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LATIMER LATEST NEWS – 7 MAY 2021

Championing and Celebrating Creativity – to a point!

We do encourage and celebrate creativity. For example, the College was recently approached by David Wilson Homes, who were looking for students to design aspects of a sculpture to be erected on a roundabout within the new Bertone Manor estate off Warkton Lane.

We are delighted to announce that the designs created by Matilda Gwinn, Sophie Hill, Marika Rae, Poppy Richards and Isabelle Sinclair have been selected to be used. It will be amazing to see their work on display in the local community and we cannot wait to share the pictures with you once the sculpture is installed.

However, there seems to be a new phenomenon that we need parent and carer support with eradicating: and that is the writing/drawing on hands! This seems to be a 'thing' at the moment. Not only does it look unsightly, we do not feel that it is a healthy thing to be doing. Please can you reinforce with your child that they should not be doing this and that if they arrive at school with drawings on their hands they will be instructed to wash them off.

COVID-19 Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing Programme

LFD Home Testing Programme

Students will soon be issued with their next supply of home testing kits. Please can we remind you of the importance of these tests being used routinely on a Monday and Thursday morning.

We have also been asked by the Department for Education to remind you of the importance of reporting a test. The government's reasons for this can be accessed [here](#). This is very much linked to the monitoring of data on a local and national level in order to minimise the risks of increased community transmission.

We also have to remind you that the home testing kits that have been provided by the government are **for twice weekly asymptomatic testing only**.

If your child has been identified as a close contact, whilst you and your child may understandably be worried, further testing should only occur if they develop COVID-19 symptoms (including a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste). If this is the case, a PCR test should be booked by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>: the LFD tests should NOT be used.

You may be aware from the news that the government are running trials to see if daily testing can be introduced in order to prevent the need for self-isolation if you are a close contact. We absolutely understand the frustrations that parents and carers may have about their child needing to self-isolate even if they continue to test negative themselves. We can only thank you for your on-going patience and understanding with this and we will all be keeping our fingers crossed that this can be introduced soon.

Test and Trace Support Payment for Parents and Carers

A reminder that parents and carers of children who have been advised to self-isolate by their education setting or by NHS Test and Trace are now able to apply for a [Test and Trace Support Payment](#) or discretionary payment of £500, if they meet the eligibility criteria. This is to ensure that eligible parents receive financial support if they are unable to attend work due to childcare responsibilities.

Providing of Face Masks

We await the forthcoming update about the next steps of lockdown easing from Monday 17 May, in particular to see what the guidance will be on year group 'bubbling' and the wearing of face masks in classrooms. In the meantime, please could you continue to provide your child with a face mask. We are increasingly having to issue single-use masks to students. Whilst we do have a supply of these and are happy to support with the occasional forgotten mask, it does take up valuable learning time at the start of each day.

Learning and Progress

Awarding Qualifications in Summer 2021 Information

We would just like to convey how proud we are of our students in Years 11 and 13 for the great resilience that they are showing as they continue with the process of internal assessments. We are in the final stages now of a process that we appreciate has been long and drawn out since the rather misleading statement was made in January that there would be 'no exams'.

A copy all of the key documents that we have devised to support students with this process, including our Centre Policy for Determining Teacher Assessed Grades Summer 2021, can be accessed on our [dedicated website page](#).

If you need any further information or wish to ask any questions about this process, please direct them to Mrs Levick, Examinations Officer: tlevick@latimer.org.uk

Year 11 and 13 Well-Being Breakfasts

To support Year 11 and Year 13 students during these final few weeks, we are hosting a free well-being breakfast service twice a week for each year group from 8.00am as follows:

Year 11 – Tuesdays and Thursdays in the DT Area
Year 13 – Monday and Wednesdays

This provides an opportunity for students to relax and have some refreshments to start the day and offers an informal opportunity for students to speak to members of staff should they need to. The hot chocolate and croissants went down well this week!

Year 11 and 13 Leaving Dates

Year 13 students will 'leave' once they have completed their final assessment in each subject that they study.

Year 11 students will have a programme of activities up to Friday 25 June, which will be a mixture of in-school sessions, remote sessions and independent study. Our Induction Programme for those students who have indicated that they wish to join our Sixth Form will take place during this time. More details of this will follow shortly.

Year 10 and Year 12 'Ace Your Exams' Launch

As we prepare for two year groups to finish examination journeys, we also start to prepare the next groups for their examination countdowns!

We are still in uncertain times, but one thing that is certain is that students will be completing "assessments" to inform their final grades, and these grades, as in every year, will be valuable in ensuring future well-being. In these strange times, it is more important than ever that we start preparing for final "exams", with a year to go until they are due to start for Year 10 and Year 12!

Therefore, this week we launch our comprehensive 'Ace Your Exams' programme to Year 10 and Year 12, a programme that has ensured that students in the past have gone on to make fantastic progress and achieve excellent results if they take the opportunities we provide to them and act on the advice and guidance given.

All of the details are included with this newsletter and, to get them started, Year 10 students will be coming home today with a gift from the College of a (heavy) bag of revision guides – please encourage them to use them well!

On Their Way: Year 10 and Year 12 Trial Exams

As part of preparing students for this time next year, we will be holding trial exams at the start of Term 6, Tuesday 8 to Thursday 17 June. More information about these will follow, but students should be preparing for them now!

These exams will be vital in helping us identify key gaps in skills and knowledge, helping us plan for September, and also provide feedback to students on learning that they can focus on over the summer break.

Virtual Student Progress Review Evening (SPRE)

We will be delighted to be able to offer Year 7 and 10 students and their parents and carers the opportunity to receive 1:1 feedback from subject teachers at our Virtual SPREs as follows:

- **Year 7:** Wednesday 23 June between 4.00pm and 7.00pm.
- **Year 10** Tuesday 6 July between 4.00pm and 7.00pm.

In order to do this, we are providing a web-based video call system, School Cloud, where parents and carers will be able to book appointments in advance of the evening. Each event will go 'live' one week before it occurs with the appointment booking system opening up. A letter providing all the details about this will be emailed out prior to the event.

Safeguarding

Keeping Our Students Safe: Promoting Healthy Relationships

Recently there has been a lot of news coverage around a website called '*Everyone's Invited*' which encourages people to anonymously share their experiences of sexual harassment in educational settings, including schools, colleges and universities.

At The Latimer Arts College, sexual harassment in any form is not acceptable.

We take all aspects of safeguarding very seriously and wanted to remind parents and carers what we do to make sure our students feel safe and happy at school:

- Students are reminded how and where to seek help, both in College and through external support services.
- Where necessary, we work with external agencies to offer further support to students and families.
- Our [Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy](#) is regularly updated and is available on our website.
- Staff receive regular safeguarding training.

Through our curriculum and Personal Development Programme, we continue to ensure that our whole community understands about all aspects of keeping safe and building healthy relationships. We go beyond what is statutory to emphasise the type of sexual behaviours that will not be accepted so that our students feel able to challenge anything that might make them feel uncomfortable.

These issues are addressed in an age-appropriate and inclusive way, and are explored through the College's ICT, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), and Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education provision, which ensures that children are taught about safeguarding, including how to stay safe online and tackles issues such as:

- Healthy and respectful relationships
- What respectful behaviour looks like
- Consent
- Gender roles, stereotyping and equality
- Body confidence and self-esteem
- Prejudiced behaviour
- Sexual violence and sexual harassment

Accessing Further Support

In the first instance, we would want to know if you have any concerns about your child. We would also like to signpost you to the following services:

- **Dedicated NSPCC Helpline 0800 136 663:** A new helpline has been set up which will provide both children and adults who are potential victims of sexual abuse in schools with the appropriate support and advice. This includes how to contact the police and report crimes if they wish. The helpline will also provide support to parents.
- **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) NEW Contact Number:** 0300 126 7000
- **YoungMinds Crisis Messenger:** The YoungMinds Crisis Messenger text service provides free, 24/7 crisis support across the UK. If you or your child is experiencing a mental health crisis and need support, you can text YM to 85258.
- **Sexual Abuse Learning Programme (Parents Protect):** [Parents Protect](#) (a project of the Lucy Faithfull Foundation) has developed an online child sexual abuse and exploitation awareness learning programme for parents, carers and professionals to help:
 - Understand potential risks
 - Recognise the signs of possible abuse in children
 - Be aware of inappropriate behaviour in adults
 - Know where to go for help if you have concerns and would like to talk about them.

Aiming High: Raising Aspirations and Expectations

The Big Ask: Get Your Child Involved

The Children's Commissioner for England, Rachel de Souza, is conducting the largest ever survey of children and young people in England. The information provided will inform the government of what young people think and what they need to live happier lives

Please encourage your child to complete the [survey](#), which will only take 5-10 minutes.

Adults are also encouraged to give their feedback as well.

Enriching the Educational Experience and Celebrating Success



We congratulate our avid readers once more. Students who read regularly really are supporting their future academic success!

Congratulations to those who have just joined our millionaire club: Logan Durrant and Harry Marriott and to our multi-millionaires, Corey Burnett, who has now read over 4 million words and Hayley Chapman who has read over 2 million words



A massive well done to Seth Barratt, Holly Greasley and Carys Toms for being our top Epraise earners so far in Term 5 with over 300 points between them in the first three weeks of term!

After the success of our last prize draw we are now turning our attention to our Summer event. This week students have been emailed a survey to share their thoughts on what they want to see in the final prize draw of this academic year. Please do encourage them to complete this. Year 11 and Year 13 students will also be receiving information shortly on prizes they can use their Epraise points towards before they leave.

After School Sports Clubs Are Back!

A reminder that we are now running extra-curricular sporting activities for our students. A big thank you to all those who have committed to attending so far. It has been great seeing so many students developing their skills in a range of sports.

These clubs provide a great opportunity for students to catch up with team sporting activities that have been limited by lockdowns! Clubs are open to all students, with a different sport being offered each week. Students who are interested should meet outside the Sports Centre at the end of the school day on which their year group is scheduled, **with their PE kit**. The sessions will finish at 4.30pm.

The schedule is as follows:

Week 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 10	Year 9
Week 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
	Year 7	Year 10	Year 9	Year 8

In line with government guidance, these will be run in year group 'bubbles' and all of our routine COVID-19 preventative measures will be in place.

Super 6 Athletic Competition for Year 7-10: coming soon!

We are also excited to announce that the College has confirmed its place in the schools Super 6 Athletic Competition in Term 6. Students will have the opportunity to win a place in the school athletics team to compete (virtually) against other schools in the area. The successful students will be invited to an after school club to record their times/distances as part of a TEAM Score for Latimer. Students can be selected to take part by performing well in PE lessons or at the after school athletics club in Term 6. More information will come out soon!

Other News

Managing Student Catering Accounts

On occasions, students do not have enough money in their catering accounts to purchase food from abm Catering. In these circumstances, we do permit the accounts to overspend and ask the students to remind their parents or carers to top their accounts up. We appreciate that some students forget to do this!

Moving forwards, as accounts do not show a negative figure, but will show a £0.00 balance, we will send a text message to inform parents and carers of the overspend. We would be really grateful if you could then address this as soon as possible.

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 28 May	End of Term 5
Monday 7 June	Training Day: College closed to students
Tuesday 8 June	Start of Term 6: College re-opens to students <i>This will be Week 2 on the timetable</i>
Tuesday 8 June	Year 10 and Year 12 Exams (until 18 June)
Wednesday 16 June	Moving Up Evening: Live Event 6 pm
Monday 21 June - Friday 25 June	Sixth Form Induction Week

Wednesday 23 June	Year 7 SPRE, 4-7 pm
Thursday 1 July	Moving Up Evening: 1:1 Sessions 4-7 pm
Tuesday 6 July	Year 10 SPRE, 4-7 pm
Friday 16 July	End of Term 6
Monday 19 July	Training Day: College closed to students
Tuesday 20 July	Training Day: College closed to students

Summer Results Days

The results for A Level and Level 3 BTEC qualifications will be published on Tuesday 10 August.

The results for GCSE and Level 2 BTEC qualifications will be published on Thursday 12 August.