

# A Learning Partnership: All Working Together



## Student Partnerships

At The Latimer Arts College we believe that success is founded on effective partnerships. By all working together we will make the learning experience an outstanding one. Each student has a nominated form tutor who has the key responsibility for forging a close link with parents and carers to ensure that achievement is maximised.

As part of our vertical tutoring system, each tutor group has only approximately 6 students from each year group (7-11) in order to allow the tutor to track the progress and personal development of each individual tutee and to hold coaching sessions on a regular basis.

In addition to this, specialist careers information, advice and guidance is given to all students at each key transition stage so that they have a clear sense of purpose and direction, including independent careers advice. This enables informed choices to be made about academic studies and future pathways.

As students are mixed by age for tutoring, older students regularly support younger students, acting as mentors and buddies. Sixth Form students also offer mentoring to younger students. This creates a climate of mutual respect, tolerance and a great sense of team spirit as indicated by our Year 7 students in their own words:

**'At Latimer, you get a good sense that we are all one team. Our teachers really support us and are encouraging. They genuinely care. I was a bit nervous about being in a vertical tutor group at first but I can definitely say that it is a great idea. I have got to know the students in my tutor group, even those in Year 10 and 11. This makes me feel safe and relaxed around the college.'**

and

**'I have found that my tutor group are like a big family. Last year we took part in lots of House competitions together and these were fun – especially when our House won! There was something for everyone to take part in and so no one was left out.'**

## Parents and Carer Partnerships

The partnership that we forge with parents and carers is fundamental to securing outstanding achievement for each individual student. We offer a Curriculum Information Evening for parents and carers in September; an annual Student Progress Review Evening (SPRE) for each year group; and an annual written report on each child's progress.

In addition to this, we offer transition showcases as students move across key stages.

Our School Gateway system provides information at any time on progress, attendance and behaviour through web-based access to a student's individual profile. Our 'Show My Homework' system allows online access to all homework set and the supporting resources that are provided. Regular communication is also provided through our College website, our newsletter and our email and text messaging service.

We pride ourselves on being a College that listens and welcomes feedback. Our termly Parent Forum is instrumental in improving the learning experiences of our students and extending the relationship between the College and parents and carers in order to secure successful student outcomes. We also invite verbal and written feedback at each of our SPREs, where members of the Senior Leadership Team are present to speak with parents and carers.