

12 January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to start by thanking those parents/carers who were able to attend the forum event on Teams last night and would really appreciate any feedback on the event using [this link](#). I appreciate that the timing was not convenient for everyone, and I will look at varying the times to accommodate this. We will upload the PowerPoint and a FAQ document early next week to the website in the parent section. As I mentioned last night, we are doing tours every Friday until the end of January from 9.20am to 10.20am. If you would like to come and see what life is like at Longsands Academy, please sign up to one of the next three tours using [this link](#).

I would like to congratulate our Year 13 students who have just received their fantastic EPQ results and thank those colleagues who gave up their time to support and mentor the students on these wonderful projects. Also, congratulations to those Sixth Form students who sat their GCSE Maths and English exams in the Autumn series and were successful – well done.

It is a busy half term for Parent-Carer consultations. These important meetings currently take place online. My understanding is that every year we gather feedback from staff, parents/carers and students and I will be adding this to our half-termly parent-carer survey which will be sent out towards the end of this month.

This week I thoroughly enjoyed delivering assemblies to students in Years 7 to 11. The theme of my assembly was: *What are you going to do in 2024?* Starting with a reflection on the *Action For Happiness* statement 'if you want to feel good, do good', I chose to focus on the idea of difference and the importance of embracing diversity in our community. I highlighted the importance of ensuring that the language we use is not discriminatory and does not cause offence. I am working with members of staff to launch a working party for staff and students to raise awareness and ensure that all students at Longsands always feel safe and free from discrimination.

I really do value parent/carer feedback and I am very pleased to share a new initiative which we are launching this half term: the Parent/Carer Advisory Council (PAC). The purpose of the PAC is to foster open communication and collaboration between parents/carers, the academy leadership, and the local governing committee. It will serve as an advisory body with the goal of providing input on matters crucial to the school community, including curriculum, policies, substantial changes, and fundraising activities. The PAC shall have no formal decision-making powers as it serves in an advisory capacity to the school's leadership. The academy's leadership and local governing committee will consider this input in their decision-making processes. There will be at least six meetings a year, with additional meetings scheduled as needed. In order to secure representation, we are looking to appoint two parent/carers from each year group, who will self-nominate to become PAC members. I will be finalising the PAC constitution after discussion with the Local Governing Committee later this month and I will then be able to share it with interested parties. If you think you would like to nominate yourself for PAC please could you email principalspa@astrea-longsands.org adding PAC to the subject line.

Finally, if you would like to view this week's video newsletter, please use [this link](#).

I would like to wish you all a lovely weekend.



Dr C Cusick
Principal