



Follow us on Twitter @Latimercollege



LATIMER LATEST NEWS – 28 JANUARY 2022

Covid-19 Updates

Every school day counts more than ever!

In 'normal' times, good school attendance is important, but given the disruption to education over the last two years, it is now more vital than ever that students secure high attendance levels. To secure good attendance, students should attend for at least 95%. Some attendance facts are:

- 90% attendance means your child will miss half a school day each week or 19 days of school during the year – that's nearly 4 school weeks!
- Being 15 minutes late each day during an entire school year is the same as missing two whole weeks of school!
- Children are identified as persistent absentees if they miss 10% or more school sessions available to them.
- Each person with parental responsibility could be taken to court and fined up to £2,500, or sentenced to three months in prison, for each child who is not attending school regularly or who is persistently late!

We appreciate that there may be some nervousness about attendance should your child be displaying Covid-19 symptoms and so we would encourage the regular use of Lateral Flow testing in these circumstances.

Wearing of Face Masks: Expectations for Assemblies

As you may be aware, face masks are no longer recommended in schools. However, given that there is still a high number of cases locally **we will expect students to continue to wear masks when attending their weekly assembly** and so we ask that you continue to provide one for this purpose. We would also recommend that they continue to be worn in communal areas where social distancing is not possible.

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.

Learning and Progress

Summer 2022 Public Examinations Update

Recent information from the government makes it increasingly clear that exams this summer will be "guaranteed" to go ahead. There is a Plan B, which includes the use of additional in-school assessment, but it is increasingly unlikely that this will be needed. We expect a further announcement about exam content by 7 February and will update parents and carers once we have it.

Therefore, to support our examination students, we look forward to welcoming back '*Positively: You*' to run a second workshop with our Year 11 students on revision activities and to run workshops for our Sixth Form students on general study skills and exam preparation.

Year 10: Ace Your Exams Programme Launch

As Year 11 and 13 get ever closer to the end of their journeys we met with Year 10 to launch their "Ace Your Exams" programme to get them ready for 2023! As highlighted in the separate letter sent out to Year 10 parents and carers, currently there are no adjustments being made for this cohort for their exams – so being prepared, and preparing early, is more essential than ever!

Hopefully Year 10 parents and carers have noticed the big bag of revision guides given as a gift from the College. Please can you encourage your child to get into good habits by using these guides routinely – little and often now will make a big difference to next year's preparations.

We will be offering Year 10 a revision workshop delivered by '*Positively:You*' in March and more details will follow.

Safeguarding

Supporting You to Support Your Child: Drug and Alcohol Information

As part of our Personal Development Programme this term, students have been learning about legal and illegal substances, including drug-taking, and the associated risks, including the link to serious mental health conditions. Students have also learned about the harms from smoking tobacco (particularly the link to lung cancer), the benefits of stopping smoking and how to access support to do so. This included the dangers of E-cigarettes/vape pens.

Students were also reminded of the College Behaviour for Learning Policy in relation to bringing such items into College and they had the opportunity to understand the law in relation to substance use and purchase.

There are some excellent guides for parents/carers on this subject that we would like to draw your attention to:

- [Young Minds Parents' Guide to Drugs and Alcohol](#)
- [Parents' Guide to Vaping](#)
- [Kids Health Organisation – E-Cigarettes](#)

'Family Lives': Building resilience in children and teens

The Family Lives charity aims to offer all parents/carers somewhere to turn before they reach crisis point. Crisis support, provided for over 40 years through their helpline, has always been at the heart of what they do. The helpline is available Monday to Friday 1.30pm - 9pm on 0808 800 2222.

Family Lives also have an excellent [website](#) to help parents and carers with the ups and downs of family life, which includes a useful infographic about building resilience in children and teens.

Aiming High: Raising Aspirations and Expectations

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance for Parents and Carers

As a parent/carer you are one of the most influential people in your child's life and in the best possible position to support your child as they consider their future, review their options and make choices. Although we have a strong careers' programme at the College, research shows that children look to their parents/carers first when they want career advice. Whilst some young people have a very clear idea of where they see their pathway leading them, others may take a while to decide. You can help by starting the conversation:

- Focus on skills and behaviour your child will need, rather than specific jobs.
- Talk about goals and what your child finds fulfilling.
- Be open minded and encouraging.
- Talk about what careers' experiences your child has had at school.
- Be patient as your child's choices may change.

We realise it can be challenging to know how to ask the right questions, and there are many organisations who offer advice and support to parents and carers at various stages of your child's career pathway, from choosing options in Year 8, to post-16 choices, university, apprenticeships and funding support.

- [Parent Adviser](#) – Website offering advice and guidance to help you to support your child with choosing a course, university, apprenticeship, gap year and finances.
- [Career Pilot Parent Zone](#) can give lots of information about choices at 14, 16 and 18, along with FE, HE, Apprenticeships, Funding and Support.
- UCAS – [Undergraduate Advice for Parents & Guardians](#)
- Target Careers – [Paths to Professional Careers: A Parent's Guide](#)
- [My World of Work](#) help to explore over 600 job profiles.
- [Parental Guidance](#) from the Careers Writers' Association gives advice and information needed to support young people during their transition to adult working life.

Enriching the Educational Experience and Celebrating Success



Students have started 2022 with a bang and we have been able to award a huge number of Epraise points.

A huge well done to Ted Coles, Year 8, who has already hit 100 points in January so far which is a phenomenal achievement. We also congratulate Amelia Platt (Year 7), Theo Price (Year 9), Alana Toms (Year 10), Alaina Batsford (Year 11), Dylan Jackson (Year 12) and Jack Grainger (Year 13) who lead their year groups for points this year so far.

After the success of our Christmas Prize Draw, which had a record number of entries, we will be launching our Easter Prize Draw next week. Please remind your child that the more points they earn, the more opportunities they will have to enter!

Enriching the Curriculum Through the Performing Arts

Music: Students have made a great start to their preparations for our Spring Music Concert on Friday 1 April at 7pm. Over the week there are rehearsals for four different vocal groups, a concert band and two rock bands, plus multiple small ensembles and soloists. Competition for a slot in the concert is high, with so many of the musicians from the Christmas Concert keen to show what they can do at the Spring Concert.

Dance: The College Dance Show is fast approaching! It is taking place on Wednesday 2 February in the Masque Theatre at 7pm. This is the first live dance show in two years and the students are very excited to share their work with you! Tickets are still available at www.masquekettering.co.uk and we would love parents and carers to come along and support.

Drama: A reminder that Year 7 Drama Club takes place in the Masque Theatre after school on a Monday until 4pm.

Sporting Success

We are delighted that our Year 11 Boys' Football Team have made it into the semi-finals of the County Cup, where they will play Northampton School for Boys! They were victorious in a dramatic penalty shoot-out.

Our Year 7 Girls' Hockey team had a thrilling 2-2 draw with Corby Business Academy.

Well done to all those students who ran at the County Schools Cross Country at the weekend. We would like to give a special mention to Daniel Swinfen 2nd, Evie Brooker 9th, Zac Scott 15th, Fin Brooker 16th, James Clutton 20th and Isabelle Lund 20th. An excellent effort was shown by all who took part.



We would also like to congratulate our Year 8 Boys' Futsal team who came runners up in the District Futsal Tournament, despite not losing a single game!

All four of the College's indoor athletics teams have qualified for the County School Games: this is an amazing achievement!

Other News

Thank a Member of Staff



Staff at the College have worked exceptionally hard to support our students over the course of the last year. Therefore, you may wish to consider nominating an individual for the 'Unsung Hero' award as part of the [2022 Pearson National Teaching Awards](#).

This particular award is the only one that is open to students, parents and carers to make nominations to honour everyday heroes. Any member of staff working at the College can be nominated. Details of how to do this can be accessed on the awards' 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.

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 (subject to confirmation)
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