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Latimer Community Weekly Newsletter

Friday 24 April 2020



Dear All

As we complete another week of home learning and home working, it is easy to start to feel increasingly distanced from our community.

This is why I want to re-iterate the message from last week: it is so important that we keep communicating with one another. It is lovely to hear about what our students have been up to and to share their weekly successes. We miss our students so much and this is one way that we can feel connected to them so please do keep sending us updates.

We also encourage you to be open about any challenges that you may be facing. We must remember that we are all in this together and together we will get through it.

I am sure that we have all been humbled by the achievement of Captain Tom Moore, and it is my sincere hope that you will all get behind the bid to make the NHS Voices of Care choir song for him Number 1 on his 100th birthday (Thursday 30 April). The words of the song are more poignant now than ever:

*'Walk on
With hope in your heart
And you'll never walk alone'*

So if you need anything, please just ask, you are not alone! As a school, we are still here to help in any way we can.

And yes, along with so many others, I am missing football, but there are more important things in life!

Here is to good health and happy families!

Regards
Siobhan Hearne
Principal

Key Information

Financial Support: Free School Meals

One area of Government support during the current crisis is providing for those families who are entitled to Free School Meals. The College has registered all eligible families for a weekly voucher for £15 per week to spend in their chosen supermarkets.

However, we are aware that sadly, increasing numbers in our community are experiencing financial hardship due to the impact of the current crisis. If this is your family, you may be eligible for free school meals if you are entitled to:

1. Income Support
2. Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
3. Child Tax Credit Only (with income up to £16,190) with no element of Working Tax Credit
4. National Asylum Seekers Support
5. Guarantee Element of the State Pension Credit
6. Employment and Support Allowance
7. Universal Credit (Income Related)

We urge all parents and carers who may now be eligible to register with [Northants County Council](#). You can check your eligibility and access the online application form [here](#).

Free School Meal Vouchers

We thought that it was worth just clarifying how the government Free School Meal (FSM) voucher system works.

- If a student is entitled to FSM then we have registered the main parent/carer's e-mail address and child names with Edenred, the company that are organising the vouchers.
- Between Tuesday and Wednesday each week, you should receive an e-mail with a code to redeem in a supermarket from Edenred.
- If there are problems with redeeming your code please contact Edenred on 0333 400 5932 or by e-mailing them at freeschoolmeals@edenred.com.

Currently, the supermarkets where the vouchers can be redeemed are: Aldi, Asda, M and S, Morrisons, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Waitrose.

If there is anything else that we can support with please contact JPankhania@latimer.org.uk

Government Funded Laptops and 4G Routers

You may be aware that the Government has said that it will provide the following:

- Digital devices for disadvantaged Year 10 students and school children with social workers **who do not already have them**
- 4G dongles for disadvantaged Year 10 students and children in secondary school with social workers **who do not have internet access**

With this in mind, staff at the College will contact the parents/carers of eligible students over the coming days to establish if there is a need. This information will then be submitted to the Local Authority, who are responsible for ordering the devices.

At this stage, we have no more specific information and so we are unable to indicate the timeframes for these devices being delivered to homes. However, we will keep you up to date with any further information that we receive.

Trip Refunds: Processing Delay

We want to apologise to those parents and carers who are awaiting refunds from cancelled trips. We did initiate the process of refunding the money prior to the Easter break but due to an administrative error by School Gateway, the refunds did not process. It has emerged that due to banking regulations, any payment that was made 180 days or more ago cannot be refunded by the original payment method. Therefore, we have to arrange refunds to nominated bank accounts. Unfortunately, we were not informed of this.

Therefore, we will be contacting parents and carers who are awaiting refunds via School Gateway in order to confirm banking details with you. Please be reassured this is an official school communication and we will need this information to process the refunds. We will endeavour to do this as quickly as possible and do apologise once again for the unforeseen delay.

Exam Results Publication Date

As you may be aware, we have now had confirmation that examination results will be published on the original planned dates:

A Level Results: Thursday 13th August 2020

GCSE Results: Thursday 20th August 2020

The Chief Regulator of Ofqual, Sally Collier, has written a [Letter to Students](#) which will provide further clarity about how grades will be awarded.

They have also produced guidance for GCSE and A Levels: [Summer 2020 grades for GCSE, AS and A level, Extended Project Qualification and Advanced Extension Award in maths](#) and for Vocational subjects: [Summer 2020 results for vocational, technical and other qualifications](#)

Sixth Form September 2020

Over the next couple of weeks, we will contact those students who have applied to join our Sixth Form in September to clarify subject choices. Please bear with us as we plan to make individual phone calls and this will take a couple of weeks to complete.

Home Learning

Home Learning: Term 5 Update

Next week all students in Years 7-10 and Year 12 will continue to have daily 'lessons' uploaded onto Show My Homework as per their normal timetable.

Please be reminded that, unless specifically requested, there is no requirement for students to submit work that has been set. We kindly ask that any work completed is stored safely until we return. Please do ignore the default setting on Show My Homework that says 'online submission'. We are not able to change this!

Year 11 students have been issued with a 'Foundation Learning Pack' to help to bridge the gap between GCSE and A Level learning and offer something to keep students engaged in the learning process.

From Monday 4 May: Years 7, 8 and 9 will be issued with a weekly booklet, with a range of activities for each subject for them to select to complete. These subject based activities will have a range of challenge, can be carried out in a range of ways (for example, some may be practical, some online, some creative) and can be carried out individually, with brothers and sisters and/or with parents and carers.

Our hope is that this enables students to maintain their engagement in the learning process but eases the pressure on both students and their parents and carers. Our plan is to be inclusive: there will be something for everyone!

For Year 10 and Year 12, we will move to activities that consolidate or extend prior learning, rather than introducing new learning.

Year 12: Extending Learning Opportunities

Study Support: During this time, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the resources we have available for Year 12 students to access in supporting their studies.



Seneca is free for students to use. It presents them with key information and then tests this in various ways. Some staff are setting revision activities through this.

<https://www.senecalearning.com/>



Quizlet allows students to create their own quizzes, flash cards and other revision material for free. They can then print these off or save them to re-use. Students can also access other people's revision material on the site. <https://quizlet.com/en-gb>

Past Exam Papers: Can be accessed at W:\sixth form\past papers and mark schemes

Subject Specifications: Can be accessed at W:\sixth form\level 3 subject specifications

Free Online Lectures: Gresham College is a charity and has been running free public lectures since 1597. Early Professors include Christopher Wren and Robert Hooke, and in recent times have included astronomers of the calibre of Martin Rees and Heather Couper, mathematicians like Roger Penrose, and English Literature specialists like Jonathan Bate. The College has new Professorships in Business, IT and the Environment.

Students may wish to access their [free online lectures](#) in order to enhance their learning. The lectures are usually 45 minutes to an hour long, and range across the arts and sciences.

Year 12 Preparation for Post-18 Destinations

In order to keep Year 12 on track with making preparations for the future, we are putting together a 'Future Destinations' pack that we will issue on Monday 4 May. This pack will include:

- A 10-week programme to ensure that their university or workplace application material is ready for when we return. UCAS timelines currently still remain the same and so it is important that they are prepared. More detailed information will follow next week.
- Details of 'virtual' Open Days that universities are starting to offer.

Please note that the [UK University Search](#) is a website that helps you take the next step in further education by giving you advice, calculating your UCAS score, and finding the courses that are right for you. They have recently announced that they will be hosting **free live Webinar Wednesdays** every week at 12pm from 29 April until 27 May. They will be exploring how to Choose a University, UCAS Applications, Student Finance, Taking an Apprenticeship and Life at University. You can register on Zoom to book your spot, but due to high demand they will also live-stream on their YouTube channel, be sure to [subscribe here](#) to ensure you don't miss out. [See full details here.](#)

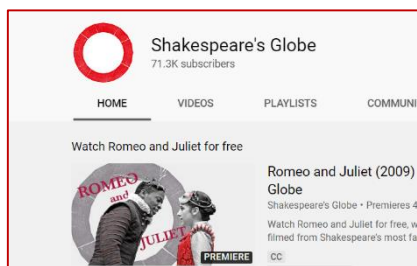
- Information about MOOCS, which are online courses on Unifrog that can be completed to support with enhancing evidence for personal statements.

With the circumstances we are currently facing, we can confirm that work experience, due to take place for Year 12 in the summer term, will no longer go ahead. We will be supporting students with alternative 'work experience' activities in Term 6.

Useful Links and Alternative Learning Ideas

Theatre from Home

If you have access to YouTube you can subscribe to many brilliant sites for an evening at the theatre, including the Globe Theatre, The National Theatre (Thursday evenings at 7pm) and if you like Musicals there is 'The Show Must Go On', that is currently featuring full length Musicals every Friday evening at 7pm. (Click on the Images to take you straight to the sites).



Safeguarding and Well-Being

The [NSPCC](#) have created a number of resources to support parents and carers during this challenging time. Topics include:

- Talking to a child worried about coronavirus
- Parents working from home
- Children staying home alone
- Lockdown and separated parents
- How to cope with tantrums and other difficult behaviour

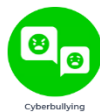
Staying Safe Online

With everyone spending more time at home inevitably there is increased use of online platforms and devices. We would like to let you know there is lots of support out there to keep your child safe online.

4-7?	8-10?	Parent/ Carer?
11-13?	14+?	Children's workforce?

[Thinkuknow](#) is the education programme from the National Crime Agency which protects children both online and offline. Explore one of the six Thinkuknow websites for advice about staying safe when you are on a phone, tablet or computer.

[Internet matters](#) Are there any issues affecting your children? Get to grips with what they may come across on the internet and how to get help if you need it. Find out what to do if you are worried about anything you or your child has seen online.



Cyberbullying



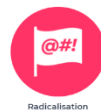
Sexting



Self Harm



Screen Time



Radicalisation

[Video chatting: a guide for parents and carers of secondary school-age children](#)

With school closed for most students, young people will almost certainly be using a video-chatting service to stay in touch with friends. Here's how to help them get the most from it.

[Net-aware](#) has been set up by the NSPCC and they have reviewed the most popular social networks, apps and games your children are using. Find out more about each app and how safe they are.

Other support available:

- [Let's Talk About It](#) (support for parents and carers to keep children safe from online radicalisation)
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) (tips, advice, guides)

Community Corner

Mrs Ashcroft set a baking challenge to create an **Eggcellent** Easter bake! The bakes had to make a connection to Easter somehow - either through shape, decoration, tradition or ingredients. Here are just a few of those creations:

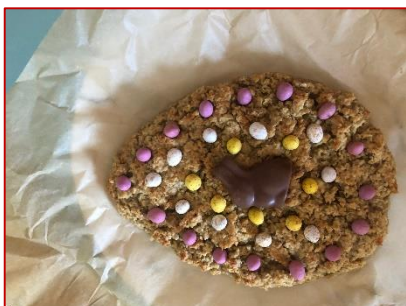
Hayley Chapman in Year 7 was delighted to accept the challenge as she loves to bake and has made some hand shaped biscuits and she assures us they were delicious! (Right)



Hollie Cadman's before and after shots (Below)



Julia Smykla's entry
(Right)



Alfie Church's Easter Flapjack
(Left)

Aoife Spendlove made some vegan creme eggs for the family to enjoy. (Right)



Helping our Heroes

Mrs Cowley, Mrs Herbert and Ms Moodie have been making headbands for the NHS nurses at NGH and KGH. They will be moving onto scrubs bags next week. We are so grateful for what they are doing.

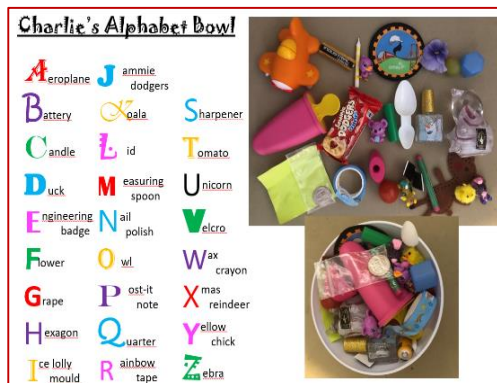


Last week's Challenge Winners are:

Staff entry: Mrs Oliver's 'selfie potato' – can you see the resemblance?!



Mrs Rowell's children won the Alphabet Soup Challenge with this great collection of A-Z items!



Student entry: Finley Brooker is currently in Year 6 at Hayfield Cross and is looking forward to joining Latimer in September. He decided to create a potato 5 a side football match. What a fun and creative idea – well done Finley!

The challenge this week is a Location Quiz set by Mrs Caldwell:

Mrs Caldwell has been walking from her home in Barton Seagrave as part of her daily exercise and we have included the pictures with this newsletter. **Can you identify where she went?**

Answers can be provided in the form of a street name, a description or even a 6-figure grid reference - all are accepted! Please submit all entries this week to vcaldwell@latimer.org.uk by Wednesday 29 April.



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

Lydia Cole, Ryo Cooper, Ellie Elston, Amelia Harrison, Ruby Isaac, Liam Kendall, Thomas Levick, Aaliyah Lewis, William McGowan, Frankie Quinn, Erin Rose, Benny Ruddock, Bruce Sibbett, George Smith, Jack Summers, and Nathan Wardley

And finally...

As she starts her maternity leave, we would like to wish Mrs Roberts all the best and we look forward to hearing news of her safe arrival in the near future.