



Astrea Academy Woodfields

Prospectus



**ASTREA ACADEMY
WOODFIELDS**

IN LABORE AD ASTRA

Welcome

Welcome to Astrea Academy Woodfields and thank you for considering us as your school of choice. We have a unique approach to transforming the hearts and minds of young people so that they can go to university, or a real alternative, and live a great life.

As part of Astrea Academy Trust, we have used high-quality research and the experiences of the best schools to develop an ambitious curriculum, strong routines, and a life-changing programme of personal development. We believe in traditional approaches to teaching, and we value scholarship. In recognition of this, we refer to our young adults as 'scholars' to reflect the commitment that everyone makes to academic learning, here and beyond. We promote strong family values, manners, decency, hard work, and kindness. We do this by practising routines that enable us to make the most use of our time. We are both warm and strict so that scholars know we care and can succeed within firm boundaries.

At Woodfields we are curious, tenacious, and scholarly. Every scholar will learn a classical musical instrument and will practise this daily at home. They will gain opportunities to play in orchestras and in world-class musical venues. Scholars will complete an hour of homework a day and have the support at school to complete this. Every person in school learns poetry by heart and will recite this publicly every day at the start and end of school. We all dine together as a family at lunchtime and serve each other food and tidy the table at the end of the meal. This is an extraordinary school that believes in simplicity and old-fashioned values.

In our achievement-oriented culture, it is cool to be smart, and all scholars work hard to make the best of themselves. Working together, we support every child to get that place at university and a top job.

Core Values



Curiosity



Tenacity



Scholarship





Meet the Principal

I would like to thank you for choosing Astrea Academy Woodfields and look forward to welcoming you to our wonderful school. You have made an exceptionally good choice.

My Grandfather grew up down the road and knew a thing or two about curiosity, tenacity, and scholarship. He taught me that manners cost nothing and that hard work and being kind get you places. I say what I do and do what I say. I grew up in Teesside under the shadow of the steelworks, but by committing myself to my studies I was top in my year at school and went to the University of Cambridge. This gave me opportunity and choices that others who chose easier paths did not have. Every moment of my life has been about getting young people to university or a real alternative and living a great life.

Achievement and results matter. They are the passport to a better life and there is no shortcut in getting them, no matter what anyone else might tell you. We will celebrate successes, no matter how small, and provide many ways for everyone to earn recognition for real achievements. I expect every scholar that joins us to work hard in school and study for at least an hour

at home every day. Every contribution should be their best and they should give their full attention and commitment each second of every lesson. Our lesson time is so valuable that we go to extraordinary lengths to ensure that scholars do this. It can seem like we make mountains out of molehills, and sometimes we do just that because excellence is a habit. While we understand that there are trials and tribulations in the present, our eyes are set firmly on the long-term success and happiness of young people. Parents and carers who choose Woodfields also commit wholeheartedly to our ethos, policies, and practices by acceptance of their place here.

The scholars of Woodfields are the hardest working and most courteous young people in Doncaster. We have a traditional, and some would say, old-fashioned approach to discipline. The finest minds and top performers in art, sports, science, academia, and business all have the capacity to apply themselves to their respective fields. We expect hard work, courtesy, and rigour from our scholars. I have these expectations because of my fundamental belief in the ability of every young person to make the best

of themselves. To hold back from this would be to their detriment and would not demonstrate my heartfelt devotion to them realising their potential. Some have told me that the school and my approach is like Marmite; you love it, or you hate it. I would say you either choose success and choose us or you reject both.

Since my appointment in March 2023, I have taken strident and decisive action to improve the school forever and for the better. We are now a centre of excellence for the arts thanks to our partnership with MISST and Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber. Our passionate and committed staff now provide a unique enrichment offer which includes chances to perform in world-famous venues and take part in ensembles, bands, shows and life-changing trips and visits. We have enviable sports facilities which include 4G pitches and a BMX track and enrichment opportunities for most interests.

Coming to Woodfields means that you gain a life-changing set of opportunities from our highly effective teaching, ambitious curriculum, unique enrichment, strict routines, and supportive staff. By

choosing us you commit to getting to university or a real alternative. As Rudyard Kipling once wrote, "If you can fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds' worth of distance run, yours is the Earth and everything that's in it, and—which is more—your best is yet to come!"

Yours faithfully,



David Scales MSc, MA (Cantab), MA (Teach First), NPQH

Principal of Astrea Academy Woodfields

Getting to the Academy

Scholars should walk, cycle, or take the bus to the academy where possible. This reduces pollution and congestion while increasing safety, health, and wellbeing.

The Academy Day

Time	Activity	Location
08:00	Breakfast Club	Dining Hall
08:15	School Starts	Playground
08:30	Morning Address	Playground
08:35	Morning Meeting	Sports Hall
09:00	Period 1	Classrooms
09:55	Period 2	Classrooms
10:50	Breaktime	Dining Hall / Playground
11:10	Period 3	Classrooms
12:05	Period 4	Classrooms
13:00	Family Lunch	Dining Hall / Playground
13:40	Period 5	Classrooms
14:35	Astrea Reads	Classrooms
15:10	Scholar Site Exit and Enrichment Begins	Main Gate
16:40	School closes to scholars	

*Subject to change

Eating at Breaktime and Lunchtime

All scholars must eat in the Main Dining Hall in allocated seating as part of our Family Dining. We operate a biometric cashless catering service through our 'My Child at School' application. This application allows you to top-up your child's account and track what they have purchased in school. If your child is entitled to free school meals, their account is automatically topped up daily at the start of lunch.

If you believe you are entitled to Free School Meals, please make your application online via the DMBC website. <https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/schools/free-school-meals>

Further information on how to access the 'My Child at School' app and pay for your child's lunch will be provided prior to starting at the Academy in September.

Lunchtime Electives

During lunchtime we also provide a range of enrichment activities that we call 'Electives.' These range from support with homework, reading, games and sport. This information will be shared with your child in September.

Afterschool Electives

As well as providing a full suite of fourteen curriculum subjects during the academy day we also provide a range of enrichment activities after the main academy day has concluded. These typically centre around Art, Music, Drama and Sports as well as the Duke of Edinburgh award. This information changes each half-term but will be shared with your child in September.

Contacting the Academy



Phone:
01302 312140



E-mail:
Office@AstreaWoodfields.org



Meetings:
By arrangement

Curriculum

Our ambitious curriculum is academically rigorous and carefully constructed by subject specialists who have drawn from national and international expertise. The curriculum is sequenced in a way that ensures mastery by emphasising powerful knowledge that is delivered in small steps. Our scholars leave able to go to university or a real alternative and live a great life.

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum that includes a generous allocation of Art, Drama and Music as distinct specialisms at Key Stage 3. We believe in classical music for all and will lend a classical musical instrument to each scholar so that they can become proficient within three years. Modern foreign languages are given an additional importance as we want our scholars to become confident global citizens with all the academic advantages that this study provides.

Our scholars learn from specially prepared and accessible workbooks that function as a springboard for all classroom-based activities. Studies have shown that reading up to 10,000 words a day from a range of challenging texts improves academic outcomes and personal development which is why these workbooks emphasise and promote reading. Teachers all use predictable routines so that classrooms are safe and welcoming environments for learning. Scholars with additional needs are also supported by our wraparound hub provision.

This unique and exciting approach to education has led Woodfields to have national attention as the most improved school in Doncaster and one of the most improved schools in the country.

Reading



We want every scholar to be able to read fluently and develop a love of reading. Each book that they read allows them to explore the interiority of the soul and travel through time and space. Non-readers study phonics through our Fresh Start programme. Once scholars can sound words, they will read in small groups to develop their comprehension and confidence in reading aloud.

All scholars read exciting and ambitious books aloud as a whole class and reflect on the stories that unfold. We read *Oliver Twist* in Year 7, *Northern Lights* in Year 8 and *The Hobbit* in Year 9, among a range of texts by authors from different backgrounds and centuries. We find that scholars develop their reading incredibly quickly and enjoy being able to read some of the best books ever written.



Programme of Study

Key Stage 3

Y7 Curriculum Allocation Per Fortnight

Mathematics (8 lessons)
Science (6 lessons)
History (4 lessons)
Geography (4 lessons)
Spanish (4 lessons)
Art and Design (2 lessons)
Religious Education (2 lessons)
Physical Education (3 lessons)
Personal Development (2 lessons)
Music (2 lessons)
Drama (2 lessons)
Technology (2 lessons)
Information Technology (1 lesson)
Total: 50 lessons

Key Stage 4

Typical Y10 Curriculum Allocation Per Fortnight

English (9 lessons)
Mathematics (8 Lessons)
Science (10 Lessons)
Religious Education (2 Lessons)
Personal Development (1 Lesson)
Physical Education (2 Lessons)
History or Geography (6 Lessons)
Spanish (6 Lessons)
Option Choice (6 Lessons)
Total: 50 lessons

Teaching Routines and Methods

Teaching is based on predictable routines that allow scholars to concentrate fully on their work. We focus on three main areas:

- ★ Means of participation - we ensure that all scholars have lots of opportunity to participate in the lessons, answering questions, taking part in mini-quizzes, and sharing their opinions on what they are learning.
- ★ Checking for Understanding - we ensure that there are multiple opportunities built into lessons for teachers to check the understanding of scholars across the class.
- ★ High Behavioural Expectations - our classrooms are disruption-free. This is vital to make sure that teachers can teach, and scholars can learn.

Homework

Homework plays an important part in scholars' education. It enables scholars to develop fluency and confidence in their learning through engaging in regular, repeated practice. As parents and carers, you are expected to provide a supportive environment for scholars to do their homework every day and ensure that it is completed

At Key Stage 3 scholars complete the following homework:

1. 100% booklet (Knowledge Organiser)/Homework booklet

At the beginning of every half term, scholars are issued with a Knowledge Organiser and the accompanying Homework booklet (100% booklet). The Knowledge Organiser contains the 'powerful knowledge' that scholars need to succeed in every subject.

Every day all scholars complete at least 30 minutes of self-quizzing from their Knowledge Organisers on a subject rota basis.

2. Sparks

In addition to the daily homework, scholars are required to complete a weekly Sparks quiz online for Maths and English. There are videos and worked examples to help and there is a homework club to give support in school. The homework is only complete when the scholar achieves 100%. Sparks homework is set to match scholars' ability. It is a personalised homework that is proven to boost scholars' grades.

3. Seneca

Seneca is an online platform that supports revision using techniques that enhance recall and understanding. It is another form of personalised homework where parents can monitor their child's progress.

Support

We value the support parents and carers give to enable their child to complete homework. Our staff work hard in ensuring every scholar can successfully complete the tasks given. Homework Support sessions are available every day at lunchtime and at the end of the day.

Pastoral

Morning Meetings

The Morning Meeting Programme is designed to provide scholars with the knowledge to help them to develop academically, personally and socially. Senior staff and pastoral leaders lead these whole year group sessions at the start of the day so that all scholars are fully equipped and ready to learn. Scholars think deeply and ready themselves for the day ahead by reading, completing quizzes, discussing complex issues, and listening to presentations.

Assemblies/Tutor Time

Assemblies and Tutor Time form part of scholars' standard routines each week. These are linked to the Morning Address and the Personal Development lessons. We have thought through the messages we want to deliver so that they are age-appropriate and more impactful due to this internal coordination. At times we respond to events in society so that scholars gain an understanding of what is happening and why.

Astrea Reads

In the afternoon, scholars join their tutor groups to read as a whole group. This is an important part of our reading and vocabulary strategy called 'Astrea Reads.' Through this we want to:

- ★ Cultivate a love of reading and reading for pleasure.
- ★ Develop their reading ability (to meet and exceed age-related expectations in accuracy, fluency, and comprehension)
- ★ Develop their vocabulary and improve their spelling through acquisition and usage of academic words.
- ★ Be exposed to a wide range of writing, genres, and styles.



Personal Development

We believe that education is not just academic but also about helping the whole child grow and develop.

The personal development curriculum focuses on four key strands:

- ★ Health and Wellbeing
- ★ Sex and Relationships
- ★ Wider World including CEIAG (Careers Education, Information and Guidance)
- ★ Citizenship

These themes can sometimes be difficult and spark debate. We provide a safe environment for these discussions with clear ground rules that promote respect and compassion. We allow scholars to reflect on and clarify their own values and attitudes as well as explore a complex and sometimes conflicting range of values and attitudes.

We encourage our scholars to be enterprising and support them in developing the character that gets them promoted into a top job. Scholars are taught how to keep themselves healthy and safe. Our personal development programme empowers our scholars to make good choices, report concerns with confidence and lead happy and successful lives.

Across both Key Stages, scholars build on the knowledge and understanding that they have acquired and developed at primary school. They are taught about the challenges of transition to secondary school, adolescence, and their increasing independence. Scholars learn to manage diverse relationships, their online lives, and the increasing influence of their peers and the media. Scholars will explore the age-appropriate personal and social implications of ideas encountered in other lessons within this personal development time.

Behaviour, Attendance and Rewards

Our Expectations

Our staff are warm, welcoming and friendly. They are enthusiastic about working with young people, particularly the most vulnerable, and have a genuine commitment to improving the life chances of all children. Every routine has been put in place with the most vulnerable child in mind. We practise these routines and always explain what we do and why. The pastoral support at Woodfields is the most generous allocation in Doncaster.

Whilst we are warm and friendly, we are very strict. We say what we do and do what we say. Scholars are expected to sit up with their backs straight and look directly at the teacher while they are talking with no interruptions. They walk from lesson to lesson in silence, on the left and in a straight line. At breaktime they are allowed to socialise in small groups. In and out of school they are expected to be polite, courteous, and respectful. Bullying is exceptionally rare, and when it does happen it is dealt with quickly. Children love the safety of our approach and appreciate how this helps them to learn.

While we have sky-high expectations of all children, we also expect 100% commitment from the parents and carers that choose Woodfields for their child. By accepting a school place, you also accept our policies,

ethos and procedures and must support the school for your child's benefit. This form of collaboration ensures that all children can succeed.

Electronic Devices

Mobile phones and other electronic devices (such as smart watches) are banned items and are not permitted in school. We will confiscate any item that is seen, heard, or used on the school site and reserve the right to conduct searches should these not be given to the member of staff that requests it. We confiscate these devices for collection between 15:00-16:00 by parents and carers on the following day in the first instance, however we confiscate for longer periods of time depending on the recurrence of the issue.

If scholars need to contact home or if home needs to get in touch with a scholar, this can be organised through our pastoral team or from reception. You are responsible for your child's safety on the journey to or from school. For this reason, we strongly recommend that if a phone is to be brought to school, then it is switched off and in the scholar's bag. The school accepts no responsibility for the safety or security of any electronic device that is brought into the academy.



Attendance

Ensuring your child attends school every day is vital for them to achieve their potential. Every second at school is crucial to personal and academic development and there is plenty of research to suggest that strong attendance is linked to getting better grades and living a better life. We look forward to rewarding scholars who achieve 100% attendance and run regular celebration events each half term. Scholars will have the opportunity to earn certificates and badges in recognition of their resilience.

We therefore expect parents to fulfil their legal obligation and ensure that every scholar arrives at school on time every day. To support scholars, we offer a breakfast club that runs from 8:00am each morning. This means that our scholars can make the best start to the day and get the most out of their lessons.

Attendance is closely monitored and our pastoral team will be in regular contact with parents to support your child to be in school. We do this because we know that regular attendance means they will learn more and live a better life. It is important to recognise that parents have a legal obligation to send their children to school and you risk getting a fine if you do not fulfil this obligation. Scholars who are late have same day detentions and those that are absent can expect a phone call and knock on the door from our friendly pastoral staff to understand the reasons for absence and encourage better attendance.

We look forward to collaborating with you to ensure that your child attends school regularly, ensuring they achieve well and attend a top university or a real alternative.

Uniform Standards

We have a uniform policy that all scholars are expected to follow. The emphasis is on scholars being clean, tidy, and presentable. These standards help us prepare scholars for the world of work so that they understand how to get a top job and get promoted. The uniform policy also plays a crucial role in establishing a sense of identity, pride, and belonging within our educational community. It promotes equality and acts as a social leveller so that scholars can focus on their studies rather than their appearance or material possessions.

In the current financial climate, we understand that purchasing uniform can be costly. That is why we will provide all our free school meals-eligible scholars with all items of uniform daywear, outerwear, and PE kit for free. Non-free school meals scholars will each receive a £50 voucher to reduce the cost of the full bundle of uniform daywear, outerwear, and PE Kit.

The full uniform list is found on the school website.



Rewards

Scholars should display courtesy, curiosity, tenacity, and scholarship at all times. Those that work hard, make strong progress, and achieve highly earn praise and rewards for their efforts.

Merits are awarded throughout the school day for meeting these high expectations. Each lesson scholars receive merits for going above and beyond in the classroom. One deserving scholar is awarded a golden ticket to recognise that they have excelled above all others.

Every week, form tutors celebrate the success of individuals within their form. On a Friday, staff make praise phone calls sharing the scholars' achievements with their family. Appreciations are also celebrated at our Morning Address by the Principal. We send weekly texts home for scholars who do not receive demerits and have no days off.

The merits earned throughout the term accumulate to various levels of certificates and badges that scholars wear with pride. At the end of every half term, we celebrate our 'Zero Heroes'. These are scholars that have not received any demerits and have had no days off. We celebrate these achievements through different reward activities, which have included trips, cinema experiences, inflatables, and other fun activities.

At the end of the academic year, we celebrate the achievements of our scholars through our annual awards celebration. We celebrate academic excellence and achievements that have been accomplished throughout the year.



| Transition

★ Importance, overview

We understand that it can feel overwhelming to move from primary to secondary school, which is why we work hard to support every child to feel comfortable about starting with us in September. This begins when we visit your child in their primary school in Year 5 and again in Year 6. We offer a range of activities where primary schools come to visit us and our staff do transition activities in the primary schools.

Once an offer is accepted, we will visit every child and learn all about them by talking to their primary teachers and writing to yourselves. By the end of July 2024, they will have had three days with us and in September Year 7 scholars start school a week before all other year groups to allow them to settle and learn their way around school.

| Enrichment

★ Events, trips, clubs

We offer an extensive range of extra-curricular activities during and after school. These range from sporting fixtures to art club, Rubix Cube masters, chess club, orchestra, and drama club.

Throughout the year we provide school trips and visits to all year groups as we believe education within the classroom is enhanced by real life experience.

Recently scholars have enjoyed Geography field trips, Science lectures, support from PhD scholars, visits by a Premier League footballer, public speaking challenges, visits to the University of Sheffield and many more besides.



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Welcome Class of 2031

