



Follow us on Twitter @Latimercollege



## LATIMER LATEST NEWS – 25 SEPTEMBER 2020

Phew! Where have the last two weeks gone?

It is true to say students have made a flying start to the new academic year. They are to be highly commended for the way in which they have secured high attendance, settled into College routines and adapted to the revised organisation and systems.

We are very glad to have our students back and remain so proud of them all. They are here to learn and they have shown us that, despite the changes that they are having to contend with, learning is exactly what they want to do! So we are off and running, at a great pace, and we look forward to sharing successes with you over the coming weeks.

We will also start to share information with you as parents and carers in the coming weeks about the adapted processes that we have designed to keep you informed of your child's progress. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact your child's form tutor should you need to.

Once again, we thank you all for your patience, understanding and support. It gives staff such peace of mind to know that we are working as a community to ensure the continuity of education for our students.

Here's to Team Latimer and all that we are going to achieve together this year!

Regards

**Siobhan Hearne**  
Principal

### Year 6 Open Evening 2020

Whilst we are unable to host an onsite Open Evening this year, we do want to support our community to make informed choices about applications for school places in September 2021. Therefore, we will post key information on the [Admissions and Prospectus](#) page on our website.

## September Restart: Updates on Systems and Procedures

### Health and Safety Inspection

Our Health and Safety consultant from 'Essential Safety' recently completed an inspection of all the Covid-19 actions and changes that the College have put in place for the protection of students, staff and visitors.

The consultant was very impressed: she stated that the College has more than met every safety requirement to ensure risk is minimised. Following this visit, we are now able to display the Covid-19 safe certificate. We are keeping our Covid-19 risk assessment as a live document which is reviewed (and updated as necessary) each fortnight as we work through these unprecedented times.

### Health and Safety: Prevention is Key

Our students have adapted to the Health and Safety procedures that we have in place, but none of us can become complacent. Therefore, we reassure all parents and carers that we are following the key principles of:

- 1) Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.
- 2) Ensuring students are sanitising hands routinely throughout the day (they are well trained with when this should occur!).

3) Ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.

***We ask that all parents and carers support us by ensuring that government guidelines are adhered to outside of school. This will help us to keep schools open and minimise the risk of community transmission.***

### **Accessing Testing: Who should get a test and who should not**

We appreciate that parents and carers may be anxious about the current situation, especially given that there is a likelihood that there will be more coughs and colds around at the moment as children start to mix again after a long period of being apart.

However, as has been well-documented in the media, the testing programme is under intense strain. Therefore, in order to avoid overwhelming the current laboratory capacity, Public Health England (PHE) are limiting the number of testing appointments, with the criteria being as follows:

- **Do** seek testing if you have symptoms, which are; a new continuous cough, a temperature or a loss of or change in taste or smell.
- **Do not** seek testing if you have no symptoms.
- If you are a contact of someone who has tested positive but do not have symptoms, please **do not** get a test unless you develop symptoms. If you were to test negative, it does not mean you can leave isolation earlier if you are a contact, as the virus can take up to 14 days to develop. The 14-day self-isolation period has to be observed.
- **Do** book a slot for a test in advance.
- **Do not** just turn up at a testing site. New slots get released each evening and again in the morning. We are assured by central government that they are working on expanding lab capacity.

### **Face Masks Protocols**

Please can we remind parents and carers that students who are wearing face masks to and from College and in communal areas whilst on site, must have a sealed plastic bag to store the mask in when it is not being worn.

Students should also sanitise their hands before putting on their mask and after taking it off.

Students who use provided school transport have been inducted into this protocol and whilst they are adopting the hand sanitising regime, the masks are not always stored in a plastic bag.

## **Learning and Progress**

### **Year 11 Ace Your Exams and Future Destinations Evening**

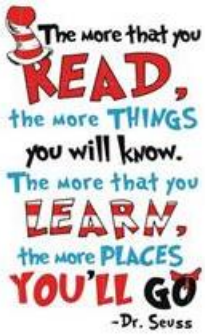
We recognise the positive role that parental support can and does play in the success of each child. Therefore, we want to do all that we can to support you to support your child, which is even more important in these difficult times. We are therefore inviting you to our virtual Ace Your Exams evening on **Monday 5 October**. Specific details regarding this event will be published for Year 11 parents and carers next week.

We would also like you to save the date on **Wednesday 4 November** when we will hold our virtual Sixth Form Open Evening. Again, more details to follow shortly.

### **Extending Learning: Homework**

Year 7 students were due to receive homework from Monday. However, we have experienced some challenges with accessing log in codes for all students due to our change of roomings this year. As a result, Year 7 homework will now be set from Monday 5 October. We apologise for the delay.

## Year 7 and 8 Students: What Book is in Your Bag?



'Drop Everything and Read' (DEAR) has returned to the KS3 timetable providing our Year 7 and Year 8 students (and their teachers!) with the opportunity to read for pleasure for 15 minutes each day.

Students can read a fiction book of their choice during this time, which may be one brought in from home or borrowed from our College library as 'Accelerated Reader' lessons get underway over the next fortnight.

The 'Accelerated Reader' programme helps manage and monitor independent reading by assessing reading ages and suggesting books that match the appropriate levels and interests which can then be 'quizzed' online to measure understanding.

Books can really enrich lives, allowing us to experience the pleasure of reading and reap the benefits that reading for pleasure has not only on educational success but in enhancing vocabulary, developing empathy and so much more!

Please ensure that your child has a reading book in their bag every day to ensure they can take part in DEAR. They never know when they might be asked: "What book is in your bag?"

### Book Amnesty: A Plea to All Year Groups

Please could parents and carers check if there are any College library books lying around at home from before the school closure. If so, please could your child return these to the resource area in your learning zone where they will find a box marked: **LRC Returns**. Your support with this would be very much appreciated. There is a lot of money tied up in missing books at the moment!

## Safeguarding

### Zoom Security Update

Last week, Zoom implemented multi-factor authentication to make video conferencing safer than ever. Enabling this feature also helps to prevent 'zoombombing' (refers to the unwanted, disruptive intrusion, generally by Internet trolls and hackers, into a video conference call).

If your child has an account, they should enable multi-factor authentication as soon as possible - even if they are not currently using it.

To enable multi-factor authentication, log into the Zoom account online by going to Zoom's website and completing the following steps:

- 1) Click on your profile 'avatar' in the top-right corner of the page.
- 2) Click on your name/email address to open your profile settings.
- 3) Scroll down to the Two-Factor Authentication section.
- 4) If this section says 'turned off' click 'turn on'. (If it already says 'turned on' there's nothing more you have to do)
- 5) You'll be prompted for your password again.
- 6) Click 'Set up' next to the type of second factor you would like to enable (Authentication App, SMS or both).
- 7) Follow the on-screen steps to complete.

## Other News

### Did you know that just registering your child for Free School Meals means that the College gets extra money?

With this money, we could give extra help to students who need it. If you are registered for Free School Meals you could also get help with things like uniform, equipment and resources, or there could be help to allow your child to continue into the Sixth Form.

If you want your child to have a free meal at lunchtime that is great – they will get the free meal (saving you more than £400 a year). Even if you do not want the school meals, as long as you qualify and are registered, the College still gets the extra government funding.

No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming. Our cashless catering system ensures no other student knows who is receiving Free School Meals. Please click [Free School Meals](#) to access the online application form.

### **Year 7: Accessing our Catering Provision**

As it is the start of the academic year, there is high interest from Year 7 in what food we have to offer at lunchtime. However, we are finding that students do not always have sufficient money on their accounts for what they want to buy. This may be because they are unaware of the prices; or because they are hungrier than may have been anticipated; or because they are purchasing food when parents and carers have already provided a packed lunch!

It would be really helpful if you could speak to your child and ensure that they are aware of any budgeting that you may wish to have in place in terms of their daily spend.

You can see what your child is spending and eating via the School Gateway app.

### **Support for Team Sebastian**

As you may be aware, Mr Nunney's three-year-old son, Sebastian, was recently diagnosed with Neuroblastoma, a rare form of childhood cancer and is currently undergoing intensive treatment. However, the family are now fundraising for potential treatment abroad and, as a College, we are supporting events to help with the fundraising.

Sebastian comes from a family of football fans - and when Tottenham Hotspur learned about his diagnosis they very kindly provided an official signed pennant, complete with certificate of authenticity, to auction off. The signatures on this pennant are all original, as signed by the 2019-20 squad. Details can be found at: <https://www.32auctions.com/TeamSeb>

In addition to this, many members of staff plan to take part in '[Run Silverstone](#)' in November and will be seeking sponsorship for this. Mr Hallett is going to run his first half marathon. More details on how you can support this fundraising event will follow in later newsletters.

Donations can also be made via the [Go Fund Me](#) page.

### **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 1 October	Virtual Open Evening: Year 7
Tuesday 13 October	Year 11 Tutor Feedback Calls Session 1, 3.30-6.30 pm
Wednesday 21 October	Year 11 Tutor Feedback Calls Session 2, 3.30-6.30 pm
Friday 23 October	End of Term 1
Monday 2 November	Start of Term 2: College re-opens to students Key Stage 5 Pathways Fortnight (Year 11) (ends Friday 13 November)
Tuesday 3 November	Virtual Year 13 Student Progress Review Evening, 3.30-6.30 pm
Wednesday 4 November	Virtual Open Evening: Sixth Form
Tuesday 10 November	Year 7 Tutor Feedback Calls Session 1, 3.30-6.30 pm
Wednesday 11 November	Year 12 Tutor Feedback Calls, 3.30-6.30 pm
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
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