

Parents and Carers of Year 10 Students

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Principal: Ms Siobhan Hearne

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### KS4: Ace Your Exams

**“By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail”**

Dear Parents and Carers

When your child joined The Latimer Arts College, you may remember me saying that time would fly and it would not be long before preparations for GCSE examinations, and the celebrations that follow, would come around. Well, here we are!

Now, in the final terms of Year 10 there is **less than a year** until the first GCSE exam!

We are proud of the success that our '**Ace Your Exams**' programme has delivered in the past and we have developed it to support both our students and their parents and carers to be examination ready and we would like to take this opportunity to outline this to you as the countdown continues.

#### **Study Support**

There is absolutely no doubt that experience shows us that success comes to those who work hard both in College and at home. It is vital that students complete additional learning outside of the classroom. You cannot assume that your child will do this for themselves and parents and carers must take an active role in insisting that this happens.

**Revision Workshop:** At the beginning of KS4, students (and parents and carers) took part in a workshop that taught them a range of revision skills – *ask them to tell you about Muhammad Ali!* Now, more than ever, they need to use these skills.

To enhance the learning that takes place in lessons, we offer the following online packages for students to access:



The Latimer Arts College has some of the highest GCSEPod usage in the country (top 15%) and has been awarded an “A” grade on their ratings system, the top grade.

This is a great resource and we understand how important it is for students to not only thoroughly understand the content of each GCSE course, but also to be able to revise effectively.

We have extended our subscriptions to enable all students to sign up for FREE at [www.gcsepod.com](http://www.gcsepod.com) using their College email account. Podcasts can be streamed or downloaded on PC, Android or IOS. Email [ithelpdesk@latimer.org.uk](mailto:ithelpdesk@latimer.org.uk) if you require any assistance when using GCSEPod.



Tassomai makes learning and revising for GCSE Science effective and straightforward. Students can see the topics they need to work through, how they are getting on, and they can see what they should do next. Tassomai organises a daily routine, prioritising each topic and subject based on progress so far. Simply log in regularly and complete the assignments at the top of the list. The mission is simple - keep the pace of progress up to the speed prescribed - a task that requires a few minutes of attention each day. **Website:** <https://www.tassomai.com/login/>



Students have had the PiXL Maths app, and will also have access to the Geography, History and English Lit app, which have been incredibly popular and successful over the last couple of years.

To support students with accessing these apps, they will be trusted with access to the College's Wi-Fi system so that they can use their devices in lessons and form times to enhance their revision.

### **Preparation for Year 11**

**GCSE Trial Examinations Season 1:** In June, students will be taking part in this programme to give them an early experience of what a GCSE paper looks like and how it feels to sit exams under examination conditions. We hope that following this, over the summer, students will take the opportunity to 'close the gap' on key focus areas.

**Revision Guides:** As a gift from the College, students have been issued with a set of revision guides in each subject that they study (subject to availability). Their revision programme should be a year-long process, rather than a last minute rush and we ask you to support us by getting them started now.

If you do not take our word for it, take the word of our departing Year 11 who said if they had one piece of advice for our next cohort of GCSE students it would be **START REVISION EARLY!**

### **Going forward for next year!**

#### **Year 11 Term 1 and 2**

**1:1 Future Pathways Meeting:** Each student will have a 1:1 meeting with a Senior Leader or an Achievement Leader to discuss their future plans, identify key action points that need to be addressed and to identify if they need any further individual support at this time.

**Sixth Form Pathways Evening:** We invite students and parents and carers to join us in November 2018 for the evening to explore options for post-16 study at The Latimer Arts College.

**Revision Stationery Pack:** As a gift from the College, we will issue students with a pack of 'goodies' to support them with their final preparation for mock examinations.

**Tutor Time Revision Workshops:** Students will be supported with their revision programme during tutor time, when they will take part in revision planning workshops in the lead up to trial examinations.

**GCSE Trial Examination Season 2:** This will run at the end of November when students will take trial examinations in all subjects. It is so important that they approach these examinations with the right attitude. It is an opportunity for students to have already prepared a substantial amount of revision notes and it will give them a benchmark for what they are secure in and what they need to focus on as a priority.

## Year 11 Term 3 and 4

**GCSE Trial Examination Results Day:** This will be held on students return to school in January and mirrors the actual results day that will take place in August 2019. Based on their mock examinations and current progress, students will be given their results in every subject. This will give an indication of how much distance they need to travel by the summer!

**Year 11 Student Progress Review Evening (SPRE):** It is vital for parents and carers to attend this evening as they will have an opportunity to speak to their child's subject teachers and discuss what a student's priority areas are in the countdown to the summer examination season.

**Ready, Set, Go Evening:** We invite parents and carers to join us in January for a workshop in which training in key revision techniques will be given. This evening is always very well attended and the feedback is overwhelmingly positive, so do not miss out!

**Tutor Time Revision Workshops:** Students will be supported with their revision programme during tutor time, when they will take part in revision planning workshops.

**1:1 Future Pathways Meeting:** Each Year 11 student will have follow up 1:1 meeting with a Senior Leader or an Achievement Leader to ensure that they have firm plans for post-16 and to identify if they need any further support in the run up to their GCSE examinations.

**GCSE Trial Examination Season 3:** We will run a further programme of trial examinations so that students can identify the final priority areas that they can focus on over the Easter break and in the run up to their GCSE examinations.

**Easter Revision:** A programme of revision sessions for individual subjects will take place during the Easter holidays in 2019 and students will be invited to attend relevant sessions.

## Year 11 Terms 5 and 6

**Alternative Timetable:** Through a combination of revision sessions, masterclasses and home study this programme will support students in their final run up to exams.

**GCSE Summer Examination Season:** This runs from 13 May to 21 June 2019. Some practical examinations will have taken place before this and all BTEC qualifications will have been completed.

**Year 11 Celebration Assembly and Prom:** This will take place on Friday 28 June 2019.

**Thursday 22 August 2019**

## **The big one – GCSE Results Day and Sixth Form Registration!**

We believe that this is a comprehensive programme of support offered by the College but we are always open to further requests for help and support so please do let us know if there is anything else that you feel we can provide. Your child needs to do the hard work but if we can work in partnership to support them then there will be no limits to the success they can achieve.

Yours sincerely

*Ms. S. Hearne*



**Ms S Hearne**  
Principal

**Mr S Harvey**  
Vice Principal