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LATIMER LATEST NEWS – 24 SEPTEMBER 2021

Open Evening 2021 Arrangements

The governing body at The Latimer Arts College places the safety and well-being of its students and staff at the heart of all that it does. It is for this reason that a decision has been taken to amend the Open Evening process for this academic year.

With rising infection rates locally, we have a moral duty to minimise risk for all in our community. Therefore, it would be remiss of us to have high numbers of members of the public on site all at the same time.

However, we are keen to support parents and carers with the decision making process for school places for Year 7 in 2022 and we are very proud of the learning experiences that The Latimer Arts College offers and we want to showcase these to our community.

With this in mind, we plan to offer a range of alternative opportunities that include: a 'live' stream of the Principal's Presentation and small, carefully managed tours throughout the College day. All details of these and a range of other information can be accessed via our [website](#).

Covid-19 Updates

Monitoring Community Infection Rates

There was an inevitability that with schools returning, that both locally and nationally we would see a rise in infection rates. We are doing all that we can to keep our students safe:

- We are currently recommending the wearing of face masks in communal areas such as corridors and indoor eating areas
- Hand sanitising continues throughout the day
- We are ventilating classrooms and corridors
- Students have access to tissues so that they can Catch It. Bin It. Kill It.
- A reminder that those who travel on both provided school transport and the commercial bus service should be wearing face masks at this time.

Parents and carers can help by:

- Ensuring that your child does not attend school if they are displaying Covid-19 symptoms
 - Taking your child for a PCR test if it is advised to by Test and Trace
 - Ensuring that your child undertakes the twice weekly Lateral Flow Device testing
- Please note that the government has extended the recommendation that testing continues for the rest of Term 1 at least. We are issuing students with more test kits. Please can you ensure that they remove them from the bottom of this bags! Note – lateral flow tests should not be done within 90 days of a positive covid test due to the likelihood of false positive results

Covid-19 Vaccinations for 12-15 year olds: Clarification of the College's Position

You may be aware that the government are launching a programme to vaccinate children who are between the ages of 12-15. We would like to clarify the following:

The role of the College in this process is an entirely neutral one: we are simply providing a space in which the programme can be administered.

The programme will be delivered by an NHS commissioned School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS) team.

Legal accountability for offering Covid-19 vaccines to children and young people sits with the SAIS and not with the College.

The College will not be responsible for securing parental or child consent nor for mediating between parents and carers and children who may disagree about whether or not to consent.

The College can reassure parents that if a child does not have parental consent and the child does not want to get the vaccine, they will not receive it.

The College will not engage directly with threatening letters, but will simply acknowledge receipt if a response is needed.

Learning and Progress

'Within our dreams and aspirations, we find our opportunities': Supporting You to Support Your Child to embrace the opportunities that they have!

We are passionate about working in partnership with parents and carers to support the success of each individual student. We recognise that we need to provide some foundations for learning in order to make this happen, so we would like parents and carers to be aware of:

- **Satchel:one** This is our online platform for not only publishing the homework that students have been set but also for uploading learning resources and setting quizzes and activities to support students with retention and retrieval of knowledge.



Please use your parent log-in details to monitor their progress and encourage them to complete their homework on time. This really is quick and easy to do via the app or online.

- **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/>. Again, this provides access to a range of learning resources that students have accessed in lessons and may help them with their home learning and revision for assessments and tests.
- **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.
- **Revision Guides:** All Year 11 students have been provided with a range of revision guides to support the preparation for their examinations next year. We aim to extend the provision of revision guides to other year groups across the College over the next few weeks. It really is never too early to start the preparation!
- **Year 11 Ace Your Exams:** A reminder that we hosted a virtual event for parents/carers and students in Year 11 to support them in the year ahead. A recording of the event can be [found here](#), alongside other handy revision tips, hints and guides. Part 1 of the video covers key dates and planning for the year ahead, whilst Part 2 covers practical help to support students in their revision process.
- **'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).

"By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail."

Benjamin Franklin

- **16 to 19 Bursary Fund for Sixth Form Students:** If you have a child in our Sixth Form, you may be eligible to apply to access the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund. This fund provides financial support to help students overcome specific financial barriers to participation, so they can remain in education and support with costs such as transport, books, clothing and equipment. If, as a household, you earn less than £30,000 then you may be eligible for additional funding, so if you have not already been directed to this, you can find further details on our [website](#) of eligibility and how to apply for a bursary.

Should you need any help or support, please contact Miss Magee, Sixth Form Centre Manager: smagee@latimer.org.uk

Year 7 and 8 Students: What Book is in Your Bag?

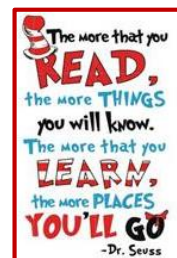


'Drop Everything and Read' (DEAR) has returned to the KS3 timetable providing our Year 7 and Year 8 students (and their teachers!) with the opportunity to read for pleasure for 15 minutes each day.

The '*Accelerated Reader*' programme helps manage and monitor independent reading by assessing reading ages and suggesting books that match the appropriate levels and interests which can then be 'quizzed' online to measure understanding.

Books can really enrich lives, allowing us to experience the pleasure of reading and reap the benefits that reading for pleasure has not only on educational success but in enhancing vocabulary, developing empathy and so much more!

Students can read a fiction book of their choice during this time, which may be one brought in from home or borrowed from our College Learning Resource Centre as '*Accelerated Reader*' lessons get underway. Please ensure that your child has a reading book in their bag every day to ensure they can take part in DEAR. They never know when they might be asked: "What book is in your bag?"



Safeguarding

Contacting You

Please can we ask for your support in returning the 'Personal Details' sheet that we have issued to your child. We need all parents and carers to check, sign and return these. Look in bags – they will be in there!

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.

National Video Games Day: Risks and Top Tips

With the rapid advancement of technology and the big boom of the gaming industry in 2020, there is a good chance your household has at least one gamer living in it! Gaming is one of the fastest evolving social forums. Even if someone games privately instead of "online" they may be visiting other social platforms to discuss tips and tricks (such as Twitch or YouTube).

As a parent or carer, all of this can make you feel like you are on the outside looking in. You might struggle to get your child to adhere to family dinner time. You might want them to look away from their screens for more than ten seconds. You might just want to know exactly what it is they are doing!

Ineqe Safeguarding Group's gaming safety experts have curated [this list](#) of the most popular gaming resources that inform parents and carers of the risks and top tips to keeping your child safe.

Aiming High: Raising Aspirations and Expectations

UCAS Parent and Carer Guide

Year 13 students are currently preparing university applications, with the first application deadline of 15 October approaching for all students considering Oxbridge or medical courses. Our aim is for our Sixth Form students to have their applications sent by the end of November so that they have the best chance of being offered a place, with the final deadline being 26 January 2022.

For parents and carers who are not familiar with the UCAS process, we have put together a [UCAS Apply - A Parent and Carer Guide 2021-22](#) to support you in helping you and your child navigate the application and tips on what to look for when researching a course.

Enriching the Educational Experience and Celebrating Success



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, our Epraise reward system 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.

We have seen an incredible start to the year by our students, both new and old! Year 7 currently lead the way but are only just ahead of Year 8, who are pushing them hard for the most Epraise points awarded. Congratulations to the following students who are top earners in their year groups:

Year 7	Kealan Green
Year 8	Corey Burnett
Year 9	William Munton
Year 10	Alana Toms
Year 11	Jess Dunham
Year 12	Skyler Bettles
Year 13	Olivia Burns

In preparation for our Epraise Christmas Prize Draw (yes already!), we are looking for feedback from students about the prizes they would like to see in the draw. If they would like to provide their ideas they can do so by Friday 1 October by following the Microsoft Forms link: <https://forms.office.com/r/xrZ7khLvTs>

Top Teams: Top Skills!

Our Year 7 and 8 Team Building event provided a great opportunity for our students to hone vital life skills such as communication, problem solving, working as a team, negotiation and resilience. This fast-paced event saw students working in groups to complete a range of challenges such as "ski walk" and "sky tower". The students were buzzing with enthusiasm and were really focussed and tenacious in completing the challenges.

We are sure this will be a lasting memory for Year 7s at the start of their Latimer journey and it was wonderful for Year 8s to catch up on the experience that they missed out on last year.

Huge congratulations to all the students for taking part and particularly the winning teams: **Year 7 7G1 and Year 8 8R1**.

Developing Skills for Life Through the Performing Arts

Now that the Performing Arts Clubs are up and running, it has been great to see so many students getting involved across all subjects. The Performing Arts building is slowly returning to normal with the sound of students rehearsing, dancing and making music – it is buzzing with energy!

As well as having fun, there are a whole range of other benefits that students can experience not only through these enrichment opportunities but also through their Drama, Dance and Music lessons. Just a few of these include:

- Relieving stress
- Developing a sense of connection and belonging by making friends with like-minded people
- Improving mental health and mood
- Developing self-discipline and confidence
- Improving memory (learning pieces of music, dance routines, lines)
- Developing leadership skills

In amongst all the current uncertainty, these are key skills that we are passionate about developing in our young people. Please do encourage your child to access these opportunities. A full list of clubs can be viewed on our [website](#).

And below is the proof!

Dancing their way to success...

Congratulations to Lucy Lonergan and Kyra Young in Year 7 who, during the summer holidays, became the Vice Champions in the British Championships Juvenile All Girl Sequence dancing in their first competition in 18 months.

The following week they danced at the All England Grand Prix at The Blackpool Tower becoming:

- All England Open Juvenile Sequence 6 dance Grand Prix Champions
- All England Open Juvenile Modern Sequence Grand Prix Champions
- Semi Final All Girl Ballroom Grand Prix
- Semi Final Juvenile Novice Quickstep
- 10-11 Classical Sequence Grand Prix Champions
- Juvenile All Girl Classical Sequence Grand Prix Champions
- The All England Open Juvenile Classical Sequence 6 Dance Champions



They then finished the summer off at the Next Generation Competition in Worcester and achieved:

- Juvenile Novice Quickstep Vice Champions
- Juvenile All Girl ballroom Champions
- Under 12 Modern Sequence Champions
- Under 12 Lilac Waltz and Waverly 2 step Champions
- Juvenile All Girl Sequence Champions

We are very proud of Lucy and Kyra as this is the highest level nationally and internationally they can achieve at their age in their dancing styles – well done!

Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust (NMPAT): Saturday Centres Relaunch

And if your child wants to access even more Performing Arts enrichment activities, after a year of Virtual Centre, the NMPAT Saturday sessions at The Latimer Arts College have restarted. All students who wish to attend will be able to have their first term of activities FULLY FUNDED! This is a fantastic opportunity for your child to get involved.

Following your fully-subsidised first term, subscription for membership of the Centre for one term (where there are three terms in the year) is £80 for the full morning.

For more information please visit www.nmpat.co.uk/centres

Have fun and get fit!

A reminder that we have also relaunched our 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.

We are delighted that we have already seen some great sporting success this term:

Year 11 Boys won the District Futsal Tournament last Wednesday.

Year 11 Boys Football beat KBA 1-0 (scorer James Harmer)

Year 10 Boys Football beat KBA 5-1 (scorers - Lucas Farren 4 and Joel Lodder)

DAY/DATE	PE CLUBS	MATCHES
Monday 27 September	Year 7 Basketball – Boys and Girls Year 8 Basketball – Boys and Girls	
Tuesday 28 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 29 September	Year 7 Rugby – Boys Year 8 Rugby – Boys Year 9 Rugby – Boys Year 9/10/11 Handball Club (still some places available – see Mr Hallett)	Year 7 Girls Football @ KBA Year 8 Girls Football @ KBA Year 9 Boys Football County Cup vs William Parker @ William Parker
Thursday 30 September	Year 9 Basketball – Girls Year 10 Basketball - Girls	Year 10 Boys football vs KSA @ KSA Year 11 Boys Football vs KSA @ Latimer
Friday 1 October	Year 9 Badminton – Boys and Girls (still some places available – see Mr Hallett)	
Monday 4 October	Year 7 Basketball – Boys and Girls Year 8 Basketball – Boys and Girls	Y10 Boys Futsal @ KLV
Tuesday 5 October	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 6 October	Year 7 Rugby – Boys Year 8 Rugby – Boys Year 9 Rugby – Boys Year 9/10/11 Handball Club (still some places available – see Mr Hallett)	Year 7 Girls Football @ KBA Year 8 Girls Football @ KBA
Thursday 7 October	Year 9 Hockey – Girls (unihoc) Year 10 Hockey – Girls (unihoc)	Year 10 Boys Football vs KBA @ Latimer
Friday 8 October	Year 9 Badminton – Boys and Girls (still some places available – see Mr Hallett)	

Other News

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.

Previously Looked After Children

If any parents/carers declared to us that their child ceased to be looked after by a local authority in England and Wales because of adoption, a special guardianship order, or child arrangements order, and if they presented us with evidence of this, they could be eligible for previously looked after children's pupil premium plus, which could contribute towards support with educational needs.

Please contact JFearnley@latimer.org.uk if your child fits the criteria.

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.

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 Well-being and Personal Development Feedback Calls, from 4.30pm
Wednesday 10 November	Sixth Form Open Evening
Thursday 18 November	Year 8/10 Well-being 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, 7.00pm
Friday 17 December	End of Term 2