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LATIMER LATEST NEWS – 6 MARCH 2020

A Warm Welcome to our Future Year 7 Students!

Monday saw the confirmation of secondary school places for September 2020 and we are delighted at the prospect of welcoming 203 new students to our College. Our only sadness is that we are not able to accommodate all 514 applications!

Those who are joining us are coming at such an exciting time: this newsletter is jam-packed with summaries of just some of the activities that are taking place to support our students to become successful life-long learners!

Learning and Progress

Future Planning: Year 8 Pathways Preferences

Thank you to all of our parents and carers who attended the Year 8 SPRE. We hope that this has provided you with any final information that you may have needed in order to support your child with expressing their pathways preferences. A reminder that the deadline for preference forms to be returned is **Monday 9 March**.

Following this, we will commence the process of allocating subjects to students for September 2020. We will endeavour to meet all of the preferences that our students have expressed. Where this may not be possible we will liaise with individual students and their parents and carers accordingly in due course.

Year 7 Student Progress Review Evening (SPRE)

We would like to invite Year 7 students and their parents and carers to the SPRE on **Thursday 19 March** from **4.30 – 7.30pm**. Letters and appointment cards will shortly be given to students and we will train them in the process of booking appointments with staff to make sure that you do not miss out!

We are keen to ensure that we work in partnership to secure the very best progress for your child: with this in mind, we would be grateful if your child could attend the evening with you so that in each subject there is a clear understanding of current progress and priority areas for improvement.

GCSEs and A Levels: Easter Revision Programme

As we approach **33** school days until the start of the examination season, following the mock process that they have just completed, Year 11 students will have a clear understanding of their areas of strength and the priority areas for improvement. We would really appreciate parents and carers speaking to their child about this and supporting and encouraging them to target these areas in their revision planning in this final stage before examinations.

One of the additional ways in which we will be supporting your child is by delivering a targeted Easter Revision Programme for both Year 11 and 13 students. Details have been published and we urge parents and carers to make the necessary arrangements so that their child can attend the sessions allocated.



In Term 3 we issued **1200** books; **860** fiction and **340** non-fiction. Well done to Ruby Edwards and Jacob Jarvis who read 28 books between them!

Students continue to make great progress in their reading through the Accelerated Reader programme. In total, Year 7 students have read **57,847,403** words this academic year so far and Year 8 students have read **50,182,947** words. Collectively they have read **108,030,350** words!

We now have 17 students who are millionaire readers – this means that they have read over 1 million words, which is a fantastic achievement! Jacob Jarvis has read over 5 million words and Anabel Isaac has read over 2 million words. All of this reading is an investment in supporting with securing high examination success in the future.



We love **numeracy** too and so will be playing our part in celebrating International Pi Day by running a Pi recital competition on Friday 13 March where we will crown our 2020 Latimer Pi Champion. Students in Years 7-10 can enter to win a £20 voucher of their choice by reciting the **most** amount

of digits of Pi (in the right order!) This is an excellent opportunity for them to use all of their LORIC skills.

To help, this [You Tube](#) clip will help students to learn the first 100 digits of Pi.

Did you know?

The most decimal places of Pi memorised is 70,000, and was achieved by Rajveer Meena from India, on 21 March 2015.

Rajveer wore a blindfold throughout the entire recall, which took **nearly 10 hours!**

Safeguarding

Facebook 'Off-Platform' Data

Do you know how much data Facebook has collected whilst you are NOT using their platform? A lot of times when you think Facebook is listening to your phone conversations based on how specific its ads are, it is actually because of how extensive (and hidden) its offsite data collection is.

Facebook have just launched a new tool, '[Off-Facebook Activity Tool](#)' that can tell you which companies are supplying Facebook with information about your real-world activity, for example, that you visited their website or purchased a product from it.

You can also access this by opening Facebook, go to Settings and click on Your Facebook Information. You should see a line for Off-Facebook Activity, and then just go to view. The feature also allows you to opt out of some of this collection — to a point. Prepared to be shocked – this will be an advantageous tool to use personally and to discuss with your child.

Aiming High: Raising Aspirations and Expectations

Year 12 Insight to University Life: Loughborough University Visit 2020

Our Year 12 students had a fantastic opportunity to visit Loughborough University, one of the UK's top 5 universities, and had a small taste of what life as an undergraduate at a campus university might feel like. Students had a chance to tour the campus, ask questions and gained advice on the UCAS application process.

As part of the preparations for future destinations, Year 12 have already used UNIFROG, our online platform to:

- **Record achievements and skills** to begin building a portfolio of their achievements in preparation for university or apprenticeship applications;
- **Broaden horizons:** Students have had an opportunity to explore different careers and further study options, alongside taking part in additional Massive Open Online courses (MOOC's) to support their Level 3 studies;
- **Post 18 intentions:** Students have now begun to explore UCAS and investigate and log their initial plans for life after Latimer.

This term, Year 12 have also participated in a workshop with local business people to develop their employability skills and will be preparing a CV, enabling them to successfully sell themselves to future employers.

Year 8 'Take Your Child to Work' Day 2020

We say a huge thank you to all parents, carers, relatives and friends who were able to support Year 8 to enter the world of work for a day in support of this national event. Students were provided with a great opportunity and the feedback has been exceptionally positive. We do not know who was more excited: the students about their experience or staff who loved hearing about all that they have learnt!

Please ensure that your child completes their unique diary of events and returns it to Student Services as soon as possible.

Students who stayed at College took part in the 'Young Apprentice Challenge', an incredible day full of outstanding concepts, innovations and magic moments!



Careers Fair 2020: Years 9 and Sixth Form

As part of our Raising Aspirations Programme, preparations are well underway for our Careers Fair for Year 9 and Sixth Form students, to be held at the College on Friday 20 March. This event has been developed to inspire young people and encourage them to embrace world of work opportunities. By giving our students access to plenty of information and impartial careers advice, we aim to make them feel empowered to make informed choices about their future. This is the chance to find out about different industries and roles that students may not even know exist!

Following the success of last year, we already have a range of great employers signed up for the students to engage with: it is looking like this year will be even bigger and better! If you have a business or work for an organisation and would like to have a stall at our Careers Fair, please contact KAllen@latimer.org.uk as soon as possible.

Enriching the Educational Experience and Celebrating Success



Thursday 9 July 2020: Pride of Latimer Awards: 'Some days, there won't be a song in your heart. Sing anyway!'

With this year's theme of '**Resilience**' we are looking forward to commencing the nominations process for our Pride of Latimer Awards in Term 4. Please keep this date in mind – your child may be one of our winners!

A Time to Shine: LORIC Subject Awards

We would like to say a huge well done to all of the incredible skills and hard work that those students who have recently received LORIC Subject Awards have displayed. Staff have certainly had a challenging job selecting their winners due to the commitment that is being shown by so many of our students. We are so proud of all of them and would like to give a special mention to Luke Cole in Year 10, who was selected by 4 of his subjects for his outstanding work!

Our challenge now is for all students to keep up their efforts ahead of our third round of awards later this year.

Easter Egg-stravaganza: 'Epraise' Prize Draw

A reminder that we have a range of fantastic prizes up for grabs in our Easter Prize Draw including a Nintendo Switch, Vouchers and Easter Eggs. The more points students earn over the coming weeks, the more their chances of winning increase.

Students have until 11am on Wednesday 1 April to enter. For students to enter the draw students will need to log-in to their Epraise account, select the 'Rewards' tab and then click 'Prize Draws' where they can choose what to spend their points on. Good luck to all of our students who take part!

'Sports Relief' 2020: Doing our bit!

A host of fundraising activities will be taking place on Friday 13 March and we are really keen for students to take part and join in the spirit of the day. We invite students to contribute £1 in return for wearing non-uniform on this day linked to the sporting theme.

Please note: We ask you to make sure that your child adheres to the non-uniform day expectations as outlined in the attached letter.

Spectacular Skiing, in the Sun!

During February half term, 47 students and 7 staff returned to the slopes of Val Cenis in the French Alps for the biennial Latimer ski trip. Over the 6 days they did a total of 22 hours skiing in what can only be described as unseasonably warm, sunny weather! The experienced group started exploring the mountain straight away and the beginners, after just a few sessions, with the help of brilliant instructors, were on the chairlift and exploring further up the mountain.

In addition to all their skiing exertions, everyone deserves credit for showing fantastic LORIC skills and giving 100% in the various evening entertainments!

As always, the attitude and behaviour of our students received very positive comments from everybody they came across, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank them and each member of staff for their contribution to a wonderful ski trip.



Congratulations go to all the students on achieving their ESF ski awards, their Latimer medals and becoming accomplished skiers!

Don't forget to keep an eye out later in the year for the details of the 2022 ski trip!

Making History: Marking the Moment Through Music

As part of the 900-year anniversary celebrations of St Botolph's Church, vocal performers from Latimer, Hayfield Cross Primary School and Barton Seagrave Primary school are performing a 'Collaborative Concert'.

This celebration of local singing takes place at St Botolph's Church on Wednesday 11 March, 4.30-5.30pm, and all of our vocal groups (Voxus, Vocal Ensemble, Wings, Boys' Singing Group) will be performing, including a joint Primary-Secondary finale!

Entry is free, but seats are limited, so a maximum of 2 seats per performer is advised. We do hope to see you there to celebrate this historic event.

A Dance Spectacular

We would like to thank all dancers who took part in our amazing evening of dance. We are extremely proud of every one of you. We would also like to say a huge thank you to all parents and carers who have accommodated the extra rehearsals: we hope you all had as much fun watching as we did rehearsing and performing!

Would you like your child to learn a new skill?

NMPAT (Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust) teachers deliver lessons each week for a variety of instruments. **A guitar lesson has become available at the College.** Lessons are 20 minutes long on a Tuesday morning. The times of the lessons rotate so that students do not miss the same subject each week. The lessons are £148.50 per term and each term is 11 weeks long. Lessons for the current term are already underway so parents/carers would only be charged for the lessons left in this term.

There are multiple benefits of learning a musical instrument. Research shows it can increase IQ, memory and attention span as well as being very enjoyable and satisfying. Please contact Ms Eyley ceyley@latimer.org.uk if you are interested in this opportunity.

Even More Sporting Success

Well done to our Under 15 Girls who became District Basketball champions this week and to our Year 10 Boys' Futsal Team who were silver medallists in the Winter School Games County Championships.

Other News

Meal Deals from abm Catering Solutions

We will be celebrating St Patrick's Day on Tuesday 17 March, when we will offer traditional beef stew with soda bread and dumplings; traditional Irish Colcannon potatoes and cabbage; salt and vinegar roasted potatoes; and Irish scones with jam and cream plus a selection of decorated cakes for sale.

We are also pleased to be offering a range of 'small' meals from 99p, for those students who do not wish to eat a full portion. Therefore, we encourage all to come and try some hot, homemade cooked food during these winter months!

Students can still purchase a 'cold' meal deal consisting of any basic baguette, 'cuplet' and small cake for £2.35.

Sports Facilities Hiring



A reminder that anyone in our local community interested in booking our sporting facilities can do so through Schools Plus. Please contact the Schools Plus Customer Contact Centre on 0345 222 2323 or email enquiries@schoolsplus.co.uk (Mon-Fri 9am – 5pm).

Come and Join Us!

Primary and Secondary Teacher Training



Would you like to train to teach? Want to know more?

Come and talk to us at any time during our drop-in sessions:

- Wednesday 4th March 2020 4.30pm-6.00pm Lincroft Academy, Bedfordshire MK43 7RE
- Wednesday 11th March 2020 6.00pm-8.00pm Wollaston School, Northamptonshire NN29 7PH
- Monday 16th March 2020 3.00pm-5.30pm Stanwick Primary School, Northamptonshire NN9 6PS
- Tuesday 17th March 2020 4.00pm-6.00pm Maplefields Academy, Northamptonshire NN18 0TH
- Friday 27th March 2020 1.30pm-4.00pm Lakeview School, Bedfordshire MK42 6BH
- Saturday 28th March 2020 10.30am-12.30pm Sharnbrook Academy, Bedfordshire MK44 1JL

We look forward to seeing you at one of our events. If you would like to register your interest ahead, please complete the form at <https://www.saf.org.uk/saf-itt/book-for-an-event>

“My year gave me a valuable experience of teaching and SAF ITT have made my dream come true.”

SAF ITT trainee



SAF ITT
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Dates for your Diary

A reminder that the national May Day Bank Holiday **has been moved from a Monday to Friday 8 May for this year only**. This is so that there can be national ceremonies over the weekend to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

In relation to the next academic year, although it seems like such a long time away, we would just like to highlight that, in a change to what we have done in the past, we have a **Training Day planned for Friday 4 December 2020**.

Please take the time to view our [calendar](#) and ensure that you are aware of all of the key dates for the year.

Wednesday 11 March	Collaborative Concert, 4.00pm
Thursday 19 March	Year 7 Student Progress Review Evening (SPRE), 4.30pm
Friday 20 March	Careers Fair: Sixth Form and Year 9
Thursday 26 March	Spring Music Concert, 7.30pm
Wednesday 1 April	Year 10 Student Progress Review Evening (SPRE), 5.00pm
Thursday 2 April	End of Term 4
Friday 3 April	Training Day (College closed to students)
Monday 20 April	Start of Term 5: College re-opens to students <i>This will be Week 2 on the timetable</i>
Friday 24 April	Year 8 Money Matters Event
Wednesday 29 April	Year 9 Student Progress Review Evening (SPRE), 5.00pm
Tuesday 5 May	Induction Evening 5.30-8.30pm for new Year 7 students joining in September 2020 <i>(Invitations will be issued for specific evening and time beforehand)</i>
Wednesday 6 May	Induction Evening 5.30-8.30pm for new Year 7 students joining in September 2020 <i>(Invitations will be issued for specific evening and time beforehand)</i>
Friday 8 May	Bank Holiday to commemorate the 75 th anniversary of VE Day
Monday 11 May	Exam season commences
Tuesday 19 May	Parent Forum, 6.00pm
Friday 22 May	End of Term 5