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## Latimer Community Weekly Newsletter

Friday 29 January 2021



Dear Parents and Carers

I find myself trying to come to terms with the thought that we have experienced some 'normality' this week as the snow fell!

It is odd to think that snow, which is so rare these days, can bring any kind of normality. But it was such a relief to see that the delight that it brings to kids, both old and young, has not changed. It certainly gave me a lift to see families enjoying some time outdoors, having fun together (at a social distance), without a care in the world!

From a personal point of view (given that it is still such a difficult decision whether to 'close' the College site or not) a weekend of snow is more than enough, thank you very much, but I do hope that the family memories that you made over the weekend were happy ones that take longer to melt away than the snow sculptures!

And, as we focus our minds back on our current situation, you may be aware that there is emerging talk this week about the re-opening of schools. Whilst we all desperately want this to happen, given what we know about government U-turns, I can only urge parents and carers to keep following the government guidelines, so that the data will support the re-opening of schools, and to keep encouraging their children to engage in their remote education, so that they are on track when they do return to us face to face.

As ever, I want to remind you that, even though the site is closed, we are still here to help should you need anything.

Regards  
Siobhan Hearne  
Principal

### Consultation on how GCSE, AS and A level grades should be awarded in summer 2021

**CLOSES TODAY AT 23:45**

Just a reminder that today is the final chance to respond to the *Ofqual* proposal on the arrangements for awarding of examination grades in 2021. Please click the links to [the information](#) about the proposals and the [survey](#) for responses. We really would encourage as many of you as possible to take part and ensure your views are heard.

### Educational Provision

#### Lesson Timetable on Satchel:one and Notifications from TEAMS

Tuesday 26th Jan	Wednesday 27th Jan	Thursday 28th Jan
	Thursday 28th Jan - P4 - 9B/R51 - Team's...	
Weds 27th Jan, period 1, 9a/d1 - Live TEA...		
9A/Dr1 Drama Miss J. Milson		
Wednesday 27th January period 4 9y TEA...		
9y/En4 English Mrs G. ...		

A small number of students contacted us this week about not having **TEAMS notifications**. Whilst we are investigating why this is, we would like to remind you that **Satchel:one** is the place students should go to for all information about their lessons. Here students can see if they have a 'live' TEAMS lesson or independent study. If it says TEAMS on Satchel:one, then no matter whether they have had a notification or not, they should join the TEAMS lesson.

Students should **not** be relying on their TEAMS or Outlook calendar in order to organise themselves as these do not always show the TEAMS lessons and will not give them their independent learning tasks.

To help with this we have created a brief video on ["Accessing TEAMS lessons with no notification"](#). If you have any questions regarding Remote Education please email Mr Harvey, Vice Principal: [sharvey@latimer.org.uk](mailto:sharvey@latimer.org.uk)

## Teams Personal Identifier Logo



Just a reminder that all students should have reset their TEAMS identifier logo to their initials. Where this has not happened, we will contact parents and carers directly to let them know so that they can ensure that this occurs.

## Introduction of Weekly Core PE Tasks

Now that students have settled into a routine with Remote Learning and are organising themselves well, it is time to add some PE tasks to their weekly schedule to engage and motivate them to stay active and healthy during these times.

Starting from **Monday 1 February** we will add a PE task to a student's Core PE slot on their Satchel:one timetable, in the form of a PowerPoint. There will be some information to learn, a practical task to complete and a quiz on Satchel:one to test students' knowledge and understanding. There will also be a weekly 'challenge the teacher', with the first week seeing which students can beat Mr Hallett in a run! The following video has been created to outline to students what they will need to do: [Mr Hallett Introduction to CORE P.E](#)

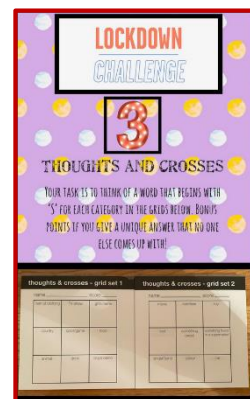
An email address has been set up [PERemotelearning@latimer.org.uk](mailto:PERemotelearning@latimer.org.uk) for students to email examples of their learning so that the PE Department can reward Epraise points.

We know so many families are fitting in walks, runs, cycles and HIIT sessions during this lockdown period and we encourage you to please keep doing these. The health benefits and impact on all of our mental and physical wellbeing are clear to see.

## 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 Quizzzy Rascals quiz with their tutor and undertaking the lockdown challenge activity. For next week:

- **Monday:** For Mental Health Awareness Week there will be a video briefing from the Achievement Leader, along with a link to Oak National Academy 'Mental Health' assembly.
- **Wednesday:** Sees the launch of 'Quizzzy Rascals Socrative', a new interactive way to play along at home. All students need is to be able to access Socrative.com (no sign up required).
- **Lock Down Challenge 3:** Thoughts and Crosses. Students should forward completed examples to their Achievement Leader, who will award Epraise points for the best contributions.



There are many ways for students to 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.

## Safeguarding and Well-being

### Level Up: Week 2!



Well done to all those that have been taking part in the Level Up! challenges! Lots of our community engaged with the HIIT sessions for Week 1 and we had over 60 entries.

We are delighted to announce that the prize draw winners of a £10 Amazon voucher are:

Year 7: Dean Constable, Holly Greasley, Georgia Henderson, Harry Kendall, Phoebe Sewell  
Year 8: Zachary Price  
Year 9: Maisy Ashall, Erin Gray  
Year 10: Ethan Randall  
Staff winner: Mrs Ashcroft

We anticipate the release of the Week 3 Challenge and will announce the winners of the Week 2 Challenge in the next newsletter. Please do encourage your child to get on board!

## Key Information and Updates

### Childcare Provision: Does your child really need a place?

Please can we draw your attention to the letter that Lucy Wightman, Director of Public Health, and Cathi Hadley, Director of Children's Services, have issued:

*'As you are aware, schools are closed to most children to reduce the number of contacts across society so that we are better able to suppress the spread of the new COVID variant. Whilst schools are open to the children of critical workers and there is no limit on those who can attend, it is vitally important that if you are a critical worker, **you only make use of this option when and where it is absolutely necessary and there is no ability for your child to remain safely at home.** The fewer the number of children we have in school, the less contacts there will be and the easier it will be for your child's school to remain COVID secure.*

***Every reduction we can make, even if this is only for one morning or afternoon, when added together, will further reduce contacts across society and reduce the opportunity for the virus to spread. This, in turn, will allow us all to exit the current restrictions sooner than may otherwise be the case.'***

Whilst we will do everything that we can as a College to support with a place in school for those students who are eligible, we have to ask that in the first instance, before requesting a place in our Childcare Provision and sending your child in, that you please carefully consider:

- Does your child absolutely need to attend?
- Does your child need to attend every day?
- Does your child need to attend for all of the day?

Please note that we will not be able to offer a place to those students who are not eligible. Please note that the Department for Education have confirmed that schools are not required to offer a Childcare Provision over the half term break.

### Monitoring Engagement and Attendance

As you are aware, we are taking registers and monitoring the student engagement in their Remote Learning, given that it is so important that students do not fall behind during this period of school closure.

Therefore, it is vital that you use our absence reporting procedures if your child falls ill and is unable to attend their Remote Education sessions, just as they would not have been able to attend school, sending an email to: [absence@latimer.org.uk](mailto:absence@latimer.org.uk) or a text to 07546588119 or ring the 24 hour absence answer line on 01536 720300.

This information will then be shared with teachers and ensure that when we are monitoring attendance and engagement in remote learning we will know why students are absent.

### **IT Access Support**

If a barrier to accessing Remote Education is linked to access to digital devices or the internet, please do let us know. We will do all that we can to support with this. Please email Mrs Love, Student Services Manager: [jlove@latimer.org.uk](mailto:jlove@latimer.org.uk).

Please can we also remind you that if your child needs any support with IT issues during this period of closure then please ask them to drop an email to the IT Helpdesk: [ITHelpdesk@latimer.org.uk](mailto:ITHelpdesk@latimer.org.uk). We will do our best to support you with this.

For those students who have been issued with College devices, there will be times when we have to run updates on these. Our IT Services department will contact parents and carers where relevant and we ask that you support us with ensuring that details of how to complete the updates are carried out. This will help us to ensure that devices work as effectively as possible.

### **Year 12 Student Progress Review Evening (SPRE)**

A reminder that we will be holding our Year 12 SPRE, which will be held by video call, on Tuesday 2 February 2021 between 4.30pm and 7.30pm. In order to run our SPREs this year, we have invested in a web-based video calling system, SchoolCloud. This provides an online booking system so that parents and carers can choose and make their own appointment times with teachers.

Details about how to make appointments have been issued. If you need any support with this, please contact Ms Winfield: [bwinfield@latimer.org.uk](mailto:bwinfield@latimer.org.uk) who will be happy to help.

### **Free School Meal Vouchers**

All parents and carers whose children are entitled to free school meals should now be receiving weekly vouchers. Should you have any difficulties accessing these, please contact Mrs Love, Student Services Manager: [jlove@latimer.org.uk](mailto:jlove@latimer.org.uk)

Over the half term break, Northamptonshire County Council will be providing vouchers and these will be emailed out to you by us before we break up.

### **'Your Money and Covid': Workshops for Parents and Carers**

[The Money Charity](#) has developed a new series of workshops '*Your Money and Covid*' for parents and carers of our students in order to support them to manage their money during Covid-19 challenges.

These free workshops have been designed to help people reassess their financial situation in light of the pandemic. Tips will be shared on budgeting, how to make your money work harder and save on everyday expenditure, and where to go for further information and support.

The '[Your Money & Covid](#)' flyer provides further information. Alternatively, please get in touch with [belinda@themoneycharity.org.uk](mailto:belinda@themoneycharity.org.uk) to book a place.

**Please note: the price mentioned on the flyer will not apply and only the first workshop (Your Money During Challenging Times) is currently available.**

### **Stagecoach Bus Timetable Changes**

We must remind those who are attending onsite that government advice is to avoid the use of public transport if possible. However, for those who do need to access the service, from 24 January 2021, there will be changes to Stagecoach Midlands timetables due to a reduction in students currently travelling to school. Consequently, the 276/8 buses will not run. There are also changes to the 47/48/49/50 and we recommend that parents and carers consult the [timetable](#) where relevant.

## Aiming High: Raising Aspirations and Expectations

### Aspire Higher: Wednesday Webinars

Aspire Higher supports students in making informed decisions about a range of Higher Education options. The College has been working with Aspire Higher to organise the delivery of a wide range information and inspiring activities for your child. Between 27 January and the end of March, Aspire Higher will be delivering a [bi-weekly webinar](#) for all parents and carers with a child in Year 9-13. The topics that will be covered are:

Date	Topic
10 February 2021	Apprenticeships
24 February 2021	Student Finance
10 March 2021	Routes into Higher Education
24 March 2021	Labour Market information and The Pay Index

We will send reminders of each webinar, including how to sign up, to you the week before each takes place. Should you have any questions please contact [Christine.Webster@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:Christine.Webster@northampton.ac.uk)

### Planning for Next Steps: Exploring Apprenticeships

'[Amazing Apprenticeships](#)' have created a parents' and carers' information pack that includes details of how to get prepared for National Apprenticeship Week 2021 which is taking place all week from Monday 8 February. It also includes a 10-step plan for finding an apprenticeship in 2021.

## Latimer Superstars



We have had another excellent week of student engagement in Remote Learning, with over 10,000 Epraise points awarded. We would like to thank parents and carers for continuing to encourage and support their child.

Well done to our top earners this week:

Year 7: Finlay Ashall, Oliver Back, Holly Greasley  
Year 8: Hayley Chapman, Jessica Cameron, Oliver Grimster  
Year 9: Maisy Ashall, Connor Green, Maisie Morris  
Year 10: Finley Payne, Ruby Stevens, Liv White  
Year 11: Thomas Chapman, Wiktorina Gawlak, Jack Parker  
Year 12: Leah Brownless, Keira Cox, William Cox  
Year 13: Jolanta Kirchner, Anna Pringle, Sophie Wilson

Please could parents and carers remind their child to complete the [survey](#) that we have also published, via their email account, so that we can take feedback on what prizes they would like to feature in our Easter Prize Draw.



Mrs Ellis (Miss Thompson) would like to praise **Maisy Ashall, Sophia Hoare** and **Fin Brooker** for the success that they are having in English. They are working incredibly hard and producing fine quality learning, as is **Lydia Cole**, Year 8, who showed great understanding in her analysis of an extract from Jane Eyre, by Charlotte Bronte, that made Mrs Perrott's weekend!

It seems like our students are excelling in their English learning. Mrs Horsley rightly feels that **Cerise Williams**, Year 11, deserves special recognition for the essay plan that she produced on Macbeth. This really was stunning and went above and beyond what was required. It is a model of the level of commitment that our GCSE students need to be giving to their studies at this crucial stage of their examination journey, regardless of the current circumstances.

Mrs Ilersic was thrilled with her **Year 9 GCSE Dance Class** in their recent live practical lesson. They have embraced remote learning and developed new ways to work with each other, trying new dance elements even if it is very different to what they are used to!



**Layla Perkins**, Year 7, has impressed Mr Winsall this week: she is the top Epraise earner in the form; actively engaged in her Science lesson asking fantastic questions; she won the tutor time award for the most innovative use of spare time where she is learning to write in Chinese and Arabic! She has also been getting involved in the "Level Up!" challenge and the Lockdown Challenge. We seriously do not think that there is anything that she has not done!

Mrs Ashcroft was delighted with **Finlay Ashall**, Year 7, who has produced an amazing 'advert' as part of his DT project on baked beans. Students have investigated different cultures in order to come up with a new flavour; redesigned the classic HEINZ label; and created character illustrations making 'BEAN' emojis. We only wish that we could share the video with you: it was creative, original and great fun!

We think that Mrs Ashcroft will also be proud of **Tom** and **Sam Toseland** who created this wonderful snow sculpture.



## Team Latimer Community Corner

### Sofa Dance Challenge!

A reminder that we would still love to recognise the wonderful talent that we have at The Latimer Arts College and so, in the absence of our annual College Dance Show, we have launched the Sofa Dance Challenge. The whole family can get involved!

All you have to do is create some movement ideas using your sofa! Feel free to include children, pets, family members and anything else you can think of! Follow this [link](#) for some inspiration. You will see that you do not have to be a dancer and any kind of movements are welcomed!

Please send your clips to Mrs Ilersic: [kilersic@latimer.org.uk](mailto:kilersic@latimer.org.uk) by **Friday 12 February**.

### 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.**

Tuesday 2 February	Sixth Form SPRE 4.30pm - 7.30pm
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
Friday 26 March	End of Term 4