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LATIMER LATEST NEWS – 22 OCTOBER 2021

An Invitation to our Virtual Sixth Form Open Evening 2021

Our Sixth Form is thriving and we would be delighted if our current Year 11 students remained with us to continue their studies in our exceptional learning environment.

We would like to invite the parents and carers of students in Year 11 to join our virtual Sixth Form Open Evening on **Wednesday 10 November** to find out about the fantastic range of opportunities that are on offer at The Latimer Arts College. A letter with full details will be published shortly and more details of our offer and our prospectus can be accessed on our [website](#) from the start of Term 2.

Covid-19 Updates

We ask that students continue with twice weekly Lateral Flow Device testing over the half term break and that they complete a test on Monday 1 November, when Term 2 starts.

Please note: the test kits issued to students this week and in Term 2 may look different from previous kits issued, so please ensure you read the instructions before use, as the testing procedure may be slightly different.

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

Year 11 and Year 13 Mock Exams: Accessing Support Material

We have been working with students to ensure that they are prepared for their fast approaching mock examinations. Students have received timetables for these and we would urge parents and carers to support them in revising over the half term holiday for this important period.

Our [Ace Your Exams](#) website page is dedicated to supporting students and includes lots of hints and tips as well as a booklet with revision templates which can be used to help students organise their revision, and a booklet outlining some mobile apps which will help students revise.

To supplement this, we are excited to announce that all Year 11 students will take part in a Study Skills Workshop at the start of Term 2, called “Positively You”.

We also understand that exams can be seen as stressful and one of the best ways to beat that stress is for students to be properly prepared. However, should parents and carers need advice about how their child can deal with exam stress, please visit the [Young Minds](#) website or the [NHS website](#).



Our students just keep becoming richer and richer as more of them invest in their futures by becoming reading millionaires! The latest Year 7 members of this club, having read over 1 million words this year already, are Freya Seymour, Nicholas Wachsmann and Samuel Wright.

Safeguarding

Parent Safe: Keeping Your Children Safe Online and Beyond

The '[Parent Safe](#)' website contains a wide range of information and tips on how to keep your child safe online in particular, but has a range of other useful safety information that is very easy to access and understand, as does the '[Think U Know](#)' website.

In particular, there is useful information about how you can speak to your child about online scares and challenges encouraging harmful behaviours, and how to respond if they have seen one. This may be particularly helpful and relevant currently with so many media reports about Netflix's Squid Game and its violent and gruesome scenes.

Gate Closing Times

As a reminder, our College gates close at 8.25am in the mornings so that we can lockdown the College site and deter unauthorised access. It is also important that all students arrive before this time so that they are not late for their first lesson.

At the end of the College day, the gates at the Grosvenor Way entrance and the Wallis's (Top) Spinney entrance are closed at 3.30pm so that we can monitor post-school entry and exit via our Castle Way entrance only, for which we have a security camera installed. Therefore, if a student is remaining on site beyond this time for a post-school enrichment activity they will need to leave via the Castle Way entrance. Parents and carers wishing to collect their child from an activity are welcome to enter the College car park from 4.00pm onwards.

Avoiding Lates: Managing Traffic Delays

We appreciate that, once again, we seem to be plagued with traffic disruption in the local area. With current roadworks on Warkton Lane and those at Wicksteed Park set to continue until March (!) we have to ask that parents plan journeys carefully and leave extra time in the mornings if they are planning to drive their child to school.

Aiming High: Raising Aspirations and Expectations

Accessing National Careers Information – For Free!

['Success at School'](#) is a national careers website for students aged 11-19 and their parents/carers. It is a fantastic free resource offering a vast range of information and advice. New parent/carers guides, for example on Employability Skills, are now available. You just need to sign up to their special parents' mailing list.

In addition to this, between November and June, '[Aspire Higher](#)' will be delivering free monthly webinars for all parents and carers with a young person in Years 9 to 13. These sessions will run at 10:30am and again at 6pm so you can choose a time which is most convenient for you. On 2 November they will be sharing their top advice and information on finding out what's available to enable you to support your child making their next steps.

The topics and dates are shown:

- 3 November UCAS, the university application process
- 1 December Routes into Higher Education (HE)
- 5 January 2022 Student Finance
- 2 February 2022 Apprenticeships

- 2 March 2022 The Pay Index
- 6 April 2022 Year 13: Support with the next steps
- 4 May 2022 Year 11: What's next?

To book a place please email Christine.Webster@northampton.ac.uk

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.

Performing Arts: Opportunities to Shine

We are delighted that so many students are taking up the opportunity to participate in the performing arts – but there is always room for more students to come along and take part. The positive impact on confidence and well-being is significant!

Dance: We are delighted that the following Year 7 and 8 dancers have been successful in their auditions for the Junior Dance Company: Darci Adamson, Aimee Beck, Gemma Cox, Kira Fraser, Kitty Murphy-Ryan, Isabella Noad, Grace Pither, Esme-May Poole, Emily Rodenhurst and Sophie Somerville.

They will now be working with our Year 10 and 11 leaders to prepare a piece for the College Dance Show in February.

The standard in Senior Dance Company is also remarkable! The Year 9 dancers have shown commitment during their independent rehearsals and created some impressive work in three weeks – some of which could be entered into a GCSE Dance exam right now! We are excited to see how these students will progress over the next few years!

Drama: Year 11 Drama students are busy rehearsing for their upcoming devising exam (Component 2) in lessons, and for homework, at lunch and after school. The building buzzes with energy when all 56 Year 11 Drama students are passionately rehearsing and performing their chosen topic that is meaningful to them, covering social, moral, spiritual and cultural issues such as the George Floyd murder and LGBTQ+ rights. Their performances will take place on Wednesday 20 October and Wednesday 3 November.

Music: Music rehearsals are going really well for the Christmas Concert (Thursday 9 December) and our musicians are full of enthusiasm. We do not want to give too much away but Concert Band have been enjoying working on a catchy 80's rock song from a famous boxing movie and also the theme tune to a modern superhero franchise!

Wings (girls' harmony vocal group) are busy rehearsing a Harry Styles' song with a great message and our Boys' Singing Group have been belting out a Take That classic.

Picks and Strings have been trying out some great rock classics and Vocal Ensemble (senior girls' vocal harmony group) have been working hard rehearsing an emotional modern ballad and an upbeat gospel song that can be heard in Sister Act. Rehearsing the Christmas songs starts after half term!



And finally, we have some stars in the making...

After sharing their previous successes, we are thrilled to be able to share with you that Lucy Lonergan and Kyra Young have become the British Juvenile Sequence Champions for 2021, the Juvenile Modern Sequence Champions 2021 and the All Girl Champions 2021 at the British Dance Festival in Blackpool's Winter Gardens – what a fantastic achievement!

Sporting Success

As the excellent participation in sports enrichment activities continues, so does the success in fixtures. We are delighted that the Year 7 and 8 Girls' Football First Team recently won the Kettering and Corby District football tournament, winning 4 games and drawing one, scoring 12 goals and conceding none.

The team were:

Orla Pratt, Layla Perkins, Adelaide Ahmadu, Esme Payne, Macy Newcombe, Poppy May and Millie Hall.



As the only school who entered two teams, we also pass on our congratulations to the Second Team who also performed well and were very competitive.

Congratulations

Well done to Kai Chrismon who has been selected by his Basketball Club, Northants Titans, to attend an Aspire England camp. We congratulate Kai on his achievement and wish him luck for the camp.

We also say well done to Harry Dell'Utri who has been selected to represent the county at hockey. We would like to congratulate Harry on this wonderful achievement.

Sports Clubs – Term 2

We are pleased to announce another full extra-curricular programme for Term 2. Please note that the programme has changed from Term 1. Parents/carers and students will be emailed the new clubs list. Please check the clubs carefully as the dates vary.

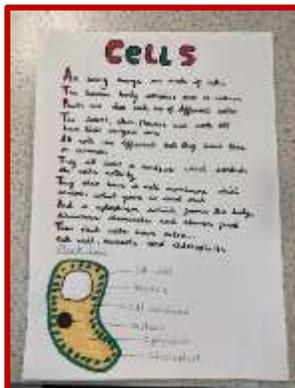
Clubs that are running during the first week of Term 2 are:

DAY/DATE	PE CLUBS	MATCHES
Monday 1 November	Basketball with Northants Titan coach - Year 9/10 Girls, Year 10/11 Boys and Sixth Form Girls all welcome	
Tuesday 2 November	Year 9/10 Hockey – Girls	
Wednesday 3 November	Year 7/8/9 Rugby – Boys Year 8/9/10/11 Handball Club* (*you must have signed up for this club with Mr Hallett) Year 7/8 Basketball – Girls	
Thursday 4 November	Year 7 Football – Boys Year 7 Fitness Club – Girls	Year 9 Boys Football vs Champion - County Cup match (away)
Friday 5 November	Year 8 Badminton – Boys and Girls (Please let Mr Hallett know if you would like to come to this club as there are limited spaces available)	

Please email Mr Hallett at shallett@latimer.org.uk if you have any questions about PE clubs.

Ex-cell-ent Scientists: Year 7 Rise to the Homework Challenge

When set a challenge to prepare a poem or make a model of a cell for their Science homework, Class 7g3 really excelled! The imagination and creativity shone through, everyone did a fantastic job and what is more, they really consolidated their in-class learning. Whilst the whole class produced exceptional work, we had to include a few examples of this stunning learning from Isobel Bodsworth, Ella Churchill, Kyana Herbert, Sophie Obuszak, Ethan Reece and Noah Sturgess.



Other News

abm Catering: Tariff Increase and Supply Chain Update

We are all acutely aware of the challenges facing the hospitality and catering sector and our College caterers, abm Catering, are not exempt from this. As a result of this, from the start of Term 2 there will be a 4% increase on the price of some of the products that are on offer to students. This increase reflects the rising costs in the food market.

The free school meal will remain unchanged and abm Catering intend to introduce some fantastic meal deals to ensure the impact of the tariff increase is kept to a minimum.

Parents and carers also need to be aware that the national disruption in the food supply chain as a consequence of a national shortage of truck drivers is also having an impact. abm Catering are working closely with their suppliers to mitigate the effect of these challenges, including holding increased levels of stock on site, working to earlier order cut off times and ordering extra days in advance. They have also engaged alternative suppliers and product lines to increase their accessibility to products.

However, there may be a need to modify menus at short notice if there are shortages or substitutions of certain products. We would ask you for your patience and understanding whilst these challenges persist.

School Cleaner Vacancy

We would like to make you aware of vacancies that our cleaning contractors, Maxim, currently have available. Full details can be accessed on our [website](#).

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
Thursday 4 November	Year 11 Study Skills Workshops
Wednesday 10 November	Sixth Form Open Evening: virtual event
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