

LATIMER NEWS

2025-26

ISSUE 6:
MARCH 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The sunshine is finally here and yet again I have good news to share regarding the achievements and efforts of Latimer students, both in school and beyond.

As a staff body we are also digesting the government white paper and hoping that the promise of funding and additional support for families of students with SEND will come to fruition over the next few years. We will keep you informed of any other changes to curriculum and enrichment as it comes into place.

Please ensure you are aware of the additional training day on Friday 27th March, and look out for our parental communications regarding the new parent app which will replace Satchel:one from Easter.

Mrs Murphy - Principal

Year 8 Pathways Process: Choosing Subject Preferences

As Year 8 students at The Latimer Arts College approach an important milestone in their education, we are pleased to introduce the Pathways Process – a structured and supportive approach to selecting Key Stage 4 options. This process ensures that every student receives the guidance needed to make informed choices about their future studies. The Pathways Process is designed to help students choose subjects that align with their strengths, interests and aspirations. It provides them with the opportunity to specialise in areas they enjoy while maintaining a broad and balanced curriculum. Our aim is to support students in making decisions that will open doors to further education, training and careers.

1. Key Stage 4 Pathways Showcase Evening – 24th March

We invite all Year 8 parents/carers and students to attend our Key Stage 4 Pathways Showcase Evening, where we will outline the process, explain subject choices and provide advice on decision-making.

2. Pathways Booklet

Each student will receive a Pathways Booklet, which contains details about available subjects, course content and future progression routes. This is an essential resource to help families explore options together. We will also email out an electronic version of the booklet to parents/carers in advance of the physical booklet. Students must bring the booklets to the Pathways Showcase Evening.

3. Pathways Month

To support informed decision-making, all students will participate in Pathways Month, giving them an insight into the content and expectations of different GCSE subjects.

REMINDER: SCHOOL CLOSED

Friday 27 March 2026

**The school will be closed on this day for an additional Staff Training Day
to facilitate changing systems ready for Term 5**

4. Tutor Support

Students will meet with their tutor during tutor time to discuss their choices, considering their strengths and aspirations. These meetings ensure that students select the most suitable combination of subjects.

5. Finalising Preferences – Online Form Submission

After discussions with teachers and parents/carers, students will submit their final preferences using an online form, which will be live from 24th March to the deadline of 14th April. We will work closely with students to accommodate their choices while ensuring a balanced curriculum.

Supporting Your Child in Making the Right Choices

Parents/Carers play a crucial role in guiding their children through this process. We encourage open discussions at home about future aspirations and the subjects that best support them. If you or your child have any questions, our staff are available to provide additional guidance.

We are committed to ensuring that every student at The Latimer Arts College feels confident and supported in their choices. We look forward to working together to help our students shape their future success!

For more information, please contact the school or visit our website, where all information will also be available.

SAFEGUARDING

Football at Break and Lunch

We are seeing an increasing number of students playing football at break and lunch and getting physical in their games as if they are on a proper football pitch. Playing football during social times is at the discretion of staff supervising. They are not referees and we reserve the right to remove any student from playing if their play becomes too physical. Please ensure if your child does engage in the football, that they understand this.

Hair Colour and Styles

We need to remind parents/carers that extreme hair colours (for example blue), are not permitted in our policy. Hair styles need to also be conventional and not extreme. Any student with hair colouring that is extreme will be asked to go home and rectify this as a priority.

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. Please can any donated ties be taken to the Pastoral Hub.

HOUSE NEWS

Attenborough



Teamwork makes the dream work, or so the saying goes. In Attenborough House teamwork has always been something we have been successful at; we have come out top in the last two years on the Community Games Day, and so it was fantastic to see us secure 1st place for house competitions in Term 3, the hard work of the teams in the Benchball and Word association competitions, alongside the success of Deck the Doors at the end of Term 2, saw us pip the other houses to first place overall.

This month we need more of that Attenborough teamwork, as we run our house charity event 'Move it March'. With the improving weather (at last) and lighter nights we are encouraging Attenborough students to get more active – whether joining a club, cycling to school or getting out and walking more – with students challenged to try and raise £5 each throughout the month. Any money we raise will go to the Northamptonshire Health Charity, who aim to support patients and their families at both Kettering General and Northampton Hospital. The link to donate money can be found [here](#).



We want to extend the competition to all houses, with students and staff from across the school able to log their movement so we can see which house has been the most active this month! I have no doubt the Attenborough team will continue to rise to the challenge! All students across the four houses can take part by logging their activity via the MS Forms link sent out on Satchel:one.

Gilbert



It has been a very positive start to the term for the Gilbertarians. We are delighted to see a noticeable reduction in behaviour points alongside a significant increase in positive points. This reflects the hard work, commitment and positive attitudes our students are demonstrating each day.

During tutor time, students have been focused and productive, continuing to engage well with activities and discussions. Last term, they also showed great community spirit by taking part in litter picking, helping to keep our school environment clean and pleasant for everyone.

One of our key priorities this term is to improve our standing in the house competitions that take place during tutor time. We are encouraging all students to participate enthusiastically, support one another, and represent Gilbert with pride.

We were also overwhelmed by the incredible generosity shown through the large number of food donations collected for our chosen charity, Animals in Need. The charity was extremely grateful when we delivered the hampers, and it was wonderful to see our school community making such a meaningful contribution.

A huge thank you to all parents/carers and students for your continued support and generosity – it truly makes a difference.

HOUSE NEWS

Kahlo



February has been another hugely positive and competitive month for Kahlo House, with students across all year groups continuing to demonstrate commitment, pride and teamwork in everything they do.

This past term, our Year 9, 10 and 11 forms have put in a real effort to compete strongly with the other houses and forms across the school. I am delighted to share that our Year 9 and Year 10 forms currently hold the best attendance in their respective year groups, a fantastic achievement that reflects their consistency, resilience and readiness to learn each day.

Our Year 11 forms have set the standard for behaviour across the entire year group, demonstrating maturity and focus at a crucial stage in their school journey. Their leadership and example are a credit to Kahlo House.

Further down the school, our Year 7 Kahlo forms are leading the entire school for positive points, a brilliant achievement so early in their secondary journey. Their enthusiasm and engagement have been exceptional. Meanwhile, our Year 8 Kahlo forms have secured the best attendance across all Year 8 forms, reinforcing Kahlo's reputation for reliability and commitment.

House competitions have once again showcased our collective strength. Kahlo delivered a strong overall performance this term, finishing 2nd in Benchball and 1st in Word Association. These results reflect not only talent and competitiveness, but also the unity and spirit that define Kahlo House.

I am incredibly proud of how Kahlo students continue to balance high standards in attendance and behaviour with enthusiasm in house events. The momentum we are building as a house is clear to see, and if we maintain this focus and determination, I am confident that we will be lifting the house trophy for a second year running.

Tull



Spring has arrived, and I am hoping that Tull students will truly 'spring into action' this term with a clear focus on our HEART value of Excellence. Together, we are striving to be the very best version of ourselves in all aspects of school and community life.

Excellence is not just about academic success it is about pushing ourselves that little bit further in lessons, showing determination when work feels challenging, and choosing to be kind, thoughtful and reflective members of our community. That is our shared goal this term.

As part of our pursuit of excellence, I would also like us to focus on being fully prepared for learning. Having the correct equipment each day makes a real difference to how smoothly lessons begin and helps everyone maximise their learning time. Please remember that the school shop is open every day during form time, and any missing items can be purchased using student accounts. If we can all work together to improve this, it will have a hugely positive impact.

HOUSE NEWS

Tull - continued



Last term saw us maintain our 3rd place in the overall house competition, narrowly ahead of Gilbert, a fantastic achievement. What was particularly pleasing was our progress in attendance and behaviour, where we moved from 4th to 2nd place. I am incredibly proud of you all for that improvement, it shows what we can achieve when we work together.

This term we have a big push on positive points, as we currently sit in 4th place in that category. Every positive contribution counts, so let's make it our aim to climb that table!

Thank you Tull House. I continue to be blown away by the privilege of working with so many fantastic young people. Keep aiming high — excellence is within our reach.



House Competition - Latimer Bake Off!

Are you a baking expert with the skills to create an Easter showstopper or a baking novice wanting to try your hand at a new hobby? Then this house competition is for you!

Choose which Easter theme category you wish to enter and put your baking skills to the test. Bake your entry at home, take a picture and email it to Mrs Hobbs-Rex: jhobbsrex@latimer.org.uk along with a description of what you have made.

The competition opens on Monday 16th March and closes on Monday 23rd March. Entries from both students and staff are welcome!

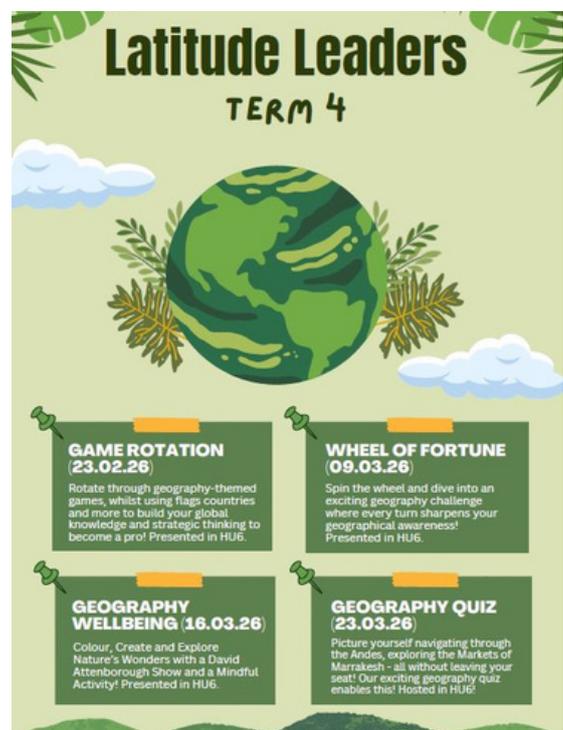
Race to Gold

Each term students who have achieved over 200 positive points are entered into our Race to Gold Raffle.

Congratulations to our Raffle winners at the end of Term 3 :

Oliver Smith (Year 10)
Hazel Waterman (Year 7)
Gracie Burn (Year 9)

Enrichment Club Information



sfe
Starting uni or college
in 2026 or 2027



Get Ready to Apply & Start the Process using this [link here!](#)

Thank you to our Guest Speaker Sarah Kasher, Widening Access Manager from the University of Leicester, who came and delivered a really informative session about Student Finance to our current Year 13 students this week. Sarah shared some great tips and advice, to help make the process smoother.

The main take away point is – **Register as soon as student finance opens on 23rd March.**

Don't delay, or your monies might not be ready for when you arrive at your chosen university!

Year 12 Work Experience



As part of our Raising Aspirations programme, all Year 12 students are asked to undertake a careers-based work placement designed to develop employability skills, increase understanding of the world of work, and help inspire future career choices.

This year, students will be required to complete five days of voluntary work experience between 29th June and 3rd July 2026. These days may be completed across more than one placement if appropriate.

We have already shared information with students about the many benefits of work experience, and they are being supported during tutor time with guidance and resources to help them identify and secure a suitable placement.

We recognise that, with many employers now working remotely, finding an in-person placement can be more challenging and that some students may benefit from additional support at home. We would therefore greatly appreciate your involvement in encouraging and guiding your child through this process.

Please note that students who are unable to secure an in-person placement will be required to complete virtual online work experience within school during these dates.

Equally, if you or your company would be willing to host one of our Year 12 students for a work placement, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact our Careers Department via email at vstanyon@latimer.org.uk for further information.

Year 12 Trip on Wednesday 11th March 2026



The National Apprenticeship Show is a nationally recognised careers event that brings together leading apprenticeship providers, employers and training organisations under one roof.

The visit forms an important part of our school's careers education programme and aligns with our commitment to ensuring students are well informed about post-16 and post-18 opportunities.

We believe this trip will be highly valuable in helping students make informed, confident decisions about their next steps and future careers. It provides an excellent opportunity for them to broaden their horizons and engage meaningfully with the world of work and training.

Dates for your Diary

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

Sixth Form Reward Trip – Alton Towers - 25th March (08.00am – 6.00pm)

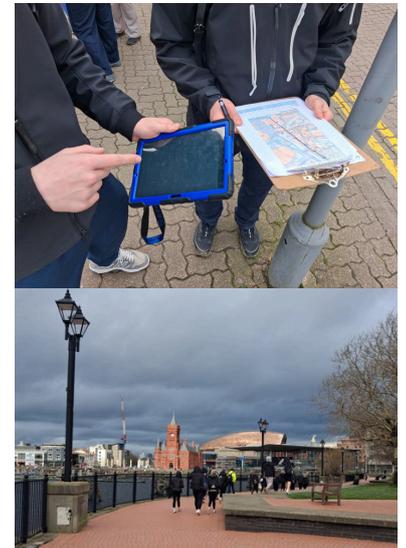
Year 9 and 12 Geography Residential Visit

In the first week of term the Geography Department took students to Margam Fieldwork Centre in South Wales to collect in-depth data for their exams. This amazing experience enabled students to try out new fieldwork methods and deepen their understanding into the geographical world, whilst exploring new environments.

During our visit to Newton Beach in Porthcawl, the students worked hard in groups to investigate coastal processes and how the area is being affected by both nature and humans. The sessions were supported by the expert tutors from the centre who did an outstanding job in supporting our studies. This day was ended with a hearty meal, followed by a memorable ghost walk, where one of the teachers took an unfortunate tumble.

The next day, we visited a rainy Cardiff Bay, where we looked at the impacts of the recent regeneration whilst exploring the environmental quality in areas such as Mermaid Quay and West Bute Street! The data collected throughout the day helped us broaden our knowledge and strengthen skills for everyone involved. That evening, we returned back to Margam, where we all had time to relax, enjoy walks around the park, and take part in games.

On our last day, we collated our data, whilst learning about how to apply statistical methods and presentation skills, which helped us come to conclusions over our hypothesis. This trip not only enhanced students' geographical understanding but also strengthened friendships and created wonderful memories. It was an unforgettable and highly rewarding experience, showing once again the value and excitement of studying Geography!



By Finlay Ashall & Isaac Willis, Yr 12



CAREERS

Careers in Sport Workshop with Travis Bowley

Our Year 9 GCSE PE and BTEC Sport students recently took part in an engaging and inspiring Careers in Sport workshop led by Travis Bowley, owner of TRV Fitness and GPN Gyms.

Travis began the afternoon with an honest and motivating careers talk, outlining his journey from being a student of a similar age to building a successful career within the fitness industry and eventually becoming a business owner.

Students gained a valuable insight into the different routes into sport and fitness, the challenges along the way, and the importance of hard work, commitment and self-belief.



Following the talk, students worked practically through three workplace-based scenario tasks, designed to reflect real-life roles within the sport and fitness sector. These focused on physiotherapy, sports nutrition and personal training, allowing students to apply their knowledge, problem-solve and work collaboratively in a professional context.

To conclude the workshop, Travis led students through an energetic personal training session, giving them the opportunity to experience first-hand what a practical fitness session involves and reinforcing the skills and attributes needed within the industry.

It was a fantastic afternoon, with students demonstrating our core values of Respect, Excellence and Ambition throughout. We would like to thank Travis for giving his time, expertise and enthusiasm, and for providing our students with such a meaningful and motivating careers experience.

Apprenticeship Open Days – The Bedford Group

We encourage you to attend with your young person to find out about the apprenticeships on offer, meet the College Apprenticeship Team and speak to some of the employers the College work with.

Corby Jobcentre are also running a recruitment event (details below), delivered in partnership with Tresham College and North Northants Council. Last year's event welcomed over 350 jobseekers and more than 30 employers and providers.

Recruitment Event Details

Date: Monday 23rd March

Location: Tresham College, Corby

Opening times for non-Tresham students: 4:00pm – 6:00pm





CAREERS

Apprenticeship Webinar – Starting Off

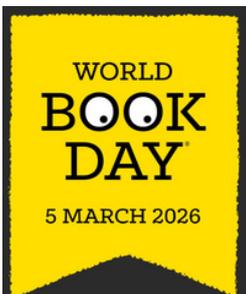
Starting Off are running another apprenticeship information webinar for parents/carers in March for students in Year 11 and 13.

Please click [here](#) to reserve a space.



LITERACY NEWS

World Book Day



We celebrated World Book Day across the school this week with a range of bookish activities designed to create a real buzz around reading. At Latimer we recognise the vital role reading plays in developing students' vocabulary, imagination and academic success across all subjects.

Mr Nunney delivered assemblies to students in Years 7–10 centred around the National Year of Reading theme, “Go All In.” The assemblies encouraged students to build positive habits and highlighted how small, consistent actions — such as reading regularly — can have a big impact over time.

Students in Years 7 and 8 received a World Book Day book or voucher during their Literacy lessons, and many took part in our ever-popular lunchtime Book Swap, giving them the opportunity to discover new titles and share favourite reads with their peers.

During tutor time this week, students explored the fascinating process of how a book is published, before taking part in an inter-tutor group competition, “Latimer’s The Voice.” In this challenge, students tried to identify which member of staff was reading an extract from Allan Ahlberg’s **Mrs Butler’s Blues**.



Our English department also joined in the celebrations by supporting our GCSE students with quotation revision. Staff dressed up as key quotations from **Macbeth**, bringing the text to life and helping students recall important lines from the play. Students in Years 10 and 11 can also take part in our quotation revision competitions on Satchel:one.

It has been fantastic to see so many students engaging with reading activities throughout the week.

#WEHEARTTOREAD

OTHER NEWS

Catering News

The catering team will be holding a couple of special menu days over the next couple of terms, details below:



Easter Clubs - Northampton Active



Congratulations!

All Year 9–13 students who study Music were recently offered the opportunity to apply for the ORA Singers Young Composers' Programme. Applicants were required to submit one of their own compositions along with a written application. Several of our students entered, and we are delighted to announce that Sam Wright (Year 11 GCSE Music student) has been invited onto the Apprentice Strand.

This prestigious composing opportunity was offered to only 40 students nationwide. The judges were highly impressed with Sam's application and composition, selecting him to take part in this unique training programme. The Apprentice Scheme consists of a series of eight workshops during the spring and summer, led by a professional composer. These sessions provide specialist guidance and are designed to fast-track students' compositional skills.

Congratulations to Sam! This is an outstanding achievement and an incredible opportunity

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 9 - Friday 13 March

Friday 13 March

Monday 16 March

Tuesday 17 March

Wednesday 18 March

Tuesday 24 March

Thursday 26 March

Friday 27 March

British Science Week

Kettering Goes Orange (non-uniform day)

Year 8 Pathways Fortnight (until Thursday 26 March)

Parent Forum, 6.00 pm

Year 8 SPRE (core subjects only), 4.30-7.45 pm

Year 8 Pathways Evening, 5.30 pm

Spring Music Concert, 7.00 pm

End of Term 4

Training Day - school closed to students

