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LATIMER LATEST NEWS – CHRISTMAS 2020

Supporting Our Community

A reminder that we will be supporting our local community by collecting donations for the Kettering Food Bank appeal and holding a non-uniform day on Friday 18 December to raise money for Alfie Stone's memorial. We thank you in advance for your support.

The College will close to students on Friday between 11.50 and 12.10 following a staggered departure.

The College will be responsible for COVID contact tracing up until Thursday 24 December. Should your child test positive with COVID-19 between Saturday 19 and Thursday 24 December, we would be grateful if you could email us on Covid@latimer.org.uk

It is somewhat difficult to believe that this time last year we were writing to you reporting on the exciting opening of our new Sports Centre and 4G pitch, which had just been opened by Sean Dyche, Burnley FC's Manager.

It was a fantastic end to the year and we were very much looking forward, with hope and enthusiasm to what 2020 would bring for our community...

What followed was the 'unprecedented' events of a global pandemic, the introduction of a whole new way of life (and vocabulary) for us all and the disruption to learning for our children.

As we end 2020, there is much to applaud and we must treasure this: we are all much more considerate, understanding and tolerant of others, having learnt what is **really** important and what **really** matters; our community has been brought closer together as we have all done what we can to support others; and our children have shown immense resilience, both managing their home learning and bouncing back following the September restart. We should all take a moment to reflect on this and be deeply proud of them.

It is time now to look forward and not back: we have a new learning routine that is working and our children have rapidly closed gaps and are moving forwards; we have found new (virtual) ways of doing old things so that they are not lost; and, with the promise of a mass vaccination programme on its way, we can and will come through this crisis in 2021.

I would like to thank you for all your support, understanding and kind words this year. Please do not underestimate the extent to which these have helped to rally our staff and boost their morale as they have navigated their way through exceptionally difficult times.

I wish you all a peaceful and healthy Christmas break. Enjoy the precious time with your family. Please, stay safe.

Regards

Siobhan Hearne
Principal

Safeguarding

Espresso Yourself: Youth Works Mental Health Support

We are pleased to be able to share with you details of this new service, which can be accessed by any of our students.

PE Wellbeing Challenge: Level Up!

Level Up! is a new and exciting wellbeing challenge beginning on Tuesday 12 January for all students and staff. We will all be preparing for four weeks of wellbeing challenges, that will be promoted through tutor time, to improve our physical and mental health. Each week there will be £15 Amazon vouchers up for grabs, along with £30 Amazon vouchers for the overall challenge winners! Please do encourage your child to take part.

A NEW MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE FOR 11-18 YEAR OLDS

If you find yourself needing support we're here to listen and help in your time of need.

Book an appointment by calling the numbers below or drop in during opening times.

MONDAY AND FRIDAY 4PM - 8PM
the lowdown, 3 Kingswell Street, Northampton, NN1 1PP
01604 634385

TUESDAY 4PM - 8PM
Youth Works at Corby Mind, 18 Argyll St, Corby, NN17 1RU
01536 518339

THURSDAY 4PM - 8PM
Youth Works, 97 Rockingham Rd, Kettering, NN16 9HX
01536 518339

School Nursing Text Service ChatHealth: Service open over Christmas

You can send a text via ChatHealth for confidential and anonymous advice on all kinds of health issues, like emotional health, sexual health, bullying, healthy eating and any other general health concerns. This service is available for young people aged 11-19 and the parents or carers of primary age pupils.

There will be a school nurse on duty from 9am to 4pm each day, except weekends and bank holidays. Just text 07507 329600 or go to <https://www.nhft.nhs.uk/0-19> for more information about the support available.

Learning and Progress

2021: Being Ready to Learn

We will re-open to all on Monday 4 January 2021. Students should arrive by 8.25am when lessons start and the gates close. This will be Week 2 on the timetable.

As we turn our attention to Term 3, it would be of great help if you could pay particular attention to ensuring that your child:

- Arrives at school by 8.25am each day, before the College gates close. Please note that students who do not arrive by 8.25am will be deemed as late and will be placed in an after-school detention;
- Removes any gel or acrylic nails that they may have had done for Christmas ready for the start of the new term, along with any nail varnish;
- Only has up to two pairs of studs in the lobes of their ears. No other piercings or styles of earrings are permitted. Please do not allow your child to tell you otherwise and agree to piercings over the Christmas period that will not be acceptable for school!
- Refrains from having lines cut into their hair. These are not permitted. Please do not allow your child to tell you otherwise!
- Switches off their phone and places this in their bag when they arrive at College. If seen out of bags around the College site, phones will be confiscated and a detention will be issued.
- Does not bring sweets or fizzy drinks to College. Whilst we like to occasionally reward students with sweet treats, this is in exceptional circumstances. We have seen a high prevalence of students routinely bringing sweets and fizzy drinks into College, particularly in Year 7. These will be confiscated if seen.

BTEC Examination Season

January sees BTEC examinations for Year 13 and the first round of BTEC Examinations for Year 12. Students will need to set aside some time for revision over the Christmas break in preparation for these. If you have any questions please contact your child's teacher in the first instance or email Mrs Levick, Examinations Officer: tlevick@latimer.org.uk

GCSE Exam Consultation: Please respond

As you are aware the Government has decided to look again at GCSE exams for this summer and is considering how they can provide additional support for students taking these qualifications. They have launched a consultation on the changes, which will take about 10 minutes to complete and which we would strongly urge you to take part in: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/support-materials-and-advance-information-in-2021-gcse-as-and-a-level-exams>

The Return of Student Progress Review Evenings (SPREs)

We are delighted that we will be able to commence a programme of SPREs from Term 3 onwards. These will be conducted virtually, using a web-based programme called School Cloud.

Please note that there are limitations to numbers that can be accommodated on this system and so, for some subjects, we may have to operate a priority booking system.

Details on this and how to access the system will be sent out prior to the SPREs taking place and the dates are detailed below.

Helping Us to Help Your Child

We are delighted to be able to announce the return of our Parent/Carer Forum in Term 3. This forum gives parents and carers a voice to support with ongoing College improvements and has made such valuable contributions to this in the past. All parents and carers are welcome to attend.

We will run our first virtual evening on **Tuesday 9 February** at **6.00pm** and will issue details on how to join.

We would be particularly interested in feedback on the September Restart, Remote Learning and what parents and carers' views are on how we can help them to support their child as we navigate through the pandemic.

For more information or to express an interest in 'attending', please contact Ms Gallon, Assistant Principal: kgallon@latimer.org.uk



We would like to offer special congratulations to Charlie Buckby (7g3) who is the first Year 7 multi-millionaire, having read over 2 million words in Accelerated Reader. A very well done! We are sure that many others will follow...

In the meantime, congratulations to Preston Webb (7r1) and Seth Diaz (7r2) who are millionaire readers.

Aiming High: Raising Aspirations and Expectations

University Applications Deadline

Congratulations to all of our Year 13 students who have already received offers from a variety of universities and those who are perfecting their personal statements. Please be reminded that students will have to meet with a member of our sixth form team prior to these being sent, so they must allow time for this before the fast approaching UCAS deadline of Friday 15 January at 6pm.

Enriching the Educational Experience and Celebrating Success



We are delighted to announce that the winners of our Christmas Epraise Prize Draw are as follows:

Lara Platt: Apple Watch
Joe Pringle: Signed Sean Dyche Football
Kieran Beri: £50 Pandora Voucher

We hope that these students enjoy this well-earned early Christmas present. All students can now continue to collect further Epraise points for the next draw in Term 4.

Success is Never Plain Sailing: It takes hard work and commitment!

It has been a privilege over the years to share with our community the sailing success of Tom Chapman. Despite the challenges that this year has brought, Tom has continued to shine (and grow up!).

Tom moved up to the laser class in the summer and has trained hard both on and off the water with great success. Last week he was presented with 5 trophies at the Cransley Sailing Club AGM! All of the trophies he won were for different race series held at the club, beating adults and experienced sailors to win the summer series, laser series, Austin Family Cup, Commodores cup and the Founders cup!



This is an absolutely fantastic achievement and we would like to pass on our sincere congratulations to Tom.

Other News

Post LAC, Adopted and Special Guardianship Families

Schools can receive a sum of money each year for a statutory school aged child who has ceased to be looked after by a local authority in England and Wales because of adoption, a special guardianship order, a child arrangements order or a residence order.

The DfE estimate that few parents and carers inform schools. This means it is quite likely that schools are missing out on funding to which they are entitled.

Northamptonshire County Council are therefore hoping to encourage adoptive parents and carers to come forward, as there may be support that can be offered at school.

If you believe your family status fits this criteria, please contact Mrs Heidi Angel: hangel@latimer.org.uk before Monday 18 January, otherwise it will be too late to access the funding.

Did you know that just registering your child for Free School Meals means that the College gets extra money?

With this money we could give extra help to students who need it. If you are registered for Free School Meals you could also get help with things like music tuition, school trips or other out of school activities, or there could be help to allow your child to continue into the Sixth Form.

If you want your child to have a free, healthy meal at lunchtime that's great – they will get the free meal (saving you more than £400 a year). Even if you don't want the school meals, as long as you qualify and are registered, the College still gets the extra government funding.

No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming. Our cashless catering system ensures no other student knows who is receiving Free School Meals. Please click [Free School Meals](#) to access the online application form.

New Parent Governor

We are pleased to announce that Mr Greg Morris has been elected as Parent Governor to the College Governing Body.

Widening our Catering Provision

Just a reminder that we are now offering a breakfast provision from Picassos from 8.00am – 8.20am each day.

Covid Protocols

COVID Marshal Support to Local Communities

As we anxiously await the announcement on revised tierings this week, we are sure that we all have our fingers crossed that we do not move to Tier 3. We strongly urge all those in our community to continue to follow the guidance over the Christmas period so that we can welcome our students back safe and well in January.

As part of Northamptonshire's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the use of marshals to support and encourage people to be COVID aware when out and about in their communities is being expanded. Part of this expansion will see marshals deployed in identified local areas where it is felt support and encouragement would be of benefit; this will include areas in the vicinity of schools.

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 18 December	End of Term 2
Monday 4 January	Start of Term 3: College re-opens to students <i>This will be Week 2 on the timetable</i>
Wednesday 20 January	Year 11 SPRE 4.30pm - 7.30pm
Tuesday 2 February	Sixth Form SPRE 4.30pm - 7.30pm
Tuesday 9 February	Parent Forum, 6pm
Friday 12 February	End of Term 3
Monday 22 February	Start of Term 4: College re-opens to students <i>This will be Week 2 on the timetable</i>
Wednesday 24 February	Year 9 SPRE 4.00pm - 7.00pm
Tuesday 2 March	Year 11 and Year 13 Photographs
Tuesday 16 March	Year 8 SPRE 4.00pm - 7.00 pm
Friday 26 March	End of Term 4