



Parent Bulletin

Principal **Dr A T Fowler**

Issue 1: w/c Monday 7 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to everyone at Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy at the start of this new school year! It is particularly good to welcome 280 new students to Year 7, alongside both returning and new students joining our Sixth Form. Mr Royal, our new Year 7 Leader, together with Miss Cooper and the Year 7 tutor team, has worked hard to ensure that our newest students feel welcome and settled. Many had clearly benefited from attending our summer schools, where they made friends and became familiar with the school and some of our staff. The implementation of our new phone pouch policy has been very successful, and students and staff alike are benefiting from disruption-free lessons and more meaningful social interactions during the school day.

During this first week, I have been especially impressed by the calm and purposeful atmosphere around school, the way students support one another, particularly the kindness shown by older students in helping younger peers find their way around, and the enthusiastic engagement demonstrated in lessons.

Our key priorities for the year ahead include our ambitious programme of character education, strengthening reading across the curriculum, and continuing to improve the quality of teaching and learning by providing teachers with regular focused feedback.

This is a long term, full of exciting events. To give just a couple of highlights, we are looking forward to our Open Evening for prospective students and their parents, on Thursday 24 September: many of our students will play an important role in welcoming prospective families and showcasing the academy. Our academy production of *Billy Elliot* takes to the stage on 13-16 October. We have a large and talented cast who are rehearsing every week in preparation for the performances.

Thank you for your support and cooperation as we work together, as students, families and school, to create the best educational opportunities. Please continue to support us by prioritising excellent attendance, correct uniform and positive attitudes to learning with your children.

On behalf of all my colleagues and our governors, thank you once again for your continued support. I look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the year ahead and to celebrating the many achievements of our students.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Andrew Fowler
Principal

Phone Pouches

Following the successful rollout of our mobile phone pouches to students this week, we would like to advise parents and carers that the Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy's Parent Serve™ Phone Pouch Replacement Portal is now live.

Should your child lose or damage their pouch, parents/carers will be required to replace this as soon as possible. The portal is simple to use and gives you the benefit of a reduced price and a fast order and turnaround service.

The portal can be accessed using the QR code at the end of this notice, or by clicking on the following link or copying and pasting it into your internet browser:
<https://store.schoolphonepouch.co.uk/lordlawson>

Please note that there will be no option to purchase replace pouches from the school as we do not hold stock.

Mr P Walsh
Assistant Principal



Parking Issues

We have been contacted by our neighbours at The Moulders Arms, who have raised concerns regarding the use of their car park and surrounding area by some members of our school community.

The owners of The Moulders Arms have requested that parents and carers do not use their car park for student drop-offs or pick-ups before or after school. In addition, they have asked that students do not meet or congregate at the pub before the start or end of the school day.

The continued use of the site in this way is causing disruption to the pub's business operations and impacting the home life of those who live on the premises. Please be aware that the site is monitored by CCTV.

As an academy, we place great importance on being respectful to members of our local community. The Moulders Arms is an important neighbour and we ask all families and students to respect this request and make alternative arrangements for travel to and from school.

Thank you for your support and cooperation in helping us maintain positive relationships with our local community.

Mr I Cooper
Deputy Principal

Update to Previous Traffic Survey Notice

Further to our notice in the final parent bulletin of the last academic year, the traffic survey that was planned for Tuesday 8 September, will now take place on **Monday 7 September**. The traffic survey is being completed on Birtley Lane, on behalf of St. Joseph's Catholic Junior School.

The survey will be completed by highways specialists during the morning and afternoon drop-off and pick-up times. We are providing advance notice as they will be parked at various points along Birtley Lane to monitor traffic flow, parking etc. from inside their vehicles.

Mrs S J Wakefield
Office Manager

Year 11: History Revision

From Thursday 10 September to Thursday 22 October, the History department will be running revision sessions which are open to all year 11 historians, during Thursday lunchtime.

The sessions will be held in Hi32 11 History revision will begin on Thursdays, following the below timetable. Revision will be in Hi32 and it is open to all year 11 classes.

The schedule of revision topics can be found below:

Thursday 10 September:	P+P – Migration
Thursday 17 September:	Normans – Methods of control
Thursday 24 September:	P+P – 19 th and 20 th Century trade unions
Thursday 1 October:	Normans – Law and Order
Thursday 8 October:	P+P – The 1926 General Strike
Thursday 15 October:	Normans – Monasticism
Thursday 22 October:	P+P – Reformers and campaigners

Mrs A Tahir

Subject Leader – History

The Articulation Prize

Sixth form history students are warmly invited to take part in the Articulation Prize. This is a public speaking competition run by the National Gallery and is open for students aged 16-19.

Students will prepare a ten minute presentation on an artefact or artwork of their choice for an internal heat, the winner of which will present at the Laing Art Gallery in February.

As part of this opportunity, we are running a trip to Ushaw Historic House on Tuesday 13 October for a Discovery Day, the purpose of which is to help students choose an artefact and prepare their presentation with public speaking experts. This is an excellent opportunity for all students but we only have ten spaces available.

For more information, visit the links below or speak to me directly.

[Articulation Prize](#) | [Articulation](#) | [National Gallery, London](#)

Mrs A Tahir

Subject Leader – History

Year 11 – Class of 2027!

I hope that students, parents and carers have enjoyed a restful summer. I can honestly say I have been looking forward to entering the next academic year with our students, as they become year 11 – the Class of 2027!

This is a hugely important year for these students. It marks the culmination of their secondary education and the final stage of preparation for their formal examinations. While it represents another step up in terms of the stakes involved and the expectation of greater maturity and work ethic as young adults, our students have prepared well over the last four years with us and are well placed to meet these challenges.

Students received their important mock exam results ahead of the summer – I am hopeful that students will be motivated by their achieved grades.

Parental support will be invaluable throughout the year. Please help ensure that your child arrives punctually to school each day properly prepared with the correct uniform, their phone pouch and basic equipment of a pen, pencil and ruler, together with the subject materials and revision resources they need. We also greatly appreciate your support in ensuring that homework and coursework is completed on time. Please continue to monitor the ClassCharts app daily.

During the autumn term, Year 11 students will complete a further mock examination window, followed by a mock results morning to collect their mock results. These opportunities are an important part of their preparation and will help them to refine their approach ahead of their final examinations. We ask that you do everything possible to avoid unnecessary absences so that missed learning does not occur. Consistent attendance remains one of the strongest predictors of success.

Looking ahead, we are already looking forward to Results Day 2027 (19 August), when students will be able to celebrate the hard work and commitment they have shown.

Miss Harrison and I have always valued the incredible support of parents and carers within this special year group. We look forward to a memorable and successful year together – students have already made a great start this week.

Should you require any pastoral support please email me at lcumiskey@lordlawson.academy or Miss Harrison at aharrison@lordlawson.academy.

Mr L Cumiskey
Year 11 Leader

Performing Arts: Dance Success

Congratulations to all students who completed the Level 2 Leadership in Dance programme last academic year. We received the news in the summer that all students passed the course; certificates will be presented next week.

All Year 9 students who previously registered their interest to participate in the Dance Leaders qualification this academic year, must attend a meeting in the dance studio on **Monday 7 September at 12.30pm**, in the Dance studio (PA13).

For further information about this opportunity please contact me via email at sbrown@lordlawson.academy and I will be happy to help.

Miss S Brown

Subject Leader – Performing Arts

Performing Arts: Academy Production - Billy Elliot the Musical

Opportunity for Year 7

Year 7 students have the opportunity to join our 2027 Academy Production Billy Elliot The Musical. If students would like more information they are invited to attend an optional meeting in the dance studio (PA13) on Tuesday 8 September during morning breaktime for further details.

However, if a year 7 student wishes to join the cast they **MUST** attend the after-school rehearsal on Wednesday 9 September. 3.20pm to 5.30pm. If a student is unable to attend this rehearsal then, unfortunately, due to time constraints the opportunity to participate in the production will be missed.

Updates for cast members

A reminder that Billy Elliot rehearsals for this half term will begin:

Tuesday 8 September: 3.20pm to 5.30pm - Main Cast

Wednesday 9 September: 3.20pm to 5.30pm - All Cast

For further information about Billy Elliot the Musical please contact me via email at sbrown@lordlawson.academy and I will be happy to help.

Further Academy Production details will be shared in the Parent Bulletin next week.

Miss S Brown

Subject Leader – Performing Arts



Academy Production October 2026 Billy Elliot The Musical

Year 7 Opportunity

Year 7 have the opportunity to participate in our Academy Production (staged this term).

To participate you **must** attend the rehearsal on:

Wednesday 9 September 3.20pm to 5.30pm

Dance Studio (PA13)

*(if you miss this rehearsal, you will **not** be able to join the cast)*

Miss Brown will hold a meeting on Tuesday 8 September at breaktime in the dance studio (this is optional and only attend if you would like further information about the Wednesday rehearsal)

Online Safety Newsletter

Sept 2026

Sexting and nudes

It is important that young people are aware of the risks and responsibilities of sexting and sharing nudes. Once an image is sent, the sender has no control over what will happen to that image or video. Young people must think carefully before sharing such images and should never feel forced to do so.

When you're under 18 It is against the law to send nudes/sexual videos of yourself to anyone else. It is also against the law to save or share a nude/sexual video of somebody under the age of 18.

Childline explains more about sexting and nudes at the link below, including what your child can do if somebody is asking them to share nudes, what to do if somebody is saying they will share their images and where you can get more support from:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/sexting/>

Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translation tool on our web version: <https://www.knowsleycitylearningcentres.org.uk/september-2026-secondary>

New guidance issued due to concern of AI-manipulated images

Photos of children that seem completely innocent can be manipulated using artificial intelligence (AI) to create sexualised or abusive images.

There is a growing threat that children's images shared online are being manipulated by criminals into AI generated sexual abuse material. As concerns grow, the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) and the National Crime Agency (NCA) have issued new guidance to help you understand the risks around AI image manipulation and advice on how to speak to your child about AI and image consent.



The IWF states that child sexual abuse images or videos created or altered using AI may include:

- Everyday images of a child or young person that are manipulated into child sexual abuse imagery, including images taken from social media, websites or messaging apps, that are manipulated into sexualised or abusive imagery. These are sometimes known as 'deepfakes'.
- Images or videos that look like a real child but are completely artificial.
- AI technology that digitally removes clothing from existing images to create nude or semi-nude images, sometimes known as 'nudifying'.

[source: IWF <https://www.iwf.org.uk/resources/ai-child-abuse-imagery-parent-guide/> accessed 25.08.26]

What can I do?

The guidance provides practical advice about sharing photographs of your child online. Some useful things to consider are:

- Think before you share photographs online. The IWF suggest creating a 'close friends' group to share images.
- Check and adjust your privacy settings on all social media accounts.
- Understand the steps to take if you or your child has any concerns and the organisations you can contact.

Where can I find the new guidance?

The full guidance can be accessed at the link below. It also includes a video highlighting how everyday photos can be misused using AI tools.

<https://www.iwf.org.uk/resources/ai-child-abuse-imagery-parent-guide/>

You can find the full press release/announcement here:

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/new-guidance-for-parents-and-carers-as-ai-manipulated-images-of-children-become-a-growing-concern>

YouTube

YouTube is one of the most popular platforms, available across many different devices - phones, tablets and Smart TVs etc. **YouTube is intended for users over the age of 13**, however, younger children can still access YouTube with consent from a parent/guardian. There are different options available to access YouTube, depending on your child's age:



1. YouTube Kids – a separate app that includes a smaller selection of videos based on the age category you select: Preschool (ages 4 and under), Younger (ages 5–8) or Older (ages 9–12).

2. Supervised accounts – a parent-managed version of YouTube that allows you to control the content your child can access. You can select one of the following options:

- **Explore** - Generally for viewers aged 9+.
- **Explore more** - Generally for viewers aged 13+
- **Most of YouTube** - This setting includes almost everything except for videos marked as 18+.

Find out more: <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/10315420>

What do I need to be aware of?

Whilst YouTube can be educational and fun, it is important to be aware of the potential risks, such as:

- **Inappropriate content**
- **Excessive Screen time** – particularly due to the autoplay feature.
- **Unwanted contact / cyberbullying** – particularly via comments if your child is sharing videos.
- **Algorithms** – algorithms influence what we see to keep us engaged. This can lead to a user being exposed to large amounts of content about one topic/theme, which may not be helpful if it is negative.
- **Adverts** that may not be aimed at or suitable for your child's age.

What can I do?

- Set up appropriate parental controls.
- Show your child the reporting and blocking tools available.
- Watch YouTube together or supervise use.

Further information

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/youtube-app/>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date released 01.09.26. The inclusion of any links does not imply any affiliation with or endorsement of the linked websites, documents, or videos, nor are we claiming any ownership or copyright in the content of the linked materials.

A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives

The Children's Commissioner has published this guide to help you support your child and make starting conversations about their online world easier. It's a useful read:

<https://assets.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wpuploads/2025/12/cc-what-i-wish-parent-guide.pdf>

Nex Playground

Nex Playground is a new video game console, which features games to get kids active. The games have no ads, no violence and no chat features, however it does rely on purchasing either a yearly or quarterly game subscription. You can find out more here:

<https://www.nexplayground.com/en-gb>

Online Safety Quiz

The NSPCC have created this quiz to test your child's knowledge on how to stay safe online. It's a great way to start a conversation with your child about their online life. You can access the quiz here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/quiz/>

WhatsApp Usernames

WhatsApp is introducing the use of usernames, so people no longer have to share their phone number. Wayne Denner provides an overview of the new features, what you need to consider and steps you can take here:

<https://www.waynedenner.com/whatsapp-usernames-what-parents-need-to-know/>

LORD LAWSON OF BEAMISH ACADEMY

Academic Year 2026 - 2027 Calendar

Autumn Term Begins	Tuesday 1 September 2026	Staff PD Day - Academy closed to all students
	Wednesday 2 September 2026	Academy opens for staff and ALL students
	Friday 23 October 2026	Last day of term - staff and students finish at 3.20 pm
Autumn Half Term	Saturday 24 October 2026 to Sunday 1 November 2026 inclusive	
Autumn Term Ends	Monday 2 November 2026	Academy opens for staff and all students
	Friday 18 December 2026	Last day of term - staff and students finish at 3.20 pm
Christmas Holidays	Saturday 19 December 2026 to Sunday 3 January 2027 inclusive	
	Monday 4 January 2027	Staff PD Day - Academy closed to all students
Spring Term Begins	Tuesday 5 January 2027	Academy opens for staff and all students
	Friday 12 February 2027	Last day of term - staff and students finish at 3.20 pm
Spring Half Term	Saturday 13 February 2027 to Sunday 21 February 2027 inclusive	
Spring Term Ends	Monday 22 February 2027	Academy opens for staff and all students
	Thursday 25 March 2027	Last day of term - staff and students finish at 3.20 pm
Easter Holidays	Saturday 27 March 2027 to Sunday 11 April 2027 inclusive	
Summer Term Begins	Monday 12 April 2027	Academy opens for staff and all students
Early May Bank Holiday	Monday 3 May 2027	Academy closed for staff and students
	Friday 28 May 2027	Last day of term - staff and students finish at 3.20 pm
Summer Half Term	Saturday 29 May 2027 to Sunday 6 June 2027 inclusive	
Summer Term Ends	Monday 7 June 2027	Academy opens for staff and all students
	Friday 16 July 2027	Last day of term - staff and students finish at 3.20 pm
Summer Holidays		
	* Good Friday 26 March 2027	** Return to school date Monday 6 September 2027 tbc

Calendar Dates and Upcoming Events for Autumn Term (up to half term)

Date	Event
Thursday 10 September	Sixth form introduction evening: Year 12 – 5pm to 6pm, Year 13 – 6pm to 7pm
Wednesday 16 to Friday 18 September	DofE Expedition Days: Year 8/10 – 3 days, Year 9/12
Friday 18 September	Year 11 Geography Fieldtrip
Thursday 24 September	Open Evening – for students in year 6 (timings tbc)
Monday 28 and Tuesday 29 September	School photographs – throughout the school day
Wednesday 7 to Friday 9 October	DofE Expedition Days
Monday 12 October	Academy Production – Billy Elliott the Musical – Primary Performance only
Tuesday 13 to Friday 16 October	Academy Production – Billy Elliott the Musical – General Public Performances
Thursday 22 October	Year 11 Exam Preparation Evening: 4pm to 6.20pm
Friday 23 October	Last day of term for staff and students
Monday 2 November	First day of term for staff and students