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## LATIMER LATEST NEWS – 26 MARCH 2021

A reminder that the College re-opens to students following the Easter break on Monday 12 April.  
This will be Week 1 on the timetable.  
Students should arrive by 8.25am.

### COVID-19 LFD Testing Programme

#### Use of LFD Home Testing Kits

A reminder that the home testing kits that have been provided by the government are **for twice weekly asymptomatic testing only**. We have only been supplied with test kits based on student numbers and the regularity with which they are expected to test. Unfortunately, we do not have a surplus supply to top-up where tests have been used more frequently than they should be.

If your child has been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 the home testing process should pause until the end of the self-isolation period, when it should restart.

Whilst you and your child may understandably be worried, further testing should only occur if they develop COVID-19 symptoms (including a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste). If this is the case a PCR test should be booked by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>: the LFD tests should NOT be used.

Unfortunately, the LFD tests also cannot be used on a daily basis to confirm that your child is negative so that they do not have to self-isolate. We appreciate that this may cause some frustration for parents and carers but the government guidance does not currently permit this.

#### LFD Home Testing Over Easter

A reminder that the government have advised that Home Testing should continue during the Easter break. We would appreciate if you could remind your child to test on a Monday and Thursday morning. Please could you report the result to the College using the form that can be accessed via this [link](#) or via the Quicklinks on the front page of our website

Should your child test positive over Easter, the College may be in the position of having to carry out a contact tracing process. Therefore, we would be grateful if you could send an email to: [COVID@latimer.org.uk](mailto:COVID@latimer.org.uk) and confirm:

- Your child's name
- Their year group
- The date of their positive test
- The date that they started to show symptoms (where relevant)

This email address is continually monitored and someone from the College will contact you.

#### Home Testing for Parents and Carers

A reminder that parents and carers can access home testing kits for themselves for free:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees



- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, as this frees up home delivery for those who need it most.

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

### **Test and Trace Support Payment for Parents and Carers**

Parents and carers of children who have been advised to self-isolate by their education setting or by NHS Test and Trace are now able to apply for a [Test and Trace Support Payment](#) or discretionary payment of £500, if they meet the eligibility criteria. This is to ensure that eligible parents receive financial support if they are unable to attend work due to childcare responsibilities.

## **Learning and Progress**

### **Year 8 Pathways Process**

This is now well underway and we hope that the live event provided initial support on how the process will run.

Parents and carers are now able to book appointments for our **Year 8 Pathways Subject Information Evening** to speak with subject specialists on **Wednesday 14 April** between **4-7pm**. Using School Cloud, our web-based video calling system, you and your child will be able to ask questions face to face about the subjects that your child may be interested in studying at Key Stage 4.

For English and Maths, as they are core subjects, there will be an opportunity on this evening for parents and carers to book a slot with their child's teacher in order to get feedback on their progress in these subjects.

### **Use of Mobile Phones**

We need to remind parents and carers that we permit mobile phones to be brought into College on the understanding that this is at the owners own risk and that they are switched off and placed in bags when students arrive.

With the exception of Sixth Form, students are only then permitted to get their phones out of their bags if a class teacher asks them to use the phone as a learning tool.

Phones that are used during the day without permission will be confiscated.

Therefore, it is very important that parents and carers do not use mobile phones to communicate with students during the College day. If students are following the rules, they will not be accessing their phones. In turn, if a student does then access their phone, it is likely to be confiscated.

Should you need to get an urgent message to your child, please contact our main reception: 01536 720300. Rest assured, we will get this message to them.

## **Safeguarding**

### **Free School Meals: Easter Holiday Provision**

A reminder that Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) will be funding School Holiday Food Vouchers for all students who are eligible for Free School Meals, for the Easter Holiday period. All eligible students will receive one £30 voucher to cover the two-week holiday period. The voucher links were emailed on Thursday 25 March to parents of eligible students.

## Aiming High: Raising Aspirations and Expectations

### Your invitation to a UCAS/Discovery Day: 27 – 28 April

University? Apprenticeships? Gap Years? The world of work? There are a variety of different pathways your child can take after school or college but discovering the right option for them will take some research.



To support with this a UCAS/Discovery Day is taking place online on Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28 April from 10:00 – 18:00. From live sessions with guest speakers such as Youth Mental Health Ambassador Dr Alex George, to speaking directly with hundreds of universities, employers, current students and apprentices, to expert advice on things like personal statements, CVs, and student loans, there's something for everyone.

To save your virtual seats, please [register individually here](#). As students will be in College on this day, by registering, they will be able to access the sessions on demand in the evening.

## Enriching the Educational Experience and Celebrating Success



We are entering the exciting countdown to our Epraise Prize Draw. We are going to hold this on **Wednesday 14 April** to allow students this full week in school to earn Epraise points. Students can enter by visiting the Epraise website and logging in: [The Latimer Arts College | epraise.co.uk](http://The Latimer Arts College | epraise.co.uk) For as little as 3 Epraise points students could be in with a chance to win:

- A Signed Sean Dyche Football
- Amazon Vouchers
- STEAM Vouchers
- JD Sports Vouchers
- MAC Vouchers
- An Amazon Kindle
- A HP Chromebook



We would like to say well done to Rebecca Hayward who recently joined with members of Midlands Music Services' choir in a bid to raise £2,000 by singing the classic 'You Raise Me Up'. After seeing an appeal for singers on Facebook, Rebecca signed up for the choir to raise the sum for over 240 NHS charities in the UK and the NSPCC. A video of the performance can be viewed [here](#).

## Other News

### Dates for your Diary

***Please note that we have removed the Training Day that was scheduled for Monday 12 April. This will now be a teaching day and the Training Day will be on Monday 7 June.***

We have made this change to allow for an additional day of learning for Year 11 and 13. This will then help to create time for staff to conclude the process of completing Centre Assessed Grades for students in these year groups at the start of Term 6.

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Friday 26 March        | End of Term 4   |
| <b>Monday 12 April</b> | <b>Start of Term 5:</b> College re-opens to students<br><i>(This will be Week 1 on the timetable)</i> |
| Wednesday 14 April     | Year 8 Pathways Consultation Evening 4.00-7.00pm  |
| Monday 3 May           | Bank Holiday: College closed  |
| Friday 28 May          | End of Term 5   |
| Monday 7 June          | Training Day: College closed to students  |
| Tuesday 8 June         | Start of Term 6: College re-opens to students<br><i>(This will be Week 2 on the timetable)</i>        |
| <b>Friday 16 July</b>  | <b>End of Term 6</b>  |
| Monday 19 July         | Training Day: College closed to students  |
| Tuesday 20 July        | Training Day: College closed to students  |