



LONGSANDS ACADEMY WEEKLY BULLETIN



Friday, 16 April 2021

(next week is Week **B**)

ALL
YEARS

DUKE OF EDINBURGH The students and staff of Longsands, both past and present, who have been involved with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, were deeply saddened last week to hear of the passing of Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, at the age of 99.

Since its inception in 1956, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme has aimed to provide young people from all backgrounds and communities with self-confidence and a sense of purpose that would support them into their future and help them to become well-rounded citizens. The Duke's boyhood experiences at Gordonstoun School inspired the expedition element of the scheme, and Longsands students have developed their campcraft and navigation skills on Bronze and Silver DofE expeditions to Norfolk, Bedfordshire and the Peak District. Staff who give up their time to support the expeditions reflect that it gives the students a unique experience, equipping and empowering them to build the skills, confidence and resilience they need to make the most out of life.

The Duke's lifetime of service in support of the Queen, the Armed Forces, and the charities he patronised gave rise to the Community Service aspect of the scheme. Our students have lent their time and skills to local charity shops, care homes and nature reserves, some developing relationships that have lasted well beyond the duration of the Award.

Former Head Boy and Seacole House Captain Ben M, recipient of the DofE Bronze Award, who is currently working towards his Silver, reflected: *"DofE is a fantastic opportunity and I really enjoyed participating in the Bronze Award. By doing my DofE, the scheme pushed me to seek new challenges and opened new doors for me as I completed my volunteering, physical, skills and of course the expedition section. The Award allowed me to develop my confidence and character and it was an incredibly fulfilling experience. My favourite part was the expedition, which was tough, but very enjoyable and a lot of fun. I'm grateful to have had the experience"*.

Nationwide, the Duke's death is mourned, but his passing gives us the opportunity to reflect on the incomparable contribution his life's work has made to enriching the lives of young people in St Neots, the UK, and around the world.

We at Longsands are hugely thankful for the legacy he leaves.



KEY DATES COMING UP:

29 March - 9 April
Easter break

12 April
Start of summer term

3 May
May Day

13 May
Year 12 parental consultations

29 May - 6 June
Half-term break

20 July
Last day of summer term



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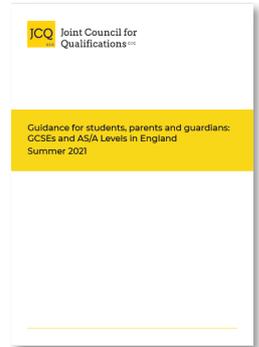
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SUMMER GRADING UPDATE We are aware that this is a time of uncertainty, particularly for Year 11 and 13 students who were due to sit external examinations this year. We are very aware of the need to reduce levels of anxiety which impact on students' wellbeing, whilst ensuring our students have every support for their future career or educational choices.

The JCQ document gives a very detailed overview of the process to be followed, from initial decisions on which pieces of evidence to use through to the awarding process and the appeals process which will be available, should it be needed. Longsands will be following the JCQ national guidance in deciding which pieces of students work will provide the fairest evidence for the achievement of each student.



The final grades awarded must reflect as closely as possible what each student has achieved in their work during the course and will include a variety of material, including mock results, classwork, homework and NEA or practical coursework. In the next few weeks, each subject will be setting mini-assessments during normal lesson times, which will be marked using mark schemes provided by the awarding bodies and standardised across the departments. There is no need to be unduly anxious about these assessments, as there will be sufficient advanced notice and time to prepare, and the results will be used as part of our overall decision-making. We are aiming for fairness, accuracy and reliability of grading. Students with agreed access arrangements will be supported during the testing process.

We recognise that this will be an anxious time for many of our students and so we encourage them to share their concerns and staff in school will offer their full support and guidance. Remember that there is a range of useful wellbeing links on the website which can be accessed by following link <https://www.astrea-longsands.org/pupils-too/feeling-worried-or-anxious/>

ALL
YEARS



MOBILE PHONES AND SMART WATCHES

Please remember that mobile phones should not be seen or heard when in the academy grounds or buildings.

If you are within the fenced area of the Academy (including the bus bays), please do not use your mobile phone.

Smart watches are also not allowed within the Academy and should not be worn to school.

If a smart watch or mobile phone is seen or heard, it will be confiscated and not returned until the end of the following school day. A C2 after school detention will also be issued.

Since September only 2% of all C2s issued have been related to the use of mobile phones or smart watches.

Thank you for following this important school rule so diligently.





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HOME TESTING A huge thank you to everyone for continuing with home testing over the Easter holiday and during this first week back at school. The majority of eligible students have been issued with further test kits during the school day today, with the remainder to be given out on Monday, therefore please do continue to encourage your child to test twice a week and to record the results both via **the NHS** and also to the Academy using **this link**.

Unfortunately we are only permitted to issue testing kits to students who completed their three supervised tests in school, however, tests can now be ordered directly and either collected or posted to your home address.

If your child wasn't able to test in school but would like to do so from home, the links to order test kits can be found on the following website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/get-tested-for-coronavirus/>

ALL
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RAMADAN Monday 12 April saw the start of the holy month of Ramadan which is observed by the Muslim community. But what is it? And what does it stand for?

Ramadan is the Arabic name for the ninth month in the Islamic calendar. It is considered one of the holiest Islamic months and is also one of the Five Pillars of Islam. These are five principles which Muslims believe are compulsory acts ordered by God.

Muslims believe that some of the first verses of the Islamic holy book, the Qu'ran, were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad during the month of Ramadan and extra emphasis is placed on reciting the Qu'ran at this time.

Fasting is considered to be an act of worship, which enables Muslims to feel closer to God and strengthen their spiritual health and self-discipline and during Ramadan, believers taking part will not eat or drink anything during daylight hours - and prayer. Instead, they will have an early morning meal before dawn, known as suhoor or sehri and they break their fast after sunset for the evening meal, called iftar or fitoor.

Ramadan is also a time when Muslims are encouraged to give to charity, strengthen their relationship with God, and show kindness and patience.

This is the second Ramadan to fall during the coronavirus pandemic. For Muslims in St Neots, just like fellow believers around the world, this means another year of changes to traditional practices. The iftar meal is usually shared with family and friends. Because of the lockdown, such meetings will be restricted once more. However, while mixing between households was banned during Ramadan in 2020, this year the festival coincides with the easing of some lockdown rules in England. Up to six people or two households can now gather outdoors or in a private garden. Restaurants will also be able to serve meals outdoors. For those unable to meet, many virtual iftar events and online Islamic lectures are taking place.

The end of Ramadan is marked with a celebration called Eid al-Fitr when many Muslims attend Eid prayers at the mosque and then enjoy a large meal with friends and family. It's also very common for believers to exchange money and gifts with each other. Eid falls on 12 May, so celebrations will still be affected by lockdown restrictions. Although it has become a well-known event in the UK, this is not the only Eid celebration in the Islamic calendar.

Eid al-Adha is celebrated during the month of Dhul-Hijjah. This is the month where Muslims from across the world make the pilgrimage to Makkah known as Hajj.

We wish all of our Muslim students, families and the wider Muslim community of St Neots and the surrounding area Ramadan Mubarak and we look forward to the future Eid celebrations.





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HOUSE POINTS: STUDENTS OF THE WEEK We are delighted to celebrate the Students of the Week, who were awarded the most House points in their Year groups.

Overall congratulations go to **Austin House** as they have been awarded the most House points in the last week. Congratulations to all of these students on your hard work, resilience and achievements!

	Austen	Darwin	Hawking	Seacole	Turing
Year 7	Lucas G	Suzie K	Daniel E	Katelyn A	Ronny W
Year 8	Jasmine S	Ashton H	Max C	Abrielle G	Natalie O
Year 9	Ash B Alex J V	Frankie P E	Phoebe H	Amanpreet K	Macy K
Year 10	Isaac S	Anthony G	Ellie M	Jade E	Sydney W
Year 11	Aaron B	Cameron B	Ruby C	Jack G	Isher B



ALL
YEARS

HOUSE POINTS In a development of our House System and how we celebrate success, we have evolved our House Points to have 4 categories that can be awarded.

We look forward to students celebrating their accomplishments and successes with these House Points and of course they all still count towards the House who will be triumphant at the end of this academic year in raising the House Cup in achieving the most House Points at the end of the year! It's all still to play for, so watch this space!

**WORK
HARD**

**BE
KIND**

**ACHIEVE
MORE**

**House Points:
How will YOU earn yours?**

- **House Point - Work Hard**
to celebrate your effort
- **House Point - Be Kind**
to celebrate your kindness
- **House Point - Achieve More**
to celebrate your personal achievement

You can also be awarded a House Point for entering a House Competition

- **House Point - Competition**





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ATTENDANCE Whole School Attendance this week is currently 94.66%.

- Year 7** – 96.77% tutor group leading is 7ERM with 100% attendance!
- Year 8** – 96.33% tutor group leading is 8JAB with 99.11% attendance
- Year 9** - 94.71% tutor group leading is 9NDZ with 99.2% attendance
- Year 10** - 93.96% tutor group leading is 10LSG with 100% attendance!
- Year 11** - 94.19% tutor group leading is 11FKM with 100% attendance!
- Year 12** - 91.77% tutor group leading is 12AJH with 95.1% attendance
- Year 13** - 93.01% tutor group leading is 13GES with 98.61% attendance



We are working hard to support and encourage excellent attendance with students, parents and carers. We have a number of individual and tutor group rewards running to acknowledge students who have excellent attendance and punctuality and also to support some students who need to improve in these areas further details are included in the Student Weekly Bulletin.

For any queries relating to attendance please email absence@astrea-longsands.org or contact the Attendance Manager – Mrs Baker kelly.baker@astrea-longsands.org

ALL
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YOUNG CARERS Longsands Academy is committed to providing help and support for its young carers. In the summer term Mr Mykoo will be running a weekly Young Carers Club after school on Wednesdays.

Young carers are children and young people under 18 years old who provide unpaid care to a family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled or misuses substances.

At Longsands we are aware that some of our students may be caring for a family member at home and may require support to attend and enjoy school in the same way as other students to achieve their potential.

Young carers are encouraged to seek help and support by attending a school based young carers group and by using our effective referral system to access expert advice from the school nurse, the local Young Carers Services, Carers Trust Cambridgeshire and Centre 33.

For further support or information please contact Mr Mykoo via anthony.mykoo@astrea-longsands.org or Centre33.

Young Carers Project
CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH

Centre 33
Supporting young people

Do you help to look after someone in your family? Is this because of:

- Disability?
- Mental illness?
- Physical illness?
- Drug or alcohol misuse?

"I feel really supported and able to talk honestly about my worries, meeting with my Centre 33 worker and having a plan is like having a weight lifted off my shoulders."

You are a young carer and we are here to help.
We work with young carers up to the age of 18.

Our Young Carers Project can help you by:

- ★ Giving you **someone to talk to**
- ★ Working with you to **make sure your voice is heard**
- ★ Offering you a **young carers needs assessment** to understand how caring impacts you
- ★ Helping you to **meet other young carers**
- ★ Helping you with your **move to secondary school**
- ★ Offering you a **transitions assessment** if you are aged 16+

We support young carers from armed forces families

Just **get in touch** and we will contact you to find out more about you and your family and how we can help.

Tel: 0333 4141809 | email: youngcarers@centre33.org.uk
www.centre33.org.uk @centre33Camb

SCAN ME



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PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT Equality is an important value at Longsands Academy and in wider society. People should be judged on their merits and not characteristics outside of their control. Within the PD curriculum we explore equality in many forms, and in RSE we look at equality and gender.

Sometimes we are affected by unconscious biases when we look at people of other genders. We are surrounded by gender stereotypes that can be unhelpful and even unhealthy. Some of these include that males must be strong and not discuss their feelings, and that females are more domestic or emotional. In this binary narrative, transgender, non-binary and gender-neutral people do not feature, and those who do feature are often limited by such stereotypes. Furthermore, these stereotypes can affect the way we perceive others.

In RSE we consider where these characteristics and stereotypes come from – are they inherent in us as humans, or are they learned? **Click here** to watch a video of a study about gender stereotypes. Students are asked to consider what impact the toys the babies are offered might have on them as they grow into adults.

It is important that we are aware of gender stereotypes and gender inequalities that exist so that we can work towards a more equal and fair community and society.

ALL
YEARS

CATERING MENU Please see below the menu that will be available for students from the 19 April 2021.

Week 2	
Monday	Chilli and Rice Vegetarian Noodles Pasta Bar and Jacket Potatoes Pizza Slice Pineapple Upside Down Cake and Custard
Tuesday	Bacon Carbonara Cheese and Broccoli Pasta Bake Pasta Bar and Jacket Potatoes Chicken Burger Carrot Cake
Wednesday	Roast Gammon Quorn Roast Pasta Bar and Jacket Potatoes Sausage Roll Pear Crumble and Custard
Thursday	Chicken Pie and Mashed Potato Creamy Vegetable Pie and Mashed Potato Pasta Bar and Jacket Potatoes Cheese Panini Banana Cake and Custard
Friday	Fish and Chips Veggie Burger and Chips Beef Burger Feathered Iced Sponge

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 Doodle, in writing, in newsletters, on social media and via our website.

If you should need to make contact with us, please email enquiries@astrea-longsands.org in the first instance - your message will then either be dealt with or passed on to the most appropriate member of Academy staff. We will aim to respond to any enquiry within 2-3 working days.





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TAKE YOUR PLACE As advertised in our **Future Pathways evening** there is a parents/carers virtual event to support the University application process – full details can be found below, or **click here** to book.

TAKE YOUR PLACE AT THE PARENT AND CARER HIGHER EDUCATION OPEN DAY

To help simplify the process of applying for a Higher Education place next year, we would like to invite you to our bite sized open day event. In this collection of free 'short but sweet' presentations, we will introduce you to the world of higher education. We will show you how you can support your young person, or help you in applying for a place for yourself.

Meet our team of lecturers, parent ambassadors and student ambassadors for talks on:

- Open days
- Alternative routes
- Taster sessions from 5 East Anglian universities
- Student Finance England and the application process
- Further Education Colleges
- Student life and support

The first event takes place on 18th April and will be repeated on 21st April. You can secure your **free** ticket through Eventbrite on the links below:

- Sunday 18th April 14:00-16:00 [Book Here](#)
- Wednesday 21st April 18:00-20:00

neaco
takeyourplace.ac.uk

We will be sending out welcome packs via email prior to the event along with a full schedule of presentations.
We look forward to seeing you there.

TAKE YOUR PLACE

Save the Date!

SUNDAY 18TH
APRIL 2021
14:00-16:00

WEDNESDAY 21ST
APRIL 2021
18:00-20:00

Kate McCormack—neaco Higher Education Champion

:kate.mccormack@aru.ac.uk or kate@takeyourplace.ac.uk

@KMccormack_HE @TakeYourPlaceHE

TAKE YOUR PLACE

YEAR
11

YEAR 11 SUBJECT CLINIC AND SUPPORT SESSIONS

	Lunchtime	After School
Monday	Child Development: Mrs Barbrick in D3.2 German: 1.15-1.35, by invitation in G6	Child Development: Mrs Barbrick in D32 Child Development: Ms Jackson in D12 English: Clinic in N1.1 all welcome. History: Clinic in H3.1 BTEC Sport: A11 Visual Arts— Teacher Arrangement Business Support: F2.2
Tuesday		
Wednesday		Computer Science: B10 Geography: N2.4 Geology: N1.2 Maths: F1 and F2 PE: GCSE Clinic in G17 Chemistry: J2 RE: B5
Thursday		Biology: G10 & G6 Chemistry: G13 & G14 Physics: G7 & G17 Visual Arts— By Teacher Arrangement
Friday	French: 1.15-1.35, by invitation only in G6	Music: K4 NEA CLINIC ONLY
All Week	Child Development: Support sessions by arrangement any lunchtime with Mrs Barbrick in D3.2 Media: Support sessions available everyday by prior arrangement. DT and Construction: Every Lunchtime—clinic by invitation ONLY	





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What's the point? Knives ruin lives

If you know someone who carries a knife, call us on 101 or report online. Alternatively, call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or visit [crimestoppers-uk.org](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

Call: 101
Textphone: 18001 101
Visit: www.cambs.police.uk
Follow:      CambsCops
Subscribe: [@Cops.org.uk](https://twitter.com/Cops.org.uk)

#safercambs



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Cambridgeshire