















September 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

We are four weeks into a new school year, we've welcomed new year 7 students who are settling into ASCEND well and I'd to share some key information with all parents and carers to keep you all in the loop and up to date.

ASCEND Tutor time schedule: There is a tutor time focus each day.

Timings	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
08:20 -08:40	Breakfast & Morning Mindfulness An opportunity for students and staff to catch up over toast, a relaxed start to the day. Students may be offered opportunities to take part in a range of anxiety reducing activities. These may include catch up with tutor, 1:1 keyworker time, playing cards, LEGO ICT, Art, exercise, walk around the field, quiet study, reading, gardening, online quiz.				
08:40- 09:00 Tutor Time	PSHE Monday Discussions led by the tutor team based on PSHE topics, diversity and life skills required for the future, Eg Budgeting, Personal hygiene.   	Literacy and numeracy Tuesday Tutor teams facilitate literacy and numeracy tasks. students can be tested on spellings, problem solving, times tables. Students may use online literacy programmes that target word study, grammar and comprehension   	Wellbeing Wednesday Tutor team to carry out weekly equipment and uniform checks. Track and monitor Behaviour, sanctions and rewards. Tutors to set Targets/ EHCP tracking and monitoring. If tutors are satisfied with checks students can partake in wellbeing activities indoors or outdoors PROGRESS CHECK  	Reading Thursday A reading and Oracy programme delivered by the tutor team. Year 7,8 and 9 Tutor/students read a book together. Tutors read to students. Year 10 and 11 Students bring their own reading book and read 1:1 with tutor, to the class or silent reading.  	Friday ASSEMBLY Whole school Assembly. Round up of the week Celebration of success Student Voice    

ASCEND Homework Timetable

Students should spend approximately 30 mins per subject. English, Maths, Science and option subjects will be set weekly- Students will be given one week to complete their homework.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7 ASC	Science- ELO Art – MUS (twice each ½ term)	English - RAJ	ICT- HUS (twice per 1/2 term)	Maths-LOI PARTS PAD (twice per ½ term)	HUMS- ELO (once a fortnight)

8 ASC	Science- LOI	Maths- HUS Art CSA (twice each ½ term)	Hums- ELO (every fortnight)	English- RAJ ICT -HUS (twice per half term)	Performing Arts PAD (twice each ½ term) Food HUS (twice each half term)
9 ASC	Maths - LOI	Hums- ELO (Every fortnight)	English-RAJ PARTS- (every fortnight)	Science- ELO (every fortnight)	ART- CSA (twice each ½ term) Food HUS (twice each half term)
10 ASC	Science LOI	Maths- JON	Engineering KOL	English RAJ Catering GAK	Sport Studies JON
11 ASC	Photo PAD Sports S FAI Art CLA	English- RAJ	Catering NIC	Maths- JON	ICT- HUS Science- ELO

Progress Evenings - Dates for your diaries:

Parents and carers are invited in for three progress evenings, one per term. All parents and carers are encouraged to attend all three to discuss student progress face to face with teachers.

Wednesday 12th October 2022- 3.25pm-5.00pm- Progress evening (All year groups)

Wednesday 8th February 2023 – 3.25-5.00pm – Progress evening (All year groups)

Thursday 23rd March -5.30- 6.30pm - Year 9 option evening (Year 9 only)

Thursday 6th July - 3.25- 5.00pm - Progress evening (All year groups)

Progress checks:

You will receive three data drops throughout the year to keep you informed of your child's progress, behaviour, effort and attainment in all subjects.

Blended learning:

Students are taking part in normal lessons from periods 1-4 and p.5 is now called Blended learning- a method of teaching that gives students more flexibility to customize their learning experiences.

Varied activities are offered in afternoon sessions these should be more practical, sporty, hands on, creative and interactive, so far students have been able to choose from Gardening, kick boxing, dog walking, frisbee, yoga, creative writing, men's health, flap jack making. Some of the activities offered offer an AQA award, the Unit Award Scheme is a unique way to record learner achievement. It's a 'can do' approach used to boost student confidence, engagement and motivation. Students can achieve an accreditation and will receive a certificate once the unit is complete. 'Catch up' will run at the same time as blended learning, students who chose to miss morning lessons and didn't complete work in food break catch up detention may be asked to Year 10 and 11 will take part in some bl

School Uniform and PE kit

Students must attend school wearing the correct uniform every day. Tutors will check uniform during registration, any students not wearing a tie or blazer will be given a behaviour point. Students must bring the correct PE kit, this should be a red and blue OPA kit with their name embroidered on the top and shorts. It is advised that PE kit is bought in on a Monday, left it in school all week and taken home to be washed on a Friday. As well as timetabled PE lessons students may sign up to physical Blended learning activities that require a PE kit therefore it's useful if their have their kit every day.

Mobile phones:

Mobile phone usage is not permitted in Ormiston Park Academy. Previously, students who have brought phones into ASCEND keep them out of sight in their bags and they are never used during the day. Recently there have been incidents where students have been sanctioned for taking phones out of their pockets during lesson time and at break times. The policy has recently changed and if a student brings a phone into school they will be asked to hand it in to Mr Johnson the behaviour lead, all phones will be stored safely in a box, placed in the safe and handed out to students at the end of the day. If a student doesn't wish to hand his phone in then they should leave it at home. If a student fails to hand in his phone and is found in possession of a phone it will be confiscated and a parent/carer will be asked to collect it.

Sanctions and rewards:

Pupils can earn up to 6 achievement points per lesson (30 per day) achievement points are awarded for good work or displaying the school's core values of integrity, respect and responsibility.

If student display unacceptable behaviour in lessons they are given a warning, if three warnings are given the students will be issued with a behaviour point and food break detention. Behaviour points can be given instantly if a student displays dangerous or aggressive behaviours.

Both Achievement and behaviour points are issued at the end of lessons via SIMS and parents and carers should receive a notification text when they are issued, we hope those positive or negative text messages will prompt conversations after school. If you have not yet downloaded the SIMS app please do so as soon as possible so you can have access your child's behaviour.

Teachers may award a 'Star of the day' to the student they feel is most deserving throughout the day, that student is invited to collect a reward from the reward cabinet at the end of the day (chocolate, sweets, stationary, non-uniform pass, homework pass).

The students who achieve the most achievement points in a week are celebrated in our Friday Celebration Assembly and will be bring home a positivity postcard and also get to choose a reward from our rewards cabinet.

Time out: Some students require time out of lessons to get away from learning. Students may take no more than ONE time out per lesson and Time out will be no more than 5 minutes. Students may choose to use their time out if they require a brain break, feel frustrated, upset, angry or overwhelmed. Some students prefer to remain in the lesson and might put their head down on the desk to unwind for the 5mins, others prefer to leave the room and take 5mins in a calm room or outside to get some fresh air. Either is acceptable but it is the student's responsibility to return to class ready to learn, a teacher shouldn't have to chase them. Pupils who take advantage of this system will be asked to make up the time during their food breaks so that they can complete the missed work.

Isolation: Every year group has a maximum of six students in the class and every class has a specialist teacher and at least one learning support assistant present. If a pupil refuses to take part in lessons, and they decide to leave the room without permission, the classroom LSA will be asked to follow and try to get the pupil back into the classroom, where the pupil is able to continue to learn. However, during the time that the LSA is out of the classroom, they will not be able to support the remaining pupils and this may hinder the remaining pupils learning. For this reason, if this happens for a long period of time the student may be sent to supervision, supervision is a small room at the front of ASCEND, it's a supervised space where students can complete work independently or work with 1:1 support from the LSA supervising, students can complete work from the lesson they are missing however they will not have support from the subject specialist.

If a child has taken their time out, refuses to go back to lesson, refuses to complete work from the lesson with the LSA and refuses to attend supervision, does not engage with staff, is being disruptive and taking away others right to learn then a parent/carer may be asked to speak to their child over the phone.

Tuancy: Leaving the school site is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated. We are a secure unit, both entrances are fobbed to keep students safe, however recently two students have purposely absconded from ASCEND, displaying dangerous behaviour by jumping over the back gate. On one occasion the student walked off site completely and into the housing estate. If a child in our care truants a member of staff will attempt to follow the child to ensure they are safe and parents and carers are called immediately informed, if staff do not have eyes on the child the police will be also be informed.

Enrichment

Enrichment gives children opportunities to try new and varied activities that develop character, resilience and motivation and encourage them to pursue wider goals. Ascend has an Enrichment Lead who plans trips and visits throughout the year that allow students to experience different cultures, respect differences, develop new friendships with their peers and thus broaden their horizons and knowledge as enrichment activities help develop students' self-esteem, self-confidence, and self-belief. The details of all enrichment activities and trips will be shared in advance via telephone, email or text.

The ASCEND team will do our very best to keep lines of communication open, staff will contact parents and carers regularly to keep you updated, if you have any queries please don't hesitate to call or email staff.

Kind Regards,

Lynsey Padmore
Acting Head of ASCEND