

LATIMER NEWS

2025-26

ISSUE 1:
SEPTEMBER 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Despite the rain we have had a fantastic start to the year, welcoming students back to school, looking smart and ready to learn. And of course we welcome our biggest cohort of Year 7 and Year 12 students to the Latimer family. I am delighted to see that students are already receiving positive House points – check your child's Satchel:one app for their points. House points will be updated on the website and school screens in two weeks.

There has been a lot going on at Latimer this summer, and my thanks go to the Estates and IT team for all their hard work.

We have had financial support from the Local Authority to remove asbestos in the main block which has enabled us to upgrade our wi-fi and fire alarm systems.

By relocating Student Services we have doubled the size of the canteen and added a new salad bar, which is already proving very popular. There is now the option for students to purchase stationery and calculators from the equipment shop in the canteen before the morning movement bell, items can be purchased through our fingerprint Gateway system only, no cash.

To improve safety and safeguarding we have installed an inner gate and created designated visitor car parking within this air lock. We are now a no-cycle site meaning students should walk their bikes to the gate. We have had a bigger bike store installed nearer the main gate.

An additional English classroom has been created by remodelling the space within the English block.

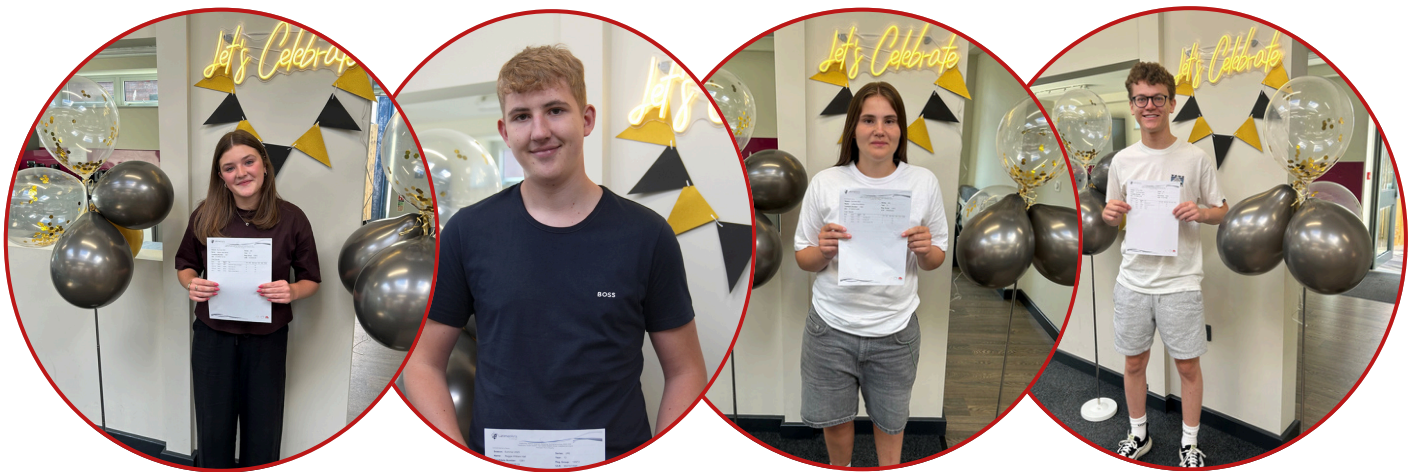
The old gym, which has previously been used as an overspill of the canteen, is being refurbished currently with a new floor to enable it to be used for PE lessons.



Latimer Arts College Students Shine!

We had two lovely results days celebrating the success of our Year 11 and 13 students.

Despite the national trend, at Latimer results are even better than last year! In 2024 we were classed as above average for progress and this year the number of students achieving 9-5 and 9-4 in English and Maths has increased to 40% and 70% respectively, meaning students can progress with their chosen pathways. They have shown what is possible with the right attitude to learning and the support of dedicated staff. Excellent teaching and support has enabled students at Latimer to unlock their true potential and achieve the very best they can. We are very proud of what they have achieved and wish them all well in the future, knowing that these excellent results have opened doors for them so they can go on to achieve their dreams.



Race to....2025 Launch



We are now in our third 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 points students earn on Satchel:one. Bronze = 200 points, Silver = 350 points and Gold = 500 points. We will be recognising all students who reach a key milestone.

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 and received zero negative points in that term.

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

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 extended 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 Support and select the items that they need or you can contact our Student Support Admin Assistant, Mrs Clark, who will be happy to help: pclark@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. Please name all items, including clothing, shoes, bags, drink bottles, and pencil cases as 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 - or you can use this [link](#). This form needs to be filled in each year.

Details of clubs and activities are available on the [Enrichment](#) page on the website.

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 16 September from 5.30 pm

Mock Exams in
40 school days

Year 11 Ace Your Exams Future Destinations Evening
Wednesday 17 September from 5.30 pm

Year 12 Ace Level 3 Sixth Form Induction Evening
Thursday 18 September from 5.30 pm

Examination Season in
135 school days

HOMework FACILITIES

A reminder of our Homework 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 homework.

Additionally, during the lunch period, students are welcome to go to the Library.

IT1 is available for Years 10 and 11 ONLY at lunchtime.



SAFEGUARDING, BEHAVIOUR AND ATTENDANCE

I would like to thank all of our students for their excellent return to school and excellent attendance last week.

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

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

- Secure the Wellbeing Award for the school over the coming 12 months based on improvements to our support for students.
- 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 between 90-96% to ensure that their attendance improves to support achievement.

Behaviour

- Further raise our expectations in creating disruption free classrooms. See section below on key changes to systems.
- Ensure that all students have the right uniform and equipment for the day. Students with any missing items including the wrong shoes, will be expected to borrow school items. Students may purchase equipment from the canteen from 8.00-8.20am each day for a nominal amount deducted from the payment system.

Behaviour System Changes from September 2025

- 1) A formal warning will now be recorded on Satchel:One as a -1.
- 2) Bell to Bell phone policy. Any student caught on a phone outside of these hours will have their phone taken and an after school detention issued.
- 3) Continued use of the Remove Room. Students who are removed from lessons due to disruption, will be sent for that lesson to the Remove Room and receive a detention.
- 4) There will be zero tolerance of painted or false nails.

Thank you.

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. Please return completed forms to Student Services.

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

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.

Epipens

We strongly recommend that any student who has an allergy and has been issued with an epipen by their GP should carry one in their bag at all times as well as leaving a spare one in Student Services.

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 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 Year 7, 8 and 9 students. This term Year 12 will also receive information 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.

Upcoming Event

Year 12 Ace Level 3 Evening - Thursday 18 September, 5.30-7.30 pm

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/rMyk17NxBg>

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 LASWfamily. A short video can be found [here](#).

Year 11 Pembroke College, University of Cambridge Trip - Tuesday 30 September

Final preparations are taking place for our annual trip to Cambridge to experience life at one of the University of Cambridge's colleges – Pembroke College. Final details will be communicated to students on the trip shortly.

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

Advance notice for Year 8 parents/carers: Take Your Child to Work Day 2025 will be taking place on Friday 21 November. This is when we ask families to take their children into work with them or a trusted family member or friend. Further information will follow by email.

Future Me Careers at Latimer: Networking Event - Friday 5 December 8-10 am

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 & 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.

OTHER NEWS

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 21 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

UPCOMING EVENT

Year 6 Open Evening

Our Open Evening for Year 6 students will be held on **Thursday 2 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 2 October **the school will close to all students at 12.20 pm** so that final preparations can be made for the evening.

Catering News



The catering team will be holding an Italian Theme Menu on Tuesday 16 September and will also have a special menu on Friday 24 October to celebrate Halloween - details below.

If any Year 7 students are having issues accessing the canteen, please email: mail@latimer.org.uk



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 16 September	Year 10 Ace Your Exams Evening, 5.30-7.30 pm
Wednesday 17 September	Year 11 Ace Your Exams Evening, 5.30-7.30 pm
Thursday 18 September	Year 12 Ace Level 3 Evening, 5.30-7.30 pm
Tuesday 23 September	Year 11 SPRE, 4.30-7.45pm
Thursday 26 September	European Day of Languages
Tuesday 30 September	Year 11 Pembroke College, University of Cambridge Trip
Thursday 2 October	Year 6 Open Evening, 5.30 pm (early closure 12.20 pm)
Wednesday 8 October	Musical Theatre Showcase, 7pm
Thursday 9 October	Senior Maths Challenge
Friday 17 October	Year 11/Sixth Form Tate Modern Trip (Art students)
Monday 20 October	Sixth Form Pathways Taster Sessions (ends 24 October)
Tuesday 21 October	Year 7 Team Building Event
	Parent Forum, 6.00 pm
Wednesday 22 October	Year 7 Tutor Check-in
Friday 24 October	Term Ends

More dates are available on our website

