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## LATIMER LATEST NEWS – 4 MARCH 2022

### The Russian Invasion of Ukraine: Information Support for Parents and Carers

During lessons and assemblies this week, we have taken the time to provide students with information that we hope will help them to understand the background to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It is hoped that by providing both factual geographical and historical information, this has helped to dispel any ‘myths’ or ‘fake news’ that students may be exposed to, particularly on social media. We also hope that by exploring this situation in school, it is providing a safe environment for students to ask any questions and explore any concerns that they may be experiencing.

In order to support parents and carers, the DfE has recommended [The Education Hub](#) as a website that can provide you with help with speaking to your child. We hope that you find this useful.

## Learning and Progress

### Pride in our Partnership

At The Latimer Arts College, we value the positive relationships forged with parents and carers and believe that students benefit when the relationship between home and school is a positive one. We also strive to make our school a place where, as adults, we model for students the behaviour we teach and expect. In general, we place a high importance on good manners, positive communication and mutual respect.

Our overriding principle is that all members of the school community have the right to work or be in school without fear of aggression or abuse from parents, carers or visitors.

Almost all parents and carers are keen to work with us and are supportive of the College and we are very grateful for this. However, on very rare occasions the behaviour of a small number of parents and carers falls short of what we expect. This sometimes manifests itself in aggression or abuse towards members of the school community. This can be in written communication (including social media), on the telephone or in face-to-face incidents.

Whilst we sincerely hope that it will not be necessary, if unacceptable behaviour does occur, we will respond in line with our ***'Dealing with Vexatious Parents Carers and Visitors Policy'***, which can be viewed on the [Policies](#) page of our College website.



### Working in Partnership: Year 8 Pathways Showcase Evening Tuesday 29 March

We would like to give Year 8 parents and carers an important date for your diaries! As you are aware, Year 8 students are about to reach another important transition in their education as they express preferences for subjects they would like to study at

Key Stage 4. We are keen to support our students and their parents and carers on this journey and we have developed a comprehensive programme in order to do this.

Most excitingly, we wish to invite students and their parents and carers to an **onsite** evening on Tuesday 29 March, when we will be running our Year 8 Pathways Showcase Evening.

You will be invited to a presentation in the Masque about your child’s Key Stage 4 pathways. This will be followed by a subject carousel event in which you will be able to speak to GCSE and BTEC teachers about the range of subjects your child could study in Key Stage 4. Presentations will be staggered and will commence from 5.30pm.

More information will follow on Monday 21 March in a Year 8 assembly, when we will hand students a letter and pathways booklet. We will also email the information to parents on this day.

## **Working in Partnership: Year 7 Student Progress Review Evening (SPRE)**

We would like to invite parents and carers of students in Year 7 to join our 'virtual' SPRE on Wednesday 16 March, from 4.30pm until 7.45pm. Details will be published soon about how to make appointments using our web-based system, School Cloud.

### **Failing to prepare, is preparing to fail!**

With just one week to go until the next round of mock exams, Year 11 and 13 student revision programmes should be well underway. Along with revision guides that have been issued, further exam support can be accessed on our [KS4 and KS5 Ace Your Exams Programme](#) website page.

In order to further support students, we will shortly be publishing details of our Easter Revision programme.

## **Safeguarding and Well-Being**

### **'Move it March': Our Community Exercise Challenge**

This week has seen the start of our '*Move it March*', where students and staff are being challenged to get active through the month of March. Everyone at the College has been given the task of completing 31 miles across the month, with the aim to try and each raise £3.10, with money going to Sports Relief, a branch of the Comic Relief charity which raises money to support vulnerable people in the UK and across different regions of the world.

Students can log any physical activity that they do, which could include walking the dog, cycling to school, getting active in PE lessons or any sports clubs they do. These activities can then be logged each time they are done through our Microsoft Forms link: every student has been emailed the link for their year group as well as it being on Satchel:one.

We have already had a number of tutors claiming their tutor group is going to be the most successful and complete the most miles so we will be providing updates, as competition appears to be fierce.

### **End-to-End Encryption (E2EE): Do you know what it is?**

E2EE keeps our data secure and unreadable along the data pathways. Whether you are talking about end-to-end encrypted messaging, email, file storage, or anything else, this ensures that no one in the middle can see your private data.

So E2EE is a generally good thing then? It is, except it also means that law enforcement cannot access the messages when a crime has been committed. In the case of sexual abuse, this may mean that children and young people are not protected and abusers may go free.

Social Media companies are planning to roll-out E2EE across their platforms.

The children's charity, Barnardo's, say that 'end-to-end encryption could mean that social media platforms will no longer be able to detect cases of child sex abuse on their platforms. It is estimated that around 14 million reports of suspected child sexual abuse could be lost every year: *'In 2020 21.7 million reports of child sexual abuse material were made across social media platforms, Facebook alone accounted for a whopping 94% of these reports.'* For further information please visit the [No Place to Hide](#) website and continue to talk to your children about keeping safe on social media and where to seek help if they need it.

## **Enriching the Educational Experience and Celebrating Success**



We continue to see students avidly reading and improving their vocabulary and comprehension skills.

Year 7 have now read **40,434,309** words this year already! We are delighted that this means that we have a new millionaire reader,

Emma Bishop. We would like to congratulate Emma, as well as Ben Harriss, Year 8 and Jared Taylor, Year 7, who are our top borrowers for Term 3.



There is just over a month until our Easter Epraise prize draw, which is taking place on Thursday 7 April. A reminder that the more epraise points students earn, the more times they will be able to enter and have a better chance of winning!

Massive congratulations to our top Epraise earners so far this term: Lucy Brown, Grace Chamberlain, Ted Coles, Isaac Dellet, Gabrielle Hodgett, Amelia Platt, Ryan Power, Aaron Scott, Kyran Strand and Nicholas Wachsmann, who together have amassed over 600 points in the first fortnight back!

### Enriching the Curriculum Through the Performing Arts

**Music:** As our Spring Music Concert on Friday 1 April fast approaches, our musicians are enjoying themselves and making great progress. We do not want to give too much away but our Concert Band have been enjoying working on a Michael Jackson classic and are also trying out something quite new and experimental.

Wings (our girls' harmony vocal group) are busy rehearsing a laid-back RnB song and our Boys' Singing Group have been learning a boy band ballad from the 90s, as well as joining forces with the girls for an uplifting soul classic!

Picks and Strings have been trying out some great rock classics to entertain the audience and Vocal Ensemble (senior girls' vocal harmony group) have been working on polishing a Beatle's ballad and a fantastic feel good song by Queen. It is looking to be a varied and enjoyable evening of entertainment which we hope you will join us to celebrate!

**Dance:** In KS3 Dance this term, we are celebrating different dance styles: Year 7 are enjoying South Asian Dance and studying the more traditional style of Kathak, combining it with the more modern style of Bollywood. Students are stepping up to the challenge of experimenting with this new style!

Year 8 are exploring how to use a prop in an interesting way, focusing on the professional work 'Stomp'. The students have created some really exciting rhythms so far and have started to experiment with their broom handles! We are excited to see what is going to be created!

### Sporting Success: Winter School Games



We would like to say well done to our Year 10 Girls' Volleyball team who secured a bronze medal in Volleyball at the Winter School Games and to the Boys' team who narrowly missed out on a medal, coming fourth. Well done also to the Year 10 Boys' Futsal Team who won a bronze in their competition.

We would like to congratulate the students for the effort and energy that they contributed on the day.

## Sports Enrichment: Come Along and Join In

We are delighted to be offering a range of afterschool sporting activities again this term. PE clubs are open to all students, no matter what ability level. The clubs will run from 3.00pm until 4.15pm.

DAY/DATE	PE CLUBS	MATCHES
Mon 7 March	Year 7 Basketball – Boys and Girls	
Tues 8 March	Year 7 Netball – Girls Year 9 Football – Boys	Year 8 Girls Basketball Match
Weds 9 March	Year 7 Volleyball – Boys and Girls Year 8 Volleyball – Boys and Girls Year 10 Futsal – Boys	Year 9 Girls Football Match Year 10 Girls Football Match
Thurs 10 March	Year 8 Badminton – Boys and Girls Year 9 Fitness Club – Girls Year 10 Fitness Club – Girls	Year 7 Girls Basketball Match Year 8 Boys Football vs Montsaye (home) Year 9 Boys Football vs Montsaye (away)
Fri 11 March		
Mon 14 March	Year 7 Basketball – Boys and Girls	
Tues 15 March	Year 7 Netball – Girls Year 8 Football – Boys	Year 8 Girls Basketball Match
Weds 16 March		Year 9 Girls Football Match Year 10 Girls Football Match
Thurs 17 March	Year 8 Badminton – Boys and Girls Year 9 Fitness Club – Girls Year 10 Fitness Club – Girls	Year 8 Boys Football vs KSA (away) (grass pitch) Year 9 Boys Football vs KBA (home)
Fri 18 March		

## Other News

### SMART Moves: Being Ready to Learn

We would like to thank you for your support in ensuring that your child is adhering to our uniform policy and is fully equipped for lessons. There is very high compliance with this.

We will continue with our daily Lesson 1 checks to ensure that students stay on track with this. There are two areas where we would value your continued support:

- **Equipment:** Checking that your child has all of their basic equipment – rulers and calculators in particular. We can provide equipment for those who may need financial support with this.
- **Punctuality:** We have a small number of students still arriving after 8.25am, when the gates close. Please can you ensure that your child arrives before this time. We will send daily messages to inform you if your child arrives late.

### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in PE Lessons

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 pads
- **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.

### Vacancy: Venue Supervisor

Our partners, Schools Plus, who run the College's sporting facilities when in use by the community, are seeking to recruit a Venue Supervisor. Please see our [Vacancies](#) page on our website for more details.

## Covid-19 Updates

### PCR Testing and Self-isolation

Just a reminder that should your child display Covid-19 symptoms, it is still recommended that they take a PCR test. If this test is positive, we are asking for parent and carer support in following the recommendation that your child stays at home for at least five full days. After this time, they should take lateral flow tests, returning to school once they have two consecutive days of negative tests or have isolated for ten days.

If a student tests positive on a PCR test they can then use any LFD test kits they already have at home to undertake testing from day five onwards. ***For a short period of time, the College may be able to provide additional test kits, if needed, on request until our existing supply is exhausted.***

Please be aware that the College does have the right to refuse a student from entering the site if, in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other students and staff from possible infection with COVID-19.

### 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.

Monday 14 March	Year 11 and Year 13 Mock Exams 2 commence (ends 25 March)
Wednesday 16 March	Year 7 SPRE, 4.30-7.45pm
Tuesday 29 March	Year 8 Pathways Showcase, 5.30pm
Friday 1 April	Spring Music Concert, 7.00pm
Thursday 7 April	End of Term 4
Friday 8 April	Training Day: College closed to students
Monday 25 April	Start of Term 5: College re-opens to students <i>This will be Week 1 on the timetable</i>
Tuesday 26 April	Year 8 Pathways Consultation Evening, 4.30-7.45pm
Monday 2 May	Bank Holiday: College closed
Wednesday 4 May	Year 9 SPRE, 4.30-7.45pm
Weds 11 May / Thurs 12 May	Year 9 HPV2 Vaccinations
Thursday 12 May	Parent Forum
Monday 16 May	Summer Examination Season commences
Friday 27 May	End of Term 5