

# WELCOME BACK LATIMER NEWS

ISSUE 1:  
SEPT 2023

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to our first newsletter of the new academic year. We use our newsletters as a key means of communication with parents and carers and they contain a lot of information and updates so please do look out for them – we do add them to the newsletters page on the website too. We also regularly post on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, so please follow us on social media.

It has been wonderful welcoming back our students this week and we are very excited about the year ahead. We have an extensive enrichment programme and House competitions planned; we look forward to the Year 7 Team Building event next Tuesday and to celebrating many other successes over the coming months. Please do let us know of any success that your child achieves outside of school – we would love to recognise this too!

In the year ahead, we very much look forward to working in partnership with you so that we can support all students to unlock their potential and inspire them to excellence.

Mrs Kathryn Murphy

## LATIMER CELEBRATES EXCELLENCE

We are absolutely delighted with the results the students in Years 11 and 13 have achieved. They have come through the disruption of recent years and shown immense resilience. Despite a return to pre-pandemic grading arrangements, the students have excelled.



Half of all students achieved a grade 5 or above in both English and Maths with more than 2/3 of students achieving grade 4 or above in both English and Maths. These are key qualifications for students' futures and we are so proud of their success. Students achieved an astonishing 60 grade 9s and 15 Distinction\* grades across a variety of subjects including History, English Literature and Science, despite the National trend of fewer students achieving top grades.


A Level students overcame immense challenges and we are pleased to announce the very best examination results that we have ever delivered for our students, exceeding the comparable outcomes in 2019 and 2018 with 50% of all grades being A\*-B and 76% of all grades being A\*-C. We have seen an increase in A\* grades from 2019 and 94% of students achieved Distinction/Distinction\* in our vocational qualifications.



## Inspiring Excellence

We are officially rated a "Good" School

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 @latimercollege  [mail@latimer.org.uk](mailto:mail@latimer.org.uk)

# IMPORTANT NEWS

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. The Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach and as a result areas in affected spaces will be vacated. We wanted to inform you that we **are not affected** by this decision as **we do not have RAAC** in any of our buildings and therefore they will continue to function as normal.

## BACK TO SCHOOL AND READY TO LEARN

A reminder that our start of the year College Information Pack for Parents and Carers, which can be found on the website, contains key 'need to know' information so that your child is well-prepared for the academic year ahead. In addition to this, we publish a Sixth Form Student Guide, also on the website, to support those who are joining us for post-16 studies.

We would also like to highlight the new aspects of the Satchel:one app, which will replace Epraise. This app is a crucial communication tool between the school and home, and in addition to extended learning tasks, you will now be able to view live updates on your child's behaviour, positive and negative, and information regarding any detentions. You can also see your child's timetable and attendance on the app.

By using the app, you can stay informed about your child's progress and conduct in school, enabling you to engage in meaningful conversations with your child about their academic journey. Furthermore, this app is not only for parents and carers; students can also download it to take responsibility for their behaviour and track their own progress.

We would also like to remind you of the following money saving support that Latimer can offer:

**Financial Support:** We can provide financial support for uniform for those students who are eligible for the Pupil Premium Funding. Please contact Ms Pankhania, Assistant Principal, if you would like to enquire if we can help you in this way: [jpankhania@latimer.org.uk](mailto:jpankhania@latimer.org.uk)

If your child is in the Sixth Form, they may be able to access the Sixth Form Bursary, which can provide financial support for uniform and other study items. Please contact Miss Magee, Sixth Form Centre Manager for more details: [smagee@latimer.org.uk](mailto:smagee@latimer.org.uk)

**Uniform Swap Shop:** We have always had a uniform swap shop but it may be needed now more than ever. We have donated items that are in excellent condition (washed and ironed) waiting for a new home. If you would like to access this uniform, either your child can go straight to Student Services and select the items that they need or you can contact our Student Services Receptionist, Mrs Pollard, who will be happy to help: [rpollard@latimer.org.uk](mailto:rpollard@latimer.org.uk) or 01536 720300.

In turn, if you have items that you no longer need, we would be delighted if you could donate them!

**Lost Property:** You would not believe how much lost property we have in Student Services. Rather than replacing lost items, please ask your child to visit Student Services to check. If you can put names on items, including ties, this will help us with returning them. We keep lost property for two terms. After this, we will add relevant items to our Uniform Swap Shop and donate remaining items to charity.

# LEARNING AND PROGRESS

## UNLOCKING POTENTIAL AND ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE

In August, many staff and parents had the privilege and pleasure of sharing examination results days with our former Year 11 and Year 13 students. Seeing the sheer joy (and relief) on our students' faces reminds us of what we are all working in partnership to achieve

Ahead of the publication of national data, we can confidently say that our students have, once again, secured strong progress. This is a testament to both their hard work, determination and resilience over the last few challenging years and also that of our staff and our parent and carer body.

We look forward to celebrating even greater success with our current examination year groups, for whom the countdown clock is now ticking....

**Mock Exams in  
45 school days**

**Examination Season in  
140 school days**

## OUR SUPPORT FOR YOU

We recognise the positive part that parental support plays in the success of a child. Therefore, we want to do all that we can to support our parents and carers. Please do come along to our forthcoming information evenings. We commit to making these evenings informative, interactive (and as short as we possibly can!) but they really will contain relevant information to support your child with the stage of their education that they are at:

**Year 11 Ace Your Exams: Future Destinations Evening  
Tuesday 19 September from 5.30pm**

**Year 10 Ace Your Exams: Curriculum Evening  
Wednesday 20 September from 5.30pm**

**Year 12 Ace Level 3: Sixth Form Induction  
Thursday 21 September from 5.30pm**

## UPCOMING EVENT

**Year 7 Team Building Event  
Tuesday 12 September 2023**

Further to the letter sent earlier this week, Year 7 will be off their normal school timetable next Tuesday for an exciting team building day delivered by the Problem Solving Company. Please can parents/carers ensure students wear their PE kit on the day and bring a light waterproof coat in the event of scattered showers. If the weather is especially inclement the event will be held inside.

This event is an excellent way for them to develop team-building skills and get to know their form and teachers.

# SAFEGUARDING AND WELL-BEING

## Contacting You

As we start the new academic year, it is vital that we have up to date information about each student. Within the next few weeks, your child will be issued with a 'Personal Details' sheet for you to check and sign. When completing this form, please ensure you provide us with at least 2 relevant and up to date contacts. Can we please ask that those of you who have provided us details in the past check carefully that these details are still correct. It is important we have the right details if we need to contact you in an emergency.

## Attendance

As a parent/carer you are legally responsible for making sure your child attends school regularly.

At Latimer we believe that every child is entitled to the same opportunities, including the educational benefits, social and emotional learning and belonging to their House and school.

It is important that you and your child develop a positive attitude to school attendance and punctuality so that they do not miss out on these opportunities. These qualities of reliability are also important in adult life.

Poor attendance disrupts a child's education. This causes a lack of continuity and progression in schoolwork and can establish patterns of behaviour which may lead to long-term truancy. Missing school prevents children from building essential learning blocks of skills and knowledge and prevents them from making educational links, leading to poor progression and anxiety.

We will work with parents/carers to identify barriers and seek provision from local partners to ensure the support is in place where necessary. Please see our **Policies** page on the website for full details of our Attendance Policy.

## Contacting Us

Should you need to make urgent contact with your child during the College day, this should be done by contacting Student Services Reception.

**It is not helpful if parents and carers contact their child during the school day via text messaging or calls to a mobile as we will confiscate mobile phones if seen and students will be placed in our daily detention.**

If your child is going to be absent, on the first day and each subsequent day, you must either:

Send an email to: [absence@latimer.org.uk](mailto:absence@latimer.org.uk)  
or

Send a text to: 07444 851655

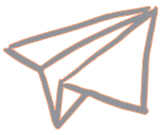
or

Ring the 24-hour absence answer line on 01536 720300

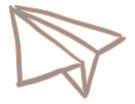
## Allergies

In order to ensure that we are aware of all food related allergies and intolerances or religious dietary requirements, Year 7 parents will be sent a dietary form in the next few weeks to complete. On receipt of the form, can we ask that you return this form as soon as possible to let us know of any food allergies. It can be given in to Student Services or emailed to [jlove@latimer.org.uk](mailto:jlove@latimer.org.uk)

For students in other year groups, if your child has developed any allergies in the last year, please request a copy of this form from our Student Services Manager, Mrs Love: [jlove@latimer.org.uk](mailto:jlove@latimer.org.uk). Could you please return these forms either electronically or by hard copy to Mrs Love in the Student Services office or by email to [jlove@latimer.org.uk](mailto:jlove@latimer.org.uk).



# ENRICHMENT



## Enrichment Activities Consent Form

In order for students to take part in enrichment activities, including clubs and fixtures taking place outside of the normal school day, we require parents and carers to complete a Consent Form. Without a completed consent form, students will not be permitted to take part. You can scan the QR code to access the consent form - it really is quick and simple to do.



Please note: this form is sent out annually to parents and carers, so even if you completed this form last year, you will need to complete again this year.

Details of clubs and activities will be available on the **Enrichment** page on the website shortly.

## OTHER NEWS

### Did you know that just registering your child for Free School Meals means that the school gets extra money?

With this money we could give extra help to students who need it. If you are registered for Free School Meals you could also get help with things like music tuition, school trips or other out of school activities, or there could be help to allow your child to continue into the Sixth Form.

If you want your child to have a free, healthy meal at lunchtime that's great – they will get the free meal (saving you more than £400 a year). Even if you don't want the school meals, as long as you qualify and are registered, the school still gets the extra government funding.

No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming. Our cashless catering system ensures no other student knows who is receiving Free School Meals. Please visit the **Parents and Carers / College Meal Service** page on the website to access the online application form.

## UPCOMING EVENT

### Year 6 Open Evening

Our Open Evening for Year 6 students will be held on **Thursday 5 October** from 5.30-8.00 pm. We hope our students will volunteer to help out on the night. More details about arrangements will follow in the coming weeks.

Please note that on 5 October **the school will close to all students at 12.20 pm** so that final preparations can be made for the evening.

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

the  
LatimerArts



Tuesday 12 September	Year 7 Team Building Event
Tuesday 19 September	Year 11 Ace Your Exams Evening, 5.30pm
Wednesday 20 September	Year 10 Ace Your Exams Evening, 5.30pm
Thursday 21 September	Year 11 Drama Theatre Trip
	Year 12 Ace Level 3 Evening, 5.30pm
Tuesday 26 September	European Day of Languages: French Café Event
Wednesday 27 September	Maths Olympiad (Sixth Form Girls)
Monday 2 October	Years 7-11 Flu Vaccinations
Thursday 5 October	Year 6 Open Evening, 5.30pm
Friday 6 October	Year 10 Cambridge University Visit
Friday 20 October	End of Term 1
Monday 30 October	Start of Term 2: College re-opens to students (This will be Week 2 on the timetable)

**More dates are available on our website**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

[www.latimer.org.uk](http://www.latimer.org.uk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/LatimerCollege](https://www.facebook.com/LatimerCollege)

X: @Latimercollege

Instagram: @latimerartsofficial