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## LATIMER LATEST NEWS – 12 MARCH 2021

### March Restart Updates

#### On Site Assisted Lateral Flow Device Testing: Update

Students were fantastic this week as they undertook their first round of assisted Lateral Flow Testing. We have now commenced Test 2 with some year groups and the third round of testing will be completed before Friday 19 March.

As each year group completes their third test next week, we will issue students with a Home Testing pack, with multiple home testing kits in it. Parents and carers will be notified once this happens.

We would then like students to test at home, on a Monday and Thursday morning each week, before they come to school. Further Home Testing packs will be issued when required and we will inform students about how this process will work at a later stage.

The results of the test must be uploaded to the NHS website: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

The results should also be reported to the College. You do this by following this link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=3tar8cxff02gPEHrF0qjOxkWZR6P175BkdPLo7KEaFNUQ0VXOTdPWFITV0VRSVITRFMzRDNJRVRIOUS4u>

Should a test be positive with a home testing kit, a confirmatory PCR test should be booked online or by calling 119. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the student and their close contacts should self-isolate. If the PCR test is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test (at home only) and a child can return to school.

A reminder that we have previously issued a letter with comprehensive details of the testing programme, with support material, and this can be accessed on the [March Restart](#) page of our website.

#### Home Testing for Parents and Carers

A reminder that parents and carers can now access home testing kits for themselves as set out below. Tests are fast, easy and completely free.

There are [different ways](#) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most.

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

## Learning and Progress

### Awarding of GCSE, A Level and BTEC Grades 2021: Update

The government has announced that there will be no “normal” exam series for students in Year 11 and 13 this year. Instead, teachers will assess students using a range of evidence to create Centre Assessed Grades.

We are currently working on how we will collate the evidence needed for this process and are also awaiting final details to be released by exam boards. We expect to have all the information we need by Easter. After this point, we will confirm with students and parents and carers the final arrangements. All students need to focus on for the moment is settling back into school, picking up their good habits of learning, focus on their work and trying their very best in any assessments they are given.

Currently, we are unable to confirm what the final day for students in Year 11 and 13 will be as this has not been confirmed by the Department for Education. All Centre Assessed Grades need to be with the exam boards by Friday 18 June and so this will be the latest date at which students will complete their studies, although the date is likely to be earlier than this.

### Supporting Year 8 GCSE and BTEC Pathways Choices

We have re-designed our pathways process this year to take into consideration the face-to-face teaching time that has been missed, in order to give students and their parents and carers more time to explore and consider pathway subject options. We are providing more opportunities to find out information about the process than ever before.

Year 8 students have now been issued with a letter outlining the pathways process and a pathways booklet which provides information about each individual subject.

To support with this, joining details are included of the ‘live’ **Year 8 Pathways Showcase** that will take place on **Tuesday 16 March at 6.00pm**. Students and their parents and carers will also be able to view individual subject recordings for the subjects that a student may be interested in studying at Key Stage 4.

On **Wednesday 17 March**, we will email a link that invites parents and carers to book appointments for our **Year 8 Pathways Subject Information Evening which** takes place on **Wednesday 14 April, 4-7pm**. This will provide an opportunity to book 5 minute slots over School Cloud, our web-based video calling system, with teachers of preference subjects in order to allow you and your child to ask questions about the subjects that they may be interested in studying at Key Stage 4.

For English and Maths, as they are core subjects, there will be an opportunity on this evening for parents and carers to book a slot with their child’s teacher in order to get feedback on their progress in these subjects.

## Safeguarding

### Free School Meals: Easter Holiday Provision

Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) will be funding School Holiday Food Vouchers for all students who are eligible for Free School Meals, for the Easter Holiday period. All eligible pupils will receive one £30 voucher to cover the two-week holiday period.

The College will register students and details of how to access the vouchers will be provided for you.

## Enriching the Educational Experience and Celebrating Success



Well done to our avid lockdown readers! We have to give very special congratulations to Charlie Buckby in Year 7 who has now read over 4 million words! This is exceptional.

Lily Baish and Gemma Cox, Year 7, and Jessica Cameron, Year 8, have now also joined the millionaire club, having read over 1 million words each in Accelerated Reader. We now have 18 Key Stage 3 students who are part of our millionaire club!



Despite learning from home, our students were still able to participate in the annual Intermediate Maths Challenge and there were some outstanding performances.

Max Arnold, Maisy Ashall, Gethin Blackshaw, Georgia Burns, Ezra Cox, Anika Dodd, Joel Lodder, Harry Macgregor and Kristian Tupaz were all Bronze Certificate winners.

Monique Lin not only secured a Silver Certificate, but she has also qualified for the follow-on round, so special congratulations to her.

And we think that we have some other math-magicians in the making: students who have excelled and grown in confidence in the subject during their period of Remote Learning. Mrs Strudwick is bursting with pride at the progress that the following students have made:

In Year 7, Maisie Knight, Seth Barratt, Faith Featon and Alfie Wills. In Year 8, Ryan Power and Sloane Seaton. In Year 10, Emma Burrows, Madeline Doughty, Libby Golding, Sophie Hill, Lewis Houghton, Finely Payne and Kim Walton.

Mrs Twiddy would also like to congratulate Rienna Cox in Year 9 who has answered 491 Maths questions, getting 442 of them correct. She spent 11hrs 36mins in total answering questions and over 2.5 hrs watching clips to help her with the work. This is the level of effort that we applaud and it will stand Rienna in such great stead for the future.

Mrs West has also been wowed by some 'incroyable' French students, including Max Arnold, Daniel Baird, Anika Dodd, Ellie Elston and Ethan Randall who have all been extremely impressive. They have shown such motivation and drive despite the challenging circumstances in which they were learning.

## Other News

### Catering Provision

**abm Catering Solutions**, our catering providers, offer a breakfast service to all year groups from 8.00am in Picasso's each day.

Sixth Form students are offered a break and lunchtime service, to accommodate those who may leave before lunch for home study.

All other year groups have a 'grab and go' style food provision at lunchtime.

### Casual Staff Vacancies for 2021 Elections

For those students who are over 16, they may wish to consider applying for a role as a temporary worker during the forthcoming local election. A variety of roles are available, such as working in a polling station or counting votes. Full details can be accessed at:

<https://northamptonshire.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c5c48623292b09ac1ef32bc2b&id=515ba73a10&e=5f0a0edc9d>

*Please note that you may need to copy the link to access.*

## Dates for your Diary

We apologise that our calendar has been very fluid this year as we have had to be responsive and shuffle dates as the context in which we are operating has changed.

***Please note that we have removed the Training Day that was scheduled for Monday 12 April. This will now be a teaching day and the Training Day will be on Monday 7 June.***

We have made this change to allow for an additional day of learning for Year 11 and 13. This will then help to create time for staff to conclude the process of completing Centre Assessed Grades for students in these year groups at the start of Term 6.

We will confirm other key dates for Term 5 and 6 later this term.

Friday 12 March – Friday 19 March	Assisted Testing Programme Continues (Tests 2 and 3)
Tuesday 16 March	Year 8 Virtual Pathways Showcase 6pm
<b>Friday 26 March</b>	<b>End of Term 4</b>
<b>Monday 12 April</b>	<b>Start of Term 5:</b> College re-opens to students <i>(This will be Week 1 on the timetable)</i>
Wednesday 14 April	Year 8 Pathways Consultation Evening 4.00-7.00pm
Monday 3 May	Bank Holiday: College closed
Friday 28 May	End of Term 5
Monday 7 June	Training Day: College closed to students
Tuesday 8 June	Start of Term 6: College re-opens to students <i>(This will be Week 2 on the timetable)</i>
<b>Friday 16 July</b>	<b>End of Term 6</b>
Monday 19 July	Training Day: College closed to students
Tuesday 20 July	Training Day: College closed to students