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Latimer Community Weekly Newsletter

Friday 26 June 2020



Today, we would have been celebrating with our Year 13 students, most of whom have been with us for the past seven years and others who have joined our Latimer family along the way. This is a momentous occasion in a young person's life: they are moving on to pastures new and they are also saying goodbye to friends and staff who have supported them on their journey. Today we would be commending their achievements, sharing memories and celebrating the hard work they have put into their studies over the past two years and, whilst it fills us with great sadness that we cannot say this in person, we did not want to let this day pass us by.

Dear Year 13

Recovery from Covid-19 may come slowly. But, when it does, you will be remembered for your resilience, determination and willingness to face your future.

Your final day may have been a mixture of sadness, relief, disbelief and filled with a million questions. But, today, the sun has come out in celebration for you in honour of the bright futures that lay ahead of each and every one of you.

There is a common misconception that school is just about preparing you for exams, but what many forget is that we are preparing you for life and we know that you still have lots to look forward to. We hope that we have helped shape you as young adults and that one day you will look back upon your time here at Latimer fondly.

We look back with pride at the class of 2020: a friendly, dedicated and hardworking year group. It has been a real pleasure to work with you and to see develop during your time in Sixth Form.

Two years ago we commissioned our very own Alfie Johnson to put together a leavers video and, whilst this is not what we had planned, like you, we adapted. So thank you to all of you who contributed and we hope you enjoy your two part Leavers' Video message. Make sure you look out for the special treat at the end!

We are still here to support you and we welcome hearing from you as soon as you have your feet firmly placed on the next path. Take care and hopefully we will get to see you all again soon!

**With best wishes from the
Sixth Form Team and All Staff at The Latimer Arts College**

NB: To view the video, students will need to log into their email account.

Team Latimer Video 2: Bringing our Community Together

Just a reminder that we would love to receive photos from students (and families) to be included in our next Team Latimer Video. Students can include an appropriate visual message in their photograph. We would encourage this to be something personal and unique, perhaps showing or explaining what they have been up to or achieved during lockdown so that the photographs have variety.

If you would like to submit a picture, please send it to Reprographics@latimer.org.uk by the end of the working day on **Monday 29 June**.

Educational Provision

We have mentioned in previous newsletters that we welcome parental feedback and in light of recent Government announcements and in response to some questions posed by parents and carers we would like to share some updates with you.

There have been a few queries around why we were only able to offer two face to face sessions for Year 10 and about when we may use Microsoft 'Teams' more widely with students.

Onsite provision has been restricted in part due to the significant number of staff who are currently advised to shield, or have young children with no childcare or are part time staff. All of this, alongside the logistical issues of providing safe bubbles, with minimal mixing, makes it difficult to organise days onsite. However, by going through this process with Year 10, we are learning what works and what does not and this will inform our future planning.

In line with other local schools' plans, we have started to use Microsoft 'Teams', initially with Year 12. To use this application more widely, there are logistical issues which need to be overcome, including the number of students that can be successfully on a meeting at one time. Despite what might have been said by ministers, schools need to purchase additional licensing to use the system with large groups and there are other technical difficulties associated with this. Where students in other schools are using Teams, many of them are multi-academy trusts, where one lesson is shared across multiple schools and there are a higher number of teachers within the organisation to deliver these.

We do recognise that, depending on any Government announcements in the next two weeks, we have to find a way forward and we have always said that we would not become complacent and continue to seek ways of improving the learning experience for our students. Therefore, we have signed up to a Government backed support programme to share the expertise of other schools in online learning, so that we can do our best for our students with the resources that we do have should there continue to be disruption to schools moving forwards.

We need to be clear that, at the time of writing, we have not yet received any guidance from the Government about the return of all students. However, our sincerest hope is that the Government is able to deliver on its commitment for all students to return full time to school in September. Our time would then be spent planning how best we can support our students to catch-up and move forwards with their learning.

Term 6 Home Learning: Week Commencing 29 June

Please remind and encourage your child to complete the quizzes that have been set for them. This will enable teachers to gather feedback on what students have and have not understood and will help us to inform future learning. It will also enable us to provide feedback and reward students for their efforts. Please see details below of our summer Epraise Prize Draw!

Years 7 and 8: Students will be issued with their next set of project activities. To supplement the booklets, students can also access lessons from the [National Academy](#).

A reminder that students can now access our Tassomai Science app, and should have signed up to it to help support their remote learning. The instructions can be [accessed here](#) (if students are logged into their school email account) or on our website Home Learning page.

Please congratulate your child for all that they have done so far. In Year 7 we have currently answered 9,274 questions correctly, whilst in Year 8 it is 9,942!

Year 7

Rank	Name	Questions Attempted
1	Zach Skeggs	629
2	Rose Wooding	572
3	Jacob Jose	418
4	Harrison Edwards	339
5	Jack Baish	324
6	Jacob Akkrill	300
7	Abigail Balchin	246
8	Liam Holyhead	243
9	Olivia Jackson	241
10	Callum Dicks	239

Year 8

Rank	Name	Questions Attempted
1	Connor Green	734
2	Isabelle Lund	627
3	Maisy Ashall	453
4	Katrina Raiba	387
5	Anthony Cooper	328
6	Katie Boardman	312
7	Tamzin Goosey	298
8	Monique Lin	289
9	Phoebe Hill	288
10	Imogen Smith	279

Year 9: Learning will be set through Show My Homework and students should be following the published timetable. They will continue to receive the home learning booklet as additional work for them to do if they wish to.

In order to evaluate the progress that each student has made and to identify the areas that staff may need to revisit, we are asking Year 9 students to complete a Review of Learning: Closing the Gap activity. We have already asked Years 10 and 12 to do this. Details are included with this newsletter and we ask that the forms are returned electronically to Lucy Shore: ishore@latimer.org.uk by Friday 3 July.

Personal Development: Years 7, 8 and 9 should also continue with their 'Motivate Me' scheme. In addition to this, the Achievement Team have issued their first of two remote assemblies. The link to this week's Assembly: Keeping Mentally Healthy, is on SMHW and students can watch this by clicking on the link and signing in with their Latimer log in details. The next assembly will be made available on Monday 6 July.

Year 10: It was fantastic to see our Year 10 students on site this week. There was a real buzz around the College and our teaching staff relished the opportunity to do what they love – to teach our students! We really hope this will be the same for all students in September.

Students will continue to have lessons set on SMHW. We hope that the revision guides that we have provided them with this week will help to supplement their learning. For those students who were unable to come in this week, we are organising the delivery of revision guides to them.



All Year 10 students should have completed their Closing the Gap: Review of Learning grid and sent it back to jhemmington@latimer.org.uk. If your child has not yet done this, we urge you to ensure that it is returned immediately. This is to help us plan for the next steps for each individual student.

Year 12: Students will continue to have lessons set on SMHW and will have their timetabled Microsoft 'Teams' sessions, which will supplement their home learning. Students will also join us on Tuesday 30 June for their face to face session, which will have a focus on supporting with future destination plans. All details of this have been issued.

All Year 12 students should have completed their Closing the Gap: Review of Learning grid and sent it back to smagee@latimer.org.uk. If your child has not yet done this, we urge you to ensure that it is returned immediately. This is to help us plan for the next steps for each individual student.

Key Information

Science Learning Centre: Onsite Closure Monday 13 and Tuesday 14 July

We just want to make you aware that, as part of the completion of the new Science Learning Centre, our server room will be moving and we will be having a new phone system installed.

This work will be carried out from the end of the working day on Friday 10 July and should be completed at the end of the working day on Tuesday 14 July. This means that on these days we will have no IT access at all, nor will we have any phones.

- Students **will** still be able to access their email accounts and Show My Homework from a home device so they will be able to access their home learning. As staff will not be able to access our IT system, home learning for these days will be published on Friday 10 July.
- Year 12 face to face Microsoft Teams sessions **will** still take place on these days.
- Unfortunately, **we will not** be able to offer our Childcare Provision on these two days as we have no IT access and no phone lines. We do apologise for the inconvenience that this may cause.

This work was always scheduled and, had the College been fully open, we would have had to make considerable contingency plans on these days.



And with the Science Learning Centre in mind, last week we showed you how the outside of our new building was progressing: this week we can give you a sneak peek inside, as the internal fixtures and fittings are being put in!



BT Free Internet Access

BT announced they are offering those students from a low income family six months' free internet access. Through partnership with the Department of Education they will open up millions of BT Wi-Fi hotspots to the most in-need children in England, providing access to online schooling and learning resources. Please see the [press release](#) here for further information about how to access this.

Keeping in Touch with our Students

Staff are very much looking forward to speaking to our students in Years 7-9 and those not attending our Year 10 and Year 12 Face to Face sessions to check in with them as we approach the final few weeks of term. These calls do take some time so please do not worry if your child does not receive a call until later in the week.

Sixth Form Induction Programme

Our future Year 12 students should have been joining us in a couple of weeks for their onsite Induction Programme. One feature of this would have been to sample some A Level lessons. Although students will not be able to do this, they have had a taster of A Level learning through the Foundation Learning packs that we have previously sent.

In September, we will incorporate the other features of our Induction Programme into the first few days of the new academic year. This will include sessions on Study Skills, Independent Study and the use of the Sixth Form reference library.

We are currently planning our Sixth Form registration process, which is likely to be one that is carried out remotely. More details will follow on this in the next couple of weeks.

A Level and GCSE Results Days

We are currently considering plans for the publication of results, which may have to be carried out remotely. We will monitor Government guidance over the next two weeks before making a final decision and confirming arrangements.

Year 6 'Moving Up' Activities

A reminder that we are delivering a remote 'Moving Up' process for our new Year 7 students. This will include a letter to Year 6 students from our Latimer students providing tips and advice for a successful transition; a virtual tour of the College; and a transition pack for Year 6 students to complete. This will be followed by a final letter formally welcoming Year 6 students and providing details of the House and Form they will be in.

Keep an eye out for these activities through email, on our website and through Twitter @year7latimer.

Awards Season Approaches: Will Your Child Be a Winner?

Although we are not all in College at the moment, excitement is building as our annual awards season gets ever nearer. The nominations are all in and the prize winners are being selected for our Pride of Latimer Awards which will be announced on Friday 10 July. Sadly, we will not be able to hold the ceremony but we will be announcing our winners on this day.



This will coincide with our final Epraise Prize Draw of the year! Students can enter themselves into draws and will have a choice of different prizes, such as a Lenovo Cloudbook, a Fitbit and different shopping vouchers. To enter, students need to sign in to www.epraise.co.uk and check out the rewards section to see what they are able to win and decide which of the draws they want to enter. The draw will take place on Thursday 9 July, with the winners announced on 10 July, along with our Pride of Latimer Awards. So make sure your child signs up to be in with a chance to win.

Events and Alternative Learning Ideas



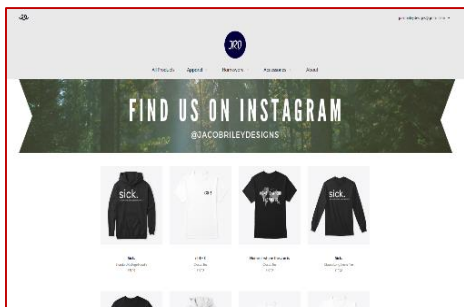
This is the final weekly task and we encourage all to take part so that we can see if we can achieve another recognition award for student participation.

Week 8: Tennis

The three challenges are all from the Young Leaders competition. The following were chosen by a Northamptonshire Sport panel:

- 1) 'Perfect Prep' – a serving toss challenge from a Year 7 girl @ Bishop Stopford School
- 2) 'Fabulous Footwork' – a footwork challenge from a Year 6 girl @ Great Doddington Primary
- 3) 'Toilet Roll Catch' – a racket control and co-ordination challenge from a Year 8 girl @ Prince William School

Community Corner



We were delighted to hear from Jacob Riley, who has shared a few things that he has been doing over lockdown when he has not been doing his home learning! He has been helping his dad and little brother start a veg patch in the garden, which has resulted in many tomato, cucumber and potato plants. Jacob has also started his own t-shirt business that you can find at bit.ly/jacobriley. Well done, Jacob!

Luke Speight, has signed up to run 30 miles during July to raise funds for the NHS. He has set his target at £100. His just giving page is <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Claire-Speight1>



Polly Butler has designed a lovely car inspired by nature and here is another one of her paintings.



Our best wishes go to the following students who will be celebrating their birthday this weekend and next week:

Finley Alker, Eva Best, Paola Bologna, Alister Bonafia, Jack Brown, Sam Carter, Lily Cass, Karan Cheema, Aaron Cole, Alex Colledge, Mya Cooke, Rienna Cox, Millie Danns, Summer Elston, Oliver Gidney, Drew Gilbert, Sophie Harvey, Ben Holder, Kayleigh Jarvis, Rhys Jones, Finlay Judge, Francesca Labrum, Thomas Labrum, Poppie Lovegrove, George Mann, Sebastian Martin, Mischa Pack, Rachel Pannell, Jack Parker, Liberty Robson, Jacob Smith, Lauren Stacey, Isabelle Sumner, Ava Vanzwanenberg, Elliott Wills and Jake Woods.

Friday Family Fun: Quiz Night

As it is FA Cup weekend, there are no Premier League games on Friday, so why not have a go at the weekly quiz instead!

Last Week's Riddles Challenge Answers:

- 1: What English word has three consecutive double letters? **Bookkeeper**
- 2: How can the number four be half of five? **IV, the Roman numeral for four, which is "half" (two letters) of the word five**
- 3: I have keys, but no locks and space, and no rooms. You can enter, but you can't go outside. What am I? **A keyboard**
- 4: A girl has as many brothers as sisters, but each brother has only half as many brothers as sisters. How many brothers and sisters are there in the family? **Four sisters and three brothers.**



This week's challenge is a **Name the Company Cryptic Quiz**.

We have included the **answers** for you.