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Latimer Community Weekly Newsletter

Friday 15 January 2021



Dear Parents and Carers

Well, we are in the business of learning and to say we have all been on a steep learning curve over the last week is probably an understatement! This really is a 'Team' effort and there is a great sense of community spirit: we are passionate about providing an education and you are showing determination that your children will embrace this.

I hope that your household has now settled into a routine. It is amazing how quickly we all adapt and students now seem to be very used to TEAMS lessons.

Staff are also adapting and whilst we would prefer to have our students face to face in the classroom, we are starting to relax and enjoy delivering 'live' lessons. We hope that we are helping you by bringing teaching into your home and delivering a structured programme of learning.

You can help us by ensuring that your children attend 'live' lessons, engage positively and complete their independent learning activities. You can also help us by feeding back on what is working well; what type of activities your children most enjoy; and suggesting where we can improve further. We really do want to make sure that we are doing our very best.

We await a government announcement today about the assessment processes for our examination students and we will update you on this as soon as we can.

For now, have a restful weekend and we look forward to 'seeing' your children next week.

Regards
Siobhan Hearne
Principal

Educational Provision

Remote Education Update

- **Revised TEAMS 'Live' Lessons Timetable:** Following feedback from both students and staff, we have now revised our 'live' TEAMS lessons timetable. We apologise for the update but we now feel that we have a more even spread of lessons, particularly for those students in Years 7 and 8 who will now have at least one 'live' lesson per fortnight in all subjects (with the exception of core PE).

As we are conscious of families who are sharing devices and of screen time for students, generally students in Years 7-11 should expect to attend 3 'live' lessons per day. Due to timetabling, there are occasions when it may be more or less than this.

There has been no change to the Sixth Form timetable, with all lessons still 'live' on TEAMS.

The updated timetables for each year group can be viewed on our [website](#). However, in order to make things easier for students to follow, staff will still indicate on Satchel:one if a lesson is 'live' or independent learning.

Please can we also remind you of the importance of students completing their independent study tasks. These will often be activities to consolidate the learning in the 'live' lessons and if they are not completed, students may fall behind.

- **TEAMS Lessons Protocols:** We have sent a link to students to remind them about the best way to get the most out of 'live' lessons, including the expectations around behaviour, which mirror the expectations in a lesson and those of our [Behaviour for Learning Policy](#).

Students MUST log in with their school account, otherwise they may not be admitted. We have produced a [video](#) guide for them.

- **Remote Education Parent Support:** To help explain how Remote Education should be working we have created a brief parent video which can be [viewed here](#).

We would also encourage you to create an account with Satchel:one and then use this to help monitor the timetable of work for students. Click this [link](#) for details.

- **BBC Teach and Oak National Academy:** You may have seen in the press about these two organisations supporting home learning. Staff may direct students to resources available on both platforms alongside the wealth of other websites we have such as GCSEpod, Seneca and Tassomai. All of these can be used by students if they wish to undertake more activities to consolidate their learning.
- **Tutor Time Activities:** We will be setting students a number of challenges and activities to complete during their usual tutor time. Year 7 have already been set their first Lockdown Challenge: to create a Pangram (they can explain this to you!)

'Quizzy Rascals', our weekly quiz, will also return. We will be using a Kahoot version of 'Quizzy Rascals' on a Wednesday so students can play along at home and compete against their form group. We apologise in advance for any increased noise level in the house at this time!

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

'Level Up!': PE Wellbeing Challenge

'Level Up!' is a new and exciting wellbeing challenge beginning on Monday 18 January for all students. We hope that our staff will participate too.

Students should prepare themselves for four weeks of wellbeing challenges to improve their physical and mental health. Each week there will also be a prize draw in which we will be giving away **£100 of Amazon vouchers**: all students who submit evidence of completing their tasks have a chance of winning

'Level Up!' tasks will go live on Satchel:one @ 3pm on Friday and can be attempted at a time to suit daily schedules. Students need to simply **'Open the PowerPoint - attempt the challenges and then email the evidence'** to levelup@latimer.org.uk by **Friday 3pm each week**.

Reminder: To enter, all you will need to do is send your pictures/work. Award winners will be announced in the newsletter! Good luck everyone!

Key Information and Updates

Year 11 SPRE Postponement and Alternative Exam Information Session for Year 11 and Year 13

Whilst we are awaiting the announcement (expected today) about the proposals for assessing students for their GCSEs and A Levels, we are going to postpone the Year 11 SPRE. We want to ensure that we make this process as purposeful as possible by giving helpful feedback for each individual student and we can only do this once we know what the final stages of their examination journey will be.

However, as an alternative, we would like to offer a short **Parent Information Session on Wednesday 20 January at 6.30pm** for the parents and carers of students in Years 11 and 13. We will issue an email with log in details for anyone who wants to join this event.

If you have any questions that you would like us to try to answer about exams and the current situation please email Mr Harvey sharvey@latimer.org.uk in advance of the evening, and place in the subject bar the words "Year 11 and 13 Live Event". This will help us to plan the content.

We promise that we will tell you all that we know, what we cannot promise is that we will know all that we want to tell you!

Sixth Form Pathways: Next Steps for September 2021 Admissions

Thank you to all students who have submitted an application to join our Sixth Form in September. January is always a key time in the transition process to Sixth Form and despite the College being closed, we will continue to offer our programme of support to our Year 11 students.

Therefore, over the next couple of weeks, each student who had submitted an application to join our Sixth Form in September 2021 will receive an invite to attend a 1:1 TEAMS meeting with a member of our Senior Leadership Team. This will provide an opportunity for them to discuss pathway preferences 'face to face'.

We will try to ensure that these meetings do not take place during 'live' TEAMS lessons but it may be necessary for a student to come out of a session to attend a meeting, just as they would have come out of a lesson in school. We will try to avoid this where we can.

Spare Electronic Devices Plea

We know that most families will be using all of their internet enabled devices to the max at the moment. However, if anyone does have a spare device or knows of a member of the community who has one that they would be prepared to donate to the College, it would be gratefully received. We would make sure that the device is redistributed to a family who could make good use of it.

If you are willing to make a donation, please let Ms Pankhania know and she can arrange for collection: jpankhania@latimer.org.uk

Recognising and Rewarding Students



It is with great pleasure that we can update you that, after last week announcing that Corey Burnett (7R2) had read over 2 million words, he has now read 3,600,000! He will have read a whole library before long. Well done Corey – keep up the amazing effort.



Despite lessons looking different over the last couple of weeks, students have continued to work hard and make positive contributions to their learning. We have enjoyed issuing Epraise points in recognition of this, with over 7000 points awarded last week alone! We would like to congratulate the top Epraise earners in each year group – a massive well done to:

Year 7 – Gemma Cox, Holly Greasley, Alfie Wills
Year 8 – Katie Lee, Rebecca Prigmore, Ryo Cooper
Year 9 – Anton Frederick, Kai Taylor-Jacob, Owen Jones
Year 10 – Luke Wooding, Emma Burrows, Daniel Baird
Year 11 – Nisha Raulia, Isabel Isaac, Thomas Beadsworth
Year 12 – Joe Evans-Riddle, Grace Field, Emily Futer
Year 13 – Yasmine Jawo, Fatima Nouredine, Ella Robinson

Team Latimer Community Corner

Whilst it seems such a long time ago, you will recall that we held a non-uniform day on Friday 18 December. We are very proud to say that as a community we raised over £1000. This has enabled us to make a contribution to Alfie Stone's parents of £750 to support towards enhancing his memorial area.

We have also donated £250 to Souster Youth, a charitable organisation, who have been providing wellbeing support for our students.

We are very grateful for your generosity.