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LATIMER LATEST NEWS – 27 APRIL 2018

## GCSE Countdown to Exams: 10 school days!

### Learning and Progress

#### GCSE and A Level Countdown: Ready, Set, Go!

After great attendance at our Easter Revision sessions, we really are now on the final countdown for our exam students and so a reminder of what we also provide to support with exam preparation:

- **Science Support:** Every Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes - sessions focussed on different topics are running and are open to all.

To further support your child's preparation for their Science GCSE, revision resources can be accessed on the shared area: (**Home access+ > Shared documents > Science > GCSE Zig Zag resources 2018**). The Zig Zag learning grids provide questions which cover the Biology and Physics specifications for both Trilogy Science and the separate Sciences. Students should work through the topics that they find most difficult and then review them using the mark schemes. Unfortunately, Chemistry resources have not yet been published.

Another very valuable revision resource is the PiXL folder which contains the Knowlt PowerPoints: they can be also be accessed (**Home access+ > Shared documents > Science > PiXL PowerPoints 2018**). These cover the key concepts that the students need to know and have mini-tests to check understanding.

- **'Maths Monday':** A reminder to parents and carers to be aware that every Tuesday Year 11 students are issued with a practice paper, uploaded to Show My Homework. Then, to support them with any areas that they identify as a gap, they are invited to attend **'Maths Monday'**, at lunchtime the following week, in the Maths Learning Centre. Please encourage your child to both complete the papers and attend the Monday session.

**Alternative Timetable:** The Year 11 Alternative Timetable will be issued on Wednesday 2 May to students and signposted to parents and carers. Students will have a personalised timetable of sessions taking place.

The timetable is compulsory and students are expected to attend all of their allocated masterclass sessions.

- We remind all parents and carers once again about the resources that students have at their disposal: their revision guides, GCSEPod, Tassomai Science and PiXL Apps for Maths, English, History and Geography. We would particularly ask you to encourage your child to revisit the Maths app which has been relaunched recently and now has very targeted questions based on tiers of entry.

Many teachers will have also recommended websites and YouTube channels that will be of use.



**Exam Protocols:** Please help us to help your child be successful throughout this exam season by:

- Making sure they arrive for the right exams at the right time. Text reminders about exams will be sent to parents/carers the day before. Briefing sessions will run for GCSE exams 30 minutes before the start times and we would expect all students to attend.
- Making sure they are dressed in full College uniform/according to the dress code.
- Making sure they have all the correct equipment. **A plea to please make sure that your child has a calculator for the relevant exams!**

You will appreciate that examinations have to be conducted according to the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) regulations. All students will be issued with a copy of these and they are posted on our website under [Exam Information](#).

The JCQ has stated that it has seen an increase in the number of students being issued with a penalty for breaching the rules in relation to mobile phones, albeit that students might not have intended to use their phone during the exam.

**With that in mind, please remember that students are not allowed any potential technological or web enabled devices, such as mobile phones or smart watches (including Fitbits) in any examination venues.** To avoid students being placed in a position where they may breach protocol, we request that students leave these devices at home on exam days. If they need to bring them in to College, they must be turned off/removed from pockets/wrists before the exam and placed in their bag.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be happy to help in any way that we can: [mail@latimer.org.uk](mailto:mail@latimer.org.uk)

### **Next Steps: Year 11 into 12 Induction:**

A reminder that the compulsory Year 12 induction week will commence on Monday 2 July and students will receive a personalised timetable for this. Students will take part in a range of activities that will be an invaluable opportunity to help prepare them for life in the Sixth Form.

### **Year 10: Now it's your time to shine!**

With Year 11 on the cusp of completing their exams and moving on, it is time for Year 10 to step up to the plate! We have already supported our students with revision and study techniques, but everything now needs to step up a gear. Over the next few weeks we will launch our '**Ace Your Exams**' programme, which will include key dates, events and exam tips. More to come in the next newsletter...

### **PiXL Timestables App Competition Continues!**

You may remember from our last newsletter that we have launched a new app called PiXL Timestables. By engaging with this app, students will become much more confident in their number work, meaning the time and effort will be well spent! Please encourage your child to download the app onto phones and tablets through the App Store and to routinely complete questions:

[timestable.pixl.org.uk](http://timestable.pixl.org.uk)



#### **Login info:**

School ID = LM4115  
UserID = IT code (e.g. IT1234)  
Password = IT code (e.g. IT1234)

### **Homework: leading the way!**

'Show My Homework' has recently contacted the College to congratulate us on our exceptional student and teacher engagement with their homework app, so much so that they want to share our expertise with other schools. This year all of our teachers and students have regularly logged on to set and complete homework tasks. Obviously we are delighted with this, but we want to go further and improve the quality of homework so that it is world class.



### **21 Century Learning in 21 Century Facilities!**

We are delighted to be able to give you an update on the two new building projects that are underway as there has been a great deal of work going on behind the scenes. The Sports Hall and MUGA project has received full planning permission and we are currently entering the detailed design stage with work likely to start in July or August 2018.

The Science Learning Centre has been going through feasibility studies, tender processes and various government approvals. The contractor will be awarded in the next week and work is anticipated to start in January or February 2019.

We have some very exciting times ahead!

**Parent/Carer Forum:** The next Latimer Parent/Carer Forum meeting will take place on **Thursday 10 May** at **6.00pm** in the **Masque**. We do apologise once again that we have had two sets of unforeseen circumstances this year which have led to the meetings being cancelled – last term was the snow!

The forum gives parents and carers a voice to support with ongoing College improvements by sharing ideas and feeding back to the College on ways it can improve further.

The forum is an excellent way to build a positive partnership between parents and carers and the College. For more information please contact Ms Pankhania: [jpankhanian@latimer.org.uk](mailto:jpankhanian@latimer.org.uk)

## **Safeguarding**

### **GDPR and Education**

You may well have heard about the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) that are coming into force at the end of May. Schools are also governed by this legislation and like many other organisations, the College has been working on ensuring that we are compliant with this in all areas.

Much of the information we hold about students is required by law and ensures that we are able to keep our students safe whilst monitoring their educational progress. However, we will be issuing some new documentation to both students and parents/carers towards the end of Term 5. These documents will include student privacy notices and consent forms. Additionally, there will be some updated policies that will be available on our website. More details will follow.

### **Digital Parenting**

We have mentioned the Parent Zone website previously – it has a wealth of expert tips and information for parents/carers on a huge range of issues caused, or amplified, by the digital world! It is certainly worth a visit to keep up to date with current digital technologies and issues affecting young people on social media. <https://parentzone.org.uk/parents>

## **Aiming High: Raising Aspirations and Expectations**

As part of our Raising Aspirations Programme we are delighted to be welcoming local Historian Helen Norman on Monday 30 April to talk to Sixth Form students studying English Literature about the role local women played on the Home Front in World War 1, complementing their study of the poetry anthology 'Scars Upon My Heart'.

### **Preparing our students for the World of Work**

A fantastic collection of exhibitors from a wide range of businesses came to support us in putting on a spectacular Careers Fair at Wicksteed Park – we are so grateful to all those that came along giving up time from their roles to interact and educate our students. Students had the opportunity to have a hands-on experience of the world of work and really gain an insight into the variety of roles within each company and prospective job sectors.

There was so much positive feedback from exhibitors about how well students conducted themselves and how well the event was organised - they were all delighted to be part of it!

On the back of this, just a reminder that the deadline of the 4 May is fast approaching for all paperwork to be submitted for **Year 12 Work Experience**. Students can seek support from Kate Allen, our independent careers advisor, to provide guidance and advice in booking a work experience placement: [kallen@latimer.org.uk](mailto:kallen@latimer.org.uk)

Our [Careers](#) website page has fantastic resources for helping you support your child with career and future choices – try out the jobs comparison widget and follow links to other useful sites. Our independent Careers Adviser is another superb resource that you can access – Kate Allen attends our Student Progress Evenings (SPREs) and can be contacted on [kallen@latimer.org.uk](mailto:kallen@latimer.org.uk) if you wish to make an appointment for you or your child or would just like some information on careers.

We are committed to making sure our **Raising Aspirations Programme** continues to raise the bar even further - if you would like to be a guest speaker or take part in our events please contact [jpankhanian@latimer.org.uk](mailto:jpankhanian@latimer.org.uk)

## Enriching the Educational Experience and Celebrating Success

### Year 11 Prom Invitation

Attending the Prom is a wonderful experience, memories of which will stay with students throughout their lives. Each year, staff look forward to sharing this once in a lifetime event with students.

The School Gateway is now open to all parents who wish to purchase a Prom ticket, Year Book and a Personalised Hoody for their child. Letters have been emailed home and the deadline for payments and return slips is **Friday 11 May 2018**. If you have not received a letter please contact Mrs Shore: [lshore@latimer.org.uk](mailto:lshore@latimer.org.uk)

It is at this point that we do need to remind parents/carers that attendance at the Prom is by invitation only. Final decisions about those who will receive an invitation will be made at the end of Term 5. We do look forward to extending an invitation to all students in the year group who have met our expectations in relation to attendance, behaviour and a positive attitude to learning.

### UKMT Team Mathematics Challenge

The UKMT runs this competition annually, which combines mathematical, communication and teamwork skills and offers students another way to express and develop their enjoyment of Mathematics. We are delighted that our team, consisting of Lorenzo Seminerio, Charlie Crabtree, Wiktoria Gawlak and Zara Diamond performed really well this year by coming 10<sup>th</sup> overall – a superb achievement!

### Do you have an unloved or unwanted musical instrument at home?

If you are willing to donate this to us, we will gladly give it a new lease of life! Our Music students would love the opportunity to learn to play their first (or sixth) orchestral instrument: string, woodwind, or brass – all donations welcome!

### Help for Heroes Charity Event

Latimer House is excited to announce the return of its annual **Help for Heroes Charity Event**, on **Thursday 10 May** in the Masque. It is set to be an exciting lunchtime, with an array of enticing treats to tickle the taste buds; cakes, cookies, sweets and ice-cream floats are just some of the goodies students can get their hands on! Students are already working hard to raise money before the event, with individual sponsored walks, swims and runs in the pipeline - sponsorship forms at the ready! Please encourage your child to come along and support this fantastic event; the work of our British Armed Forces is unparalleled and 'Help for Heroes' really does make a difference.

### Come and Join our Team: Check out our Current Vacancies

Are you, or someone you know, interested in working at Latimer? We are currently seeking people to join our Lunchtime Supervisor Team at the College so if you, or someone you know, is seeking a school based job, term time only, please visit our website - details regarding the role can be found on the [vacancies](#) page.

### 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.

Monday 7 May	Bank Holiday: College closed
Thursday 10 May	Parent Forum 6pm Music Room 2 (Masque Theatre)
Monday 14 May	Exam Season starts (until Friday 22 June)
Wednesday 16 May	Induction Evening 5.30-8.30pm for new Year 7 students joining in September 2018 (Invitations will be issued for specific evening and time beforehand)
Thursday 17 May	Induction Evening 5.30-8.30pm for new Year 7 students joining in September 2018 (Invitations will be issued for specific evening and time beforehand)
Friday 25 May	End of Term 5
Monday 4 June	College re-opens: Term 6
Monday 18 June	Year 10 World of Work Week
Wednesday 20 June	Year 12 Mock Exams commence (until Friday 29 June)
Monday 25 June	Year 10 Exams commence (until Friday 29 June) Year 12 Geography Field Trip (until Thursday 28 June)
Thursday 28 June	Summer Music Concert, 7.30pm (Masque Theatre)
Friday 29 June	Year 11 Celebration Assembly and Prom