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## LATIMER LATEST NEWS – 26 NOVEMBER 2021

### Training Day: Friday 3 December

A reminder that the College will be closed to students on Friday 3 December for the staff Training Day, as scheduled on the calendar.

## Covid-19 Updates

### Working Together to Save Christmas!

We continue to work hard on implementing our Covid prevention protocols so that we can play our part in keeping transmission rates in our community down. We are pleased to say that infection rates amongst students and staff are very low at the moment and our attendance is very close to pre-pandemic 'normal' levels.

It is highly likely that a number of things may have contributed to this, including increased vaccination rates and post-infection immunity. In addition to this, it will not be a coincidence that since we reintroduced the recommendation to wear a mask in communal areas where social distancing cannot be maintained at the start of Term 2, rates have decreased.

However, it is taking up a great deal of staff time and energy reminding students to bring a mask, and indeed a spare! And of course, if we are not all in this together, the positive impact of those who are wearing masks will be negligible.

So we would appreciate your support with this: whilst at this stage we '**highly recommend**', rather than mandate the wearing of masks, of course if we do not embrace this control measure, rates may start to rise again, and then we would have to insist on masks, and by then it may be too late!

So please can you ensure that your child has a mask (and a spare) and can you remind them why this is important.

**Please note:** From Monday 6 December, we will be reintroducing face to face assemblies in the Masque Theatre. Apart from those who are exempt, students will be required to wear a mask for these.

### Twice Weekly Lateral Flow Tests

Students should continue with twice weekly Lateral Flow testing for Term 2 on a Monday and Thursday.

## Learning and Progress

### Year 11 and 13 Ace Your Exams: Preparing for Success

**Mock and Summer Exams 2022:** With Year 11 and Year 13 undertaking their mock examinations, please can we remind parents and carers that students need to arrive on time and have all the necessary equipment. This will include a black pen, a calculator, ruler, protractor and compass.

You may have seen in the news that the Government have announced their 'Plan B' if exams do not happen this summer. Whilst this is extremely unlikely, given recent years, we must be prepared for anything. The main essence of the plan is that schools should be running a series of mock exams, which would be used in lieu of any cancelled exams. The Government have published an open letter to students which can be accessed [here](#).

At The Latimer Arts College, we already have a plan which would support students through this process. We will review the newly released Government proposal and once we have the final details, we will update our procedures accordingly. In the meantime, it is in the interest of each individual student that they focus all of their efforts on preparing for any assessments and exams that take place in school in the lead up to Summer 2022.

**Sixth Form Applications September 2022 Deadline:** The applications deadline for applying for a place in our Sixth Form in September 2022 has now passed. As part of our package of support, in line with our Ace Your Exams programme, following mock examinations, we will commence the process of meeting with students on a 1:1 basis to discuss their subject choices.

If your child has missed the application deadline, we would ask that you contact Mr Matthews, Assistant Principal: [kmatthews@latimer.org.uk](mailto:kmatthews@latimer.org.uk) as soon as possible.

### **Exam Certificates Ready for Collection from Monday 6 December**

All that hard work and commitment was worth it! If you have a child who received results this August, they will soon be able to see, officially in print, the examination success that they achieved as their exam certificates will soon be ready for collection. We are in the process of receiving the final certificates from exam boards and will be able to release them from Monday 6 December. Current Year 12 students can collect their certificates from the College Exams Office. For those who have moved from the College they can collect their certificates from Visitors' Reception – please call and give us 24 hours' notice so we can have them ready for collection.

Please note that we cannot issue certificates to parents and carers who may want to collect them without written permission from their child. This can be in the form of an email sent to: [exams@latimer.org.uk](mailto:exams@latimer.org.uk)

## **Safeguarding**

### **Understanding Screen Addiction and Responsible Digital Use**

During the pandemic, all of our screen time has increased and this is especially true for our children. This [article](#) gives detailed analysis and advice on screen usage, which may be of help to parent and carers. It includes:

- How technology use has changed over the years;
- The impact of COVID-19 on screen time use and digital behaviours (smartphone usage in the UK surged by 30% during lockdown);
- Understanding screen addictions and how our devices affect our brains and change our behaviours (e.g. dopamine-driven reward loops);
- Helpful tips and useful advice for tackling device addiction, managing gadget and internet use, and creating healthier digital habits.

### **Parenting Smart (Place2Be)**

The children's mental health charity, [Place2Be](#), has launched a new website aimed at helping parents/carers with typical situations they can find themselves in with their children.

Advice can be found on over forty topics including:

- Understanding sibling rivalry
- My child is lying, what does it mean, what should I do?
- My child has trouble going to sleep
- My child says 'I hate you!'
- Cultural identity: who am I?

## Aiming High: Raising Aspirations and Expectations

### Personalised Careers Advice

We are delighted that we are being supported by three independent careers advisors who will meet with all Year 11 and Sixth Form students over the coming weeks. Following this, the service will be extended to students in other year groups. If you would like to get in touch with the careers advisors please, email them at [Careers@latimer.org.uk](mailto:Careers@latimer.org.uk)

### Accessing National Careers Information – For Free!

[‘Success at School’](https://www.successatschool.org/) is a national careers’ website for students aged 11-19 and their parents/carers. It is a fantastic free resource, offering a vast range of information and advice. New parent/carer guides, for example on Employability Skills, are now available. You just need to sign up to their special parents’ mailing list.

[‘Aspire Higher’](https://www.aspirehigher.org/) will be delivering free monthly webinars for all parents and carers with a young person in Years 9 to 13. These sessions will run at 10:30am and again at 6pm so you can choose a time which is most convenient for you. The topics and dates are shown:

- 1 December 2021 Routes into Higher Education (HE)
- 5 January 2022 Student Finance
- 2 February 2022 Apprenticeships
- 2 March 2022 The Pay Index
- 6 April 2022 Year 13: Support with the next steps
- 4 May 2022 Year 11: What's next?

To book a place, please email [Christine.Webster@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:Christine.Webster@northampton.ac.uk)

## Enriching the Educational Experience and Celebrating Success



***‘If you want to be proud of yourself, then do things in which you can take pride!’***

As a community, we should all be really proud of our contributions to this year’s Children in Need appeal. Together, we raised over £1000 for this most worthy of causes. So a huge and sincere thank you to you all.

The following students have certainly done themselves proud recently:

**United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT):** Our Sixth Form students Olivia Burns, Tori Frater, Anna Morrison and Nyovi Konidou-Theodoropoulou who recently gained Merit Awards in the UKMT Girls Olympiad and Lorenzo Seminerio who secured a Merit Award in the Senior Maths Challenge.

**Kettering Primary School Indoor Sports Hall Athletics:** Our Year 10 students ran this athletics event. The students were a credit to themselves and the College. Staff at the primary schools were very impressed and the event leader said the students were among the best he has ever worked with.

We look forward to sharing more moments that you as parents and carers, and College staff, can be proud of over the coming months.



**Keeping Going Until the Final Whistle:** Year 11 Boys’ Basketball Team won their opening league 25-24 against KBA. An incredibly close game which saw us come out victorious in the end!

**Making a Positive Contribution:** Isaac Willis (Year 8) has been presented with the Gordon Robinson award from Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust (NMPAT) for his commitment and contribution to their virtual centre during the last academic year. This is a fantastic achievement and we cannot wait to hear Isaac perform in our Christmas Music Concert on Thursday 9 December.



**A fantastic team effort:** On Thursday 18 November the Year 7 and 8 Basketball 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. Well done to all!



Our Epraise Christmas Prize Draw is just 20 days away! Up for grabs is an Apple Watch, vouchers and selection boxes. Students can enter from as little as 3 points by visiting [www.epraise.co.uk](http://www.epraise.co.uk) and selecting the rewards tab at the top to enter, with more entries possible each time they earn Epraise points.

Big congratulations to our Top 10 Epraise earners for the last fortnight: Maisy Ashall, George Carr, Isaac Dellet, Andreea Dragan, Levi Nelson, Lacey Russell, Zach Skeggs, Cory Thurland, Carys Toms and Scarlett-Rose Waterhouse who have amassed over 550 points between them – that is a lot of tickets for the prize draw!

### **Get Involved: Performing Arts Enrichment Activities for All!**

We are very pleased to launch our new Year 7 Drama club, every Monday in the Masque Theatre from 3.15-4.00pm. Led by our Year 12 A-Level Drama class, the club will give the students the opportunity to build upon the excellent learning that they are doing in their Drama lessons and further extend their skills and confidence and work towards performances. All Year 7 students are welcome to attend.

Also, if students are interested in auditioning for Junior Dance Company, the next auditions will take place the first week back after the Christmas holidays on Wednesday 5 January and we will be preparing for the College Dance Show which will be taking place in February.

Musical Theatre Club takes place on Tuesdays in the Masque Theatre from 3.10-4.15pm and is open to students in Years 7 to 10.

### **Sports Enrichment: A reminder that all are welcome!**

We would like to ask you to encourage your child to join the many others who are attending our after school PE enrichment activities. These are a great way to feel a part of our College community and are a way of supporting positive well-being. PE clubs are about having fun. The clubs will run from 3.00pm until 4.15pm.

| DAY/DATE              | PE CLUBS  | MATCHES  |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Mon 29 November       | Year 9 Basketball – Girls (external coach)<br>Year 10/11 Basketball – Boys and Girls (external coach) |  |
| Tues 30 November      | Year 7/8 Hockey – Girls<br>Year 7/8 Football – Girls  | Year 11 Boys Basketball vs KSA @ Latimer         |
| Weds 1 December       | Year 7/8/9 Rugby – Boys<br>Year 8/10/11 Handball Club 4-5 pm – Boys and Girls (external coach)        | Year 10 Girls Hockey Match                       |
| Thurs 2 December      | Year 7 Fitness Club – Girls<br>Year 9 Basketball – Boys   | Year 7 Boys Football 7-a-side Tournament @ KBA   |
| <b>Fri 3 December</b> | <b>TRAINING DAY – COLLEGE CLOSED</b>  |  |
| Mon 6 December        | Year 9 Basketball – Girls (external coach)<br>Year 11 Basketball – Boys and Girls (external coach)    | Year 10 Boys Futsal Tournament @ KLV             |
| Tues 7 December       | Year 7/8 Football – Girls<br>Year 9/10 Hockey – Girls   | Year 10 Boys Basketball vs Montsaye (@ Montsaye) |

|                   |  |   |
|-------------------|--|---|
| Weds 8 December   | Year 8 Rugby – Boys<br>Year 8/10/11 Handball Club 4-5 pm – Boys and Girls (external coach) | Year 7 Rugby Tournament @ Bishop 2.00-4.30 pm<br>Year 9 Girls Hockey Match  |
| Thurs 9 December  | Year 7 Fitness Club – Girls<br>Year 9 Basketball – Boys                                    | Year 7 Boys 7-a-side Football Tournament @ KBA                              |
| Fri 10 December   | Year 8 Badminton – Boys and Girls (external coach)   |   |
| Mon 13 December   | Year 10/11 Basketball – Boys and Girls (external coach)                                    |   |
| Tues 14 December  | Year 7/8 Football – Girls<br>Year 7/8 Hockey – Girls                                       | Year 10 Boys Basketball vs KSA (@ Latimer)                                  |
| Weds 15 December  | Year 8/10/11 Handball Club 4-5 pm – Boys and Girls (external coach)                        | Year 8 Rugby Tournament @ Bishop 2.00-4.30 pm<br>Year 10 Girls Hockey Match |
| Thurs 16 December | Year 7 Fitness Club – Girls  | Year 7 Boys 7-a-side Football Finals Night                                  |
| Fri 17 December   |  |   |

As the cold weather arrives, a reminder that students are allowed to wear the following for PE lessons:

- A tracksuit
- A hat: we ask that these are black or dark in colour and must be a woolly hat/beanie style
- Gloves: 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.

***Please note: Staff members will have discretion as to whether these optional items can be worn so students must also bring their shorts/skorts.***

## Other News

### Our Commitment to Affordable School Uniform

You may have seen that a new law will be in place for the next academic year that compels schools to ensure that they limit the uniform. The government rightly agree that school uniform provides a sense of identity and community for young people, and should be a real source of pride. But they are also correct that it must never be a burden for parents or a barrier to students accessing education.

Our compulsory uniform is amongst the cheapest in the area. Of the seventy schools that our uniform supplier, Karl Sports serve (fourteen of which are secondary schools), no school has a cheaper, branded compulsory uniform.

It has been widely reported that the annual average cost of uniform is in excess of £100 and can be as much as £300. The current cost of our compulsory uniform is £54.50, and generally lasts for at least a two-year period (so less than £30 annually) and includes sports uniform.

The government are also making it compulsory that schools have second hand uniforms available. Please can we remind parents and carers that for many years we have promoted a ***'uniform swap shop'***, where we encourage donations of uniform items that students have grown out of and welcome any student to help themselves to any items of uniform that they may need - they should just come to Student Services.

We also do all that we can to support those families where there is a financial need, in particular those who are eligible for the Pupil Premium funding, by providing new uniform items. Should you need any help, please do contact Ms Pankhania, Assistant Principal: [jpankhania@latimer.org.uk](mailto:jpankhania@latimer.org.uk)

### 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 3 December    | Training Day: College closed to students  |
| Thursday 9 December  | Christmas Music Concert, 7.00pm   |
| Friday 17 December   | End of Term 2   |
| Wednesday 5 January  | Start of Term 3: College re-opens to students<br><i>This will be Week 2 on the timetable</i><br>BTEC Level 3 Exams commence (ends Friday 14 January)<br>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   |