

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

3rd April 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I thank parents for your care in negotiating the car park at the back of the school for evening functions. As part of the medium term planning for the Sports Hall project we planned to change the use of one of the gymnasias. The builders' compound in the middle of the playground is in place for the conversion of the boys' gym into a multi-purpose performance space. We hope to commission this in September, for small scale concerts, drama performances, art exhibitions, media shows, year assemblies, lectures, etc.

The term has been packed with activity, as is each one at Latymer. Every now and again I look at our school aims. One is: "To help pupils understand the world and the interdependence of individuals, communities and nations." I watch a good deal of school sport. Many teams have students all from one year-group but many have a mix, whether it is girls' netball or senior boys' soccer. Watching team games where students encourage and support one another, even across an age difference of one or two years, is a delight. Being a member of the audience at a Chamber concert, for instance sitting next to a student during once this term, when they provided an unsolicited comment at the end of one item, "***** is such a good drummer" is another delight. This year more than ever Latymer is providing opportunities for students in other Enfield schools, at no cost to Latymer. Specialist status in Arts enables us to fund activities in our five local partner schools. These activities have been widened this year in a significant way, from Latin lessons in one primary school, a science assembly in a second, help with music in a third, racing model cars in a fourth. The government call this "community cohesion". I call it service to the wider community, sharing the talent and expertise of Latymer students and staff with those who are not members of the school. In one week there were visitors to Latymer from other secondary schools to a lecture on Optical Illusions, another on the Cern experiments, to presentations to students and to parents from Oxford and Cambridge admissions tutors. Latymer students were just a few of those receiving Jack Petchey awards at the ceremony where there were award winners from every Enfield school. The Amnesty International whole school assembly, led by students, highlighted issues of global importance and the enthusiasm and commitment of the sixth form organisers brings these issues to students' attention on a weekly basis. All of these activities illustrate the impact Latymer has on the wider community; we believe these activities are also of benefit to Latymer students themselves, who learn from the experiences and develop important life skills. Middlesex County Council, as it was then, funded a coeducational school in Haselbury Road, in 1910. Next year Latymer celebrates the centenary of coming to the present site and is contributing more than ever to the local community.

In a previous letter I requested help from parents who have something to add to our programme of guest speakers about particular careers and professions. I have been pleased that a number of parents have contributed by speaking at some of the academic societies run by the sixth form. Also many parents have been able to offer short term work experience to year 11 students after their GCSE exams, or to sixth formers, or even a whole gap year work placement. Students say that these experiences have been of high quality and great benefit to them. This year we have another request and we would be delighted if any parents were able to offer interview practice for applications for university places, gap year placements or other employment. If any parents are interested in any of the activities above then please contact Mr Wakefield at wke@latymer.co.uk

I wish all going on school trips, indeed all those travelling, safe journeys over the holiday period. We look forward to seeing students again on Monday, 20th April.

Yours sincerely

Mark E Garbett
Headteacher