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LATIMER LATEST NEWS – Christmas Special!

Term 3 Arrangements

A reminder that the College will close on Friday 17 December at 3.00pm. There will be a staggered start to Term 3 over Wednesday 5 and Thursday 6 January as we undertake the Assisted Testing programme, details of which have been issued in a [letter](#) for parents and carers. We return on Week 2 of the timetable.

Enriching the Educational Experience and Celebrating Success



It remains a challenging time for us all but as we end the calendar year, there are a lot of positives to reflect on and so it is only right and proper that we start this final newsletter of the year celebrating the return of our enrichment activities and applauding the successes of our students.

The Sound of (Christmas) Music: We heralded a somewhat emotional return of our Music Concerts with a Christmas spectacular that saw 54 students perform to a live audience, many of whom have never performed on our stage before. The students and staff involved worked hard as a team to pull off an entertaining, heart-warming and often inspiring performance. There were performances from our Concert Band, Rock Group and four different singing groups as well as many smaller, student-led acts, from vocal trios, piano and vocal duets to an exhilarating drum solo. The countdown to the Spring Concert starts now!

Celebrating our Own Sports Personalities of the Year: Our sports enrichment programme has gathered momentum over the term and it has been a delight to see increasing numbers of our young people participating in activities that not only support their physical fitness but also their positive well-being – it is such a joy to see (and hear) our children having some fun!

Whilst just taking part is enough, there is also great value in participating in competitive sport. Through both winning and losing, there are skills to be learnt in relation to team work, communication and resilience! Just look at what has been achieved!

- **Basketball:** Our Year 7 and 8 Girls' squad played in a tournament against local Kettering and Corby schools. We entered 2 teams, both teams played really well and were delighted to represent the school. The Year 7 team were particularly successful winning all of their 7 games, making them winners on the night. A fantastic team effort!
- **Cross Country:** A large number of students participated in the District Cross Country Championships on Monday. A huge well done to all those who braved the cold and windy conditions to represent the College. The following students were placed in the Top 20, earning a place in the next round at the County Championships!

Year 7: Oscar Charsley and Daniel Swinfen

Years 8/9: Lily Baish, Kieran Beri, Evie Brooker, Finn Brooker, James Clutton, Gracie Horton, Elliot Hunt, Archie Latham and Zac Scott

Years 10/11: Corey Cooke-Jordan, Isabelle Lund, Charlie Newell, Imogen Smith and Alana Toms

- **Volleyball:** Year 10 Girls and Boys won the District Volleyball tournament and have qualified for the County School games. Year 8 Girls were also winners of their tournament and Year 8 Boys finished runners up. An excellent night for Latimer Volleyball!
- **Rugby:** Our Year 7 Boys Rugby team braved the wind, rain and cold to win all three games in the Kettering District Rugby tournament, defeating Bishop Stopford, Prince William and KBA.

Nick Bulita and Logan Dowson have been selected for Northampton Saints DPP (Developing Player Programme) after completing trials last week, which is an excellent achievement.

- **Football:** The Year 8 Boys' Football team are into the County Cup semi-final after a 5-1 victory over Northampton Academy.
- **Cricket:** There is a wonderful opportunity for 11-15 year old cricketers who do not play with the County to potentially have some extra coaching sessions with fantastic facilities. Please see the flyer sent with this newsletter for further details.



National Citizenship Service (NCS): Calling Year 11 and 12 Students

We are excited to be able to offer the chance for our Year 11 and 12 students to take part in a youth programme like no other!

In partnership with The National Citizenship Service (NCS), we will be offering an opportunity for our students to take part in this experience and get a clearer idea of what they want from their future. On NCS, students will mix with other students, and take on fresh challenges together. Along the way, they will also get a taste for independence and pick up skills that will help them achieve their future goals.

We have assemblies booked in for Term 3 where our local NCS team will introduce the programme and the activities in more detail, but if you want to find out more, please visit the [NCS website](#).

Covid-19 Updates

Protecting Our Community

We do wish everybody a safe and happy Christmas and we must all play our part in doing all that we can over the Christmas break to protect our community. Students should continue to test twice per week over the Christmas break. Please remember to keep households ventilated when family and friends are mixing indoors.

Following a recent change to government guidance, if fully vaccinated adults and children aged 5 years to 18 years 6 months within a household, are identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – they should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. This daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19.

We will run our Assisted Testing programme at the start of Term 3 as outlined in the letter to parents and carers and all of our other Covid prevention protocols will be in place, including the wearing of face masks in communal areas.

Learning and Progress

2022: Ensuring a Purposeful Start

We are very proud of the success that The Latimer Arts College is delivering for its students. Having high expectations that are shared by students, staff and parents and carers has made a significant contribution to this. Often, by taking care of the small things, the big things then take care of themselves. Therefore, we ask you all for your 100% support with all of the key information that can be found in our [College Information Pack for Parents and Carers](#) booklet.

We particularly ask for your support with the areas listed below. These are small things that can cause significant frustration and unnecessary distractions to the learning process. If you can support us to get this right from Day 1, we will have a smooth, purposeful and effective start to term 3 and be able to ensure that learning gets underway promptly:

- **COVID-19 Protocols:** We remind parents and carers not to send their child to school if they are displaying any symptoms of COVID-19 and to book a PCR test if this is the case. We will be continuing with our daily hand sanitising, cleaning and ventilation regimes and we ask you to encourage your child to support with this. Please send your child with a face mask (and a spare!).
- **Shoes:** Students should be wearing school shoes. The following variations on this are **not permitted**: canvas shoes and plimsolls; boots and any 'trainer' style shoes, including Vans or anything with a logo on them. We would expect all students to have the correct footwear when they return at the start of Term 3. ***For any parents or carers who may need some financial support with this, please contact Ms Pankhania, Assistant Principal: jpankhania@latimer.org.uk***
- **Haircuts:** Lines cut into the hair are not permitted.
- **Jewellery:** Students are permitted to wear two studs in each lobe of the ear and a watch. The following items are **not permitted**: nose, tongue, eye-brow or lip piercings, including clear bars; any earrings that are not in the lobe of the ear (such as cartilage or helix piercings); tapers and bars; rings, necklaces, bracelets and ankle bracelets.

Please note that 'sleeper' style, hooped earrings seem to be the latest fashion: these are not permitted.

Please could you ensure that all nail varnish, gel and acrylic nails are removed before the start of term.

- **Chewing Gum:** This causes so much damage and costs the College a disproportionate amount of money to address – money that would be better spent on learning! Please do not allow your child to bring any chewing gum in to College.
- **Mobile Phones:** We have a 'Gate to Gate' policy that means that mobile phones should be switched off and placed in bags on arrival at school and they should remain there unless permission is given to access them for a planned learning activity in lessons. Students are not permitted to store phones in blazer or trouser pockets. Any devices brought into College are done so at the owner's risk.

We must also insist that parents and carers do not try to make contact via their child's mobile phone during the day. This places a student in a difficult position as if found with their phones out, they will be confiscated, regardless of the situation. Any contact that parents and carers need to make should be made through our Student Services Reception and should only be as a matter of urgency.

- **Fizzy Drinks and Sweets:** We would also like to remind parents and carers that students should not be bringing fizzy drinks, energy drinks or sweets into College. We do like to reward students with occasional treats and we would like these to be seen as such, rather than them consuming sweets as a regular occurrence.

January BTEC Examination Season

As we see an end to the recent mock examinations in Years 11 and 13, January sees the Level 3 BTEC exams begin in earnest. BTEC students in Year 13 will be participating in these exams in the first 3 weeks of Term 3. We wish them every success.

Year 11 Mock Examination Results Day

Year 11 students will be issued with their "mock examination results" on Thursday 6 January. We will use their Personal Development Time on this day to issue the results, discuss thoughts and feeling about the process, and to take time to reflect on what can be carried forward to ensure success in the summer. At the moment, their future is still in their hands to shape.

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSE)

As a College, we are committed to supporting our students to grow as people through a strong Personal Development Programme (PDP) centred around PSHE and RSE. Our programme has been specifically designed to meet the statutory requirements, in compliance with the PSHE Association framework, with age appropriate learning.

Our aim is to communicate to parents and carers the topics that each year group will study for any given term so that you can explore these with your child. Please see below the topics for Term 3:

TERM 3	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Theme	Rights, Responsibilities and British Values	Life Beyond School	Staying Safe Online and Offline	Staying Safe Online and Offline	Life Beyond School
Topic Title	Politics, Parliament and Me	Proud to Be Me!	Legal and Illegal Drugs	Violence, Crime and Seeking Safety	Your Future and Beyond

Other News

Snow Protocols: Welcome to Remote Learning!

We are now in the time of year where some of us might look forward to a little bit of snow on or close to 25 December! In many respects, with the introduction of Remote Learning, the pausing of education because of 'snow days' should now be a thing of the past.

We need to be prepared with arrangements, just in case there was to be a bout of severe weather which could hinder the safe opening and operation of the school. If there was a need to close the College, students would use Satchel: One to access work set for them. This would be a mixture of lessons set on apps or websites, or remote live lessons on Day 1. If the closure were to stretch into a second day, we would then expect all lessons to be delivered using the TEAMS app. This may be full or part lessons, but students would be expected to attend them on line, as they would if they were at school.

In the event of a closure, more details would be published on our Remote Education website page.

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 17 December	End of Term 2
Wednesday 5 January	Start of Term 3: College re-opens to students, staggered over two days <i>This will be Week 2 on the timetable</i> BTEC Level 3 Exams commence (ends Friday 14 January)
Thursday 6 January	Year 11 Mock Exam Results Session
Tuesday 11 January	Year 11 Art and Design Exam Paper Party, 4.00pm
Thursday 13 January	Parent Forum, 6.00pm
Wednesday 19 January	Year 11 SPRE, 4.30-7.45pm
Wednesday 26 January	Sixth Form SPRE, 4.30-7.45pm
Friday 28 January	Year 7 Dragons' Den Event
Wednesday 2 February	College Dance Show
Friday 11 February	End of Term 3