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Latimer Community Weekly Newsletter

Friday 27 March 2020



Dear All

I hope that you and your families are well. I would like to send you all my very best wishes!

Welcome to the first edition of our weekly newsletter. My sincere hope is that we do not have to publish many editions and that the College is back up and running soon, but we will continue to keep in touch regularly during the period of school closure.

The aim is to keep you up to date on the current status of the closure; to share any useful information; and to generally keep our community in touch with each other.

So please feel free to contribute, with questions, pictures and news that you have that we can share, sending any communication to Jyoti Pankhania jpankhania@latimer.org.uk in the first instance.

In the meantime, I would like to thank you all for your support and patience as we all evolve to this new, interim way of educating our children.

Regards
Siobhan

Educational Provision

Home Learning Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you for the massive efforts you have been putting in with your children whilst working with them from home. We have had lots of positive feedback from parents, as well as some queries.

Primarily, this learning has been set to support you with keeping a degree of normality and structure for your child during this period of instability. Although we wish for students to have learning to complete, we are aware this is a traumatic time for all and we do not want school work to increase the stress.

To clarify some questions:

- Completed work does not have to be sent back to staff;
- Where possible, please complete work in exercise books so that students have a record of their learning once the College re-opens;
- If your child is finding any of the tasks difficult, please do not worry: our job once the College re-opens will be to assess any gaps;
- Please reassure your child that they do not need to spend longer than the allotted hour per subject per day;
- If your child wants to complete a piece of work that takes longer, then reassure them that they can miss out another task on that day;
- If you want to complete an alternative learning task with your child, please go ahead: please see the ideas below.

We would re-iterate that the most important thing at the moment is that students are safe, well and feel relaxed and secure in the home environment.

If we can help with any further advice, please email mail@latimer.org.uk

Home Learning in Term 5

We will continue to set home learning for students after the Easter break, from Monday 20 April in two week blocks, given that we are still uncertain about the duration of the closure. We will remind you of this process, with any updated details, via email on Friday 17 April.

We are going to slim down the KS3 provision to Core and EBacc subjects at this point (English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, RS and French.) We will supplement this with some personal development type activities.

We also plan to introduce some home-learning for our Year 11 students who may be planning to join our Sixth Form. This will be in the form of 'Foundation Studies' that will help to bridge the gap between GCSE and A Level learning in each subject. More details will follow on Friday 17 April.

Easter and Term 5 Childcare Provision for Key Workers

We are currently planning to run the childcare provision for the children of key workers and our vulnerable students over Easter and from Term 5, unless the Government guidance changes or there is not a need for it.

Should you need to access this provision please read the supporting documentation included with this newsletter carefully and then contact the College accordingly.

Please can we re-iterate **that whilst we are keen to support our key workers, the Government guidance is that students should stay at home if they are able to as this is the safest place to be.**

We would like to pass on our thanks to those staff who have been supervising our childcare provision this week. Mrs Starmer worked with some students on a rainbow to display from her house. It made the local news!



Useful Links and Alternative Learning Ideas

We know that many of you have joined Joe Wicks doing his PE sessions and other workouts with the family which is a great way to keep healthy at this challenging time. We have also received some fantastic responses from the Year 7 students taking part in Mrs Turnbull's PE videos.

Please can we re-assure you that it is fine to supplement or swap the home learning that we have set with alternative activities.

Some students have been cooking; some have been learning how to be an entrepreneur by winning at Monopoly; some have been in the garden bird spotting; and well done to those who have been improving their Maths skills playing the dice game, Yahtzee!

All of these are creative ways to have fun and learn at home.

Opposite is a great list of activities that you and your children could also take part in. Let us know other ideas and we will share them in the next newsletter: jpankhanian@latimer.org.uk

9.00am - PE with Joe Wicks https://youtu.be/6v-a_dpwhro
10.00am - Maths with Carol Vorderman www.themathsfactor.com
11.00am - English with David Walliams
<https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/>
12.00pm - Lunch (cooking with Jamie Oliver)
<https://www.jamieoliver.com/features/category/get-kids-cooking/>
1.00pm - Music with Myleene Klass
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQh2wgJ5tOrxYBn6jFXsXQ>
1.30pm - Dance with Darcey Bussell
<https://twitter.com/diversedancemix/status/1241098264373592065>
2.00pm - History with Dan Snow (free for 30-days)
<https://tv.historyhit.com/signup/package>
4.00pm - Home Economics with Theo Michaels (Mon/Wed/Fri)
<https://www.instagram.com/theocooks>

Non-daily events include:

Science with Professor Brian Cox, Robin Ince & Guests
<https://cosmicshambles.com/stayathome/upcoming-schedule>
9.30am Wednesday 25 March - Geography with Steve Backshall
<https://twitter.com/SteveBackshall/status/1242058846941712385>

Key Information

Year 11 and 13 Exams Results

To clarify, we have not yet been contacted about this process, or how grades will be collated and calculated. However, we will work with the Government and exam boards to ensure students get the grades which we believe they deserve. In the meantime, please can we ask that parents and carers and students **do not** contact staff directly. To ensure the integrity of the system we will not be responding to individual queries.

The latest information that we have is:

“Teachers will take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment – clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges. The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in.”

The information further says:

“There will also be an option to sit an exam early in the next academic year for students who wish to. If they do not believe the correct process has been followed in their case, they will be able to appeal on that basis. In addition, if they do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance, they will have the opportunity to sit an exam at the earliest reasonable opportunity, once schools are open again. Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021.”

If we receive any further information or guidance about the process, we will update you immediately.

Year 13 UCAS Update

On Tuesday UCAS released the following statement regarding University applications:

“Following the cancellation of examinations and assessments, the Government today asked all universities and colleges to stop making unconditional offers or amending existing offers to students for up to two weeks. The Government wants to reassure students that it will provide them with the grades you need. No student should feel pressured into making a quick decision which may end up not being in your best interest. It is important that all the information is available to you when making decisions on your offers and understand how awarding of qualifications will work this summer. Because of this, we have extended the May decision deadline by two weeks.”

For further information, please visit the [UCAS website](#).

Fraudsters Targeting Parents and Carers

We have all been overwhelmed with companies and organisations who are doing their best to support parents and carers at this time with home learning programmes. Please just be aware that there are a minority that are trying to take advantage through scams and unscrupulous practices. **Please be wary of ‘free’ trials, which are not always what they seem.** We would encourage you to access the home learning that we are setting or the ideas of your own as outlined above.

Free School Meal Provision

Should the government have not announced its voucher scheme, we will continue to make arrangements for free school meals to be provided after Easter. Again, **please do not respond to any messages or texts that you get from any other parties about free school meals.** We are aware of scammers sending fake texts asking for bank details.

The College will clarify the position with you. If in doubt, contact us: mail@latimer.org.uk

Community Corner

We are sure you that you have seen the variety of activities people are doing to keep themselves entertained at home, from toilet roll football skills, taking part in virtual concerts/quizzes to taskmaster challenges. We would love to share activities that you are doing to keep spirits up during our school closure. Please send your photos to jpankhania@latimer.org.uk



We would like to set some 'Latimer Challenges' and share the responses in each weekly newsletter. Please send photo evidence to jpankhania@latimer.org.uk by **3.00pm on Wednesday** of each week.

Please feel free to send some idea for future challenges!

The challenge this week is to:

1: Pick up the biggest item using chopsticks (something similar to chop sticks if you don't have any!)

or

2: Draw a circle (either indoors or in your garden): the biggest and most accurate circle wins.

And finally...

Remember that the clocks go forward on Saturday night.

Spring is in the air – new life and new hope for all of us!

