

LATIMER NEWS

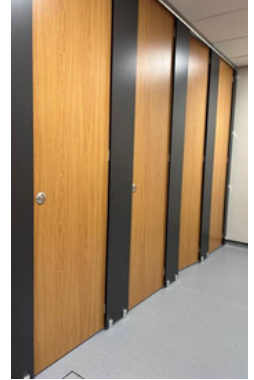
2024-25

ISSUE 1:
SEPTEMBER 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We are so proud of how the students have returned to school. Smart, polite and ready to learn. Students are already receiving positive House points for their efforts.

We were pleased to open the new toilet block last week as well as some newly refurbished classrooms and IT suites. We are always striving to improve the environment for students. Work continues on the new Sixth Form Centre, which should be open in early December.



Students at The Latimer Arts College have bright futures ahead

We are delighted to say that Sixth Form students at The Latimer Arts College overwhelmingly achieved their targets. Success is different for every student, and key to success is the chance to follow their dreams.

We are pleased to announce a further improvement on the school's 2023 and 2019 examination grades, with nearly half of all grades being A*-B and 83% of all grades being A*-C, which is significantly above the national average. We are equally proud to have 100% of students achieving Distinction* to Merit grades in vocational subjects.

We are also very proud of the achievements of our GCSE students - there were some fantastic results and a large number of students have chosen to continue their studies at Latimer's Sixth Form.



Inspiring Excellence

We are officially rated a "Good" School

Instagram: @latimerartsofficial Facebook: www.facebook.com/LatimerCollege
Twitter: @latimercollege Email: mail@latimer.org.uk



BACK TO SCHOOL AND READY TO LEARN

A reminder that our start of the year Information Pack for Parents and Carers, which can be found on the website, contains key 'need to know' information so that your child is well-prepared for the academic year ahead. In addition to this, we publish a Sixth Form Student Guide, also on the website, to support those who have joined us for post-16 studies.

We would also like to highlight 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. Furthermore, this app is not only for parents and carers; students can also download it to take responsibility for their behaviour and track their own progress.

We would also like to remind you of the following money saving support that Latimer can offer:

Financial Support: We can provide financial support for uniform for those students who are eligible for the Pupil Premium Funding. Please contact Mr King, Assistant Principal, if you would like to enquire if we can help you in this way: sking@latimer.org.uk

If your child is in the Sixth Form, they may be able to access the Sixth Form Bursary, which can provide financial support for uniform and other study items. Please contact Miss Magee, Sixth Form Centre Manager for more details: smagee@latimer.org.uk

Uniform Swap Shop: We have donated items that are in excellent condition (washed and ironed) waiting for a new home. If you would like to access this uniform, your child can go to Student Services and select the items that they need or you can contact our Student Services Receptionist, Miss Donald, who will be happy to help: gdonald@latimer.org.uk or contact her on 01536 720300. In turn, if you have items that you no longer need, we would be delighted if you could donate them!

Lost Property: You would not believe how much lost property we have in Student Services. Rather than replacing lost items, please ask your child to visit Student Services to check if their lost item is in lost property. If you can put names on items, including ties, this will help us with returning them. We keep lost property for two terms. After this, we will add relevant items to our Uniform Swap Shop and donate remaining items to charity.

Enrichment Activities Consent Form

In order for students to take part in enrichment activities, including clubs and fixtures taking place outside of the normal school day, we require parents and carers to complete a Consent Form. Without a completed consent form, students will not be permitted to take part. You can scan the QR code to access the consent form - it really is quick and simple to do. This form needs to be filled in each year.

Details of clubs and activities will be available on the [Enrichment](#) page shortly.

The Latimer Arts College
Enrichment Activities Consent
Form & Behaviour Agreement



Did you know...?

...that just registering your child for Free School Meals means that the school gets extra money?

With this money we could give extra help to students who need it. If you are registered for Free School Meals you could also get help with things like music tuition, school trips or other out of school activities, or there could be help to allow your child to continue into the Sixth Form.

If you want your child to have a free, healthy meal at lunchtime that's great - they will get the free meal (saving you more than £400 a year). Even if you don't want the school meals, as long as you qualify and are registered, the school still gets the extra government funding.

No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming. Our cashless catering system ensures no other student knows who is receiving Free School Meals. Please visit the [Parents and Carers / Catering Service](#) page on the website to access the online application form.

Unlocking Potential and Achieving Excellence

We recognise the positive part that parental support plays in the success of a child. Therefore, we want to do all that we can to support our parents and carers. Please do come along to our forthcoming information evenings. We commit to making these evenings informative, interactive (and as short as we possibly can!) but they really will contain relevant information to support your child with the stage of their education that they are at:

Year 10 Ace Your Exams Curriculum Evening
Tuesday 17 September from 5.30 pm

Mock Exams in
40 school days

Year 11 Ace Your Exams Future Destinations Evening
Wednesday 18 September from 5.30 pm

Examination Season in
131 school days

Year 12 Ace Level 3 Sixth Form Induction Evening
Thursday 19 September from 5.30 pm

UPCOMING EVENT

Year 6 Open Evening

Our Open Evening for Year 6 students will be held on **Thursday 3 October** from **5.30-8.00 pm**. Some current students will be helping out on the night. More details about arrangements will follow in the coming weeks.

Please note that on 3 October **the school will close to all students at 12.20 pm** so that final preparations can be made for the evening.

SAFEGUARDING, BEHAVIOUR AND ATTENDANCE

I would like to introduce myself as the new Assistant Principal for Safeguarding, Behaviour and Attendance. I am very excited about working at Latimer. I have come from Campion School in Northampton doing a similar role and have already got to know many of our students.

In the following areas, I would like to share with you some of my plans and priorities:

Safeguarding

- Develop our anti-bullying processes even further and work towards securing the highest accreditation in this area.
- Continue to focus on student voice to ensure our students feel safe as well as ensuring students receive briefings from me on key topics in this area.

Attendance

- Continued focus on punctuality. I ask that you work with me to ensure your child arrives to school by 8.25 am.
- Intervene with students whose attendance is below 96% and introduce inter-house competitions in this area.

Please see additional information on the following page regarding our expectations for attendance.

Behaviour

- Raise our expectations in creating disruption free classrooms.
- Ensure that all students have the right uniform for the day. Students with any missing items including the wrong shoes, will be expected to borrow school items.
- Develop systems for ensuring students complete extended learning and address this when not completed.

I look forward to working with students and yourselves in this area and would like to thank all of the students and staff who have made me feel welcome.

Mr S King
Assistant Principal

SAFEGUARDING, BEHAVIOUR AND ATTENDANCE

Contacting You

As we start the new academic year, it is vital that we have up to date information about each student. Within the next few weeks, your child will be issued with a 'Personal Details' sheet for you to check and sign. When completing this form, please ensure you provide us with at least 2 relevant and up to date contacts. Can we please ask that those of you who have provided us with details in the past check carefully that these details are still correct. It is important that we have the right details if we need to contact you in an emergency.

Attendance

As a parent/carer you are legally responsible for making sure your child attends school regularly.

At Latimer we believe that every child is entitled to the same opportunities, including the educational benefits, social and emotional learning and belonging to their House and School.

It is important that you and your child develop a positive attitude to school attendance and punctuality so that they do not miss out on these opportunities. These qualities of reliability are also important in adult life.

Poor attendance disrupts a child's education. This causes a lack of continuity and progression in schoolwork and can establish patterns of behaviour which may lead to long-term truancy. Missing school prevents children from building essential learning blocks of skills and knowledge and prevents them from making educational links, leading to poor progression and anxiety.

We will work with parents/carers to identify barriers and seek provision from local partners to ensure the support is in place where necessary. Please see our [Policies](#) page on the website for full details of our Attendance Policy.

Contacting Us

Should you need to make urgent contact with your child during the school day, this should be done by contacting Student Services Reception.

It is not helpful if parents and carers contact their child during the school day via text messaging or calls to a mobile as we will confiscate mobile phones if seen and students will be placed in our daily detention.

If your child is going to be absent, on the first day and each subsequent day, you must either:

Send an email to: absence@latimer.org.uk

or

Send a text to: 07444 851655

or

Ring the 24-hour absence answer line on 01536 720300

or

Message via School Gateway

Allergies

In order to ensure that we are aware of all food related allergies and intolerances or religious dietary requirements, Year 7 parents will be sent a dietary form in the next few weeks to complete. On receipt of the form, can we ask that you return this form as soon as possible to let us know of any food allergies. It can be given in at Student Services or emailed to jlove@latimer.org.uk

For students in other year groups, if your child has developed allergies in the last year, please request a copy of this form from our Student Services Manager, Mrs Love: jlove@latimer.org.uk. Could you please return these forms either electronically or by hard copy to Mrs Love in the Student Services office or by email to jlove@latimer.org.uk.



SIXTH FORM NEWS

Welcome to all our new Year 12 students. We are delighted that you have chosen us as your preferred place of study and we are here, ready to support you in achieving success during your post-16 studies. Welcome back also to our Year 13 students, as they embark on their final year of academic studies with us before heading off to University, starting an apprenticeship, employment or possibly taking up volunteering or travel opportunities. We can't wait to hear all about their work experience placements and look forward to them sharing their presentations with their form tutors and peers next week.

We have a busy first term ahead for all!

Year 12 will be gaining skills on how to become independent learners, establishing self-study routines, note taking, organising folders and time management. They will also learn how to become mentors in preparation for supporting with numeracy and literacy activities with Year 7 and 8 students. This term Year 12 will also receive information about the about the different leadership opportunities within Sixth Form, where they can really make a difference and gain great leadership skills.

Year 13 students have made a positive start to the new year and will spend time reviewing their progress in Year 12 and the strategies for making the most of their potential in order to achieve personal success in Year 13. This term, students will continue to focus on their Personal Statements and Post-18 Intentions. Just like our Year 12 students, Year 13 will also learn how to mentor younger students, as they prepare to support Years 9 and 10 with literacy and numeracy activities during form time each week.

Upcoming Event

Year 12 Ace Level 3 Evening - Thursday 19 September, 6pm-7.45pm

An opportunity for parents and carers to connect with key staff members from our Sixth Form Team. Please come along and join us to gain valuable insights into the high expectations and challenges of the Sixth Form, discover the essential study skills needed for success, and explore the array of online tools designed to facilitate research for your child's future pathways.

Throughout the evening sessions will include:

- Form Tutor: Meet & Greet
- Expectations and Personal Development
- Sixth Form at Latimer: Study Skills for Key Stage 5
- Future Destinations
- The Importance of Work Experience

This programme is part of the support that we offer to parents and carers at The Latimer Arts College to ensure that the transition into the Sixth Form is a successful one for your child.

If you have not already confirmed your attendance and would like to come along, please use the link: <https://forms.office.com/e/hDwDFUy5dq>

CAREERS



Unifrog - The Careers Platform

For those parents and carers and students new to the school, Unifrog provides a one-stop-shop where students can explore their interests and research their options for when they leave Latimer. Every student has their own account. Log in emails have been sent to all students. Unifrog will be launched with the Year 7s in the coming weeks.

In school, we use Unifrog in a variety of ways. Useful links and documents are added as tasks for students to look into. Students from Years 7-11 will be uploading to Unifrog at the end of each term what they have covered in their weekly Future Me tutor time session. Individual careers appointment action plans for students are uploaded to Unifrog. In Sixth Form, Unifrog is used extensively as part of the post-18 application process as well as the work experience programme in Year 12.

Parents and carers can explore Unifrog for themselves by going to the [Unifrog log-in page](#) then click on the Sign Up code option, add the code LASWparents. A short video can be found [here](#).

Year 8 – Take Your Child to Work Day – Thursday 21 November



Advance notice for Year 8 parents/carers: Take Your Child to Work Day 2024 will be taking place on Thursday 21 November.

If your child would like support from the Careers Department, please email careers@latimer.org.uk

OTHER NEWS

EXTENDED LEARNING FACILITIES

A reminder of our Extended Learning Club, designed to support your child's academic success.

In the mornings from 8.00-8.20am, and after school on Mondays to Thursdays from 3.00-4.00 pm, we provide dedicated homework facilities in the Library staffed with trained professionals to assist students in completing their extended learning. Additionally, during the lunch period, students are welcome to go to the Library.

Race to....2024 Launch



We are now in our second year of our rewards initiative, the RACE TO Bronze, Silver, and Gold! Last year we had 5 students who went on to achieve our Pride of Latimer Platinum award which was a fantastic achievement. For any new parents, our rewards programme is linked to the positive rewards points that students will be earning from staff on Satchel:one. We will be rewarding all students who reach a key milestone.

The first 5 students to reach the milestone will be awarded a certificate and a voucher.

In addition to this we want to reward students who consistently do the right thing! So every term there will be a raffle to win vouchers. To be entered into the raffle, students must have above 96% attendance, received 25 or more positive points and received zero negative points in that term. The criteria will reset each term, so all students have six opportunities to be entered!

We encourage all parents to get their child involved in this exciting initiative and support them in striving for these fantastic rewards - let's work together to celebrate their hard work, dedication, and success!

Parent / Carer's Voice: Contributing to School Improvement

We will be holding our first meeting of the academic year of our Latimer Parents'/Carers' Forum on **Tuesday 22 October** from 6pm until 7pm in the Sixth Form Café.

The Parents'/Carers' Forum works closely with the Senior Leadership Team to support school improvement. This is not the same as a PTA, there is no fundraising work involved, only a willingness from parent and carer volunteers who give up their time to engage in dialogue about school improvement. It provides an opportunity for the school to hear the parents'/carers' voice: for them to give feedback, evaluate school systems from a parent and carer perspective and to make suggestions for further improvements.

All parents and carers are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact sking@latimer.org.uk

QR codes - keeping safe from scams

Chances are, you've probably scanned a QR code or two in your time – giving you a quick and easy shortcut to a website, a social media profile, or some other online resource. Sadly, scammers have taken to using them to trick the public out of their personal information. In fact, Greater Manchester Police have said there has been a "steep rise" in the use of malicious QR codes as a "new way to defraud people". This comes after the UK's National Anti Fraud Network, Action Fraud, found that over half the people using QR codes struggled to know whether they're legitimate.

While the importance of keeping yourself safe from these scams goes without saying, it can be tricky to know which codes can be trusted ✅ and which should be avoided ❌. That's why we are sending a link to parents/carers to a free guide produced by the National College, detailing where you might run into a QR code scam and offering expert advice on how to prevent yourself and others from being tricked by these fraudsters. [👉 DOWNLOAD YOUR FREE GUIDE](#)

Catering News

The catering team will be holding an Italian Theme Menu on Thursday 19 September - details below.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 17 September	Year 10 Ace Your Exams Evening, 5.30-7.30 pm
Wednesday 18 September	Year 11 Ace Your Exams Evening, 5.30-7.30 pm
Thursday 19 September	Year 11 Drama Theatre Trip
	Year 12 Ace Level 3 Evening, 6.00-7.45 pm
Wednesday 25 September	Sixth Form Girls Maths Olympiad
Thursday 26 September	European Day of Languages: French Café Event
	Year 8 Black Country Museum Trip
Tuesday 1 October	Senior Maths Challenge (Years 12/13)
Thursday 3 October	Year 6 Open Evening, 5.30 pm (early closure 12.20 pm)
Monday 21 October	Sixth Form Pathways Taster Sessions (ends 25 October)
Tuesday 22 October	Year 7 Team Building Event
	Year 12 Tutor Check-in
	Parent Forum, 6.00 pm
Wednesday 23 October	House of Lords Member to visit Sixth Form
	Year 7 Tutor Check-in
Friday 25 October	Term Ends



More dates are available on our website