

18 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you may be aware, the Government announced yesterday that secondary schools in England will have a staggered return to school after Christmas, to help roll out the mass testing for secondary school children. The guidance can be [read in full here](#). I am writing to you now to confirm some of the arrangements at Longsands Academy from 5th January.

Students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12

Students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will be working remotely at home from 5th January, following a virtual timetable, and returning to school on Monday 11 January.

Students will follow their usual timetable, with a blended learning offer. This will include lessons which are streamed live via Microsoft Teams, pre-recorded lessons and set work to be completed independently. Students will need to check Doodle each day to follow the instructions for each lesson. For students in Years 7, 8 and 9 much of this work will be preparation for their mid-year assessments. We are planning for Year 9 mid-year assessments to take place week commencing 11th January as per previous communications.

Students who are eligible for Free School Meals will be offered support during this week. A food parcel can be provided for these students to ensure lunch provision for the week. Please email clare.greaney@astrea-longsands.org by 9am on Monday 4th January if you would like us to provide one of these for your child or children. Once you have booked a food parcel it may be collected on Tuesday 5th January at the following times in order to restrict numbers on the Academy site at any one time:

8:45 – 9:45 Surnames A-C
9:45 – 10:45 Surnames D-H
11:10 – 12:10 Surnames J – O
12:10 – 1:10 Surnames P – Z

Food parcels must be collected by an adult and must have been pre-booked. Please make your way to main reception where you will be signposted to the collection point. Please also remember to maintain social distancing whilst on the Academy site.

Students in Years 11 and 13, children of key workers and vulnerable students

As exam-year students, Years 11 and 13 should return to school on Tuesday 5th January as planned.

Provision will be made for the children of key workers and also vulnerable students if required during this week. The criteria used to identify vulnerable children and critical workers can be [found here](#) and you should contact Mrs Greaney by 9am on Monday 4th January (clare.greaney@astrea-longsands.org) if you wish your child to attend school from Tuesday 5th January in order to book a place.

Please note the scheduled external exams will proceed as normal during this week.

Access to equipment and technology

Astrea is committed to ensuring every student has access to an electronic device so that they can continue to receive a high quality of education. Should you need to borrow a device for this period please email enquiries@astrea-longsands.org. Arrangements will be made for these to be collected on Tuesday 5th January.

Safe return to school

When your child is due to be back in school, we ask that you only send them into school if they are well. If they have any of the COVID symptoms (a high temperature; a new, continuous, cough; loss of taste or smell) they should not come into school and you should arrange for them to be tested.

I appreciate this news has come very late and I want to assure you that we will do everything possible to continue to deliver a high standard of education to your child, and to keep disruption to a minimum. Our overriding priority is to ensure the safety of all students and staff.

We will be in touch again at the start of the new term with details on how we will roll out COVID-19 testing for our students.

We are clearly in a very difficult phase of a national struggle with Covid-19. I am sorry to have to write to you about further reductions to our normal school provision at such late notice. As we have done for so long now, our Longsands community will get through these challenges together. Thank you again for your ongoing support to the Academy, and we wish you a peaceful break over the holidays.

Yours sincerely



Mr N D Owen
Principal

Longsands Academy
Longsands Road, St Neots
Cambridgeshire, PE19 1LQ
Principal: Neil Owen

01480 353535
enquiries@astrea-longsands.org
www.astrea-longsands.org

