



Follow us on Twitter @Latimercollege

## Latimer Community Weekly Newsletter

Friday 5 March 2021



Dear Parents and Carers

Well, after what seems like forever, suddenly the time to welcome our students back has arrived.

Our staff are in College today preparing for the re-opening and there is a real buzz of energy and excitement.

There is a lot of talk in the media about catch-up, summer schools and extended hours. However, what our children need on their return, in the first instance, is care and support. I have always said that a child who feels safe and happy will thrive and academic success will follow. I truly believe this! Therefore, our priority on their return is to support our students' well-being and to do all that we can to reassure them. The rest will follow in time...

We appreciate that we have issued a lot of information to you and so we have kept this newsletter short, with just a few final updates ready for next week.

Please do take the time to carefully read through these and the other documents that we have published this week, all of which can be accessed on our [website](#), so that your child is comfortable as they return.

We look forward to next week (and we will be thinking about you over the weekend as you try to get them to bed early – good luck!)

Regards  
Siobhan Hearne  
Principal

### March Restart Updates

#### Testing Round 1 Arrangements

Students attending their first test next week **do not** need to be in uniform.

All students **do** need to be in full uniform as their year groups return to onsite learning on the day following their first test.

For safeguarding reasons, as we have students on site next week (and increasing numbers as the week progresses) our gates will only be open at their normal times, up to 8.25am and at 2.55pm. Therefore, any student arriving for a test after 8.30am will need to use the main Castle Way entrance.

Parents and carers can drive on site to drop off their child and wait whilst they have their test, but they must remain in the car and will not be permitted to enter our Test Centre. We will try to leave car parking bays nearest the main gates free for parent and carer parking.

#### Year 11 and Sixth Form Tutor Groups

In order to support our Year 11, 12 and 13 students on their return we have made some alterations to tutor groups. We hope that these changes will support our learners to focus on their individual needs on their return:

- Year 11 students have been allocated tutors to support with additional English and Maths tuition
- Year 12 and 13 students will continue to have their main tutor on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday and will have specific sessions with a dedicated tutor on Tuesday and Thursdays. This support will be based around their future destination choices and targeted intervention.

We will talk students through the changes on their return.

## Home Testing for Parents and Carers

**Please see below information that has been published by the Department for Education:**

Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles. Tests are fast, easy and completely free.

There are [different ways](#) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- 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, 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.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

## Calendar Updates: Dates for your Diary

We apologise that our calendar has been very fluid this year as we have had to be responsive and shuffle dates as the context in which we are operating has changed.

Please see below key dates for Term 4 and the start of Term 5.

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 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.

Monday 8 March	Years 11, 12 and 13 Assisted Testing
Tuesday 9 March	Years 9 and 10 Assisted Testing Years 11,12 and 13 return to onsite learning
Wednesday 10 March	Years 7 and 8 Assisted Testing Years 9 and 10 return to onsite learning
Thursday 11 March	Years 7 and 8 return to onsite learning All year groups now returned
Friday 12 March – Friday 19 March	Assisted Testing Programme Continues (Tests 2 and 3)
Tuesday 16 March	Year 8 Virtual Pathways Showcase 6pm
Friday 26 March	End of Term 4
Monday 12 April	Start of Term 5 (Week 1 on the Timetable)
Wednesday 14 April	Year 8 Pathways Consultation Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm