

September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

With the new academic year well underway, I am writing to share with you information about the curriculum your child(ren) is studying at Longsands Academy. We are grateful for the support that parents and carers give to students in encouraging them to work hard to learn to best of their ability, and in sharing our high expectations of the work students produce. We would like to encourage you to discuss with your child(ren) what they are learning at school, and we hope the resources listed below allow you to have informed and meaningful conversations.

Curriculum

Our curriculum is designed to fulfil our core purpose which aims to secure the best possible experience, learning and outcomes for each young person for whom we have responsibility. We believe this is best achieved through a broad and balanced, knowledge-rich curriculum and a strong personal development programme. I am delighted to share with you the [Curriculum Overview 2021-22](#), which details the content studied in each subject, along with information about the core texts that students use in their lessons and, where relevant, the examination board specification.

If you would like further information about a particular subject, please contact the relevant Head of Department via enquiries@astrea-longsands.org; alternatively, direct contact details can be found on the [Key Staff](#) page on the Academy website.

Homework

We set homework for students in order to give them opportunities to consolidate and extend their learning. All homework tasks that are set for students are listed on Doodle. Doodle allows parents and carers to access the homework tasks that have been set, which is one of our key motivations for choosing to use this platform. Further information can be found on the [Doodle Guide for Parents](#). If you would like support in accessing your account, please email enquiries@astrea-longsands.org.

Knowledge organisers

As part of our knowledge-rich curriculum, we have identified the core knowledge that students need to be successful in each subject and collated this into a series of 'knowledge organisers'. This includes facts, dates, characters, quotes, precise definitions, and important vocabulary. By committing this core knowledge to memory, students will be in a strong position to use and apply this knowledge in a range of contexts. Students use the knowledge organisers in lessons, in tutor time, and during homework tasks. An important aspect of students' revision for mid- and end-of-year examinations will be to use the knowledge organisers for self-quizzing. Students have been taught how to use the knowledge organisers effectively by their form tutor. The main method we encourage students to use for self-quizzing is 'look, cover, write, check', but students may also find it useful to make flash cards that they can test themselves with, or create a diagram such as a mind map showing how the knowledge is connected.

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have been given an [Autumn Term Knowledge Organiser](#) that contains content for all subject areas. Students in Years 10 and 11 are being provided with a knowledge organiser for each of the subjects

that they study (these will also be made available on the website in due course). In addition, we intend to develop knowledge organisers for Years 12 and 13 ready to launch in September 2022.

Finally, if you have not already had a chance to look through our Parent/Carer Information Booklet, you can read it [here](#).

Thank you for your continued support in encouraging your child(ren) to Work Hard, to Be Kind and to Achieve More. We very much hope that this information outlined above will help you to be aware of what your child(ren) will learn during the academic year ahead.

Yours sincerely



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