

LATIMER NEWS

2024-25

ISSUE 2:
OCTOBER 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Despite the weather the term has started well with students demonstrating our core values every day. On the first day we conducted a fire drill, with more than 1000 students on the field in silence. It was fantastic to see the students acting maturely and setting an example to our new Year 7 students. Year 7 have settled well and are accumulating House points for their excellent work and effort in class as well as participation in clubs. As usual, staff are offering a wide variety of extra-curriculum activities for students to sign up to; please ensure your child is attending at least one club each week as this is part of their personal development. If there are clubs that students would like to see that are not yet running, please contact jmilson@latimer.org.uk to see what we can facilitate.

We are grateful for the high turnout of parents and carers at our Ace Your Exams Evenings, however, if you were unable to attend we have published the [resources](#) on our website so please do have a look. These events and the others throughout the year (see the 'dates for your diary' section at the end) are designed to ensure you feel connected with and informed about your child's educational journey.

The House race is hotting up already, as you may have seen on social media. Alongside the positive points awarded through the Satchel:one app, students can enter house competitions such as the recent Geography Quiz which was won by Attenborough House.

I am grateful to staff for the recent academic and sporting events which have taken place. Students have been entered for the Senior National Maths Challenge and we have competed in county cup football matches.

We were lucky with the weather on Open Evening as we welcomed an unprecedented amount of potential Year 6 students and their families. Thank you to the students who acted as ambassadors and helped in departments, they were a credit to the school. We had more students than ever before offering to help and so unfortunately not everyone had the opportunity to do so this time.



Inspiring Excellence

We are officially rated a "Good" School

[@] @latimerartsofficial f www.facebook.com/LatimerCollege
✉ @latimercollege ✉ mail@latimer.org.uk



I was busy last Friday judging chocolate cakes in a Year 11 Food lesson... someone's got to do it! Well done to all Year 11 students involved for their creations.



REMINDER

A reminder for students who come to school in PE kit for their first lesson, to ensure they bring all their school uniform with them to change into after their PE lesson. We have had a number of students recently forgetting to bring in some of their uniform.

Year 11 Mock Exams

Year 11 have now had about 25% of their year before the start of their GCSE exams; the mock exams we will use to prepare them are fast approaching!

Students will receive their individual timetables in the coming weeks.

These mock exams are a vital tool in preparing for the real things! We would encourage students to use the **planning sheet** and the **topics for revision booklet** shared with them to start organising their revision. Advice and guidance can be found on the [school website](#).

Mock exams are important for so many reasons:.

- They provide students with practice and the experience of exams
- They allow staff to reflect on how well they are doing and what we need to focus on in lessons
- They allow students to try out methods of revision
- Any revision carried out now will help students remember more for the real exams
- They are used in applications to Sixth Form and Colleges
- They will be kept by the school as evidence in case of any national issues around exams (this is related to the experience of Covid, they will not be used in individual circumstances)

However, these benefits are only there if students actually revise prior to the mocks and take these exams seriously.

As part of the exams process there may be days where exams finish before the end of the school day and students will be allowed to leave early – if this is an issue, please let us know. For those who get the bus, accommodation will be provided in school.

LITERACY NEWS

Literacy Extended Learning at Latimer: Year 7 and 8

Why Literacy?

Research overwhelmingly suggests that reading influences academic success, vocabulary development, mental health, the ability to empathise and knowledge of other cultures. As part of our ongoing commitment to literacy, Year 7 and 8 students have a fortnightly literacy lesson in the library where they access digital literacy improvement platforms: Bedrock Learning and Accelerated Reader. Links to both programmes are available via the 'Quick Links' tab on the Latimer homepage: <https://www.latimer.org.uk/>

Bedrock Learning

Vocabulary knowledge plays a central role in reading comprehension; a student's ability to make sense of a text largely depends on their ability to understand the language used. Bedrock exposes students to a range of Tier 2 vocabulary through a variety of reading related activities.



As your child progresses through the Bedrock curriculum they will study hundreds of words, whilst reading fiction and non-fiction texts regularly. Bedrock forms part of the weekly extended learning programme set by your child's literacy teacher after their fortnightly literacy lesson.

We expect students to complete a minimum of 20 points per week, in addition to the 20 points they will achieve in their literacy lesson, totalling 60 points per fortnight (time is not monitored); achieving this will automatically enter them into the 'Bedrock Stars' prize draw (managed by Bedrock) where prizes include Amazon vouchers and even a Chromebook! We will also celebrate successes in school with certificates and house points as we monitor progress.

Accelerated Reader

Students should complete independent reading at home as well as in school to see progress and we recommend at least 15 minutes per day. Alongside Bedrock, your child will access Accelerated Reader, a computer programme that monitors reading practice and progress.



When students have finished reading a book of their choice, from within the recommended level based on an initial reading test, they will take an online quiz; passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what has been read. The rate at which a student completes quizzes will depend on their reading material and where a quiz has not been completed, the literacy teacher will check that your child is still making progress through a text.

Access in School

There are tablets available to access Bedrock and Accelerated Reader in the library between 8.00-8:25am and from 3.00-3:30pm every day as well as during break and lunchtimes. If you have any questions, please email: rhawkins@latimer.org.uk in the first instance.

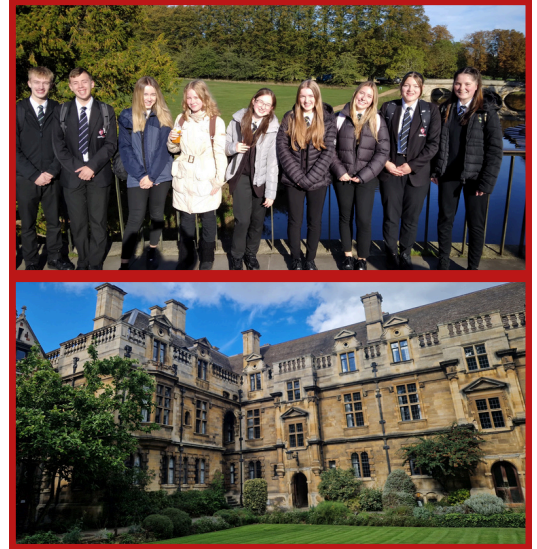
We look forward to working with you as we continue to support literacy across the school.

CAREERS



Year 11 Pembroke College Cambridge Trip

Recently we took a small group of students to a dedicated Key Stage 4 visit day at Pembroke College, University of Cambridge. Students learned about how Cambridge is different to other universities, for example what course you should apply for if you want to study Physics (Natural Sciences). They also heard from current students on how student life is, including the wide range of societies they can join. Common myths were also de-bunked – most students at Cambridge have not been to private school. A favourite part of the day was eating a fish and chips lunch on the long tables in the Dining Hall!



Year 10 National School and College Leavers Event – NEC – Wednesday 13 November



A reminder to Year 10 parent/carers to fill out the Enrichment Form and make their £10.00 contribution on Gateway if not already completed. The Enrichment Form can be accessed via the QR code on page 7 of this newsletter.

Year 8 – Take Your Child to Work Day – Thursday 21 November

The deadline for parent/carer responses on the MS Form link is **Wednesday 23 October**. This is to allow time to send out the 'employer' form and receive responses, as students do not always go to work with their parents/carers.

Choices Magazine: Information about Apprenticeships and Technical Education

Find out more about apprenticeships and technical education with the latest edition of [Choices magazine](#), designed for parents and carers.

**If your child would like support from our Future Me (Careers) Team,
please email careers@latimer.org.uk**



SIXTH FORM NEWS

Year 12 News

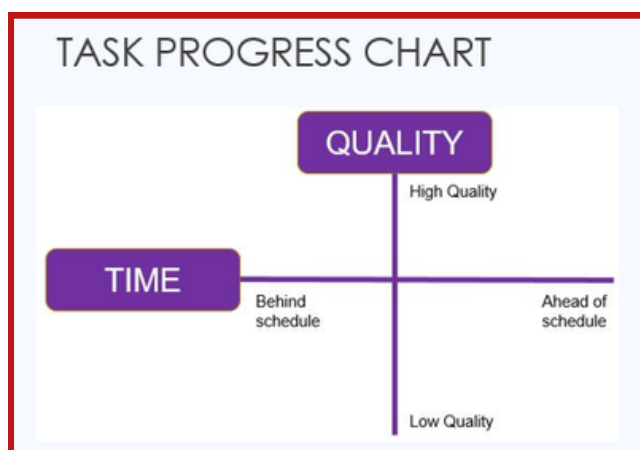
Year 12 'Ace Level 3' Evening

Thank you to everyone who came along on 19 September to meet our Sixth Form Team and find out more about the essential study skills needed for success. We very much hope you gained a real insight as to how you can support your child with their Level 3 studies and future pathways progression.

If you would like a copy of the information shared on the evening, please note that all the resources can be accessed using this link [HERE](#).

Prioritising and Project Management

Year 12 have continued focussing on how to become great independent learners and last week were introduced to 'Prioritising & Project Management' using "STQR".



Not familiar with the **STQR** system?

Why not ask them to explain it to you?

AI and Acceptable Use

Also, this week we asked Year 12 to consider:

- How do you currently use AI tools in your studies?
- What steps can you take to ensure ethical use?



Acceptable use:

Research and Information Gathering

- Finding information
- Summarising articles
- Gathering resources

Study Assistance

- Practice quizzes
- Flashcards
- Learning recommendations

Organising and Planning

- Study schedules
- Reminders
- Note organisation

Unacceptable use:

- Generating entire essays or assignments
- Copying text without citation
- Falsifying data or information

YEAR 13 NEWS

Congratulations to Maisie, Lucas and Sam who have all sent off their UCAS Applications to Oxbridge and to Maisy for applying to her course in Medicine. You have all worked so hard towards these applications, and we wish you all the very best as we await your offers.



All of Year 13 should have now completed and submitted the first draft of their personal statements to their form tutors, for review. In this week's 'Careers and Future Planning' sessions, students are learning about interviews and application processes for Employment and Apprenticeships.

This week Year 13 have also started having their 1:1 Feedback Reviews with their subject teachers, whereby they have the opportunity to discuss in depth how they feel they are progressing and focussing on any areas for improvement. This will then allow students plenty of time to prepare for their forthcoming Mock Examinations which commence w/c 18 November.

Sixth Form Enrichment

Our students have made a great start this term already.



The aromas coming from the Food Room have been wonderful, as those opting for Cultural Cooking made "Dutch Apple Cake" and Souvlaki.

We wonder what they will be cooking next time?



We are also pleased to see so many of our students sign up for TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) and how many are enjoying their British Sign Language course.



Work continues on the Sixth Form Centre and we look forward to announcing the opening next term.

Sixth Form Notices and Important Dates

22nd October	Year 12 Tutor Check In Phone Calls Home
w/c 4 November	Year 12 1:1 Subject Reviews
5-11 November	GCSE Maths and English Re-sits
18 November	Year 13 Mock Examinations commence

OTHER NEWS

Year 7 Team Building Event – Tuesday 22 October 2024

Further to the letter sent earlier this week, Year 7 will be off 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 outdoor [PE kit](#) on the day. In the event of bad weather the event will be held inside.

Student House Leader

Applications for this new student leadership opportunity have now closed. Those shortlisted will be invited to interview during the week commencing 21 October with their House Leaders. These students have been contacted.

Student Council 2024-25

Applications for the new 2024-25 Student Council are now open! If your child wants to make a difference to their school and would like to apply, they need to complete the Microsoft Form application set on Satchel:One **by Friday 1 October**. House Leaders will select one representative for each form based on their applications and those successful will be notified during the week commencing 11 November. Student Council meetings will begin Term 3.

Aspire - (Extended Learning Club)

A reminder that Aspire, our Extended Learning (homework) club, runs Monday-Thursday after school 3-4pm. Refreshments are provided, as well as access to our library and computers and staff. Support within these sessions can help with:

- **Clarifying instructions:** Helping students understand what the task is asking them to do.
- **Offering strategies:** Suggesting approaches or methods for tackling a question or problem.
- **Prompting with questions:** Asking guiding questions that encourage students to think critically and arrive at solutions on their own.
- **Encouraging resource use:** Directing students to use resources like textbooks, notes or online tools to find information.
- **Building confidence:** Offering encouragement and reassurance to help students feel more confident in their abilities to solve problems.

Enrichment Activities Consent Form

A reminder to parents/carers that without a completed consent form, students will not be permitted to take part in enrichment activities, including clubs and fixtures. If you haven't already done so, please scan the QR code to access the consent form - it really is quick and simple to do. This form needs to be filled in each year.

The Latimer Arts College
Enrichment Activities Consent
Form & Behaviour Agreement



October Half Term Activities

Athena Activities are thrilled to announce their October Half Term Activity Camp at Cottingham C of E Primary School, running from Monday 28 October to Friday 1 November 1 2024!

Their camp offers a fantastic opportunity for children to stay active, make new friends, learn essential life skills, and participate in a variety of fun and enriching activities throughout the half-term holiday. From sports and creative projects to performing arts, they cater to all age groups, interests, and abilities.

For further information or to book a place, please visit their website at www.AthenaActivities.co.uk, or contact them direct at Enquiries@AthenaActivities.co.uk or Tel 07399 595022.



Useful information from The National College for Parents/Carers

Fire Safety - Free Guide

A Home Office study has found that approximately 350 children are injured in accidental fires every year 🔥 Naturally, this highlights the importance of educating young people on fire safety – ensuring they're aware of what precautions they can take to keep themselves protected around flammable materials and naked flames.

It can be difficult to know where to start when teaching young people about this potentially life-saving topic. That's why we are letting you know about a free guide, offering expert advice on how to educate those in your care about fire safety. It breaks down the steps you can take to protect youngsters in common situations – from bonfire night 🌟 to lighting a few scented candles 🕯️ ➡️ [DOWNLOAD YOUR FREE GUIDE](#)

Final Fantasy XIV Online Game - Free Guide

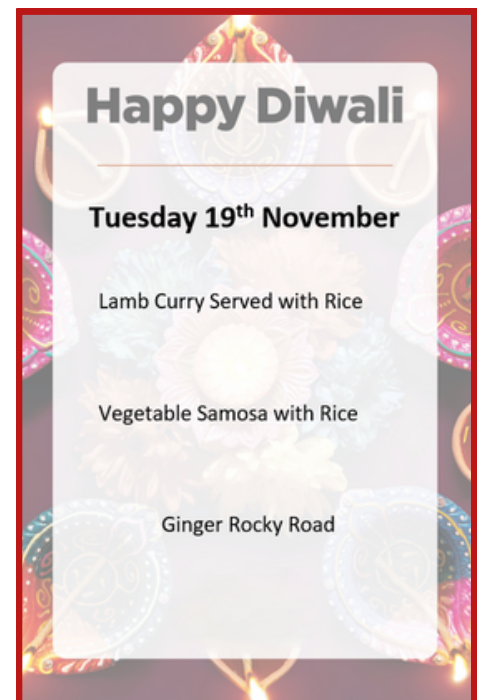
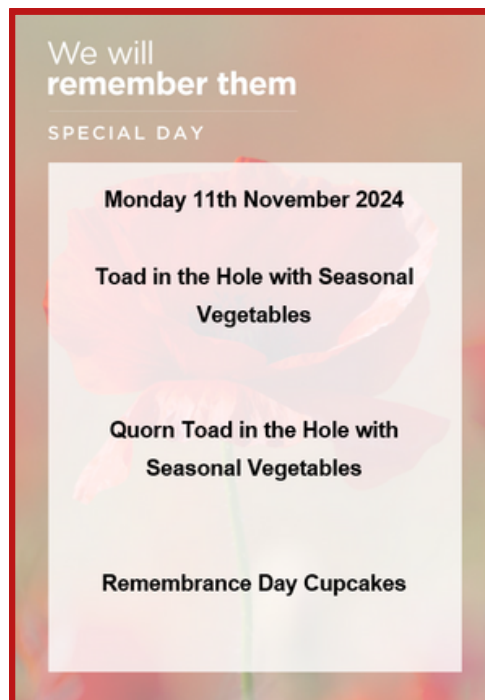
Final Fantasy XIV is an online game which allows thousands of players to occupy a far-reaching world simultaneously - embarking on quests and fighting monsters alongside one another - which has risen to a high level of popularity in more recent years. According to a study from the UK Safer Internet Centre, 73% of young people have experienced unpleasant or inappropriate behaviour while enjoying an online game 🧑🎮 As an always-online game, several safety concerns can arise when playing this PEGI 16-rated multiplayer title – especially for young people.

As a trusted adult, it can be intimidating to figure out where the risks lie when dealing with such a huge and expansive game - but being aware of these concerns and how to mitigate them is absolutely vital when making online safety decisions if there are younger gamers in your care - especially under-16s, for whom the game is unsuitable according to its PEGI 16 rating. 🗡️🛡️ Fortunately, this week's free guide offers expert advice on the risks present in Final Fantasy XIV, and suggests steps you can take to ensure young people are as safe as possible online.

➡️ [DOWNLOAD YOUR FREE GUIDE](#)

CATERING NEWS

abm Catering are offering some seasonal special menus, details below.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 21 October	Sixth Form Pathways Taster Sessions (in school) (ends 25 October)
Tuesday 22 October	Year 7 Team Building Event Year 12 Tutor Check-in (remote) Parent Forum, 6.00 pm
Wednesday 23 October	House of Lords Member to visit Sixth Form Year 7 Tutor Check-in (remote)
Friday 25 October	Term Ends
Monday 4 November	Start of Term 2: School re-opens to students (This will be Week 1 on the timetable) Sixth Form Pathways Taster Sessions (ends 8 November) Year 9 Dance Workshop
Tuesday 5 November	Flu vaccinations Years 7-11
Wednesday 6 November	Year 7 Local Geography Fieldwork (until 8 November) Sixth Form Open Evening, 5.30pm
Friday 8 November	Year 12 Future Event, University of Northampton
Monday 11 November	Remembrance Day - 2 minute silence National Anti-bullying Week (ends 15 November)
Wednesday 13 November	Year 10 Trip to National School & College Leavers Festival
Friday 15 November	Children in Need (non-uniform day)
Monday 18 November	Mock Exams for Years 11 and 13 (ends 5 December)
Thursday 21 November	Year 8 Take Your Child to Work Day
Thursday 5 December	Year 8 Language Leaders Event
Friday 6 December	Training Day: school closed to students
Tuesday 10 December	Year 7 Rewards Movie Night
Thursday 12 December	Christmas Music Concert, 7pm
Wednesday 18 December	Sixth Form Enrichment Trip (pm)
Friday 20 December	Term Ends: Early closure - 12.20 pm



More dates are available on our website