

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Term 4 is upon us and with the weather improving it finally feels like spring is here. I am so grateful for the opportunities staff offer to our students and impressed by the students enthusiasm for learning both within and beyond the classroom.

External visitors recently commented on how polite and friendly our students are and I am so proud of how they continue to demonstrate our core values of

**Honesty ~ Excellence ~ Ambition ~ Respect ~ Teamwork**

Please work with us to ensure our high expectations are met by all students, every day, by reminding your child(ren) of the basics listed below.

#### Punctuality to school and lessons

Students should be in lessons on time ready to learn. Lessons 1, 3 and 4 have a movement bell 5 minutes before the start and so students have no reason not to arrive on time. Movement time is allowed between lessons 1 and 2, 3 and tutor time, and 4 and 5, and students will only be marked late if they arrive noticeably later than the rest of the class. Three late to learning marks will lead to a detention. This is key to maintaining a disruption free learning environment for all.

#### Uniform

We have a small minority of students who are not conforming to our uniform standards. For your information the following are not acceptable and will lead to confiscation, removal and sanctions: acrylic nails / hoop ear-rings / bracelets / leggings.

#### Equipment

The expectation is that students have a bag and a pencil case with all the key equipment for learning, including black and red pens and a calculator. If you need financial support with providing these items, please get in touch with Mr King - [sking@latimer.org.uk](mailto:sking@latimer.org.uk).

Students who forget equipment or uniform can borrow it from the Student Support Office in the morning from 8.00-8:25am.

Your support is invaluable in reinforcing these expectations, all of which can be found in our Parent/Carers Handbook.

Mrs K Murphy  
Principal

# SAFEGUARDING

I would just like to share with you some key dates that as a school we should all celebrate moving forward:

**8th March - International Women's Day**

**21st March - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

**22nd April - Stephen Lawrence Day-remembering a young man murdered in a brutal racial attack**

On these two areas, Latimer strives to ensure that girls feel equally valued and respected in our community. In addition, eliminating racial discrimination of any sort, must continually be a goal for all. We continue to educate all our students to show respect to all members of our community irrespective of gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality or any other characteristic.

## Supporting Student Mental Health

We have just seen Children's Mental Health week pass us. We are working with the local MHST team to continue to find ways to support all of our students from Years 7-13. MHST are working with us to look at how we support current exam years with the exam period coming up. In addition, we have recently put many posters around school encouraging students to reflect on feelings.

As Senior Mental Health Lead, my aim is to support mental health but also build resilience. Having just accompanied some students on the Geography field trip to Wales it was so good to see students who were anxious about doing surveys of the public overcoming their anxiety and pushing themselves to ask members of the public. This is an example of resilience and character building.

It is important that our students understand that as adults in school, our job is to listen and support but also motivate and push. If we don't push students out of their comfort zone, resilience is never developed. As a school we have invested heavily in mentoring and support. We work with Souster Youth Charity, Mental Health Support Team, TRV training and our own staff to offer mentoring and support.

As a school we are continually striving to support student mental health and wellbeing. Mrs Turnbull has done a lot of work around student voice and recently promoted "feelings" posters around the school. Reminding students it is okay to talk and express feelings.

I would like to remind parents and students that we have the email address: [reportaconcern@latimer.org.uk](mailto:reportaconcern@latimer.org.uk). This comes directly to the Safeguarding Team and is a good anonymous way of sharing anything that might be troubling them.

My next aim is to work with tutors and get all students to be able to identify their "hand of 5". Every student should be able to name 5 trusted adults including AT LEAST one at school. Normally this would include parents/family members etc, but for some students this can vary. I would ask your child to identify at least one school staff member they feel comfortable speaking to.

In addition we have the following support services:

- Souster Youth group sessions
- MHST referrals via the NHS
- Anti-Bullying Ambassadors
- Staff who can support with mental health and wellbeing (Mr Capps, Mr Collins, Mrs Ellison, Mrs Clark, Mrs Birnie, myself, Mrs H Angel, Mrs Price, Mrs V Angel, Mrs Turner and Mrs Black as well as the entire Learning Support Team)
- School Nurse referral

# SAFEGUARDING

Finally some initial reminders to support Year 11 and 13 through this coming period of exam preparation:

- Encourage your child to take care of themselves by eating the right kind of foods, drinking water and getting enough sleep.
- For teenagers 8 – 10 hours sleep is essential as tiredness can impair concentration and increase anxiety.
- Provide reassurance by reminding your child of past/current successes and giving them the opportunity to say how they are feeling.
- Support them to develop a realistic revision timetable and encourage them to take regular breaks.
- Promote regular exercise to get rid of physical tension. Improved blood flow to the brain can improve a young persons ability to think clearly, learn, concentrate and remember.
- Encourage relaxation techniques such as controlled breathing and mindfulness.

I would like to wish all Year 11 and 13 students all the very best as they work through this penultimate and critical term ahead.

**Mr S King**  
**Senior Mental Health and Safeguarding Lead**  
**Assistant Principal**

# LITERACY NEWS

## World Book Day - 6th March 2025

Here at Latimer, #WEHEARTTOREAD and so World Book Day is the perfect opportunity for us to bring the school together to celebrate a love of reading!

This week, students in Years 7 and 8 have been given a World Book Day book and book token and they have taken part in a bookish quiz in their Literacy lesson; tutor groups have read a short story together and guessed which teacher is reading beneath the cloak in Latimer's very own 'The Masked Traitors' and our Year 10 and 11 students have had fun guessing which poem each member of the English department came dressed as to form part of a revision activity, which remains live on Satchel:One until 3pm on Monday.



We cannot emphasise enough the benefits of reading linked to academic success and our Book Swap yesterday lunchtime saw many students come and swap or simply choose a book of their choice from a beautiful selection and we hope that they will enjoy reading these for pleasure as we go into this sunny weekend!

# LEARNING AND PROGRESS

## Easter Revision Year 11 and Year 13

As we have done for the last 8 years, we will again be offering some Easter Revision session to Year 11 and Year 13. Unfortunately, we are not able to offer revision sessions to all students in all classes, however we would encourage those who are invited to come along. Invites for these will be out shortly. Some sessions are also likely to run in the May half term.

**28  
school days  
until start of  
exam season**

However even if students are not in school over the Easter break, this is a vital time for revision. When students return from the holiday period they will have **8 school days** until the exams start. This two week “break” is vital time to prepare for this important stage in their life.

Students have been provided with revision guidance, planning templates and have access to a range of on-line platforms to support them. The key now is not what they do, but that they do something!

Once exams start in earnest students will be given an Alternative Timetable to follow. This will detail when and where they need to be inbetween exams. We do not give students “exam leave”, at this vital time in their lives it is important that they continue their routines – however we will be flexible in our approach to maximise the support given to them.



Students can sign up for FREE at [www.gcsepod.com](http://www.gcsepod.com) using their School email account. Podcasts can be streamed or downloaded on PC, Android or IOS. Email [ithelpdesk@latimer.org.uk](mailto:ithelpdesk@latimer.org.uk) if you require any assistance when using GCSEPod.



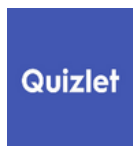
Tassomai makes learning and revising for GCSE Science effective and straightforward. Simply log in regularly and complete the assignments at the top of the list. The mission is simple - keep the pace of progress up to the speed prescribed - a task that requires a few minutes of attention each day. Website: [www.tassomai.com](http://www.tassomai.com)



Vocab Express is an online vocab learning application that has been set up to support students with learning their French vocabulary, which is vital to examination success. Students should access this daily.



Seneca is free for students to use. It will present them with key information and then test them on it in various ways. Some staff are setting revision activities through this.



Quizlet allows students to create their own quizzes, flash cards and other revision material for free. They can then print these off or save them to re-use. Students can also access other people’s revision material on the site.



Students should use Sparx to help with practice Maths questions.

# LEARNING AND PROGRESS

## **Year 8 Pathways Process: Choosing Subject Preferences**

As Year 8 students at The Latimer Arts College approach an important milestone in their education, we are pleased to introduce the Pathways Process—a structured and supportive approach to selecting Key Stage 4 options. This process ensures that every student receives the guidance needed to make informed choices about their future studies.

The Pathways Process is designed to help students choose subjects that align with their strengths, interests, and aspirations. It provides them with the opportunity to specialise in areas they enjoy while maintaining a broad and balanced curriculum. Our aim is to support students in making decisions that will open doors to further education, training, and careers.

## **Key Steps in the Pathways Process**

### **1. Key Stage 4 Pathways Showcase Evening – 26th March**

We invite all Year 8 parents/carers and students to attend our Key Stage 4 Pathways Showcase Evening, where we will outline the process, explain subject choices, and provide advice on decision-making.

### **2. Pathways Booklet**

Each student will receive a Pathways Booklet, which contains details about available subjects, course content, and future progression routes. This is an essential resource to help families explore options together. We will also email out an electronic version of the booklet to parents in advance of the physical booklet.

### **3. Pathways Fortnight – 17th March to 28th March**

To support informed decision-making, students will have the opportunity to participate in Pathways Fortnight, giving them insight into the content and expectations of different GCSE subjects.

### **4. One-to-One Guidance Meetings**

Each student will meet with their tutor during tutor time as part of the mentoring program to discuss their choices, considering their strengths and aspirations. These meetings ensure that students select the most suitable combination of subjects.

### **5. Finalising Preferences – Online Form Submission**

After discussions with teachers and parents/carers, students will submit their final preferences using an online form, which will be live from 27th March to the deadline of 3rd April. We will work closely with students to accommodate their choices while ensuring a balanced curriculum.

## **Supporting Your Child in Making the Right Choices**

Parents play a crucial role in guiding their children through this process. We encourage open discussions at home about future aspirations and the subjects that best support them. If you or your child have any questions, our staff are available to provide additional guidance.

We are committed to ensuring that every student at The Latimer Arts College feels confident and supported in their choices. We look forward to working together to help our students shape their future success!

For more information, please contact the school or visit our website, where all information will also be available.

# HOUSE NEWS

## Attenborough



If there are any upcoming competitions, make sure to call for Attenborough House! We have been celebrating the success of Attenborough students at the start of Term 4 and the collaboration and teamwork they have shown has shone through so far this year. In recent weeks we have seen teams from Attenborough House finish top in the dodgeball competition, the weekly quizzes, the Bake-Off as well as second place in the basketball shoot-out and the Year 7 Dragons' Den event. It has been a hugely successful time in the house competitions and it has been fantastic to be able to celebrate that teamwork - keep it up!

## Gilbert



A distinguished beginning to the term by the Gilbertarians, who have shown a Promethean spark—an unquenchable fire of ambition, determination and pride. Their success in amassing house points and a formidable performance in the quiz competition stand as proof of their dedication and spirit. As we look ahead, let us do so with the certainty that success is neither given nor accidental, but earned—through effort, perseverance, and an unyielding commitment to excellence.

## Kahlo



There is no better way to start a new term than celebrating our students' successes in Kahlo House. I am so proud of our Kahlo forms, who have not slowed down in their commitment to achieving their best. Some specific shout outs go to 7K2 for achieving the best attendance in the school, and to 8K2 and 7K1 for achieving 3rd place for schoolwide enrichment and positive points respectively. We also saw a new form of the Term in 9K1, taking a close 1st place position from 7K1. Our upper school forms have also seen success, with 10K2 taking 2nd place for schoolwide attendance at KS4 and 9K1 taking 3rd for enrichment. It has been a pleasure to celebrate these successes with our students, alongside hearing excellent feedback from their teachers on schoolwide enthusiasm for learning and success.

Our mission for this term is to beat Tull House in positive points, a challenge to be sure, but one I am confident we will achieve. Tull will have to work hard to take our 1st place spot in the House trophy competition!

## Tull



Students in Tull have been delighted to hear that they were the top house last term. It took a huge team effort to perform well in all key areas and support others within the house to also do the same. We are looking this term at 'what is winning?' thinking about the fact that winning is doing better than you yourself have previously done and not necessarily beating others. Students have been tasked with thinking about what winning is for them and what they can do to achieve this. Great work to all in the house and we look forward to a continued effort in the term ahead.

# HOUSE NEWS

## Race to 500

Congratulations to the following students who were the first 5 to get 500 positive points and reach Gold in our annual Race to Gold.



Yazid Touati   Florence Marriott   Lizzie Turner   Ellis Stephenson   Tasker Jones

Each student was awarded a prize for this impressive achievement just halfway through the school year! There are still opportunities for students to win prizes for positive points. At the end of this term, we will hold a raffle for students reaching 200 points (Bronze), 350 points (Silver) and 500 points (Gold). The higher the points, the bigger the prize!

## Rewards Raffle

We also run a raffle each term for students maintaining excellent attendance and zero negative behaviour points each term. Term 3 winners were Katherine Anderson, Liliarna Samples, Hattie Thomas, Isaac Dellet and Lucca Stratford. They have been presented with a £20 voucher from Mr McGuire, Wider Curriculum Team Leader. Students have another chance to win in Term 4.

# CAREERS



## National Careers Week

It is a busy time in Careers at Latimer. Hot on the heels of National Apprenticeship Week last term, this week has been National Careers Week followed by British Science Week next week. Students have had assemblies from external speakers linking their careers to the skill of the term – Staying Positive. In departments, students have had to guess who the ‘careers suitcase’ belongs to – demonstrating that a career is a journey not a destination. We have also had visitors from Ricoh in to deliver a STEM careers activity to some of our Year 10 students as part of also celebrating International Women’s Day on 8th March.



If you want to get involved, [BBC Bitesize](#) have a NCW 2025 section, including quizzes, podcasts and a careers tool. The WWF have [career webinars](#) that link sustainability to construction, finance and education.

Interested in the creative industries? [ERIC](#) have had a series of speakers this week that can be watched back on-demand. Find out more about careers in construction [here](#).

Students have been sent links to NCW webinars this week on Unifrog. If they miss any, they are able to watch them and any other webinars, on demand. Parents and carers can watch a webinar on **‘What are apprenticeships and how to support students during applications’** on 11th March. Parents can set up their own account and sign in using LASWparents on [www.unifrog.org/sign-in](http://www.unifrog.org/sign-in)



# SPORT NEWS

## Year 9 Careers in Sport online workshop

On Friday 31st January, 23 Year 9 students attended an online careers in sport workshop with founder of careers in sport, Harvey Grout. Here they learnt about the broad range of sports jobs available to them in the future beyond PE teaching and coaching followed by a Q&A session to ask all of their career based questions. We look forward to offering more opportunities to inspire our students in PE to consider a career in sport in the future.



## Sporting Successes



The Year 7 netball team represented the school on Tuesday 4th March at the County Plate Netball competition. 18 schools across the county took part. They finished runners up in pool 1 after winning 6 matches, drawing 1 and losing to NS. They played Sponne in the semi-final and beat them 4-2 to reach the final. They met NS again in the final, they fought really hard and made some fantastic interceptions and linking together strong attacking plays. Unfortunately, the result went against us losing 3-0. The girls were proud to be silver medallists and advance to the County Cup competition next week.

The Year 7 Girls' Basketball team took part in the county tournament on Monday 10th February. They played against some very competitive teams and qualified 2nd in their pool, winning two games and losing their last one to the eventual winners. They went on to play for the 3rd and 4th position, they won this game 10-4 to secure third place. They played really well as a team and grew in confidence with each game. Well done!



Last term our Year 7/8 Volleyball teams performed amazingly well at the District Tournament held here at Latimer. The girls team placed 1st overall and the boys came joint 2nd. Well done again Team Latimer!

## Careers in Sport LIVE Edgbaston Stadium

On Thursday 13th February, the PE Department took 15 Year 10 students with an interest in a career in sport to the 'Careers in Sport LIVE' exhibition at Edgbaston Stadium. Here, they listened to key speakers about different sport-based careers, University courses and mindset motivation to give them a valuable insight into the industry.



# OTHER NEWS

## Kettering Goes Orange - Non-Uniform Day

On Friday 14th March we will be joining other schools and businesses in Kettering for Orange Day 2025 in collaboration with Team Sebastian, to raise funds for Youth Works Northamptonshire. Students do not need to wear uniform but we encourage them to wear something orange. If they do not wish to wear orange but want to support we have a limited number of orange Team Sebastian lapel ribbons which will be in reception from 10th March, suggested donation £2.



## Ramadan

Fasting in the month of Ramadan, the month of revelation of the Holy Qur'an, is an obligation for all Muslims past the age of puberty. There are exemptions for some, such as those who are sick. These must be made up later or compensated for, e.g. by fasting on another day or by feeding the poor.

It is one of the Five Pillars of Islam, known as Sawm. Muslims are required to abstain from all food, drink and some other activities from dawn to nightfall through the 30 or 29 days between one new moon and the next. The daily fast begins at the time of the Fajr (dawn) prayer and finishes at the time of Maghrib (sunset) prayer.

This holy month provides a chance for believers to reflect on their actions and renew their relationship with Allah. It helps to cultivate virtues such as patience, self-control and devotion. Fasting allows believers to experience hunger and thirst, creating empathy for those less fortunate. Believers will strive to increase their charitable deeds as well.

So how can we support those in our community during Ramadan?

Be considerate - Arrange to meet friends earlier in the day when they may still have energy from their dawn meal. Perhaps you could go for a walk, rather than meet for lunch? Small acts simple acts of kindness show support and respect. Check-in with friends and offer your support.

Don't ask why someone isn't fasting - there are many reasons, including medical, why someone may choose not to fast, and these reasons may be very personal. Those who are not able to fast may still choose to take part in other ways of worship.

Learn Ramadan greetings - Saying "Ramadan Mubarak" (Blessed Ramadan) or "Ramadan Kareem" (Generous Ramadan) is a respectful way to acknowledge the fast.

Get involved – Ramadan is a time of generosity and compassion. Acts of kindness, spending time with friends and family, reflecting on our own actions, beliefs and how we interact with those around us fit the theme of this holy month.

Don't be afraid to ask questions - learning about each other's beliefs by asking respectful and thoughtful questions can be a great way to bridge gaps between people and communities. Try asking considerate, open-ended questions such as, "What does Ramadan mean to you?", "How do you observe Ramadan?" or "What are you making for your iftar meals?"

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 10 March	British Science Week (ends 14 March)
Wednesday 12 March	Year 7 SPRE, 4.30-7.45pm
Friday 14 March	Kettering Goes Orange - Non-Uniform Day
	Year 8 Language Leaders Event, Barton Seagrave Primary
Monday 17 March	Year 8 Pathways Fortnight (ends 28 March)
Tuesday 18 March	Parent Forum, 6pm
Wednesday 19 March	Performing Arts Showcase, 7pm
Wednesday 26 March	Year 8 Pathways Evening, 5.30pm
Wednesday 2 April	Sixth Form Enrichment Trip (All Day)
Thursday 3 April	Spring Music Concert, 7pm
Friday 4 April	End of Term 4
Tuesday 22 April	Training Day (closed to students)
Wednesday 23 April	Start of Term 5: School re-opens to students (This will be Week 2 on the timetable)
Thursday 1 May	Junior Maths Challenge
Monday 5 May	Bank Holiday - School closed
Tuesday 6 May	GSCE Exam season commences
	Year 9 SPRE, 4.30-7.45pm
Monday 12 May	A Level Exam season commences
Tuesday 20 May	Parent Forum, 6pm
Friday 23 May	End of Term 5



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