



**Unlocking Potential – Inspiring Excellence**  
**Latimer Latest Updates: 13 January 2023**



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**New Year Message from Mrs Murphy, Principal Designate**

It was a great privilege to be able to visit the College last week to introduce myself to all year groups during assemblies, when the students returned to learning. I was able to outline my leadership experience, having worked in comprehensive education in Northampton and Wellingborough for over 20 years. As part of this, I was an Interim Principal during the pandemic.

I was absolutely delighted to meet students and staff and get to know my way around.

Over the coming months, I will be working closely with the leadership team and governing body to ensure a smooth handover, before taking up the role of Principal in April. I very much look forward to meeting parents and carers and supporters of The Latimer Arts College later in the year.

Regards  
Mrs Kathryn Murphy

**Learning and Progress**

**Ready to Learn: Ready to Succeed!**

We ask for parent and carer support with the following:

- The College requires every student to attend punctually every school day: this means allowing time so that mishaps in the morning do not affect punctual arrival at school. It is a parent or carer's responsibility to ensure that their child gets organised for school in good time the night before and that they have a good night's sleep so that they are not tired in the morning. Sleep is the time for restoration and for children's bodies to recharge and retain the information they have learned throughout the day.

Lateness can be damaging to a student's progress. Our Attendance and Punctuality monitoring procedures are designed to proactively work in partnership with parents and carers. However, where expectations are not being met, referrals will be made to external agencies in order to bring about improvements.

- Please ensure that your child does not bring chewing gum into College. We have invested significant amounts of money and time to improve the learning environment for our students. Irresponsibly discarded chewing gum causes so much damage and looks unsightly.
- Please ensure that your child wears a coat and leaves anything that resembles a sports top or hoodie at home, as these are not permitted and will be confiscated. Financial support can be provided for some families if necessary in order to purchase a suitable coat. Please contact us: [mail@latimer.org.uk](mailto:mail@latimer.org.uk)



## Ace Your Exams: Year 11 and 13 Post-Mock Actions

65  
school  
days

Students have now received their mock exam results. We asked students to use these to reflect on how well they are prepared for the exams, which are less than 15 weeks away. The key message following this is that no matter what a student achieved, their future grades are not yet set in stone and are still very much in their own hands. To support students in these year groups:

- We are arranging further study skills sessions
- We will be planning more mock assessments to support them to be fully prepared for the summer exams
- We are also undertaking 1:1 meetings with Year 11s to discuss the next stages of their education
- Year 11 students have been issued with a range of revision guides and Year 13 students can access revision guides in the Sixth Form Centre.
- Year 13 are being supported with their UCAS and Apprenticeship applications
- A range of support can be found on our exams support page [here](#) – this includes access to revision calendars with exam dates for the summer on them to help schedule revision now!

Following the Year 11 SPRE, if you were unable to secure a careers appointment but would still like one with our independent Careers Adviser, Mrs Nicola Stanbridge, please email [careers@latimer.org.uk](mailto:careers@latimer.org.uk).

For parents of Year 12 and 13, we urge parents and carers to make appointments for the Sixth Form SPRE on **Tuesday 24 January**. This will provide subject staff with the opportunity to share the priority areas of focus for your child in the lead up to their summer examinations.

Year 11 students can also access our **online resources**:



Students can sign up for FREE at [www.gcsepod.com](http://www.gcsepod.com) using their College email account. Podcasts can be streamed or downloaded on PC, Android or IOS. Email [ithelpdesk@latimer.org.uk](mailto:ithelpdesk@latimer.org.uk) if you require any assistance when using GCSEPod.



Tassomai makes learning and revising for GCSE Science effective and straightforward. Simply log in regularly and complete the assignments at the top of the list. The mission is simple - keep the pace of progress up to the speed prescribed - a task that requires a few minutes of attention each day. Website: [www.tassomai.com](http://www.tassomai.com)



Vocab Express is an online vocab learning application that has been set up to support students with learning their French vocabulary, which is vital to examination success. Students should access this daily.



Seneca is free for students to use. It will present them with key information and then test them on it in various ways. Some staff are setting revision activities through this.



Quizlet allows students to create their own quizzes, flash cards and other revision material for free. They can then print these off or save them to re-use. Students can also access other people's revision material on the site.

## Aspire: Homework Support Service for All

Completing homework helps to develop strong study habits and independent learning skills. Research shows that homework also benefits with broadening knowledge and problem-solving skills.

'Aspire' is our homework support service which any student is welcome to attend. It runs from 3pm to 4pm in the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Staff are on hand to support with homework, students can access a wide range of resources and refreshments are provided.

Please contact Mrs Giacobbe [LGiacobbe@latimer.org.uk](mailto:LGiacobbe@latimer.org.uk) if you would like your child to attend.

## Supporting School Improvement: Parent and Carers Forum

Our Parent and Carers Forum is an opportunity for you to support continued school improvement and share thoughts on agenda items and suggestions for future meetings.

Our next Forum is Tuesday 31 January when our agenda items will be Assessment and Reporting and we will have a visit from the Northamptonshire Mental Health Team to raise awareness of support they have to offer. We look forward to seeing you there at 6pm in Music Room 2 in the Masque Theatre.

If you have any questions, please email Ms Pankhania, Assistant Principal: [JPankhania@latimer.org.uk](mailto:JPankhania@latimer.org.uk)

## Safeguarding and Well-Being

### Tips to support your child to stay safe online

As part of our continued programme of education around safeguarding we have been focusing on online safety. As a parent or carer, you can play a key role by supporting us to ensure that your child:

1. Sets their profiles to private, to limit what others can see.
2. Is careful about talking to people they do not know and trust in real life – anyone can pretend to be a child online.
3. Does not give away personal information, such as what street they live on or where they go to school, or share your location with them.
4. Thinks carefully about what information they share and with whom. They must say no to any requests to send images or videos of themselves.
5. Is fully aware that it is **illegal** to take, share or view sexual images of under-18s.

Don't feel confident starting a conversation with your child about what they're up to online? Read this advice from the NSPCC: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety>

## Aiming High: Raising Aspirations and Expectations

### Subject Matters: Choosing A-Level Subjects

If you are a parent of a student who is starting to consider their post-16 options, then use this [link](#) to sign up to a talk by Lucy Cavendish, from the University of Cambridge, who outlines how to choose appropriate A-Level subjects for selective universities who often require applicants to have qualifications in certain subjects, or combinations of subjects, because they prepare students more effectively for degree courses.



### Year 7 Dragons' Den: Raising Aspirations Event

We are very excited about the Year 7 Dragons' Den event, which will take place this term as part of the College's Careers Programme. This will be a fun and engaging all-day event which will help students develop their LORIC, team building and entrepreneurial skills. Working in groups, students will be tasked with developing and marketing a product, looking at Product Design, Packaging Design, Finance, Marketing and Advertising.

Students will work in groups with each group being supported by a local Business Partner who will share their expertise with the students. Companies taking part this year include: Tollers Solicitors, Aspire Higher, Skanska, Bliss Garden Design and VMT Ltd among others.

The students will present their completed group product to the 'Dragons' (VIPs from the local community and business sector) in the afternoon: Paul Watts (CBRE), Andy Rogers (Frogmore Estates), Greg Morris (Spencer Ogden) and Wayne Southern (First Reaction Security).

In previous years, students have produced some truly innovative ideas, supported by lively and engaging pitches. We know the Year 7s will rise to the challenge and we cannot wait to see what the students will design!

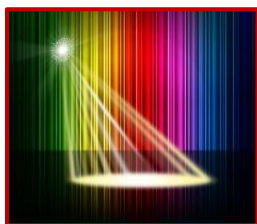
## Enriching the Educational Experience and Celebrating Success



We are delighted that the value of reading is recognised by our students. We currently have 10 millionaire readers, with Kyra Owen having now read over 3 million words; Year 7 have read **31,893,523** words; and Year 8 have read **22,241,844**.

We ask all parents and carers to encourage their child to read for pleasure: the rewards are priceless!

### Spotlight on Enrichment



Welcome to our regular update on enrichment activities across the College. This week we would like to promote our **Seasonal Craft Club**:

Throughout Terms 1 and 2, our **Seasonal Craft Club** has been a great success. Maths teachers Mrs Twiddy and Mrs Strudwick swapped algebra for something of a much craftier nature, leading students in a number of different activities including making fabric pumpkins, Christmas gnomes, garlands and more. Crafting is a brilliant mindfulness activity and a great stress-reliever. Students have been able to learn new skills, make friends and have something exciting to take home at the end of each project.

**Seasonal Craft Club** will be back in Term 4, for an egg-citing Easter-themed project!

Following a successful end to 2022, our clubs and enrichment opportunities are back for Term 3. Please click the [link](#) to see what is on offer for your children and encourage them to come along and try out new things.

### Other News

#### Come and Join Team Latimer!

There are so many benefits to working in a school – the pride that you feel in playing a part in supporting young people on their educational journey is indescribable! And so many of our staff have children at the College.

We welcome applications from parents and carers to join our non-teaching team. Please visit our [Vacancies](#) page to see what opportunities there currently are.

#### 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.

Wednesday 18 January	Year 7 Dragons' Den Activity
Tuesday 24 January	Sixth Form SPRE, 4.30-7.45pm
Tuesday 31 January	Parent Forum, 6.00pm
Wednesday 1 February	Maths Challenge: Years 9 and 10
Thursday 2 February	College Dance Show, 7.00pm
Tuesday 7 February	Year 11 Poetry Trip (TBC)
Friday 10 February	End of Term 3
Monday 20 February	Start of Term 4: College re-opens to students ( <i>This will be Week 1 on the timetable</i> )

**Please note that in order to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III, there will be an additional bank holiday on Monday 8 May 2023. The College will therefore be closed on this day.**