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LATIMER LATEST NEWS: Easter Special Edition 28 March 2018

As we close another term, there is so much to celebrate! Our Ofsted inspection letter truly captured the essence of our good College, where our strong focus on the development of the whole child was recognised. This is definitely reflected in the content of this final newsletter of the term. It really has been a busy and successful couple of weeks and we hope that you enjoy reading our summary of all that we have to offer your children and all that they have already taken part in!

Year 7 Student Progress Review Evening (SPRE)

We suspect that Year 7 parents and carers will not believe that their child is approaching the final two terms of Year 7 (already!). Throughout the year you will have been able to keep track of the learning and progress of your child through the PLC wheels that they have completed in each subject.

To enhance this, we would like to invite you to attend our Year 7 SPRE on **Thursday 26 April** from **5.30–8.30pm** where you will be able to have a face to face discussion with subject teachers. We are keen to ensure that we work in partnership to secure the very best progress for your child: with this in mind, we would be grateful if your child could attend the evening with you so that in each subject there is a clear understanding of current progress and priority areas for improvement for both you and them.

Please note that because these evenings are incredibly purposeful they are very busy, so we do ask for your patience and understanding if queues for some subjects build up!

Learning and Progress

Year 11 - Making it count when it really matters!

We are providing a wealth of opportunities to support Year 11 students in this final countdown – we just need parent and carer support to encourage them to embrace these before it is too late. We will not have time to repeat revision support activities:

- **Science Support:** Every Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes - sessions focussed on different topics are running and are open to all.

To further support your child's preparation for their Science GCSE over Easter, revision resources can be accessed on the shared area: (**Home access+ > Shared documents > Science > GCSE Zig Zag resources 2018**). The Zig Zag learning grids provide questions which cover the Biology and Physics specifications for both Trilogy Science and the separate Sciences. Students should work through the topics that they find most difficult and then review them using the mark schemes. Unfortunately, Chemistry resources have not yet been published.

Another very valuable revision resource is the PiXL folder which contains the KnowIt PowerPoints: they can be also be accessed (**Home access+ > Shared documents > Science > PiXL PowerPoints 2018**). These cover the key concepts that the students need to know and have mini-tests to check understanding.

- **'Maths Monday':** A reminder to parents and carers to be aware that every Tuesday Year 11 students will be issued with a practice paper, uploaded to Show My Homework. Then, to support them with any areas that they identify as a gap, they are invited to attend **'Maths Monday'**, at lunchtime the following week, in the Maths Learning Centre. Please encourage your child to both complete the papers and attend the Monday session.
- **Easter Revision:** A targeted programme of support has been planned, with students invited to selected sessions.
- **Alternative Timetable:** At the start of Term 5 we will publish the Year 11 Alternative Timetable, where, from Term 6, targeted compulsory revision session and masterclasses will be running, rather than normal lessons.

- We remind all parents and carers once again about the resources that students have at their disposal: their revision guides, GCSEPod, Tassomai Science and PiXL Apps for Maths, English, History and Geography. We would particularly ask you to encourage your child to revisit the Maths app which has been relaunched recently and now has very targeted questions based on tiers of entry.

Many teachers will have also recommended websites and YouTube channels that will be of use.



Awe and Wonder: National Science Week!

The excitement in lessons was tangible during the recent National Science Week. Although tinged with sadness due to the death of Stephen Hawking, it nonetheless provided a poignant opportunity to reflect on his contributions to Science and served to remind our students that you can achieve anything if you set your mind to it!

We were also privileged to host a visit from Doctors Kim Judge and Mike Norman from the Sanger Institute. Our A level biologists worked with the scientists to sequence the DNA of a range of micro-organisms found in a yoghurt-like culture. Using the extracted base sequences, students were able to identify some of the different micro-organisms present.

This was an amazing opportunity - we are only the fifth school in the world to sequence DNA in the classroom!

Our Year 11 biologists also worked with the scientists, looking at protein synthesis, modification of the genome and the potential applications such as the development of anti-cancer drugs and malaria treatments.



Congratulations to the following who have received a £25 voucher for winning our Science Week quiz:

KS3 – Libby Quinlivan
 KS4 – Liam Sturgess
 KS5 – Abbie Benford
 Staff – Mrs West and Mr Hockey

Kettering and District Eisteddfod: An outstanding performance!

Our Vocal Ensemble (girls' harmony group) performed beautifully and were utterly professional in their conduct as they secured an outstanding judgement, with a mark of 91% awarded. We were reliably informed that this was the highest mark awarded to anyone who had performed in the competition so far this year. The judges described the performance as 'absolutely outstanding' and suggested that we now compete in national choir competitions. So we very much hope that we will have more success to share with you in the near future.

The Vocal Ensemble was just one of the high quality acts who took part in our Spring Music Concert. Those of you who were in the audience will agree what a fabulous evening it was, with students from all year groups collaborating on performances – and thoroughly enjoying what they were doing.

Our music groups are growing and are always open to new members. If your child would like to sing or play an instrument, please encourage them to come along and speak to Miss Eyley or Mr Freestone. We promise you, they will not regret it!

Spectacular Support for Sport!

We would like to say a massive thank you for all of your support with the Sport Relief Charity Event. We are delighted to say that we have raised £1,215. Thank you to Botolph House for organising the fun.

We are also delighted to confirm that we now have both the planning permission and the funding agreed for our Sports Hall and 3G pitch building project. So it will be full steam ahead with this now!

Vocab Express: Félicitations! C'est magnifique!

We are delighted to announce that we recently finished in 2nd place in the world and 1st in the UK in a Global Challenge on Vocab Express, an online application aimed at improving French vocabulary skills. What a fantastic achievement!

There were also some stunning individual performances from Wiktoria Gawlak, who came 6th in the world for French with a score of over 60,000 points, and William Sorbie, who finished 12th in the same category with a score of over 30,000 points. They will receive Gold and Bronze awards respectively for their efforts.

And the best part about it all, students were learning whilst having fun. It does not get much better than that!

PiXL Timestables App Competition Hots Up!

You may remember from our last newsletter that we have recently launched a new app called PiXL Timestables. Amazingly, our students have already answered a massive 112,667 timestables questions with over 10,000 on Monday alone! Congratulations to all users - how long until we reach 200,000?

By engaging with this app, students will become much more confident in their number work, meaning the time and effort will be well spent! Please encourage your child to download the app onto phones and tablets through the App Store and to routinely complete questions over the Easter break:

timestable.pixl.org.uk



Welcome to the PiXL TT App

LM4115

IT1234

IT1234

Login



Login info:

School ID = LM4115

UserID = IT code (e.g. IT1234)

Password = IT code (e.g. IT1234)

Move It 2018

Our students thoroughly enjoyed watching performances from some of the top performing arts schools, taking part in workshops and making the most of the freebies on offer at this year's 'Move It' dance show! Congratulations to Miyka'El Forbes (Year 10) who was recognised in one of the workshops and given a golden ticket to audition with Jelli Studios, which is owned by Jennifer Ellison (previously in Brookside!).

The whole day gave the students an insight into the Dance world and the opportunities available to them in the real world of Dance.

Sharnbrook Arts Festival

Our Year 10 Dance group, Elite Clockworks Dance Company, recently shone at the Sharnbrook Arts Festival. This was the first time the company has toured any of their work and the first time that we have had the opportunity to perform alongside other schools. Our students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and the behaviour of our students was outstanding - they were a real credit to the College.

Bon Voyage!

We hope that our Year 9 students have a fabulous experience on their Sports Tour to Hameln, Germany, which departs on Saturday, and we look forward to hearing all about it when they return.



Don't forget to have your cameras at the ready over Easter! Students, staff and form groups are invited to take a photograph of family members, friends, pets or themselves 'reading' in unusual places. Be as creative and imaginative as you can!

E-mail or hand in your entry to Mrs Brooking (Librarian) rbrooking@latimer.org.uk by Friday 20 April 2018. Include your name and form on your entry. Fabulous prizes are at stake!

Coming Soon: Year 9 and Sixth Form Careers Fair

Our commitment to raising aspirations was very much recognised during our Ofsted inspection and our programme keeps growing year on year! On Wednesday 25 April we will be holding a Careers' Fair for students in Year 9 and Sixth Form.

Our [Careers](#) website page has fantastic resources for helping you support your child with career and future choices – try out the jobs comparison widget and follow links to other useful sites. Our independent Careers Adviser is another superb resource that you can access – Kate Allen attends our Student Progress Evenings (SPREs) and can be contacted on Kallen@latimer.org.uk if you wish to make an appointment for you or your child or would just like some information on careers.

We are bursting with pride as we write this newsletter. You are playing your part in our success. For example, the attendance at our SPRE evenings this year has been the highest ever, with an average of 80% attendance! Once again, we must thank all parents and carers for their belief in and support for the College. We cannot achieve what we achieve for our students without a true team effort.

We are itching to get started on making the learning experience for our students even better and moving the College from good to great, and yes, we will need your help with this – but first it is time to pause, reflect and plan!

Have a wonderful Easter break!

Siobhan Hearne
Principal

Sue Wood
Chair of Governors

Ready, set, go for Term 5! Timings of the Day: Monday 16 April Week 2

In order to support students to be ready for the new term's learning, the times of lessons will change for the morning of Monday 16 April. We would be grateful if you could remind your child to go straight to tutor time at 8.30am.

If we are to continue to maintain our high standards it would be of great support if you could pay particular attention to:

- Ensuring that your child is at school by 8.25 am each day. **Please note that students who do not arrive by 8.25 am will be deemed as late and will be placed in a lunchtime detention.**
- Trousers: these should be full length; 'ankle grazer' trousers are not permitted.
- Make-up: we discourage the wearing of make-up at College but if worn it should appear subtle and natural. Students should not be wearing 'highlighter', which appears to be the latest make-up fashion.

A reminder that should students have gel or acrylic nails done over Easter they must be removed ready for the start of the new term, along with nail varnish.

- Earrings that are not in the lobe of the ear are not permitted and students are only allowed to wear one pair of studs.
- Phones and headphones should be placed in bags at the start of the day: not in blazer pockets!

Please can we also remind you that parents/carers are not permitted to enter the College car park.

Dates for your diary

Please take the time to view our [calendar](#) and ensure that you are aware of all of the key dates for the year.

Monday 16 April	College re-opens: Term 5
Wednesday 25 April	Year 9 and Sixth Form Careers Fair
Thursday 26 April	Year 7 Student Progress Review Evening (SPRE), 5.30-8.30 pm
Monday 7 May	Bank Holiday: College closed
Thursday 10 May	Parent Forum 6pm Music Room 2 (Masque Theatre)
Monday 14 May	Exam Season starts (until Friday 22 June)
Wednesday 16 May	Induction Evening 5.30-8.30pm for new Year 7 students joining in September 2018 (Invitations will be issued for specific evening and time beforehand)
Thursday 17 May	Induction Evening 5.30-8.30pm for new Year 7 students joining in September 2018 (Invitations will be issued for specific evening and time beforehand)
Friday 25 May	End of Term 5