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LATIMER LATEST NEWS – 13 NOVEMBER 2020

Sixth Form Applications 2021

Information for those who are considering joining our Sixth Form in September 2021 can be accessed on the [Sixth Form Admissions and Prospectus](#) page on our website.

Please do contact the College if you would like to have a conversation about our offer. Application forms should be submitted by **Friday 27 November**.

Covid Protocols

What parents and carers need to know about schools during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

We have great confidence that the control measures that we already have in place are strong in minimising the risk to our students and staff and we will continue to ensure that these are adhered to.

However, we thank you for your support this week with the introduction of the wearing of face masks in communal areas where social distancing cannot be maintained, in line with the [government guidance](#), which has been updated for parents and carers.

We do ask that you ensure that your child has spare masks and, importantly, that they have a plastic bag to store the masks in.

Accessing Drinking Water: Providing Water Bottles

Although we have had to decommission all of our water fountains, we do have a very effective system in place whereby students can refill water bottles at break and lunchtimes. Our students have a good understanding of how this system works. However, we do need students to bring a **refillable water bottle** with them. Whilst we will always provide students with a drink should they need one, providing disposable cups, as we have to do currently, is not environmentally or economically sound. We would be grateful for your support with this.

Learning and Progress

Remote Learning

Should your child be in a position where they need to learn from home, we have designed a Remote Learning Policy in order to ensure that we provide a continuity of education for them. In order to support with ensuring that students and their parents and carers have an understanding of the systems that we are using, we will be posting relevant information on the [Remote Education](#) page of our website.

The page includes information on how to access Microsoft Teams and how to access the College's W drive from home, where resources will be stored.

Year 11 and 13 Mock Examination Countdown: *'Your future is created by what you do today, not tomorrow!'*

As the countdown clock runs down to the commencement of mock examinations on **Monday 23 November**, we ask for parent and carer support in helping our Year 11 and 13 students shape a positive future by setting aside some time for revision over the coming weeks.

Students have been supported by being given **exam revision planning documents**, please ask to see them! Please can we also remind you that the **normal timetable and times that students will be in school has been amended** to support students and allow them to access the exam venues to sit these exams. Please speak to your child about this so you know **when they are, and are not, in school.**

Our [Year 11 and 13 Exam Support](#) website page contains information, resources and tips for exam success.

Revision Guides: Year 11 have now been provided with a set of revision guides for all subjects, with guides issued at the start of Term 2 in all option subjects where they are needed. Year 13 students can access revision guides from Miss Magee in our Sixth Form Learning Zone. Our examinations students from previous years tell us that these revision guides were invaluable so please encourage your child to use them.

Year 11 students can also access our online resources:



Students can sign up for FREE at www.gcsepod.com using their College email account. Podcasts can be streamed or downloaded on PC, Android or IOS. Email ithelpdesk@latimer.org.uk if you require any assistance when using GCSEPod.



Seneca is an app which is used by staff to support learning. Students are set assignments to work through, but the site can also be used for independent revision by students logging in themselves and selecting topics they wish to go over. Parents can also sign up and link their account to their child to see how much they are doing!



Tassomai makes learning and revising for GCSE Science, Maths and English effective and straightforward. Simply log in regularly and complete the assignments at the top of the list. The mission is simple - keep the pace of progress up to the speed prescribed - a task that requires a few minutes of attention each day. Website: <https://www.tassomai.com>



Vocab Express is an online vocab learning application that has been set up to support students with learning their French vocabulary, which is vital to examination success. Students should access this daily.

Working in Partnership to Support Progress: Tutor Feedback Calls

We continue with our series of tutor calls this term and appointments will be made with students. We hope that you find these useful.

We do wish to bring back Student Progress Review Evenings (SPREs) in Term 3 and, although we successfully trialled a Year 13 SPRE using Microsoft Teams last week, we are currently exploring an app, which will allow us to more effectively run this process remotely. More details will follow on this.



We are delighted at the continued success of our Accelerated Reader programme. In total Year 7 students have read **17,500,797** words this year so far and Year 8 students **14,838,087**.

We would like to say a particular well done to Finlay Judge, Jessica Billingsley and Oliver Morgan-Wright who between them have read 27 books already!

Well done to Emily Rodenhurst who has joined our Millionaire Reader club!

Safeguarding

Being Punctual: A Skill for Life

Although it is still a minority of students, the volume of students who are arriving after 8.25am in the mornings, when the College gates are closed, is still too high. This seems to be a change from the last academic year when lates were rare and largely only occurred when there were exceptional circumstances.

Regrettably, students arriving late are now being placed in an after school detention in an attempt to eradicate this. We would prefer not to have to do this but punctuality is an essential life skill – employers would not accept a member of staff being routinely late – and we have exhausted all other avenues in terms of encouragement and reminders!

Although we accept that students have to take personal responsibility, lawfully, it is a parent or carer's responsibility to ensure that their child arrives to school on time and so we are asking for your support with this. We will be communicating with the parents and carers of these students accordingly.

Social Media: To Use or Not to Use?

If you can access Netflix, we would recommend '*The Social Dilemma*', a documentary that may form the basis of a great family discussion about social media (age rating 12).

It raises the question about whether social media is bad for us. Spoiler Alert - yes it is. Towards the end of the film, we learn that many of the creators of social media don't use it and don't want their children to use it either (until at least 16 anyhow).

One of the people who takes part in the programme is ex-Google design ethicist Tristan Harris. He began to worry about the ethics of modern technology in 2013, and has since then created the [Center for Humane Technology](#). The organisation has some resources for parents and carers to use when discussing this film.

Aiming High: Raising Aspirations and Expectations

'Ask About Apprenticeships'

We would like to raise awareness of the [Ask About Apprenticeships](#) event on Thursday 19 November 2020 from 6.30pm. The event is free but you do need to register to attend.

Also, "[Parents & Carers: Helping your child begin their career journey](#)", is an e-booklet you can download from Success at Schools. You just need to sign up to their special mailing list for parents and carers. The guide will provide a very useful tool to explore different career paths.

Enriching the Educational Experience and Celebrating Success



At the end of Term 2 we will be holding our first Epraise Prize Draw of the year, which is an opportunity for student to spend any Epraise points they have received so far.

Students can enter themselves into the different draws as many times as they can and will have a choice of different prizes, such as an Apple Watch SE, Fifa 21, a £50 Pandora voucher and other prizes.

To enter, students need to sign in to www.epraise.co.uk and check out the rewards section to see what they are able to win and decide which of the draws they want to enter, starting from as little as 3 Epraise points. The draw will take place in the last week of term – a perfect opportunity for an early Christmas gift!

Virtual Christmas Music Concert: Performance Pieces Welcome

We are delighted that we are going to be able to show off the wonderful talents of our students and staff by hosting a virtual Christmas Music Concert in December. Rehearsals are underway, with our students finding creative ways to put performances together whilst maintaining a social distance. If your child is interested in taking part, please ask them to speak to or email Miss Eyley: ceyley@latimer.org.uk

We will publish details about how to watch this concert in the next couple of weeks.

Support for Team Sebastian

Although this will now be a virtual event, our staff are still committed to '[Run Silverstone](#)' this weekend in order to raise money to support Sebastian Nunney, who has been diagnosed with Neuroblastoma, a rare form of childhood cancer that starts in the abdomen and can spread across the entire body. Should you wish to support these staff to support Sebastian by making a donation, please visit their [Go Fund Me page](#). We thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity.

Other News

Term 2 PE Kit: Additions to the uniform

Given that we are operating in Learning Zones we have some restrictions on indoor PE space. In addition to this, the current government guidance indicates that outdoor physical exercise is preferable to indoors.

Therefore, we have made some changes to our PE uniform in order to support students with managing the colder weather. We will allow students to wear:

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

Should parents and carers wish to, they can purchase items from Karl Sports, our uniform supplier, who has added a 1/4 ZIP WET WEATHER JACKET and will shortly be adding a Latimer beanie style hat with the Latimer logo onto their website.



Please note: **Given that we have to routinely ventilate classrooms, we are monitoring the temperature indoor, as well as out! If necessary, we will introduce modifications to our uniform to support students to keep warm whilst they are studying. We will update parents and carers accordingly.**

abm Catering Solutions: Plea for support

Our catering providers have asked for your support in ensuring that your child has enough money on their catering account to pay for the food that they buy.

It would be useful if you could clarify with your child what you would expect their daily spending to be and, in turn, this will help students to budget. We believe that students have a good understanding of how much individual items cost but perhaps do not know how much their parents and carers would wish them to spend each day.

Alternatively, you may want to top up accounts little and often, perhaps on a weekly basis, rather than placing a large amount of money on your child's account all at once.

Dates for your Diary

We would like to remind parents and carers that the College will be **closed to students on Friday 4 December** when we have a scheduled **Training Day**.

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

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| Tuesday 17 November | Year 10 Tutor Feedback Calls Session 1, 3.30-6.30 pm |
| Wednesday 18 November | Year 7 Tutor Feedback Calls Session 2, 3.30-6.30 pm |
| Thursday 19 November | Year 8 Tutor Feedback Calls Session 1, 3.30-6.30 pm |
| Monday 23 rd November – | Year 11 and 13 Mock Examinations – please check individual timetables. Year 11 |
| Thursday 3 rd December | students will not be in school full time during this period. |
| Wednesday 25 November | Year 8 Tutor Feedback Calls Session 2, 3.30-6.30 pm |
| | Year 10 Tutor Feedback Calls Session 2, 3.30-6.30 pm |
| Friday 4 December | Training Day: College closed to students |
| Friday 18 December | End of Term 2 |
| Monday 4 January | Start of Term 3: College re-opens to students |