

LATIMER NEWS

2025-26

ISSUE 2:
OCTOBER 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

What a term! Packed full of learning and enrichment opportunities, we have seen our students thrive.

Most recently all Year 7 students enjoyed a team building day delivered by The Problem Solving Company. It was fantastic to see the core values in action.



It was a close result with **7G1** our winning team followed by **7A1** and **7G2** in 2nd and 3rd place. We have received some encouraging feedback from our student survey with the majority feeling that the event helped them get to know their form better and develop essential skills of TEAMWORK.

Well done Year 7!



Future Me Careers Networking Event – Friday 5th December

As a parent/carer to one of our young people, we are hoping you will be able to support our upcoming event. We are calling all local businesses and Latimer alumni – this is your chance to be part of something inspiring! Join us for a morning of meaningful connections, career insights, and collaborative opportunities.

Why attend?

- Mingle with local professionals from a wide range of industries
- Discover how careers can be embedded into the curriculum with Latimer staff
- Learn about the skills and qualifications shaping tomorrow's workforce
- See how you can support – and benefit from – the Future Me Careers programme

Schedule:

8:00 - 8:30am | Arrival and Breakfast

8:30 - 9:30am | Networking with Staff

9:30 - 10:00am | Future Me Careers Presentation

Express your interest today and be part of the conversation that's changing lives. Complete this [link](#) or contact Vicky Stanyon at careers@latimer.org.uk for more information.

High Caffeine Energy Drinks

The government will consult on banning the sale of high caffeine energy drinks to under-16s due to negative impacts on children's physical and mental health. Please click [here](#) for further information as to why the ban is being proposed.



Whilst on the topic of food and drink, this is a polite reminder to not include fizzy drinks and nuts as part of your child's snacks and packed lunches, as these items are not allowed on site and will be confiscated.

Parent Survey

We would like all of our parents and carers to complete a survey. It takes around 4-5 minutes to complete and gives us valuable feedback on a number of key areas of school life and will help shape our continuing improvement. The completion deadline is **Friday 7th November**. Please click [here](#) to complete the survey. Thank you in advance for your support.

Homework

We will not be setting homework over the school holidays, except for Year 11 and Year 13 revision, where preparation is essential for their exams. We want to ensure that our students, like us, have the opportunity to rest and re-charge over the half term period. If homework has already been set, we will apply reasonable allowances for completion in the first week after half term.

Finally, I wish you all a good half term break.

Mrs Murphy - Principal

SAFEGUARDING

Online Safety Talk

I would like to invite all parents and carers, but particularly our new Year 7 parents and carers, to a talk by Simon Aston, North Northants Online Safety Officer. This will be on **Wednesday 12th November in the Masque between 5.00-6.00 pm**. These talks are usually hard hitting and give parents and carers an insight into the dangers of the internet, social media, apps and how to keep children safe, but also provide a lot of reassurance. As we expect this to be a popular event booking is necessary, as places are limited to the Masque capacity. Please click [here](#) to book a place at this event.

Mr King - Safeguarding Lead / Assistant Principal

Student Illness and Mobile Phone Use

May we please remind parents and carers not to engage in conversations with students on their mobile phones during the school day. We are finding that students are coming to Student Services to sign out with various illnesses having already contacted home using their mobile phones. Student Services will not sign out any student without contacting home first due to safeguarding procedures and will always seek to support the student with their illness. Please give us the opportunity to do so and encourage your child to seek assistance from Student Services. If students are seen to be using their mobile phone in Student Services, it will be removed and logged as per the mobile phone procedures already in place around school.

SEND AND INCLUSION

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first few weeks at The Latimer Arts College – I have met so many wonderful students in those weeks and have been made so very welcome by staff and students alike.

In my role as SENDCo, I am working alongside the incredible SEND Team and hoping to make a difference in the lives of the young people who require additional support at school, and to support all staff to secure a positive, purposeful and successful Latimer learning journey.



This month is ADHD Awareness Month. During our staff briefing sessions, the SEND team have been raising awareness of how we can further support our neuro-diverse students in school.

If you are the parent or carer of a child with ADHD, or who is being assessed for ADHD, or if you wonder if the presenting behaviours are more than ‘normal’ teenage behaviour, then you don’t need me to tell you how exhaustingly challenging it can be.

Each neuro-diverse young person is different and so, as parents, carers and educators, it is hard to get it right all of the time. What is effective for one child, is a trigger for another. The key thing to be aware of here is solution-focused collaboration. Working together, as often as it takes, will ensure our young people feel listened to, seen and heard.

Looking for support, information and guidance is overwhelming in the internet age because there is so much out there! Here are some web links which really will help:

[ADHD Support For Your Child | Parents Advice Guide | YoungMinds](#)

[ADHD Parent Support Services | The ADHD Centre](#)

[Support Groups | The UK ADHD Partnership](#)

There are lots of books and videos which provide information and support. I am currently reading ‘Now It All Makes Sense’ by Alex Partridge and I listen to his podcast, ADHD Chatter. I’m not on commission but as I have found it helpful, I wanted to share it!

[ADHD Chatter Podcast - YouTube](#)

[Amazon.co.uk : now it all makes sense alex partridge](#)

Next term, I am launching a new lunchtime club to support our neuro-diverse students. Watch out for more information about the Mosaic Mind group.

Please email sendhelpdesk@latimer.org.uk if you have any questions.

Mrs Gatiss - SENDCo

SIXTH FORM NEWS



Year 13 Trip to Japan

Year 13 students are having a fun-packed visit to Japan, cramming in plenty of activities. See our social media for plenty of photos of all their experiences!



Year 12 University of Northampton Trip Thursday 6th November



All Year 12 students will be visiting the UK University and Apprenticeship Search Fair on Thursday 6th November at the University of Northampton. As well as having an opportunity to look round the Waterside Campus and check out the university and employer stands, students will be able to attend seminars such as 'Choosing a University Course', 'Higher and Degree Apprenticeships' and 'Student Finance'.

CAREERS



Year 11 Pembroke College, University of Cambridge Trip

Last month a group of Year 11 students enjoyed an informative day at Pembroke College, University of Cambridge. Students stated that they enjoyed the tour of the college and the taster lectures the most with all students saying that they would like to do further research into Oxbridge and other top end universities.



PSHE

Below shows what we have been studying in PSHE this term, and what will be studied over the coming terms.

What we have studied in PSHE lessons this term and what will be studied during terms 2-6						
	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Year 7	Managing Change	Politics and Parliament	Celebrating Differences	Puberty and Body Development	Friends, Respect and relationships	Staying safe online and offline
Year 8	Equality and Diversity	Physical Health and Mental wellbeing	Identity, Relationships and Sex Education		Dangerous Society online and offline	Law Crime and Society
Year 9	Combatting Extremism and Terrorism		Essential Life Skills	Body Confidence	Sex, Law and Consent	Contraception and STI's
Year 10	Exploring British Values		Violence, Crimes and seeking Safety	Risk, relationships and Sex education		Exploring World issues
Year 11	Adult Health and Looking after yourself		Staying Safe	Fulfilling your potential	Sexual Health	EXAMS

SPORTS NEWS



Congratulations to Ruby Johns in Year 8, she has been selected for the U13 County Hockey squad. An awesome achievement, well done!

Elena Stacey and Evie Titcombe in Year 8 have been selected to Northamptonshire in the U13 County Netball squad. Well done ladies!



Four of our young referees were in action recently as Latimer hosted the Primary Schools Year 5/6 Girls' Football Tournament.

Abi Burrage, Freya Morris, Adam White and Bradley Jones did a fantastic job in ensuring all games were officiated correctly to maximise the enjoyment for the girls playing. Well done to the student officials!



HOUSE NEWS

Attenborough



This term has seen students in Attenborough flying out the traps in terms of earning positive points in lessons, having amassed over 20,000 points at the time of writing this. It has been just reward for the hard work students have been putting in to their work in lessons, at home and with their participation in the clubs and activities on offer around the school. The collaboration and teamwork of students within the house has been brilliant to see, supporting each other around the school to be the very best they can be.

We began the term by thinking about what small changes each of us within Attenborough could make to try and improve, looking for those small 1% improvements that will build over time and help us all to succeed. Having set the students this target it has been brilliant to see improvements across the term, in areas such as attendance, behaviour and participation in clubs and competitions. Taking part in these activities and working as a team is at the heart of Attenborough's success over the years so it has been fantastic to see that continue into the new academic year.

A special mention must go to those students who have so far represented the house in the first of the house competitions. A dominant display in the Destination X Geography quiz saw both Attenborough teams top the scoring, with the spaghetti tower team taking a very respectable (and somewhat messy!) second place. A great start to the year in terms of competitions and one we are looking to keep going as the year continues.

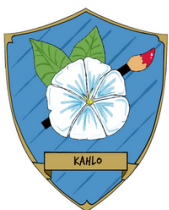
Gilbert



Whilst the weather may have cooled, the spirit of Gilbert has certainly heated up this first term back! Gilbertarians have thrown themselves into their studies and the wider school community with great energy. We kicked things off by launching the Purple Wave — a commitment to after-school clubs and competitions. It was fantastic to see an early victory in Mr Tamkin's cross-house Spaghetti Towers, followed by a consecutive win in the basketball competition. To top it all off, 7G1 and 7G2 made the house immensely proud — 7G1 won the Year 7 Team Building Day, and 7G2 achieved an impressive third place!

We are quickly appointing our house leaders and student council representatives — a challenge of who can memorise the house poem has been sent out and we are looking now to get back to first place for positive points.

Kahlo



It has been an incredible start to the year for Kahlo House, and we are so proud of the effort, positivity and team spirit shown by all our students. Living up to our namesake, Frida Kahlo, our students continue to demonstrate creativity, resilience and pride in everything they do. It has also been fantastic to hear about all of the amazing things our students are doing in their community outside of school, please keep these messages coming into school so we can celebrate them!

Kahlo students have shown exceptional behaviour across lessons and around the school, setting the standard for others to follow. We currently hold some of the highest positive points totals in the school, a clear reflection of the respect, determination and kindness our students display every day. Our attendance has also remained consistently strong, maintaining the excellent record we achieved last year. This commitment to being present, prepared and ready to learn is what helps Kahlo students continue to achieve great things both inside and outside the classroom.

HOUSE NEWS

Kahlo House continued...

We have also seen fantastic participation in our house competitions so far this year, from our recent basketball competition to creative challenges with spaghetti and marshmallows, Kahlo students have thrown themselves into every activity with energy and enthusiasm. The teamwork and house spirit on display have been second to none, and we are already building strong momentum towards another successful year.

A huge thank you to all members of Kahlo House for your continued effort, positivity and pride. Let's keep showing the rest of the school what it means to be the best house in the school.

Tull

Exciting News from Team Tull!



We are thrilled to share some wonderful news - Mrs Al-Noah-Ponder has welcomed a beautiful baby boy into the world! Both mum and baby are doing brilliantly, and we couldn't be happier for her and her family. While Mrs Al-Noah-Ponder is away on maternity leave, I (Miss Turnbull) will be stepping in to lead Tull for the rest of the year. I'm really excited about this opportunity and can't wait to help get Team Tull back on track for a fantastic year ahead. Let's bring home some wins!

As we head into the new term, we'll be hitting the ground running with our Charity Launch. After careful consideration, Tull students have chosen to support Kettering Foodbank; a wonderful cause that makes a real difference in our local community.

During the first week back, I'll be delivering an assembly to share more details about how each form can get involved. Together, we'll be focusing on building our character, developing skills in: teamwork, empathy, creativity and problem-solving, leadership and community spirit

Let's make this term one to remember full of teamwork, generosity, and Tull pride!

Club Spotlight

It has been two weeks since over 50 of our students from Years 8-13 took to the stage in our Musical Theatre Showcase. Presenting an evening of songs from a vast array of shows, from Rocketman to Grease and Legally Blonde to Hairspray. As well as Disney favourites, such as Aladdin, Tangled, The Little Mermaid and Frozen.

We are so proud of the talent displayed and the dedication of all students involved, both on stage and backstage. Thank you to all parents and carers for your support and coming to see such a wonderful display of talent.

Interested in Musical Theatre?

Now that the Musical Theatre Showcase is over, we are already looking forward to the next show.

Our rehearsal schedule for Term 2 is:

Tuesday After School (until 4:15pm) – Whole Cast, All Years

Wednesday Lunch – Juniors, Years 7 & 8

Thursday Lunch – Seniors, Years 9+

OTHER NEWS

#WEHEARTTOREAD

It's true! We love to read here at Latimer and a love for reading is something we aim to promote across the curriculum. Each week, our Year 7 and 8 cohorts are expected to achieve 300 Sparx Reader Points (SRP), which equates to approximately 30 minutes of careful, concise reading. The benefits of reading are far-reaching, and it is proven that reading has an overwhelming impact not just on academic success but also on factors including life expectancy and reducing stress levels. Tablets are available to students in the Library before school and at break and lunchtime as well as in En7 on a Wednesday lunchtime, to support completion.

Black History Month 2025 – Standing Firm in Power and Pride

This year, as part of **Black History Month 2025**, we have been reflecting on the theme “**Standing Firm in Power and Pride**”. Through assemblies and form time activities, students have explored the powerful question:

“What does it mean to fight for justice, not revenge?”

In assembly, students in Years 7–11 learned about the inspirational story of **Doreen Lawrence**, whose campaign for justice following the tragic murder of her son Stephen Lawrence led to landmark changes in British law and policing. Her strength, dignity and determination continue to serve as a powerful example of how one person's courage can drive change and create a fairer world for all.

Alongside this, our Black History Month of Music has filled the corridors with rhythm and inspiration! Each form group has been celebrating the achievements of Black artists across different decades, from the soulful sounds of the 1960s to the vibrant hits of today. Students have been learning about the cultural impact of these musicians while enjoying the chance to sing, dance and discuss how music has shaped movements for equality and expression.

Black History Month is a time not only to celebrate the immense contributions of Black individuals to our shared history, but also to reflect on the ongoing importance of justice, equality and respect. We are proud of how thoughtfully our students have engaged with these themes and look forward to seeing the conversations they continue to spark beyond the classroom.



OTHER NEWS

Catering News

The catering team will be holding several special menu days next term - details below:



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 24 October
Monday 3 November

Wednesday 5 November
Thursday 6 November
Monday 10 November

Tuesday 11 November
Wednesday 12 November
Friday 14 November
Monday 17 November
Friday 21 November
Tuesday 25 November
Tuesday 2 December
Wednesday 3 December
Thursday 4 December

Friday 5 December

Thursday 11 December
Friday 12 December

Tuesday 16 December

Wednesday 17 December
Friday 19 December

Term Ends
Start of Term 2: School re-opens to students
(This will be Week 1 on the timetable)
Sixth Form Open Evening, 6.00-8.00 pm
Year 12 University of Northampton Trip
National Anti-Bullying Week (until Friday 14 Nov)
Year 9 Dance Workshop (am)
Year 10 Trip to National School and College Leavers Festival
Parent Online Safety Talk, 5.00 pm
Children in Need (non-uniform day)
Year 11 and 13 Mock Exams commence (until Friday 28 Nov)
Year 8 Take Your Child to Work Day
Year 11 GCSE Drama Performance, 7.00 pm
Year 7 Zoo Trip
Year 10 SPRE, 4.30-7.45 pm
Years 9-13 Drama Trip
Year 10 Geography Field Trip
Training Day: School closed to students
Careers Networking Session
Christmas Music Concert, 7.00 pm
Years 7-11 Flu Vaccinations
Community Rotary Christmas Event
Year 8 Language Leaders - Primary School Event
Year 7 Rewards Event - Silent Disco, 3.30-5.00 pm
Year 8 Rewards Event - Movie Night, 3.30-5.00 pm
Sixth Form Rewards Trip (pm)
Term Ends (early closure 12.20 pm)



More dates are available on our website