

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The weeks have flown by and we are nearing the end of a very productive term already. So many enrichment activities have gone on, so much learning has taken place and we are proud to be celebrating student success in our House assemblies this week. I am particularly proud of the students who helped out at Open Evening, they were amazing ambassadors for the school.

Mrs K Murphy

## Parent Carer's Voice: Contributing to School Improvement

We are delighted to host the first meeting of the academic year of our Latimer Parents'/Carers' Forum. The meeting will take place on Tuesday 31 October from 6pm until 7pm in Music Room 2 (upstairs in The Masque).

The Parents'/Carers' Forum works closely with the Senior Leadership Team to support College improvement. This is not the same as a PTA, there is no fundraising work involved, only a willingness from parent and carer volunteers who give up their time to engage in dialogue about College improvement. It provides an opportunity for the College to hear the parents'/carers' voice: for them to give feedback, evaluate College systems from a parent and carer perspective and to make suggestions for further improvements.

All parents and carers are welcome to attend. For more information please read our [Parent Carer Terms of Reference](#) or contact [JPankhania@latimer.org.uk](mailto:JPankhania@latimer.org.uk).

- Thursday 5 October 2023

## Supporting our Young Carers at Latimer

We work closely with Northamptonshire Young Carers Service so that we can offer a fantastic provision for our students. A young carer is a student aged between 5-17 years who takes on responsibility for helping to look after someone (usually a family member) who has a long-term illness or disability. This could include a physical disability, learning disability, mental health problem or substance misuse issue.

If your child is a Young Carer, please do get in contact with Mrs H Angel: [hangel@latimer.org.uk](mailto:hangel@latimer.org.uk) to see how we can support.

**Unlocking Potential**  
**Inspiring Excellence**

We are officially rated a "Good" School

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[www.latimer.org.uk](http://www.latimer.org.uk)

# Safeguarding and Wellbeing

## Attendance Matters

The Department for Education's published attendance guidance, '[Working together to improve school attendance](#)', stresses the importance of us all working collaboratively to ensure that students attend school regularly. Good attendance has to be a high priority: when students are absent, they develop gaps in their learning, which may be difficult to catch up on.

With this in mind, we urge all parents and carers to support our [Student Attendance Policy](#), which is designed in the best interests of our students. If your child is having difficulties attending school, we urge you to work with us so that we can identify and remove any barriers.

Please contact our new Attendance Officer: Jess Lee [JLee@latimer.org.uk](mailto:JLee@latimer.org.uk) if you have any queries.

## Talking to your child about 'War and Conflict'

With the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas making news headlines around the world, the likelihood of the child or young person in your care reading or hearing about it is increased. Check out the [article](#) designed to help you support them around this sensitive topic!

## Tips for a Safe Halloween and Bonfire Night

Northamptonshire Police and the Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service have issued advice on how to ensure everyone experiences a safe Halloween and Bonfire Night.

**Candles and flames:** Candles can be popular for use in pumpkins and homes at Halloween but, unfortunately, candles also cause many fires and can be a hazard to families and homes. Opt for artificial candles instead.

**Fireworks:** Firstly, it sounds simple, but read the instructions on fireworks. Never throw fireworks or store them unsafely, such as in a pocket. It is illegal to buy fireworks under the age of 18. Fireworks cannot be set off between 11pm and 7am, except for Bonfire Night, when the cut off is midnight. You must not set off or throw fireworks in the street or other public places.

**Bonfires:** Before lighting a bonfire, always check the structure is sound and there are no small children or animals hiding inside. Position the bonfire away from sheds, fences and trees. Never use petrol or paraffin to light a fire.

For full details of the safety guidance, please click [here](#).



# Learning and Progress

## Latimer Loves Literacy

Here at Latimer we recognise the importance of our responsibility to ensure that our young people leave the College with good literacy skills to empower them to read their own world and write their own history!

**LATIMER LOVES READING!**

#WEHEARTTOREAD

Our College library, run by Mrs Brooking our qualified librarian, is open before and after school as well as during break and lunch times and we encourage all students to access the diverse range of both fiction and non-fiction texts. Also available are tablets with access to our online learning programmes as well as Satchel:One.

## Accelerated Reader: Years 7 and 8

Students in Years 7 and 8 have a fortnightly literacy lesson, during which they access Accelerated Reader, an online programme which allows staff to monitor students' understanding of the books they are reading. After completing a book, students are able to 'quiz' and answer a series of comprehension questions allowing them to track their progress as well as the number of words read. We usually crown our first 'millionaire reader' towards the end of term 2; could this be your child?

Students can access Accelerated Reader from home via the 'Quick Links' tab on the Latimer home page. Their login details are their IT number followed by their date of birth (ddmmyy).

## Bedrock Vocabulary: Years 7, 8 and 9

Students in Years 7-9 access Bedrock Learning, an online vocabulary intervention programme with a focus on exposing students to Tier 2 vocabulary.



Years 7 and 8 access this as part of their literacy lesson and it forms part of the extended learning schedule for all Key Stage 3 students, with the expectation that they achieve a minimum of 20 points per week.

Students can access Bedrock from home via the 'Quick Links' tab on the Latimer home page. Their login details are case sensitive.

Each half term, Bedrock run a competition with prizes including £10 Amazon vouchers and Google Chromebooks! All students who achieve the minimum expectation of 20 points per week across the half term will be automatically entered into the draw. Remember: you've got to be in it to win it!

## Reminder

Don't forget to download the **Satchel:one app** so that you can monitor your child/ren's behaviour for learning and extended learning (homework).

# Careers

## Pembroke College Cambridge Visit

On Friday 6 October twelve of our Year 11 students were invited to Pembroke College, Cambridge for a full day of activities exploring what higher education is and how Cambridge is different to other universities. Students were able to ask current University of Cambridge students about student life before having a tour of the college. In the afternoon, a fifth year medical student presented a thought-provoking seminar on medical ethics followed by a talk on how to improve university applications.



## Careers support for Parents/Carers

A reminder that the Parent Podcast series run by Amazing Apprenticeships can support parents and carers with careers advice and guidance.

The latest episode is targeted at Year 10 and Year 11 students discussing The Options Post 16: what are the choices facing our 16 year olds?

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/the-parent-perspective-podcast/>

The supporting table can be found here:

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resource/post-16-options-resource-for-the-parent-perspective-podcast-s3-e6/>

Another resource is the Career Mag which is published bi-annually. Sign up to have them emailed to you here:

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resource/post-16-options-resource-for-the-parent-perspective-podcast-s3-e6/>

## Year 8 Take Your Child to Work Day Thursday 16 November

A reminder to those parents/carers who have yet to complete the Form link in the letter emailed out. We hope that as many students as possible will be able to have an inspiring day work shadowing. If you are not able to arrange a placement for your child, please still complete the Form ticking that option.

### Raising Aspirations

We are looking to build links with our wider school community. If you or your business feel you can support the College with all things careers/work based, please complete this Form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/UmJdxDJnDe>

# Wider Curriculum

## Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSE)

As a College, we are committed to supporting our students to grow as people through a strong Personal Development Programme (PDP) centred around PSHE and RSE. Our programme has been specifically designed to meet the statutory requirements, in compliance with the PSHE Association framework, with age appropriate learning.

Our aim is to communicate to parents and carers the topics that each year group will study for any given term so that you can explore these with your child. Please see below the topics for Term 2:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Citizenship	PSHE	PSHE	Careers and Enterprise	PSHE
Celebrating Diversity and Equality	Health and Wellbeing	Staying Safe Online and Offline	Life Beyond School	Staying Safe Online and Offline
Celebrating Differences	Physical Health and Mental Wellbeing	Legal and Illegal Drugs	Rights and Responsibilities	Staying Safe

## Future Me

As part of our continued development of students' life skills, we are delighted to announce that we have signed up to the Skills Builder Partnership and will be working through the programme with all students in Years 7-11 as part of their Personal Development Programme. This will start next term with a focus on Creativity! More details can be found at: <https://www.skillsbuilder.org/>

## House Competition

It has been a fantastic start to the Interhouse Competition with all houses competing for the House Cup currently held by Tull House. We have had numerous House Competitions running this term, with a geography quiz and various sports events on the schedule.

At the end of Term 1 the leader board is as follows:

**1st – Tull House      2nd – Attenborough House      3rd – Kahlo House      4th – Gilbert House**

There is not a lot in it and all houses as they start term 2 are still in the running to win the Latimer House Cup!!



# Sixth Form News

It has been a very busy term in Sixth Form:

## **Year 13 1:1 Feedback Sessions**

Teaching staff have been busy holding one to one sessions with our Year 13 students, to feedback on current levels of progress in their subjects and supporting students as they edge nearer to their Mock Exams, which start w/c 20th November.

## **Oxbridge**

Two of our Sixth Form students sent off their Oxbridge Applications this week. We send our very best wishes to Liam who is applying to Cambridge for Aerospace Engineering and to John who is looking to secure a place at Oxford, studying Computer Science. Both students are now busy preparing and practising for the Oxbridge Interviews.

## **Guest Speaker from Coventry University**

To inspire our Year 12 students to start thinking actively about their future pathways, James Gowers, Regional Student Recruitment Specialist at Coventry University, delivered a presentation this week entitled "Why Higher Education?" which covered the benefits and opportunities available from taking the Higher Education route.

## **Personal Statement Support for Year 13**

James was also kept busy this week meeting with our Year 13 students on an individual basis, to read through their draft personal statements and offer feedback, guidance and support for refinement/improvements.

## **Year 12 1:1 Feedback Week**

During w/c 6 November teaching staff will be meeting with Year 12 students on a one to one basis, to feedback on their current levels of progress in their subjects and supporting them with "Closing the Gap" advice as they move forward in their Level 3 courses.

## **Sixth Form Open Evening - Wednesday 8 November**

Year 12 and 13 students are busy organising themselves as subject ambassadors ready for our Sixth Form Open Evening on Wednesday 8 November. Prospective students/parents/carers can find more details of the forthcoming open evening [here](#).

## **Year 12 Trip - Friday 10 November**

As part of our raising aspirations and future pathway planning, we are taking our Year 12 students to the UK University and Apprenticeship Search Fair, which is being held at the University of Northampton. This exciting and informative event will provide students with the opportunity to speak to a multitude of exhibiting universities and apprenticeship providers. These will include: Russell Group, red brick and modern institutions, as well as apprenticeship providers and local colleges. The fair will feature a wide range of vital seminars including: UCAS Personal Statement and Application Advice, Why take an Apprenticeship, Choosing a University Course, Higher and Degree Apprenticeships and Student Finance. It is ideal for Year 12s who are starting to make decisions about their post-18 education and career choices.

# Enrichment



## Athena Activities October Half-Term Camp

Places are limited and booked on a first come first served basis so sign up quickly to secure your place.

For older children/siblings, Athena Activities has an outstanding Young Leaders Programme. This is an experience all about learning leadership skills, working as a team, and taking responsibility. You can relax knowing that your teenager is safe and having fun. The age range for Young Leaders is Years 7-11.

If you have any further enquiries or require assistance, please email Athena Activities at [enquiries@athenaactivities.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@athenaactivities.co.uk), alternatively please call 07399 595022.

## Celebrating Sporting Success

The Under 16 (Year 10/11) Rugby 7s' team had a super afternoon of rugby at Kettering Rugby Club. They had three fantastic games resulting in one win, one draw and a loss in the County 7's tournament. Well done to all those involved.

Also, well done to the Under 16 Girls' football team progressing to the next round of the County cup with a super win over Lodge park in their opening game. A super game of football sees the girls continue their good performances from last season!



## Enrichment Activities Update

We are delighted that students attended over 2300 enrichment sessions in Term 1 across the wide variety of extra activities we offer over lunchtime and after school each week. Our students enjoyed activities ranging from Sports to Minecraft! There is no limit on how many sessions students can attend and we would encourage everyone to try a new activity in Term 2 – every session attended also contributes enrichment points for their House. For our Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh students, remember one of your tasks will be to learn a new skill so what better way to do this than trying one of the many extra-curricular activities here at College.

Activities on offer change each term, please check out the latest timetable on our website.

# Other News

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in PE Lessons - Term 2

During Term 2 boys in all years groups will have rugby as one of their sports so it is **strongly recommended** that they wear a mouth guard.

In Years 7 and 8, girls will have hockey as one of their sports so it is **strongly recommended** that a mouth guard and shin pads are worn.

In line with this guidance, should you wish your child to wear PPE, it is parental responsibility to provide it. Whilst we may have a small supply of spare PPE for any given sport, we are not in a position to guarantee its availability each lesson. We would recommend that parents and carers ensure that any PPE that is purchased meets the British Standards Institute (BSI) and European (EN) standards.

## Themed Menus for Forthcoming Annual Events

Our catering team have a number of themed menus coming up in Term 2 in recognition of forthcoming annual events. Please see details below.



**Also, exciting news!**

**Pretzels are now the break menu!**



# Dates for your diary

## Kettering-Wide Orange Non-Uniform Day - 10 November 2023

Latimer will be supporting the Kettering-wide Orange Non-Uniform Day on 10 November to raise funds for Team Sebastian. Further details will be published in Term 2. Latimer supports **#TeamSebastian**.

If parents and carers can also do something on this day within their workplace, by getting their businesses to do a casual-wear day or orange bake sale - this is also something that would make a huge difference! Contact Emily Fedorowycz, the Kettering Mayor, [emily.fedorowycz@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:emily.fedorowycz@northnorthants.gov.uk) or Emily Cox [emilyc@tjameselectrical.co.uk](mailto:emilyc@tjameselectrical.co.uk) to let them know if this is something you would be interested in doing.

## Year 13 Mock Exams

The Year 13 A-Level mocks are just around the corner, and students should already be starting to prepare with revision and practising past papers in their independent study periods. More detailed information about the mock exam season will be communicated out to parents in a separate email.

Friday 20 October	End of Term 1
Monday 30 October	Start of Term 2: College re-opens to students (This will be Week 2 on the timetable)
Tuesday 31 October	Parent Forum, 6pm
Tuesday 7 November	Year 11 National School and College Leavers Festival, NEC
Wednesday 8 November	Sixth Form Open Evening, 5.30pm
Friday 10 November	Orange Non-Uniform Day for #Team Sebastian Year 12 Future Event, UoN
Tuesday 14 November	Years 7/11/12/13 Wellbeing and Personal Development Feedback Evening, 4.30-7.45pm
Wednesday 15 November	Years 8/9/10 Wellbeing and Personal Development Feedback Evening, 4.30-7.45pm
Thursday 16 November	Year 8 Take Your Child to Work Day
Monday 20 November	Years 11 and 13 Mock Exam Season commences
Friday 1 December	Training Day - College closed to students
Thursday 14 December	Christmas Music Concert, 7pm
Friday 22 December	End of Term 2 - Early Closure at 12.20pm (cold food will be available from 12.20-12.40pm)

