



Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter. I want to start by saying a huge **thank you** to each and every one of you for your support since we came back to school in September. Our lives have been transformed by the Covid19 pandemic, and in school we have had to consider every aspect of our school life to make sure it is safe and secure, and this, as you know, has meant many changes to what our students have been used to in a normal school day. I could not be prouder of the way that our students, staff and wider community, including you our parents and carers, have risen to the challenges we have all faced. The strength and resilience shown by everyone has led to success in so many areas of school this term and you have played a vital part in that successful return to learning for our students. Despite the challenges Covid presents to us all, our Autumn Term at Lathom has been packed full of activity and there is so much to share with you in this Christmas newsletter.

I hope it will give you a flavour of the many opportunities on offer for all of our wonderful students. My pride in our students and in our school community continues to grow with every week that goes by and I feel privileged to lead this wonderful school.



Mrs Galbraith

SETTLING BACK INTO LIFE AT LATHOM

Since the start of term we have seen our students really engage with their learning again after so long away because of the national lockdown. Here is a flavour of what they have been up to both in school and when they have been learning remotely at home:



Hour of Code during **Computer Science!** Year 7s gaining their certificate.

Alfie showing Typing.com achievement certificate gained following home learning on Synergy!



Year 7s presenting their **Cyberbullying** Presentations

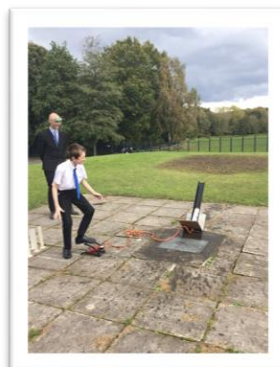
*Year 11 **Computer Science** Lesson, defragmenting with skittles!*



*It's been great to see some of our students cooking up a feast in the kitchens with **TeamTech!***

Team Science have been setting standards high in **STEM Club** and our **Key Stage 4 Science Society**. We're looking forward to seeing what other experiments are on the cards for next term...

If you are not willing to learn,
No one can help you.
If you are determined to learn,
No one can stop you.



ENGLISH MATTERS!



Accelerated Reader Competition

This term we have launched our Accelerated Reader competition for Year 7! Students have been challenged to read the most words they can during this half term. They've been reading books both in school and at home to work their way up our leaderboard to be crowned the winner. Our winner for this half term is **Finley** who has read an amazing **133,423** words!

Writing Competition

Several students in Year 7 have entered The University of Birmingham and National Literacy Trust story writing competition this term.

Congratulations to **Alise** who has been selected as the winner for our school. Good luck to all of our students who have entered! The winner of the national competition will be announced in January 2021.

As well as reading during the holidays, please make sure your child has a good book with them when we come back after the holidays – it will help them in every aspect of their learning!

“The more you **read**
the more **things** you know.
The more that you **learn**
the more **places** you'll go.”
-Dr. Seuss

PE UPDATE

Unfortunately, because of the current restrictions, there has been no team sport competition for our PE department so far this year. However, our students have been keeping fit and healthy through many individual sport and fitness activities and challenging themselves to get fitter, stronger and faster.

Here are some of our stand out runners and athletes from this term:



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Congratulations to our **Student Leadership Team** and **Sports Captains** for 2020/21. Our Student Leaders have been meeting regularly to discuss how they wish to develop and improve our school still further and will be sharing some of their thoughts and ideas in our new **Lathom Podcast** for 2021. Keep an eye out on our website and on our school Social Media pages for more information! Our Sports Captains will be helping our fabulous PE Department to start up some new **extra-curricular clubs** from January 2021 and we can't wait to see them in role!



PROUD AWARDS

Congratulations to all of our students who have done themselves PROUD and have been rewarded this term for outstanding effort, resilience, excellent work and noticeable and significant contributions to our school community. We have seen a record number of nominations for **Student of the Lesson** and for **Home Learning**. A particular mention must go to the tutor groups who have had reward breakfasts during this term for their achievements and efforts, and to the **overall individual winners** for the term who are:

- ★ **Esther (Year 8)**
- ★ **Alex (Year 10)**
- ★ **Zvezdelin (Year 9)**
- ★ **Alex (Year 7)**
- ★ **Bethany (Year 11)**

★★ Well done to all of you! ★★



YEAR 11 – GCSE EXAMS 2021

Year 11 students have been sitting practice GCSE exams this month. They have conducted themselves magnificently and I would like to congratulate them on the resilience they have shown in the circumstances. Their results will be available to them when they return to school in January and there will be an opportunity for you to meet online with your child's teachers at our virtual **Year 11 Parents' Evening on Thursday 28 January**. Before this event, your son or daughter will be given the most up to date details available of the summer GCSE exams (unfortunately, the government could still make changes for next summer) and the study support and revision sessions they are required to attend.

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HARD
work
HARDER

Revision materials are available from school to all students and if you have any questions or want to know more about how you can support your child through their exams, please contact **Mr Sykes**, Head of Year 11, call in (by phone) to our **Parents' Drop In** every Tuesday from 2.30pm – 5.00pm or contact us by email at familysupport@lathom.lancs.sch.uk

After the Christmas break, Year 11 revision sessions will run in the library every day at lunchtime and after school (**free bus travel home provided for after school sessions**).

We are really impressed by the hard work and dedication shown by our Year 11 students. Keep up the good work. It will be worth it!

COMING SOON...

We will be trialling a new programme of **after school activities** after Christmas. This includes our Homework Club where students from all years can get study support and advice with their school work.

There are late buses at **4pm, 4.30pm** and **5pm** which are **free of charge** for students staying for any after school activities. Full details will be available in the New Year.



CHRISTMAS IN OUR COMMUNITY

After such a tough year, we wanted to do our best to **'put the sparkle'** back into Christmas this year for as many people as possible in our community.

In school, our Student Leadership Team ran a **'12 Doors of Christmas'** competition to see which tutor group could decorate the best Christmas themed door. The creativity and competitive spirit around school has been very impressive indeed!

The response we had to our 'Christmas stocking filler' and 'buy a bauble' appeals was totally overwhelming and with all of the donations we received we have been able to:



- ★ wrap and deliver over 200 Christmas presents
- ★ deliver over 200 Christmas cards to residents and care workers in our local Care Homes
- ★ collect and deliver 35 food hampers and over 230 food vouchers
- ★ bake, ice and wrap 100 Christmas cakes
- ★ collect the wishes for 2021 from many of our local primary school children and hang them on our community Christmas tree in the Concourse

We are truly humbled by your generosity and want you to know that every donation really did make a difference, raise a smile and put the sparkle of Christmas back into many, many homes across Skelmersdale.

Thank you so, so much!



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

I hope you have enjoyed this round up of a very, very busy autumn term at Lathom.

More than ever before, I feel so PROUD of everything that our students achieve and especially of how well they represent themselves, our school and our community. They have faced so many challenges this year and in their school work, and around school, they have conducted themselves with determination, understanding and respect. It is hard to put into words just how very grateful I am to all of the staff for their dedication and commitment to ensuring that our students get the very best experience and support during their time at Lathom, especially in these difficult times. They always 'go the extra mile' and I feel so PROUD of how hard everyone works to make sure that our students have the best possible chance of success.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry and peaceful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

J Galbraith

Jane Galbraith
Headteacher

