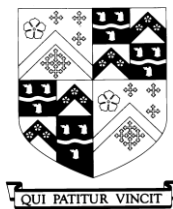


THE LATYMER SCHOOL

Founded 1624



HASELBURY ROAD
EDMONTON
LONDON N9 9TN
Tel: 020 8807 4037
Fax: 020 8887 8111

HEADTEACHER

Mark E Garbett MA M.Ed NPQH

e-mail: Office@Latymer.co.uk
Homepage: www.latymer.co.uk

5th September 2011

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

I offer a warm welcome to all students new to the school this term and hope that they will continue their education successfully here to fulfil their potential. In the last six years I have come to experience for myself that the Latymer community is a very special one, with a particular feature the way that "new" members of it are made to feel welcome. I hope that your daughter/son discovers that for themselves. I look forward very much to meeting with parents of new students over the coming weeks, terms and years, and to teaching some of your children. My colleagues and I look forward to working with all students and with you too during the coming year.

At the beginning of the academic year we welcome several new members of staff: These include the following teachers: Mrs Cramp, Head of German; Mr Kidd, German Teacher; Ms Jury, Assistant Head of Music; Mrs Sparey and Dr Hussain, Chemistry Teachers; Miss Smith, Biology Teacher; and Miss Lawson the new Cover Supervisor.

Congratulations go to students and teachers as the excellent examination results of this summer continue to place the school amongst the best in England. At both Year 11 and Year 13, students achieved the very high standard set in previous years. In Year 11 students achieved 90% of GCSE entries at A or A*. In Year 13, 92% of A level grades were at A or B. Our Year 12 students produced some very good AS results which will give them a firm foundation for their A-level studies next year. These achievements are only possible with the close working together of students, parents and teachers.

During the summer holidays a large number of students participated in several residential visits. The Music tour was a great success, as was the Barbados tour, the new trip to Honduras, there were 2 trips to Wales to climb the 14 peaks, and 3 members of staff visited our partner school in Tanzania.

Students at Latymer play a part in leading societies, presenting assemblies, influencing policy and organising events. We are very grateful that they play such a part and as they progress through the school are happy to take more and more responsibility. The team of Senior Pupils meet with me every week and play a major part in the smooth running of the school. For parents' information, the list of Senior Pupils this year is:

<i>Head Girl:</i>	Abbie Brown	<i>Deputy Head Girl:</i>	Ciara Cook
<i>Senior Pupils – Girls:</i>	Oluwatofehinti Adesiyan Rosie Carter-Rich Kay Poon Lwazi Sibanda	Elly Aristotelous Hannah Jackson Nicole Shroff	
<i>Head Boy:</i>	Leo Bentley	<i>Deputy Head Boy:</i>	Roberto Weeden-Sanz
<i>Senior Pupils – Boys:</i>	Ming Au Oliver Gibson Atila Lee Nathan Simpson	Michael Carbonell Callum Kennedy Mariano Priebe	

The summer holidays, as most holidays at Latymer, provide opportunity to extend the experience of school beyond the 190 days determined by government. At regular intervals schools are advised by both central and local authorities to be very careful about granting permission for students to be absent from school for non-essential reasons during the 190 days of term-time. After all, this is only slightly over 50% of the number of days in a year. Every lesson missed is an opportunity missed and you will appreciate that the National Curriculum is very crowded so schemes of work are very tight to ensure that all work is covered during each

academic year. Even Year 10 these days have what are controlled assignments, essential parts of their GCSE assessments, these take place at different times through the year in different subjects. Conscientious students get work in advance from teachers and make up any written work missed as soon as they can, but group activities, oral work, practical work etc simply cannot be made up, so students inevitably lose out and their progress can be affected.

This serves as a reminder that requests for the school to authorise absence should be made to me, in advance, not in retrospect. Parents may request that we authorise absence in exceptional circumstances, but the starting position is that requests for family holidays during term time will not be authorised. I enclose another copy of the Term dates for 2011-12 in the hope and expectation that parents will ensure that holidays are taken during school holiday times.

A number of students attend lessons, typically on Saturdays, in other centres for particular subjects and parents towards the end of the year make requests for absence in order to take external examinations at other centres. Sometimes this requires more than one day's absence due to rehearsals or a series of examinations. Although we understand students' desire to take examinations in subjects of personal interest to them that we may not be able to offer at Latymer we do ask that any such requests should be given well in advance so that we can discuss with you the extra pressure that this puts on a student. I would be grateful if parents considering this would read the Examination Policy for Non Curriculum Entries (NCE) which can be found at <http://www.latymer.co.uk/noticeboard/policies.aspx>.

Once again this year all students will receive a School Planner which will provide a method of communication between home and school enabling students to record homework assignments which can be monitored by parents. It is the place for students in Years 10 and 11 to record their own coursework deadlines using the tables provided in the planner. Parents are requested to sign the planner on a weekly basis having assured themselves that their daughter/son has completed all the necessary work. Teachers will record in the planner any concerns they have about your child's work so it is important to review it on a regular basis. Included in the planner are details of important dates relating to parents' meetings, holidays and school closures. There is also much helpful information in the KS3 planner about effective study habits. Parents of Year 7 pupils should note that for the first fortnight of this term we shall not be setting your child homework; this will give them a better chance of managing all the other demands of starting at a new school.

May I remind you during Physical Education lessons personal valuables should not be left in changing rooms. The ordinary lockers can be used or a student can bring a combination padlock and use the small lockers for this purpose in the Sports Hall corridor or the main school changing rooms. Please also ensure all items of clothing are marked with your child's name so that we can ensure any item can be quickly returned when misplaced.

Letters such as these are archived on the school web-site www.latymer.co.uk. Further information is available to parents through this site by going to www.latymer.co.uk/lile. The generic username for parents is **Parents2006** and the generic password is **Latymer06**. (The password includes the closing full stop.) Increasingly, communication with parents will be on-line. Occasionally we still need a parental signature, in which case the letter will be in paper form, but if a signature is not required, all generic letters such as this will be in electronic form, only. We have noticed an understandable trend of parents emailing staff. We do not discourage contact between home and school but the quantity of emails is significantly higher than previous contact by letter. I am sure that parents appreciate that it does take resources to reply to an email, for instance to confirm that we have received an option form, so we would ask that parents are considerate and not divert us from our core task of teaching and learning by replying to unnecessary emails.

With best wishes to you for the term.

Yours sincerely,

Mark E Garbett
Headteacher