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## LATIMER LATEST NEWS – 27 NOVEMBER 2020

### Remembering Alfie Stone

Sadly, last December, one of our students, Alfie Stone passed away. Alfie was a much loved Year 7 whose life we have been keen to commemorate in some way, but have been delayed in this due to lockdown.

However, we are now in a position to make a contribution and we would like to purchase some fencing to be placed around Alfie's grave. The estimated cost of this is £500.

Therefore, on the final day of term, Friday 18 December, we would like to offer students the chance to have a non-uniform day, in return for a donation to Alfie's memorial fund. In order to be COVID secure, students will be asked to place any donations in a bucket in their Learning Zones, which will then be quarantined and counted after the Christmas break. We do hope that everyone in our community will be able to support this.

If the total raised on this day exceeds this amount, we would also like to make a donation to [The Souster Youth Trust](#). This is a local charitable organisation that supports schools in a variety of ways, including providing well-being support. Many of our students have benefitted from support from The Souster Youth Trust this term.

We thank you in advance for your support.

Also, please note that on this final day of term **the College will close to students at 12.15pm.**

## Covid Protocols

### Remote Learning Protocols

We are very proud that we have had minimal disruption to learning due to positive COVID 19 cases. However, we remain vigilant and, as a reminder, should your child be in a position where they need to learn from home, we have designed a Remote Learning Policy in order to ensure that we provide a continuity of education for them. In order to support with ensuring that students and their parents and carers have an understanding of the systems that we are using, we will be posting relevant information on the [Remote Education](#) page of our website.

The page includes information on how to access Microsoft Teams and how to access the College's W drive from home, where resources will be stored, in addition to the Teams timetable that students would follow if their whole year group was to self-isolate.

## Learning and Progress

### Sixth Form Applications 2021: Do Not Miss Out On a Place

A reminder that today is the deadline for the submission of applications for Sixth Form places in September 2021. If students have not yet completed their application form, we would ask for these to be sent in as soon as possible so that we can start the planning process for next year. All of the relevant information can be accessed on the [Sixth Form Admissions and Prospectus](#) page on our website.

### Supporting Success: Year 11 Revision Tools

As Year 11 have commenced their mock exams, we would like to remind them of the wealth of resources which are available to support them through this process.

**Revision Guides:** Students have these for all subjects where they are available or relevant.

Year 11 students can also access our online resources:



Students can sign up for FREE at [www.gcsepod.com](http://www.gcsepod.com) using their College email account. Podcasts can be streamed or downloaded on PC, Android or IOS. Email [ithelpdesk@latimer.org.uk](mailto: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, Maths and English 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.



Language gym makes learning tenses and verbs easier and more engaging. It also provides a totally different way to practise vocabulary, listening, reading and translation. It is great preparation for the written papers. KS4 students are set an assignment to complete each week, and can access lots of additional revision material.

**GCSE Maths Revision Websites:** The Maths department recommends the use of HegartyMaths and CorbettMaths for GCSE revision. Both of these websites have helpful videos to remind students of the key concepts and important facts that they need to remember for their exams. Crucially they also give the students the opportunity to practise their skills and assess their own work.



All students have been given their own login details for [HegartyMaths](http://HegartyMaths), but can click on the forgotten password button to send a reset password request to their class teacher. They should simply search for the topic that needs to be revised, select it and then watch the video (noting down the key learning points) before trying the quiz. All scores are saved so that students can see the progress they are making.



There is no login or password needed for [corbettmaths.com](http://corbettmaths.com) and it contains lots of good quality practice questions and videos. If students know the topic that they wish to revise they should head to the "Videos and Worksheets" section which contains an alphabetical list of all GCSE Maths topics and click on the video or practice questions links as required. Students will notice that there are also several links on this page to find the answers to the questions for them to self-assess their work. The "5-a-day GCSE 9-1" section is also worth a visit and provides daily questions for general revision and practice.

### Year 11 and 13 Mock Results

We intend to return marked papers to students as soon as we can so that some time can be spent over the Christmas break on closing the gap in order that students can hit the ground running again at the start of Term 3.

Students will be supported with planning next steps through in-school activities at the start of January, designed to ensure that they make Summer 2021 a success! We will publish a report on all of the mock examination grades to parents and carers at this time.

### BTEC Examinations Season

January sees BTEC examinations for Year 13 and the first round of BTEC Examinations for Year 12. Students should be starting their revision now. If you have any questions please contact your child's teacher in the first instance or email Mrs Levick, Examinations Officer: [tlevick@latimer.org.uk](mailto:tlevick@latimer.org.uk)

## KS3 Curriculum and Assessment: Monitoring Your Child's Progress

Year 7 and 8 parents and carers should expect their child to be bringing home their exercise books in which they can view their child's Personalised Learning Checklist (PLC), printed on blue paper. A PLC shows you how your child progressed over the course of their most recent topics and may include the outcome of an assessment. Each PLC also contains an indication of the effort that a student is putting in.

This year some subjects have had to modify or adapt the timing of these PLCs due to changes made in the curriculum to compensate for lockdown, but you should start to see them appearing in your child's books now. Please ask them about their PLCs.

Following the PLC, you should see a pink Closing the Gap sheet, where your child has been encouraged to revisit an area of the topic or assessment in order to improve. This improvement should be completed in red pen so that students can easily recognise their increased success.

Our aim is that both the PLC and the Closing the Gap sheet gives you regular feedback throughout the year about your child's progress and we would routinely encourage you to review their exercise books accordingly and speak to your child about their learning.

Our [Key Stage 3 curriculum](#) website pages contain comprehensive details about the Year 7 and 8 curriculum. Please do take the time to review these pages and click on any of the subject tabs to access specific topic information and assessment criteria that students' work will be marked against. You will also find a '**Key Stage 3 Curriculum and Assessment: A Guide for Parents and Carers**' booklet for you as well as a **presentation** which outlines our assessment, feedback and closing the gap process.

Should you have any questions about PLCs or the curriculum, please do email Mr Matthews, Assistant Principal: [kmatthews@latimer.org.uk](mailto:kmatthews@latimer.org.uk)

## Safeguarding

### Online Tutors: Keeping Children Safe (LGfL) Guidance for Parents and Carers

Every year, private tutors help children catch up with missed work or address areas they are struggling with, or with extra-curricular activities like music. Lockdown has led to major growth in this area, especially online, and this is expected to continue with further 'bubble' and possible school closures.

Anyone can set up as a tutor and there are no registration procedures. Tutors do not even require an Enhanced DBS check.

To help, [LGfL](#) has prepared a leaflet supporting parents and carers to select the right tutor, establish clear rules and help their child understand what they should know too.

### WhatsApp launches new disappearing messages option

During November, WhatsApp will be rolling out the 'disappearing messages' functionality. The feature will allow WhatsApp users to enable disappearing messages on chat conversations between friends, to automatically delete messages after seven days. Wiping will also apply to videos and photos.

Whilst WhatsApp's minimum user age is 16, many children and young people have accounts. Auto-deleting entries could increase the risk to younger users as evidence of any issues may not be available.

## Aiming High: Raising Aspirations and Expectations

### WorldSkills UK LIVE: Free Careers' Advice for All

In pre-Covid times, we would have been arranging to take our Year 10 students to WorldSkills UK, a huge careers' fair held at Birmingham NEC. This event played a key role in our careers' calendar, allowing our students to watch live skills competitions, speak to employers and participate in activities.

Due to the current restrictions, WorldSkills UK, in partnership with BAE Systems, is not going ahead as in previous years, but has moved to a virtual world – all online and for free. From **26 - 28 November**, **WorldSkills UK LIVE online: Spotlight Talks on Careers and Apprenticeships** will shine a spotlight on both skills and careers, giving valuable insights into a range of sectors to help students to get the career they want. And we are able to offer this to all Latimer students!

Each day will feature a 30-minute session covering a different theme, hosted by special guest presenter Will Best. Speakers include Roma Agrawal, Lead Engineer for the Shard London, successful YouTuber, legendary gamer and digital celebrity Grant Hinds, and Great British Bake-off winner, presenter and best-selling author Nadiya Hussain. Parents and carers will be able to participate too!

To register please visit: [bit.ly/WSUKSpotlight](https://bit.ly/WSUKSpotlight)

## Enriching the Educational Experience and Celebrating Success



### World Championships Success

We are delighted with how successfully our students have participated in the annual Vocab Express World Championships this year. Unlike previous years, due to some restrictions in our learning zones, we were not able to participate in this competition in lessons. However, this did not deter our students who, by taking part in their own time, managed to secure third place in the French Genius Cup and fourth place overall in the world!

We would particularly like to congratulate our top four students, Jessica Dunham, Mia Wood, Oliver Back and Ben Krotowski, who between them earned over 263,000 points! What a fantastic effort!



The countdown to Christmas is well and truly underway and with that, we are growing ever nearer to our first Epraise Prize Draw of the year. Students can enter themselves into the different draws as many times as they can and will have a choice of different prizes, such as an Apple Watch SE, Fifa 21, a £50 Pandora voucher and other prizes.

To enter, students need to sign in to [www.epraise.co.uk](http://www.epraise.co.uk) and check out the rewards section to see what they are able to win and decide which of the draws they want to enter, starting from as little as 3 Epraise points. The draw will take place in the last week of term – a perfect opportunity for an early Christmas gift!

## Other News

### Widening our Catering Provision

We are pleased to be able to announce that we will be widening our catering provision from Monday 7 December to include a breakfast offering. Students will be able to purchase breakfast from Picassos from 8.00am – 8.20am.

In order to minimise contact with other year groups, this will be a grab and go service whereby students will enter Picassos wearing their masks, purchase their food and then exit to their Learning Zone.

### Virtual Silverstone Run: Heartfelt Thank You for Your Support!

We would like to thank all those in our community who donated money to support the “Team Sebastian” run on 15 November. Despite poor conditions and without the opportunity to “race” at Silverstone with others around them, we would like to congratulate those staff who went out and slogged various distances to raise money for such a good cause. It is still possible to make a donation by visiting: [Go Fund Me page](#).



## Dates for your Diary

We would like to remind parents and carers that the College will be **closed to students** next Friday, **Friday 4 December** when we have a scheduled **Training Day**.

Please take the time to view our [calendar](#) and ensure that you are aware of all of the key dates for the year.

Friday 4 December

Training Day: College closed to students

Friday 18 December

End of Term 2. College to close to students at 12.15pm.

Monday 4 January

Start of Term 3: College re-opens to students