



LONGSANDS ACADEMY WEEKLY BULLETIN



Monday, 14 December 2020

(Week A)

ALL
YEARS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL As we approach the end of what has been an extraordinary, exceptional and challenging term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of our school community for their support and commitment.

During these very challenging times it has only been through working together that we have been able to maintain our curriculum offer, whilst never losing our focus on everyone's health and safety. In particular, I want to say a huge well done to our students who have adapted so well to so many changes to their regular school routines.

Thank you too for your proactive support in keeping your child / children at home, self-isolating and getting tested where necessary. Your actions are helping to keep our school open and our school community safe.

I look forward with real optimism to the roll out of the Covid-19 vaccine and to the benefits this will bring to our way of life in 2021.



This Friday is the last day of the Autumn Term and we invite students to wear non-uniform – along with their festive jumpers! A suggested donation of £1 can be paid via the following link <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/JamesPowell27> or via ParentPay. The money raised will be donated to Prostate Cancer UK in memory of and in tribute to Mr Hynes, a librarian at Longsands Academy for 32 years who sadly passed away earlier this year. Thank you for giving generously to this most worthy of causes.

The timings for Friday 18 December, the last day of this term are as follows:

08.45 am – 09.45 am	Period 1
09.45 am – 10.45 am	Period 2
10.45 am – 11.10 am	Break
11.10 am – 12.10 pm	Period 3
12.10 pm – 12.55 pm	Tutor Time for Year 7 and then to the Sports Hall or canteen for lunch. At 1.10 pm students will go directly home or to the bus
12.10 pm – 1.10 pm	Tutor Time for Years 8 and 10 then directly home, to the bus or canteen for lunch
12.10 pm – 1.10 pm	Tutor Time for Years 9 and 11 then directly home, to the bus or wait until 1.20 pm for lunch from the canteen
1.10 pm	Buses arrive
1.30 pm	Buses depart

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families a safe, peaceful and enjoyable Christmas and it is my hope that 2021 will bring hope and a brighter future for everyone. I look forward to welcoming all students back to school on Tuesday 5 January 2021 (if there are any announcements over the coming weeks that affect this date, we will communicate them to you as quickly as we can).

KEY DATES COMING UP:

11 December - 8 January
Year 11 Sixth Form application window

16 December
Virtual Carol Service

18 December
Festive Jumper Day

18 December
Last day of Autumn term - early closure

5 January
First day of Spring term

5 February
Year 11 Sixth Form offer letters





LONGSANDS ACADEMY WEEKLY BULLETIN



Monday, 14 December 2020

(Week A)

ALL
YEARS

COVID-19 DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS The Department of Education have asked schools to continue to adopt contact tracing during the initial part of the holidays. The table below outlines the process.

Symptoms began on (or date of positive test if asymptomatic)	Between Monday 14th – Friday 18th December	Saturday 19th December	Sunday 20th December	Monday 21st December – Monday 4th January
Action Required	<p>Parents/Carers inform Longsands immediately.</p> <p>Longsands will work closely with Public Health England and the Local Authority and will notify relevant individuals within respective bubble who may have been in close contact.</p> <p>Notified individuals will have to self-isolate for 10 days.</p>	<p>Parents/Carers inform Longsands immediately.</p> <p>Longsands will work closely with Public Health England and the Local Authority and will notify relevant individuals within respective bubble who may have been in close contact on Thursday 17th and Friday 18th December.</p> <p>Notified individuals will have to self-isolate for 10 days.</p>	<p>Parents/Carers inform Longsands immediately.</p> <p>Longsands will work closely with Public Health England and the Local Authority and will notify relevant individuals within respective bubble who may have been in close contact on Friday 18th December.</p> <p>Notified individuals will have to self-isolate for 10 days.</p>	<p>Unless testing was delayed following onset of symptoms, no contacts will be identified as the student will not have attended Longsands for the time period they were considered infectious.</p>
Parental Responsibility	<p>Parents/Carers to notify close contact family and friends and follow advice as per NHS Covid-19 guidelines http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/</p>			



We advise that parents/carers seek tests via testing centres rather than via postal tests as this can significantly delay the result. We are finding that results are normally forthcoming in 24 hours following a test via a test centre.

We ask that parents/carers continue to follow government guidelines during the Christmas holidays, only mixing with up to 3 households between 23rd and 27th December and following the safety measures suggested both within and outside of these dates. It is paramount that government guidance is followed over the Christmas period, to ensure that we can open safely in January and remain open for the Spring term.

YEAR
12
& 13

YEAR 12 & 13 - CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY The Sixth Form are raising money for Save the Children with the Christmas Jumper day. On the 18th December the Sixth Formers will be taking part in a Christmas Quiz and wearing something festive. Donations can be made through the justgiving link below.

The KS5 team have been challenged to wear Christmas Onesies on the 18th and they will be donning their festive outfits, if enough money is raised before the day. Follow the link for more details on how to get Mr Walker, Dr Cullen and Mr Taylor into those onesies.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/astreasixthformstneotssavethechildren>





LONGSANDS ACADEMY WEEKLY BULLETIN



Monday, 14 December 2020

(Week A)

ALL
YEARS

COVID-19 POSITIVE CASE REPORTING OVER THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

As the Christmas break approaches we hope that our staff, students and their families remain safe and healthy. We hope that the following information isn't required, however we do want to be clear about under what circumstances school should be informed of any positive Covid cases during the Christmas break.

- If a student tests positive to a Covid test, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, you should not contact the school. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions as set out by NHS Test and Trace.
- If your child should receive a positive Covid test up until 24 December, having been in school within 48 hours of developing symptoms, you should inform the school. Contacting the school should be made only via the Astrea App or via enquiries@astrea-longsands.org up until midday on Christmas Eve. This will enable staff to get in touch with staff and students who would be considered a close contact.

The DfE have been clear that school staff are not expected to be available for Covid test and trace reasons beyond 24 December.

ALL
YEARS

60TH ANNIVERSARY VIRTUAL CAROL CONCERT

Regrettably this year we have been unable to hold our annual Christmas Carol Service in the traditional way. This is always a highlight of our preparations for Christmas; therefore, we have done so 'virtually'.

The resulting Christmas Carol Service will be shared this week and available on our website. We do hope that you enjoy watching it as much as we have enjoyed making it.



ALL
YEARS

COVID-19 WINTER GRANT SCHEME

Cambridgeshire County Council are able to support certain families with a Covid-19 Winter Grant Scheme to provide a range of support to families over Christmas and February half term when schools are closed and are not able to provide Free School Meals for those families who need additional support at this challenging time.

For further information, please [click here](#) to read the Council's letter and further details. Click [here](#) to view some Frequently Asked Questions.

YEARS
7,8,9

MID-YEAR TESTS for YEARS 7, 8 and 9

Students are now beginning to turn their attention to the Mid-Year tests, which will take place after Christmas. Details of the arrangements for these, including individualised timetables, were sent to parents at the end of last week. A reminder of the general information can be found on [our website](#).

Students have listened to an assembly explaining the reasons for these tests, the results from which will be reported in the second Progress Review sent out in February, in advance of Parental Consultations which happen later in the Spring Term.

We hope they will work hard towards these important assessments during term time; please be reminded, however, that it is not expected that students will be revising during the Christmas holiday.



LONGSANDS ACADEMY WEEKLY BULLETIN



Monday, 14 December 2020 (Week A)

ALL
YEARS

HOUSE UPDATE As I reflect back on what has been a long and sometimes challenging half term, as an Academy we have achieved so much to be proud of. We began the half term off with Anti Bullying Week and Odd Socks Day, which was a wonderful opportunity for students to display their individuality and what makes us so fantastically unique. We marked Remembrance Day with a moving whole Academy assembly to mark the two minutes silence that was broken so poignantly by Isaac Hutchings performance of The Last Post. As an Academy community, we acknowledged World Aids Day on the 1 December with a whole academy assembly filled with knowledge rich content and context around the virus and dispelled the myths in an informative way. The Year 9 Student Leaders and the Junior Vice House Captains have met with contractors to don their virtual hard hats as Project Managers on the 60th Anniversary Garden, which is a very exciting project Mr Lampett is leading on. As well as all of this, we have been working hard in forms to help our local community with our annual Christmas Hamper competition. Despite having to organise it in a very different way this year, we have been overwhelmed with the generous donations you have made. This year, more than ever, our local community needs our support and we thank you for your donations.



And as I write this, we look forward to the 60th Anniversary Carol Concert to be shared on Wednesday 16 December, which includes warm welcomes and readings from our students, Revd Tim and Stephen Ferguson, our Town Mayor and wonderful musical performances from our talented students (and staff!). Finally, the last day, Friday 18 December, will be a Festive Non-Uniform Day. When I met with the House Captains, Vice House Captains and the Junior Vice House Captains earlier on this half term, they agreed unanimously that our Longsands Academy Charity this year should be Prostate Cancer UK in dedicated memory of Andrew Hynes who we so sadly lost this half term. A dear colleague of 32 years and friend to all, we ask that students donate £1 towards this cause for the Festive Non-Uniform Day and this will go towards a running total for the whole year.

In what will be a very different festive season, I have learnt to truly value what I have rather than what I want. Kindness is above and beyond the biggest gift you can give. May I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful, safe and healthy New Year.

Mr Powell
Assistant Principal: Personal Development



ALL
YEARS

UPDATE FROM THE HOUSE CAPTAINS Throughout the course of this term, we, the newly appointed House Captains have started to set up inter-house competitions and challenges for students to compete in.

During the course of the inaugural term of the House system, the first competition was to create an interesting 'Ode to' into each individual house' identity and history into which students could investigate.

Following the success of this first competition we challenged students across all year groups into supporting Anti-Bullying Week in November, raising awareness through Odd Socks Day in order to celebrate everyone's uniqueness and individuality and to compose their own Anti-Bullying Raps!

We have enjoyed so much this term and over the next few months, we will be running more fun competitions, challenges and fundraising events for Prostate Cancer UK within the House System.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from
Maisie, Olivia, Emma, Ben and Honor - House Captains





LONGSANDS ACADEMY WEEKLY BULLETIN



Monday, 14 December 2020 (Week A)

YEARS
7-11

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT Last week saw the Autumn term's final Personal Development session. Students were reinforcing the knowledge and skills they had learnt in November's session. A range of important issues were discussed and explored including, CVs, road awareness, healthy relationships, democracy in modern Britain, and drug types and the law. We are pleased to share some examples of the resources students have used. The next two Personal Development sessions will be taking place on 4th February, periods 1 and 2 and 11th February, periods 3 and 4.

Hard Skills	vs.	Soft Skills
Teachable abilities or skill sets that are easy to quantify.		Also known as "people skills" or "interpersonal skills."
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proficiency in a foreign language A degree or certificate Typing speed Machine operation Computer programming 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication Flexibility Leadership Teamwork Time Management

Let's talk about healthy relationships
 Session Objectives: To understand the importance of developing healthy relationships with others and ourselves and how to spot unhealthy relationships.
 Being in a new relationship can make you feel **excited, happy and in control**. It's normal to enjoy getting compliments, feeling special and safe or like you've got **more confidence**.
 But relationships can sometimes change and it can be **hard to know when things are starting to go wrong**.
 In a healthy relationship someone shouldn't try to control you. **Controlling or threatening behaviour** can be **physical, sexual, emotional, financial or psychological**. If your relationship **doesn't feel right**, it may be time to end it.
 Now that we've discussed the characteristics of healthy and unhealthy relationships, it should be easier to spot what's ok and what's not.

- What are the dangerous habits in this scenario?
- What could they change to become safer?
- Why is it important to develop safe habits?

Scenario:

It's a late, rainy evening in autumn and a 16-year-old student is walking home from a friend's house. He is still wearing his school uniform. The uniform consists of black trousers, a black blazer and a light blue shirt. The student is very confident and familiar with his route home, but he tends to walk with his headphones in and multi-tasking i.e. messaging with mates and joining in the after-college banter.

He attempts to cross the road glancing up once to check the road is clear.

YEAR
11



Enrolling NOW!



YOUR ROUTE TO ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Astrea Sixth Form St Neots is **ENROLLING NOW!** Applications are invited to join this popular and effective Sixth Form



Join Us!

01480 353535
info@astreasixthformstneots.org
www.astreasixthformstneots.org

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO APPLY ONLINE



Situated conveniently in the heart of St Neots, and with a wide range of subjects to choose from, we are confident that we can provide an outstanding learning experience that will meet your needs.

We are open for applications for **September 2021**. Our interactive virtual Open Evening is live on our website, where you learn all about life at Astrea Sixth Form St Neots, view our latest prospectus and **apply online**.



Astrea Sixth Form St Neots, Longsands Road, St Neots PE19 1LQ · **Director: Mark Taylor**



LONGSANDS ACADEMY WEEKLY BULLETIN



Monday, 14 December 2020

(Week A)

YEARS
7-11

ATTENDANCE Government guidance is very clear that all students must attend school until the end of the term, unless the student is unfit to attend school due to illness or the family has been specifically asked to isolate due to COVID. On the occasion that families choose themselves to self-isolate in the seven day period before the end of the term the absence will not be authorised, and therefore any appropriate referrals sent to the Local Authority for enforcement action will be considered.



Please contact absence@astrea-longsands.org or kelly.baker@astrea-longsands.org with any questions or concerns relating to attendance.

Our whole school attendance is currently 94.7%

Our weekly attendance is:

Year 7 – 96.7% *our top form is 7RBB with 100%*

Year 8 – 95.6% *our top form is 8JAB with 99.29%*

Year 9 – 94.6% *our top form is 9NDZ with 99.64%*

Year 10 – 93.3% *our top form is 10KMA with 99.33%*

Year 11 – 93.3% *our top form is 11ACK with 95.58%*

Well done to all those tutor groups.

YEAR
11

YEAR 11 UPDATE The second half term of the year has been a busy and productive one for Year 11. All Year 11 students sat their mock examinations and received their results on Wednesday 9 December. Mock Results Day is an important milestone for all pupils in their GCSE examination year and is intended to replicate the experience students will have when they collect their final GCSE results in the summer.

Prior to the students receiving their mock results, Year 11 students listened to a special assembly. This Assembly provided them with the opportunity to reflect on the experience, celebrate their success, and challenge themselves to achieve more. The important message was that it is vital that students use the Mock Results Day as a learning opportunity so that they can approach the next set of Mock examinations in March 2021 with even greater confidence and readiness.

Mock results day was followed by the first Year 11 Virtual parents evening on Thursday 10 December and a study skills workshop by an external company, 'Learn by Design', on Friday 11 December. We would like to thank everyone involved in the recent Year 11 Virtual Parents' Consultations on Thursday. Initial feedback was extremely positive, and we will send out a link for further feedback to help us refine our practice over the coming months.

The workshop entailed 60 students participating in the interactive and motivational session which aimed to develop resilience, manage exam pressures and cope with stress.

The workshop hoped to boost self-esteem and encourage perseverance with the challenges to come throughout Year 11. We were thoroughly impressed with the engagement of all students involved and we look forward to inviting 'Learn By Design' back to Longsands Academy in order to deliver further workshops in the new year.





LONGSANDS ACADEMY WEEKLY BULLETIN



Monday, 14 December 2020

(Week A)

YEAR
12
& 13

HOUSE CAPTAINS AND SIXTH FORM COUNCIL

The House Captains will be working with the Sixth Form team to create the inaugural Student Council Mission Statement. With the advent of the House system and the reintroduction of the Sixth Form student reps, the KS5 team would like to formalise the role of the Student Council, so that it can perform effectively in providing a 'voice' for Sixth Form students and in supporting the various Sixth Form events throughout the year.



**ASTREA SIXTH FORM
ST NEOTS**
Astrea Academy Trust
INSPIRING BEYOND MEASURE

Dr Cullen, Head of Year 12, is looking forward to working with the House Captains in writing the first draft of the Mission Statement over the next few weeks.

YEAR
12
& 13

GREAT CONVERSATIONS

Students debated a 'Great Conversation' around *'Should there be compulsory tests before becoming a parent?'.* Whilst the majority disagreed there was a strong sense that parenting classes ought to be made more widely available, especially for young parents.

Students and teachers have been enthused by the opportunity to enter into academic debate and these weekly conversations will continue in the New Year.

YEARS
7- 11

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Well done everyone! Your generosity has been humbling and we cannot wait to pass your donations on to the Food Bank. Not only are the hampers packed full of wonderful things, they are also beautifully decorated!

Winning hampers will be chosen soon!





LONGSANDS ACADEMY WEEKLY BULLETIN



Monday, 14 December 2020

(Week A)

ALL
YEARS

CATERING MENUS The menu for this week (Week **A**) is:

THE HUB	
WEEK ONE MENU	
MONDAY	Pasta Bolognese Vegetable Paella Pepperoni pizza baguette
TUESDAY	Chicken curry with rice Vegetable curry with Rice Chicken fajita
WEDNESDAY	Roast of the Day Vegetable Chow Mein Cheese panini
THURSDAY	Bangers and mash Macaroni cheese Chicken tikka wrap
FRIDAY	Fish and chips Vegetable burger and chips Beef burger

AVAILABLE DAILY:
Filled Jacket Potatoes, Assorted Snacks, Various Filled Sandwiches, Rolls & Wraps, Fresh Salads, Fresh Fruit Salads, Hot & Cold Drinks



ALL
YEARS

COMMUNICATION WITH THE SCHOOL

In addition to this weekly bulletin, there are a variety of ways in which we will contact you, including by telephone, by letter, via the Astrea App, via Doddle, in writing, in newsletters, on social media and via our website.

There are several ways in which you can contact us, these include the methods listed below. To enable us to help you as quickly as possible, **please only send one message via one means of communication.**



email to enquiries@astrea-longsands.org



call Reception for all general enquiries on **01480 353535**
or to report a **student absence**, please call 01480 353535 or **text 07581 990899**



the **Astrea App** (which you can download for free from your app store)



by **writing** to Longsands Academy, Longsands Road, St Neots PE19 1LQ



the 'contact us' page of our school website www.astrea-longsands.org

We will aim to respond to any enquiry within 2-3 working days.

