

January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been a pleasure to welcome students back to school this week after the Christmas break. We have been impressed with how they have approached the staggered nature of the start of term and we are grateful to you for your support with these precautionary measures that have enabled testing to take place.

It is important to us that we keep you as informed as possible about the curriculum your child(ren) is studying at Longsands Academy so that you are able to support them in their learning. We have had some really positive feedback about the Curriculum Overview which we shared with parents and carers in September, so we wanted to ensure that all parents and carers knew how to access this information. 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. On our website, we have published 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 to create a diagram such as a mind map showing how the knowledge is connected.

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be given a [Spring Term Knowledge Organiser](#) that contains content for all subject areas. Students in Years 10 and 11 have been provided with a knowledge organiser for each of the subjects that they study which can be found on the website [here](#). In addition, we intend to develop knowledge organisers for Years 12 and 13 ready to launch in September 2022.

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 be aware of what your child(ren) are learning during the academic year.

Yours sincerely



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**Principal**



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