rockets with Mr Dominic McCartan (Sentinus). They then got to go into the playground and blasted them off to see how high and far they travelled.



Dr Higgins (QUB/ Armagh Observatory) took all KS3 and KS4 on a journey into our milky-way, galaxies and eventually we ended up somewhere in outer space! Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon where they had the opportunity to dress up in space suits, observe space energy and demonstrate the earths rotational movement. All pupils had the opportunity to hold a meteorite that had landed on Earth! A huge Thanks must go to Mr O'Connell for arranging the Key stage 3 and 4 events!



This Year's Sponsored walk took place during Numeracy Week. Pupils did 20 orbits in different locations around school. The pupil who collected the most sponsorship money got to name their very own star. This year's winner was Max Thompson who raised a fantastic £200. In total the sponsored walk raised £3,500 for school funds. As always, I am extremely grateful to management and staff for their hard work and support and to pupil's families and friends for raising such a fantastic amount.



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Visit to Carryduff Building Supplies



Year 11 and 9 pupils had the opportunity to visit Carryduff Building Supplies (CBS) in October 2019. The owners gave our pupils a fantastic tour of the site with an excellent overview of each department at CBS.

Pupils and staff viewed the new concrete facility, browsed the shop and looked at various decorative stones available to purchase.





Andrew from CBS gave us an informative discussion on vehicle tracking, assisting deliveries to their customers.

Longstone pupils presented CBS with wooden speakers for phone docking. These were made by our pupils with timber kindly donated to school by CBS.

We owe a lot to **Carryduff Building Supplies** and appreciate their commitment to us.

Mr O'Connell





Colin Tinsley (Hope for Youth Ministries) donated over 70 'Bible Animal' booklets to Longstone School. These are a fantastic resource; modern, colourful and beautifully illustrated. The Bible Animal booklet tells the story of the twelve animals that are mentioned in the Bible.

Our year 8 pupils have been absorbed as they listen and read about a talking donkey, a group of bears chasing children and ravens delivering food!!!

Thanks to Colin and his team for this donation.

Colin with Dr O'Connell and year 8 pupils, Ahad, Corey, Ammie and Natalia.





Mrs McArthur & Dr O'Connell (Year 8 Form teachers).

SAMARITANS PURSE CHARITY APPEAL



This year Longstone pupils supported this charity and collected enough gifts to fill 36 shoe boxes. Year 9 worked really hard at ensuring all boxes were well filled and sealed. The boxes were distributed to children in Eastern Europe. A big thank you to all pupils, parents and staff who ensured this appeal was a success.



H Strain

LIVESTOCK & MEAT COMMISSION

Class 12A entered the "Meat for School" competition and were one of the 7 winners for Northern Ireland in January 2020. As a class they had to adapt a recipe to follow healthy eating guidelines and use local produce. All pupils received a goody bag and the school was presented with a trophy and £100 worth of meat to use in Home Economics.



In February 2020 9B enjoyed a cookery demonstration from the LMC on how to incorporate lamb and beef into meals. We watched food preparation techniques, discussed healthy eating and really enjoyed trying the food at the end! Pupils were also encouraged to look at Food4Schools website for further meal ideas.

This was a really enjoyable event.

H Strain



BELFAST GIANTS

Pupils in years 8-10 were fortunate to participate in a workshop led by The Belfast Giants. Coach, Jeff Mason and Goalie, Shane Owen spoke enthusiastically to the pupils on the health benefits of sport. Pupils had an opportunity to ask questions, take photos and get autographs. A group of pupils also received tickets to attend a Giants game at SSE Arena. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening for both pupils and staff.



H Strain

NORTHERN IRELAND WATER

Longstone School welcomed Pat McCauley from Northern Ireland Water. Pat delivered a terrific presentation to KS 2, 3 and 4 on the importance of saving water, micro plastics, water conservation including Article 24, the right to clean water.

Each pupil KS 1-4 received their own plastic bottle to reduce single use plastics in our school.

This bottle can be used to refill with tap water.

Pat was delighted with the questions asked and would like to visit again to look at other way to reduce water waste.



Mr Pat McCauley (NIW) with staff & student council who received and distributed 250 reusable water bottles to Longstone School (January 2020)

M. O'Connell









KS3 & KS4 SCHOOL HOLIDAY 2020

For our school holiday this year we had planned to be in Wales arriving in Llandudno on Monday 11th May and staying until Friday the 15th May. Unfortunately, due to the restrictions with Coronavirus we were unable to go. Some of the activities we had planned were, Etihad Stadium tour, a visit to the Museum of Science & Industry, a trip to Alton Towers, some shopping and other fun activities. Despite the disappointment we all felt we are looking forward to being able to have some fun in Wales in the future.

M O'Connell.

KS3 LOCKDOWN REFLECTIONS

There's a good chance that you'll be reading this with half an eye on the latest breaking news, not far from a phone that's buzzing with updates on all the activities.

In just a matter of weeks, the 'new normal' has given our lives an almighty transformation – Google Classrooms and staff calls to keep us all safe and together although staying apart.

Google Classroom was a fantastic way to communicate and stay in contact with our pupils while everyone was staying at home. Our pupils responded extremely well to the classroom activities, watched the interactive videos set up by the teachers and worked through the tasks that were set for them.

KS3 adapted quickly and well to the 'new normal.'

Mr Fenn provided a host of music activities while Mrs Strain ran her daily activities with Mr Starrs and Mr Johnston. Mrs McArthur and Mr Harrison ensured our students had sufficient material such as Maths, English and Geography to keep pupils interested at a distance. Mr O'Connell made sure everyone kept busy with home DIY projects!

Staff were delighted with the pupil interaction and took great pride in both the quantity and quality of work uploaded. Collaborative projects, including a pirate themed approach, consolidated learning for the end of the school term.

M O'Connell

ADVENTURE EDUCATION

Year 8 availed of the opportunity to participate in a new initiative organised by the Belfast Activity Centre.

The story begins when a group of international terrorists are attempting to poison the Northern Ireland water supply!

The group of intrepid pupils have to use all their investigative skills, working alongside the Wildlife and Crime Scene Team at the PSNI, to help bring down the terrorists.



The pupils had to make use of their physical skills to find the clues with activities including climbing, canoeing, caving and orienteering. They were able to bring the information they found back to school where they deciphered codes, wrote letters to the PSNI, gathered and collated information and made full use of their thinking skills.





Mr Starrs.

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL AWARD & SCHOOL COUNCIL

Even though our school faced challenges with school closures this year, our Rights Respecting School Award work did continue. In October we held by-elections to appoint new members in specific year groups.

November 2019 was the 30th Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and to celebrate we had a special BLUE (Be Loving and Understanding Everyone) day where everyone came to school wearing BLUE. The School Council held an assembly for KS3 and KS4 pupils. about the importance of respecting and protecting each other's rights and we reflected on how we can all be more loving at home and in school.

Our Year 10 pupils participated in a webinar held by NICCY (Northern Ireland Commission for Children and Young People) about mental health. Our pupils have been learning that according to Article 24 of the UNCRC all children around the world have the right to good health care, and this includes good mental health. Our pupils really enjoyed the Webinar and got some good ideas for strategies they can use in school and at home to help them with their mental health.

Our School Council continued to build their relationships with the residents of Towell House and were even invited to a special thank you lunch in February.



When school closed in March our KS3 and KS4 pupils continued to learn about their rights at home as we posted Right of the Week lessons on Google Classroom each week.



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is a powerful tool, particularly in light of the impact coronavirus has had on our school activities. In June all teachers reviewed their school policies to make specific articles more explicit. This has helped raise awareness of the rights of our pupils and the duties our staff have in protecting them.

Our School Council also had a say in the development of our new vision and mission statement, which refers to children's rights, placing the UNCRC at the heart of our ethos.

Mrs Plunkett.

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE

Hakuna Matata! What a wonderful phrase! This year Longstone School put on the play "The Circle of Life". Pupils from Year 1 through to Year 12 enjoyed taking a walk on the wild side as Simba and the whole cast of characters learnt some deep and light hearted truths about life. The performance was well attended and received by family, friends, local schools and community members. The performance successfully showcased the multi-faceted talent that Longstone possesses.





DOMINOS WORK RELATED LEARNING VISIT

Year 10 pupils went on a work-related learning visit to Domino's Pizza in November. They learned about business operations, practised using the tills and then designed and made their own pizzas.

The visit also included a talk about health and safety in the workplace, pupils learned about the importance of maintaining good hygiene in Catering and they had a chance to demonstrate their customer service skills in role plays.



WORK EXPERIENCE WEEK

The week before Halloween our Year 12 pupils went out on their Work Experience placements.

Pupils chose industries they thought they would like to get a job in when they leave school.

Pupils had placements in a variety of different industries including: Retail, Catering, Motor Repair, Beauty and Childcare.

Feedback from pupils and employers was extremely positive and the pupils demonstrated a professional attitude throughout their placements.



CAREERS FAIR

In October we held our annual Careers Coffee morning for KS3 and KS4 pupils and parents.

A variety of organisations were in attendance, from Colleges, Training Providers, local employers, Careers Service Representatives and Transitions Officers from the Education Authority.



Pupils and parents had opportunities to talk to experts about potential destinations when pupils are ready to leave Longstone School.

All pupils and parents received an updated Moving on Booklet as well.

YEAR 12 INTERVIEW SKILLS WORKSHOP

Big Ted spent two days with our Year 12 pupils in November, delivering Interview Skills Workshops.

The first day was spent teaching interview etiquette and the pupils worked with Ted to prepare answers for potential

interview questions. The next day Big Ted held mock interviews with each of our pupils. After the interview he provided them with feedback, explaining what they did well and where they could improve.

This was a fantastic experience for our pupils as it helped them prepare for their interviews with Belfast Metropolitan College and South Eastern Regional College in June.

LINK COURSE AT BELFAST METROPOLITAN COLLEGE

Our Year 12 pupils went to Belfast Metropolitan College every Tuesday to complete a link course in Retail, Catering, Photoshop and Arts and Crafts.

The link with Belfast Metropolitan College helps our pupils prepare for leaving school. They also get to experience College life, learn how classes are structured and understand what College Tutor expectations are in a Further Education setting.

The pupils really enjoyed their time in Belfast Met and this experience helped them make informed decisions about which course to study in the future.



GLOBAL LEARNING LEVEL 2 AWARD

Staff from Longstone School underwent training delivered by the Global Learning Programme facilitator Anna Grindle. She ran sessions on the themes of: Pupil Action Projects, Global Learning in Topic Based Learning and Sharing Good Practice in Global Learning. The sessions were informative, and they gave the teachers involved ideas about how to integrate Global Learning into their lessons in all curriculum areas. This training helped us achieve our Global Learning Programme Level 2 Award.



PRINCE'S TRUST CELEBRATION EVENT

Our 12B pupils completed their Entry Level 3 qualification in the Prince's Trust Achieve Programme in March.

For this qualification our pupils had to complete projects in the areas of: Career Planning, Interview Skills, Money Management, Work Experience and Enterprise.

As a reward for our pupils achieving the qualification, Prince's Trust treated them to a day at the cinema in Victoria Square to watch Jumanji.

This was our first year of offering the Achieve Award in Longstone School. The pupils really enjoyed the course and felt it was beneficial to their future.

BARCLAYS LIFE SKILLS WORKSHOPS

Barclays Life Skills facilitator Emma Morrison ran two workshops for our KS4 pupils in 2019 – 2020.

Our pupils learned about the significance of their digital footprint in the Online Reputation workshop and they thought about the skills and qualities required in the workplace when they completed the Teamwork and Leadership workshop. This fitted in really well with their Occupational Studies coursework.

A big thank you to Emma for organising fun and interactive sessions for our pupils.

When school closed in March KS4 pupils continued to benefit from the Barclays Life Skills programme as they were able to access some very useful resources on their dedicated website.



YEAR 12 RESULTS DAY



Our KS4 staff were incredibly excited to welcome our Year 12 pupils back into school for a socially distanced results day at the end of August.

The pupils arrived with their parents to collect their Progress Files, results slips from CCEA and certificates from their time at Longstone.

Well done to our Year 12's on coping so well with such a difficult year. We will miss you!

YEAR 12 LEAVERS VIDEO

Even though school was closed we still kept up with our annual Year 12 Leavers video tradition.

Mr McIlmoyle and Mr Clulow worked very hard putting together an emotional montage of photographs of our Leavers time in Longstone School to music. There were photographs from P1 right the way through to their final year in the video.

The video is on our school website for pupils, parents and staff to view.



ANTI-BULLYING WEEK: CHANGE STARTS WITH US

Longstone's Anti-Bullying Ambassadors led the NIABF Anti-Bullying campaign 'Change Starts with Us!' for the whole school in November. Pupils and parents were consulted about our current Anti-Bullying procedures and the Ambassadors revised our child friendly policy. Everyone gave ideas about how to make a safer and happier Longstone and these tips were transformed into a poster which is now displayed in all classrooms.



12B WORLD CANCER DAY ASSEMBLY

12B held a special fundraiser on Wednesday 5th February for World Cancer Day. They raised £300 for Cancer Research UK by doing sponsored pledges using the theme **I am and I can.** They also gave an informative assembly to senior school pupils, giving everyone tips about how to live a healthier lifestyle. Well done to 12B for this fantastic project!

WORLD'S LARGEST LESSON

In September the whole school came together one morning to learn all about the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. This year's theme was GOAL KEEPERS for the Goals. Pupils thought about how they PERSONALLY could be responsible for their FAVOURITE GLOBAL GOAL.



AUSTRALIA BUSHFIRES

In response to the devastation caused by the fires in Australia, Longstone organised a cookie sale which raised a super £220. The money raised went towards supporting the work of The Salvation Army Disasters and Emergency Fund in Australia. They offer a range of services and assistance measures to help people impacted by disasters including food supplies, financial assistance and emotional support.



The School Council also held a fundraiser to help animals affected by the bushfires in Australia. The pupils made koala masks and keychains which they sold in school, they raised £167 for WIRES which is a wildlife rescue organisation based in New South Wales. The money was used to rehabilitate and provide medical treatment to animals which had been hurt or displaced during the bushfire crisis.

GET UP & GO GREEN BAT WALK

Pupils, former pupils, parents, staff and members of the local community came together on 13th September 2019 for a night-time Bat Walk around Ligoniel Dam. We had great fun looking out for and listening to bats in their natural setting. We had an excellent guide in our leader Lizzie from the Belfast Hills Partnership. Our pupils represented Longstone School beautifully and we are grateful to everyone who came along and supported the event. Well done to everyone involved!





VISITING YEAR 12 LEAVERS



At the beginning of September Mrs Plunkett went to visit our Year 12 leavers from last year in their new settings.

She got to see the pupils in their new environments and also met the tutors who are now taking care of them.

We are really happy to report that all the Year 12 pupils who have been visited have settled in well, they are enjoying their new ventures and are doing Longstone proud.

PARENT STAFF ASSOCIATION

Objectives and Activities.

The objective of Longstone PSA is to advance the education of pupils in the school, in particular by developing effective relationships between staff, parents and others associated with the school and engaging in activities or supporting the school to provide facilities or equipment which advances the education of the pupils.

In the past year we have continued to be involved in fundraising activities. Money was raised through collecting ballot prizes, competitions, Christmas Jumper day for staff and pupils and serving teas and coffees throughout the year. Longstone PSA had their annual Craft Fair Event in November 2019. We welcomed over 30 crafters who sold a range of tasty treats and goods for all ages. Everyone talked of the wonderful, electric atmosphere and even though it was only November, it put everyone into a fantastic Christmas mood. It was a great evening for staff, parents, pupils and the local community to visit Longstone, buy Christmas presents and meet and greet others, whilst relaxing over a cup of tea or coffee. Pupils had the opportunity to become entrepreneurs for the evening with the Technology and Design department selling a range of items made by pupils in years 8 to 12. Christmas activities raised a fantastic £3501.







This was a wonderful opportunity, not only to raise PSA funds, but for parents, staff, pupils and the local community to come together in a fun evening for everyone.

Longstone School PSA also raised money by collecting River Rock water bottle labels. Pupils, Staff and Parents were encouraged to collect as many as possible and pupils and staff worked together to enter the label codes, raising an amazing £1320.



PSA money raised, enabled Longstone School to acquire books for our literacy department, art supplies and sports equipment. It allowed us to buy Christmas play resources and seating for our school Christmas Production. We also contributed towards out of school trips. Longstone School participated in The shoe box appeal which is a charity, where pupils, parents and staff contribute.



Longstone Parent Staff Association are very grateful for the continued support received from parents, staff, pupils and the community in our fundraising events. The Charities financial position on the 30th June 2020 was £1142.99 (cr).



FINANCE:

Our Article 60 budget allocation for 2019/20 was £120,484. This is the funding that we receive from DENI via the Education Authority to finance the running costs of the school which includes utilities, resources for staff and pupils, transport, furniture and fittings.

Our school bank account had an opening balance of £9,182.51 and a closing balance of £6,822.40. This account is used to provide additional resources for our pupils throughout the year.

SCHOOL SECURITY:

The school maintains a safe and secure learning environment for our pupils and staff. Fire drills are carried out once a term and the system is regularly monitored and maintained.

ACCESS:

All classrooms in the main body of the school, mobile classrooms, gym and dinner hall are accessible for disabled pupils.

ATTENDANCE:

The annual average attendance for 2019/20 was 87.1%.

SCHOOL LEAVERS:

This year we had 20 school leavers who were placed on a variety of Training for Success Courses or Further Education.

