

# THE LATYMER SCHOOL

Founded 1624



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## HEADTEACHER

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## INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

The Latymer School is a selective grammar school for boys and girls aged 11 to 18. It aims to provide a broad and stimulating educational experience with very high standards within the formal curriculum while believing that school life should be valued for itself and not only as a preparation for adulthood. The heart of the school's aims is the intellectual, cultural and social development of all pupils in a context of mutual esteem and sensible good order.

There is an outstanding musical tradition which leads to a wide range of music making, much of it of very high quality, mainly as an extra-curricular activity. Drama, sport and outdoor pursuits are also very strong. The House system engenders much purposeful activity: inter-House competitions in sport, drama and music and non-competitive ventures such as fund raising for a wide variety of charities. Our field centre in North Wales (Ysgol Latymer at Cwm Penmachno), owned by the Foundation, is widely used as a base for outdoor pursuits and field courses.

The school is situated in Edmonton, North London. Its site is off the A10, just north of the North Circular Road. It is easily reached from the M25 and is well served by public transport. Maps showing the site and routes by which the school can be reached will be sent to all applicants invited for interview.

### THE FOUNDATION

The Latymer Foundation at Edmonton dates from 1624, when Edward Latymer bequeathed certain property to trustees on condition that they were to clothe and educate eight poor boys living in the Ancient Parish of Edmonton. Other gifts were made to the trustees and the various charities were merged into one in the early part of the eighteenth century. The School takes its name from the principal benefactor. It became co-educational in 1910 and in that year moved from Church Street to its present site in Haselbury Road. In the intervening years the School has grown in numbers and its premises have been frequently extended and modernised.

### THE CURRICULUM

Our aim is to enable each pupil to develop his or her talents and interests to the full while experiencing a broad and balanced curriculum throughout years 7 - 11. The courses offered challenge pupils to develop insight and independence of thought through an active and problem solving approach which relates learning to the real world and values both sound learning and intellectual rigour. In the Sixth Form pupils take 4 AS-levels in Year 12 together with a range of non-examination activities. Some pupils will continue with 4 AS subjects to A-level but the majority will reduce to 3.

### HOMEWORK

We believe that work done at home plays an important part in our pupils' learning. It encourages self-discipline and self-reliance and enables parents to support their children. Homework tasks range from exercises practising skills learned in class to open-ended investigations in some subjects. There is a balanced homework time-table beginning with approximately one hour per night in the Year 7 growing to two and a quarter hours in Years 10 and 11.

The school issues School Planner to all pupils. This is a useful tool for pupils to record homework set and done. Parents of younger pupils are asked to sign the diary each week.

### THE SCHOOL LIBRARY AND LEARNING RESOURCES CENTRE

The School Library is a vital resource for teaching throughout the school. Some 17,000 volumes (which are constantly reviewed, 'weeded' and replenished) are housed in the handsome setting of the Ashworth & War Memorial Libraries. There is a wide selection of periodicals. The Library is open daily for borrowing books during the lunch break. It is open all day for sixth form private study. All Year 7 pupils are instructed in the use of the library during their first few weeks in the School. A Chartered Librarian is employed.

There is also a Learning Resources Centre (LRC) available for class use and private study. The area contains reference books, CD ROM, individual video resources and other devices. Staff use the LRC and an adjacent room for preparing their teaching resources. There are two non-teaching staff who provide assistance in the areas. Computer facilities; three computer rooms and the Network Manager's office are close to the library and LRC; another computer room is in the Technology area. All staff are provided with a laptop and the school has a wireless network throughout. About 20 classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards.

### **BEYOND SCHOOL**

The majority of sixth formers proceed to degree courses at Universities or to other forms of Higher Education in Music, Art and other areas. Of recent years the number of Latymerians gaining places at Oxford and Cambridge Colleges has grown strongly, going from mid-twenties to over forty.

### **DISCIPLINE**

Most important is the self discipline resulting from wanting to learn and from an awareness of the needs of others. Pupils are expected to consider also the good of the school as a community.

Unsatisfactory work or behaviour may, with due notice, lead to detention beyond the normal end of the afternoon school. Pupils may be detained for 15 minutes without notice. 24 hours' notice is given if a pupil is to be detained for a longer period. Pupils whose work or conduct is persistently unsatisfactory are placed on report for a period of time. This means that each teacher reports on their conduct lesson by lesson and that the pupil is seen daily to go over these reports. In serious cases parents are always informed and are invited to discuss the problem with the appropriate staff. In extreme cases a pupil may be excluded.

### **THE HOUSE SYSTEM**

The House system is embedded in the traditions of the school and is one of its great strengths. It provides the structure for much of the extra-curricular activity in the school. House loyalty is fostered by the House identity of the 6 forms in each year (Ashworth, Dolbe, Keats, Lamb, Latymer, Wyatt). Staff are allocated to Houses and are form tutors to pupils in their own House. Much of the House activity is run by senior pupils, elected by their House, under the supervision of Senior House Staff. Tutors, and year heads, progress with their form from year 7 to year 11. Sixth formers are in smaller pastoral groups with experienced tutors.

### **YSGOL LATYMER OUTDOOR PURSUITS CENTRE**

In 1966 The Foundation purchased a former primary school in the village of Cwm Penmachno, within the Snowdonia National Park. Since that time, the building has been developed into a comfortable and well equipped centre accommodating one standard form group (30) and accompanying staff.

Each year every Year 7 and Year 9 pupil has the opportunity to spend a week at the centre, taking part in a variety of outdoor activities. These include hill walking, orienteering, mountain cycling, climbing, abseiling, horse riding, canoeing, kayaking, rafting and swimming.

In addition, older students visit the centre for Outdoor Pursuits related to Duke of Edinburgh Award, GCSE AS and A-level PE and also to take part in the 'fourteen peaks' challenge. Both staff and pupils alike cite visits to the centre amongst their most enjoyable and memorable experiences of Latymer School life.

### **RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

A Performing Arts Centre was completed in January 2000 paid for by donations from former pupils, parents and friends of the school. Since 1998 parents have contributed to a voluntary fund to maintain standards within the school.

A Sixth Form Common Room and Study Area were completed in December 2000.

A sports hall/dining hall was opened by the Princess Royal in May 2006.

The school has a recruitment and retention scheme for teachers. Details are available on request.

Mark E Garbett

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