

Parents and Carers of Year 11 Students

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Principal: Ms Siobhan Hearne

Year 11: Ace Your Exams

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“By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail”

Dear Parents and Carers

When your child joined The Latimer Arts College, you may remember us saying that time would fly and it would not be long before preparations for GCSE examinations, and the celebrations that follow, would come around. Well, here we are!

Now, in Year 11 there are less than 115 school days left until the first GCSE exam!

We are proud of the success that our **‘Ace Your Exams’** programme has delivered and we have developed it to support both our students and their parents and carers to be examination ready. We passionately believe that the programme helped our students last year to achieve **above the national average** progress in their subjects.

Study Support

We would like to thank those parents and carers who were able to invest time in their child’s future by attending our re-arranged **‘Ace your Exams’** evening. We hope that you found this informative and summarised below are many of the areas covered on this evening.

There is absolutely no doubt that experience shows us that success comes to those who work hard both in College and at home. It is vital that students complete additional learning outside of the classroom. You cannot assume that your child will do this for themselves and parents and carers must take an active role in insisting that this happens.

To enhance the learning that takes place in lessons, we offer the online packages below for students to access. Our analysis of last year’s results shows a **strong correlation between high usage and high progress** and in particular in the achievement of the converted Grade 9’s!



The Latimer Arts College has some of the highest GCSEPod usage in the country (top 15%) and has been awarded an “A” grade on their ratings system, the top grade.

This is a great resource and we understand how important it is for students to not only thoroughly understand the content of each GCSE course, but also to be able to revise effectively.

We have extended our subscriptions to enable all students to sign up for FREE at www.gcsepod.com using their College 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.



Tassomai makes learning and revising for GCSE Science effective and straightforward. Students can see the topics they need to work through, how they are getting on, and they can see what they should do next. Tassomai organises a daily routine, prioritising each topic and subject based on progress so far. Simply log in regularly and complete the assignments at the top of the list. The mission is simple - keep the pace of progress up to the speed prescribed - a task that requires a few minutes of attention each day.

Website: <https://www.tassomai.com/login/>



Students have access to the PiXL Maths app, which was incredibly popular and successful last year. This allows students to practice mathematical skills based on their areas of weakness. Students also have access to PiXL Geography, History and English Lit apps to help with their studies.

Preparation for GCSE exams

Revision Techniques: Students have been reminded about the need to revise **now** and not to try and cram it all in during the exam period. Please encourage your child to use a range of revision techniques and please get involved with them by testing and quizzing them.

Revision Guides: As a gift from the College, students were issued with a set of revision guides in each subject that they study (subject to availability). Their revision programme should have started by now.

If you do not take our word for it, take the word of our departing Year 11 who said if they had one piece of advice for our next cohort of GCSE students it would be **START REVISION EARLY!**

Revision Sessions: A whole host of lunchtime and after school revision sessions are taking place. Please encourage your son/daughter to attend these to assist them throughout the year. A sample of those taking place currently is below:

	Lunchtime	After school
Monday	Computer Science	English
Tuesday	Maths/French/English	DT drop in/ Music
Wednesday	Computer Science, History, Textiles	DT drop in
Thursday	Biology	
Friday	French/Geography	Chemistry

Year 11 Term 2

Future Pathways Meeting: Each student will have a meeting with a Senior Leader or an Achievement Leader to discuss their future plans, identify key action points that need to be addressed and to identify if they need any further individual support at this time.

Sixth Form Pathways Evening: We invite students and parents and carers to join us on Tuesday 6 November 2018 for the evening to explore options for post-16 study at The Latimer Arts College.

Revision Stationery Pack: As a gift from the College, we will issue students with a pack of 'goodies' to support them with their final preparation for mock examinations.

Mock Examination Season: The main mock exam season will run from Monday 26 November when students will take mock examinations in all subjects. Some practical exams will take place before this time. It is so important that they approach these examinations with the right attitude. It is an opportunity for students to have already prepared a substantial amount of revision notes and it will give them a benchmark for what they are secure in and what they need to focus on as a priority. Students will shortly receive individual timetables for these.

Year 11 Term 3 and 4

Mock Examination Results Day: This will be held on Friday 11 January 2019 and mirrors the actual results day that will take place in August 2019. Based on their mock examinations and current progress, students will be given their results in every subject. This will give an indication of how much distance they need to travel by the summer!

Year 11 Student Progress Review Evening (SPRE): It is vital for parents and carers to attend this evening on the 16 January 2019 as you will have an opportunity to speak to your child's subject teachers and discuss what their priority areas are based on their mock examinations.

Everything that You Want to Know About Life after Sixth Form...: An evening workshop will be offered for Year 11 and their parents and carers which will provide an overview of the route to securing a University place or a Higher Level Apprenticeship in the future. We are keen to support this process as early as possible to ensure a smooth post-16 transition and to help with the right decisions being made before a student starts on their Sixth Form journey.

Tutor Time Revision Workshops: Students will be supported with their revision programme during tutor time, when they will take part in revision planning workshops.

GCSE Mock Examination Revisit: We will run a further programme of mock examinations so that students can identify the final priority areas that they can focus on over the Easter break and in the run up to their GCSE examinations.

Easter Revision: A programme of revision sessions for individual subjects will take place during the Easter holidays in 2019 and students will be invited to attend relevant sessions.

Year 11 Terms 5 and 6

Please note that due to a later Easter break, GCSE exams will commence just 14 days after the start of Term 5! Students will need to be ready.

Alternative Timetable: Through a combination of revision sessions, masterclasses and home study this programme will support students in their final run up to exams.

GCSE Summer Examination Season: This runs from 13 May to 21 June 2019. Some practical examinations will have taken place before this and all BTEC qualifications will have been completed.

Year 11 Celebration Assembly and Prom: This will take place on Friday 21 June 2019.

Thursday 22 August 2019

The big one – GCSE Results Day and Sixth Form Registration!

We believe that this is a comprehensive programme of support offered by the College but we are always open to further requests for help and support so please do let us know if there is anything else that you feel we can provide.

Your child needs to do the hard work but if we can work in partnership to support them then there will be no limits to the success they can achieve.

Yours sincerely

Ms. S. Hearne

**Ms S Hearne
Principal**



**Mr S Harvey
Vice Principal**