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LATIMER LATEST NEWS – 22 SEPTEMBER 2017

Open Evening 2017: 'Be Inspired'

This year's Open Evening is on Tuesday 3 October from 6.00 to 8.30pm. Thank you to those students who have volunteered to be Student Ambassadors on the evening. Please ensure that reply slips are returned by Monday 25th September.

Please note that on 3 October **the College will close to students at 12.15pm** so that final preparations can be made for the evening.

Learning and Progress

Over the coming weeks, schools will be coming to terms with the new GCSE gradings, following the results of the new English and Maths qualifications in the summer and preparing for these gradings in all subjects in August 2018.

Whilst we would like to congratulate all of our students for their summer successes, given that these were the first students to take the new examinations, we would like to give special mention to those students who gained a '9' grade over the summer – they will always have the proud knowledge of knowing that they were the first students to achieve this.

Well done to James Daniels, Jamie Drinkell, Justin Johnson, Thomas Larmour and Robbie Wilson.

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

We are now up and running with the new academic year: Year 7 have enjoyed their induction, students are familiar with their timetables and our focus is now solely on **learning** and **progress**.

The message from our start of year assembly was that students need to work hard and put in effort if they are to secure the highest individual success. Exam success is not just about the quality of teaching: it is just as much about student personal commitment. As staff, we are ready, willing and prepared to work hard: we ask for your support in ensuring that your child is too!

Curriculum Information Evenings: An insight into student learning at Latimer

This week saw the launch of our new Curriculum Information Evenings, which have been designed to support parents and carers of students who are starting Key Stage 4 to gain a better understanding of the programmes of study.

Those parents and carers who attended were overwhelmingly positive. We are grateful for your ideas as to how we can make this event even better next year. It was unfortunate that some parents and carers did not attend as evidence shows that students are likely to achieve better where there is a strong partnership with home.

A reminder that the Year 7 Evening is on Tuesday 26 September and the Year 12 Evening on Thursday 28 September. We urge all parents and carers to attend.

Helping You to Support Your Child: Resources to support Home Learning

Microsoft Office 365: To support all students learning at home, the College is offering Microsoft Office 365 to allow them to install this suite on their home PC. Please view the [guide to installing Microsoft Office 365](#) at home.

Accessing the Shared Area: To access College files at home and to share resources that teachers have created, students can use the following website <https://hap.latimer.org.uk/HAP/myfiles/>

They should know that MS Access is only available if downloading to a Windows PC. Access is not available for Macs.

Show My Homework (SMHW): This is a great tool for you and your child to be able monitor homework. Year 7 parent and carers will receive log-in details on the Year 7 Curriculum Evening. All other parent and carer log-in details remain unchanged. You can use the quick links on the College website to easily access the SMHW site.

Safeguarding Update

Students have been issued with their Personal Details' and 'Special Diet/Allergy' documents for you to check. It is essential that you complete and return these to your child's form tutor by Friday 22 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.

As an added incentive for this, once both documents are returned, your child will receive a credit onto their cashless catering account to the value of £1.10 which will allow them to have a free school lunch in Picassos!

Car Park Safety: Please help us to keep our students safe!

We make our final appeal to parents and carers not to enter the College car park in vehicles. After this week, we will be identifying those who are not able to support this plea to keep our children safe and we will be taking further action.

Please can we ask those parents and carers who are collecting students on foot to arrange to meet your child at the College gates.

Aiming High: Raising Aspirations and Expectations

Year 9: Taken to the highest degree!

In order to support our students to make a flying start to their GCSEs and to help them to understand just what they are aiming for, we took them to Northampton University, as part of our Raising Aspirations Programme.

The day was jam packed with workshops and lectures on a range of courses from Psychology to Business and Marketing. Students had a fascinating visit to Europe's only Tannery. They also had the opportunity to explore the University campus. This gave them a real insight in to University life, learning to budget, the need to be independent, the variety of societies to join and they even got to see models of the new campus. Liam Norton from the University said "the students were fantastic, a true credit to their school!"

Year 8 Save the Date: Wednesday 21 February 2018

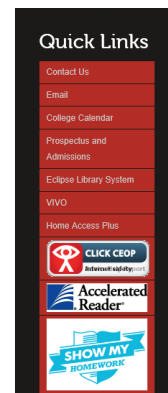
This will be 'Take your Child to Work Day'! Further details to follow!

If you would like to support our Raising Aspirations Programme by offering workshops or being a guest speaker, please get in touch with Ms Pankhania - JPankhania@latimer.org.uk. We are really grateful for all the businesses that have been involved so far in enhancing our students' knowledge of the world of work and different pathways available to them.

Uniform Reminders

Please support us in maintaining high expectations by ensuring that your child is correctly dressed for College. In particular, we must remind parents and carers that **trousers must be full length** and should **not be 'leggings.'** Some students are still wearing incorrect trousers. We are being tolerant in the short term to allow time for replacements to be purchased but we do need your support with this.

Sixth Form students also have a Dress Code. Whilst the majority of our Sixth Form students look smart and are fine role models for our younger students, not all are wearing 'office style' clothing. In particular, for those who choose to wear **skirts or dresses**, these must be at **least knee length**.



Enriching the Educational Experience and Celebrating Success

Macmillan Coffee Morning: Ready, set, bake!

King of fundraising, Jacob Aston (W7), who recently raised £1,567 for Lilford Ward at Kettering General Hospital by having his head shaved, has led the way for Wicksteed House as they embark on their charity fundraising event next week.

Preparing for the tastiest event of the year and raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support, students of Wicksteed House will be 'causing a stir' during lunch time on Thursday 28th September in the Masque Theatre. Please encourage your child to come along and get 'a slice of the action' by participating in activities such as our funny photobombing, guess the weight of the cake, and purchase ice cream floats, pick'n'mix and much more!

La journée européenne des langues! Der europäische Tag der Sprachen! El día europeo de las lenguas!

European Day of Languages on Tuesday 26 September will provide a great chance for our students to improve their cultural knowledge and learn a new language.

We will be joining thousands of people around the world by celebrating the diversity of languages spoken at Latimer. Students will be able to sign up for free taster lessons in a variety of languages offered by their peers, including Italian, Polish and Punjabi, among others! There will also be an opportunity to try some international cuisine and take part in language-themed competitions at our lunchtime event. We hope to see lots of students there!

Year 7 are off to a Flying Start!

Year 7 certainly developed their resilience during their Team Building Event last week, participating in activities in varying weather conditions! Congratulations to all the students: they all had smiles on their faces throughout the day and demonstrated our Latimer values of determination, excellence and equality – supporting one another to have fun and achieve. The facilitators commented that "Latimer students were, incredible, taking pride in their team and all having real get up and go!" What a brilliant start to Life at Latimer Year 7!

India Expedition 2017

In July, 25 current and former students went on the adventure of a lifetime, with a 3-week expedition to explore everything Southern India had to offer. During the visit they trekked through tea plantations, went searching for tigers on safari in Mudumalai National Park and spent some well-earned time at the beach relaxing at the end of the adventure.

The biggest part of the expedition was carrying out a community project. We had two teams, one spent their time in the villages, supporting the locals with long term development projects in the fields and playing games in the schools, whilst the other worked at the ARMDS project, which supports children who have had to drop out of school due to family circumstances and children with disabilities. They helped build a new dining hall and also played games with the children. All the students had opportunities to develop teamwork, leadership skills, resilience, problem-solving, innovation and self-management - skills they will carry with them throughout their lives.

At the end of the 3 weeks, students returned to school totally exhausted but unable to stop talking about the incredible experiences they had. Keep an eye out for details of our next expedition!

Sports News

We are starting this year as we ended last, with strong sporting success:

Year 8/9 Girls' Hockey team beat Bishop Stopford 2-0.

Year 10 Boys' Football team beat Bishop Stopford 2-1!

We cannot wait for the trophies to start rolling in!

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 26 September	KS3 Curriculum Evening, 6-8pm
Thursday 28 September	KS5 Curriculum Evening, 6-8pm
Tuesday 3 October	Open Evening for prospective Year 7 students joining in September 2018 College will close to students at 12.15pm
Wednesday 4 October	Year 11 Geography Field Trip
Tuesday 10 October	Parent Forum 6pm Music Room 1 (Masque Theatre)
Thursday 19 October	End of Term 1 for students
Friday 20 October	Training Day: College closed to students
Monday 30 October	College re-opens to students: start of Term 2