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LATIMER LATEST NEWS – 12 NOVEMBER 2021

Sixth Form Applications September 2022

Thank you to those who attended our 'virtual' Sixth Form Open Evening. Please do visit our [website](#) to view our prospectus, curriculum offer and application form. Applications close on Wednesday 24 November. Please feel free to contact Mr Matthews, Assistant Principal: kmatthews@latimer.org.uk should you need any further support with subject choices.

Covid-19 Updates

Working Together to Save Christmas!

With the government's suggestion that household mixing at Christmas may be restricted if infection rates are too high, we are strongly encouraging all those in our community to play their part in reducing risk:

- Students should continue with twice weekly Lateral Flow Device testing for Term 2 on a Monday and Thursday.
- We are strongly recommending the wearing of masks in corridors and other communal areas. We have explained to students that whilst these are no longer mandatory in society, we have a responsibility to play our part in reducing community transmission. The wearing of face masks can make a significant contribution to this and prevent us from being forced to introduce more drastic measures.
- Continue with hand sanitising, ventilating rooms and adopting "Catch It. Bin It. Kill It."

Learning and Progress

Year 11 "Ace your Exams" Study Skills Session

We are thrilled that Year 11 have been able to participate in a fast paced, energetic and action packed study skills session delivered by 'Positively You'. This was something of a step on the way to normality and a much needed confidence booster just before their mock examinations.

The session focused on key skills and techniques for training all parts of their body for the stress and rigours of examinations – focussing on a couple of practical revision techniques. Students have commented that they found the different techniques and information about timing and ways of revising particularly useful. We intend to invite the company back in January for a further session with the students in the countdown to their GCSE examinations.

Please do ask your child to show you the techniques that they learnt as this will help to reinforce the skills – you can also help them by 'testing' them on the content of their mind maps ready for their mock exams.

Our [Ace Your Exams](#) website page is dedicated to supporting students and includes lots of additional hints and tips as well as a booklet with revision templates which can be used to help students organise their revision, along with a booklet outlining some mobile apps which will help students revise.

We also understand that exams can be seen as stressful and one of the best ways to beat that stress is for students to be properly prepared. However, should parents and carers need advice about how their child can deal with exam stress, please visit the [Young Minds](#) website or the [NHS website](#).

Mock Examinations

A reminder that mock exams start in the next week for Year 11 with French Speaking and Design and Technology NEA days. The formal exams start on Wednesday 24 November. During this period, students will be provided with additional revision sessions between examinations.

For Year 13 students, their mock exams start on Monday 22 November.

Students have been issued with a timetable for these examinations, which are vitally important steps in preparation for the real things.

Summer 2022 Examinations: Draft Timetable

A first draft timetable for the summer exams has been released for GCSE and A Levels.

The GCSE summer examinations will run from Monday 16 May 2022 until Thursday 23 June 2022.

The A Level summer examinations will run from Monday 23 May 2022 until Friday 24 June 2022.

Please note that an Exam Contingency day has been scheduled for Wednesday 29 June in the event of national or local disruption to examinations. All students need to be available on this day.

Please be aware that this timetable is only a guide at this stage and is subject to change. It will be finalised early in 2022.

LORIC Update (Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication)

Our LORIC strategy, delivered through our Personal Development Programme (PDP), provides a platform for our students to develop resilience and a range of other employability skills. The strategy focuses on developing these five key attributes, known by the acronym LORIC:

- Leadership
- Organisation
- Resilience
- Initiative
- Communication

As part of this, our Year 10 students have produced this stunning poppy themed dress in honour of Remembrance Day.



Safeguarding

The Parents' Guide to Teaching your Teen Online Safety

[My Tutor's Latest Blog](#) is packed full of up to date information for parents and carers, such as:

- A practical guide on how to keep teens safe online, including useful summaries of popular internet apps, as well as the types of threats that teens could be exposed to online.
- Safety tips for using apps such as Instagram, TikTok (which has gathered 1 billion users in only two years), YouTube, Snapchat, Twitter, and WhatsApp.
- Advice and safety tips for teens playing online multiplayer video games.
- Other online safety topics and advice such as sharing personal information, socialising online, cyberbullying, harmful content, influencers, body image, and mental health for teens online.
- Links to additional internet safety resources for parents and carers from well-respected sources such as the NSPCC and the UK government's own guidelines.

Operation Sceptre: National Knife Crime Awareness

We were able to provide Year 8 students with the opportunity to take part in the Local Knife and Crime Awareness event this week, a valuable experience for them all. A team from the Northamptonshire Police and CIRV led an engaging, interactive and thought provoking session.

The Year 8 students were a credit to the College, they listened attentively, asked excellent questions and those who took part in the role-play were fabulous.

The messages were about prevention: educating young people to realise that carrying a knife in the first place is a really bad idea and has serious, potentially fatal and life-changing consequences.

PCSO Mel Thomas told the students, *"It's really important to remember the vast majority of people don't carry knives – it's not a normal thing to do. It's the small minority that do that commit these offences and we are committed to both preventing people carrying knives in the first place and taking robust action against offenders."*

We wanted to provide some information for all parents and carers in relation to this:

Here are some useful websites you can go to for further information:

- [Safe4me Website](#)
- [Knife Crimes Organisation](#)

Clocks Back: Dark Nights Ahead!

Now the clocks have gone back an hour, we would like to remind parents and carers to talk to their child about keeping safe on the way to and from school. [ROSPA](#) have produced a guide for parents and carers which can be downloaded on their website and that we can highly recommend.

On writing, please can we ask parents and carers to ensure that their child has a cycle helmet and that their bicycle is roadworthy and has working lights.

Aiming High: Raising Aspirations and Expectations

Personalised Careers Advice

Year 11 and Sixth Form students will be offered a 1:1 appointment with our Independent Careers advisors from this term to support their pathways choices. If you would like to get in touch with the careers advisors please, email them at Careers@latimer.org.uk

Accessing National Careers Information – For Free!

[‘Success at School’](#) is a national careers’ website for students aged 11-19 and their parents/carers. It is a fantastic free resource offering a vast range of information and advice. New parent/carers guides, for example on Employability Skills, are now available. You just need to sign up to their special parents' mailing list.

‘Aspire Higher’ will be delivering free monthly webinars for all parents and carers with a young person in Years 9 to 13. These sessions will run at 10:30am and again at 6pm so you can choose a time which is most convenient for you. The topics and dates are shown:

- 3 November UCAS, the university application process
- 1 December Routes into Higher Education (HE)
- 5 January 2022 Student Finance
- 2 February 2022 Apprenticeships
- 2 March 2022 The Pay Index

- 6 April 2022 Year 13: Support with the next steps
- 4 May 2022 Year 11: What's next?

To book a place, please email Christine.Webster@northampton.ac.uk

Future Destination Preparation

Our Oxbridge, Medical and Veterinary science candidates have now successfully sent off their applications to their prospective universities. To help build their confidence and skills in preparation for interview they have successfully completed their first round of mock interviews with Dr Sean Butler, a fellow from Cambridge University.

If any prospective Sixth Form parents or carers wish to know more about applying for Oxbridge, Medical or Veterinary Science courses, please contact kgallon@latimer.org.uk.

We are now supporting our remaining Year 13 students with their university applications and this week saw students receive feedback on their personal statements from a representative from the University of Northampton

We will also be providing support to those students who may wish to choose an alternative pathway once they have completed their studies, such as an apprenticeship.

Enriching the Educational Experience and Celebrating Success

Together We Can: Children in Need 2021

To support Children in Need, we are delighted to be able to offer students the opportunity to participate in a non-uniform day on Friday 19 November. We would like students and staff to join in, wearing any Children in Need merchandise (including Pudsey ears!) or other 'dress down day' clothes, ensuring that they are suitable for a school setting. We want to enjoy the day, and ask that students respect the opportunity that they have been given by dressing appropriately.

We are recommending a minimum of a £1 donation in support of this charity, but larger donations can be made, at the following link: <https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=5358>.

Together, we can help to support Children in Need in their bid to support our young people overcome the lasting impact of the pandemic and support thousands of children in local communities across the UK.



We are celebrating some more reading superstars as we start this term. Congratulations to Nicholas Wachsmann in Year 7 who has already read over 2 million words and to Ruby Coleman who borrowed 14 books last term!

In total, Year 7 students have collectively read **13,800,967** words this year so far and Year 8 students have read **6,277,186!**



After our first double points fortnight of the year we have seen some students amass huge numbers of Epraise points. Our current top 10 students are:

Kealan Green, Anthony King, Samuel Wright, Nicholas Wachsmann, Millie Hall, Ted Coles, Sloane Seaton, Alana Toms, Cory Ives and Liam Bodsworth.

We have our first Epraise Prize Draw of the year later this term, in the week beginning 13 December. Prizes include an Apple Watch, vouchers and festive treats and have been selected based on the feedback from students earlier in the year.

Performing Arts: Shining Stars



Drama: Year 11 Standing Out from the Crowd

Year 11 Drama students have now completed one of their GCSE practical exams, involving working in groups and creating an original piece of drama for performance. The pieces explored a variety of issues such as 'Lockdown life', 'Boys and mental health', the LGBTQ+ community and The 'ME TOO' movement. The students did a fantastic job, considering the challenges they have faced with restricted practical work over the last year - we are very proud of them all.

Music: Our Inspirational Sixth Form Students

A huge well done and thank you to Year 13 students, Tori Frater and Tom Levick. Tom runs our College rock band, trains the younger students and is rehearsing the older students so they are ready for a performance.

Tori runs "Wings" (girls' vocal harmony group). She has arranged the music herself and is the musical director at the rehearsals. This group grows every week as new students hear about it from others and want to be a part of it: 25 members and counting! The harmonies are sounding lovely.

Both students run these groups after school on Monday (until 4pm) and all are welcome.

Providing a Professional Dance Experience

Our GCSE Dance students had the enviable experience of being able to work with a company dancer, Richard, from the James Cousins Dance Company in creating their set work '*Within Her Eye*'. This Physical Theatre workshop will support the students to create a performance piece for their examinations next year. Richard was impressed with the creativity of the students and the commitment that they put into the workshop.

Outstanding Year 10 Sporting Success!

Well done to the Year 10 Boys' Football team who are winners of the Kettering District league and have also won the District Cup Final, beating Brooke Weston.

Well done to the Year 11 Boys' Football team who were runners up in the Kettering League.

Our Year 8 Boys' Football team won their second round County Cup match 5-4 to reach the quarter-finals. We anticipate more trophies are on their way...



Sports Enrichment: Come Along and Join In

We are delighted to be offering a range of afterschool sporting activities again this term. PE clubs are open to all students, no matter what ability level. The clubs will run from 3.00pm until 4.15pm.

DAY/DATE	PE CLUBS	MATCHES
Mon 15 November	Year 9 Basketball – Girls (external coach) Year 10/11 Basketball – Boys and Girls (external coach)	
Tues 16 November	Year 7/8 Hockey – Girls Year 7/8 Football – Girls	Year 10 Boys Basketball vs KBA @ Latimer Year 11 Boys Basketball vs KBA @ KBA

Weds 17 November	Year 7/8 Basketball – Girls Year 7/8/9 Rugby – Boys Year 8/9/10/11 Handball Club 4-5 pm – Boys and Girls (external coach)	Year 10 Girls Hockey Match
Thurs 18 November	Year 7 Fitness Club – Girls Year 7 Football – Boys Year 9 Basketball – Boys	Year 7 Girls Basketball Match Year 8 Girls Basketball Match
Fri 19 November	Year 8 Badminton – Boys and Girls (external coach)	
Mon 22 November	Year 9 Basketball – Girls (external coach) Year 10/11 Basketball – Boys and Girls (external coach)	Year 7/8/9/10 Cross Country Championships 1-4 pm
Tues 23 November	Year 7/8 Football – Girls Year 9/10 Hockey – Girls	Year 10 Boys Basketball vs Bishop (@ Bishop) Year 11 Boys Basketball vs Bishop (@ Latimer)
Weds 24 November	Year 7/8 Basketball – Girls Year 7/8/9 Rugby – Boys Year 8/10/11 Handball Club 4-5 pm – Boys and Girls (external coach)	Year 9 Girls Hockey Match
Thurs 25 November	Year 7 Fitness Club – Girls Year 9 Basketball – Boys	Year 7 Girls Basketball Match Year 7 Boys 7-a-side Football Tournament @ KBA Year 8 Girls Basketball Match
Fri 26 November	Year 8 Badminton – Boys and Girls (external coach)	

As the cold weather arrives in Term 2, students need to come prepared for their PE lessons. We would therefore like to make some changes to our PE uniform in order to support students with managing the colder weather. We will allow students to wear:

- A tracksuit
- A hat: we ask that these are black or dark in colour and must be a woolly hat/beanie style as pictured
- Gloves: again these must be black or dark in colour
- A lightweight sports raincoat in black/dark colour (NOT a school Coat) will also be permitted for wet weather lessons outside.

We wish to stress that this uniform is optional and that any item that fits our descriptions can be worn.

Should parents and carers wish to, they can purchase items from Karl Sports, our uniform supplier, who have added a wet weather jacket and beanie style hat with the Latimer logo onto their website.



Please note: Staff members will have discretion as to whether these optional items can be worn so students must also bring their shorts/skorts.

Other News

abm Catering Solutions: Launching Winter Menus

Please visit our [website](#) for details of the weekly menus for Term 2. Students are able to access a daily Meal Deal for £2.40. All students who are entitled to free school meals can access the meal deal at no extra cost or are able to choose alternative food up to the value of £2.35 per day.

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.

Please note the forthcoming Training Day which is on Friday 3 December.

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
Wednesday 5 January	Start of Term 3: College re-opens to students <i>This will be Week 2 on the timetable</i> BTEC Level 3 Exams commence (ends Friday 14 January) Year 11 Mock Exam Results Session
Tuesday 11 January	Year 11 Art and Design Exam Paper Party, 4.00pm
Thursday 13 January	Parent Forum, 6.00pm
Wednesday 19 January	Year 11 SPRE, 4.30-7.45pm
Wednesday 26 January	Sixth Form SPRE, 4.30-7.45pm
Friday 28 January	Year 7 Dragons' Den Event
Wednesday 2 February	College Dance Show
Friday 11 February	End of Term 3