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Latimer Community Weekly Newsletter

Friday 22 January 2021



Dear Students, Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of another busy week of Remote Education, we would like to say a huge thank you to all of you who have sent in kind words of support and thanks for our staff. We really cannot emphasise enough how much we appreciate this recognition: it really does help to keep our staff team going through these difficult times.

Whilst positive recognition is always welcome, we do also appreciate any feedback about how we can improve and how we can help. Through regular communication and working as a team we can all ensure that we are all doing our very best for our students. So please do keep in touch.

Have a safe and peaceful weekend.

Regards
Siobhan Hearne
Principal

Educational Provision

Remote Education Policy and Procedures

In order to safeguard staff and students, all of our expectations and processes can be found detailed in our Remote Education Policy and Procedures which can be found on our [Remote Education](#) website page. We would ask that you take a few minutes to read through this document and to be aware of the policies that are linked to it, all of which are on the [Policies](#) page of our website.

In order to support you to support your child, a full range of help videos, documentation and timetables can be found on our [Remote Education](#) website page.

Tutor Time Learning

As we develop our provision for Remote Education, we are offering further opportunities for our students to have additional contact with their Achievement Leaders. From Monday 25 January our Achievement Team will be delivering a weekly session to all year groups. These will include virtual assemblies, news and updates on Epraise and tutor time competitions.



Our first Achievement Leader briefing will include our '21 things' assembly which, despite the current circumstances, explores 21 things to be positive about in 2021.

We will also be continuing with our Quizzy Rascals quiz at tutor time every Wednesday. Students should also look out for the weekly challenges that are set for them. This week's challenge is 'Synanagrams'!

Teams Personal Identifier Logo



As part of TEAMS app, students have the ability to customise their identifier logo which shows in lessons. As a default these should be a student's initials. We require all students to ensure this "logo" remains as their initials as this makes it much easier within lessons for staff to interact and identify students. Any student who has changed this to something different, such as a football badge, picture or alternative image **will need to change it back to the default setting with immediate effect**. Where this does not happen, we will contact parents and carers directly to let them know so that they can ensure that this occurs.

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

New Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Service for Over 16 Students

Kettering Mind have launched a new [Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Service](#). The free service is available to students aged 16 years or older. It has been designed to help students whose mental health has been negatively affected during the pandemic. It aims to support individuals to find the resilience to cope with issues such as loneliness, academic pressures, organisational skills, coping with anxiety and managing mental health in general.

To do this, the service can provide students with:

1. Up to three one-to-one sessions with a mentor.
2. Online facilitated peer support sessions allowing students to socialise in a safe and confidential setting with others who may be experiencing similar difficulties.
3. Mental health and wellbeing workshops for student groups over Zoom.

Any student wishing to access the service should fill out an application form and can either download one direct from the Kettering Mind website: www.ketteringmind.org.uk or contact Kettering Mind via email info@ketteringmind.org.uk or telephone 01536 523216 and ask for a student service application form.

Level Up: Week 2!



Well done to all those that have been taking part in the Level Up Challenges! Lots of you have been engaging in the HIIT sessions for Week 1! Week 2 challenges will be released on Friday - a cooking challenge and a family walk this week will give you a chance to win the AMAZON vouchers!



Those of you that Mr Hallett teaches will know that this year he has re-discovered his love for running! Some of you have been emailing him to let him know that you have started running during lockdown 3! This is amazing news. The benefits of running are clear to see with some of you using it as a chance to improve your wellbeing, clear the mind, improve your fitness, for weight loss or to try and beat the times you have recorded.

To try and inspire some more of you to join us in 'running' your way through Lockdown 3 there is a ['Couch to 5k'](#) initiative for those of you NEW to running. There is a plan you can follow using the APP Couch to 5k or through the NHS website. The plan builds up gradually to the eventual aim of trying to complete a 5k run! Remember to follow any government guidelines about exercising outside and to involve your family with what you are doing. We look forward to hearing of some success stories!

Key Information and Updates

Consultation on how GCSE, AS and A level grades should be awarded in summer 2021

Thank you to the students and their parents and carers who joined us for our live event outlining the current proposals by *Ofqual* on the arrangement for awarding of examination grades in 2021. For those who could not make it, the link to the recording of the presentation will be sent out to you. We also include the links to [the information](#) about the proposals and the [survey](#) for responses. We really would encourage as many of you as possible to take part and ensure your views are heard. The consultation closes on **Friday 29 January**.

IT Access Support

Please can we remind you that if your child needs any support with IT issues during this period of closure then please ask them to drop an email to the IT Helpdesk: ITHelpdesk@latimer.org.uk. We will do our best to support you with this.

Monitoring Engagement and Attendance

It is so important that students do not fall behind during this period of school closure. Therefore, we will be monitoring student engagement in their Remote Learning in a range of ways, including:

- **Attendance Registers:** Teaching staff will take a register at the start of a TEAMS lesson.
- **Independent Learning:** Teaching staff will be evaluating student engagement with independent learning activities.
- **Satchel:one:** We will be analysing the data on student access to Satchel:one. We would encourage you to sign up for your own account on Satchel:One to allow you to have a clear understanding of the remote learning set for students.

We ask that you do all that you can to ensure that your child does not just 'register' at the start of a TEAMS session and then leave. In addition to this, we would appreciate you encouraging them to complete their independent learning activities.

Reporting Student Absence

We do recognise that during this period of school closure, students may fall ill and be unable to attend their Remote Education sessions, just as they would not have been able to attend school. As we are monitoring student attendance, if your child is unwell, we ask that you report their absence using our 'normal' absence procedures by sending an email to: absence@latimer.org.uk or a text to 07546588119 or ring the 24 hour absence answer line on 01536 720300.

This information will then be shared with teachers and ensure that when we are monitoring attendance and engagement in remote learning we will know why students are absent.

Childcare Provision Places

Please can we remind parents and carers that in order to support with reducing the risk of community transition, students should be staying at home.

Whilst we will do everything that we can to support with a place in school for those students who are eligible, we have to ask that in the first instance, before requesting a place in our Childcare Provision and sending your child in, that you please carefully consider:

- Does your child absolutely need to attend?
- Does your child need to attend every day?
- Does your child need to attend for all of the day?

The more that we can reduce contacts now, the safer we are going to make our community and the sooner we are likely to be able to re-open the school for all.

Please note that we will not be able to offer a place to those students who are not eligible.

Recognising and Rewarding Students

'Shout Outs' to Spectacular Students!



We are delighted with the efforts that our students are making with their Remote Learning. This week we had a clever poem from Seth Diaz in Year 7 about what he has learnt in Science about breathing. He also made a working model lung from a plastic cup, balloons and a straw.

Oliver Back produced a stunning piece of descriptive writing as part of his English learning, an extract from which is included here: *'I peeled back the giant, veined leaves and the scene before me overwhelmed me with its majesty! The rising sun sat like a soft, yellow marble lazing restfully on the mountain top, creating a radiating orange mellow glow that lit up the blue sky. Underneath, a monumental waterfall cascaded down the mountain side like a curtain of silk.'*

Well done also to Finley Payne who produced some excellent learning on circles in Maths, tackling a topic that many students find a challenge.

And speaking of Maths, we would like to say well done to the whole of Mrs Strudwick's 8R/MA. They have adapted so well to TEAMS learning, mastering multiplying decimals and being able to apply that to GCSE questions.



Well done to Lauren Wilson, Year 7, and Hayley Chapman, Year 8, who are our latest Accelerated Reader millionaires!



We would like to congratulate all students on their engagement and effort this week. We have awarded over 9000 Epraise points, all of which students will be able to save up to use in our Easter Prize Draw. Students should keep an eye on their emails as we will soon be sending them a survey to ask for their thoughts on what the prizes should be for this!

We would like to give a special mention to the following who are all our top Epraise earners from last week:

- Year 7 – Seth Diaz, Lewis O'Dell, Corey Burnett
- Year 8 – Beth Riley, Scarlett Mayhew, Jessica Cameron
- Year 9 – Alana Toms, Imogen Willoughby, Evie Armstrong
- Year 10 – Ella Rogers, Kumbirai Kangausaru, Logan McGuire
- Year 11 – Jack Armstrong, George Chisholm, Lauren Stacey
- Year 12 – Kiera Cox, Issy Eve, Leah Brownless
- Year 13 – Rashe Chiteka, Jolanta Kirchner, Bruce Sibbett

Team Latimer Community Corner

We love to hear about what our students are up to so please do let us know. Grace Stevens has been busy in the kitchen this week preparing the family focaccia. She did an excellent job - it looks truly delicious and we hope that she is taking orders once we are back in school!



Sofa Dance Challenge!

Normally at this time of year, the Dance Department and their dedicated dancers are working hard to bring you our annual College Dance Show. This is our opportunity to showcase the incredible talent of our dancers across the year groups.

In the absence of this, we would really like to get as many students and staff involved in this dance challenge and to keep us dancing! All you have to do is create some movement ideas using your sofa! Feel free to include children, pets, family members and anything else you can think of! Follow this [link](#) for some inspiration. You will see that you do not have to be a dancer and any kind of movements are welcomed!

Please send your clips to Mrs Ilersic: kilersic@latimer.org.uk by **Friday 12 February**.

Dates for your Diary

Please note that we will try our best to run these events remotely and will send you updates nearer the time.

Tuesday 2 February	Sixth Form SPRE 4.30pm - 7.30pm
Friday 12 February	End of Term 3
Monday 22 February	Start of Term 4: <i>This will be Week 2 on the timetable</i>
Wednesday 24 February	Year 9 SPRE 4.00pm - 7.00pm
Tuesday 16 March	Year 8 SPRE 4.00pm - 7.00 pm
Friday 26 March	End of Term 4