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LATIMER LATEST NEWS – 8 SEPTEMBER 2017

Welcome to all of our new parents and carers and welcome back to our existing families.

Well, we are well and truly up and running for the new academic year and this packed newsletter reflects this!

Look out for our newsletters every fortnight. We send them out by email so please let us know if your email address has changed over the summer – a copy can also be found on the College Website. Please do take the time to read them: we try to ensure that they include essential information in as succinct a way as we can so that we can keep you up to date with what you need to know. We would welcome feedback on any improvements that you feel that we could make to the information that we provide.

We very much look forward to working in partnership with you all over the next academic year.

Yours sincerely

Ms Siobhan Hearne
Principal

Open Evening 2017: 'Be Inspired'

This year's Open Evening is on Tuesday 3 October from 6.00 to 8.30pm. 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 3 October **the College will close to students at 12.15pm** so that final preparations can be made for the evening.

Learning and Progress

Back to School and Ready to Learn!

A reminder that our start of the year [College Information Pack for Parents and Carers](#) 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 Handbook](#) to support with those who are joining us for post-16 studies.

You can also view our [College Calendar](#) for details of forthcoming events.

Ace Your Exams: Being Year 11 Ready!

We said that it would come around quickly and it has! Our Year 11 students are now entering the final stage of their GCSE studies. We hope that students took the opportunity to use their revision guides over the summer. Our [Ace Your Exams](#) programme outlines the key milestones over the coming months. If there is anything else that we can do to help, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Steve Harvey, Vice Principal: sharvey@latimer.org.uk

Curriculum Information Evenings: A Student's Life at Latimer

This academic year sees the introduction of our Curriculum Information and Pathways Evenings, in response to your feedback about how we can better help parents and carers to support their child's learning. A letter of invitation is included with this newsletter.

Year 10 Curriculum Information Evening: Tuesday 19 September

Year 9 GCSE Curriculum Information Evening: Wednesday 20 September

Year 7 Curriculum Information Evening: Tuesday 26 September
Year 12 Curriculum Information Evening: Thursday 28 September

Each of these evenings will run from 6.00–8.00pm and are aimed at parents and carers only. **Please note, due to limited space, we will not be able to accommodate students at these evenings.**

A new Year 8 Pathways Evening will follow on Wednesday 17 January 2018 to support students and their parents and carers with expressing their GCSE subject preferences.

If you would like any further curriculum information, please either visit our [website](#) or contact Mr Keith Matthews, Assistant Principal: kmatthews@latimer.org.uk

'Continuous effort - not strength or intelligence - is the key to unlocking potential'

This principle underpins the new effort reporting criteria that we will be introducing this year in all year groups. More important than what GCSE number (9-1) or A Level grade (A-E) your child is working at, is how much effort they are putting into their studies. Hard work brings success!

Through this new criteria we will indicate for you how much effort your child is putting into their studies: this will encompass how hard they work in lessons, their response to feedback given to improve, their behaviour, the quality of homework they produce and whether they are taking opportunities to extend their learning.

Every single child is capable of 'consistently' meeting our expectations, which is that students will give 100% in all aspects of their studies and work hard. Where they do not, and fall into the 'usually' or 'rarely' category, we need parents and carers to challenge their child to try harder and to work in partnership with the College to identify how they can do this.

Safeguarding Update

Every Lesson Counts: Attendance Matters!

Analysis of results show that it is a fact those students who attend school, arrive on time and have the correct uniform and equipment have the greatest success – no learning time is lost for them!

It is important that we remind you that, under DfE rules, head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. If a parent believes such circumstances exist, they may apply for permission – a Leave of Absence request form can be obtained from Student Services.

Parents and carers may be issued with a penalty notice for taking their child on holiday during term time for 5 consecutive days or more without consent from the College. These penalties can range from between £60 and £120 and are payable within 28 days. Each parent and carer may be fined for each individual child. Penalties are imposed by Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) and the monies collected do **not** come to the College.

Contacting You: As we start the new academic year, it is vital that we have up to date information about each student. Your child will be issued with a 'Personal Details' sheet for you to check and sign during the week commencing 11th September.

Contacting Us: We also need to remind you that should you need to make urgent contact with your child during the College day, this should be done by contacting Student Services. 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.

Allergies: We are aware that we have students who have severe nut allergies. Whilst we understand that many food products have some elements of nut based ingredients in them, we would be really grateful if you could avoid giving your child obvious nut based products in their packed lunch.

For those parents and carers who are providing packed lunches we ask for your support as we remind you that fizzy drinks and energy drinks are not permitted.

In order to ensure that we are aware of all food related allergies and intolerances or religious dietary requirements, your child will be issued with a 'Special Diet/Allergy' form for you to complete during the week commencing 11 September.

It is essential that you complete the 'Personal Details' and 'Special Diet/Allergy' documents and return them to your child's form tutor by Friday 22 September. This ensures we have the most up to date information available about your child to ensure that we are able to monitor their well-being effectively.

As an added incentive for this, once both documents are returned, your child will receive a credit onto their cashless catering account to the value of £1.10 which will allow them to have a free school lunch in Picassos.

Did you know that just registering your child for Free School Meals means that the College 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 College 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 click [Free School Meals](#) to access the online application form.

And whilst we are thinking about food...

The autumn term [menus](#) provided by Caterlink have been published. If you have any queries in the next few weeks please do not hesitate to talk to any of the Caterlink staff.

Students should look out for the meal deals and special dishes as each term progresses. To start this year, there are 3 promotions in September to whet your appetites:

18 - 22 September: To celebrate National Cupcake Week, look out for a variety of flavours including gingerbread, chocolate mint and ice cream sundae!

Tuesday 19 September: The first 'Destination Day' will run when a variety of Chinese snacks and main meals will be on offer.

25 September and 6 October: We will be celebrating 'British Food Fortnight' when the menu will include some great family favourites including toad in the hole, roast chicken, fish 'n chips and some tasty puddings, including apple and berry crumble and chocolate sponge with chocolate sauce.

Going cashless!

We are delighted to announce that from September, everything parents and carers need to pay for will be available on SchoolGateway. This will enable all parents and carers to ensure that students do not need to bring any money into school, thereby avoiding students forgetting to pay for activities and also ensuring that money does not get lost. This does mean that from October half-term, **we will no longer be accepting payment by cash** for College activities or items (e.g. revision guides and ties).

Please note that for Term 1, students can make cash payments at break time only in the LRC when a member of the Finance team will be there to assist them.

We are encouraging all parents and carers to set up a SchoolGateway account to enable you to transfer funds at your own convenience, with full security and traceability. Visit our [Communications](#) page on the College website for details about how to do this.

Aiming High: Raising Aspirations and Expectations

'Leadership is not about a title or a designation. It's about impact, influence and inspiration.'

We look forward to our new Sports Ambassadors and Sports Captains inspiring our next generation of students to success and wish them well in their new roles:

P.E Ambassadors: Lana Orbell and Connor O'Brien
Barton: Molly Small and Luke Smith
Botolph: Ella Bradshaw-Bonel and Theo Boreham
Castle: Katie Marsh and Darcy Mullen
Latimer: Jen Robinson and Lewis Bray
Wicksteed: Manuela Entiriwaa and Jack Marriott

Enriching the Educational Experience and Celebrating Success

Throughout the year, we look forward to sharing student success with you. Please do let us know if your child has achieved something outside of College as we would love to hear about it.

To start the year, we would like to congratulate the students who won prizes in our end of year Vivo Grand Draw:

Holly Broughton: £50 MAC Make-Up Voucher
Georgia Smith: GHD Stylers
Taneesha Bains: Dre Beats Headphones
Kiera Cox : HP Chromebook

Vivos will be awarded this year in recognition of a student's effort, academic success and contributions to the College. There will be more Grand Draws to come so watch this space!

Vacancies

Would you like to join the Latimer team? As we start the new academic year we are looking to appoint to the roles of Cover Supervisor, Student Support Officer, and Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA). Further information can be found on our website [vacancies](#) page.

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.

Tuesday 12 September	Year 7/9/12 Photographs
Tuesday 19 September	Year 10 GCSE Curriculum Information Evening, 6-8pm
Wednesday 20 September	Year 9 GCSE Curriculum Information Evening, 6-8pm
Thursday 21 September	Year 8 Girls HPV Vaccinations
Tuesday 26 September	KS3 Curriculum Evening for Year 7, 6-8pm
Thursday 28 September	Sixth Form Curriculum Evening for Year 12, 6-8pm
Tuesday 3 October	Open Evening for prospective Year 7 students joining in September 2018 College will close to students at 12.15pm
Wednesday 4 October	Year 11 Geography Field Trip
Tuesday 10 October	Parent Forum 6pm Music Room 1 (Masque Theatre)
Thursday 19 October	End of Term 1 for students
Friday 20 October	Training Day: College closed to students
Monday 30 October	College re-opens to students: start of Term 2