

# 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](mailto:office@latymer.co.uk)  
Homepage: [www.latymer.co.uk](http://www.latymer.co.uk)

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thursday 2nd February 2012

### Year 9 Academic Consultation Evening For Parents/Carers and Students

There will be a meeting for parents/carers and students of Year 9 on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2012 from 4.50pm to 7.30pm in the Great Hall, to enable discussion of your son/daughter's progress with subject staff. We expect all students to attend the meeting with their parents/carers. Students must wear school uniform when attending academic consultation evenings, and wait with their parents/carers whilst queuing for appointments.

These meetings are an important way to help students make progress. Please feel free to ask the following: how your daughter/son is performing in relation to their potential; your daughter/son's strengths and achievements; the areas for development for your son/daughter and how you can help; and whether your daughter/son is happy, settled and behaving well.

To make the best use of time, we offer parents/carers timed appointments, the allocation of which has been computerised. However, some teachers teach more than one group so it may not be possible to have an appointment for every subject area. Art, Drama, Technology and PE are grouped in such a way that each teacher teaches a large number of students on a 'rotation' basis so appointments may be difficult here too. The appointments given are of five minutes duration and we ask for your co-operation in keeping to the arranged times or the system will break down. It may, of course, appear that a much longer and deeper interview is necessary because of a particularly worrying problem. In such cases alternative arrangements should be made at a mutually convenient time. A bell will sound at 7.45pm to signal the end of the consultation evening.

Please complete the attached slip. Your list of appointments will be given to your son/daughter by Friday 2nd March. This list may include an appointment with the Head of Learning (Mr Boden) or Assistant Head of Learning (Ms Fritzsich) if there are any points they particularly wish to raise with you. Mr Boden, Ms Fritzsich and the form tutors will have a number of subject appointments during the evening and so will be unable to see parents/carers without an appointment. However, should you wish to see Mr Boden or Ms Fritzsich and do not receive an appointment then please contact them by phone at the school number or email at either [bdn@latymer.co.uk](mailto:bdn@latymer.co.uk) or [fri@latymer.co.uk](mailto:fri@latymer.co.uk).

I have also attached a questionnaire to this letter. We are constantly monitoring and evaluating our practices, and would like to listen to and respond to your ideas. To do so we would appreciate you completing the questionnaire and returning it to the box that will be on the registration table at the entrance to the Great Hall where you can collect the seating plan for teachers on your way in.

Please remember that Haselbury Road is a public road. Residents experience a good deal of disruption from Latymer traffic. If coming by car, it would help relations with residents if you could please drive in the North Gate and park in the playground rather than in the road to avoid the risk of blocking residents' drives. In any case, please bear in mind that the entrance for parents' evenings is via the concert entrance door, to the rear of the main building which is accessible from the car park. Access is not available from the North or South entrances or through the main reception. Parents may leave at various times during the evening so please ensure that you do not block in other cars. The car park exit is via the South Gate.

Yours sincerely,

**Mark Garbett**  
Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

I was delighted to see so many of you at our GCSE Options Evening presentation on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January. I hope the evening was useful for you and thank you for attending. I certainly hope all students are pleased with the choices they have made, and will enjoy studying them over the course of the next few years.

As I will only have the opportunity to speak to a relatively small number of you at the Academic Consultation evening, I thought I would take the opportunity in this letter to provide an overview of Year 9 to date.

As many of you will know, we have been very fortunate to have had a good amount of stability amongst the Year Tutor Team over the last three years. It is certainly the intention for Miss Fritzsich, the Assistant Head of Year, and myself to continue with the Year Group as they begin their GCSEs in earnest next Year. This term we welcome Mrs Man to be the tutor of 9 Latymer. Miss Silence is now a proud mother, and will be on leave for the next two terms; so we are delighted to have such a supportive and able replacement in Mrs Gilliver.

It has certainly been a busy year so far for all students. Many continue to be regularly involved in the extra-curricular sporting programme at Latymer, and as I write many too are preparing for the House Music Competition on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February. There was a fabulous Chamber Concert in the first term, whilst more recently the year group took part in two off-timetable Drama Days which involved workshops and theatre visits to the West End. I do encourage all the students to all take part in at least one extra-curricular activity on offer at Latymer as it provides a richness to the school day as well as fostering a sense of community and responsibility; many participate in several.

The forms have recently enjoyed six wonderful residential outdoor activity weeks at our field centre in Cwm Penmachno. I have received some very warm comments from the staff who accompanied the students on these trips especially regarding their attitude, enthusiasm and conduct. It was clear that the students really appreciated the considerable time and effort that went into making these trips possible. School trips are of enormous value to your children and I would like to thank my colleagues who organise these trips and so willingly give up their time to support them. With the support of teachers and parents, trips at Latymer will continue to run successfully and be such a huge part of their education.

As mentioned, all Year 9 students have now provisionally chosen their GCSE courses for next year. I hope that the students feel that they have been well supported by their form tutors and from home in making their option choices. In the first term all students in Year 9 were introduced to our Careers Education & Guidance programme, as well as being shown round our dedicated Careers Library. Some of the students themselves have been giving presentations to their peers in form time on a variety of different careers. Careers guidance for all students will of course continue in Years 10 & 11, it will play an increasingly significant role as the students move through the remainder of their time at Latymer. If you feel you would be able to talk to the year group about your chosen career it would be much appreciated.

I am proud of the way that the vast majority of our students conduct themselves and contribute to school life. They are creative, confident, good humoured, increasingly aware of parameters and of each other, and respond well to teacher guidance. I am very grateful to all your support in establishing clear boundaries of appropriate behaviour at home and thank you for your support so far this year of our work at school. I hope we are able to 'allow enough freedom for individuality to flourish, but not enough for it to be spoilt.'

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March. As this is an Academic Consultation Evening you might not get a chance to see your form tutor about more pastoral concerns, though I do hope you will contact us by telephone or by email us if you have any concerns or queries.

Yours sincerely,



Mr C Boden  
Head of Learning Year 9

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**Please return this reply slip to the Small Hall collection trays by Tuesday 7th February 2012**

<b>Student's Name:</b>	<b>Form:</b>
*I/We shall be able / unable to attend the Year 9 Parents Consultation Evening on Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

***\*Please delete as necessary***

## Year 9 Parents/Carers: Your view of The Latymer School

This school wishes to evaluate itself by learning from questionnaires such as this one. Similar questionnaires will be addressed to students during the school year.

Please read the following statements and tick the answer which best fits your thoughts about the school since you last completed a questionnaire. Please only tick one box per statement. If you cannot answer leave it blank.

	(Please tick)	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
1	My child enjoys school					
2	My child feels safe in school					
3	The school keeps me sufficiently informed about my child's progress					
4	My child is making enough progress at this school					
5	The teaching is good at this school					
6	The school helps me to support my child's learning (eg. through parent information evenings, Internet, student support meetings)					
7	The school helps my child to have a healthy lifestyle					
8	The school makes sure that my child is well prepared for the future (for example, changing year group, changing school, options guidance and for children who are finishing school, entering further or higher education, or entering employment)					
9	The school meets my child's particular needs					
10	The school deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour					
11	The school listens to account of my suggestions and concerns					
12	The school is led and managed effectively					
13	Overall, I am happy with my child's experience at this school					
14	If you want to explain any of your answers, or if there is anything else you want the school to be aware of, please give details here.					

If you wish to add any further comments, please use the back of this questionnaire, or write separately to Mr Garbett.

**Please do not refer to individual members of staff by name.**

<b>Please return your completed form to the box on the registration table</b>
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