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## Latimer Community Weekly Newsletter

Friday 26 February 2021



Dear Parents and Carers

Phew! What a week (again). We have had announcements about the re-opening of schools; the onsite and home COVID-19 testing programme for students; and yesterday the publication of the document on how exam grades will be issued this year.

Are we exhausted – yes! But this is offset by our excitement at the thought that our students will soon be back with us! This is what continues to drive us and keep our energy levels up whilst we work flat out to plough through endless government documents.

We know that you will be most keen to know what the arrangements will be for students returning to onsite learning. We are able to provide a lot of information today as part of this newsletter. However, the specific details about dates and times for testing and for each year group return will be published early next week.

In the meantime, we ask you to encourage your child to dig deep and maintain their motivation for another week so that they can return to us up to date with their learning and primed and ready for the restart.

Regards  
Siobhan Hearne  
Principal

### March Restart Information

In order support the transition back to onsite learning, accompanying this newsletter is:

- **Lateral Flow Device Testing Programme letter:** This includes details of the COVID-19 testing process and includes all of the supporting information for this. **We would draw your attention to the link to the consent form that is included in this letter and ask that you complete this as a matter of priority and by 3pm on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March at the latest.**

It is the data that these consent forms will provide us with that will enable us to come back to you with dates and times for students' return to school.

We can confirm that our testing programme and return dates will be staggered by year groups over the course of the week commencing Monday 8 March.

- **March Restart Briefing for Parents and Carers:** This document updates you on all of our COVID-19 protocols. We would draw your attention to the information about the wearing of face coverings in the classroom that is contained within this briefing document.
- **Ready to Learn Information Pack for Parents and Carers 2020-2021 March Re-issue:** This is a re-publication of our annual information pack that has been updated in preparation for the restart.

### Key Information and Updates

#### Decisions on how GCSE, AS and A Level Grades will be Determined 2021

On Thursday 25 February, the government announced that there will be no formal examinations this year and that grades would be awarded based on Teacher Assessment. Although this document has been released, there are still some details that need to be finalised, which we expect to have by Easter.

However, what we do know is the following:

- There will be no formal examinations for Year 11 and Year 13.
- Grades will be based on what students know, based on the content that has been delivered to them, and students will not be penalised if the content of courses has not been completed.
- A range of assessments, including the use of examination board material, can be used to determine grades.
- Results must be sent to exam boards by Friday 18 June.
- A school cannot release these results to students or discuss them.
- Once exam boards have undertaken a moderation and standardisation process, A Level and Level 3 BTEC results will be issued on Tuesday 10 August and GCSE and Level 2 BTEC results on Thursday 12 August.

Although we now have more clarity about the system, some specific details are still to be confirmed. Once we have these, we will communicate further with students and their parents and carers. In the meantime, we would stress again the advice from the exam board regulator is very much that students must continue to engage with their education as their outcomes are still very much in their own hands!

### Supporting Year 8 GCSE and BTEC Pathways Choices

As one group approaches the end of their GCSE and BTEC journey, Year 8 are approaching an exciting time as their pathways process gets underway. This is the time when students will identify preferences for the subjects that they wish to study for qualifications in.

This year, we have re-designed our pathways process to take into consideration the face-to-face teaching time that has been missed, in order to give students and their parents and carers more time to explore and consider pathway subject options. Detailed below is the pathways 'journey':

<p><b>Year 8 Pathways Showcase</b>  <b>Tuesday 16 March</b>  <b>6.00pm</b></p>	<p>The evening will be a live Microsoft Teams broadcast for which you will receive an email invitation for.</p> <p>As we cannot do a subject carousel, we are creating a series of short information videos for each pathways option subject which we would invite you to watch on the evening when the links will 'go live' on our website!</p>
<p><b>Key Stage 4 Subject Information Sessions</b>  <b>w/c Monday 22 March</b></p>	<p>During this week, Year 8 students will receive an information session from teachers to inform them about each Key Stage 4 subject: its demands and requirements; the skills that can be developed; and potential and career benefits and pathways.</p>
<p><b>Key Stage 4 Subject Taster Sessions</b>  <b>w/c Monday 13 April</b></p>	<p>During the first week back after the Easter break, GCSE or BTEC taster sessions will run for students. These sessions will provide students with an experience of the subject at Key Stage 4.</p>
<p><b>Subject Information Evening</b>  <b>Wednesday 14 April</b>  <b>4.00-7.00 pm</b></p>	<p>We will run a remote evening, where 5 minute appointments can be booked using our video-call system, School Cloud, to speak to teachers about Key Stage 4 pathway subjects. This will enable students and their parents and carers to find out more about the demands of individual subjects and courses to help make more informed decisions about pathway preference choices.</p> <p>The exception is for English and Maths. For these subjects, there will be an opportunity to book appointments with teachers to receive feedback on how your child is doing in these core subjects.</p>

### Year 9 Virtual Student Progress Review Evening (SPRE) Feedback

Thank you to those parents and carers who attended our virtual Year 9 SPRE on Wednesday. We would value your feedback on the process and would remind you that our [survey](#) closes at the end of today. We do urge you to click the link and complete it - it will take less than 3 minutes!

## Year 10 Geography Field Trip July 2021

One of the exciting things about studying Geography is fieldwork and the ability to conduct an enquiry out in the natural environment. It is also a compulsory part of the GCSE Geography course and is assessed in the Geography exams in Year 11.

At The Latimer Arts College, students complete their Geography fieldwork requirement in Year 10. This year's trip is planned and all set for **Thursday 8 and Friday 9 July 2021**, whereby half of Year 10 geographers will attend the trip on one day and the other half on the second day.

Ordinarily, we would be sending out our trip letter now, with details of the cost of the trip, but have decided to hold off at this stage (due to the current COVID-19 pandemic). As the trip is scheduled to take place in July 2021 we are hopeful that we will still be able to run it, and therefore plan to send further details of the trip, including cost and consent, immediately after the Easter holidays.

If you require additional details at this stage, please do not hesitate to contact Dr Fordham: [afordham@latimer.org.uk](mailto:afordham@latimer.org.uk)

## Educational Provision

### TEAMS Lessons Timetable Change

In order to support with preparations for the re-opening of the school to students, there will be no TEAMS lessons on Friday 5 March. All students will be set independent learning activities. On Monday 8 March, there will be no TEAMS lessons for Years 7-10, again with students being set independent learning activities.

### 'Latimer Community Resource Bus': It will be back in an area near you soon!

It was lovely to catch up with some of our students yesterday as they came to collect resources from our Community Bus. Mr Capps and his team will be in the Ise Lodge and Kettering areas today. If you missed us this week but there are items that your child needs, we will be back next week as per the schedule below:

Area	Address	Day	Time
Barton Seagrave	The Green near St Botolph's Church St Botolphs Road, NN15 6SR	Tuesday	12.00pm – 12.45pm
Burton Latimer	Sainsbury's Car Park Burton Latimer High Street, NN15 5RL	Tuesday	1.00pm – 1.45pm
Ise Lodge Area	Shops St Stephen's Road (next to Budgens) – Ise Lodge, NN15 5DS	Wednesday	12.00pm – 12.45pm
Kettering Area	Sainsbury's Car Park – Kettering Rockingham Road, NN16 8JY	Wednesday	1.00pm – 1.45pm
Resources Available	Pen, pencil, ruler, sharpener, rubber, highlighters, coloured pencils, lined or plain paper, post-it notes, flash cards, glue, plastic wallets, folders, maths exercise books, sanitary products		

### Tutor Time Assembly

The assembly on Monday 1 March will be a 'live' TEAMS assembly delivered by Miss King on the Importance of Sleep Linked to Screen Time, with strategies on how to improve our sleep patterns. The link will be on Satchel:one. **Please note that this assembly will be at 11.50am and so students will have lunchtime at 12.25pm on this day.**

## Safeguarding and Well-being

### Level Up: Week 4 Winners!



After 4 weeks of awesome entries for our Level Up challenge, the final winners have been selected at random! A huge well done to all of those who entered across the 4 weeks: we have been extremely impressed by the level of dedication that you have shown. All winners receive a £10 Amazon voucher.

Year 7: Lily Baish, Harry Gidney, Elliot Hunt, Lauren Wilson

Year 9: Polly Butler, Kayleigh Hodder

Year 10: Luke Wooding

Year 11: Wiktoria Gawlak

Sixth Form: Jolanta Kirchner

Staff: Mr Weller