

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Goodbye to Miss P!

It is with sadness and pride that I am writing to share the news that Ms Jyoti Pankhania will be leaving us to take up a Deputy Head post at Southfields in term 6. During her 24 years service at Latimer, she has held many roles, taught many subjects and positively impacted so many lives. Whilst we will miss her greatly, this promotion is well-deserved and we know she will do great things at her new school too. I am delighted to say we have appointed an experienced Assistant Principal: Pastoral to join the leadership team.

'Moving Up': Welcoming you to the Latimer Family

Establishing strong working partnerships is very important to us and so we really look forward to meeting the parents and carers of our new Year 7 students at our Move Up Evenings on Wednesday 13 or Thursday 14 June. More details will be published shortly – but please save the dates.

Students Achieving Excellence

A small group of Year 8 students had hot chocolate and chocolate stars with the Principal in the new Sixth Form Café this term. This reward was for being the students who had achieved excellence in all aspects of school life: attendance, behaviour for learning and progress.



Race to Rewards Update



The Race to Rewards campaign has been very successful this year. So far 346 students have reached Bronze, 29 students have reached Silver and 2 students have reached Gold. We will be rewarding the top achievers at Pride of Latimer. All the positive points contribute to the House total too and it is close with all Houses over 40,000 points now and many more events to go before the winners are crowned on the last day of the summer term.

ATTENBOROUGH

45277 Points

GILBERT

42819 Points

KAHLO

40640 Points

TULL

47173 Points

Inspiring Excellence

We are officially rated a "Good" School



LEARNING AND PROGRESS

The countdown to the summer examination season is almost at zero!

As we knew would happen, all too quickly we have now arrived at the start of the examination season! Many practical exams have taken place and written examinations start on Wednesday 8 May. To prepare students for this we have:

- Provided study support material and revision guides
- Issued an Alternative Timetable for Year 11, information for which is [available on our website](#)

Please help us to help your child be successful throughout this exam season by:

- Providing positive and encouraging support over the coming weeks.
- Ensuring that they attend all of the revision sessions: these are compulsory!
- Making sure they arrive for the right exams at the right time. Text reminders about exams will be sent to parents and carers the day before. Briefing sessions will run for GCSE exams 30 minutes before the start times and we would expect all students to attend these.
- Making sure they are dressed in full school uniform / according to the Sixth Form dress code.
- Making sure that they bring water to drink in a clear plastic bottle.
- Making sure they have all the correct equipment: a calculator (we recommend a Casio FX83 calculator), a clear ruler, a compass and protractor for Maths exams. They are putting themselves at a disadvantage should they not have this equipment. Should you need any financial support with the purchase of equipment, please contact Ms Pankhania, Assistant Principal: jpankhania@latimer.org.uk.
- Make sure they are eating and drinking at regular intervals.
- Reassure them – reinforce that you are and will be proud of them, no matter what happens.

Please remember that students are not allowed any potential technological or web enabled devices, such as mobile phones or smart watches in any examination venues.

We request that students leave these at home on exam days along with their mobile phones. If they need to bring them in to school, they must be turned off/removed before the exam, and placed in their bag. Any breaches of this will be reported to the relevant exam board and it is inevitable that disqualification will be a consequence.

Ace Your Exams: A Trial Run for Years 10 and 12

We are in the process of finalising the timetables for Year 10 and Year 12 mock exams, which will take place in mid-June. Full details will come out shortly to parents and carers and students will be given a timetable. However, they do not need to wait for the timetable to start revision and should be speaking to staff about the best way to do this now.

SAFEGUARDING AND WELLBEING

Staying Mentally Healthy During Exam Time

We understand that exams can be a stressful time and so we are here to help if you need us. Further advice and guidance can also be found at [Young Minds](#).

Young Minds have a series of support pages aimed to help with exam stress and anxiety. Their advice is available to help parents and carers and, of course, young people themselves. You can find this helpful advice at the links below:

[Parents](#)

[Young people](#)

You may also find this [link](#) from 'The Parents Guide to' helpful.

CAREERS

Year 10 Careers Trip to Millennium Point, Birmingham

We took the Year 10 students out to the National Apprenticeship and Education Event in Birmingham recently. The students were able to talk to employers, apprenticeship providers and universities about what they can offer them in the future. Students reflected on the trip saying they enjoyed going to the stands and taking part in the interactive displays, collecting free pens, bags and sweets and seeing what else they can do after their GCSE exams.



Career Leadership Certificate

We like to celebrate our staff's achievements as well as our student's achievements.

Miss Gallon and Ms Stanyon have been awarded the Certificate in Careers Leadership from ICEGS at the University of Derby. Congratulations to them both!

If your child would like support from the Careers department, please email careers@latimer.org.uk

If you feel you can support us here at Latimer by coming in or welcoming students to your workplace, please fill in your details [here](#)

SIXTH FORM NEWS

YEAR 12

Managing your time and workload

Year 12 students have been informed about the increased workload expected over the next two terms as we prepare for University Applications, Personal Statements, Work Experience and Mock Exams. Alongside their regular lessons and homework, it is crucial for students to develop strong time management skills and prioritise effectively. To support them in this, students have been introduced to the Eisenhower Matrix, a tool that can greatly aid in self-organisation. More details about how to use this tool can be found [here](#).

University Applications and Personal Statements

As a school, we encourage all our students to complete a University Application. This offers them valuable experience in navigating complex online application forms and prepares them for future application processes, where attention to detail and error-checking are crucial. While we understand that not all students may wish to pursue university education and may opt for alternative pathways, sending off their applications is entirely optional. Alongside the University Application, students will also be required to create a Personal Statement. Year 12 students will focus on drafting their Personal Statements throughout terms 5 and 6.

Parents and carers can find out more about UCAS using this link [here](#)

Work Experience Week

As part of our raising aspirations programme, we ask all Year 12 students to undertake a careers based work placement designed to develop their employability skills, increase their appreciation of the commercial world and inspire future career choices. We cannot express how valuable work experience is and are encouraging our students to find a minimum of 5 days (which may be spread across more than one placement) from 15 to 19 July. During this period, there will be no classes, as students will be at the workplace of their host employer.

We are aware that many employers now adopt remote working and, therefore, finding a placement may be challenging and that your child may need your help. For this reason, we would very much welcome your input in guiding and supporting them through this process. Students (and their families) should source their own work experience placements. The careers guidance and sixth form team will do their best to find placements for any students who have been unable to find their own, but because we have limited resources, we expect only to be able to help a few students. If students are unable to secure a suitable work placement, they are required to inform Ms Magee, Sixth Form Centre Manager, as soon as possible.

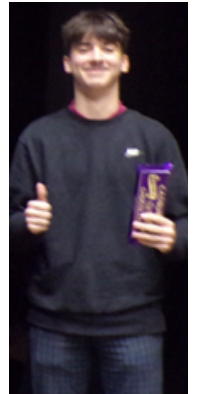
Year 13

In the run up to their final exams, which start Wednesday 15 May, our Year 13 students are busy undertaking extra revision during their tutor time sessions to ensure that they are really well prepared. We are all sending our very best wishes to each and every one of our students as they head into the exam season.

Sixth Form Games Afternoon

Last week Sixth Form organised their own interactive games afternoon, based on two popular TV game shows. Firstly, students tested their knowledge and skills in 'The 1% Club'. We did have a standout winner from Year 12 - congratulations and well done to George Simpson.

In the second game show of 'The Chase', students pitted their knowledge against the chasers to see which team could gain the most points. Our worthy winning team from Year 13 was Harry, James, Lauchlan and Dan. It was great to see students engaging in both these events, and cheering each other on. Thank you to everyone involved in the organisation and running of the afternoon.



1% QUESTION

Why is FOQZ the odd one out in these sets of letters?

BCDEGPTV AJK FOQZ IY

Answer on last page

SIXTH FORM - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Year 13 Exam Season	w/c 13 May 2024
Silver DoE Expedition - Derbyshire	9-11 June 2024
Year 12 Mock Exams	w/c 17 June 2024
Year 12 Trip – University of Bedfordshire	18 June 2024
Year 13 Celebration Event	21 June 2024
Sixth Form Induction Programme	w/c 24 June 2024
Yr 12 Geography Field Trip (TBC)	4-5 July 2024
Community Games Day	12 July 2024
Year 12 Work Experience Week	15-19 July 2024
A Level Results Day	15 August 2024
GCSE Results Day & Sixth Form Enrolment	22 August 2024

OTHER NEWS

Sparx Reader Launch - Year 7



Exciting plans are underway as we get ready to launch Sparx Reader during term 6.

You may see the icon on the left when you next login to your Sparx Maths account but please do not try to access this until you have heard more information about how to do so and when from your English teacher. More information will follow next week.



EXTENDED LEARNING FACILITIES

A reminder of our Aspire Homework Club, designed to support your child's academic success. In the mornings from 8.00-8.20am, and after school on Mondays to Thursdays from 3.00-4.00 pm, we provide dedicated homework facilities in the Library staffed with trained professionals to assist students in completing their extended learning. Additionally, during the lunch period, students are welcome to go to the Library.

Sixth Form Trip to Berlin

Over the Easter Holidays, our first international trip since the pandemic took place, 31 students from Years 12 and 13 visited Berlin and explored many of the key sites the city has to offer. Although the weather on the first day took us by surprise (26 degrees!), students got to complete a walking tour of Berlin finished by a trip up the Reichstag Dome.

Over the remainder of the trip we visited Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, Checkpoint Charlie, the TV Tower and the memorial to the murdered Jews of Europe as well as a second walking tour that focused on communist and socialist Berlin.



The students were a credit to the school while away and were a pleasure to spend 4 days with.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 6 May	Bank Holiday (school closed)
Wednesday 8 May	Examination season commences Year 9 SPRE, 4.30-7.45 pm
Monday 13 May	Year 10 Media Trip A Level Examinations commence
Tuesday 21 May	Parent Forum, 6pm
Thursday 23 May	Year 9 Sports Tour departs
Friday 24 May	End of Term 5
Monday 3 June	Start of Term 6: School re-opens to students (This will be Week 1 on the timetable)
Sunday 9 June	Silver Practice Duke of Edinburgh Expedition (9-11 June)
Wednesday 12 June	Year 6 Move Up Evening, 5.30 pm
Thursday 13 June	Year 6 Move Up Evening, 5.30 pm
Monday 17 June	Year 10 and Year 12 Mock Exams commence
Friday 21 June	Year 11 and Year 13 Celebration Assemblies and Proms
Monday 24 June	Sixth Form Induction Programme (until 26 June)
Wednesday 26 June	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
Friday 28 June	Summer Music Concert, 7pm
w/c 1 July	Year 8 Normandy Trip
Monday 8 July	Year 6 Move Up Day
Wednesday 10 July	Pride of Latimer Awards Evening, 6pm
Friday 12 July	Community Games Day
Friday 19 July	End of Term 6



More dates are available on our website

Answer to 1% Club Question

When you pronounce the letters in the other groups they all have the same phonic sound, but the letters FOQZ don't - try it and see!