

LATIMER NEWS 2024-25

ISSUE 7:
APRIL 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents / Carers

The students are enjoying the Spring sunshine and the chance to be on the field at lunchtime. We hope the good weather will continue next week and wish you all a happy Easter.

To ensure safety for everyone at the beginning and end of the school day, we ask that those students who bring their bikes to take care when entering and leaving school exits. Students should either dismount or ride slowly and carefully through school gates to avoid collision with pedestrians, vehicles and other bikes. Some students are travelling far too fast and are at risk of injuring themselves and/or others. Students should also be wearing helmets.

Punctuality, Uniform and Equipment Update

I am pleased to report an improvement in students' punctuality to school and lessons. This enables us to maintain disruption-free learning for all.

Uniform compliance has also improved and assembly line ups show us just how smart the students look. A reminder that jewellery should not be worn, except for stud earrings.

There are still some students who are not bringing the correct equipment to school. Please contact Mrs Clark for support - pclark@latimer.org.uk.

Satchel:one

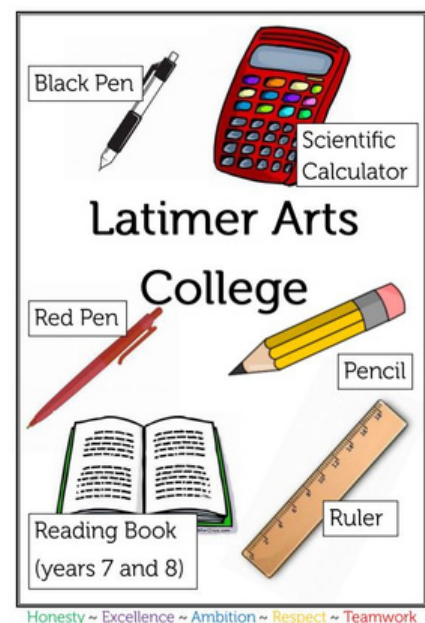
satchel:one

Not all parents and carers are accessing the Satchel:one app. This app is a crucial communication tool between the school and home, and in addition to extend learning tasks, you are able to view live updates on your child's behaviour, positive and negative, and information regarding detentions. You can also see your child's attendance on the app.

By using the app, you can stay informed about your child's progress and conduct in school, enabling you to engage in meaningful conversations with your child about their academic journey and attitude to learning. Furthermore, this app is not only for parents and carers; students should also download it to take responsibility for their behaviour and track their own progress.

For help to download or use the app, please contact Mrs Love, Student Services Manager - jlove@latimer.org.uk.

Mrs K Murphy
Principal



SAFEGUARDING

Tackling non diverse and non inclusive language

I hope you have all received my direct email about understanding Emojis. I think this is important and feeds into some of our work to combat the area around attitudes shown by some males towards females in particular.

I am liaising with the PSHE Lead to build in some discussions around misogyny into each year group.

Our goal is to develop Latimer to be even more inclusive and to celebrate diversity, building on the work we did as a school to secure our Anti-Bullying Award in 2023, to continue to develop a better understanding of a diverse culture.

Welcoming Andre Agissol into school to speak to our Year 8 students, as part of the basketball event, was a first step in exposing our students to inspirational speakers and a different perspective.

I would invite you to familiarise yourself with tools such as this one - [What is misogyny? Guidance for parents and carers | Internet Matters](#).

The most important part of our role at school is to debate and discuss. To raise awareness. To challenge pre-conceptions. We will continue to do this through assemblies and PSHE lessons.

I have also introduced a new category on Satchel:one aimed at capturing offensive language. This is where something isn't aimed specifically at someone, but used casually and with the potential to cause offence.

Students have been reminded that such language is not in line with our core values.

Physical Altercations

I would like to assure parents and carers that the school continues to sanction any students who fight with each other at school with a suspension. Physical altercations that make students feel unsafe are not acceptable. This includes play fighting.

Mr S King - Safeguarding Lead

CELEBRATING INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

EID MUBARAK! Last week a group of students from Years 7-11 worked together to make coconut and lemon Ladoos to take home ready for the end of Ramadan.



LEARNING AND PROGRESS

PSHE Focus

This term PSHE lessons have been going full throttle in every year group on a variety of topics whilst developing the core values of Honesty, Excellence, Ambition, Respect and Teamwork.

Year 7 have been learning about how their bodies and minds will change as they go through puberty and this topic which will change to Politics and Parliament after Easter. Every student has been researching and completing tasks on physical changes to their bodies, emotional changes caused by their increased hormones, intellectual changes to their brains and the development changes that occur, as well as what changes happen socially to them. Students have been wowed and had their minds blown on what will happen and are now better prepared for what lies ahead.

Year 8 content has been focused on developing a community on an island with a group of strangers. They have had to vote for a leader, create a religion, develop rules and regulations for their inhabitants as well as being creative while giving their island a name. It has shown to be an innovative way to develop democracy skills and work as a team. Next term they will move onto the topic Identity, Sex and Relationships, which will definitely prove thought provoking and interesting.

Year 9 have been working on developing and maintaining body confidence. They have looked at **Self-Esteem** and **Bullying** in its various forms and also looking at **Cancer Prevention** linked to a healthy lifestyle. Students have built upon the knowledge that they had from previous years' study and added some vital skills in lessons. Next term they are working on the topic Sex, The Law and Consent which I am sure will involve some hard thinking and possible controversial opinions raised.

Year 10 have been working on Mental Health and Well-Being. They have covered controversial topics such as Child Sexual Abuse, Mental Health Illnesses, Self Harm and the thoughts and feelings associated with Suicide. All topics are taught as part of the statutory guidance required by the government and with strict rules and provisions to safeguard students in the classroom. Their next topic is going to be Risk, Relationships and Sex Education.

Year 11 have been developing their knowledge on Finance and the future along with preparation for their external exams. They have covered topics such as transitioning from school to work, their first pay day, buying on credit as well as university expectations and planning for their pension. Some groups also created their revision timetable ready for their exams to start to make sure that they are fully prepared.

In the next term all year groups will be learning about Misogyny and Equality in Society, addressing key issues raised by recent events and media coverage.

HOUSE NEWS

Attenborough



This term in Attenborough we have been focussing on success, what this means to each of us as an individual and what we would like to achieve in order to feel successful. Students have been asked to reflect on what it is they would like to achieve going forward and how they can work towards achieving that. As a house we have seen continued success as Attenborough students demonstrate outstanding dedication, teamwork and community spirit, again leading the way for positive house points in the run up to Easter.

Meanwhile the weekly house competitions see a close fought tussle between Attenborough and Kahlo house this term but having reigned supreme in Terms 2 and 3, the students are determined to make sure they finish the term on top spot.

Gilbert

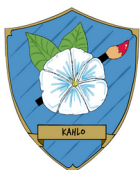


It was Cicero who once asserted that "Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all the others." With gratitude being one of the central pillars of our house, we take this opportunity to extend sincere thanks to our house form tutors and support staff—those whose tireless dedication and work on the ground ensure that we strive towards our full potential, uphold our values, and strengthen our identity.

As we introduce our 'Top of the Pyramid' postcard—awarded weekly to two students per form, we will also embed our 'Attitude of Gratitude' postcards not as an isolated occasion but as a fixed tradition, a standing opportunity to thank those who help us. Alongside this, we welcome a new challenge: a competition to see who can learn from memory our house poem, Henley's Invictus—a test of determination, resilience, and pride, qualities that define us as a house.

We are unapologetically Gilbert, rowing together towards improvement, as this term has seen greater attendance at quizzes, a stronger position at the forefront of positive points, a decline in behaviour points, and greater completion of homework.

Kahlo



As we close out another term, Kahlo House is still pushing ahead to the finish line. We have had a termly focus on positive points, which has seen our Kahlo forms become increasingly competitive with the other houses. Our Kahlo House students are a modest bunch, and they have been encouraged all term to speak up about their successes, achievements and accolades to get the recognition they deserve both in lessons and out of school. A special shout out should go to Carys Toms, who has given an assembly this term to our Year 8 students, sharing her experiences in the Northamptonshire Emergency Services Cadets. It was fantastic to see her passion for her cadet force and to hear about her aspirations to work in medicine, it may even have inspired some of our Year 8 students, in the middle of choosing their options, to consider the emergency services as a future career option.

If any of our Kahlo students have done or do something that they want to share, and deserve recognition for, please come and share your stories with Mr Walmsley!

HOUSE NEWS

Tull



Tull have had another great term. After coming out on top at the end of Term 3, students have kept that momentum going and worked well in our house competitions, winning some of the sports competitions and notably the art house competition this term. We hope to keep this momentum going into next term and continue our push to be champions once more.

Race to 500

Each full term we award vouchers to students who have reached Bronze, Silver or Gold in the Race to 500 positive points so all students have a chance to win a prize. The students receiving vouchers this Easter are: Serena Onung, Freya Morris, Toby Brown and Junior Weller – Congratulations!

Club Spotlight

Well done to everyone who took part in the Performing Arts Showcase on Wednesday 19th March. Over sixty students took to the stage from our Senior and Junior Musical Theatre Companies, as well as our Shakespeare/Theatre Company. There has never been a more exciting time to join a Performing Arts club. If you are interested, please speak to one of your Performing Arts teachers for more information.

House Competitions

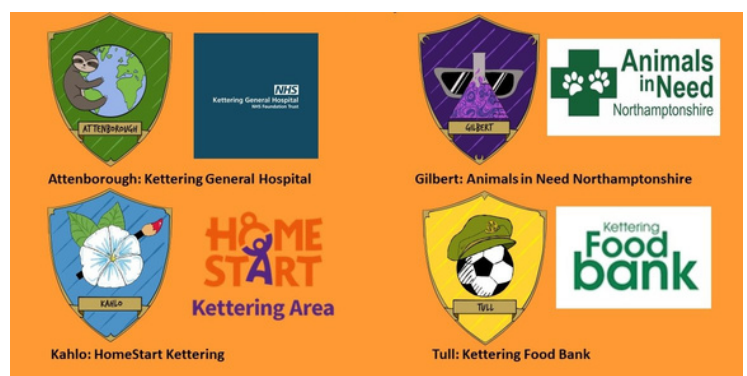
On 2nd April, Mr Walmsley led our Term 4 House Competition - Frostbite Frenzy - an interactive survival challenge with the following brief: **while on a hiking trip, your group gets caught in a sudden blizzard high up in the mountains. You have minimal equipment and the temperature is dropping quickly - you need to decide whether to stay and build a shelter or try to descend the mountain.**

Each team huddled together to assess the limited resources they had and quickly began forming their plans. Some groups opted to stay put and constructed makeshift shelters, demonstrating impressive problem-solving under pressure. Others decided to brave the descent, mapping out potential escape routes and using clever signalling techniques to call for help. Every form brought a different strategy to the table, showing creativity, teamwork, and a surprising amount of survival instinct – all under the looming threat of time. All house teams performed well, but it was Attenborough House who impressed our judges the most with their well thought out plan and excellent teamwork.

Student Council News

Students have been voting on the charities they would like to support over the next couple of years as part of their house activities.

We are pleased to announce that students have chosen the charities as shown:



SIXTH FORM NEWS

Year 13 – Student Finance

All students looking to start their chosen University Courses this September and wishing to use Student Finance, need to create an account on the Government Website. To register, please use this link [here](#).

*Student Finance is Now Open
Don't Delay, Register Today!*

Once Registered, Parents/Carers will be contacted directly by Student Finance and asked to provide details of household income. As assessment will be made based on the information provided, a letter is then issued stating the amount of the award for the academic year.

If you would like to know more about Student Finance. Here are some useful resources:

[Student finance for undergraduates: Overview - GOV.UK](#)

[SFE - Student Finance England](#) (which includes a useful video guide)



We held our **Celebration Assembly** last week and acknowledged a large number of our students who have been recognised for their academic excellence, determination and resilience within their studies, those who have contributed to the school community, those who have really stepped up their game, and those who have fully embraced Sixth Form and are great role models all round.

Here are just a few of our results:

Student of the Term – “A Great All Rounder and Role Model”

Year 12	Jude Taylor	Year 13	Erin Gray
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Student of the Form – As selected by the Form Tutor

12 SF1	Jacob Jose	13 SF1	Isabelle Lund
12 SF2	Phoebe Linnell	13 SF2	Maisy Ashall
12 SF3	Julia Smykla	13 SF3	Connor Thompson

Community Spirit Award - An award for an individual that embodies our HEART values, who has shown selfless generosity in improving the lives of others with their thoughtfulness and kindness. This award went to a very worthy Archie Coles in Year 12.

We also recognised students who go above and beyond to support younger students in the school and help in classes and clubs. Thank you to each and everyone one of you!

Theme Park Trip

On Wednesday 2nd April we took 106 of our Sixth Form students to Alton Towers Theme Park for an enrichment trip. It was a fantastic day, and our students had so much fun! and no doubt will hold on to the memories of this “special day” for a very long time to come.



CAREERS



Year 12 Work Experience

As part of our Raising Aspirations programme, we ask all Year 12 students to undertake a careers based work placement designed to develop their employability skills, increase their appreciation of the commercial world and inspire future career choices.

We cannot express how valuable work experience is and are encouraging our students to find a minimum of 5 days (which may be spread across more than one placement) from 30th June - 4th July. During this period, there will be no classes, as students will be at the workplace of their host employer.

We are aware that many employers now adopt remote working and, therefore, finding a placement may be challenging and that your child may need your help. For this reason, we would very much welcome your input in guiding and supporting them through this process. Students (and their families) should source their own work experience placements. The Careers and Sixth Form team will do their best to find placements for any students who have been unable to find their own, but because we have limited resources, we expect only to be able to help a few students.

Can you help? If you are able to support any work placements please get in touch with Miss Magee, Sixth Form Centre Manager.

If students are unable to secure a suitable work placement, they are required to inform Miss Magee, Sixth Form Centre Manager, as soon as possible.

Interested in joining the Army?

Find out more about what the Army can offer our student leavers, including a link how to apply to the Army Foundation College in Harrogate in their latest [newsletter](#).

Year 10 Residential - University of Leicester

The University of Leicester have launched their Year 10 residential. It takes place from Monday 28th July to Tuesday 29th July with two days of activities and an overnight stay in halls of accommodation.

To find out more and to sign up click [here](#). Any further queries can be directed to summerschool@le.ac.uk.

The deadline for applications is Sunday 13th April.

OTHER NEWS

NHS Pharmacy First Service

If you, your child, or a family member is feeling poorly, think **Pharmacy First!** Community Pharmacists offer free and confidential advice for minor illnesses such as coughs, colds, and eye infection. If appropriate, they can also provide treatment without a prescription for seven common conditions:

- Urinary tract infection (women aged 16-64)
- Sinusitis (adults and children aged 12+)
- Sore throat (adults and children aged 5+)
- Earache (children and young adults aged 1-17)
- Infected insect bite (adults and children aged 1+)
- Impetigo (adults and children aged 1+)
- Shingles (adults aged 18+)

Think Pharmacy First for expert advice that could be quicker than seeing your GP. This service takes away the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment and may help ensure children get well and back to school as quickly as possible, as well as supporting parents/carers to also get better sooner if they are unwell.

Patients that are already exempt from prescription charges, such as children, will still be exempt from charges if treatment is provided for the listed conditions, otherwise usual prescription charges will apply.

Should the pharmacist be unable to help, they will direct the person to their GP surgery or other health professional as appropriate.

A summary of the service and further information is available at:

nhs.uk/thinkpharmacyfirst

Easter Activities

The Easter holiday runs between Monday 7th April to Thursday 17th April, North Northamptonshire have a full programme of activities for families across our leisure facilities for the week, as well as events like Xplorer and Space Walk! Please see attached flyer and visit our website for details: www.northnorthants.gov.uk/holidayactivities

The flyer is titled 'FAMILY HALF TERM WALKS' in large, bold, white letters against a dark blue space background. It features illustrations of planets, stars, and a rocket. At the top left is a logo for 'Wellbeing Walks' and at the top right is a logo for 'Active Families'. The main text describes an augmented reality space walk. The dates and locations are listed in white text on dark blue rectangular backgrounds. The start times are also on a dark blue background. A note about limited spaces and mobile device requirements is at the bottom. The footer includes the North Northamptonshire Leisure logo and contact information.

Wellbeing Walks **Active Families**

FAMILY HALF TERM WALKS

Get ready to zoom into outer space with an augmented reality space walk! Wander through space using your mobile phone on these free, family friendly fun walks!

Monday 7th April 2025 at Irchester Country Park and Friday 11th April 2025 at East Carlton Countryside Park.

Walks start at 11am and 1pm.

Limited spaces available. Suitable for all ages but children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Mobile device required.

For more information or to book your place please email: NNLeisure@northnorthants.gov.uk

North Northamptonshire Leisure

OTHER NEWS

Congratulations!

Our Year 8 Basketball team were crowned District Champions after beating Kingswood in the final 23-12.

Well done to all those involved and to the Year 9 officials Annabelle Storer, Oliver Smith, Ben Scott and Noah Hallett. A great job by this team to table officiate both Year 8 and 9 finals.



Congratulations to Evie-Mae Oliver in Year 9 who has won an art competition run by Barratt Homes. The company contacted Latimer asking for art work that depicted Kettering so we entered several Year 9 pieces and Evie-Mae was picked as the winner! Well done to Evie-Mae for her winning entry!

As the exams season is just around the corner, CGP books are offering 20% off [GCSE](#) and [A-Level](#) revision books using the code **EXAMS20** before 30th April.

A promotional banner for CGP books. It features the CGP logo at the top left. The text reads: 'Save 20% on CGP books until 30th April!'. Below this, there are images of several CGP books including 'AS & A-Level Psychology', 'GCSE Edexcel Maths', 'GCSE AQA Physics', 'A-Level Biology', 'Exam Practice Workbook', and 'Macbeth'. At the bottom, it says 'Use code: EXAMS20' and 'www.cgpbooks.co.uk'.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 4 April
Tuesday 22 April
Wednesday 23 April

Thursday 1 May
Monday 5 May
Tuesday 6 May

Monday 12 May
Tuesday 20 May
Friday 23 May

End of Term 4
Training Day (closed to students)
Start of Term 5: School re-opens to students
(This will be Week 2 on the timetable)
Junior Maths Challenge
Bank Holiday - School closed
GCSE Exam season commences
Year 9 SPRE, 4.30-7.45pm (remote)
A Level Exam season commences
Parent Forum, 6pm
End of Term 5



More dates are available on our [website](#)