

LATIMER NEWS

2025-26

ISSUE 5:
JANUARY 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we look forward to Spring and better weather, we want to remind students to engage in the many clubs and activities that are on offer every lunchtime. It is also key that students log these on Unifrog to build a record of their character development through these interests and leadership opportunities.

This year marks the 50th year in Latimer's history. The school was opened officially in March 1976 and, despite the changes, has continued to be a non-selective, local authority school serving the local community and upholding the same core values we live every day. In September I spoke to students in assemblies about the changes that have occurred in the world in the last 50 years, and we were delighted to have several previous staff visit us to look at the new buildings and developments. If you are a former student or staff member or know of anyone who might want to be involved in our celebrations, please ask them to contact us at mail@latimer.org.uk.

Mrs Murphy - Principal

Equipment Expectations

Please can you ensure that your child is fully equipped for the start of Term 4. Having the correct equipment is essential to support effective learning in every lesson.

Students are expected to have the following items every day:

Black pen Red pen Pencil Rubber Ruler Sharpener (New for Term 4) Scientific calculator

Mrs Stewart sells all of the above items each morning in the Upper Canteen. One of each item (excluding the calculator) costs just **49p**, so please encourage your child to take advantage of this if they need to top up their equipment. Scientific calculators can be borrowed daily if required.

Equipment will be provided free of charge to **Pupil Premium (PP)** students.

Students' equipment is checked daily during tutor time. If a student is missing equipment, a behaviour point will be issued by their tutor. As equipment is imperative for learning, we appreciate your continued support in ensuring students arrive at school fully prepared.

Reminder - Parking on School Site

Can we remind parents and carers to not drop off on school site unless a parking permit has been arranged. Parking permits for drop off are to be organised directly with the Attendance Team.

Uniform Issues

Can we remind parents and carers that where a student is missing a uniform item, they will be asked to wear a loan item in most cases. We only issue passes for medical or short term adjustment reasons. Forgetting to have an item will mean borrowing something. Failure to comply with this will result in a student being sat in internal until a parent or carer can drop off the relevant item. Thank you.

SAFEGUARDING

We would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. January can be a difficult month as the joy of Christmas passes. Below are just a few reminders about how we keep ourselves safe. At Latimer we are offering this year, as a new service, a wellbeing drop-in at a break and lunchtime with our Wellbeing Practitioners. Students should look out for posters about times and locations. We now have two of our Pastoral Team qualified as Mental Health First Aiders.

I would like to urge students not to be drawn into potentially bad habits during these dark and boring months. As parents and carers, be aware to the pitfalls of vaping. Some vapes have been known to include cannabis. Whilst in school we take a hard line with vaping, it is quite common now socially amongst older teenagers, especially at parties. Another item to be aware of is "snus". A nicotine pouch put inside the mouth. These give a release of nicotine straight into the system and are used by older male teenagers in particular.

Obviously alcohol consumption is also prevalent at parties. Alcohol taken too young can induce sickness and most worryingly cause youngsters to lose co-ordination. Please educate your child about the dangers of drinking, especially things like neat vodka. At parties, vodka equivalent to several shots is poured with coke for example and far more potent than a bottle of beer. It will taste like coke, but contain what we, as adults, would count as several measures in a pub.

My advice is always be aware that the above are far more common than we realise. Education and trust are the best ways forward for us as parents/carers and if you are worried there are various national websites on the dangers of alcohol and vaping. [Vaping: What Parents Should Know | Nemours KidsHealth](#)[The law on alcohol and under 18s | Drinkaware](#)

Kids Eat Free

Please visit the [Money Magpie](#) website for information on Kids Eat Free deals.

Cycle Safety

Following a student coming off his bike a few weeks ago in icy weather, this is just a reminder that students should take care cycling to school when there is frost on the ground, and also in these dark mornings. If your child cycles to school, please remind them to wear a cycle helmet, reflective strips on bike / clothing, and have lights on their bike.

Northamptonshire Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) - February Half Term

As this programme grows, the Government is looking at different ways to expand the offer. Northamptonshire HAF are delighted to announce that they have been chosen to pilot a February half term programme in North Northamptonshire. Please see information below.

- The programme will run from **Monday 16th February through to Friday 20th February**.
- The 'EEQU' booking system will once again be used. The booking system is open for bookings from **Monday 2nd February at 4pm**. You can access the booking system [here](#).
- As a pilot, spaces will be limited and on a first come, first served basis. Due to being in North Northamptonshire **only**, this will be for families either living within North Northamptonshire and/or who attends a school within the local authority.
- There are **no longer** any vouchers/codes sent from schools for HAF.
- Each eligible individual will have 4 credits to use for the February Half Term Programme.

Any HAF related questions should be directed to HAF@northamptonshiresport.org.



TEACHING AND LEARNING

Ace Your Exams - Year 11 Post-Mock Exams

Students have now received their mock exam results. We asked students to use these to reflect on how well prepared they are for the real exams, which are only 10 school weeks away. The key message following the mocks is that no matter what a student achieved, their future grades are not yet set in stone and are still very much in their own hands. The other key message is that they should be worrying about their own performance only, they are their key competition, and making sure they are the best version of themselves.

**50 school days
until start
of exam season**

To support students in these year groups:

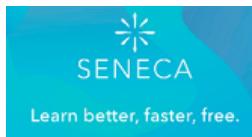
- We are arranging further study skills sessions
- Core subjects mock exams will take place after February half term
- We are also undertaking 1:1 meetings with Year 11s to discuss the next stages of their education

Following the Year 11 SPRE, if you would like to discuss next steps you can contact our independent Careers Adviser, Mrs Nicola Stanbridge, please email careers@latimer.org.uk.

Year 11 students can also access our online resources:



Students can sign up for FREE at [GCSEPod](https://www.gcsepod.com) using their School email account. Podcasts can be streamed or downloaded on PC, Android or IOS. Email ithelpdesk@latimer.org.uk if you require any assistance when using GCSEPod.



Seneca is free for students to use. It will present them with key information and then test them on it in various ways. Some staff are setting revision activities through this.



Quizlet allows students to create their own quizzes, flash cards and other revision material for free. They can then print these off or save them to re-use. Students can also access other people's revision material on the site.



Students should use Sparx to help with practice Maths and Science questions.

Year 13 SPRE

We urge parents and carers of students in Years 12 and 13 to make appointments for the Sixth Form SPRE on **Wednesday 4th February**. This will provide subject staff with the opportunity to share the priority areas of focus for your child in the lead up to their summer examinations.

HOUSE NEWS

Attenborough



The end of 2025 was an incredibly successful time for Attenborough House, as we were able to celebrate all of the achievements of students throughout the year, which also ended on a high with 10A2 taking first place in the Deck the Doors competition (much to the delight of the form tutors!).

As we move into 2026 we want to keep that momentum going, with the effort, enthusiasm and teamwork continuing to support the House as we move forward. Whilst a new year is an opportunity for new goals, it is important to keep doing what has been working so well and helped us to be so successful.

If I could ask for some support from the families of Attenborough students as some of our organisation skills seem to have been left in 2025, with equipment, punctuality, uniform and homework sometimes not being at the level it should be. If we are able to work together, both in school and at home, to support students and get these standards back to where they have been previously, it will help ensure students are being as successful as possible, as they are on time, ready to learn and able to thrive in lesson.

Finally, Term 4 will see Attenborough House take the lead on fundraising, for the incredible Northamptonshire Health Charity, which supports patients and families at the local Kettering General Hospital. More details available shortly. We will be encouraging students to get active to earn, in order to provide as much support as possible to such a worthwhile cause.

Gilbert



Gilbert has made a fantastic start to the term, with plenty to be proud of and even more to look forward to. We recently achieved a record low number of negative behaviour points, reflecting the excellent attitude and conduct shown across the House. Alongside this success, we are excited to be launching our charity initiative, where each form will be creating a hamper to donate to Animals in Need. Once completed, we will be delivering the hampers directly to the Charity.

In addition, there will be an optional poster design task, giving students the opportunity to help spread the word and raise awareness for this worthwhile cause.

Gilbertarians also performed exceptionally well in the house competitions, securing a strong second place in what was a very close and highly competitive contest between all houses. Overall, it has been an extremely positive start to the term and a great foundation for the weeks ahead.

Kahlo



It has been an excellent and purposeful start to the New Year for Kahlo House, with our students returning in January with focus, determination and a clear drive for excellence. The energy around the House has been extremely positive, and it has been fantastic to see students settle quickly back into routines and expectations.

Attendance continues to be a real strength of Kahlo House, remaining among the best in the school and reflecting our students' commitment to being present, prepared and ready to learn. Alongside this, we have seen a considerable jump in positive points as Kahlo students consistently push themselves to achieve high standards in lessons and around the school. This collective effort highlights the pride our students take in their work and their House.

HOUSE NEWS

Kahlo cont'd



Our strong sense of identity and teamwork was particularly evident in the recent Word Association House Competition, where Kahlo House secured a convincing first place finish. This success is a clear reflection of how in sync our students are with one another and with our House values, combining creativity, collaboration and determination to achieve success together.

I am incredibly proud of the start Kahlo House has made to 2026. The enthusiasm, effort and unity shown by our students so far sets a strong foundation for the rest of the term, and I look forward to seeing Kahlo House continue to build momentum and strive for excellence in the weeks ahead.

Tull



What a great start to the year Tull students have had. During the first week we celebrated the HEART subject awards in assembly. This is where the subject teachers have nominated students for awards based on the school HEART values. It is wonderful to be able to give out 61 awards across the House to individuals demonstrating such commitment to their learning and the school.

We were also able to celebrate the House as a team; we have crept up from 4th place into 3rd during Term 2. Let's hope we can keep this up and next term finish even higher. The message to the House this term was about being a team, supporting each other in all of school life and beyond. I am happy to see so much of this teamwork value as I visit forms in all of the activities they are engaging in.

House Competitions

On Friday 23rd January nearly 80 students were involved in a Word Association house competition; pairs of students had to try and match answers to 20 common words. Kahlo students took the win with 34 matched words, Attenborough came in 2nd, Gilbert 3rd and Tull 4th.

On Friday 30th January Mr Walmsley ran a code breaking competition in which students had to use codes to stop AI taking over the world. Tull took 1st place, Gilbert 2nd, Attenborough 3rd and Kahlo 4th. We also have a Benchball competition planned in early February.

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

Our Anti-Bullying Ambassador Team now have 5 new members from Year 7. These are all getting to work straight away with new ideas and are all wearing their new red lanyards so they are visible to students. Congratulations to our new Ambassadors.

Student Council

At The Latimer Arts College we encourage students to express their views about what happens at school and to work together with staff to make positive changes to improve their school experience. Our Student Council plays a vital role representing the views of their fellow students and this term have been leading their form discussions about the Term 3 topic 'Rewards'.

SIXTH FORM NEWS



Congratulations to our small cohort of Year 12 Maths re-sit students, who have now successfully passed their GCSE, good effort everyone!

Well done to all our Year 12 and 13 BTEC students who have just finished off their recent set of exams; we can't wait to see the results of all your hard work.

Future Destinations



On 14th January, 53 of our 72 Year 13 students successfully met the equal consideration deadline for their university applications.

A huge congratulations to these students for completing their applications and personal statements; a fantastic achievement. We would also like to extend a massive thank you to our dedicated staff and to parents and carers for their continued support throughout the process.

It is still possible to apply for courses, although applications submitted after the equal consideration deadline will be considered subject to course availability.

We now look forward to supporting those students who are considering alternative pathways to find an apprenticeship, plan for a gap year or venture into the world of work.

Options after 6th Form



We will be sharing our successes on social media over the coming weeks, so keep your eyes peeled.

Sixth Form Enrichment Programme

On Wednesday afternoons we run offer our Enrichment Programme, offering a range of activities and opportunities for sixth formers to choose from. Students can participate in health and fitness sessions, attend talks by guest speakers, life skills workshops, or explore various subjects through online learning. We believe our Sixth Form Enrichment Programme not only offers a variety of enjoyable experiences, but it can also have a valuable impact on personal growth and future prospects. By providing this platform for exploration and self-development, we aim to foster well-rounded, engaged and motivated individuals who are prepared to excel in their academic journey and beyond.

Guest Speaker - The Mayor of Kettering



As part of our enrichment programme, we recently welcomed The Mayor of Kettering, Cllr Ben Jameson, to Latimer. The Mayor came in specifically to talk to our A-Level Politics students about his role.



SIXTH FORM NEWS

Guest Speaker - from the Bank of England

On Wednesday 21st January our sixth form students were delighted to welcome Marie Fryers, Head of People Advisory Service and Operations at the Bank of England, for an insightful and inspiring presentation.

Marie offered a fascinating overview of the role of the Bank of England, helping students understand complex topics such as inflation, interest rates, the printing of money, and the UK's £800 bn in gold reserves. Her ability to bring these concepts to life made the session both accessible and engaging.



Students were particularly inspired by Marie's personal career journey. She shared her path from school through roles at Tesco, JD Wetherspoon, Barclaycard and HSBC, before progressing into her current leadership position at the Bank of England. Her story highlighted the value of resilience, ambition and seizing opportunities.

We are extremely grateful to Marie for her generosity with her time and for the encouragement she gave our students. The session was both informative and motivating — and even included the intriguing story behind how Carina Road in Kettering got its name!

Term 3 Tutor Time Focus

Just a quick update of what both year groups will be focussing on, during their Personal Development sessions at tutor time this term.

Yr 12 Areas of Focus:



Introduction to UCAS and Apprenticeships
- Careers & Future Planning



Being an Independent Learner
- Physical & Digital Organisation



Yr 13 Areas of Focus:



Adulting & Personal Finance
Housemates & Planning
Audit of Personal Digital Profile
Confidence & Resilience
Payslips/Credit Agreements
Legal Rights & Responsibilities - Renting/Tenancy Agreements



SIXTH FORM NEWS

Dates for your Diary

Sixth Form SPRE - Wednesday 4th February (4.30pm – 7.45pm)

Yr 13 Photos (Individual) - w/c 10th February

Yr 12 Subject Reviews Fortnight - w/c 23rd February & w/c 2nd March

Yr 12 Trip to National Apprenticeship Show - Wednesday 11th March (10.30am – 3.00pm)

Sixth Form Reward Trip to Alton Towers - Wednesday 25th March (8.00am – 6.00pm)



CAREERS

National Apprenticeship Week - 9-13 February 2026

It is National Apprenticeship Week from 9th - 13th February, a week-long celebration of everything that is great about apprenticeships. During this week employers will be coming into assemblies to discuss their apprenticeship experience as well as what apprenticeships they offer. In the Future Me tutor sessions will be focussed on apprenticeships.

Apprenticeships are an alternative to college or sixth form after GCSEs, which fit the criteria of being in education, employment or training for young people under the age of 18. Apprenticeships open to 16 year olds are either Level 2 (Intermediate) or Level 3 (Advanced). After college or sixth form, students may choose to undertake a Level 4/5 (Higher) or a Level 6/7 (Degree) apprenticeship, although in some circumstances they may start on a Level 3 then work up.

Current available apprenticeships are now starting to be advertised for summer/autumn starts. Vacancies can be found on the Government website <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship> as well as on company websites, via recruitment agencies, and even on social media – follow the careers accounts of companies. If your young person is in Year 13, opportunities are being regularly emailed to them. Year 11 and Year 13 apprenticeship seekers are also being offered careers appointments where we can help with CV creation and apprenticeship applications.

Further support during this week can be found in the Unifrog Apprenticeship Fair on Wednesday 11th February 4.00-6.00pm - sign up [here](#). Amazing Apprenticeships have a dedicated parent/carer page [here](#) where it is also possible to sign up to a parent/carer webinar on Monday 9 February 6.30-7.30pm.

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK
I LOVE
APPRENTICESHIPS
#NAW2026

Upcoming Next Term

National Careers Week – 2-6 March 2026

British Science Week – 9-13 March 2026

LITERACY NEWS



2026 has been designated as 'The National Year of Reading', a DfE UK-wide initiative designed to get more people into reading. 'Go All In' aims to connect reading to everyday culture through everyday passions, to address the decline in reading amongst children, young people and adults. There are various events and opportunities taking place as part of this initiative that we are excited to participate in as a school.

Here at Latimer, we have marked the start of 'Go All In' by appointing **KS3 Reading Ambassadors**. These students expressed their passion and interest in reading and want to be a part of the 'Go All In' initiative to support other students develop a love for reading.

Save the date!

Thursday 5th March: World Book Day

#WEHEARTTOREAD



OTHER NEWS

British Science Week

The Latimer Arts College is celebrating British Science Week in early March with a deep dive into curiosity as students explore what happens when we ask bold questions about the world around us. Whether they are coaxing seeds to sprout, experimenting with eco-friendly energy, or exploring the future of robots and AI, students will be getting hands-on with the big questions shaping our world and theirs. Alongside the practical investigations, they will also look at future study pathways and the careers that their curiosity could lead them toward.



Does anyone have any old Latimer clip-on ties?

If anyone has any of the old clip-on ties (any colour, including red) we would appreciate donations to support the loan of uniform to students who arrive without full uniform.

OTHER NEWS

Catering News

The catering team will be holding a couple of special menu days before the end of term - details below:



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 4 February	Sixth Form SPRE, 4.30-7.45 pm
Monday 9 - Friday 13 February	National Apprenticeship Week
Tuesday 10 February	Year 11 and Year 13 Leavers Photographs
	Latimer Dance Show, 7.00 pm
Friday 13 February	End of Term 3
Monday 23 February	Start of Term 4: School re-opens to students (This will be Week 2 on the timetable)
Tuesday 24 February	Year Mock Exam Season 3 (until Thursday 5 March)
Wednesday 25 - Friday 27 February	Year 9 and Year 12 Geography Trip
Monday 2 - Friday 6 March	National Careers Week
Wednesday 4 March	Year 7 SPRE, 4.30-7.45 pm
Thursday 5 March	World Book Day
Monday 9 - Friday 13 March	British Science Week
Monday 16 March	Year 8 Pathways Fortnight (until Thursday 26 March)
Tuesday 17 March	Parent Forum, 6.00 pm
Wednesday 18 March	Year 8 SPRE (core subjects only), 4.30-7.45 pm
Tuesday 24 March	Year 8 Pathways Evening, 5.30 pm
Thursday 26 March	Spring Music Concert, 7.00 pm
	End of Term 4
Friday 27 March	Training Day - school closed to students

