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LATIMER LATEST NEWS – 8 OCTOBER 2021

Covid-19 Updates

Managing Community Infection Rates by Working Together

Following the vaccination programme that was carried out this week, along with us all supporting with Covid control measures, we sincerely hope that community transmission rates will start to decrease and the disruption to education will reduce over the remaining weeks of this term.

We can assure you that we are doing all that we can to keep our students safe:

- We are currently recommending the wearing of face masks in communal areas such as corridors and indoor eating areas
- Hand sanitising continues throughout the day
- We are ventilating classrooms and corridors
- Students have access to tissues so that they can Catch It. Bin It. Kill It.
- We have one way systems operating in learning centres
- We have not resumed face to face assemblies

Parents and carers can help by:

- Ensuring that your child does not attend school if they are displaying Covid-19 symptoms
- Taking your child for a PCR test if it is advised by Test and Trace
- Ensuring that your child undertakes the twice weekly Lateral Flow Device testing which will continue for the foreseeable future
- Reminding your child of the importance of wearing a face mask in communal areas. They should also wear a face mask on provided school transport and the commercial bus service at this time

Please note:

- If your child has had Covid-19 within the last 90 days, they should not do the twice weekly Lateral Flow Device testing, as there is every likelihood that the result will show as a false positive. They should only resume home testing after the 90 day period has passed.
- In the current climate, if you are advised to go for a PCR test, as long as the Lateral Flow Device test result is negative, your child can still come into College pending their PCR result.

Learning and Progress

Ace Your Exams: Year 11 and 13

We are already almost at the end of Term 1 and are getting close to mock exam season. These are only **25 school days away!**

Students will receive their timetables for this in the coming weeks, but they should already be planning for this important event and setting time aside for revision.

The Government has announced the plans for 2022 exams and we emailed parents and carers earlier this week with the key details. As part of the plan for the examination system this year, the government announced a consultation on contingency plans, if exams are unable to run. This consultation can be found [here](#), but in essence, the system would be based on centre assessed grades. Although this is an unlikely scenario, it does add extra importance to the mock exam process.

Students should be using this opportunity to find out what revision techniques work for them. A reminder that we had the Ace Your Exam event, with hints and tips about how to revise, as well as details on the key elements for the year ahead. The videos as well as other useful resources can be found [here](#).

Should you wish for further information about the exam countdown, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Harvey, Vice Principal: sharvey@latimer.org.uk.



An Invitation to our Sixth Form Open Evening Process 2021

As a result of such strong GCSE results, our Sixth Form is thriving! We are now starting to make plans for those students who will be joining us next year. Over the coming weeks, we will update our [Sixth Form Pathways](#) website page so please do keep an eye on this.

Whilst we are not in a position to confirm if we will host an onsite Open Evening this year (we will monitor local Covid-19 infection rates and make a decision nearer the time), we do ask that you keep the evening of **Wednesday 10 November** free. More details will be published soon.

Safeguarding

Educating our Students to Keep Themselves Safe

At The Latimer Arts College, safeguarding our students is our number one priority. Our students have now all taken part in assemblies where they have had the opportunity to learn about key safeguarding issues, how to keep safe and where to get help. During the assembly we covered key themes including County Lines, Child Sexual Exploitation, Digital Safety, Peer on Peer Abuse and Sexual Harassment.

Students were exceptionally receptive and mature with this very serious content.

Should any student or their parents and carers have a concern about any of these, please contact: mail@latimer.org.uk and your message will be passed on to the Safeguarding Team. Alternatively, please contact your child's Form Tutor.

In addition to this, there are a range of external support services that can be accessed, which we hope you will find of use:

- Youth Works Drop in Service – Tue 4.00pm till 8.00pm Tel: 01536 518339
- Youth Works LGBTQ+ Drop in Service – Mon 4.00pm till 5.30pm Tel: 01536 518339
- Corby LGBTQ+ Drop in Service - Tue 6.30pm till 8.00pm Tel: 01536 518339
- Digital Safety and Well Being: www.parentzone.org.uk
- Stop and Prevent Adolescent Criminal Exploitation: www.bespaceaware.co.uk
- CEOP and Think You Know: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

Aiming High: Raising Aspirations and Expectations

UCAS Parent and Carer Guide

As our Sixth Form summer leavers now head off to university, we turn our attention to supporting our current students with making the right choices for their next steps. The first application deadline of 15 October is approaching for all students considering Oxbridge or medical courses. Our aim is for our Sixth Form students to have their applications sent off by the end of November so that they have the best chance of being offered a place, with the final deadline being 26 January 2022.

For parents and carers who are not familiar with the UCAS process, we have put together a [UCAS Apply - A Parent and Carer Guide 2021-22](#) to support you in helping you and your child navigate the application and tips on what to look for when researching a course. If you need any further help or support, please do contact Miss Magee, Sixth Form Centre Manager, who will be more than happy to help: smagee@latimer.org.uk

World Skills UK: 'Virtual' Events

In 'ordinary' times, we have always looked forward to taking our KS4 students to the World Skills UK event. Unfortunately, this has not resumed as a normal face to face event this year. However, the website has a wealth of information and resources which provide inspiring careers insights.

'Spotlight Talks' brings together the UK's leading employers and those offering apprenticeships who aim to inspire even more young people, from all walks of life, to take up technical career routes and apprenticeships. Their next 'Spotlight Talk' on 13-14 October will focus on careers in Digital Skills, which are becoming ever more vital.

Students can [register](#) to view this live; otherwise all of the 'Spotlight Talks' are available to watch online after the event.

Other 'Spotlight Talks' available to watch include: Employability and Public Services; Design/Build; Armed Forces; STEM.

Enriching the Educational Experience and Celebrating Success

Enrichment Activities: Securing Parental Consent

We are delighted that we are able to start to re-introduce a range of enrichment activities for our students and we very much look forward to extending these as the year progresses. Thank you to those parents and carers who have already returned the Enrichment Activities (Trips) Consent Form, however, there are a number of consent forms still to be returned and we cannot take students on such things as trips and sports fixtures without the right permissions. You can complete the form [here](#) – it really is quick and simple to do.

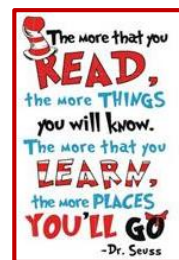


We are delighted that we have our first 'Millionaire' readers of this academic year! These are students who have read over 1 million words as part of our Accelerated Reader Programme.

A huge well done to Khyesha Marston and Kealan Green in Year 7. They join over 36 other readers in the College who have reached this milestone.

At The Latimer Arts College, we place a huge value on children's ability to read – this is such a vital skill for lifelong success. Books can really enrich lives, allowing us to experience the pleasure of reading and reap the benefits that reading for pleasure has, not only on educational success, but in enhancing vocabulary, developing empathy and so much more!

In addition to our Accelerated Reader Programme, we also run our daily KS3 DEAR Programme (Drop Everything and Read). Students can read a fiction book of their choice during this time, which may be one brought in from home or borrowed from our College Learning Resource Centre. Please ensure that your child has a reading book in their bag every day to ensure they can take part in DEAR. They never know when they might be asked: "What book is in your bag?"



At the time of writing, we have seen our first 10 students break the 100 Epraise points barrier: a massive congratulations to: Sebastian Arnold, Liam Bodsworth, Corey Burnett, Ted Coles, Kealan Green, Millie Hall, Sloane Seaton, Scarlett-Rose Waterhouse, William Weston and Samuel Wright.

That is just the tip of an impressive iceberg, with over 55,000 points awarded to students so far. To recognise the amazing effort of our students, we will be holding a double points fortnight from Monday 11 October until Friday 22 October. This will be a fantastic way for students to boost their points in advance of the Christmas Prize Draw!

Developing Skills for Life Through the Performing Arts

Now that the Performing Arts Clubs are up and running, it has been great to see so many students getting involved across all subjects. The Performing Arts building is slowly returning to normal with the sound of students rehearsing, dancing and making music – it is buzzing with energy! Please do encourage your child to access these opportunities. A full list of clubs can be viewed on our [website](#).

Sports Enrichment: Have Fun and Get Fit!

It has been an absolute pleasure to see so many of our students participating in our sports enrichment activities. Below is a reminder of what is running over the next fortnight. PE clubs are open to all students, no matter what ability level. The clubs will run from 3.00pm until 4.15pm.

In particular, we would like to invite Year 8-11 students to join the Handball Club on Wednesdays from 4pm-5pm. The sessions for this fast and exciting game are being run by a Northants Handball Coach. Students can go home first and return at 4pm or come and do some homework in the Sports Centre before the club starts.

And, we are delighted that we are once again able to celebrate sporting success: our Year 11 Boys' Football Team progressed through the first round of the County Cup with a 4-1 win over Wootton School, Northampton.

Year 9 Boys' Football Team won their opening County Cup football match against William Parker 2-0.

Year 8 Boys' Football Team won their County Cup 8-1 against Thomas Beckett.

We are also very proud of the success achieved by Finn Brooker who ran the London mini marathon trial and finished 5th, which qualified him to run for the East Midlands team in London and do the last 2.6k of the marathon route on the same day as the marathon. An amazing achievement!

We also celebrate defeat and congratulate those who have given their best for their team, including the Year 11 Boys' Football Team who lost 3-1 to Montsaye in the league and our Year 7 Boys' Football Team who lost to Campion in the County Cup. We will go again next year!

DAY/DATE	PE CLUBS	MATCHES
Monday 11 October	Year 7 Basketball – Boys and Girls Year 8 Basketball – Boys and Girls	
Tuesday 12 October	Year 9 Netball – Girls Year 10 Basketball – Boys Year 11 Basketball – Boys	Year 10 Girls' Netball @ Bishop Stopford
Wednesday 13 October	Year 7 Rugby – Boys Year 8 Rugby – Boys Year 9 Rugby – Boys Year 9/10/11 Handball Club <i>(still some places available – see Mr Hallett)</i>	Year 7 Girls' Football Tournament @ KBA Year 8 Girls' Football Tournament @ KBA
Thursday 14 October	Year 9 Basketball – Girls Year 10 Basketball - Girls	Year 11 Boys' B-Team Football @ KBA
Friday 15 October	Year 9 Badminton – Boys and Girls <i>(still some places available – see Mr Hallett)</i>	
Monday 18 October	Year 7 Basketball – Boys and Girls Year 8 Basketball – Boys and Girls	
Tuesday 19 October	Year 9 Netball – Girls Year 10 Netball – Girls Year 10 Basketball – Boys Year 11 Netball – Girls Year 11 Basketball – Boys Sixth Form Netball – Girls	Year 10 Boys' GCSE PE table tennis @ Bishop Stopford

Wednesday 20 October	Year 7 Rugby – Boys Year 8 Rugby – Boys Year 9 Rugby – Boys Year 9/10/11 Handball Club (still some places available – see Mr Hallett)	
Thursday 21 October	Year 9 Hockey – Girls Year 10 Hockey – Girls	Year 10 Boys' B-Team Football @ KBA
Friday 22 October	Year 9 Badminton – Boys and Girls (still some places available – see Mr Hallett)	

Other News and Information

Previously Looked After Children: Eligible for Pupil Premium Plus

If any parents/carers declared to us that their child ceased to be looked after by a local authority in England and Wales because of adoption, a special guardianship order, or child arrangements order, and if they presented us with evidence of this, they could be eligible for previously looked after children's pupil premium plus, which could contribute towards support with educational needs.

Please contact JFearnley@latimer.org.uk if your child fits the criteria.

Applying for Free School Meals

Please click [Free School Meals](#) to access the online application form should you believe that you are eligible.

Abm Catering offer the below products for Meal Deals that can be purchased for **£2.35** (which is the FSM daily allowance):

- Meal Hotpot and a carton drink or a small cake or piece of fruit
- Ham or Cheese Sandwich, carton drink and a small cake or piece of fruit
- Sausage Roll, carton drink and a small cake or piece of fruit
- Cheese Pizza, carton drink and a small cake or piece of fruit



Managing Traffic Delays

There are currently a high number of students arriving late to school due to heavy traffic in the local area. Whilst we appreciate that the current travel situation is frustrating, leaving home 10-15 minutes earlier each day would alleviate students being late to school and mean that they will not miss the vital start of lessons and will not be at risk of being placed in detention for late arrival.

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 22 October	End of Term 1
Monday 1 November	Start of Term 2: College re-opens to students <i>This will be Week 1 on the timetable</i> Key Stage 5 Pathways Fortnight commences (Year 11) (ends Friday 12 November)
Tuesday 2 November	Year 7/9/12/13 Well-being and Personal Development Feedback Calls, from 4.30pm
Wednesday 10 November	Sixth Form Open Evening
Thursday 18 November	Year 8/10 Well-being and Personal Development Feedback Calls, from 4.30pm
Monday 22 November	Year 11 and Year 13 Mock Exams commence (ends Thursday 2 December)
Friday 3 December	Training Day: College closed to students
Thursday 9 December	Christmas Music Concert, 7.00pm
Friday 17 December	End of Term 2