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Latimer Community Weekly Newsletter

Friday 12 February 2021



Dear Parents and Carers

The theme of this final newsletter of the term seems to be very much about creativity and innovation.

From the content, it is very clear that so many of your children have shown such a fantastic commitment to their learning this term. They have shown the admirable ability to adapt to new circumstances and to not let barriers get in the way of their learning. As adults, we can certainly learn a thing or two from them!

What we would particularly like parents and carers to know about is the sheer delight and passion that our staff show when telling us about students who are doing well – sharing student success is without a doubt the highlight of their week and you can feel the pride oozing out of the emails that staff send! We do miss our students so much!

We end this term with the hope that as we start the next, and await the planned government announcement on Monday 22 February, that this will see at least some return to school. We will, as ever, let you know as soon as we know (whatever time of the day – or night - this might be!).

In the meantime, thank you for sticking with it this term and for your kind words of encouragement and support for our staff team. It is much appreciated. Whatever next term brings, I know that we will all approach it with the same passion and determination that we have already shown.

In the meantime, we wish all those in our community a safe and restful half term.

Regards
Siobhan Hearne
Principal

Educational Provision

Students cannot come to us: then we will come to them! Announcing the 'Latimer Community Resource Bus'

We are delighted to let you know that in Term 4 we will be out in the community with a College minibus full of resources. If your child needs any items that will be on the minibus, please come along (or send your child along) to collect what they need. If there is anything that we do not have that you might need, let us know and we will see what we can do. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Resource Bus will be in the following locations:

Area	Address	Day	Time
Barton Seagrave	The Green near St Botolph's Church St Botolphs Road, NN15 6SR	Thursdays	12.00pm – 12.45pm
Burton Latimer	Sainsbury's Car Park Burton Latimer High Street, NN15 5RL	Thursdays	1.00pm – 1.45pm
Ise Lodge Area	Shops St Stephen's Road (next to Budgens) – Ise Lodge, NN15 5DS	Fridays	12.00pm – 12.45pm
Kettering Area	Sainsbury's Car Park – Kettering Rockingham Road, NN16 8JY	Fridays	1.00pm – 1.45pm
Resources Available	Stationery items: pen, pencil, ruler, sharpener, rubber, highlighters, coloured pencils, A4 lined or plain paper, post-it notes, flash cards, glue, plastic wallets, manila folders, maths exercise books Headphones Sanitary products		

Remote Education Survey: Next Steps

Thank you to all of those parents and carers who responded to our survey. Given the situation in which we are operating, your feedback, both about what is going well and what could be improved, is vital. We are now going to consider how we can action improvements, particularly around feedback on progress and engagement. We will update you at the start of Term 4.

In the meantime, a reminder that staff are regularly giving verbal feedback to students during lessons and are increasingly using the "Assignment" function in TEAMS, along with other feedback applications. "Assignment" allows students to submit work for staff to give feedback and means that a student's work is stored and organised securely. If students (or parents and carers) are uncertain about how to use them then please see [this one minute video](#) outlining how it works!

Some of the barriers to students accessing feedback or participating in some of the learning activities is linked to their ability to access them on the devices that they are using. We would also like to remind parents and carers that students can install Office 365 for free. Details about how to do this are included on our [Remote Education](#) website page.

Should students need any help with technical issues, please ask them to email our IT Helpdesk, which is monitored daily: ithelpdesk@latimer.org.uk

Tutor Time Learning Activities

Students should be joining tutor time on a Monday for their Achievement Leader assembly, and on a Wednesday for their Wellbeing session and Quizzy Rascals quiz with their tutor and undertaking the lockdown challenge activity.

The assembly on Monday 22 February will be a 'live' TEAMS assembly delivered by Miss Milson on Mindfulness. The link will be on Satchel:one.

Please note that this assembly will be at 11.50am and so students will have lunchtime at 12.25pm on this day.



We may be locked in, but we can all still travel this world (and others) through books!

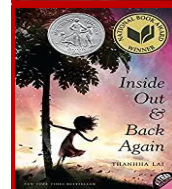
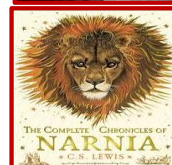
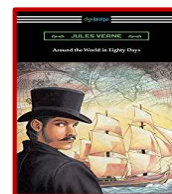
"Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are."

Professor Mason Cooley

When Professor Cooley penned this particular saying, we doubt that he would ever have predicted that most of the world would be in a condition of "having to stay where we are." How lucky we are, in these strange times, to have books! Paper books, digital books, audiobooks... our stories come in all formats. While we stay at home, we can indeed travel anywhere.

Over half term, and with World Book Day pending, we ask parents and carers to encourage their children to take on a new reading challenge: to **read a whole series between now and Easter.**

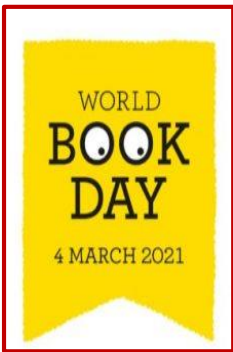
- Delve into some diary fiction with 'The Dork Diaries' by Rachel Renee Russell or 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid' by Jeff Kinney
- Go classic with C.S. Lewis and 'The Chronicles of Narnia'
- Have some historical fun with 'The Horrible Histories' gang or laugh out loud with Dav Pilkey's 'Captain Underpants'
- Join 'Percy Jackson' by Rick Riordan for fantasy adventures
- Get dystopian with 'The Maze Runner' by James Dashner, 'The Hunger Games' by Suzanne Collins or 'The Divergent' series by Veronica Roth
- If vampires are more your taste, try 'Twilight' by Stephenie Meyer, 'House of Night' by P.C. Cast or the 'Vampire Diaries' by L.J. Smith



We would like to remind you of the many ways students can keep up with reading while in lockdown. Magazines, newspapers and online articles all count and are a great way to keep up with current events:

- **Community Libraries:** We would strongly recommend that all students join their local library service. It is **free** and libraries have a wealth of free e-books, e-audiobooks, online newspapers, magazines and subscriptions to academic journals and more. Click [here](#) to find out how to join online and the current status of Northamptonshire libraries.
- **Free E-books:** Students can also use this [link](#) to access a free e-book each week as well as other articles and resources.
- **Browsing our school library catalogue:** Go to the QUICK LINKS on the front page of the College website and select 'Eclipse Library' and 'Requesting Books'.
- **Accelerated Reader:** Students can also use the '[Accelerated Reader Bookfinder](#)'. Just click 'Student'. There is no need to put in a password, as it is open access. It is a quick way to find out which books have quizzes.
- For some inspiration, check out [Find out with Non-Fiction](#) and [Pack your virtual suitcase](#).

Students can email what they are reading to our LRC Manager, Mrs Brooking: rbrooking@latimer.org.uk



This year, World Book Day is going to fall during Lockdown – but Team English at Latimer think that shouldn't stop us having fun with one of the best days of the year... in fact it gives us the chance to be even more creative than usual.

We are setting three WORLD BOOK DAY challenges and you are welcome to take part in one... two... or all three of them.

The closing date is WORLD BOOK DAY itself – **Thursday 4 March** – so time is running out to get thinking and get creating! There will be Amazon gift cards for the winners in each of the challenges. Details of the challenges are included with this newsletter.

Safeguarding and Well-being

Supporting Parents Helpfinder (Young Minds)

Times are tough for many people right now. Parents and carers find themselves pulled in many different directions and children may be struggling being in the house for so much longer than usual. A mixture of concern about COVID-19, working from home and children being at home, along with a possible financial impact can make for a stressful household.

Young Minds have created a useful '[Supporting Parents Helpfinder](#)'. By answering six questions, parents and carers can find out how to support their child's mental health during the pandemic (and beyond).

Level Up: Week 4!



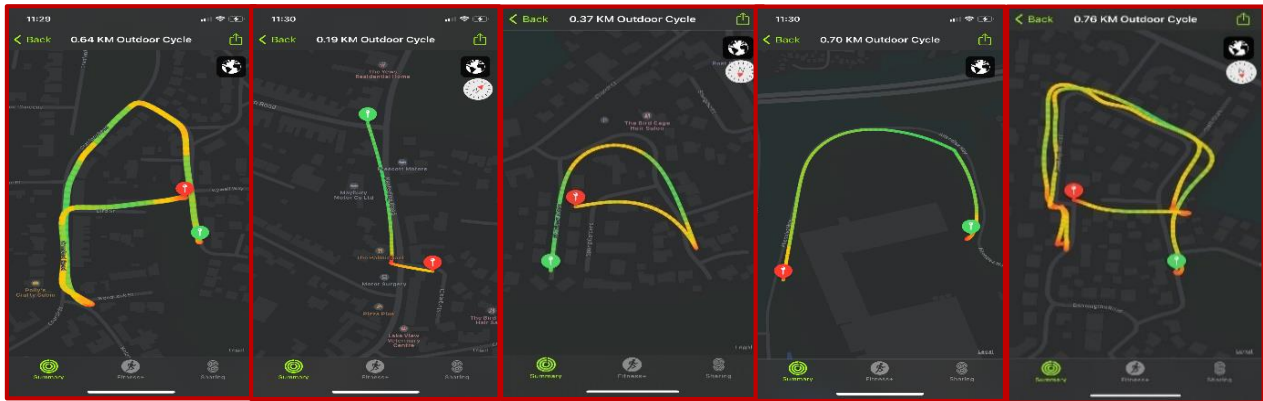
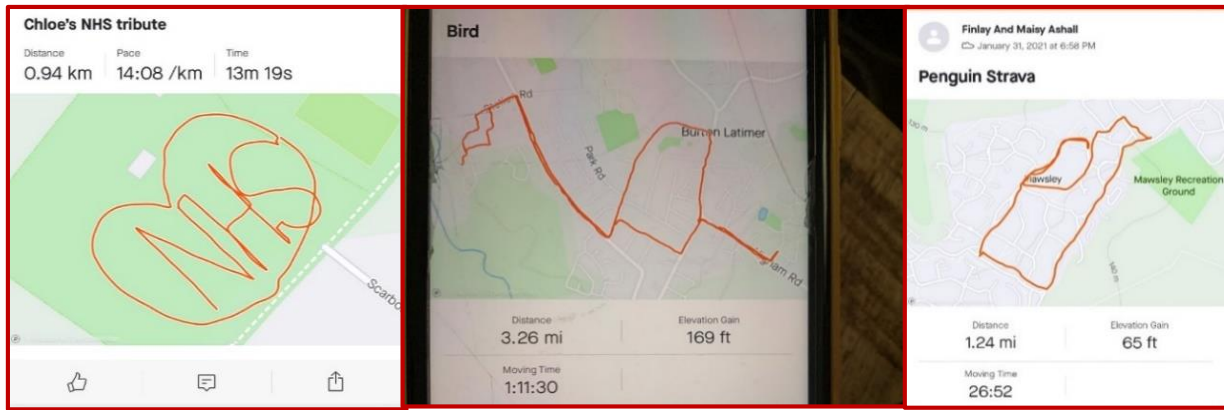
Last week's Level Up challenge was a real challenge – and our students rose to this in a spectacular way. There was excellent creativity and determination shown with the planning of the routes and completing them using Strava. We have included some of the best pictures for you!

We are delighted to announce the Week 3 prize draw winners, all of whom will receive a £10 Amazon voucher:

Year 7: Finlay Ashall, Oliver Back, Archie Beeby, Seth Diaz
Year 8: Hayley Chapman, Rebecca Hayward, Rose Wooding
Year 9: Alana Toms, Ashley Willie
Staff: Mrs Mason

Our first newsletter of Term 4 will announce the final Level Up challenge winners.

Examples of Strava routes from: Chloe Keeber, Seth Diaz, Finlay and Maisy Ashall and Alana Toms



Key Information and Updates

Year 9 Virtual Student Progress Review Evening (SPRE)

We are delighted to be able to offer Year 9 students and their parents and carers the opportunity to receive 1:1 feedback from subject teachers at our Year 9 Virtual SPRE on Wednesday 24 February between 4.00pm and 7.00pm.

In order to do this, we are providing a web-based video call system and parents and carers will be able to book appointments in advance of the evening. As the event goes 'live' one week before it occurs, the appointment booking system will be opened up during the half term break on Tuesday 16 February. A letter providing all the details about this will be emailed out shortly.

Free Internet Access

If you have no, or limited, internet access, we may be able to help! We have some free BT Wi-Fi vouchers that we can issue to those who need them. Please contact Ms Pankhania: jpankhanian@latimer.org.uk for more details.

In addition to this, the government funded Oak National Academy, which provides free online lessons that some teachers may signpost students to in lessons, has now been made zero-tariff for mobile users, meaning it does not count towards data usage. This is different from previous data schemes, as it is universal and does not require families to request more data.

Free School Meal Vouchers

Over the half term break, Northamptonshire County Council will be providing vouchers for families who are entitled to Free School Meals. These have been emailed out by us before we break up for half term. The national voucher scheme will then resume after half term.

Should you have any difficulties accessing the vouchers, please contact Mrs Love, Student Services Manager: jllove@latimer.org.uk

Aiming High: Raising Aspirations and Expectations

Something for Half Term: Free Motivational Webinars



A reminder that students can access a free webinar over half term, organised by GCSEPod and delivered by Cameron Parker, a renowned motivational speaker.

These webinars are "events" and so they are not recorded as GCSEpod believe that a recorded version does not deliver the impact they want students to receive. Places are limited and need to be booked in advance. Students can register for the webinars by clicking on the links below:

Tuesday 23 February - 6pm to 7pm: [Student Webinar - Stress to Success](#)

Wednesday 3 March - 5pm to 6pm: [Student Webinar - Student Event](#)

Latimer Superstars



Our student engagement in Remote Learning has been fantastic this term and we have had so many students to praise and reward. This is reflected in our Epraise points, where last week we smashed our record, issuing over 12,000 points. Every single one of them was well deserved.

We offer special congratulations to Layla Perkins, Year 7, who was our top earner with a breath taking 223 points in one term!

Year Group Top Earners

7	Holly Greasley	217
8	Jessica Cameron	189
9	Maisy Ashall	153
10	Anika Dodd	145
12	Nisha Raulia	106
11	Leah Brownless	113
13	Jolanta Kirchner	117

So now students can start to think about which prize draws they would like to enter at the end of Term 4. Students will have until after the Easter break to enter, with the draw taking place on Wednesday 14 April.

Entries to the draw will start from 3 Epraise points so the more students earn, the more they can enter.

The prizes on offer will be: a HP Chromebook, an Amazon Kindle and vouchers from Amazon/Steam/MAC/JD Sports.



Mrs Squires is particularly proud of the efforts that Seth Barratt, Thomas Beadsworth, Alex Hyde, Logan Mitchell, Ryan Power, Hannah Rhinds, Jayden Spence and Sam Toseland have all put in with their Remote Learning this term and the speed with which they have been able to adapt to Remote Education.

Ella-Rose Perkins, Year 9, produced a stunning analysis of an unseen poem this week. Mrs Tibbs was wowed with the depth of her understanding of the deeper meanings of the poem, a skill that will serve Ella-Rose well for her GCSE English course.

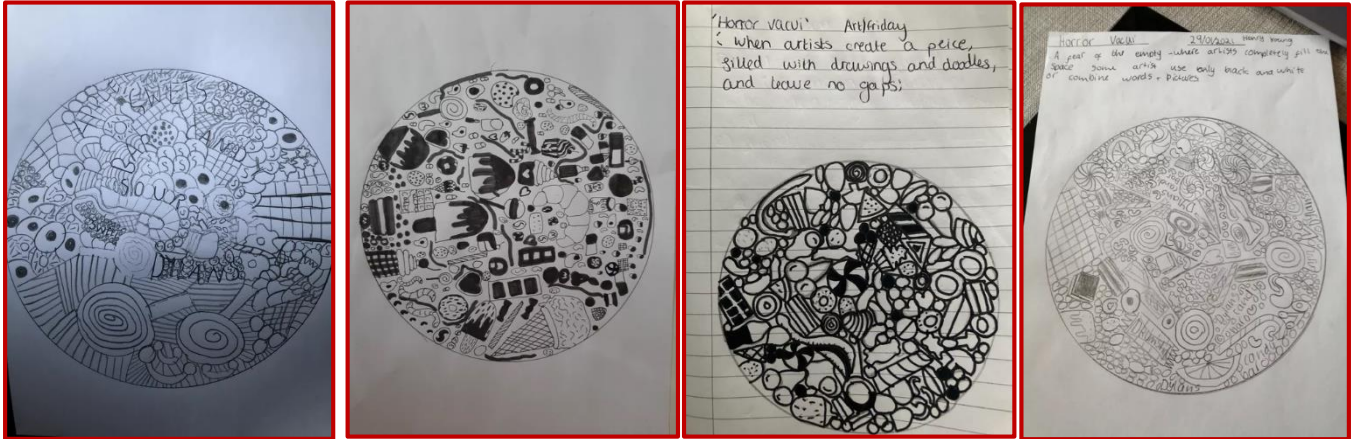
Mrs Green is so pleased with the students who have absolutely stood out in Science: they are going above and beyond, whether it is staying focussed or completing work to a high standard every single lesson. The energy and effort that they bring to every single lesson is fantastic.

Our thanks and appreciation go to Jacob Akrell, Shannon Bevin, Liam Bodsworth, Ellie-Marie Booth, Jaxon Boyd, Hayley Chapman, Lily Clarke, Rivan Corbett, Henry Cory, Reece Creamer, Brooke-Marie Dartnel, Chelsea Eady, Eloise Earl, Jayln Garley, Oliver Gidney, Emily Greaves, Lewis Houghton, Cory Ives, Nikita Jackson, Max Jeffs, Jack Kirby, Lexie Knipe, Grace Lamb, Mia McGreavy, Ellie Mitton, Oliver Morgan-Wright, Maisie Morris, Emily Oram-Haynes, Freddie Pepe, Nisha Raulia, Jacob Riley, Ella Rogers, Zach Skeggs, Zoe Smith, Julia Smykla, Lauren Stacey, Ruby Stevens, Harvey Taylor, Alana Toms, Jessica Twigg, Kim Walton, Imogen Willoughby, Archer Wood, Luke Wooding and Jake Woods.

We would like to give a special shout out to Ben Holder whose technical wizardry, amongst other things, has been greatly appreciated!

And our mathematicians are shining as well. Mrs Twiddy has been amazed with some students who just always seem to show up to lessons full of enthusiasm, are pleased to interact and give 100%. They have made such a positive contribution, not only to their learning experience, but also to that of others. So a huge thank you and very well done to: Caelen Careless, Rienna Cox, Aidan Currall, Charlie Duck, Ryan Gardner, Erin Gray, Jack Kirby, Nathan Kinchin, Charlie Martin, Madi Millard, Cameron Sears, Alana Toms and Grace Underwood.

This week we are privileged to see some of the Year 8 'Horror Vacui' designs from Art from Jacob Akrill, Hayley Chapman, Grace Lamb and Henry Young.



In French lessons over the last week Year 8 students have been learning about the French festival 'La Chandeleur', which took place on 2 February.

The students have been learning the vocab to understand ingredients and instructions for a crêpe recipe, and producing a menu for their own Crêperie. Here are some mouth-watering examples – well done to all of Year 8 who produced some outstanding work! We include some creations from Summer Elston, Zoe Wilson and Julia Smykla.



Team Latimer Community Corner

Dates for your Diary

Please note that we will try our best to run these events remotely and will send you updates nearer the time.

Friday 12 February	End of Term 3
Monday 22 February	Start of Term 4: <i>This will be Week 2 on the timetable</i>
Wednesday 24 February	Year 9 SPRE 4.00pm – 7.00pm
Tuesday 16 March	Year 8 SPRE 4.00pm – 7.00 pm