

LATIMER NEWS

2026-27

ISSUE 1:
SEPTEMBER 2026



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back and a particularly warm welcome to our new Year 7 and 12 students! We are thrilled to have so many Year 7 students join us this year, who have arrived looking smart and ready to learn (the only exception being school skirts which need to adhere to our uniform policy please – see the website or contact us if you need further guidance or support). We also have record numbers in the Sixth Form with more than 80 students in both year groups now. The Sixth Form Centre and café provide a vibrant and productive learning and social space for all.

All students have settled well and got used to the new rooms and procedures in place for this year. I would like to thank the Site and IT teams for the work completed over the summer which has once again improved the experience for students and staff. We have a new classroom in Science, improved IT facilities and if you have visited the site you may have noticed the solar panels on the roof of the Masque Theatre and the Art & Design block.

Thank you for your support with ensuring your child strives to meet our high expectations and embodies the core values of Latimer. It has been lovely to see older students helping direct Year 7 students to lessons and our peer mentoring character programme, where Sixth Formers support younger students, will begin soon. PE clubs are underway already and next week all clubs will start in earnest. Please look at the opportunities available to your child and encourage them to try at least one club this term.

This year marks 50 years of Latimer, the year of celebrations began at our annual Pride of Latimer Awards Evening in July and will continue during the year. Further details of an event to celebrate our 50th anniversary can be found on page 10.

We are excited for all that 2026/27 will bring for students' both academically but also in terms of their personal growth. Encourage them to grasp every opportunity so that we can unlock their potential.

Summer Success for Sixthform@Latimer

Whilst we are delighted with our highest ever average points score, what makes us proud are the pathways now open to them. The combination of students' hard work and the dedication of the staff who taught and supported them has meant that all students have been able to access their chosen destinations.

Overwhelmingly Sixth Form Students at Latimer have achieved or exceeded their predictions, and importantly students have made good progress. Several students have achieved the very top grades possible. A quarter of all grades were A*- A and nearly half were A*-B at A Level. Equally pleasing are the BTEC results with nearly three quarters of students achieving Distinction/Distinction* grades in these vocational subjects.

We are so proud of the outcomes our students have achieved but also for all the additional opportunities they grasped during their time with us. They have gained skills and developed their characters, preparing themselves well for life beyond Latimer. They have had a positive impact at Latimer as fantastic role models, and we will miss them but wish them well for the next stage of their lives. We look forward to hearing about their future successes as part of the Latimer Alumni.



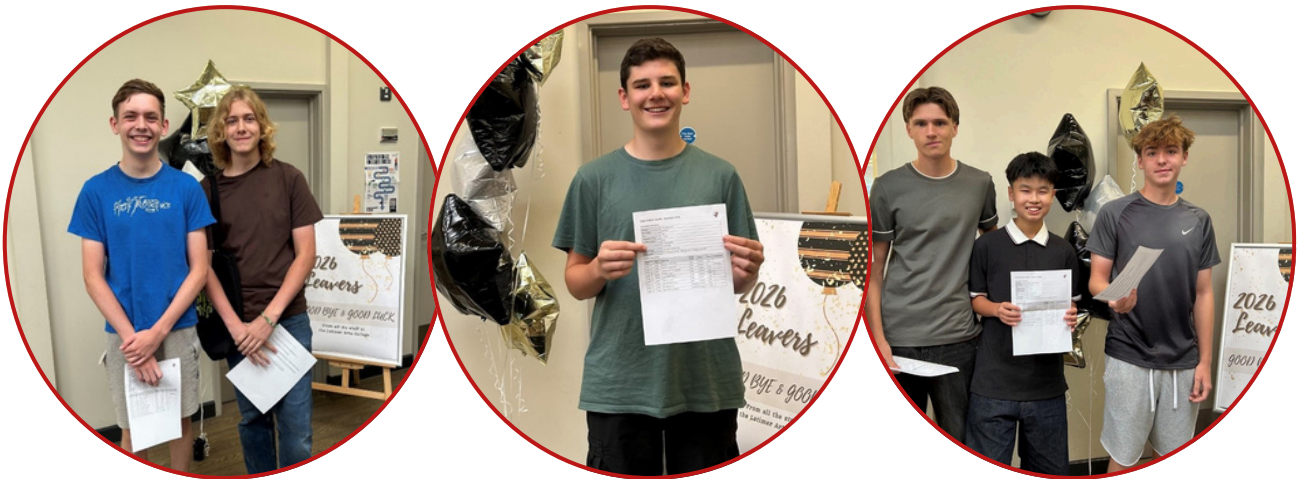
Latimer Unlocks Potential!

Year 11 students' dedication was rewarded with good results and overwhelmingly their chosen next steps were secured. Students, parents and staff celebrated individual, subject and overall successes, proving once again that learning at Latimer unlocks potential and inspires excellence.

Students have shown what is possible with the right attitude to learning and the support of dedicated staff and parents. This year some students have succeeded despite significant barriers. We are particularly proud of those students whose ambition and resilience paid off. I would like to pay tribute to the staff who supported our students, both academically and pastorally.

Once again, students' average point score increased. For the second year running year, the number of students achieving grade 5 or more in both English and Maths increased (to 42%) and those achieving grade 4 or more in English and Maths remained at an impressive 70%. These are key qualifications for student pathways.

We are pleased that so many students have chosen to join the SixthForm@Latimer again this year, where we know students will thrive. We wish all students well for their futures, knowing that these excellent results have opened doors for them so they can go on to realise their dreams.



Race to Rewards...2026 Launch



Our well established Race to Rewards has begun.

For any new parents, our rewards programme is linked to the positive points students earn. Bronze = 200 points, Silver = 350 points and Gold = 500 points. If any students exceed this they may be invited to the Pride of Latimer Awards Evening to receive a Platinum Award. We recognise all students who reach a key milestone with vouchers and rewards.

In addition to this, we want to acknowledge students who consistently do the right thing, so every term there will be a raffle for students with above 96% attendance and no negative points in that term.

We encourage all parents and carers to get their child involved in these exciting initiatives and support them in striving for these fantastic rewards - let's work together to celebrate their hard work, dedication, and success!

BACK TO SCHOOL AND READY TO LEARN

A reminder that our updated **Information Pack for Parents and Carers** can be found on the website. This document contains key information so that you and your child are well-prepared for the academic year ahead. This is not just for new students and parents, it can act as a useful reference document for all. In addition to this, we publish a Sixth Form Student Guide, also on the website, to support those who have joined us for post-16 studies.

We would also like to highlight the Compass App.



This app is a crucial communication tool between the school and home, and in addition to homework, you are able to view live updates on your child's behaviour (positive and negative), attendance and progress.

By using the app, you can stay informed about your child's progress and conduct in school, enabling you to engage in meaningful conversations with your child about their academic journey. This app is not only for parents and carers; students should also download it to take responsibility for their attendance, behaviour and track their own progress.

Please note that the app is under development and improvements in functionality are expected during the year, following feedback from parents/carers and teachers.

Financial Support: We can provide financial support for uniform for those students who are eligible for Pupil Premium Funding. For further information, or to apply for funding, please contact Mrs Strudwick, Pupil Premium Co-ordinator: cstrudwick@latimer.org.uk or email pupilpremium@latimer.org.uk.

If your child is in the Sixth Form, they may be able to access the Sixth Form Bursary, which can provide financial support for uniform and other study items. Please contact Miss Magee, Sixth Form Centre Manager for more details: smagee@latimer.org.uk

Uniform Swap Shop: We have donated items that are in excellent condition (washed and ironed) waiting for a new home. If you would like to access this uniform, your child can go to Pastoral Hub and select the items that they need or you can contact Mrs Clark, Pastoral Officer, who will be happy to help: pclark@latimer.org.uk or contact her on 01536 720300. In turn, if you have items that you no longer need, we would be delighted if you could donate them!

Lost Property: Rather than replacing items, please ask your child to visit Student Services to check if their lost item is in lost property. Please name all items, including clothing, shoes, bags, drink bottles, and pencil cases as this will help us to return them. We keep lost property for two terms. After this, we add relevant items to our Uniform Swap Shop and donate remaining items to charity.

Enrichment Activities Consent Form

In order for students to take part in enrichment activities, including day trips off site, clubs and fixtures taking place outside of the normal school day, we require parents and carers to complete a **Consent Form**. Without a completed consent form, students will not be permitted to take part. You can scan the QR code to access the consent form.

This form needs to be filled in each year.

Details of clubs and activities are available on the [Enrichment](#) page on the website.



Did you know...?

...that by registering your child for Free School Meals the school 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 music tuition, school trips or other out of school activities, or support to enable your child to continue into the Sixth Form.

Your child will be entitled to a free meal every day (worth more than £500 a year). Even if you don't claim the school meals every day, as long as you qualify and are registered, the school still gets the extra government funding.

Our cashless catering system ensures no other student knows who is receiving Free School Meals. Please visit the [Parents and Carers / Catering Service](#) page on the website to access the online application form.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS 2026/27
Important changes

FROM SEPTEMBER 2026
All children from households receiving Universal Credit may be entitled to Free School Meals (FSM).

TWO TYPES OF FREE SCHOOL MEALS

TARGETED FSM	EXPANDED FSM
Universal Credit + household earnings £7,400 or less	Universal Credit households above the £7,400 earnings threshold
Free school meal every school day	Free school meal every school day
Access to the HAF Programme during school holidays	No HAF eligibility
School receives Pupil Premium funding for additional educational support	No Pupil Premium funding

TRANSITIONAL PROTECTION IS ENDING
From 31 July 2026, previous FSM protection arrangements will end.

- Eligibility will be checked annually
- Some families may become eligible for the first time
- Some families currently receiving FSM may no longer qualify

Unlocking Potential and Inspiring Excellence

We recognise the positive part that parental support plays in children's academic success. Therefore, please do come along to our forthcoming information evenings so we can support you. We commit to making these evenings informative and interactive, they will contain relevant information to support your child with the stage of their education that they are at:

Year 10 Ace Your Exams Curriculum Evening
Tuesday 15 September from 5.30 pm

Year 11 Ace Your Exams Future Destinations Evening
Wednesday 16 September from 5.30 pm

Year 12 Ace Level 3 Sixth Form Induction Evening
Thursday 17 September from 5.30 pm

Mock Exams in
40 school days

Examination Season in
141 school days

HOMEWORK FACILITIES

A reminder of our Homework Club, designed to support your child's academic success.

In the mornings from 8.00-8.20am in the Library, and after school on Mondays to Thursdays 3.00-4.00 pm, and Fridays 3.00-3.45 pm, in the Learning Support Department. We provide dedicated homework facilities staffed with trained professionals to assist students in completing their homework.

Additionally, during lunch time, all students are welcome to go to the Library.

IT3 is available for Years 10 and 11 ONLY at lunch time.



SAFEGUARDING, BEHAVIOUR AND ATTENDANCE

I would like to thank all of our students for their positive return to school and excellent attendance. Below are the priorities for 2026/27.

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

- Complete the Wellbeing Award for the school over the coming 12 months based on improvements to our support for students. This includes widening our team of Mental Health First Aiders and our counselling support.
- Continue to focus on student voice to ensure our students feel safe as well as ensuring students receive briefings from me on key topics in this area.

Attendance

- Continued focus on punctuality. I ask that you work with me to ensure your child arrives to school by 8.25 am.
- Intervene with students whose attendance is between 90-96% to ensure that their attendance improves to support achievement.

Behaviour

- Further raise our expectations in creating disruption free classrooms.
- Ensure that all students have the right uniform and equipment for the day. Students with any missing items including the wrong shoes, will be expected to borrow school items. Students may purchase equipment from the canteen from 8.00-8.20am each day for a nominal amount deducted from the payment system.
- A reminder of the zero tolerance approach to phones in line with Government legislation. All phones must be in bags and off between entry to the gate and the final 3.00pm bell.

How we support your child's wellbeing and mental health

Supporting student mental health and wellbeing is one of our top priorities for 2026/7. We are working with the Wellbeing Award to get school accreditation in this area. I thought it might be a good idea to share what we offer students already:

- Wellbeing Officers - Mrs Strudwick and Mrs Price - available all day, every day
- Mental Health Schools Team (MHST) referrals for 1:1 support
- Souster Youth (mental health charity) referrals for 1:1 support
- School nurse referrals
- Wider pastoral team support
- Sixth Form character and support mentoring for students
- Specialist school counsellor through referral system

Plans for this year:

- Expand the number of Mental Health First Aiders in school.
- Develop signposting for students to seek support
- Greater involvement of parents/carers
- Further education of all staff.

If you think your child is in need of further support, please drop an email to our new email referral address: wellbeing@latimer.org.uk. This can then be triaged by the team.

SAFEGUARDING, BEHAVIOUR AND ATTENDANCE

Good attendance reflects maturity, commitment, resilience, and readiness for your future.

Securing excellent attendance and punctuality makes a significant contribution to securing excellent academic achievement. Our expectations in relation to attendance can be found in our Student Attendance Policy on our [Policies](#) page. Confirmation of our term dates can be found on our [Calendar](#) page.

Confirmation of lesson timings can be found on our [School Day](#) page.

Consistent attendance is essential for success and every lesson counts.

Parents and students should know their current attendance and should be working with the school to ensure this is the best to can be for their individual circumstances. We use a range of awards for good or improving attendance as an incentive to support our students. Please keep a look out on our social media pages for information.

Our minimum expected target for all students is 96%.

All students whose attendance is below 90% are classified as Persistent Absentees and will be placed on Attendance Procedures if deemed necessary by the Attendance Team. If a child continues to not attend regularly and on time, then The Latimer Arts College might refer the case to the Education inclusion Partnership Team which may result in a FPN (Fine).

Our attendance team are here to support you in supporting your children to obtain the best possible attendance and future success, if you have any concerns or queries, please contact Hannah Todd, Attendance Manager, on htodd@latimer.org.uk

Absence reporting

The school has an automatic messaging service that will notify parents and carers if a student fails to register. This will come from 'Compass Chronicle'.

If your child is going to be absent, on the first day and each subsequent day before 8am either:

Send an email to: absence@latimer.org.uk

or

Add an Attendance note on the Compass App

Please state your child's name, form, reason for absence and expected date of return. **Please contact the school at the start of each subsequent day of illness before 8am.**

If you have any queries about keeping your child at home, please refer to the NHS 'is my child too ill for school guide' [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

For Medical Appointments, please provide evidence of this prior to the appointment day, if we don't receive evidence of appointment, we may not be able to authorise it and there might be a delay in allowing them to leave site.

SAFEGUARDING, BEHAVIOUR AND ATTENDANCE

If a student has 3 days off consecutively, then a home visit may be conducted to check in with the student by someone from our Attendance or Pastoral team.

As a reminder, if a student is unwell at school and needs to go home, a parent/carer that is on the system needs to collect. A student will not be allowed to leave site alone if they are unwell.

Late Procedure

Students are expected to be in their period 1 lesson by 8:30am.

Arriving after 8:30am will result in students receiving a 'Late' mark.

Arriving after 9:00am will result in students being marked as 'Arriving late after registers have closed' which will impact upon their overall attendance negatively.

We look forward to supporting you and your child in achieving great attendance and a successful future!

Thank you for working with us.

The Attendance Team

Contacting Us

Should you need to make urgent contact with your child during the school day, this should be done by contacting Student Services Reception.

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.

If your child is going to be absent, on the first day and each subsequent day, you must either:

Send an email to: absence@latimer.org.uk

or

Message via the Compass App

Epipens

We strongly recommend that any student who has an allergy and has been issued with an epipen by their GP should carry one in their bag at all times as well as leaving a spare one in Student Services.

Contacting You

As we start the new academic year, it is vital that we have up to date information about each student. Therefore please check your contact details on the Compass app carefully to ensure that the details are correct.

It is important that we have the right details if we need to contact you in an emergency.

If changes need to be made, please make them where appropriate and they will then be confirmed by a member of staff. Alternatively you can email mail@latimer.org.uk with any changes. If it is a change to parental rights, further documentation may be required so we will contact you.

Should you be unable to access your information or IT, we can send you a paper copy for you to check, sign and return. If you wish to receive a paper copy, please email the above email address.

SIXTH FORM NEWS



Welcome to all our new Year 12 students. We are delighted that you have chosen us as your preferred place of study and we are here, ready to support you in achieving success during your post-16 studies. Welcome back also to our Year 13 students, as they embark on their final year of academic studies with us before heading off to University, starting an apprenticeship, employment or possibly taking up volunteering or travel opportunities.

We have a busy first term ahead for all!

Year 12 will be gaining skills on how to become independent learners, establishing self-study routines, note taking, organising folders and time management. They will also learn how to become mentors in preparation for supporting with Year 7, 8 and 9 students. This term Year 12 will also receive information about the different leadership opportunities within Sixth Form, where they can really make a difference and gain great leadership skills.

Year 13 students have made a positive start to the new year and will spend time reviewing their progress in Year 12 and the strategies for making the most of their potential in order to achieve personal success in Year 13. This term, students will continue to focus on their Personal Statements and Post-18 Intentions.

Upcoming Event

Year 12 Ace Level 3 Evening - Thursday 17 September, 5.30-7.30 pm

An opportunity for parents and carers to connect with key staff members from our Sixth Form Team. Please come along and join us to gain valuable insights into the high expectations and challenges of the Sixth Form, discover the essential study skills needed for success, and explore the array of online tools designed to facilitate research for your child's future pathways.

Throughout the evening sessions will include:

- Form Tutor: Meet & Greet
- Expectations and Personal Development
- Sixth Form at Latimer: Study Skills for Key Stage 5
- Future Destinations
- The Importance of Work Experience

This programme is part of the support that we offer to parents and carers at The Latimer Arts College to ensure that the transition into the Sixth Form is a successful one for your child.

If you have not already confirmed your attendance and would like to come along, please click on the link to the MS form in the email that was sent to Year 12 parents/carers on Tuesday 8 September.

CAREERS



UPCOMING EVENTS

Year 11 – Pembroke College, University of Cambridge – Friday 2 October

A group of Year 11 students will be taking part in a Key Stage 4 Pembroke College, University of Cambridge event next month. Students will learn about studying at a top university including experiencing a taster lecture.

Year 8 – World of Work Day – Friday 20 November

Advance notice for all Year 8 parents/carers: World of Work 2026 will be taking place on Friday 20 November. This is when we ask families to take their children into work with them or a trusted family member or friend for the day for meaningful work experience. Further information will follow by email.

Year 10 – National School & College Leavers Event - Tuesday 24 November

All Year 10 students will be attending the National School and College Leavers Festival at the NAEC Stoneleigh on Tuesday 24 November. Students will get the opportunity to talk to employers, universities, colleges and other training providers as well as taking part in hands-on activities.

PSHE

Please see below an overview of the PSHE curriculum for Years 7-11 for 2026-27.

PSHE education Long-term overview The Latimer Arts College					
	Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4	Block 5
Year 7	Emotional Wellbeing: Managing transition and change	Friendship and Bullying	Families and changing Relationships	Puberty and keeping safe	Influences on relationships
Year 8	Health and wellbeing	Personal Safety and managing risk	Belonging and Community	The Online World	Healthy and unhealthy relationships
Year 9	Mental Health and wellbeing	Drug Education	Managing risk in relation to the law	Intimate Sexual relationships	Navigating online harms
Year 10	Independence, Health choices and wellbeing	Navigating the online world	Friendship, diversity and challenging extremism	Managing Influence	Exploring Consent and recognising abuse
Year 11	Live long wellbeing	Drugs and personal Safety	Safe relationships and sexual health	Families, fertility and pregnancy	Gcse Exams

OTHER NEWS

Parent / Carer's Voice: Contributing to School Improvement

We will be holding our first meeting of the academic year of our Latimer Parents'/Carers' Forum on **Tuesday 20 October** from 6pm until 7pm in the Sixth Form Café.

The Parents/Carers' Forum works closely with the Senior Leadership Team to support school improvement. This is not the same as a PTA, there is no fundraising work involved, only a willingness from parent and carer volunteers to give up their time to engage in dialogue about school improvement, although we hope all parents/carers will sign up with [easyfundraising](#).

The Parent Forum provides an opportunity for the school to hear the parents'/carers' voice: for them to give feedback, evaluate school systems from a parent and carer perspective and to make suggestions for further improvements. All parents and carers, particularly new Year 7, are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact sking@latimer.org.uk

UPCOMING EVENT

Year 6 Open Evening

Our Open Evening for Year 6 students will be held on **Thursday 1 October** from **5.30-8.00 pm**. Some current students will be helping out on the night. More details about arrangements will follow in the coming weeks.

Please note that on 1 October the school will close to all students at 12.20 pm so that final preparations can be made for the evening.



Latimer's 50th Year Celebration Event

On Friday 25 September we are opening our doors to former students and staff for a trip down memory lane.

We are inviting past and present students, staff, families and the wider community to share their favourite memories. To sign up for this event please scan this QR code.



By the end of this academic year we hope to have raised enough money through donations for some outdoor furniture or a canopy for students and the community to use. This would be a lovely way to mark the 50th anniversary and leave a lasting memorial for future students to benefit from.

If you are an Alumni, current staff, student, parent or one of our fabulous supporting link organisations please donate and share our Go Fund Me page.

Catering News



The catering team will be holding an Italian Theme Menu on Tuesday 15 September and will also have a special menu on Friday 23 October to celebrate Halloween.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 15 September	Year 10 Ace Your Exams Evening, 5.30-7.30 pm
Wednesday 16 September	Year 11 Ace Your Exams Evening, 5.30-7.30 pm
Thursday 17 September	Year 12 Ace Level 3 Evening, 5.30-7.30 pm
Tuesday 22 September	Maths Olympiad for Girls
Tuesday 22 September	Year 11 SPRE, 4.30-7.45pm
Thursday 24 September	Year 10 / 12 Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition (until 26 Sept)
Friday 25 September	Celebrating 50 Years Event, 4.00-6.00pm
Thursday 1 October	Year 6 Open Evening, 5.30 pm (early closure 12.20 pm)
Friday 2 October	Year 11 Pembroke College, University of Cambridge Trip
Wednesday 7 October	Senior Maths Challenge
Thursday 8 October	Musical Theatre Showcase, 7pm
Thursday 15 October	Flu Vaccinations Years 7-11
Friday 16 October	Year 11/Sixth Form Tate Modern Trip (Art students)
Monday 19 October	Sixth Form Pathways Taster Sessions (until 23 Oct)
Tuesday 20 October	Year 7 Skills Building Event
Tuesday 20 October	Parent Forum, 6.00 pm
Wednesday 21 October	Year 7 Tutor Check-in (online)
Thursday 22 October	Year 12 Trip to New York (until 28 Oct)
Friday 23 October	Non-Uniform Fundraising Day
Friday 23 October	Term Ends



More dates are available on our website