



Follow us on Twitter @Latimercollege



LATIMER LATEST NEWS – 10 SEPTEMBER 2021

Welcome to our first newsletter of the new academic year. We use our newsletters as a key means of communication with parents and carers and they contain a lot of information and updates. Parents and carers often phone us to ask for information that has already been shared in the newsletters, so please do look out for them every other Friday!

It has been so wonderful welcoming back our students. It has been an emotional time for all of us and, as staff, we are very excited about being able to offer all students the experience of 'proper' life at Latimer as we start this academic year.

Over the summer, we undertook extensive renovations, with many classrooms being refurbished; we have a brand new roof on our Technology Learning Centre; our Learning Resource Centre has had all of its windows replaced; our Sixth Form students have increased IT accommodation to support them with their studies. And the old Science Learning Centre is almost fully demolished!

All of these improvements have been undertaken to provide our students with the best possible climate in which to learn, grow and thrive.

In the year ahead, we look forward to working in partnership with parents and carers so that we can support all students to be *the best that they can be*.

Regards

Siobhan Hearne
Principal

Updates on Covid-19 Protocols

Despite the move towards 'normality' in education, we are committed to doing all that we can to ensure that we keep our staff and students safe. Our current [Risk Assessment](#) can be accessed on our website. The key measures that we ask our students to adhere to are:

- To not enter the site if they are displaying symptoms of Covid-19
- To hand sanitise on entry and exit to all classrooms and eating areas
- To ensure that they have tissues (which are available in all classrooms) so that they can "Catch It. Bin It. Kill It".
- To wear a face mask where requested in the lessons of our staff who are considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable. These can be provided if necessary.
- To undertake twice weekly Lateral Flow Device tests at home on a Monday and Thursday morning.

In line with the latest health advice and wider government position, this now says that students are expected to continue to wear face coverings on public transport to and from school. This includes dedicated home to school transport.

Learning and Progress

Back to School and Ready to Learn!

A reminder that our start of the year [College Information Pack for Parents and Carers](#) contains key 'need to know' information so that your child is well-prepared for the academic year ahead.

In addition to this, we publish a [Sixth Form Student Guide](#) to support with those who are joining us for post-16 studies. This contains the key information in order to transition from Key Stage 4 to 5.

You can also view our [College Calendar](#) for details of forthcoming events.

'There is a power in people who dream big and work hard'

The countdown clock has begun to tick just that little bit faster now for our new Year 11 and 13 students. We will be doing all that we can to support them to fly over the next year. The question is: does your child have the resilience, determination and commitment to go for it? We certainly hope so!

In order to support you to support them we offer:

- **Year 11 Ace Your Exams:** We recognise the positive part that parental support can and does play in the success of their child. Therefore, we want to do all that we can to support our parents and carers. Thank you to those parents and carers who attended our Year 11 "Ace Your Exams" and Future Destinations Evening this week. For those unable to attend, the presentation will be available on the school website and a link will be sent to all parents and carers.
- **Ace Level 3 Evening:** We will be hosting an "Ace Level 3" Evening for parents and carers of our new Year 12 students on Thursday 16 September at 6pm. Please save the date and we look forward to sharing with you ways in which you might help support your child over the next two years. An email link will be sent to all Year 12 parents and carers in advance.

We also offer the following support for all students:

- **Homework:** Students will be issued with homework via Satchel:one from the start of term, with the exception of Year 7, who will be set homework from Monday 27 September, once they have been shown how to use the system.



Please use your parent log-in details to monitor their progress and encourage them to complete their homework on time. You can do this via the app or online.

Year 7 parents and carers will receive the log-in details for Satchel:one by the end of next week.

- **Accessing the Shared Area:** To access College files at home and to share resources that teachers have created, students can use the Home Access Plus website <https://hap.latimer.org.uk/HAP/myfiles/>
- **Accessing Office 365 for Free!** All students can acquire the suite of Office applications, including Access, for free. Details on how to install this on a home device are included with this newsletter. Please be aware that if the student requires MS Access, it can only be installed on a Windows device. There is no MAC version of Access.

Catching-up: Government Website for Parents and Carers to help their children

The Department for Education has launched an [information site](#) for parents and carers, to support children of all age ranges and abilities to catch up on learning lost due to the pandemic. The site also features advice and support for parents and carers of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Safeguarding

Contacting You: As we start the new academic year, it is vital that we have up to date information about each student. Your child will be issued with a 'Personal Details' sheet for you to check and sign during week commencing 13 September. When completing this form, please ensure you provide us with at least 2 relevant and up to date contacts. Can we please ask that those of you who have provided us details in the past check carefully that these details are still correct. It is important we have the right details if we need to contact you in an emergency.

Contacting Us: We need to remind you that should you need to make urgent contact with your child during the College day, this should be done by contacting Student Services Reception. It is not helpful if parents and carers contact their child during the school day via text messaging or calls to a mobile as we will confiscate mobile phones if seen and students will be placed in our daily detention.

Allergies: We are aware that we have students who have severe nut allergies. Whilst we understand that many food products have some elements of nut based ingredients in them, we would be really grateful if you could avoid giving your child obvious nut based products in their packed lunches.

For those parents and carers who are providing packed lunches, we ask for your support as we remind you that fizzy drinks and energy drinks are not permitted.

In order to ensure that we are aware of all food related allergies and intolerances or religious dietary requirements Year 7 parents were emailed a form to complete during the summer break. Can we ask that if you have not returned this form to let us know of any food allergies as a matter of urgency.

For students in other year groups, if your child has developed any allergies in the last year, please request a copy of this form from our Student Services Manager, Mrs Love: jlove@latimer.org.uk. Could you please return these forms either electronically or by hard copy to Mrs Love in the Student Services office or by email to jlove@latimer.org.uk.

Enriching the Educational Experience and Celebrating Success

Feeling Part of 'Team Latimer'

Year 7 and Year 8 Team Event

We are delighted to be hosting a team-building event for Year 7 and Year 8 on Tuesday 14 September. During their morning or afternoon session, students will take part in fast paced, challenging activities that will help to develop a variety of skills including communication, problem solving and negotiation.

Students will receive a briefing with all details about the day.

On this day, students will not need to wear school uniform. We do ask that they dress in suitable clothing: PE kit or sportswear and trainers will be ideal but we also ask that if the weather is forecast to be cooler, that they have warm outdoor clothing, with a waterproof coat if necessary. It can sometimes be chilly on the field!

Year 8 students will take part in the morning and Year 7 in the afternoon. So that we can make the most of the sessions, students will have shorter breaks on this day. They may wish to bring a snack for break. They will have a shorter lunchtime where they can bring a packed lunch or purchase food from our restaurant.



We ended the summer with our bumper Epraise draw with our congratulations going to Tayelon Head who won the Samsung Galaxy Tablet and Joseph Coop who won the Fitbit Charge. There were many other prize winners.

There were enough Epraise points awarded last year for us to have over 20,000 entries to the draw! And 4 students managed to break the 1000 points mark!

But this year, we want to be even bigger and better!

And so, as we begin a new academic year for those parents and carers new to the system, or as a reminder to those who may have forgotten, the website address is: <https://www.epraise.co.uk/> Parents and carers are able to see how their child is doing by creating their own account, which can be done by following the website link, selecting the 'Parents' tab and then using the email address the school holds on record for you to set up a password and log in.

If you need any help and support with this, please contact your child's form tutor who will be happy to help.

A Future Olympian...



We are very proud to be able to congratulate Zac Scott on winning the U13 1500m Northants County Championships. He ran it in 5:05:05, which was a PB as well. Well done, Zac!

Have fun and get fit!

We are delighted to be able to relaunch a full programme of after school sporting activities and we would encourage parents and carers to encourage their child to attend and to come along and have some fun. PE clubs are open to all students, no matter what ability level. The clubs will run from 3.00pm until 4.15pm.

We are also pleased to be able to announce that fixtures against other schools will also take place this year for selected students. These students will be notified in advance if they have been selected and given any additional information about return/finish times.

DAY/DATE	PE CLUBS	MATCHES
Monday 13 September	Year 7 Basketball – Boys and Girls Year 8 Basketball – Boys and Girls	
Tuesday 14 September	Year 9 Netball – Girls Year 10 Basketball – Boys Year 11 Netball – Girls Year 11 Basketball – Boys Sixth Form Netball - Girls	Year 10 Girls Netball @ Bishop Stopford
Wednesday 15 September	Year 7 Football – Girls Year 7 Rugby – Boys Year 8 Football – Girls Year 8 Rugby – Boys Year 9 Rugby - Boys	Year 11 Boys Futsal Tournament @ KLV
Thursday 16 September	Year 9 Basketball – Girls Year 10 Basketball - Girls	Year 10 Boys football vs KBA @ Latimer Year 11 Boys Football vs KBA @ KBA
Friday 17 September	Year 9 Badminton – Boys and Girls	
Monday 20 September	Year 7 Basketball – Boys and Girls Year 8 Basketball – Boys and Girls	
Tuesday 21 September	Year 10 Netball – Girls Year 10 Basketball – Boys Year 11 Basketball – Boys	Year 9 Girls Netball @ Bishop Stopford Year 11 Girls Netball @ Bishop Stopford Sixth Form Girls Netball @ Bishop Stopford
Wednesday 22 September	Year 7 Rugby – Boys Year 8 Rugby – Boys Year 9 Rugby - Boys	Year 7 Girls Football @ KBA Year 8 Girls Football @ KBA Year 11 Boys Football County Cup vs Wootton @ Latimer
Thursday 23 September	Year 9 Hockey – Girls Year 10 Hockey - Girls	Year 10 Boys football vs Bishop Stopford @ Bishop Year 11 Boys Football vs Bishop Stopford @ Latimer
Friday 24 September	Year 9 Badminton – Boys and Girls	

Enriching Lives Through the Performing Arts

We are also delighted to be able to offer an extensive range of performing arts enrichment activities. Some of these will take place at lunchtimes and some after school. There is something here for everyone so please do encourage your child to come along and take part. As with the PE activities, there are a range of clubs that any student is welcome to attend.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<u>MUSIC</u>	<p><u>'Picks and Strings'</u> (Guitar Rock Group)</p> <p>Open to guitarists/bassists/drummers/lead singers. Come and join in!</p> <p>Mu1 3.15-4.00pm</p> <p><u>'Wings'</u> (Girls Harmony Singing Group)</p> <p>Want to improve your singing and learn to sing in harmony? Come along!</p> <p>Mu2 3.15-4.00pm</p>	<p><u>GCSE Coursework Clinic</u></p> <p>Get some 1 to 1 tuition and improve your grade.</p> <p>Mu1 and Mu2 3.00-4.00pm</p>	<p><u>Year 7 Lunchtime Singing Group</u></p> <p>If you like singing, come along!</p> <p>Hu6 11.50am-12.15pm</p> <p><u>Concert Band/Jazz Band</u></p> <p>Open to all instrumentalists in the College. Do you play an instrument? Come along and have a go! Woodwind, brass, strings, percussion, piano etc. Come and learn to get better at your instrument and play great music with others.</p> <p>Mu2 3.15-4.00pm</p>	<p><u>Boys Vocal Group</u></p> <p>Boys from year 7 to year 13. Do you enjoy singing? Come along, have a go, and make friends! It's fun!</p> <p>Mu1 3.15-4.00pm</p> <p><u>'Vocal Ensemble'</u></p> <p>Auditioning female harmony singing group. (You have to be a member of Wings to audition for this group)</p> <p>Mu2 3.15-4.15pm</p>
<u>DRAMA</u>	<p><u>Year 11 Drama Rehearsal</u></p> <p>Rehearse your GCSE performances with your group. Book with your teachers in class/via email.</p> <p>Dr1/Masque 3.00-4.15pm</p>	<p><u>Year 11 Drama Rehearsal</u></p> <p>Rehearse your GCSE performances with your group. Book with your teachers in class/via email.</p> <p>Dr1/Masque 3.00-4.15pm</p>	<p><u>Lunchtime GCSE Coursework Clinic</u></p> <p>Get some 1 to 1 tuition for your coursework/exam and improve your grade.</p> <p>Da2 12.25-1.00pm</p> <p><u>Year 11 Drama Rehearsal</u></p> <p>Rehearse your GCSE performances with your group. Book with your teachers in class/via email.</p> <p>Dr1/Masque 3.00-4.15pm</p>	<p><u>Year 11 Drama Rehearsal</u></p> <p>Rehearse your GCSE performances with your group. Book with your teachers in class/via email.</p> <p>Dr1/Masque 3.00-4.15pm</p>

<u>DANCE</u>	<u>Senior Dance Company</u> Year 9, 10 and 11 Da2 3.15-4.00pm	<u>Street Dance</u> Year 7 and 8 Da2 3.15-4.00pm	<u>Junior Dance Company</u> Auditioned group for Year 7 and 8 Da2 3.15-4.00pm	<u>Coursework Clinic</u> Get 1 to 1 help and improve your Dance GCSE grade. Da2 3.15-4.00pm
---------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Other News and Information

Cashless Catering

We are now offering a full catering service to all students at breakfast, break and lunchtime.

Students are **no longer able** to add money to their accounts in school as we no longer have the cash machines. Therefore, all monies for food purchases will need to be added to accounts using [School Gateway](#), details of which can be accessed on our website or in the [College Information Pack for Parents and Carers 2021-2022](#). If any parents or carers have difficulties accessing School Gateway, please contact our Student Services Manager, Mrs Love: jlove@latimer.org.uk

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 music tuition, school trips or other out of school activities, or there could be help to allow your child to continue into the Sixth Form.

If you want your child to have a free, healthy meal at lunchtime that's great – they will get the free meal (saving you more than £400 a year). Even if you don't 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.

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.

Tuesday 14 September	Year 7 and Year 8 Team Building Event
Thursday 16 September	Year 12 Ace Level 3 Evening, 6.00 pm (Virtual)
Thursday 7 October	Year 6 Open Evening (Virtual)
Friday 22 October	End of Term 1
Monday 1 November	Start of Term 2: College re-opens to students <i>This will be Week 1 on the timetable</i>
	Key Stage 5 Pathways Fortnight commences (Year 11) (ends Friday 12 November)
Tuesday 2 November	Year 7/9/12/13 Wellbeing and Personal Development Feedback Calls, from 4.30pm
Thursday 18 November	Year 8/10 Wellbeing and Personal Development Feedback Calls, from 4.30pm
Monday 22 November	Year 11 and Year 13 Mock Exams commence (ends Thursday 2 December)
Friday 3 December	Training Day: College closed to students
Thursday 9 December	Christmas Music Concert, 7.30pm
Friday 17 December	End of Term 2