

19 January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

I am so proud of the students in Years 7, 8 and 9 who have shown great maturity in their conduct in the mid-year assessments this week. They behaved impeccably in the tests and also showed fantastic commitment to their learning through their independent studies during the revision periods. Well done!

I would also like to thank Mr Milne and Mr Laud, who stayed after the Year 10 Parent/Carer consultation evening to deliver a session to parents and carers on supporting students in preparing for exams. The feedback has been very positive and the PowerPoint will be shared next week.

I would like to provide some additional information and clarification about reports on social media currently about multiple classes being taught in the Ritchie Hall. We have been trialling this approach since December as a way to ensure that cover lessons are productive, and students are making excellent progress through reviewing existing work and self-quizzing. There is the added benefit that we can reduce workload for class teachers by not asking them to cover for absent colleagues. Unfortunately, this half term always sees high levels of staff absence throughout the country due to short-term illness as there are lots of colds and viruses around. On several occasions, such as this morning, the senior leadership team will support different classes in working independently. Today saw Year 7 mathematicians working on mean, mode, and median, on one side of the room whilst a class of Year 7 geographers were revisiting key learning. Students were being supported by staff who know them and are able to get the best out of them.

Finally, a reminder that we are holding weekly tours on a Friday morning this half term. If you would like to come along and see Longsands Academy in action, please email [enquiries@astrea-longsands.org](mailto:enquiries@astrea-longsands.org) and add 'Tour' in the subject line.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



Dr C Cusick  
**Principal**