LATIMER NEWS 2026-27

ISSUE 2: OCTOBER 2026

PEOPLE MAKE THIS PLACE

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

This has been a long but very productive term. Particularly well done to students who have managed to attend every single day!

Despite the weather Year 7 enjoyed their team building event and showed what an incredible group of students they are. As a year group they have bonded and settled into Latimer extremely well. We are very proud of them. Turn to page 8 for the results.

Thank you to the parents and carers who attended the first Parent Forum meeting this week. We are pleased to report that Compass have been making some improvements based on parent/carer, staff and student feedback. More details to follow. We appreciate your patience.

In September we brought together former staff and students to reminisce about the last 50 years! What has changed...and what hasn't.

As part of this year's celebrations we are raising funds for an outdoor space for students and the community. Please support us via our GoFundMe page or iPay, or cash for non-uniform day on Friday 23 October. Any donations welcome.

We hope you all have a well-earned half term break.

C1

Following feedback from staff, students and parents, we have removed the negative tariff attached to a C1 – formal reminder.

A C1 is exactly what its name says: a reminder. Many students occasionally need a clear, formal prompt to refocus on their learning, and a C1 gives them that moment to pause and correct their behaviour, without any consequence at this point. We will continue to record, not to penalise students, but so that we can track patterns over time. This helps us spot when a child may be struggling and identify any underlying difficulty early.

We recognised that the previous system was causing stress and anxiety for many students, and that is not what we want. Every child deserves a fresh start in every lesson.

We hope that fewer negative points will mean students, and families, see a more positive picture of their progress and conduct in school.

Unfortunately, we are unable to remove points given for C1s during the first two weeks of term, before this change was made. Since the change, however, no negative points have been given.

SAFEGUARDING, BEHAVIOUR AND ATTENDANCE

First Aid and Medical Support

We would like to share with you that we have had over 1000 first aid “requests” since the start of the year. The nature of these vary so much that we need to streamline our processes to ensure the correct response for the student at the right time.

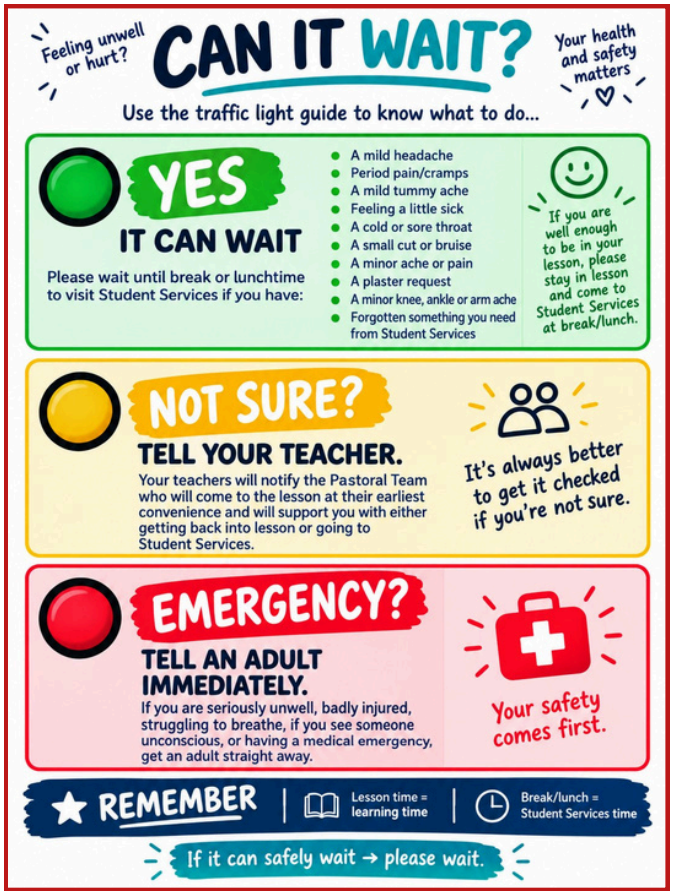
We will be rolling out a traffic light style approach to first aid requests with effect from Term 2. This is shown below.

Firstly it is important to remind all parents and carers that students should not be carrying their own medication. All medication is held centrally in Student Services and students who carry their own medication pose a safeguarding risk to other children.

It is not our policy to give out paracetamol on student request. We hold a small stock of paracetamol, but this will only be administered if needed and with parental permission, to avoid a child going home.

We would like to remind parents that, in line with our policy, we do not send unwell students home on their own. If a student is too unwell to remain in school, they will need to be collected by a parent or other authorised adult.

In addition, please remind your child that they should not be using their phones (following the national phones in school regulations) to call home regarding sickness.



We have two staff who triage Student Services and have high level first aid and other relevant training. Please discuss the traffic light system with your child so they are aware of the ‘Green’ requests that can wait. This will ensure that the team is available for the Amber and Red requests as above.

SAFEGUARDING, BEHAVIOUR AND ATTENDANCE

Keeping Safe Online

It can be challenging for young people engaging online to know who is real. Friend requests are made through social media platforms and games, often sent after a period of positive interactions. For generations who have grown up in a world defined by personal devices and the internet, it can be easy to believe that the online world is as real as the physical one.

While many young people navigate this without harm, there are some who are exposed to serious risk from those who use the internet as a place to exploit. For teenagers, the most common form of exploitation comes as requests for images. Young people believe they are talking to a friend and are often flattered by the positive attention they are receiving. This can lead them to feel unable to deny a request for a picture, after which the young person may be asked to pay to avoid this image being shared publicly. The situation feels particularly precarious for young people if the 'friend' knows their social media handles and can therefore share the image with their in-person social group.



In school, I talk to students about the risks online and how to report concerns. AI tools can also provide helpful advice, when asked by young people what to do. There are two main mechanisms of support available:

1. **CEOP.** This is a UK police agency which protects children from online abuse and harmful communication. Young people are able to report directly to them, and there is also a helpful 'Quick Exit' button which hides the reporting page, if the danger is from those in the same space. You can find details on the CEOP website here: **CEOP Safety Centre**

2. **NSPCC Report Remove**. The NSPCC's Report Remove function, enabled by Childline and the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), allows young people to report that an image of them is available online and to see if it is possible to take down. Wherever possible, these will be deleted from the internet, removing the ability to search for it at any time.

I encourage you to have a conversation with your child to check whether they know how to report content. Please remind them that we have a safeguarding team who can help in school.

The key message is, if in doubt, don't share!

Thank you
Mr King

SAFEGUARDING, BEHAVIOUR AND ATTENDANCE

Rude, Mean or Bullying

We continue to monitor and review our systems for tackling reports of bullying. This coming term Mr King, Safeguarding Lead, will be doing some work with students on understanding the nature of bullying and our responses. He will be using the graphic below. It is important that staff and students use the correct terminology when referring to reports of behaviour.



We need to work with students to understand when conversations differ between being rude and remind them of our value of Respect. Furthermore there are acts to others that are considered mean or unpleasant. These are dealt with through normal follow up and sanctions.

Then there is a pattern of hurtful behaviour towards an individual or individuals. This is where we follow our Anti Bullying Procedures. This will involve supporting the victim and discussion with parents. Sanctions will likely include internal or external suspension depending on circumstances and we will work with the Police where appropriate.

As a school we are measured not on whether bullying exists, but how we respond to it.

Artificial Intelligence

As a school we are reviewing policies to decide whether students should be allowed to access AI platforms such as ChatGPT on school devices. This needs consideration from a safeguarding angle and further clarity will be given in this area in due course. We remind parents and carers to have discussions with students about safely using AI at home.

Harmful Sexual Behaviours

One of the upcoming topics Mr King will be covering in assemblies and the Safeguarding Curriculum will be unpicking what are harmful sexual behaviours. This can include words, acts, online or gestures. This is also about relationship abuse and associated challenges. Mr King will share more information for parents and carers in future publications.

Safeguarding Audit

The school had a local authority Safeguarding Audit at the end of September and we are pleased to share that our practice was deemed in line with national expectations. The team praised the highly knowledgeable and experienced team: **“Overall, the school has an established safeguarding structure, knowledgeable staff and leaders who demonstrate openness to reflection and improvement”**. The audit gave us suggested areas for us to continue to work with students and parents and carers on raising awareness.

SAFEGUARDING, BEHAVIOUR AND ATTENDANCE

Attendance at Latimer

We have had a good start to the year for Attendance.

378 Students achieved 100% attendance this term.

87 from Attenborough **97 from Gilbert**
94 from Kahlo **100 from Tull**

We have completed over 10 different incentives, giving out over 532 prizes to students with good Attendance! We plan to give even more out in winter term.

Reminders from Attendance

- On every day of absence, please record absence on Compass or by emailing **Absence@Latimer.org.uk** before 8am
- Unwell students will not be allowed to leave site alone; they must be collected by someone already on the system.
- Medical appointments will negatively affect Attendance, please arrange around school hours.
- Please refer to the NHS guide **'Is my child too ill for school'**. A cold, sore throat or something similar are not reasons to be absent from school
- Students are required to be in lessons by 8:30am, after this, they will be marked as late.
- Home visits are completed for most absences on day 3.
- Please do not take holidays in term time, if you choose to, please tell us as we will visit the home multiple times and contact home daily which wastes staff time.

We are here to support, if support is needed, please feel free to email Hannah Todd, Attendance Improvment Manager, on **Htodd@latimer.org.uk**

Thank you
The Attendance Team

HOUSE NEWS

Attenborough



It has been a whirlwind of a first term that has flown by, but students in Attenborough have continued their excellent habits at the start of this academic year. In our first Attenborough assembly this year we talked about being ambitious, wanting to achieve great success and how we will remain motivated to achieve those and as a house we are aiming to overtake Kahlo and succeed in lifting the House Trophy in July 2027!

A strength of the House has always been our teamwork, which has been shown already this academic year. We have seen students from Attenborough out and about around the school site to ensure the environment is well looked after, whilst in house competitions we have seen full houses from Attenborough students, which saw us bring home a comprehensive victory in the recent Geography competition.

Finally, a warm welcome to all of our Year 7s and their families. This first term has seen them well and truly hit the ground running, as our new students have fitted into Attenborough House brilliantly, taking part in competitions, showing their character around the school and with record numbers of positive points between 7A1 and 7A2, they are looking like the forms to beat at this point of the year!

Have a fantastic break and I look forward to seeing you back in Term 2!

Gilbert



What a fantastic start to the new school year for our Gilbertarians! There is already a real buzz around Gilbert House, with our purple ties proudly on display as we ride the purple wave into another exciting year.

From diving into after-school clubs to getting involved in sports fixtures, our students are embracing the opportunities on offer and showing what it means to be part of Gilbert House. It has been lovely to see our Year 7s settling into secondary school life, building friendships and finding their feet, while our Year 11s are gearing up for their GCSE year and making the most of intervention sessions to support their progress.

Our House assemblies are reinforcing that all-important top-of-the-pyramid spirit: aiming high, showing resilience, supporting others and taking pride in everything we do. We are also excited to see our KS3 pupils connecting with sixth formers through mentoring, building relationships across the year groups and strengthening our Gilbert community.

There is plenty more to come, and I am looking forward to seeing our Gilbertarians continue to get stuck in, support one another and make us proud. Thank you for your continued support — keep those purple ties straight and that Gilbert spirit soaring!

Come on, Gilbert! Keep riding the purple wave!

HOUSE NEWS

Kahlo

Welcome to the 2026–27 school year!

Welcome back to all our Kahlo students, and a particularly warm welcome to our new Year 7s and everyone joining the House this year. I hope you are settling in well, making new friends and enjoying the opportunities that a new school year brings.

Kahlo House is a team and every member has something to contribute. This year, let's support one another, celebrate our achievements and take pride in representing our House.

Gold medal success for Max!

We are delighted to celebrate Max in Year 7, who has recently achieved first place and a gold medal at the Welsh National Judo Competition AND first place and a gold medal at the British National Judo Finals.

This is a fantastic achievement and a brilliant way to begin his time in Kahlo House. Competing at national level takes determination, commitment and courage, and Max should be very proud of his success. Congratulations Max — a huge well done from everyone in Kahlo!

Small improvements, big achievements

A new school year is a chance to build positive habits. Being organised, contributing in lessons, trying something new or showing kindness can all make a difference. Our challenge is simple: aim to improve a little each day. Small steps add up, and everyone can find something to work towards.

Get involved and share your successes

I encourage every Kahlo student to take part in school life, whether through House competitions, clubs, sport, music or helping others. You do not have to be an expert to join in — enthusiasm and a willingness to try count for a great deal.

We would also love to hear about achievements outside school. Students, parents and carers are welcome to share successes so we can celebrate the talents and interests within our House. Let's make this a year full of effort, teamwork and moments to be proud of.

Tull

Tull House has made a fantastic start to the academic year! It has been great to see students working so well together, engaging positively in house activities and continuing to show commitment to their schoolwork. A real highlight this term has been winning the inter-house basketball competition – a brilliant achievement that reflects the teamwork, determination and house spirit of our students.

We have also enjoyed excellent attendance throughout the term, which is a fantastic foundation to build on as the year progresses. I am incredibly proud of the positive start Tull has made, and we look forward to carrying this momentum into next term, building on our successes and continuing to make Tull House a team to be proud of!

ENRICHMENT EVENTS

Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Expedition

Latimer's Silver DofE students successfully completed their expedition in the Peak District during week 4, exploring some spectacular scenery along the way. Highlights included hiking through the dramatic rocky passageways of Lud's Church, visiting Bearstone Rock and enjoying fantastic weather on the Roaches, where students were rewarded with views stretching for miles across the surrounding countryside.

The expedition gave students the opportunity to put their navigation, teamwork and camping skills into practice. Carrying their equipment, completing their routes and working together brought plenty of challenges, making the successful completion of their expedition something to be especially proud of.

Huge congratulations from Mr Walmsley and Mr Street to all our Year 11 and Year 13 students who have now completed the expedition section of their DofE Award. This is an important milestone in their DofE journey and a fantastic achievement – well done to everyone involved!



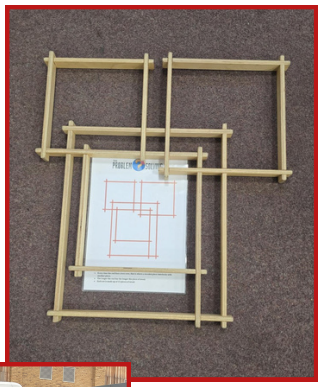






Year 7 Skills Building Event

This week, our Year 7 students participated in Skills Building Day, working with their form on a range of fun and challenging tasks as part of our careers curriculum. The event, delivered by the Problem Solving Company, developed valuable skills for school, everyday life, and future careers.



Well done to our winning form 7K2 and to all our Year 7 students for their hard work and enthusiasm.



OTHER NEWS

Latimer has a new World Champion...



Over the weekend of 25–27th September Tasker Jones and Miss Rowell travelled as part of the Team GB squad to the UITF World Taekwon-Do championships in Poland. This was an incredible experience and a fantastic reward for months of hard work, training and dedication. The competition saw Taekwon-Do athletes from around the world come together to compete at the highest level.



Tasker came home with a gold medal in sparring and silver in patterns, while Miss Rowell secured two silver medals. These results are a brilliant reflection of the commitment and determination shown throughout months of preparation and training. The success continued with the wider GB team achieving first place overall at the World Championships and a nice new trophy to bring back home.

Miss Rowell was also selected as part of the international umpire team at the UITF World Championships, giving her the opportunity to referee matches at this prestigious competition. Being selected for this role was a fantastic achievement and recognised her experience, knowledge and commitment to Taekwon-Do. Alongside competing herself, she was proud to contribute to the smooth running of the competition and support athletes from across the world.

Space for Hire



OTHER NEWS



Lost Property

Student Services currently has a large amount of lost property which has been handed in over the course of this term.

This mainly consists of coats, shoes and water bottles. A selection has been posted onto our website, which can be viewed here: **Latimer Arts College - Lost Property**. If you would like to claim an item, please contact Student Services.

Please ensure that items are clearly named to enable us to reunite lost things quickly and easily. Items that go unclaimed will be donated to local charities during Term 2.

Thank you for your support.

UPCOMING EVENT

Sixth Form Open Evening

Our Sixth Form Open Evening will be held on **Wednesday 4 November** from **6.00-8.00 pm**.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 22 October	Sixth Form Trip to New York (until 28 Oct)
Friday 23 October	Non-Uniform Fundraising Day
Friday 23 October	Term Ends
Monday 2 November	Start of Term 2: School re-opens to students (This will be Week 1 on the timetable) Year 11 Sixth Form Pathways Taster Sessions (until 6 Nov)
Wednesday 4 November	Sixth Form Open Evening, 6.00-8.00pm
Thursday 5 November	Year 9 Dance Workshop, 1.00-3.00pm
Wednesday 11 November	Remembrance Day - 2 minute silence
Thursday 12 November	GCSE Drama Performance, 7.00pm
Monday 16 November	National Anti-Bullying Week (until 20 Nov) Year 11 and Year 13 Mock Exams (until 27 Nov)
Friday 20 November	Year 8 World of Work Day
Tuesday 24 November	Year 10 National School & College Leavers Festival Trip A Christmas Carol, 7pm
Wednesday 2 December	Year 10 SPRE, 4.30-7.45pm
Friday 4 December	Training Day - School closed to students
Thursday 10 December	Christmas Music Concert, 7.00pm
Friday 18 December	End of Term 2 - Early Closure at 12.20pm



More dates are available on our website

Holiday Activities and Food Programme - Half Term



