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## LATIMER LATEST NEWS – 8 NOVEMBER 2019

### *'Being the Best That We Can Be!'*

We are delighted that following the recent publication of the provisional performance data, the progress that students make at The Latimer Arts College in their GCSEs remains consistently **above average**. There is no better time to be a student at our College and the high quality learning experience that we offer is down to a real team effort. We would like to thank parents and carers for being an active and supportive part of this team.

Applications for places in Year 7 next year have now closed and we keep our fingers crossed that all those who would like a place at our College are able to gain one.

Thank you to all of those who visited our Sixth Form Open Evening this week. We would be delighted to receive your application, which should be submitted by **Friday 22 November**. More details of our offer and our prospectus can be accessed on our [website](#).

## Learning and Progress

### Improving Progress: Personal Learning Checklists (PLCs) and Closing the Gap

To support student progress, teachers provide detailed feedback on important or substantial assessments. This is a much more purposeful way to 'mark' books than 'ticking' each page. Following an assessment, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will complete a PLC so that they can identify their strengths and areas for improvement. Students will then complete a 'closing the gap' activity where they focus on a skill or some knowledge that they need to improve.

This should occur approximately three to four times per year for all subjects and students will bring home their exercise books so that parents and carers can view the progress that their child is making and talk to them about their learning. These should be starting to appear in books now, so please do ask your child about them.

In Years 10 and 11 and the Sixth Form, the same detailed feedback will be given and may be linked to, for example, an exam question. The aim is to empower your child to improve an aspect of their work and to make more rapid progress.

In our newsletter throughout the year, we will signpost you as to which assessments and PLCs have been completed and in which subjects to support with this.

### Ace Your Exams: Mock exams 12 days and counting...

As we draw ever closer to the mock exam season, we ask for parent and carer support with ensuring that our Year 11 and Year 13 students approach this experience with the right attitude. If taken seriously and prepared for fully, the feedback following the mock exam process will be invaluable in identifying priority areas for improvement in the final exam countdown.

The College provides the following support:

[Year 11 and 13 Exam Support](#): This website page contains a range of useful information and tips for exam success including:

**GCSE Topics for Revision**: This booklet contains all of the topics for all of the GCSE subjects that students will need to revise in preparation for their final examinations. Teachers will indicate which topics need to be revised for mock exams.

**Revision Planning Template**: This excel workbook maps out all of the days until the summer exams. Students can use it to plan lesson time, revision slots and rest slots. They can plan out their time between now and the mock examinations as a practice for the final exam countdown.

**Revision Sessions:** Individual subjects are offering a range of revision sessions, all details of which can be found on the [Year 11 and 13 Exam Support](#) website page.

**Ace Your Exams Booklet:** This outlines a range of study skills and revision techniques that students can select to support with their revision.

**Revision Guides:** Year 11s have been provided with a set of revision guides and Year 13 students can access revision guides in the Sixth Form Centre. Our students tell us that these revision guides were invaluable last year 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](http://www.gcsepod.com) using their College email account. Podcasts can be streamed or downloaded on PC, Android or IOS. Email [ithelpdesk@latimer.org.uk](mailto:ithelpdesk@latimer.org.uk) if you require any assistance when using GCSEPod.



Tassomai makes learning and revising for GCSE Science 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>



Students have access to the PiXL Maths, Geography, History and English Lit apps to help with their studies.



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.



Seneca is free for students to use. It will present them with key information and then test them on it in various ways. Some staff are setting revision activities through this.



Quizlet allows students to create their own quizzes, flash cards and other revision material for free. They can then print these off or save them to re-use. Students can also access other people's revision material on the site.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mr Harvey, Vice Principal [sharvey@latimer.org.uk](mailto:sharvey@latimer.org.uk) if you would like printed copies of any of the above resources or additional help and support with revision planning for your child.

### **BTEC Examinations Season**

January sees BTEC examinations for Year 11 and 13 and the first round of BTEC Examinations for Year 12. Students should be starting their revision now.



At The Latimer Arts College we are passionate about the importance of supporting our students to acquire strong literacy and numeracy skills and we implement a range of strategies across the curriculum to support with this in both in lesson time and through our Personal Development Programme.

We are delighted with the engagement in reading in Term 1 where we issued **1125** books from the Learning Resource Centre, **807** fiction and **318** non-fiction. Particular congratulations go to Shannon Marks and Sam Toseland who both read 12 books last term and were our top borrowers!

We also support our Year 7 and 8 students by delivering the Accelerated reader programme. Since September, in total Year 7 have read **15,724,423** words and Year 8 have read **16,097,912** words. That is a staggering **31,822,335** words in total!

We also already have 2 “millionaire” readers! Well done to Jacob Jarvis who has read over 3 million words and to Anabel Isaac who has read over 1 million words.

## Safeguarding

### Think U Know? Live Streaming

Do you know:

What live streaming is and why it's so popular?

What makes it risky for young people?

How you can help your child stay safe while live streaming?

Get engaged in your child's online activity by viewing the [short guide to live streaming](#).

### What Parents Need to Know About 'Fortnite: Chapter 2'

*Fortnite*, one of the biggest video games of all time, has received an update. 'Fortnite Chapter 2' has a whole host of new in-game features, is more visually appealing and has a brand-new map for players to explore. It's likely that your child will be spending hours on end getting to grips with the new updates. That's why the [National Online Safety Team](#) have created this guide to help parents and carers understand exactly what 'Fortnite' is all about.

## Aiming High: Raising Aspirations and Expectations

### Year 10: Opening Up a World of Possibilities

A reminder that on Thursday 21 November, all Year 10 students will be visiting [World Skills UK](#), the UK's largest interactive apprenticeships, skills and careers event. This exciting event is divided into four industry sectors, with the opportunity to 'have a go' at hands-on, job-related skills across a huge range of careers.

Students will experience a wide range of activities, such as TV production, demolition simulation, virtual welding, floristry, 3D modelling and much more! Students will be able to get expert careers advice and meet over 130 employers from across the UK, including BAE Systems, BMW, Coca Cola, HS2, IBM, Muller, NHS Careers, Royal Mail, Toyota and the Armed Forces, many of whom offer jobs, apprenticeships and training opportunities.

We advise that students plan their day in advance because the event is HUGE!

Parent/Carer information letters have already been issued. If there are any questions please contact Mrs O'Brien [MOBrien@latimer.org.uk](mailto:MOBrien@latimer.org.uk)

### Will your child's talents lead to a career in the creative industry?

A superb one-stop-shop website to help young people discover the range of jobs available across all the creative industries has gone live! [DiscoverCreative.Careers](#), one strand of the Creative Careers Programme, is designed to help students and their parents, carers and teachers find out more about the careers in industries including advertising, architecture, fashion, film and television, museums and galleries, performing arts and publishing - and the routes in to them.

The website is also very good for linking subjects to careers: by clicking on the “I enjoy” section and, for example, putting in Art, 150 jobs/careers come up!

### Higher education in facts and figures 2019:



- The UK 18-year-old entry rate to university was at a record level.
- The median graduate salaries were £10,000 higher in England than non-graduate salaries.
- Undergraduate student numbers were highest in the subjects of business and subjects allied to medicine and biological sciences.
- Since 2014, 56,200 students have enrolled on higher and degree apprenticeships, studying a range of qualifications from foundation degree level to full Masters.

- Apprenticeships are no longer dominated by the manual trades and the engineering sector, and instead span a range of industries including accountancy, IT, law, media, publishing and journalism. The Government has pledged to create a further three million apprenticeships by 2020.

The main benefits of each option can be summarised as follows:

**Going to university:** you will be able to pick from thousands of courses; a degree will leave your career more open-ended in terms of future opportunities; and you will acquire a whole range of soft skills, transferrable to any job role.

**Doing an apprenticeship:** you will be gaining valuable on-the-job experience, earning money as you study; and you will be exempt from paying tuition fees.

## Enriching the Educational Experience and Celebrating Success

### Epraise points break the 100,000 barrier - already!

We are delighted with the phenomenal skills and dedication that our students are showing, with a massive total of over 110,000 epraise points earned since the start of the academic year, every single one of them richly deserved!

We want to ensure students are rewarded for their academic success and demonstration of their LORIC skills, but there are other categories for which points are awarded:

- **Attendance:** Points called 'weekly points' are for students who have 100% attendance each week, which means just by being at school students could earn up to **80 extra points** a year. For those students who do not miss a day in the entire term they will receive a '100% attendance' award and extra points.
- **Behaviour:** To recognise those who are doing the right thing, students will receive points for their 'Positive B4L'.
- **Participation:** All of those students who take part in enrichment activities or who represent the College in some way will be recognised for their positive contributions.

Parents and carers are able to keep up to date with how their child is doing by creating their own account, using the email address held by the College. To do this [click here](#). Please do all that you can to encourage your child to earn points in preparation for our first end of term prize draw during the last week of Term 2!

On an individual level, well done to our first six students to reach the 'Gold' milestone of 250 points: Sam Toseland (W4), Maisy Ashall (L5), Marcus Bowie (W2), Mya Cooke (C4), Ben Krotowski (C7) and Isabel Isaac (B7).

At this point, Latimer House hold a slim lead, although there are under 500 points separating them from Castle and Barton Houses. But don't worry, there is still plenty of time for Botolph and Wicksteed to catch up, especially with our next double points week starting on Monday 25 November.

### Bringing Learning to Life: Iceland 2019

During the October half-term, our A Level and GCSE Geography students had a fabulous opportunity to witness the subject in action when they visited Iceland. Over the course of 4 days, students got to experience the wonders of Gullfoss, Seljalandsfoss and Skogafoss waterfalls, the explosive Strokkur Geyser, visited the black sand beaches of the south, reached the foot of a glacier and explored the capital city Reykjavik. Their enthusiasm and engagement in the trip was second to none and will serve them well for their forthcoming examinations.

### Children in Need: Together We Can Make a Difference!

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November, we will be doing what we can to try to make a positive difference for others. To raise money for the BBC's Children in Need campaign, we will be holding a non-uniform day for which we ask for a £1 contribution, should students wish to take part.

In addition to this, Castle House will be hosting different fun mini-games, cake sales and tuck shops during lunch time. We would be grateful for any contributions that can be made to this worthy cause.

## Our added extras!

As the term progresses, so our [enrichment activities](#) will get underway. Please encourage your child to participate and try out new activities. Those who attend clubs will be awarded with Epraise points in recognition of their wider contributions to College life.

## Sporting Success

Our sporting success continued over Term 1:

Year 10 Boys' B Team Football came 1st and 2nd in the Kettering District Tournament

Year 11 Boys' B Team Football came 2nd and 3rd in the Kettering District Tournament

Year 8 Boys' Futsal Team were runners-up at the Kettering District Tournament

Year 7 Boys' Football Team beat Bishop Stopford in a friendly 9 aside match ahead of their County Cup Campaign so we anticipate a strong campaign ahead!

Well done to all who participated and represented the College –we are very proud of you all!

## Other News

### Do you work for Oxford University Press (OUP)?

We would be really grateful if you could let the College know if you work for OUP. We would then be able to secure great discounts from the company for resources for our students. Please contact us at: [mail@latimer.org.uk](mailto:mail@latimer.org.uk) or 01536 720300

### 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.

Thursday 21 November	Year 10 World Skills UK Live
Monday 25 November	Year 11 Mock Exams (until Friday 6 December)
Wednesday 27 November	Parent Forum 6.00pm
Monday 2 December	Year 13 Mock Exams (until Friday 6 December)
Friday 13 December	Christmas Music Concert, 7.30pm
Friday 20 December	End of Term 2
Friday 3 January	Training Day (College closed to students)
Monday 6 January	Start of Term 3: College re-opens to students <i>This will be Week 2 on the timetable</i>
Friday 10 January	Year 11 Mock Results Day
Friday 17 January	Year 7 Dragons' Den Event
Thursday 23 January	6 <sup>th</sup> Form Student Progress Review Evening (SPRE), 5.00pm
Monday 3 February	Key Stage 4 Pathways Fortnight for Year 8 (until Friday 14 February)
Tuesday 4 February	Year 8 Pathways Showcase, 5.00pm
Tuesday 11 February	Year 12 Loughborough University Visit
Wednesday 12 February	College Dance Show, 7.00pm
Friday 14 February	End of Term 3