



Follow us on Twitter @Latimercollege



## LATIMER LATEST NEWS – 14 JANUARY 2022

### Covid-19 Updates

#### Changes to the Requirements for a PCR Test

Please can we remind you that from 11 January, people who receive positive lateral flow device (LFD) test results for coronavirus (COVID-19) will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.

This is a temporary measure that the government have introduced while COVID-19 rates remain high across the UK. Whilst levels of COVID-19 are high, the vast majority of people with positive LFD results can be confident that they have COVID-19. ***Please note that this is for asymptomatic cases only.***

Anyone who develops 1 of the 3 main COVID-19 symptoms should stay at home and self-isolate and take a PCR test. They must self-isolate if they get a positive test result, even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test – these rules have not changed. However, the government has announced that from 17 January the isolation period will be reduced from 7 days to 5 full days. Anyone who has two negative tests (day 5 and day 6) can leave isolation from the start of day 6.

#### Twice Weekly LFD Testing

We strongly urge you to ensure that your child is testing twice per week using the LFD test kits provided by the College so that we can break the chain of community transmission, support with reducing infection rates and protect the education of our students.

Please can we remind you of the importance of reporting all tests results (positive, negative and void) to NHS Test and Trace.

#### Wearing of Face Masks

As you are aware, it is currently recommended that face masks are worn in schools, including in classrooms and we thank you for your support with this. The vast majority of our students are wearing a mask and we do hope that this will play a part in reducing infection rates.

This is a temporary measure introduced by the Government and will be reviewed on Wednesday 26 January. We will update you if there are any changes as soon as we are aware of them.

### Learning and Progress

#### Ace Your Exams: Year 11 and 13 Post-Mock Actions

Students have now received their mock exam results. The key message following this is that no matter what a student achieved, their future grades are not yet set in stone and are still very much in their own hands. To support students in these year groups:

- We are arranging further study skills sessions
- We will be planning more mock assessments to support them to be fully prepared for the summer exams
- We are also undertaking 1:1 meetings with Year 11s to discuss the next stages of their education
- Year 13 are being supported with their UCAS and Apprenticeship applications
- We are offering students careers interviews

As the Government have announced again that they expect summer exams to go ahead as normal, some amendments to exam content are being made. We have been told to expect further information by Monday 7 February. We will update you on this when we receive it.

In addition to this, Year 11 and Year 13 SPREs are both upcoming, with Year 11 SPRE on Wednesday 19 January and Sixth Form on Wednesday 26 January. We urge all parents and carers to make appointments as this evening will provide vital information on both your child's current progress and also how you can help them go on to achieve their very best.

Parents and carers will receive separate information about the arrangement for the SPREs, which will be held virtually.



The year starts with more Year 7 members joining our Millionaire Readers' Club. We are delighted to congratulate Kealan Green, for reading over 2 million words and Nicholas Wachsmann for reading over 3 million words!

In total Year 7 students have read **29,738,744** words and Year 8 students have read **15,583,314** words.

## Safeguarding

### NFT: 'non-fungible token'

NFT was recently announced as the Collins Dictionary word of the year for 2021. What might once have been regarded as an obscure trend is now increasingly mainstream. Parent Zone has created a new article that delves into the NFT phenomenon to give you the information you need to stay up to date.

[Parent Zone](#) explains what NFTs are, and what it means to be 'non-fungible' or irreplaceable. They also take a look at why NFTs have become so popular and the areas of online life where you might come across them - as well as some of the risks parents and carers need to be aware of.

## Aiming High: Raising Aspirations and Expectations



### Year 7 Dragons' Den: Raising Aspirations Event

We are very excited about the Year 7 Dragons' Den event which will take place this term as part of the College's Careers and Raising Aspirations Programme. This will be a fun and engaging all-day event which will help students develop their LORIC, team building and entrepreneurial skills. Working in groups, students will be tasked with developing and marketing a product for the food and drink industry, looking at Product Design, Packaging Design, Finance, Marketing and Advertising.

Students will work in groups with each group being supported by a local Business Partner who will share their expertise with the students. Companies taking part this year include Wicksteed Park, NAHL Group, Tollers Solicitors and DWP.

The students will present their completed group product to the 'Dragons' (VIPs from the local community and business sector) in the afternoon.

In previous years, students have produced some truly innovative products, supported by lively and engaging pitches. We know the Year 7s will rise to the challenge and we cannot wait to see what the students will design and how they will pitch their ideas.

### Amazing Apprenticeships

The latest Parents' and Carers' Pack from Amazing Apprenticeships is now available to download: [Apprenticeship resources for schools, teachers, parents \(amazingapprenticeships.com\)](https://amazingapprenticeships.com)

This is full of really useful information such as finding an apprenticeship, apprenticeships and university and how to apply for a traineeship. In this issue there is also a focus on understanding apprenticeships in the Advertising and Marketing sector.

## 'Wasted' – Raising Awareness to Substance Abuse

As part of our Personal Development: RSE programme, Year 9 students had the opportunity to watch the 'Wasted' Drama Performance delivered by Northampton College, where students increased their knowledge of the dangers of substance and alcohol use and found out where to seek help if they need it.

Students were engaged and reflective about the performance and have subsequently taken part in a 'Wasted Writing Competition', a 200-word writing challenge. We look forward to announcing the winners shortly.

## Enriching the Educational Experience and Celebrating Success

### Enrichment Activities: Securing Parental Consent

We are delighted that we are gradually increasing our range of enrichment activities for our students and we very much look forward to extending these further as the year progresses. Thank you to those parents and carers who have already returned the Enrichment Activities (Trips) Consent Form - however, there are a number of consent forms still to be returned and we cannot take students on such things as trips and sports fixtures without the right permissions. You can complete the form [here](#) if you have not already done so – it really is quick and simple to do.



We would like to congratulate George Drummond, Year 11, who won the Apple Watch in our Christmas Epraise Prize Draw.

We would also like to say well done to our top Epraise earners in each year group: Kealan Green (Year 7), Ted Coles (Year 8), Sloane Seaton (Year 9), Alana Toms (Year 10), Cory Ives (Year 11), Wiktoria Gawlak (Year 12) and William Cox (Year 13).

We will soon be publishing details of our Easter Prize Draw and will let you know so that as parents and carers you can encourage your child to earn as many points as possible.

## Other News

### 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.

Wednesday 19 January	Year 11 SPRE, 4.30-7.45pm
Monday 17 / Friday 21 January	Year 7-11 Flu and Covid Vaccinations
Wednesday 26 January	Sixth Form SPRE, 4.30-7.45pm
Wednesday 2 February	College Dance Show
Friday 11 February	Year 7 Dragons' Den Event
	End of Term 3
Monday 21 February	Start of Term 4: College re-opens to students
	<i>This will be Week 2 on the timetable</i>
Wednesday 23 / Thursday 24 February	Year 9 Teenage Booster Vaccinations
Tuesday 1 March	Year 11 and 13 Photographs
Wednesday 2 March	Year 10 SPRE, 4.30-7.45pm
Monday 14 March	Year 11 and Year 13 Mock Exams 2 commence (ends 25 March)
Wednesday 16 March	Year 7 SPRE, 4.30-7.45pm
Tuesday 29 March	Year 8 Pathways Showcase, 5.30pm
Friday 1 April	Spring Music Concert, 7.00pm
Thursday 7 April	End of Term 4
Friday 8 April	Training Day: College closed to students