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LATIMER LATEST NEWS – 11 SEPTEMBER 2020

Welcome to our first newsletter of the new academic year. We aim to publish fortnightly editions – but will have more regular updates if necessary.

It has been so wonderful welcoming back our students, who are happy to be back and ready to learn!

Thank you for your support with high attendance. It is important that students re-engage with the learning process and have limited absence.

We will do our best to keep College fully open; we always keep up to date with the local situation and will react to this accordingly. We will keep you up to date with any changes that we might need to make as a result of this.

We continue to need your support in encouraging your child to follow our protocols without question. There are restrictions – on movement, on the way learning is delivered and on the indoor and outdoor space that students are allowed to access, but we have done all that we can to restart and sustain education in as safe a way as possible.

Take care.

Siobhan Hearne
Principal

September Restart: Updates on Systems and Procedures

Enrichment and Practical Subjects

Students are currently not taking part in practical subjects. Now that we are operationally up and running and have had time to iron out any teething problems, we will now revisit the guidance on these to look at ways in which we can start to gradually reintroduce them. We expect to be able to give you more details on this shortly.

Updated Government Advice on Coronavirus Testing: Please be aware

To ensure we identify those with coronavirus, while avoiding a huge increase in demand for tests from people without coronavirus symptoms, the advice is that a student should get tested if they develop one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms:

- *a high temperature*
- *a new, continuous cough*
- *the loss or change of their sense of taste or smell*

or if a healthcare provider (e.g. GP, nurse or NHS Test and Trace) advises they should have a test.

If a student develops one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms described above, only they should be tested. There is no need for their households to have a test, unless they are also symptomatic. Unless a student has one of the three main coronavirus symptoms, they should only be tested if instructed otherwise by the local authority, health protection team or their GP. As schools and colleges across England return, students may feel unwell, for example with a sore throat, stomach upset or a headache. These students do not need to book a test but may need to stay off school and seek medical advice through their GP or pharmacist as usual.

Sixth Form Home Study

In the light of the current arrangements, we have reviewed our attendance procedures for Sixth Form students and implemented some changes.

- Students are permitted to arrive for their first timetabled lesson of the day or tutor time (whichever comes first).

- Students are permitted to leave at the end of their last timetabled lesson of the day or after Tutor Time (whichever is last).
- Students have an extra hour scheduled into their timetable for each subject. This has been allocated to allow them to collaborate. We would encourage students to continue to use this hour, but it may be completed from home if at the start or end of their timetabled day.
- If a student has no lessons on any given day, they may stay at home and we would not expect them to come in for Tutor Time.
- Once a student has arrived at the College, we are requesting that they remain on site until the end of their timetabled day.

Students should ensure that they do use the time at home to study. We do have limited work spaces in the College should students wish to study in school and they are welcome to do so. However, we would encourage, where possible, students to study at home.

As a reminder, Sixth Form students are not permitted to go off site at break and lunch time.

These changes will be in place for Term 1 and they will be reviewed regularly.

Cashless Catering

We are currently offering a catering service to all students at lunchtime only. We do hope that, in time, we will be able to widen this to a break time provision and we will let you know if and when this may be possible.

Students are **not able** to add money to their accounts in school as they are unable to access the cash machines. Therefore, all lunch monies will need to be added to accounts using School Gateway, details of which can be accessed on our website or in the Ready to Learn Information Pack for Parents and Carers 2020-2021. If any parents or carers have difficulties accessing School Gateway, please contact our Student Services Manager, Mrs Love: jlove@latimer.org.uk

We do want to make you aware that we have been experiencing some difficulties with our system in this first week. Due to a technical fault we were not able to show new monies that had been added to accounts nor where money had been spent. This was a national problem with the system, rather than an issue with our own system, but has now been resolved.

Please be aware that we are now manually reconciling spending so far and this may mean, on any given day, that it would appear that a large amount of money has been deducted from an account. This will be as a result of the spending that your child has made so far that has not shown up on the system.

Learning and Progress

Homework



SMHW is now called Satchel:One - The same homework system we are used to, but with improved features!

Students will now start to receive homework. Please use your parent log-in details to monitor their progress and encourage them to complete their homework on time. You can do this via the app or online.

Year 7 parent and carers will receive the log in details for Satchel:One in the next week and Year 7 Students will start to receive homework from Monday 28 September.

Revised Student Progress Review (SPRE) Process

We recognise that it is important to feedback to parents and carers about how students are getting on, especially for those who missed out on SPREs last year. Therefore, taking into account social distancing guidelines, whilst also considering the possibility of a return to “business as usual” at some point, we have planned **Feedback Phone Calls** to take place during Term 1 and 2. Further specific details will follow on this but what you should expect is for an appointment to be made for you to have a telephone conversation with your child’s tutor.

In addition to this, we are going to trial a virtual SPRE Evening for Year 13, where appointments will be made on a specific evening, for parents and carers to have a telephone conversation with each subject teacher.

Safeguarding

Google Family Link

Does your child use an Android device?

Then you may like to set up Google Family Link, which allows you to set digital ground rules for your child.

Once set up, you will be able to view your child's activity so you can see what they are accessing and how long they are spending on each app (including setting time limits and adding a bedtime), manage in app purchases and hide specific apps from them as well as being able to remotely lock their device. If the device is connected to the internet, then you can also locate the device.

More information can be found [here](#).

Other News

Open Evening

Unfortunately, we will not be able to host our annual College Open Evenings for prospective Year 6 and Year 12 students this year. All Kettering Secondary schools have agreed to run a virtual process. Specific information will be posted online. We will let all those in our community know when this information has been published.

News from NMPAT

NMPAT are delighted to be launching NMPATVC (Virtual Centre), taking place on Saturday mornings this term. There will be an induction morning on Saturday 12 September at 9.30 am giving a brief overview of the term, how the centre will be structured, and some technical and logistical information.

The centre is fully inclusive and offers a wide range of activities with no prior experience of music or performing arts required. If you would like any further information please visit www.NMPAT.co.uk/Centres or contact Laura Bendy at VC@NMPAT.co.uk

To register attendance at the induction morning please use this link: <https://bit.ly/VCRegister>

Come and Join our Team: Check out our current vacancies

Are you, or someone you know, interested in working at Latimer? We currently have [vacancies](#), and if you are interested, we would love to hear from you!

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.

Thursday 1 October	Virtual Open Evening: Year 7
Tuesday 6 October	Virtual Sixth Form Mock Interviews
Wednesday 7 October	Virtual Sixth Form Mock Interviews
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