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Welcome to our first newsletter of the new academic year. We use our newsletters as a key means of communication with parents and carers and they contain a lot of information and updates. Parents and carers often phone us to ask for information that has already been shared in the newsletters, so please do look out for them every other Friday! We will also be expanding our social media presence in the coming weeks and will use this as a way of providing you with regular updates.

It has been so wonderful welcoming back our students this week and we are so full of pride: they all look so smart in their blazers and new house ties.

We are very excited about our relaunched enrichment programme and the House competitions that we have planned. We look forward to the Year 7 Team Building event next week and to celebrating many other successes over the coming months. Please do let us know of any success that your child achieves outside of College – we would love to recognise this!

Over the summer, we undertook extensive renovations, with many classrooms being refurbished; we have completely revamped our Maths and MFL Learning Centres; purchased new furniture for the Restaurant; and had the carpark and some pathways resurfaced (at last!). Our students have been impressed with the improvements, all of which have been undertaken to provide them with the best possible climate in which to learn, grow and thrive.

In the year ahead, we very much look forward to working in partnership with parents and carers so that we can support all students to unlock their potential and inspire them to excellence!

Regards

Siobhan Hearne
Principal

Learning and Progress

A Level and GCSE Results: Unlocking Potential and Achieving Excellence!

In August, many staff and parents had the privilege and pleasure of sharing examination results days with our former Year 11 and Year 13 students. Seeing the sheer joy (and relief) on our students' faces reminds us of what we are all working in partnership to achieve!

Ahead of the publication of national data, we can confidently say that our students have, once again, secured strong progress. This is a testament to both their hard work, determination and resilience over the last few challenging years and also that of our staff and our parent and carer body.

Our students' achievements very much reflected our values, in particular, the striving for excellence, showing ambition and working as a team!

We look forward to celebrating even greater success with our current examination year groups, for whom the countdown clock is now ticking....

Mock Exams
45 school days

Examination Season
140 school days

Our Support for You!

We recognise the positive part that parental support can and does play in the success of a child. Therefore, we want to do all that we can to support our parents and carers. Please do come along to our forthcoming information evenings. We commit to making these evenings informative, interactive (and as short as we possibly can!) but they really will contain relevant information to support your child with the stage of their education that they are at:



Year 11 *Ace Your Exams* Evening: Tuesday 13 September from 5.30pm
Year 12 *Ace Level 3*: Thursday 15 September from 6.00pm

Back to School and Ready to Learn!

A reminder that our start of the year [College Information Pack for Parents and Carers](#) which can be found on the website contains key 'need to know' information so that your child is well-prepared for the academic year ahead.

In addition to this, we publish a [Sixth Form Student Guide](#) to support with those who are joining us for post-16 studies.

One item that has been in the news recently is school uniform and the responsibility that schools have to keep uniform costs as low as possible. Our uniform supplier, Karl Sports, informs us that our uniform cost is the lowest of all schools. However, we recognise that this can still be an additional expense for parents and carers. Therefore, we would like to remind you of the following money saving support:

- **Financial Support:** We can provide financial support for uniform for those students who are eligible for the Pupil Premium Funding. Please contact Ms Pankhania, Assistant Principal, if you would like to enquire if we can help you in this way: jpankhanian@latimer.org.uk

If your child is in the Sixth Form, they may be able to access the Sixth Form Bursary, which can provide financial support for uniform and other study items. Please contact Miss Magee, Sixth Form Centre Manager for more details: smagee@latimer.org.uk

- **Uniform Swap Shop:** We have always had a uniform swap shop but it may be needed now more than ever. We have donated items that are in excellent condition and have all been washed and ironed and are waiting for their new home! If you would like to access this uniform, either your child can go straight to Student Services and select the items that they need or you can contact our Student Services Receptionist, Mrs Lawman, who will be happy to help: glawman@latimer.org.uk or 01536 720300.

In turn, if you have items that you no longer need, we would be delighted if you could donate them!

- **Lost Property:** You would not believe how much lost property we have in Student Services. Rather than replacing lost items, please ask your child to visit Student Services to check! If you can put names on items – including the new House ties we have given them - this will help us with returning them.

We will keep lost property for two terms. After this, we will add relevant items to our Uniform Swap Shop and donate remaining items to charity.

Launching our new PE Conceptual Curriculum

We are very excited about the developments to our PE curriculum for this year as we launch our Conceptual Curriculum. Through participation in 12 sporting activities every year, students will improve their knowledge, skills and tactical understanding in all of them. However, over-arching all of this, there will be a 'Concept', which will focus on a life skill that students can use within and beyond PE.

Our 6 concepts are: collaboration, motivating and influencing others, responsibility, innovation, resilience, communication.

The 'concept' for this term is collaboration:

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with different people• Share ideas and problems• Celebrate success	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Actively listen to others• Offer constructive feedback• Celebrate success	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agree responsibilities• Value and respect differences• Celebrate success	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recognise my own and other people's skills and strengths• Willingly test and recognise own and other people's skills and strengths• Celebrate success	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Try to resolve or manage conflict• Review and check progress towards our goal• Celebrate success

Safeguarding and Well-Being

Contacting You: As we start the new academic year, it is vital that we have up to date information about each student. Your child will be issued with a 'Personal Details' sheet for you to check and sign during week commencing 12 September. When completing this form, please ensure you provide us with at least 2 relevant and up to date contacts. Can we please ask that those of you who have provided us details in the past check carefully that these details are still correct. It is important we have the right details if we need to contact you in an emergency.

Contacting Us: We need to remind you that should you need to make urgent contact with your child during the College day, this should be done by contacting Student Services Reception. ***It is not helpful if parents and carers contact their child during the school day via text messaging or calls to a mobile as we will confiscate mobile phones if seen and students will be placed in our daily detention.***

Attendance is everyone's responsibility!

New Government guidance on Attendance comes into effect in September 2022 to ensure that children attend school regularly so they get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing and wider life chances: **"Improving student's attendance at school is everyone's business."**

At Latimer we believe it is important that every child should be entitled to the same opportunities the College offers including the educational benefits, social and emotional learning and feeling part of the College community.

As a parent/carer you are legally responsible for making sure your child attends school regularly.

It is important that you and your child develop a positive attitude to school attendance and punctuality so that they do not miss out on the opportunities at school. These qualities of reliability are also important in adult life.

Poor attendance disrupts a child's education. This causes a lack of continuity and progression in schoolwork and can establish patterns of behaviour which may lead to long-term truancy. Missing school prevents children from building essential learning blocks of skills and knowledge and prevents them from making educational links, leading to poor progression and anxiety.

We will work with parents/carers to identify barriers and seek provision from local partners to ensure the support is in place where necessary. Please see our [Policies](#) page for full details of our Attendance Policy.

Supporting You to Support Your Child: Drug and Alcohol Information

As part of our Personal Development Programme, we educate students about legal and illegal substances, including the use of E-cigarettes (vapes), and the associated risks, including the link to serious mental health conditions. Students are frequently reminded about how to keep safe and they are also reminded of the College Behaviour for Learning Policy in relation to bringing such items into College. Please can parents/carers ensure they too discuss how to keep safe and the negative impact of substance abuse.

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](#)

Drugs Awareness Workshops

As part of our Personal Development Programme, we are delighted that all students will get the opportunity to attend a "Drug Education, Mental Health and Healthy Lifestyles" workshop with the singer, Maddox Jones, on Wednesday 21 September. Maddox will perform for the students and deliver a programme developed by the charity D.A.R.E.

Allergies: In order to ensure that we are aware of all food related allergies and intolerances or religious dietary requirements Year 7 parents will be sent a dietary form along with this Newsletter to complete. Can we ask that you return this form to let us know of any food allergies as a matter of urgency. It can be given in to Student Services or emailed to jlove@latimer.org.uk

For students in other year groups, if your child has developed any allergies in the last year, please request a copy of this form from our Student Services Manager, Mrs Love: jlove@latimer.org.uk. Could you please return these forms either electronically or by hard copy to Mrs Love in the Student Services office or by email to jlove@latimer.org.uk.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) In PE

In line with the Safe Practice in Physical Education, School Sport and Physical Activity (PESSPA) guidance, we **strongly advise** that the following Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is worn by students when undertaking the following sports in their PE lessons, as semi-competitive matches, and therefore contact, may take place:

- **Football, Hockey and Futsal:** Shin pad
- **Rugby:** Mouth guard

In line with this guidance, should you wish your child to wear PPE, it is **parental responsibility** to provide it. Whilst we may have a small supply of spare PPE for any given sport, we are not in a position to guarantee its availability each lesson.

We would recommend that parents and carers ensure that any PPE that is purchased meets the British Standards Institute (BSI) and European (EN) standards.

To support parents and carers with information about when PPE may be needed, please find below the programme of termly PE activities for each year group. If there is to be a change of activity during a term and PPE may be required, we will send a text message to notify parents and carers of this change.

TERM 1		
CONCEPT	COLLABORATION	
Year 7 Boys	Basketball (SC)	Table Tennis (Gym)
Year 7 Girls	Football (4G)	Netball (Tennis Courts)
Year 8 Boys	Table Tennis (Gym)	Basketball (SC)
Year 8 Girls	Football (4G)	Netball (Tennis Courts)

Year 9 Boys	Table Tennis (<i>Gym</i>)	Basketball (<i>SC</i>)
Year 9 Girls	Football (<i>4G</i>)	Netball (<i>Tennis Courts</i>)
Year 10 Boys	Table Tennis (<i>Gym</i>)	Basketball (<i>SC</i>)
Year 10 Girls	Football (<i>4G</i>)	Netball (<i>Tennis Courts</i>)
Year 11 Boys	Basketball (<i>SC</i>)	Football (<i>4G</i>)
Year 11 Girls	Netball (<i>Tennis Courts</i>)	Table Tennis (<i>Gym</i>)

Enriching the Educational Experience and Celebrating Success

Feeling Part of 'Team Latimer'

We are delighted to be hosting a team-building event for Year 7 on Tuesday 13 September. Students will take part in fast paced, challenging activities that will help to develop a variety of skills including communication, problem solving and negotiation. It is an excellent way for them to develop team-building skills and get to know their form and teachers.

Students will receive a briefing with all details about the day.

On this day, students will not need to wear school uniform. We do ask that they dress in suitable clothing: PE kit or sportswear and trainers will be ideal but we also ask that if the weather is forecast to be cooler, that they have warm outdoor clothing, with a waterproof coat if necessary. It can sometimes be chilly on the field!

They may wish to bring a snack for break and lunch, although they can still access the restaurant, and students are reminded to bring a refillable water bottle.

Which House will be the winning House?!

Enrichment Activities Consent Form

In order for students to take part in enrichment activities, including clubs and fixtures taking place outside of the normal College day, we require parents and carers to complete an Annual Consent form to enable their child to participate. Without a completed consent form, students will not be permitted to take part. You can complete the form [here](#) – it really is quick and simple to do. Alternatively, you can scan the QR code to access the consent form.



Other Information

Did you know that just registering your child for Free School Meals means that the College gets extra money?

With this money we could give extra help to students who need it. If you are registered for Free School Meals you could also get help with things like music tuition, school trips or other out of school activities, or there could be help to allow your child to continue into the Sixth Form.

If you want your child to have a free, healthy meal at lunchtime that's great – they will get the free meal (saving you more than £400 a year). Even if you don't want the school meals, as long as you qualify and are registered, the College still gets the extra government funding.

No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming. Our cashless catering system ensures no other student knows who is receiving Free School Meals. Please click [Free School Meals](#) to access the online application form.

Traffic Calming Plea

We appreciate that parking around schools is an ever-challenging issue – in the majority of cases schools are located in the heart of the community and were designed to be accessed on foot.

Our Castle Way and Grosvenor Way residents have always been supportive of the College and have worked positively with us, particularly in relation to issues around parking and we would like to help them as much as we can.

Please can we ask that you give careful consideration as to whether your child really needs to be driven to College and indeed driven right up to the College entrances. Avoiding congestion around the closest streets to the College will not only support our neighbours, it will also make the access to College much safer for all of our students.

We ask you to take a fresh look and put yourself in the shoes of our neighbours: what would you want if this was where you lived?

Dates for your Diary

Open Evening 2022: 'Inspire'

We are delighted that we will be able to host an onsite Open Evening this year on Thursday 6 October from 5.30pm to 8.00pm. We hope our students will volunteer to help out on the night. More details about arrangements will follow in the coming weeks.

Please note that on 6 October **the College will close to students at 12.15pm** so that final preparations can be made for the evening.

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

Tuesday 13 September	Year 7 Team Building Event
	Year 11 Ace Your Exams Evening, 5.30pm
Thursday 15 September	Year 12 Level 3 Evening, 6.00pm
Friday 16 September	Year 13 Event, University of Northampton
Wednesday 21 September	Years 7, 8 and 9 Drugs Awareness Event
Monday 26 September	Year 11 French Speaking Exams (ends Thursday 29 September)
Tuesday 27 September	Sixth Form Othello Trip (pm)
Wednesday 28 September	Maths Olympiad, Sixth Form Girls
Thursday 6 October	Year 6 Open Evening, 5.30pm
Tuesday 11 October	Arts Places Workshop (TBC)
Friday 21 October	End of Term 1
Monday 31 October	Start of Term 2: College re-opens to students (This will be Week 2 on the timetable)