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LATIMER LATEST NEWS – 23 OCTOBER 2020

Covid Protocols

Minimising the Risk of Transmission: Prevention is Key

We wish our students an enjoyable half term and hope that they get some well-earned rest. We do want to see them all back safely at the start of Term 2 and so we ask that all parents and carers support us by ensuring that government guidelines are adhered to outside of school during the half term period, in particular in relation to the Rule of 6. This will help us to keep schools open and minimise the risk of community transmission.

Halloween 2020 will be different to previous years as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. This is a reminder to parents and carers, on behalf of the Northamptonshire Police, that, in line with the 'Rule of Six' legislation, people will not be able to hold Halloween parties and trick-or-treating is inadvisable in the current climate.

Northamptonshire Police have issued some key messages for the public to ensure that Halloween 2020 is as safe as possible in the current climate:

- A dilemma facing parents this year is how to let their children take part in Halloween without breaching Covid-19 legislation. Police advice is for parents and carers is to steer away from taking part in the traditional form of trick-or-treating, as it is vital that people from different households mix as little as possible in order to stop the spread of coronavirus.
- An alternative approach to children dressing up and going out with friends and family trick-or-treating, which the Police are endorsing, draws on the rainbow challenge which proved so popular in the spring. People who want to be involved in Halloween can display pumpkins (unlit), or pictures of the vegetable in their windows in the run-up to October 31. Parents and carers can then go out with their dressed-up children and try to find them. A variety of pumpkin posters for children to colour in are available to download and print from the Northamptonshire Police website.
- The Police are urging parents of older children to talk to them about why it is advised that they don't take part in trick-or-treating this year and to respect people's decision not to take part. Anti-social behaviour is not acceptable and additional police patrols will be taking place during the Halloween period. A no trick-or-treating poster is available to download from the Northamptonshire Police website.

This advice is subject to change, should the guidance/legislation from Government change before 31 October 2020.

Learning and Progress

Year 11 and 13 Examination Countdown: *'Your future is created by what you do today, not tomorrow!'*

We ask for parent and carer support in helping our Year 11 and 13 students shape a positive future by setting aside some time for revision over the half term break.

[Year 11 and 13 Exam Support](#): This website page contains information and tips for exam success including:

- **GCSE Topics for Revision:** This booklet contains all of the topics for all of the GCSE subjects that students will need to revise in preparation for their final examinations. Teachers will indicate which topics need to be revised for mock exams. A Sixth Form version will be published shortly.
- **Revision Planning Template:** This excel workbook maps out all of the days until the mock examinations. Students can use it to plan lesson time, revision slots and rest slots. They can plan out their time between now and the mock examinations as a practice for the final exam countdown.

Revision Guides: Year 11 have been provided with a set of revision guides for core subjects and Year 13 students can access revision guides from Ms Magee in our Sixth Form Zone. Our examinations students tell us that these revision guides were invaluable last year so please encourage your child to use them.

Year 11 students can also access our online resources:



Students can sign up for FREE at www.gcsepod.com using their College email account. Podcasts can be streamed or downloaded on PC, Android or IOS. Email ithelpdesk@latimer.org.uk if you require any assistance when using GCSEPod.



Seneca is an app which is used by staff to support learning. Students are set assignments to work through, but the site can also be used for independent revision by students logging in themselves and selecting topics they wish to go over. Parents can also sign up and link their account to their child to see how much they are doing!



Tassomai makes learning and revising for GCSE Science effective and straightforward. 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>



Vocab Express is an online vocab learning application that has been set up to support students with learning their French vocabulary, which is vital to examination success. Students should access this daily.

Preparing for Public Examinations: Helping You to Support Your Child

Not only do we want to support our students, but we also want to support our parents and carers by providing tips and feedback and guidance on future pathways through the following:

- **Ace Your Exams Evening Presentation:** In order to support you as parents and carers, for those unable to attend, please follow this link which will provide some tips for you on how to support your child with revision: <https://youtu.be/BIToCDvbe9c>
- **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 online over the coming weeks. Our Open Evening date is **Wednesday 4 November** and all supporting information will be provided before or on this date. Our prospectus and course information has been published, please take a look [here](#).
- **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 TEAMS 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.



Being a strong and competent reader can open the gateway to both examination and lifelong success. We promote the value of reading through activities such as our DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) timetable in Years 7 and 8 and through our Accelerated Reader programme.

We are therefore delighted that we have our first 'Millionaire Readers' in Year 7, two students who have already read one million words since they joined us in September. Our congratulations go to Carys Toms and Corey Burnett. We know that they will be the first of many students who will be enriching their chances of lifelong success through a commitment to improving their reading skills.

Safeguarding

Student Safety and Dark Nights

Next Sunday sees the clocks go back an hour and summer time officially ends! At this time of year, road traffic collisions increase by 20% in the fortnight after the time change. Sadly, some of those collisions will involve child pedestrians and cyclists. Children under-16 are one of the most vulnerable groups of road users.

The latest available government statistics (2015)* show that 58% of children who die or are seriously injured in a road collision are involved in incidents between 3pm and 7pm. From next Sunday, much of those will happen in darkness.

Whilst younger children are at risk, the data shows that 11 - 15 year olds are actually more at risk from accidents that kill or result in serious injury. Please take a look at the resources below and remind your child about road safety and safe cycling: [Teaching Road Safety: A Guide for Parents](#) and [Safety First – Cycling at Night](#)

Aiming High: Raising Aspirations and Expectations

Being Punctual: A Skill for Life

When our students enter the world of work, being punctual will be vital to them in sustaining employment. Whilst in school, we seek to train students in this skill and the vast majority are successful. Our students had developed such good habits last academic year.

However, this year, there are some students who routinely arrive late and we now find ourselves in the position of asking for parent and carer support, in order to avoid having to impose a detention.

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. Those students who are persistently late in Term 2 will be placed in an after school detention.

Enriching the Educational Experience and Celebrating Success



We are delighted that we will be holding our first Epraise prize draw of the year at the end of Term 2. Students are excited about the prizes that they can buy tickets for, especially the Apple Watch! There is still plenty of time for them to earn points to buy even more tickets before the big day by working hard! The more they enter the better their chance of winning.

Virtual Christmas Music Concert: Where there is a will, there is a way!

We are delighted that we are going to be able to show off the wonderful talents of our students and staff by hosting a virtual Christmas Music Concert in December. Rehearsals are underway, with our students finding creative ways to put performances together whilst maintaining a social distance. If your child is interested in taking part, please ask them to speak to or email Miss Eyley: ceyley@latimer.org.uk

We will publish details about how to watch this concert in Term 2.

Bringing Back Enrichment: After School PE Clubs

As we start term 2, we are going to start to consider ways in which we may be able to offer an after school sports club to each year group. Plans are in progress now and we hope to be able to update you when we return.

[Support for Team Sebastian](#)

As you may be aware, a number of members of staff plan to '[Run Silverstone](#)' in order to raise money to support Sebastian Nunney, who has been diagnosed with Neuroblastoma, a rare form of childhood cancer that starts in the abdomen and can spread across the entire body. These staff include Steve Harvey, Sam Hallett, Tom Smith and Kim Hammond-Stark. Should you wish to support these staff to support Sebastian by making a donation, please visit their [Go Fund Me page](#). We thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity.

Other Information

Term 2 PE Kit: Additions to the uniform

Given that we are operating in Learning Zones we have some restrictions on indoor PE space. In addition to this, the current government guidance indicates that outdoor physical exercise is preferable to indoors.

In Term 2, we are determined to keep practical PE going and expand the current provision. This does mean that it is likely that students will spend most of their PE lessons outside, as far as is practically possible.

Therefore, we would like to make some changes to our PE uniform in order to support students with managing the colder weather. We will allow students to wear:

- A tracksuit
- A hat: we ask that these are black or dark in colour and must be a woolly hat/beanie style as pictured
- Gloves: again these must be black or dark in colour
- A lightweight sports raincoat in black/dark colour (NOT a school Coat) will also be permitted for wet weather lessons outside.

We wish to stress that this uniform is optional and that any item that fits our descriptions can be worn.

Should parents and carers wish to, they can purchase items from Karl Sports, our uniform supplier, who has added a 1/4 ZIP WET WEATHER JACKET and will shortly be adding Latimer beanie style hat with the Latimer logo onto their website.



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.

Friday 23 October	End of Term 1
Monday 2 November	Start of Term 2: College re-opens to students <i>This will be Week 1 on the timetable</i> 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