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LATIMER LATEST NEWS – 11 FEBRUARY 2022

Term 4 Arrangements

The College closes to students today for the half term break. It will re-open on Monday 21 February. Students should arrive before 8.25am, when the gates will be closed. This will be Week 2 on the timetable.

We would be grateful if parents and carers can support us with a purposeful start to the term by reviewing the uniform information below and also ensuring that jewellery is left at home and nail varnish, nail extensions etc, are removed before students come back.

Covid-19 Updates

Rising Infection Rates: Please keep up twice weekly LFD testing

It would appear that infection rates are on the rise again in schools. Thankfully, we do not currently find ourselves in the position of having to send students home due to insufficient staffing levels, as has unfortunately been the case in some schools locally.

However, we do need your support to maintain this position. Therefore, we strongly urge you to ensure that your child is testing twice per week using the LFD test kits provided by the College so that we can break the chain of community transmission, particularly when we return after the half term break.

Please can we remind you of the importance of reporting all tests results (positive, negative and void) to NHS Test and Trace.

Please can we also remind you that the current 'rules' are that from Day 5 of a confirmed infection, LFD tests can be taken and if there are two days of consecutive negative tests, then a student can return to school. We recommend that the tests are taken in the morning, so that once the second negative test is achieved, a student can return on that school day.

Remote Learning

A reminder that if your child does have to be off school due to COVID-19 and is well enough to work, then they should check both their school email account and Satchel:one for work and homework to complete whilst they are off. Once they have finished their isolation, we would be grateful if they could complete the survey sent to them about the remote work they were provided with, which can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3uAagor>

Learning and Progress

Summer 2022 Public Examinations Update: A goal without a plan is just a wish!

We know that the last two years have been hard for students, which is why it is important that students in Years 11 and 13 start planning now and use the remaining few weeks wisely in the build up to the Summer Examination season.

Years 11, 12 and 13 have received support for their study skills in the form of workshops from 'Positively:You'. The key messages were:

- It is time to start revision now
- Revision needs to be organised and planned – focussing on the hard stuff and not just the easy stuff!
- It is important to train your whole body – not just your brain to get ready for exams

Parents have been emailed with an electronic copy of March Mock Exam timetables and will shortly receive their provisional summer exam timetables.

We have also now received from exam boards the most recent update about how exams will be modified in light of the pandemic for this summer. This takes the form of advanced topic information. Not all subjects have this information as other adjustments will have already been made. Staff will take time to consider this new information and will support students moving forwards.

JCQ, the organisation which takes an overview of all exams, has produced a factsheet and a set of FAQs aimed for students, and these are included with this newsletter.

Working in Partnership: Year 10 Student Progress Review Evening (SPRE)

We would like to invite parents and carers of students in Year 10 to join our 'virtual' SPRE on Wednesday 2 March, from 4.30pm. Details will be published soon about how to make appointments using our web-based system, School Cloud.

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSE)

As a College, we are committed to supporting our students to grow as people through a strong Personal Development Programme (PDP) centred around PSHE and RSE. Our programme has been specifically designed to meet the statutory requirements, in compliance with the PSHE Association framework, with age appropriate learning.

Our aim is to communicate to parents and carers the topics that each year group will study for any given term so that you can explore these with your child. Please see below the topics for Term 4:

	7	8	9	10	11
Subject	PSHE	PSHE	Careers and Raising Aspirations	PSHE	PSHE
Theme	Staying Safe Online and Offline	Relationships and Sex Education	Life Beyond School	Relationships and Sex Education	Health and Wellbeing
Unit	Staying Safe Online and Offline	Identity, Relationships and Sex Education	Essential Life Skills	Exploring Relationships and Sex Education	Adult Health and Looking After Yourself

Safeguarding

The things I wish my parents had known...about online sexual harassment

The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza DBE, has recently published a [guidance document](#) for parents and carers helping to support you to understand online sexual harassment. It is a sensitive topic, and not one all parents/carers feel comfortable discussing with their children.

The Commissioner's team brought together a group of 16-21 year olds and asked them to talk about what they think parents/carers should know, and what they should say to their children when talking about sexualised bullying and the pressures of growing up online.

Key advice from the young adults in the focus groups included:

- Start conversations early, before your child gets a phone or social media account. Keep the conversation going over time, adapting to your child.
- Young people want their parents to learn about new technology and trends, including risky behaviours and dangerous spaces online.

- Create a safe and trusting home environment. Young people said that the home environment is key, they want to share things with their parents but don't always feel able to.

Scan, Swipe and Swap your way to better health!

At the College, we frequently educate students about healthier habits, sharing current trends and news. We explore what a balanced diet looks like and why it is important to know what is in our food and drink, and then making simple, healthier eating swaps to support our well-being.

Better Health have developed a FREE Food Scanner app: by simply scanning and swiping barcodes, the app shows how much saturated fat, salt and sugar is in everyday foods and drinks and gives suggestions for healthier alternatives. A fun augmented reality feature helps you celebrate your good choices.

By making a few easy swaps, you can make a real difference to your child's health. Download the Food Scanner app on the [Apple app store](#) or [Google Play store](#)



Aiming High: Raising Aspirations and Expectations

Opportunities for All: National Apprenticeship Week

As National Apprenticeship Week takes place, this is a timely reminder that apprenticeships offer some great opportunities to train in the workplace – to earn and to learn – in a wide range of sectors. This could include occupations such as business, engineering, IT, healthcare and construction, as well as sport, retail, hospitality, animal care and creative professions – the list is endless!

There are also opportunities at different levels, from Level 2 right through to degree level (Level 6), and these higher-level opportunities can be an attractive option for some Sixth Form students as an alternative to full-time university courses.

If your child wants to investigate the full range of apprenticeship options, then please encourage them to visit the national apprenticeship site: findanapprenticeship.gov.uk

If they fancy looking at the more unusual and obscure options, then we suggest they take a look at the [studential.com](https://www.studential.com) website and the top 20 unusual apprenticeships you have never heard of. From chocolatier to equine dentist – there is something for everyone! There are no upper age limits for apprenticeships, so it is never too late to give something new a try...

Useful Links:

- [Real Apprenticeship Stories](#)
- [Apprenticeships - Subject Snapshots](#)
- [Apprenticeships Resources for Parents and Carers](#)
- [Register now - Google apprenticeships parents' insight webinar \(mailchi.mp\)](#)
- [Happy National Apprenticeship Week! \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

Enriching the Educational Experience and Celebrating Success



As we end Term 3 we would like to say massive congratulations to our 'Top 10' Epraise earners for this term: Amelia Platt, Thomas Keen, Isaac Dellet (Year 7), Ted Coles, Gemma Cox, Harrison Branch (Year 8), Cory Thurland (Year 9), Alana Toms, Maisie Morris (Year 10) and Cory Ives (Year 11).

We would also like to remind you that our Easter epraise prize draw is live in the 'Rewards' section of the Epraise website, where students have the opportunity to enter the draw to win a laptop, vouchers or chocolates (just in time for Easter!). The more points that students have, the more opportunities they have to enter and so we would ask that you encourage your child to work hard and make positive contributions to College life over the course of Term 4.

Shining in the Spotlight Once Again

It was such a privilege to host our College Dance Show - the first in two years! It was a joy to see students back on stage performing and with a live audience! The students involved worked so hard to bring the show together, rehearsing every lunchtime and after school, and it paid off. This was a real team effort. They were magnificent and put their heart and soul into each and every performance. We would like to say a big thank you and well done to all who contributed to this community event.



Sharing More Sporting Success

We have continued to see participation in sporting activities remain high over this term. We have also seen high success in our competitive sporting events and would like to congratulate all those who have represented the College. Most recently:

- Our Year 8 Girls' Hockey team won all of their matches in the mini-tournament held at Prince William School
- Our Year 9 Boys' Basketball team had a triumphant win over Montsaye Academy 50-10
- Our Year 9 Boys' Futsal team won the Kettering District tournament

Congratulations to Evie Brooker who competed in the Anglian Schools Cross Country at the weekend in Ipswich. Evie finished 7th in her race and qualified for English Schools representing Northampton County at the next race. This is an outstanding achievement!

Other News

Thank a Member of Staff



A reminder that you can nominate any member of staff at the College for the '*Unsung Hero*' award as part of the [2022 Pearson National Teaching Awards](#).

This particular award is the only one that is open to students, parents and carers to make nominations to honour everyday heroes. Any member of staff working at the College can be nominated. Details of how to do this can be accessed on the awards' website.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in PE Lessons

In line with the Safe Practice in Physical Education, School Sport and Physical Activity (PESSPA) guidance, we **strongly advise** that the following Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is worn by students when undertaking the following sports in their PE lessons, as semi-competitive matches, and therefore contact, may take place:

- **Football, Hockey and Futsal:** Shin pads
- **Rugby:** Mouth guard

In line with this guidance, should you wish your child to wear PPE, it is **parental responsibility** to provide it. Whilst we may have a small supply of spare PPE for any given sport, we are not in a position to guarantee its availability each lesson.

We would recommend that parents and carers ensure that any PPE that is purchased meets the British Standards Institute (BSI) and European (EN) standards.

To support parents and carers with information about when PPE may be needed, we will publish the annual programme of termly PE activities for each year group on our [website](#). If there is to be a change of activity during a term and PPE may be required, we will send a text message to notify parents and carers of this change.

Uniform Reminder: Policy on Hooded Tops

Unfortunately, we are seeing an increase in students wearing hooded/sports tops as an alternative to coats. We do need to remind parents and carers that these are not permitted. It is likely that students are choosing to wear these tops, and also likely that they are reassuring parents and carers that they are allowed. However, this is not the case:



‘Coats: *Should students wish to wear an outdoor jacket or coat to College, please be mindful that these should support the business-like College policy. Coats should be of a plain colour and not emblazoned with badges, printed slogans or pictures. Jackets should not be casual, for example denim, leather, tracksuit/sports jackets, hooded tops, sweatshirts, non-College jumpers or cardigans.’*

From the start of Term 4, ***please can you remind your child that if they are wearing an ‘informal’ jacket, this will be confiscated.***

Should any parents or carers need financial support to purchase a suitable coat, please do contact Ms Pankhania, Assistant Principal, to discuss this further: jpankhanian@latimer.org.uk

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.

Friday 11 February	End of Term 3
Monday 21 February	Start of Term 4: College re-opens to students <i>This will be Week 2 on the timetable</i>
Tuesday 1 March	Year 11 and 13 Photographs
Wednesday 2 March	Year 9 Booster Vaccinations (subject to final confirmation)
Wednesday 2 March	Year 10 SPRE, 4.30-7.45pm
Monday 14 March	Year 11 and Year 13 Mock Exams 2 commence (ends 25 March)
Wednesday 16 March	Year 7 SPRE, 4.30-7.45pm
Tuesday 29 March	Year 8 Pathways Showcase, 5.30pm
Friday 1 April	Spring Music Concert, 7.00pm
Thursday 7 April	End of Term 4
Friday 8 April	Training Day: College closed to students