



Follow us on Twitter @Latimercollege



## LATIMER LATEST NEWS – 7 SEPTEMBER 2018

Welcome to all of our new parents and carers and welcome back to our existing families.

Well, we are well and truly up and running for the new academic year and this packed newsletter reflects this!

Look out for our updates every fortnight. We send them out by email so please let us know if your email address has changed over the summer – a copy can also be found on the College website. Please do take the time to read them: we try to ensure that they include essential information in as succinct a way as we can so that we can keep you up to date with what you need to know.

Please do let us know of any success that your child achieves outside of College – we would love to include this!

We would welcome feedback on any improvements that you feel that we could make to the information that we provide.

We very much look forward to working in partnership with you all over the next academic year.

Yours sincerely

**Ms Siobhan Hearne**

Principal

### **Open Evening 2018: 'Shine Bright'**

This year's Open Evening is on Thursday 4 October from 6.00 to 8.30pm. We hope our students will volunteer to help out on the night. More details about arrangements will follow in the coming weeks.

Please note that on 4 October **the College will close to students at 12.15pm** so that final preparations can be made for the evening.

## **Learning and Progress**

### **Congratulations on a stunning set of results!**

In August, many staff and parents had the privilege and pleasure of sharing examination results days with our former Year 11 and 13 students. Seeing the sheer joy (and relief) on our students' faces reminds us of what we are all working in partnership to achieve!

Whilst, due to the reforms in the qualifications, at this stage we cannot give accurate 'numbers' in terms of the progress that our students have made, we can confidently say that our students have secured a strong and positive set of results – just how strong remains to be confirmed once national benchmarks are released. However, we do know that they were significantly improved on last year's results once again.

### ***'Continuous effort - not strength or intelligence - is the key to unlocking potential'***

Our examination students have undoubtedly shown that hard work brings success! For our new Year 11 and 13, the bar has just been raised and with your help, we will be doing all that we can to support our current students to fly over it next year. The question is: does your child have the determination and commitment to go for it?

### **Back to School and Ready to Learn!**

A reminder that our start of the year [College Information Pack for Parents and Carers](#) contains key 'need to know' information so that your child is well-prepared for the academic year ahead.

In addition to this, we publish a [Sixth Form Information Booklet](#) to support with those who are joining us for post-16 studies.

You can also view our [College Calendar](#) for details of forthcoming events.

### **Curriculum Information Evenings: A Student's Life at Latimer**

As the academic year commences, we will be hosting our Curriculum Information and Pathways Evenings:

Year 7 Curriculum Information Evening: Tuesday 18 September from 5.15pm

Year 12 Curriculum Information Evening: Wednesday 19 September from 6pm

Year 11 Ace Your Exams Evening: Tuesday 25 September from 6pm

Year 9 GCSE Curriculum Information Evening: Wednesday 26 September from 6pm

The relevant letter of invitation is included with this newsletter.

**Please note** that these evenings are aimed at parents and carers only and **due to limited space, we will not be able to accommodate students/siblings at these evenings.**

Our Sixth Form Open Evening for Year 11 will be held on Tuesday 6 November at 6pm.

A Year 8 Pathways Evening will follow on Tuesday 5 February 2019 to support students and their parents and carers with expressing their GCSE subject preferences.

If you would like any further curriculum information, please either visit our [website](#) or contact Mr Keith Matthews, Assistant Principal: [kmatthews@latimer.org.uk](mailto:kmatthews@latimer.org.uk)

### **Supporting You to Support Your Child: Show My Homework**

The commitment of our teaching staff and students means that we are one of the best performing schools using Show My Homework: we have been praised for our fantastic teacher use which remains at 100%, and student use which is almost 100%. Only a handful of schools match this level of engagement. Praise was also given for the variety of homework that we set, especially the use of differentiated homework and self-marking knowledge tests.

We are always seeking ways to improve and this academic year Show My Homework has been updated to include student timetables.

We look forward to introducing our new Year 7 and their parents and carers to this system. With this in mind, please note that Year 7 homework **will not be set** until week commencing **Monday 24 September**. All other year groups will have homework set from Monday 10 September.

### **High Expectations = High Achievement**

We are passionate that our students will achieve well and to do this, expectations have to be high. Where a student falls short of our expectations, a sanction may be issued.

Parents and carers will be informed if their child has been placed in a daily detention via a text message.

### **Safeguarding Update**

**Daily Lockdown:** A reminder that our newly installed electronic gates on Castle Way mean that the College site will be locked down from 8.25 am each day. Students must arrive to College by this time.

During the rest of the College day, anyone wishing to enter the site will need to contact main reception via an intercom system at the gate.

Only authorised vehicles will be permitted to enter to site at the start, end and during the College day. We ask those parents and carers who are eligible for special consideration car park passes to please contact our Visitors' Reception so that a revised permit can be issued.

We ask that parents and carers support us with easing congestion at the top of Castle Way by arranging to drop off and meet your child at an alternative location.

**Student Consent Form:** In order to comply with GDPR, the College has updated a number of documents. One of these documents is the Student Consent Form which covers the use of photographs and images for use in College and externally (such as the College website, prospectus and social media accounts).

Year 7 parents and carers will receive the forms at the KS3 Curriculum Evening on 18<sup>th</sup> September.

Year 8 parents and carers will receive them electronically via School Gateway during the w/c 10<sup>th</sup> September.

All other year groups will complete the forms during tutor time.

It is imperative that we receive these forms back so that we ensure we are complying with the wishes of both parents/carers and students. Should you have any queries regarding these forms, please do not hesitate to contact Vanessa Ainsworth, Business Manager: [vainsworth@latimer.org.uk](mailto:vainsworth@latimer.org.uk)

**Contacting You:** As we start the new academic year, it is vital that we have up to date information about each student. Your child will be issued with a 'Personal Details' sheet for you to check and sign during the week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> September. Year 7 and 9 parents and carers will complete this form at their respective Curriculum Evenings.

**Contacting Us:** We also need to remind you that should you need to make urgent contact with your child during the College day, this should be done by contacting Student Services. 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.

**Allergies:** We are aware that we have students who have severe nut allergies. Whilst we understand that many food products have some elements of nut based ingredients in them, we would be really grateful if you could avoid giving your child obvious nut based products in their packed lunch.

For those parents and carers who are providing packed lunches we ask for your support as we remind you that fizzy drinks and energy drinks are not permitted.

In order to ensure that we are aware of all food related allergies and intolerances or religious dietary requirements, Year 7 parents and carers will receive and complete the form at the KS3 Curriculum Evening on 18 September. For students in other year groups, if your child has developed any allergies in the last year, please request a copy of this form from Mrs J Fearnley, [jfearnley@latimer.org.uk](mailto:jfearnley@latimer.org.uk)

It is essential that you complete the 'Personal Details' and 'Special Diet/Allergy' documents and return them to Student Services by Friday 21 September. This ensures we have the most up to date information available about your child to ensure that we are able to monitor their well-being effectively. Could you please return these forms either electronically or by hard copy to Mrs J Fearnley in the Student Services office or by email to [jfearnley@latimer.org.uk](mailto:jfearnley@latimer.org.uk)

**Did you know that just registering your child for Free School Meals means that the College 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 things like music tuition, school trips or other out of school activities, or there could be help to allow your child to continue into the Sixth Form.

If you want your child to have a free, healthy meal at lunchtime that's great – they will get the free meal (saving you more than £400 a year). Even if you don't want the school meals, as long as you qualify and are registered, the College still gets the extra government funding.

No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming. Our cashless catering system ensures no other student knows who is receiving Free School Meals. Please click [Free School Meals](#) to access the online application form.

## Dates for your diary

Please take the time to view our [calendar](#) and ensure that you are aware of all of the key dates for the year.

Tuesday 11 September	Year 7/9/12 Photographs
Tuesday 18 September	KS3 Curriculum Evening for Year 7
Wednesday 19 September	Sixth Form Curriculum Evening for Year 12
Tuesday 25 September	Year 11 Ace Your Exams Evening
Wednesday 26 September	KS4 Curriculum Evening for Year 9
Thursday 4 October	Open Evening for prospective Year 7 students joining in September 2019 <b>College will close to students at 12.15pm</b>
Thursday 18 October	End of Term 1 for students
Friday 19 October	Training Day: College closed to students
Monday 29 October	College re-opens to students: start of Term 2