

LATIMER NEWS

2024-25

ISSUE 4:
DECEMBER 2024



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Where has the time gone? As we reach the end of the year and two long terms, I am reflecting on all that has been accomplished so far. Thank you parents/carers for your continued support, we are so proud of everything your children have achieved.

Year 7 have settled into the Latimer way and display our core values in all that they do, many of them enjoyed a rewards movie event last week.

Year 8 experienced the world of work through 'Take Your Child To Work Day'. I was very impressed with the PowerPoint presentations and videos that chronicled their day, most notably Mia Brown, Will Corney, Halle Cosgrove, Elliott Knibbs, Jakub Fabijanowski and Darcy Reid-How.

Year 9 have made excellent progress in the foundation year of their option subjects. They continue to enjoy a creative rotation of Drama, IT, Design Technology, Food and Dance, which will help develop crucial life skills such as team work.

Next term is a busy term for many of our Year 10 students. BTEC Business students are starting their second piece of coursework, whilst BTEC Media and BTEC Sport students are starting their first piece of coursework. Students in Drama have finished the practical part of their assessment and will be busy writing up the work.

Years 11 and 13 have completed mock exams and are now working on closing those gaps in their knowledge and practising the key skills required to succeed in the real exams. Year 12 and 13 will be sitting their BTEC exams on their return in January.

And of course we opened our SixthForm@Latimer building and welcomed the Sixth Form students back into the heart of Latimer, in their own dedicated space. Our thanks to the Governors for supporting this project.



We wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and look forward to a positive start to 2025 when we return. School re-opens on 6th January for staff. Students return on 7th January.



REMINDER: EARLY CLOSURE

The school will close today at the earlier time of 12.20pm.

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding at Latimer and Beyond

Preventing crime and raising awareness campaign Spring 2025

Working with the local police education team, I shall be inviting in the local police team one morning in the New Year to bring their metal detector (knife arch) into school.

We will use this on entry to the school as an awareness raising strategy and routine bag searches may happen if the detector throws up metal items.

This is not in relation to any particular concerns but, along with other schools, is a local strategy to increase student awareness.

Keep Safe in Winter

As we near the end of a long term I would like to share with you my top recommendations for a safe the winter break:

1. Wear bright clothes on these dark evenings.
2. Ensure your child tells you where they are going when they go out.
3. Ensure your child checks their security settings on social media. Have they got accounts protected?
4. Road safety - remind them that Airpods are a significant danger when crossing a busy road!
5. Ensure that sleep patterns are adjusted back to normal just before we return on 6th January.
6. Take this opportunity to let them relax and recharge their batteries, especially Year 11 and 13, before they start considering school work again.
7. Encourage them to try an hour a day with no mobile phone! A New Year's resolution maybe?
8. Encourage them to do some gentle exercise to improve their mental wellbeing. A walk, run or their usual sport? Any exercise is good.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a happy and safe break this Christmas. A reminder that the website link [LOCAL OFFER](#) will direct you to all support services that are available to young people and parents/carers should you need support over the festive break.

Mr King

Assistant Principal & Designated Safeguarding Lead

REMINDER

Parent Forum - Tuesday 7th January at 6pm

Venue: Sixth Form Centre

OPEN TO ALL

LITERACY NEWS

LATIMER LOVES LITERACY

#WEHEARTTOREAD

Our Year 7 and 8 students are expected to complete 300 SPARX Reader Points (SRP) each week, which equates to 30 minutes of careful, concise reading.

Sparx Reader

We have had some fantastic student successes in our missions to achieve '100% Completion' and 'Excellent Accuracy' throughout Term 2 and particular mention goes to...

Year 7: Matipa Hlubanyana. Lottie Day and Hannah Bishop

Year 8: Gio Onung and Archie Nolan

...for achieving the most SRP this academic year, so far!

SPARX Reader homework runs on Satchel:one every Monday-Monday. Tablets are available to complete SPARX Reader every morning from 8am in the Library; every afternoon from 3pm in the Library as well as during break and lunchtimes. We also have SPARX catch-up sessions in En8 on a Thursday lunchtime and BS2 on a Friday lunchtime. Everyone is welcome to attend!



Reading Challenge: The Latimer Odyssey

In recent assemblies we have promoted 'The Latimer Odyssey' reading list challenge. We truly believe that adventure is only a page away and to encourage students to read a wide, diverse range of books we have collated four reading challenges to span a student's journey at Latimer and expose them to some of the brilliant books on our library shelves!

Library Loyalty

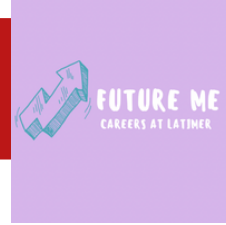
For those students who are consistently reading and, in Years 7 and 8, completing and passing quizzes on Accelerated Reader, we have also introduced a Library Loyalty card to reward their efforts. Anyone can achieve a loyalty stamp and choose a bookishly brilliant prize (or lunch queue jump pass!) once the card is complete.

Well done to Freya Dhanesh in Year 7 who was the first student to achieve this!

If you have any questions regarding any of the literacy provisions, including Bedrock and Accelerated Reader, please email: rhawkins@latimer.org.uk in the first instance.



CAREERS



Upcoming Event - Year 7 Dragons Den

Year 7 Dragons' Den is happening next term. On Wednesday 22nd January we will be running an entrepreneurship day where Year 7 students will develop a product from conception to presentation before the Dragons, like the television programme. Students will work with local business links in their classroom initially before presenting to the Dragons in the afternoon.

Unifrog events

Interact directly with experts



Unifrog Events Tool

One of the features students have access to as part of their Unifrog account is the Unifrog Events tool.

Here they can sign up to a variety of online events such as 'Risk taking in Business: How do you weigh up the odds?' from the University of Bath to 'Memory on Trial: Can we trust eyewitnesses?' from Bangor University. Parents/carers can also sign up to their own Unifrog account using the code **LASWparents** at www.unifrog.org.

Considering an apprenticeship?

If your child is considering an apprenticeship when they leave Latimer, consider signing up to webinars from [Amazing Apprenticeships](#). Webinars run from now up to the end of July and cover how to find and how to apply for apprenticeships.

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



SIXTH FORM NEWS

Year 13 University Applications Deadline

This is the UCAS 'equal consideration' deadline, which means course providers must consider all applications received by this time equally.

**Don't Miss the Deadline
29th January 2025 6pm**

Universities and colleges do not have to consider applications received after the deadline, although they can if they have spaces available, once the on-time applications have been considered.

To all those students still busy working on their applications, please remember that you need to "Pay and Send" using a debit/credit card. Don't worry your application will not actually go off to UCAS at this point.

After you have paid, you will need to sit with a member of the Sixth Form team who will fully check through your whole application before you can finally send off your application to UCAS. For this reason, we do ask that you do not leave your applications until the last minute - thank you.

SIXTH FORM NEWS



End of Year Festive Bowling

What a fantastic afternoon we had at Kettering Thunderbowl. Our students really did get into the festive spirit and go for the prize of “Most Festive Team”.



Sixth Form Celebration Assembly



To round off what has been a great start to Terms 1 and 2 so far in Sixth Form, we held our Celebration Assembly on Thursday. We acknowledged a large number of our students who have been recognised for their academic excellence, determination and resilience within their studies, those who have contributed to the school community, those who have really stepped up their game, and those who have fully embraced Sixth Form and are great role models all round.

Here are just a few of our results:

Student of the Term “A Great All Rounder”

Year 12 Emily Bodsworth
Year 13 Alana Toms

Student of the Form As selected by Form Tutor

12 SF1 Phoebe Leverett
12 SF2 Alice Sinclair
12 SF3 Prisha Yalamanchi

Student of the Form As selected by Form Tutor

13 SF1 Lexie Bevin
13 SF2 Harry Macgregor
13 SF3 Alana Toms

Community Spirit Award

An award for an individual that embodies our HEART values, who has shown selfless generosity in improving the lives of others with their thoughtfulness and kindness. This award went to a very worthy **Billy Dartnell in Year 12**.

We also recognised students who go above and beyond to support younger students in the school and help in classes and clubs. Thank you to each and everyone one of you!

Sixth Form Notices and Important Dates

8th & 9th January

9th, 10th & 13th January

29th January - 6pm

5th February

Business Exam Prep Sessions for Year 12

Year 13 Media Exams

Deadline for UCAS Applications

Year 13 - Guest Speaker - Student Finance

HOUSE NEWS

Attenborough House Leader Steve Tamkin



This term's 'Future Me' theme has been teamwork, something which has been in abundance in Attenborough this term. 'Deck the Doors' has allowed students to build upon their creativity and work collaboratively, working towards decorating their form door. This year's theme of Christmas movies has provided a wide array of inspiration and it has been fantastic to see students going above and beyond to support each other and ensure the best possible doors have been created. A big thank you also goes out to the families of Attenborough students for letting us borrow some of their wrapping paper, lights and other festive supplies!

Weekly house competitions are another area where Attenborough students have shown fantastic teamwork, with over 20% of students in the house having participated throughout this term, with the phenomenal record of having come first or second in every competition so far. Finally, a huge well done to all Attenborough students as, at the time of writing this, we are currently sat top of the House Points pile for Term 2, with a whopping 15,000+ points since the start of this term - a real team effort from all students!

Gilbert House Leader Luke Hayo



As we hurtle merrily into the festive break, let us take a moment to celebrate the splendid spirit you've shown this term. From coming together to 'Deck the Doors' in true Christmas style, ensuring every one of them reflected the season's cheer, to uniting for competitions with enthusiasm, you've truly captured the festive spirit. What's more, the rise in positive points towards the end of term has been a brilliant achievement - proof of your hard work and determination. Well done Gilbert!

Kahlo House Leader - Fearghas Walmsley



Our Kahlo House students have had a real challenge this term to maintain their first place lead, and as their House Leader I couldn't be more proud of the energy and enthusiasm that I have seen from our students across the school. Their commitment to attendance, achievement and behaviour has been an example for all students to follow.

As a part of our 'Future Me' sessions our students have been demonstrating their teamwork skills by choosing a Christmas film and decorating their class doors as part of our 'Deck the Doors' competition. While the other Houses have submitted very strong entries, I am confident that our Kahlo forms will see success – keep a lookout on our social media accounts for the winning forms! As a final note, I would like to thank again our Student House Leaders, Alana, Carys and Stanley - our success as a House is a direct result of the effort they continue to put into their new role.

Tull House Leader - Cindy Al Noah Ponder



As current House Champions, Tull have enjoyed a cinema reward today in the Masque. It was an excellent morning coming together to celebrate our successes from last year. This term has also been a successful one, we have worked hard in the house competitions to improve on our placing last term and on consistent attendance to enrichment clubs, well done all!

HOUSE NEWS

Race to 500

This week we were able to award Annabelle Warman in Year 7 a £20 voucher as part of our Race To 500 raffle, congratulations to all our students who have achieved over 200 positive behaviour points so far. Next stop 350 points for your silver award!

Rewards Raffle

We also ran a raffle for students who have achieved 96%+ attendance and zero negative behaviour points, 20 lucky winners were randomly chosen and received a £10 voucher.

House Competitions

Our weekly house competitions have continued throughout Term 2, seeing students complete in quizzes with music, cartoon characters and sports being just some of the most recent ones. Going into the final week of term the competition was finely balanced, with Gilbert having won two competitions and Attenborough, Kahlo and Tull all having won one.

We were inundated with incredible show stoppers for our Great Christmas Bake Off competition. The winner was Ryland Cooke and the runners-up were Scarlett Macdonald, Lizzie Turner and Mia Rust.



Deck the Doors 2024

This year we had another fantastic 'Deck the Doors' house competition! The theme was 'Christmas films'. Congratulations to the 4 winners from each house; 8A2, 8G1, 11K1 and 7T1.

Our overall winner was 11K1, with 7T1 in 2nd place, 8G1 in 3rd place and 8A2 in 4th place! An amazing effort from you all.



Club Spotlight

Spotlight #1 Has your child got a talent for chess? Or have they always wanted to learn how to play? Our Chess Club is open to all year groups - Thursday lunchtime in Ma6. We would like to nurture the next generation of chess players to enable our school to compete against other schools in the county!

Spotlight #2 Swifties Unite! A new club has been created by popular demand. Come along and chat about/listen to all things Taylor Swift at The Swift Society Wednesday lunchtime (wk2) Sc4.

KS5 Student House Leaders

As KS5 Student House Leaders we have been busy getting involved in judging 'The Great Latimer Bake Off', 'Deck The Doors' and supporting our houses with weekly house competitions. We have seen rounds on cartoons, song lyrics, Christmas food anagrams and more! These enrichment activities have been a key part of our 'Future Me' theme of the term which has been teamwork. We are looking forward to being more involved in the New Year.

Alana, Archie, Billy and River

OTHER NEWS

Uniform Expectations from January 2025

If a student arrives into school with a missing uniform item, the expectation is they will be loaned an item for that day. This includes loaning black shoes/trainers, ties, blazers, trousers, skirts and shirts, all of which are now held as available items.

ALL uniform items are now stored centrally in the Student Support area under the management of Mrs Clark. All uniform items loaned are clean and for temporary use.

Procedure for students arriving into school with a missing uniform item:

1. Report to the Student Support area to borrow the item. Blazers, ties and shoes/trainers are retrieved at the end of each school day to avoid being misplaced.
2. The student can retain the loaned item of trousers, skirt, shirt, jumper for the school day. Loaned items should be washed and returned to school within 5 working days.

Alternatively, a parent/carer can bring the missing item to Reception to replace the loaned item before 11:00am. If this option is preferable, this must be confirmed via email to pclark@latimer.org.uk

A uniform pass will only be issued where a parent/carer has contacted us via email pclark@latimer.org.uk or spoken to us regarding the extenuating circumstance for that day.

Please note: a student refusing to wear borrowed items (with no exceptional reason that we know of), will be expected to sit in the internal isolation room until the issue is resolved.

Where parents/carers are in receipt of Pupil Premium and struggling to fund an item, they should contact Mrs Clark at pclark@latimer.org.uk who can organise a replacement item in most circumstances.

Christmas Camp

Athena Activities, a non-profit provider of children's School Holiday and Wraparound services, are running a Christmas Camp at Southfields School which may be of interest.

For further details, please visit www.athenaactivities.co.uk



OTHER NEWS

Athena Activities will also be hosting a special day of Christmas-themed activities on 24th December. This is offered free-of-charge exclusively to children eligible for Pupil Premium and HAF funding.

Date: 24 December

Location: Cottingham C of E Primary School, LE16 8XB

Time: 9am to 4pm

(Early drop-offs at 8am and late pick-ups at 5pm can be booked on our website, but the expense of these will be added to the order total as they are not covered by the funding).

Families can book their child's place at www.AthenaActivities.co.uk using the code "**December24HAF**" at checkout. The code will activate their free-of-charge booking.

HAF bookings for all other days, excluding 24th December, should continue to be made through www.HolidayActivities.com using childcare vouchers as standard.



24/12/24
9am - 4pm
LE16 8XB

Athena Activities

Spend Christmas Eve with Athena Activities

This Christmas, Athena Activities is thrilled to be hosting a **Christmas Eve Party** to bring joy and Christmas cheer to children in our community!

Every child will receive a **gift-wrapped chocolate selection box**, a warm **Christmas dinner**, a small seasonal **vegetable hamper**, a **visit from Santa**, a **toy**, and a day full of exciting Christmas activities!

How to Get Involved:

- 1: Head to www.AthenaActivities.co.uk, "Book Now" and select **Cottingham C of E Primary School**.
- 2: Use the code "**ChristmasEve**" at the checkout to secure your child's place.
- 3: Please **repeat the process** for any additional children.

Camp Details:

Cottingham C of E Primary School, LE16 8XB.
9am - 4pm
Minibus Transport Available.

Please Note: Use www.HolidayActivities.com for HAF Bookings on all other days..

Enquiries@AthenaActivities.co.uk www.AthenaActivities.co.uk 07399 595022

SPORTS NEWS

A massive well done to all the students representing Latimer at the recent District Cross Country. The following students have all qualified for the County round after finishing in the top 20 in their race! To have 21 qualifying for the next round is fantastic! Well done all!

MAX ABLETT MAX BAILLIE LILY BAISH EVIE BROOKER FINN BROOKER
ESTHER CHAPMAN OSCAR CHARSLY CHARLOTTE DODD MIA DOUGLAS RUBY JOHNS
IRIS MULLIN NOAH PIZZO NIAMH RIDGE BEN SCOTT ELODIE SCOTT ZAC SCOTT
OLIVER SMITH ANNABELLE STORER DANIEL SWINFEN ALFIE UNDERWOOD

Lilli Murray in 10G1 has been selected as a travelling reserve for the U18's England Indoor Bowls team. Lilli went through the initial trial on 13th October (52 trialists) and was then selected to attend a squad day on 8th December where the original 52 was narrowed down to 23. Following the squad day this was then narrowed down to the full squad who will travel to Falkirk on 10th-12th January 2025 for the International Series.

Unlike outdoor bowls where the squad has to be equal amounts of boys and girls, the indoor only requires 2 girls, so for Lilli to be selected for the travelling reserve spot was a massive achievement. Congratulations Lilli!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 20 December

Monday 6 January

Tuesday 7 January

Wednesday 15 January

Wednesday 22 January

Thursday 23 January

Monday 27 January

Tuesday 28 January

Wednesday 29 January

Tuesday 4 February

Tuesday 11 February

Friday 14 February

Term Ends: Early closure - 12.20pm

Training Day - Closed to students

Start of Term 3 (This will be Week 2)

Year 11 BTEC Business Exam (am)

Parent Forum, 6pm

Year 11 SPRE, 4.30-7.45pm

Year 7 Dragon Dens' Event (all day)

Year 12 & 13 Chemistry Olympiad

Year 7 Geography Field Work

Year 8 SPRE, 4.30-7.45pm

Intermediate Maths Challenge

Sixth Form SPRE, 4.30-7.45pm

Year 11 & 13 Leavers Photographs

Latimer Dance Show, 7pm

End of Term 3



More dates are available on our website