

# LATIMER NEWS

## 2025-26

ISSUE 7:  
MARCH 2026

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

What an incredible response to our Year 7 and 8 homework projects. It has been so difficult to decide which entries will be on display in the Gallery of Excellence.

Here are some of the amazingly creative responses to the Year 7 task, who were set an extended learning homework this term to create a 3D Fish. The creations were fabulous with so much thought put into them! Particular congratulations go to Lucas Cooke-Jordan who created the amazing huge paper mache swordfish!



The Year 8 entries for creating a 3D sweet were just as wonderful. We were so impressed by the effort and creativity that went into their projects. Particular congratulations go to Noah Lord in 8K2 who created the immense Quality Street package with sweets inside!



The winners will be rewarded in assemblies next term and the best entries will be on display.

## Compass

A reminder that the training day on 27 March is to prepare staff for the new MIS (management information system) called Compass. Whilst we know this will lead to greater efficiency, accuracy and improved communication, please bear with us as we navigate this change. Information will be sent to parents/carers and students of how to download the Compass app. This app will be the new form of communication for homework, positive and negative points, key messages, timetables etc, and will replace Satchel:one. School Gateway continues to be our payment app for trips and lunches.



## Uniform



From September, following student, parent/carer and staff voice, we will be amending our requirements for uniform. Students joining the school in Year 7 will all wear a new branded jumper with red piping, available through our uniform supplier Karlsports, but no blazer. The rest of the school will have the option to wear a jumper OR a blazer OR both, but the blazer will no longer be compulsory. Although this change does not come into effect until September we thought it was important for you to know so that you do not invest in a new blazer over the summer.

A recycling box will be on site in Term 6 for any unwanted uniform. This will then be donated to good causes abroad or a recycling centre.

## A Musical Extravangaza!

We ended the term on a high note with the incredible Spring Music Show. With a wide range of genres, students from Years 7 to 13 once again impressed the audience with their talent. It was an upbeat, feel-good evening for all!



## Kettering Goes Orange



Our thanks to families for the donations of over £1,000 to Team Sebastian as well as the staff and students who wore orange in Sebastian's memory.

## Egg-Cellent Easter Bake Offs

A huge thank you to all students and staff that entered the Easter Bake Off! Congratulations to the winners and runners-up in all categories: Easter Inspired, Egg-Cellent Decoration, Easter Character and Spring Inspired Bake and Mini Bakes. They all looked absolutely fantastic!



**Mrs Murphy - Principal**

# SAFEGUARDING

## Meningitis

There is much in the news about the outbreak of meningitis in Kent. Infections which can cause meningitis are spread through close contact, typically through sneezing, coughing and kissing.

While there have been no reported cases locally, the recent fatalities have led to serious concern, especially for families with young people away at university or living in close quarters with others.

The NHS has a very helpful information page about meningitis which can be accessed [here](#).

The symptoms of meningitis can develop suddenly. They are sometimes mistaken for flu. These symptoms can appear in any order and not all who contract meningitis have all the symptoms. If you, your child, or someone you know presents with some of these symptoms, call 111 for medical advice.

## Reassurance

Meningitis is usually spread through close, prolonged contact. There is no need for siblings or close contacts to stay off school unless they are unwell.

## Further Information and Support

You can find more information and support here:

- [Meningitis - NHS](#)
- **Meningitis Research Foundation (24-hour helpline: 0808 800 3344)**
- **Meningitis Now (helpline: 0808 80 10 388, 9am–8pm)**
- [Meningitis B outbreak: what you need to know – UK Health Security Agency](#)

## Anti-Bullying Procedures

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify some of our basic procedures and approaches to either actual or perceived bullying. We have done some extensive work training anti-bullying ambassadors and Latimer has achieved an Anti-Bullying Accreditation. I am currently developing our procedures further to ensure that we are responding to needs in school.

It is important that we investigate incidents fully to determine if it is repeated and targeted, before we sanction.

The transition from primary school to secondary is a big challenge for relationships, and incidents are often friendship ones.

Our approach to responding to reports of bullying/perceived bullying is normally as follows:

1. We ask that parents and carers contact the Pastoral Team in the first instance if they believe there could be unkind behaviour or bullying so this can be triaged and we can then decide the right and best course of action to take.

# SAFEGUARDING

2. A restorative conversation in most cases will resolve the issues. This is used in the wider criminal justice system - see link: [Do you need restorative justice? | Restorative Justice Council](#) This involves 5 questions between the perpetrator and victim with an adult present. Most of our pastoral staff are trained in this. They would be used for friendship issues rather than persistent bullying concerns.
3. Most concerns start on social media. Often in Snapchat or group chats. A reminder that the age expectation for Snapchat and TikTok is 13. Be very mindful of what your child is posting. Do you check your child's phone regularly? Whilst we can follow up, it is important that children understand the dangers of comments or pictures being posted and have little control over social media use outside school. We do liaise with the police where necessary on more serious matters.
4. If there is targeted action either verbally, online or physically towards individuals then we enact the bullying policy. This has clear direction to allocate a colleague to support the victim and the Pastoral Team to tackle the bully.
5. Sanctions are applied on a ladder system. These are also logged on our safeguarding system.
6. We will always work with the police where issues are beyond school.
7. Where parents and carers feel an issue hasn't been resolved, we invite a conversation in order to consider what else can be done.

## UNIFORM

### Does anyone have any old Latimer clip-on ties?

If anyone has any old clip-on ties (any colour, including red) we would appreciate donations to support the loan of uniform to students who arrive without full uniform. Please can any donated ties be taken to the Pastoral Hub.

**Remember if you need help to ensure your child has the correct uniform, please do get in touch.**

# HOUSE NEWS

## Attenborough



Blink and you'll miss it, or so it has felt in Term 4. Whilst it has been the shortest term so far this year, it has also been jam packed with amazing and exciting opportunities in Attenborough House, as students have thrown themselves into this term's challenge of trying to become the very best that they can be and working towards excellence – having had a sneak peak at the HEART award nominations it is clear plenty of Attenborough students have proved themselves there.

Alongside that, March has also seen students getting involved with Move it March, logging their activity as they get more active (and hasn't the weather helped us out with that one). At the point of writing this we are on the coat-tails of Tull but the amount of students who are out and about and getting active across the whole school is to be applauded – well done to all of you!

It also seems impossible to go by without shouting out the fantastic team work shown by students within the house, taking back to back 1st places in the recent house competitions – a feat they continue to achieve on a regular basis!

## Gilbert



It has been a warm and sunny start to the term, and this has been reflected in the energy and enthusiasm of the Gilbertarians. Throughout the term, students have worked hard to increase their positive points while significantly reducing behaviour points, demonstrating a strong commitment to personal growth and responsibility.

Gilbertarians have fully embraced house competitions, giving their very best in each challenge while maintaining and fostering a strong sense of team spirit.

In addition, all students have been building meaningful connections with the Sixth Form through the Year 12 mentoring programme. This has helped to strengthen relationships across year groups and foster a greater sense of community throughout the school.

Overall, it has been an incredibly positive and purposeful start to the term, with students demonstrating both enthusiasm and a strong sense of belonging.

## Kahlo



March has continued the strong and purposeful momentum for Kahlo House, with students across all year groups maintaining high standards and a clear sense of pride in their efforts. It has been particularly pleasing to see how consistently our students are applying themselves, both in lessons and in their wider contributions to the House.

Once again, our forms are performing exceptionally well across the school. Kahlo students continue to achieve some of the highest attendance figures, reflecting their commitment to learning and their determination to be present and engaged every day. Alongside this, our positive points totals remain among the strongest in the school, highlighting the excellent attitudes, effort and behaviour consistently demonstrated by our students.

I have had the pleasure to drop in on several of our enrichment clubs this term, it has been fantastic to see so many Kahlo students attending and taking advantage of the opportunities on offer at Latimer. A special shout out to 8K1, who have received the highest positive points in the House for club attendance – Well done!

I hope everyone has a great Easter Break and takes the time to relax and enjoy themselves – we will see you back and ready to learn in Term 5.

# HOUSE NEWS

## Tull



Team Tull have continued working hard to be the very best they can be, and it has been fantastic to see the progress reflected in the positive points table. For much of the term, we held a strong 3rd place position, a great achievement and a real sign of the team's commitment and effort. Even more importantly, it has been wonderful to hear about the kindness, respect and genuine care shown towards teachers and fellow students across the school. Excellence shows itself in many ways, and Team Tull are demonstrating this every day.

This term has also seen brilliant participation in interhouse competitions. An impressive 52 students represented the House in events including the Emojis Quiz, Generation Game Conveyor Belt, and the Volleyball Tournament. Alongside earning points for full attendance, the team secured one 2nd place and two 3rd place finishes, a fantastic effort! There were some excellent individual performances, but what stood out most was the teamwork and support shown across year groups. I couldn't be prouder of how you encouraged one another.

## Race to Gold

Congratulations to our first 5 students to reach 500 positive points.

We also continued to celebrate positive points with our end of Term raffle in which 4 students with over 200 points won £20 vouchers.



# OTHER NEWS

## Catering News

The catering team will be holding a couple of special menu days next term, details below:

**Build a BURGER DAY**

Thursday 23rd April 2026

4oz BEEF BURGER IN A BUN

QUORN BURGER IN A BUN

WITH THE OPTIONS OF  
CHEESE  
LETTUCE  
TOMATOES  
FRIED ONIONS

KETCHUP  
MAYONNAISE  
MINT YOGHURT SAUCE  
GARLIC MAYO SAUCE

**Happy Easter**

Wednesday 15th April 2026

**Main Option**  
Roast Chicken, Stuffing, Roast Potatoes,  
Seasonal Vegetables Served with Gravy

**Vegetarian Option**  
Roast Quorn Fillet, Stuffing, Roast  
Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables Served  
with Gravy

**Dessert**  
Easter Chocolate Cornflake Nest

**Grow**

## Easter Clubs - Northampton Active

**KIDS EASTER CLUB**

£35PP

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE!

These clubs are brilliant for epic fun and trying out a variety of different activities throughout the week. Get ready to paddle together in a bell boat, conquer mega paddleboarding and aim at the target in archery!

**Age groups**  
Mixed 5 - 16 years old

**Watersports**  
Dive into adventure with our diverse watersports & try canoeing, kayaking, paddleboarding, bell boating, and much more!

**Outdoor Adventure**  
It's time to explore the outdoors with our qualified instructors on a wide range of activities!

**Date**  
20th March - 10th April

**Time**  
10am - 4pm

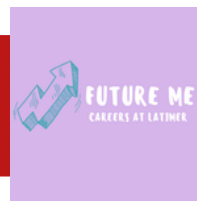
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# CAREERS



## Year 8 Pathways

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended the Pathways Evening on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March with their Year 8 children. We hope the presentation and the subject carousel provided you with information to help finalise their subject choices.

A reminder that the link to select their choices was sent to the students' school email address on Tuesday. The deadline for completion is the first day after the Easter holidays – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April. If you or your child needs support to do this please let us know via [mail@latimer.org.uk](mailto:mail@latimer.org.uk)

Further information can be found on the [KS4 Pathways](#) page on our website.

## Sixth Form Visit to SATRA



Last term the Design and Technology Department took a group of Year 12 and 13 students from the Product Design course on a trip to the SATRA testing centre. SATRA are known for their extensive testing of world-renowned products against the British Standards Institutes high performance expectations. The students were given a variety of talks by staff from a wide range of departments, covering their roles and the various testing labs. We were given a full tour of the premises where we could see a range of tests from endless compressions on chairs to crash test dummies being smashed from a great height. Students were given first hand interview advice from the Head of Public Relations, with a good list of 'Do's and Don'ts'. The team at SATRA were incredibly welcoming and students gained a lot of information regarding routes into industry from highly experienced experts.

## Future Skills Questionnaire

This week it was the turn of our Year 7 students to complete the Future Skills Questionnaire following on from the Year 12s last term.

The Future Skills Questionnaire (FSQ) is a set of questions that have been specifically designed for young people in schools and colleges to help them to think about their skills, strengths and what they might like to do in the future.

FSQ is a key feature of our careers programme. We will analyse students' responses to help evaluate our careers provision, plan future careers activities and also identify students who may need additional support.

There are up to three sections of the questionnaire:

- Careers knowledge and skills
- Essential skills for life and work
- Career Planning



The Year 7s complete the 'Starting Secondary' questionnaire which acts as baseline for the 'Transition from Key Stage 3' questionnaires the Year 8s will complete next term. In term 6, the Year 10s will complete the 'GCSE Years' questionnaire. Those students who stay on to Sixth Form complete the 'Post 16 Study' questionnaire.

# SIXTH FORM NEWS



## Going to University in 2026 - Student Finance is now OPEN!

Sign in to your account and [apply online](#) now!

## Sixth Form Rewards Trip

100 of our Sixth Form students experienced all four seasons in just one day on Wednesday at Alton Towers Theme Park. The snow, sleet and hail could not deter our students' steely determination and inner strength to tackle those Thrill Rides!

It was great to have a bit of down time and a break from the studies. We hope you all had lots of fun despite the weather. Now it's time to start planning again for next year!



## Year 12 Mock Examinations – Update

Following our recent planning process, the Year 12 mock examinations will now take place earlier than originally scheduled and will begin on Friday 1st May (mid-Term 5).

This adjustment is designed to support students by providing earlier feedback and allowing additional time for guidance and preparation ahead of the summer assessment period. Students will receive full details and support from their teachers, and the examination timetable will be shared shortly. (Please refer to letter sent home to parents for further information).

### Dates for your Diary

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May - Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May - Year 12 Mock Exams**

**w/c 1 June & w/c 8 June - Year 12 Subject 1:1 Feedback Fortnight**

# LATIMER INCLUSION

What a busy term we have had! Our students continue to impress us with their commitment to their learning and to embracing HEART values.

## Northampton Film Festival Disability Youth Careers: screening event

On 5th March, Mrs Gatiss and Mr Capps took some students to The Spinney Theatre, Northampton, to take part in the NFF Disability Youth Careers event. This was a wonderful opportunity for our students to watch some short films made by or about young people with disabilities. In addition, they were able to talk to industry specialists in film make-up, special effects, script-writing, acting and poetry. They were able to ask questions to Warner Bros Crew HQ apprenticeship staff and find out about how to enter the industry. The students were fully engaged and really welcomed the opportunity to hear from those who work in the industry.

## Awareness Days

We raise awareness of different disabilities and conditions on our Inclusion Noticeboard. Currently, we are raising awareness of Down Syndrome Day (21st March) and FND Awareness (25th March). We will be raising awareness of Autism Month in April through assemblies run by Mrs Gatiss, and also celebrating neurodiversity too.

## Mosaic Mind Club

This club is well-attended (up to 32 students weekly). We have been busy learning regulation techniques through mindful colouring, art, creative activities, biscuit decorating, dancing and talking through our worries.

In addition to this, we are putting together a food hamper for the local food bank as it is important to the club to contribute to the wider community. Keep your eye out on our social media posts for photos of this.



Thank you for your support during this academic year so far, and we look forward to having an awesome 2026.

Have a question? Please email: [sendhelpdesk@latimer.org.uk](mailto:sendhelpdesk@latimer.org.uk)

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 13 April	Training Day - school closed to students
Tuesday 14 April	Start of Term 5 (This will be Week 1)
Wednesday 29 April	Junior Maths Challenge
Friday 1 May	Year 12 Mock Exam Season (until Friday 8 May)
Tuesday 5 May	Year 10 Media Trip to Sky Sports Studio
Thursday 7 May	Exam Season Commences (Years 11 and 13)
Tuesday 19 May	Parent Forum, 6.00 pm
Friday 22 May	End of Term 5
Monday 1 June	Start of Term 6 (This will be Week 1)

