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Latimer Community Weekly Newsletter

Friday 15 May 2020



Dear All

In a week that should have seen GCSE examinations start, it would be easy for us to dwell on what we have lost. But instead, I hope that the video message sent this week serves to remind us all of what we still have and will have again soon!

It has been such a pleasure to speak to so many students over the course of the last week. Our students are learning so many new skills and having so many experiences that they may not have ordinarily have had: they are growing as human beings in so many different ways. I have spoken to students who have been upcycling furniture, painting fences and taking part in remote breakdancing and gymnastics lessons. And their newly developed culinary skills will put Jamie Oliver to shame, I am sure (thank you to the Lee family for your top tip on making pizza dough!).

What has shone through was positivity and resilience. So many of our students are making the very best of what they have and this is a real credit to you, their parents and carers, for the support and reassurance that you have given them in this time of uncertainty. We salute you for this!

My hope is that as a family, you all take the time to look back on achievements that you have secured over the last 8 weeks: it may not be education as you would want it, but you are doing your very best for your children.

With the slight easing of lockdown this week, we should look forwards: perhaps we are starting to see glimmers of hope that we can restart some aspects of our 'normal' lives.

Regards
Siobhan Hearne
Principal



School Re-Opening Update

The expectations in relation to secondary schools re-opening remains unclear.

The current guidance from the DfE states:

*'From the week commencing 1 June 2020 **at the earliest**, we will ask secondary schools, **to offer some face-to-face support** to supplement the remote education of **Year 10 and Year 12** students who are due to take key exams next year, alongside the full time provision they are offering to priority groups.'*

It is stressed that schools will only start to re-open provided that the 5 key tests set by Government justify the changes at the time, including that the rate of infection is decreasing and the enabling programmes set out in the recovery strategy are operating effectively.

You can read the guidance [here](#).

Although with this newsletter we are unable to confirm what this face-to-face support for students in Years 10 and 12 will be, we would like to reassure you that planning has commenced for when we can welcome some students back. These plans will follow all of the Government guidance, with our key priority being to minimise any risk to our students and staff. We hope to be able to update you early next week with more details.

It is unlikely that students in Years 7-9 will return to College in Term 6, although should the guidance change, we will update you accordingly.

Educational Provision

Home Learning Update

As we have to plan two weeks in advance, the structure that we have currently in place for Home Learning for all year groups will remain the same for the final week of Term 5. In next week's newsletter, we will confirm the plans for the next phase of Home Learning for Term 6.

Year 11 students should continue with their 'Foundation Learning Pack' to help to bridge the gap between GCSE and A Level learning. The second and final range of activities for Year 11 to undertake to bridge the gap between GCSE and A Level will be issued at the start of Term 6, after which Year 11 will commence their 'study leave'. We will not be setting any further learning for Year 11 at this stage.

A reminder that Year 12 also have their 10-week 'Future Destinations' plan to work through.

Key information about [Home Learning](#) can be accessed on our website.

Years 7–9 Home Learning Feedback

We are now in to our second week of the home learning booklets we are setting for Years 7-9. The driver behind the change, from setting individual lessons to a more flexible choice of learning activities, was to reduce pressure for students and their families; to give the students a choice of learning activities; and to make the range of them more engaging. We are pleased that the overall feedback, both by email and over the phone is positive, and even those of you who have your concerns appreciate what we are trying to achieve.

For some families the change has been a breath of fresh air:

"I'm just emailing to say how much we appreciate the new style home learning packs. Myself and my daughter are finding them a great deal more manageable and enjoyable. The option to choose the task has taken off a lot of the pressure that (my child) was experiencing and she is enjoying being able to decide her timetable and complete the tasks in a creative way!"

"The booklet for my son in Year 9 was brilliant and you could see all the hard work that had gone into producing it. He really enjoyed planning his week and picking his tasks from the subjects :-)"

"So far loved today, learnt how to play mancala. I'm in first place, poor daughter has some catching up to do. Definitely not a stressful day, no algebra - RESULT!"

However, for some, the change has not been as positive:

"My son is quite happy with the reduction in work, however I don't feel that he is being pushed to think about the exercises that have been set. I feel that the last few weeks, where homework was set via Show my Homework, appeared much more like the school work that he is used to. The change in impetus has been quite noticeable".

"I just thought I would feedback and say how my children aren't enjoying the booklets. They are finding there is no structure to it and find it difficult to get motivated. A positive from last week my two children created a 3 course meal which we enjoyed on Saturday night as a family."

We are very aware that trying to replicate normal school is impossible in these circumstances, and that we will not be able to satisfy all potential home situations. We are listening to feedback, and will look to make tweaks to the home learning in Term 6.

Key Information

Childcare Provision: Term 6 Update

We will continue to offer a childcare provision to children of critical workers, which will include May half term if required (with the exception of the Monday bank holiday).

Please refer to the letter on Childcare Provision for Key Workers Term 6 Update on our website for clarification of the criteria for requesting this provision and details of how to do so.

Uniform Orders

Our uniform supplier Karlsports are fully stocked and are ready to take online orders should any new uniform be required for when we return.

The website is www.ksschoolwear.co.uk. They can be located at: Unit 7, Trafalgar Road, Kettering, Northants, NN16 8DB. Tel: 033 000 80401. Given social distancing procedures in retail, Karlsports are requesting online orders. However, should you feel it necessary to try on a uniform item, their opening hours are 9am-5pm. These are subject to change and we recommend you contact them directly ahead of your visit.

A reminder that we may be able to offer support with uniform purchasing for those students who are eligible for the Pupil Premium. Please contact Ms Pankhania for more information: jpankhanian@latimer.org.uk

Year 11 Yearbook

A reminder that we still fully intend to produce a Yearbook for our Year 11 students. In order to do this, we need some help! We kindly request that parents and carers of Year 11 students ask their child to check their inbox as Mrs Shore has emailed those that have not handed in their Yearbook comment forms. We still have a number outstanding. We want to do everything we can to ensure that all students are able to be featured in the book and have their comments included.

If there are any questions regarding the Yearbook, please contact Mr Tamkin at stamkin@latimer.org.uk

Pride of Latimer – will your child be a winner in 2020?

Regrettably, we will not be able to have the same celebration as we do annually for our Pride of Latimer Awards. However, we would still like to recognise the achievements of our Year 11 and Year 13 students. We will be sending further information.... watch out for more news at a later date!

Safeguarding and Well-Being

Keeping in Touch with our Students

Staff have been making phone calls to our students this week and it has been lovely to hear all of the great things they have been getting up to and to hear their experiences. There are still some calls left to be completed so please do not worry if we have not managed to contact you yet. Please be reminded that many of these calls may come from an unknown number or with no caller ID, so please do answer, if it is convenient to do so.

Team Latimer: Our Times

We have been missing everyone in our school community and we hope that our video brought you a little joy. If students have not viewed it yet, they need to log onto their school email account to access the link.

News and Events

Northamptonshire Virtual Games – Week Two

Let's see if we can make it into the top 10 secondary schools this week by giving this week's gymnastics tasks a go:



- Challenge 1: 3 Second balance
- Challenge 2: Wheels and rolls
- Challenge 3: Performance task

Be sure to log your activities on the website <https://www.northamptonshiresport.org/school-games> (paste the link into your browser). Watch this week's coaching tips [here](#). Keep safe, stay happy and keep exercising!

Did You Know?

Do you know what skills will be needed for employment in a post Covid-19 world? Find out more [here](#)

Want to be inspired?

Speakers for schools have a great opportunity for students and/or parents and carers to log in and view a range of talks by guest speakers from a wide range of backgrounds and industries. These talks are completely free and there are a range of talks suitable for KS3/4/5.



[View all of the upcoming talks here.](#) Here are just a sample of next week's talks:

- Aleida Rios, Group Head of Engineering, BP
- Robert Peston, Political Editor, ITV and Founder, Speakers for Schools
- David Dein, Former Chairman of Arsenal and the Football Association
- Tom Dore, Head of Education, British E-Sports Association

Preparing to start University in 2020

Coventry University are providing Year 13 applicants with guidance on how to stay motivated and how to prepare for their higher education journey during the COVID-19 pandemic. Year 13 students have already been sent further information as the webinar will take place today. Should you wish to book please click on the [link](#).

Saying Thank You

May 20th is National Thank A Teacher Day. It will mark a moment when we, as a nation, can come together to say thank you to teachers across the country who are making a difference not only now during these unprecedented times, but every day of the year.

The [Teaching Awards Trust](#) are asking as many people as possible to share their message of thanks, ideally in a video clip leading up to the day. This will be in an expression of their choosing - singing a song/miming to a song of thanks to their teacher, writing and/or reciting a poem, or sharing a picture or a drawing.



Community Corner

We are always delighted when we receive pictures of the activities our Latimer families have been taking part in. Please continue to send us your family pictures: Kgallon@latimer.org.uk

With VE Day Celebrations taking place on Friday 8 May, Eliza Flint was busy creating a stunning display for her neighbours to enjoy.





Erin Gray has been keeping herself busy by using the textiles skills taught to her by Mrs Cowley. She has made a cross stitch coaster mat and she has nearly finished her button bag.

Anthony Cooper is continuing to enjoy the Home Learning activities and sent us his pictures: for DT Food he made a rainbow jelly, for Humanities he did some historical baking and for Art he painted a pebble – very creative, well done!



Mollie Brophy-Williams sent us these lovely slates she has been painting, she has also been volunteering at The Green Patch to enable the acres of land to stay healthy. Keep up the great work Mollie!



Mollianne Carter has been learning and practising her brush strokes when helping paint the garden fence at the weekend with mum and dad (her mum was hiding behind the phone and took the photo)! Brilliant skills Mollianne!

Grace and Ruby Stevens have continued to be busy: they have created a family hand art picture, a VE Day display, baked gingerbread men, chocolate twists and a marble cake! Well done girls!



Our best wishes go to the following students who will all be celebrating their birthdays over the next week:

Faye Boasley, Alex Chyzynski, Harrison Evans, Oliver Grimster, Beth Husband, Isabel Isaac, Owen Johnson, Toby Keech, Amber Keown, Kareena Kumari, Cara Levison, Charlie Manning, Sadie Millar, Leon Owen, Crispin Pashler, Evie Smart, Mia Wood and Sophie Wylde.

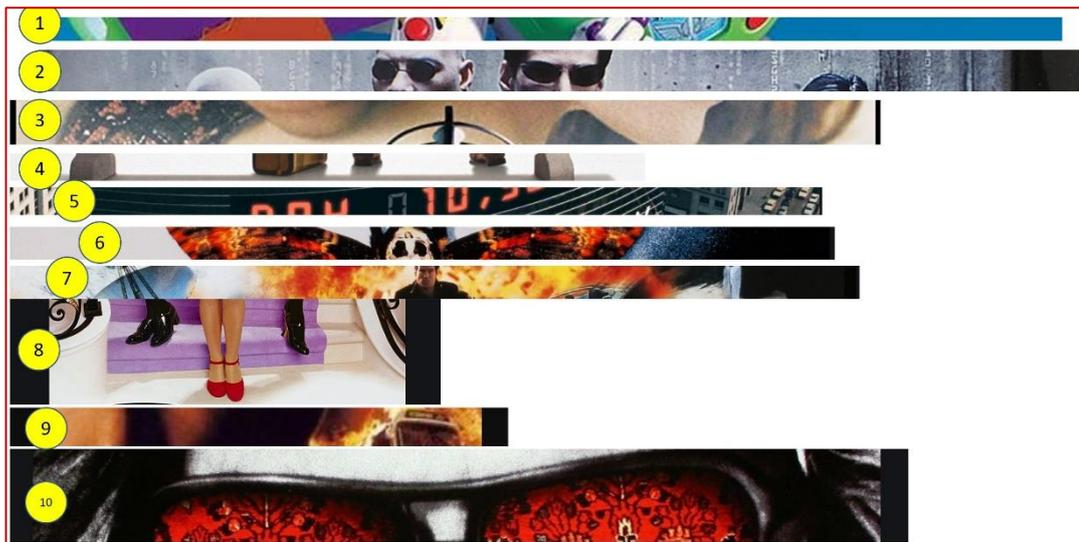
Friday Family Fun: Quiz Night

It is the end of the week and so it is Friday Quiz time! We hope that you enjoyed last week's quiz and that you score even more points this week!



For all those missing their favourite sport, we have a sporting quiz (and answers) for you this week.

Last Week's Challenge Movie Quiz Answers:



1. Toy Story
2. Matrix
3. Titanic
4. Forrest Gump
5. Truman Show
6. Silence of the Lambs
7. Goldeneye
8. Clueless
9. Speed
10. Big Lebowski

And finally...



With a picture you may have seen featured in the video, Mr Corrigan's wife was delighted to receive headbands made by the Latimer DT team which she will be taking to her colleagues at NGH.

Thank you!