



LONGSANDS ACADEMY

PRINCIPAL'S WEEKLY BULLETIN



Monday, 13 September 2021

(Week **A**)

ALL
YEARS

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back! It has been a true privilege and delight to welcome students and staff to the Academy for the start of the new academic year.

We recognised that we had extraordinary September weather earlier this week and adjusted our uniform expectations accordingly. From Monday, full uniform expectations will resume, with students wearing their blazers. Thank you for your support by sending your child(ren) into Longsands this week in full uniform.

We will be holding one of our regular Principal's Information Evenings on Thursday 23 September at 6 pm. The purpose of the evening is for me to formally welcome you to the new academic year and to share with you the Academy's priorities for the year ahead. The event will be held virtually and we will share more information with you about how to access the event in next week's Principal's Weekly Bulletin.

Furthermore, I would like to invite you to submit questions ahead of the event to enquiries@astrea-longsands.org clearly stating 'Principal's Information Evening Question' in order that these may be collated and we can address the main themes that arise.

I look forward to reading your questions and addressing them.

Mr N D Owen
Principal

KEY DATES COMING UP:

13 September
Roald Dahl Day

15 September
'Welcome to Year Group'
virtual information
evenings

17 September
Individual student
photographs for Years 7-10
and Year 7 tutor group
photographs

21 September
First Personal
Development Lessons of
the new academic year

23 September
Principal's Information
Evening

29 September
Tutor Review Meetings
(early closure after
Period 3)

7 October
Year 6 Open Evening (early
closure after Period 3)

8 October
Staff training day

21 October
Sixth Form Open Evening



YEAR
11

YEAR 11 SUPPORT

It has been a delight to welcome Year 11 back this week as they begin the final year of their GCSE studies. From walking around the Academy and visiting students in lessons, it is clear that Year 11 have made a determined and focussed start to the academic year.

I look forward to working with Year 11 and seeing them capitalise on their efforts during the summer term. Please do continue to encourage your child(ren) to take full advantage of the support on offer for them, including Period 6s, Hegarty Maths and GCSEPod.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact your child(ren)'s Form Tutor in the first instance, as they will be best placed to support your son/daughter on a daily basis.

Thank you for your ongoing support and I look forward to seeing Year 11 continue to thrive as we move through the academic year.

Mr Milne
Head of Year 11



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(Week A)

ALL
YEARS

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Attendance

It is important students have excellent attendance and arrive punctually every day. As students grow and prepare for the next stages of their education and/or employment they need to understand excellent attendance and punctuality are important qualities that are valued. We will do our best to support students and encourage excellent attendance and punctuality. Where students have any attendance or punctuality concerns, we will use effective strategies to support them to show improvement.

From September 2021, attendance is mandatory for all students and we have shared an attendance awareness update with parents/carers that you can [view here](#). The usual rules on attendance will continue to apply, including:

- parents/carers' duty to ensure that their child of compulsory school age attends regularly at the school where the child is a registered pupil
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absences
- the ability to consider legal sanctions, including penalty notices, in line with local authorities' code of conduct
- the duty on local authorities to put in place arrangements for identifying, and to follow up with, children missing education

Punctuality

Does your child(ren) arrive on time and ready to learn?

All students are expected to be at school by 8.40 am to enable them to be in their classrooms and ready to learn by 8.45 am. We will be issuing same day detentions to any student arriving late unless there is an acceptable reason for the late arrival to school.

If you have any questions about your child's attendance please contact our Attendance Officer, Mrs Walker at absence@astrea-longsands.org or our Attendance Manager, Mrs Baker at kelly.baker@astrea-longsands.org



ALL
YEARS

STRATEGY AND TRUST VALUES

Astrea Academy Trust has launched our 2025 Strategy and Trust Values.

The Trust **strategy document** explains in detail how we will ensure that every child who attends our school, and every Astrea school, will receive a brilliant education. The success of this is underpinned by a strong set of shared values that support the vision, shape the culture, and make a statement about what we hold dear.

Our new Trust values are Scholarship, Curiosity, Tenacity and the values of Longsands Academy are Work Hard, Be Kind, Achieve More. These values mean that we agree to have the best thinking and research, to ask questions and not to settle when things don't meet our standard and to be determined on improving outcomes for our students and our own performance.



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(Week A)

ALL
YEARS

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT LESSONS AND THE PD CURRICULUM

Our students are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way. With this in mind, we have developed a thorough and comprehensive Personal Development (PD) curriculum which aims to provide students with the skills and knowledge necessary to achieve and be successful.

Our curriculum is closely aligned to the DfE statutory guidance on RSHE which came into effect in September 2020. We hope all students at Longsands understand and appreciate that their own personal development is just as important as academic progress and achievement.

During PD lessons, students will be taught valuable knowledge and skills in areas such as physical and mental health, financial management, career development, British values and building and maintaining healthy relationships. Students will have the chance to investigate, discuss and debate how to manage tough times (health and wellbeing), they will examine the term consent and how it is applied (relationships), they will find out how to write a good CV and conduct themselves at an interview (living in the wider world). The content is delivered in a way which is sensitive and inclusive, with respect to the backgrounds and beliefs of students and parents while always with the aim of providing students with the knowledge they need of the law.

We are clear that parents and carers are the prime educators for students on many of these matters. The PD curriculum aims to complement and reinforce this role. The full PD curriculum will be sent to you in a separate communication, it can also be viewed on the Academy's website.

How will PD lessons work?

The Personal Development curriculum is organised into three strands: Health and wellbeing, living in the wider world and relationships. Students have two (two hour) lessons per half term. They will be taught with their form and in their form room. They will be taught by trained staff who may not be their form tutor.

When will PD be delivered this half term?

There are two PD sessions this half term. PD sessions will replace normal timetables lessons on these dates. Tuesday, 21 September, periods 2 and 3 and Tuesday, 12 October, periods 4 and 5.

ALL
YEARS

COVID TESTING UPDATE

We would like to say a huge thank you to all of our students who came in during the final week of their holiday to be tested and then undertook their second test in school this week. We were very pleased at the large numbers who took up this opportunity, thus helping to keep the Academy, our community and their families safe. We are now reverting back to home testing and all students were offered test kits as they left the school site on Thursday, in order to enable them to continue their testing at home. Tutors gave the students information about when to test (which we suggest is either Sunday and Wednesday evenings, or Monday and Thursday mornings) but providing the testing is done twice a week with at least 3 days between tests that meets the guidance. If your child needs more test kits, please ask them to go to Student Services who will provide them with a further box. Having issued boxes of 7 tests yesterday, we will be issuing more tests in the week beginning the 27 September to ensure students have enough tests to last them until October half-term, should this be required (we are expecting a further government announcement on home testing towards the end of September).

Please remember to report all results both to the NHS and also using the link on the school website [CLICK HERE](#). Thank you for supporting your children in testing at home.



LONGSANDS ACADEMY

PRINCIPAL'S WEEKLY BULLETIN



Monday, 13 September 2021

(Week A)

YEARS
7-10

TUTOR TIME READING

Year 7-10 tutor groups will be reading two novels this year during tutor time. As well as enjoying a great story together, this will help students to develop their reading fluency. The books are shown in the table on the right. There is no eating in the Library.

ALL
YEARS

LIBRARY UPDATES

Library Reopening

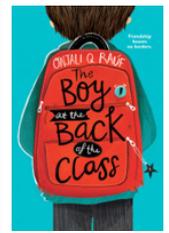
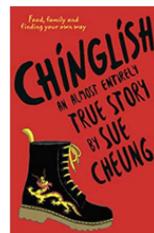
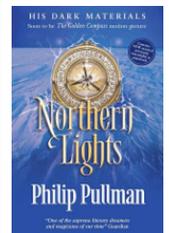
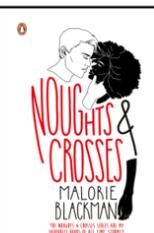
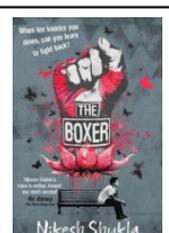
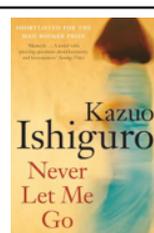
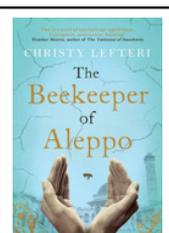
The library is now open to all year groups and students are welcome to come to the library during break and lunch time. Students can borrow books and get access to a computer and printing facilities. We have a huge range of books in stock across many fiction and non-fiction genres and to suit readers of all abilities.

Library Lessons and Accelerated Reader

From 15 September, Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 English classes will have a fortnightly library lesson to set up and use their Accelerated Reader accounts, choose books and have some time to read for pleasure. Their English teacher and our library staff will be able to encourage and support their wider reading progress.

KS4 Reading List

Enjoying wider reading supports wellbeing and academic progress for all students, and this is something we are keen to encourage at KS4. Miss Gray, the English KS4 coordinator, has compiled a KS4 recommended reads list with the help of Longsands students. Students recommended books they enjoyed reading that they felt other students would enjoy too. Year 10 and Year 11 students can access the reading list via Doodle or pick up a hard copy from the library.

Books for Tutor Time Reading	
Year 7	 
Year 8	 
Year 9	 
Year 10	 

ALL
YEARS

VOTES FOR SCHOOLS

Pictured right are the results from the recent vote on the subject of: **'Should Exams Go Ahead in 2022'**

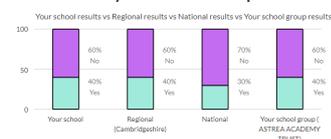
We are looking forward to the results of next week's subject which is **'Will Climate Change Affect Children's Rights?'**

Results for your school & the UK
Should exams go ahead in 2022?

Results in your school



How your results compare...



Results by Tutor Group/School Year



LONGSANDS ACADEMY PRINCIPAL'S WEEKLY BULLETIN



Monday, 13 September 2021

(Week A)

ALL
YEARS

STUDENT SUCCESS

Clay Pigeon Shooting Star!

Recently, Sixth Form student Harry (pictured right with Mr Owen) took part in his first major clay pigeon shooting competition, the British Open Championships at E J Churchill Swinton Estate in Yorkshire.

1200 competitors were taking part in the Championships across 4 days and Harry performed incredibly well ranking 5th out of 51 juniors and 23rd in A-Class out of 323. After qualifying for the finals in both the Juniors and the A-Class maintaining his performance and ranking highly in both. This success is a result of determination and commitment, congratulations!



YEAR
11

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS

As part of our knowledge-rich curriculum, students are provided with knowledge organisers which specify in detail key factual knowledge that students are required to recall from memory. Students in Year 7, 8 and 9 have been given an 'Autumn Term Knowledge Organiser', which contains information for all subjects. Over the coming weeks, students in Year 10 and 11 will be given a knowledge organiser for each of the subjects that they study. Electronic versions of the knowledge organisers can be found on the Academy website.

Why do we use knowledge organisers?

- Knowledge organisers provide clarity to students about what core knowledge is required to be successful in a subject.
- They provide a tool and process to support students to learn core knowledge and to teach them good study habits, such as retrieval practice and spaced repetition.
- Knowledge organisers support a long-term revision strategy so students can remember the content they learned in previous years.

How should knowledge organisers be used?

Students should follow the following routine when self-quizzing:

1. Look at a specific section and memorise it
2. Cover up the knowledge organiser
3. Write it out from memory
4. Check carefully and correct any mistakes



LOOK



COVER



WRITE



CHECK

How can I support my child(ren) to use the knowledge organiser effectively?

Students are taught how to use the knowledge organisers in form time and guided by their subject teachers as to how best to use them in lessons and as part of homework. You can support this at home by having conversations with your child(ren) about the core knowledge they are learning and by encouraging them to use the method above. It is best for students to work in small chunks and build confidence through experiencing success in recalling the knowledge. You could also quiz your child(ren) verbally and enjoy the learning process together.



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Monday, 13 September 2021

(Week A)

ALL
YEARS

STUDENT SUCCESS

Hegarty Maths star student!

Isabella has received a certificate of commendation from Hegarty Maths for the remarkable achievement of becoming a Hegarty Maths Completer.

This means she has completed all 925 skills, each at 100% on the Hegarty Maths website. Over 1.5 million students use Hegarty Maths and Isabella joins only a handful of others to complete the whole website. She will have shown incredible independence and resilience in completing all 925 skills! A quick check on the statistics shows that, during the past two years, she has spent in excess of 240 hours working on the various tasks, attempting in excess of 22000 questions!

Congratulations, Isabella, on a truly exceptional achievement!



ALL
YEARS

ROAD SAFETY

The safety of our students is of the utmost importance to us. We want to do everything in our power to educate students about road safety in order to reduce the risk of an incident which could cause injury, or worse. Sadly, danger from traffic is a major cause of injury and death among young people, with the risk rising as children reach secondary school age.

This week, in assemblies and via the Student Weekly Bulletin, we are reminding students about the importance of keeping themselves safe on their way to and from the Academy, specifically in relation to road safety.

This week, the key advice we are sharing with students is as follows:

Wear a helmet if you ride a scooter or bike

- Wearing a helmet could save your life.
- It is an Academy expectation that you wear a helmet if you are riding a bike or scooter to and from school.

Cross the road safely

- Use a crossing where possible.
- If you are riding a scooter or bike, dismount.
- Try not to cross between parked cars- moving cars can't see you.

Avoid distractions like phones and headphones

- Pay attention. Look both ways before crossing the road, then look again.

If your son/daughter is seen on their way to or from the Academy on a bike or scooter without a helmet, or if they are behaving in a way in which we feel puts them in unnecessary danger, their Student Support Officer will have a conversation with them in the first instance and we will also write to you for your awareness of our concern about their safety.

Please help us to explain the importance of this message by discussing this issue with your child(ren) at home.





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PRINCIPAL'S WEEKLY BULLETIN



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(Week A)

ALL
YEARS

PUPIL PREMIUM

Pupil Premium budget is additional funding given to schools to support students on Free School Meals, Looked After Children and those children whose parents serve in the Armed Forces. If your child/children are not currently registered as pupil premium, but your family situation meets any of the criteria below, your child may qualify for the additional pupil premium funding.

Eligibility criteria

Your child will get free school meals if you receive any of the following:

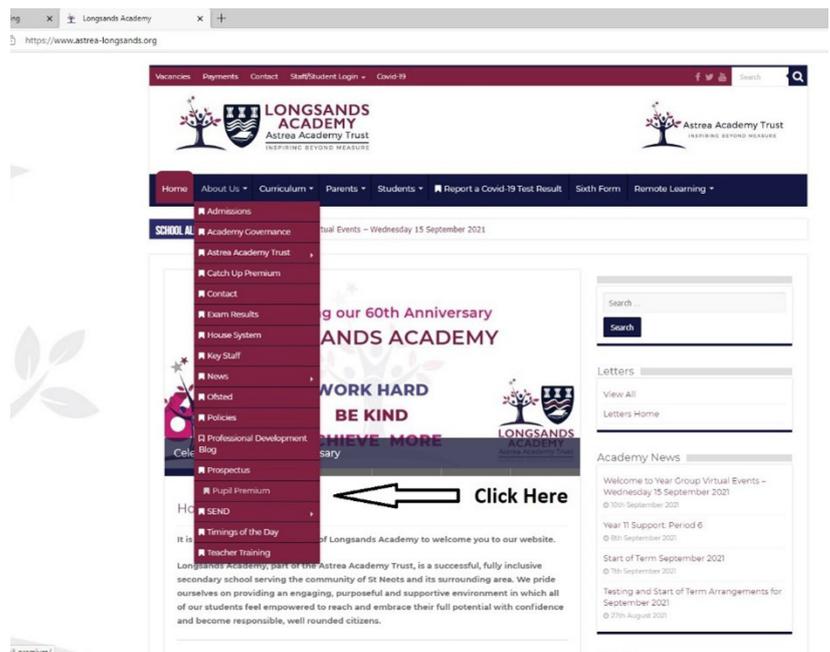
- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit - but no element of Working Tax Credit - and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC)) that does not exceed £16,190
- If you are supported under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit during the four week period immediately after your employment finishes or after you start to work less hours per week
- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400 (as from 1 April 2018)
- If your child was or currently is a 'child in care'.

Qualifying pupil premium students will not just receive free school meals (credited to your parent pay account, so your child would not be treated any differently at the point of payment in the school canteen). They may also receive help with funding revision guides and text books, items of school uniform, school trips and other enrichment activities and school equipment.

What should I do if I think my family qualifies for pupil premium?

Please visit our Academy website and click on 'About Us'. Then click on the fourth tab from the bottom labelled '**Pupil Premium**'. Then click on the link to find out more about pupil premium. You will be able to apply via the external website and the school will be notified.

Should you have any questions about pupil premium or how to apply for it, please email alf.lesurf@astrea-longsands.org.





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Monday, 13 September 2021

(Week A)

YEARS
7-11

UNIFORM UPDATE

Thank you to all parents and carers who have ensured that their child(ren) has/have returned to the Academy with excellent uniform.

Our high standards of uniform encourage our students to take pride in their appearance and set the tone for a purposeful learning environment.

A frequent query we receive relates to acceptable footwear, shoes must be completely plain black with a smart appearance, have a sturdy, solid sole and not reach above the ankles. Converse, Vans, Kickers, sports brands such as Nike and other similar footwear labelled as 'shoes' are not acceptable. Shoes must be polishable, low-heeled and suitable for office wear. Please see some suitable examples below.

Full information regarding our uniform expectations can be found on our [website](#). If you have any queries regarding uniform please contact your child(ren)'s Form Tutor in the first instance.



ALL
YEARS

CANTEEN MENU

Our school canteen has a menu which rotates on a three week cycle, you can view details on our website [here](#).

Lunch Menu Week One

THE HUB

MONDAY
Homemade Burger served on a Bun with Tomato Relish
Mediterranean Vegetable Lasagne
Jacket Wedges, Garden Peas, Sweetcorn, Baked Beans, Garden Salad

TUESDAY
Mexican Chilli Con Carne served with Braised Rice
Vegetable Sausages served in a Rich Onion Gravy
Creamed Potatoes, Roasted Vegetables, Baked Beans Garden Salad

WEDNESDAY
Roast of the Day served with Traditional Accompaniments
Creamy Cheese Topped Leek and Potato Layer Bake
Roast Potatoes, Baton Carrots, Savoy Cabbage, Baked Beans, Garden Salad

THURSDAY
Fresh Oven Baked Chicken and Sweetcorn Pie
Assorted Homemade Pizza Slices
Spicy Potatoes, Broccoli, Mixed Vegetables, Baked Beans, Garden Salad

FRIDAY
Deep Fried Battered Fish served with Tartar Sauce
Fresh Assorted Home Made Panini's
Chipped Potatoes, Mushy Pea, Baked Beans, Garden Salad

AVAILABLE DAILY
Filled Jacket Potatoes, Assorted Snacks, Various Filled Sandwiches, Rolls & Wraps, Fresh Salads

Lunch Menu Week Two

THE HUB

MONDAY
Traditional All Day Breakfast
Fresh Tomato and Basil Pasta Bake
Spicy Potatoes, Broccoli, Grilled Tomatoes, Baked Beans Garden Salad

TUESDAY
Sweet and Sour Chicken with Boiled Rice
Oven Baked Cheese and Tomato Flan
Jacket Wedges, Sweetcorn, Garden Peas, Baked Beans, Garden Salad

WEDNESDAY
Roast of the Day served with Traditional Accompaniments
Thai Green Curry with Mixed Rice
Roast Potatoes, Garden Peas, Sweetcorn, Baked Beans, Garden Salad

THURSDAY
Home-made Savoury Shepherds Pie
Mexican Vegetable Enchiladas
Jacket Wedges, Sliced Carrots, Garden Peas, Baked Beans, Garden Salad

FRIDAY
Deep Fried Fish With Tartar Sauce
Assorted Meat and Vegetarian Hot Dogs and Onions
Chipped Potatoes, Mushy Peas, Baked Beans, Garden

AVAILABLE DAILY
Filled Jacket Potatoes, Assorted Snacks, Various Filled Sandwiches, Rolls & Wraps, Fresh Salads

Lunch Menu Week Three

THE HUB

MONDAY
Fresh Pulled BBQ Chicken Baguette
Aromatic Vegetable Balti Served with Mixed Rice
Jacket Wedges, Garden Peas, Sweetcorn, Baked Beans and Garden Salad

TUESDAY
Traditionally Made Italian Style Lasagna
Chinese Sweet and Sour Vegetables
New Potatoes, Green Beans, Fresh Carrots, Baked Beans, Garden Salad

WEDNESDAY
Roast of the Day Served with Traditional Accompaniments
Creamy Crumbed Macaroni Cheese
Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Greens, Carrots & Peas, Baked Beans, Garden Salad

THURSDAY
Chicken Tikka Curry served with Boiled Rice
Tangy Cheese and Onion Quiche
Spicy Diced Potatoes, Roasted Vegetables, Baked Beans, Garden Salad

FRIDAY
Deep fried Battered Fish served with Tartar Sauce
Herby Potato Topped Country Vegetable Bake
Chipped Potatoes, Mushy Peas, Baked Beans, Mixed Garden Salad

AVAILABLE DAILY
Filled Jacket Potatoes, Assorted Snacks, Various Filled Sandwiches, Rolls & Wraps, Fresh Salads