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## LATIMER LATEST NEWS – 9 OCTOBER 2020

### Year 7 Admissions 2020

For those parents and carers considering Year 7 places for the next academic year, please do visit our [Admissions and Prospectus](#) page on our website where we have included a range of information to support you with this process.

## Covid Protocols

### Minimising the Risk of Transmission: Prevention is Key

We are relieved that no members of our student or staff body have tested positive for Covid-19 to date. Our control measures to minimise the risk of transmission are playing a key part in this, but none of us can become complacent. Therefore, we reassure all parents and carers that we are following the key principles of:

- 1) Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.
- 2) Ensuring students are sanitising hands routinely throughout the day (they are well trained in when this should occur!).
- 3) Ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.

***We ask that all parents and carers support us by ensuring that government guidelines are adhered to outside of school, in particular in relation to the rule of 6. This will help us to keep schools open and minimise the risk of community transmission.***

### NHS letter on annual flu vaccinations

Parents and carers of children in Year 7 were sent a letter from the NHS reminding them that it is time for their child to receive their annual flu vaccination. The letter also provided details of where the vaccinations will take place and the need for parents and carers to provide consent online before the vaccination can be administered.

We urge parents and carers to consent to their child having this vaccination if they have not already done so.

### Use of the NHS Test and Trace App

We encourage staff (and students who are over 16) to have this app. However, we have to be practical about the alert system. We would not expect teaching staff or students to be accessing phones routinely in lesson times so the need to leave a lesson due to an alert being received should not occur.

Outside of lesson times, if a student receives an alert that indicates that they should self-isolate, they should alert a member of staff. The student will be isolated until arrangements can be made for them to leave the College site as soon as practically possible.

### Accessing Testing: Who should get a test and who should not

We appreciate that parents and carers may be anxious about the current situation, especially given that there is a likelihood that there will be more coughs and colds around at the moment as children start to mix again after a long period of being apart.

However, in order to avoid overwhelming the current laboratory capacity, Public Health England (PHE) are limiting the number of testing appointments, with the criteria being as follows:

- **Do** seek testing if you have symptoms, which are; a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of - or change in - taste or smell.
- **Do not** seek testing if you have no symptoms.
- If you are a contact of someone who has tested positive but do not have symptoms, please **do not** get a test unless you develop symptoms. If you were to test negative, it does not mean you can leave isolation earlier if you are a contact, as the virus can take up to 14 days to develop. The 14-day self-isolation period has to be observed.
- **Do** book a slot for a test in advance.
- **Do not** just turn up at a testing site. New slots get released each evening and again in the morning. We are assured by central government that they are working on expanding lab capacity.

## Learning and Progress

### Improving Punctuality

Please can we remind all parents and carers that the College gates close at 8.25am and this is when our bell goes to signal that students should be at their Lesson 1 classrooms. This is particularly important as we operate our year group learning zone system.

There are a number of students who routinely arrive at the gates after 8.25am, which means that they are missing the start of their first lesson, including the registration process.

We have reminded students of the need for punctuality, a key life skill. As our detention system is now up and running, those who are persistently late may incur a sanction moving forwards.

### Year 11 Ace Your Exams: The countdown has commenced!

Despite disruption to learning in Terms 5 and 6, as we start to deliver our GCSE courses from Year 9 at The Latimer Arts College, our students are in a very strong position in relation to covering the course content. We are confident that we are on track to complete courses by the end of Term 3, as we would in any normal year, giving us two more terms for revision. So it is vital that we continue to look forward and focus on the end goal: public examinations next summer.

To support this, in line with our Ace Your Exams process, in order to support parents and carers to support their child, we would like to highlight the following:

- **Ace Your Exams Evening:** On Monday 5 October we held our first virtual “Ace Your Exams” evening where parents joined us from the comfort of their own homes to watch presentations on the next steps for the future and how to support their child with revision. Thank you to the parents who attended and to the lovely feedback received. Based on their recommendations, if you were not able to attend and would like to watch either of the presentations, you can do so by following this link. <https://youtu.be/BIToCDvbe9c>
- **Year 11 Tutor Phone Calls:** Tutors will be making phone calls to parents and carers on either **Tuesday 13** or **Wednesday 21 October**, as an alternative to a Student Progress Review Evening, and offering feedback about key areas of focus for each individual student.
- **Sixth Form Open Evening (Virtual):** As with our Year 6 Open Evening, for those students who are interested in joining our Sixth Form next September, we will be posting information on line over the coming weeks. Our published Open Evening date is **Wednesday 4 November** and all supporting information will be provided before or on this date.
- **Mock Examinations:** These are planned to take place in **November** and, before the end of this term, students will be supported with their planning for revision. The revision guides that we gave to all students in June will support with this process. More details on the scheduling for this will be published shortly.

## Year 13 Student Progress Review Evening (SPRE) Arrangements

We will be holding a Year 13 SPRE on **Tuesday 3 November** from **3.30pm – 6.30pm**. At this time, we will be offering parents and carers the opportunity to have a phone call with a teacher from each of the subjects that their child is studying. The feedback provided on this evening will help to inform parents and carers of the priority areas that their child needs to focus on in preparation for mock examinations later in the term.

## Year 12 Learning Contracts

Now that our Year 12 students have settled back in to College and they have commenced their new Level 3 subjects, we kindly request that both students and parents/carers sign and return their learning contracts to Ms Magee, Sixth Form Centre Manager.

## Return to Practical Lessons

We would like to thank you for your understanding as we continue to recover our curriculum over the coming weeks.

We have now begun to re-introduce Practical PE for Years 7 to 11. Please be reminded that students will require full PE Kit. To ensure students are correctly equipped they will be required to bring PE kit to lessons, to include:

- shorts/skorts/tracksuit bottoms
- polo or rugby top
- tracksuit top for colder weather
- socks
- trainers or boots with plastic studs

It is recommended that PE kit is placed in a separate bag.

Dance practicals for years 9, 10 and 11 are resuming from next week and we hope Drama lessons will follow shortly. We will continue to review our procedures over the coming weeks to ensure the safety of our staff and students.

## Supporting You to Support Your Child

- **Satchel:one (formally SMHW):** A reminder that homework is now being set for all year groups. Year 7 should now be able to access our system. Parent log-ins have been issued and you can access the system via the app or [online](#). This can also be accessed via the 'Quicklinks' section on the Home page of our website.



Should you need any homework support or advice, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Matthews, Assistant Principal: [kmatthews@latimer.org.uk](mailto:kmatthews@latimer.org.uk)

- **Accessing the Shared Area:** To access College files at home and to share resources that teachers have created, all students can use the Home Access Plus website <https://hap.latimer.org.uk/HAP/myfiles/>, using their normal school log-in.
- **Accessing Office 365 for Free!** All students can acquire the suite of Office applications, including Access, for free. Details on how to install this on a home device are included with this newsletter.

## Book Amnesty: A Plea to All Year Groups

A reminder that we would like all College library books lying around at home from before the school closure to be returned. Please could you hunt around in your child's bedroom and ask them to return any books that they find to the resource area in their learning zone where they will find a box marked: **LRC Returns**.  
Your support with this would be very much appreciated.

## Enriching the Educational Experience and Celebrating Success

### Celebrating Success: How many Epraise points does your child have?



We are now a month into the term and the countdown to our first prize draw in December is well underway! A reminder that, as parents and carers, you are able to create an account in order to encourage and support your child by following this [link](#). You just need to put in the email the College holds for you and then the site will allow you to set a password.

### Does Your Child Need a Hobby?

Burton Wanderers FC Under 13s require new players for 11 aside football this year. Players can be from Year 7 or Year 8. Many of the current players are from Latimer so it would be great to add some more to the squad for this season!

If you are looking to join a team with an emphasis on enjoyment, then please contact Graham Cleverly: [rockdriverhire@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rockdriverhire@hotmail.co.uk)

## Other News

### Did you know that just registering your child for Free School Meals means that the College gets extra money?

With this money, we could give extra help to students who need it. If you are registered for Free School Meals you could also get help with things like uniform, equipment and resources, or there could be help to allow your child to continue into the Sixth Form.

If you want your child to have a free meal at lunchtime that is great – they will get the free meal (saving you more than £400 a year). Even if you do not want the school meals, as long as you qualify and are registered, the College still gets the extra government funding.

No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming. Our cashless catering system ensures no other student knows who is receiving Free School Meals. Please click [Free School Meals](#) to access the online application form.

### Dates for your Diary

Please take the time to view our [calendar](#) and ensure that you are aware of all of the key dates for the year.

Tuesday 13 October	Year 11 Tutor Feedback Calls Session 1, 3.30-6.30 pm
Wednesday 21 October	Year 11 Tutor Feedback Calls Session 2, 3.30-6.30 pm
Friday 23 October	End of Term 1
Monday 2 November	Start of Term 2: College re-opens to students Key Stage 5 Pathways Fortnight (Year 11) (ends Friday 13 November)
Tuesday 3 November	Virtual Year 13 Student Progress Review Evening, 3.30-6.30 pm
Wednesday 4 November	Virtual Open Evening: Sixth Form
Tuesday 10 November	Year 7 Tutor Feedback Calls Session 1, 3.30-6.30 pm
Wednesday 11 November	Year 12 Tutor Feedback Calls, 3.30-6.30 pm
Tuesday 17 November	Year 10 Tutor Feedback Calls Session 1, 3.30-6.30 pm
Wednesday 18 November	Year 7 Tutor Feedback Calls Session 2, 3.30-6.30 pm
Thursday 19 November	Year 8 Tutor Feedback Calls Session 1, 3.30-6.30 pm
Wednesday 25 November	Year 8 Tutor Feedback Calls Session 2, 3.30-6.30 pm Year 10 Tutor Feedback Calls Session 2, 3.30-6.30 pm
Friday 4 December	Training Day: College closed to students
Friday 18 December	End of Term 2
Monday 4 January	Start of Term 3: College re-opens to students