



# Parent Bulletin

Principal **Dr A T Fowler**

## Issue 1: w/c Monday 8 September 2025 – Week 2

### Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the first Parents' Bulletin of the new academic year 2025-26. A particular welcome to new parents and carers! 280 students have joined us in Year 7 this year, and 82 students have joined our sixth form, including larger numbers from other schools. I have already welcomed all our students, in person, at special assemblies on the first day. As the parents and carers of these students, you are very welcome indeed to our Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy community.

As Principal of the academy, it is my great pleasure to write to you at the start of this new school year. I shall write to you every week in this bulletin, as I have done for the past six years at Lord Lawson. I hope you find the contents of the weekly bulletin useful. We welcome any feedback you would like to give us about how we can improve communication between school and home. The way we communicate with one another shows our values of trust and respect in action. This week, I begin my thirtieth year in education, and my twelfth year as a headteacher. I have learned so much during this time, and I still expect to improve further. Your feedback will help.

Our academy mission statement informs everything we do at this school:

*Working with our community,  
and based on the best evidence and research,  
the mission of Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy is to  
offer inclusive education that transforms lives,  
so that together we grow, learn and succeed.*

Last year, we won two important awards that relate directly to our mission statement. We were given the Leading Parent Partnership Award, having worked with parents and carers to improve the two-way flow of information between home and school. And the Chartered College of Teaching gave the academy the prestigious award of Research Mark Plus, recognising the quality of our engagement with evidence and research in every aspect of teaching and learning and staff development. These external awards demonstrate the progress we continue to make at Lord Lawson to improve the quality of education we offer all our students.

In the summer, we celebrated some excellent examination results with our students at the end of their studies in years 11 and 13. These results were excellent for our students as individuals, enabling them to go on to sixth form or college, or to the universities, apprenticeships and jobs of their choice. The results also represented a big step forward for the school: in terms of the value our teachers were able to add to our students' achievements, they represented our best progress for at least ten years. Congratulations to all our students, and a huge thank you to all parents, carers and teachers!

• Trust

• Respect

• Courage

• Ambition



# Parent Bulletin

Principal **Dr A T Fowler**

In the last line of our mission statement, every word is important. The one I want to focus on particularly today, as we begin a new year, is **together**. It is *together* that we grow, learn and succeed. *Together* we explore and deepen our relationships within our school community. And *together* we continue to improve our inclusive education offer, enabling us to transform the lives of our children, our students. It is a real partnership, and I look forward to working with you all.

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully

**Dr Andrew Fowler**  
**Principal**

## Welcome to New Staff Members

A warm welcome to colleagues who are joining the staff of Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy at the start of this year.

Miss Natalie Peart – Teacher of Physical Education

Mr George Utting – Teacher of History and Religious Education

Mrs Agnes Bastien-Langham – Teacher of French and German

Mr Jack Hunter also joins our Mathematics Department on a more permanent basis, having worked with us for a couple of years previously.

We welcome Mr Declan Rawson, Miss Hannah Steele, Miss Helen Edenshaw and Miss Amy Adams, who are working with us as Teaching Assistants.

We also welcome some colleagues who are helping to cover staff absence:

Miss Michaela McCaugherty – Teacher of Religious Education and History

Mr Gavin Paton – Teacher of Physical Education

Mrs Helen Haughton – Cover Supervisor

**Dr Fowler**

## Open Evening for prospective students: Thursday 25 September

Coming up soon, we will have our first Open Evening of the year, on Thursday 25 September, when we will welcome parents, carers and pupils who are currently in Year 6. Many of you will remember your first open evening, when you were able to bring your child to look around our school, and where you perhaps began your own journey towards becoming a member of our school community. We have this week taken prospectuses and welcome letters to our feeder primary schools. We know that the best recommendation is by word of mouth, however, so I encourage you to share the news of our open evening with friends, relatives and neighbours who have children currently in Year 6.

Many of our students love to help us with this open evening, as guides, or working with teachers in different subject areas. Please look out for a letter that your child may bring home, asking for your consent for them to take part in our open evening. If you are happy for them to take part, please return these consent slips to us as soon as possible.

**Dr Fowler**



## CYPS: Separation Anxiety Drop-in Service

**Is your child or someone you work with (aged 4 - 18 years) struggling with their mental health and wellbeing? Or are you a professional interested in working with us?** Our team of friendly children's therapists will be present at one of our **free** drop ins, the details of which can be found by accessing the following link: [CYPS - September Separation Anxiety Drop-ins](#)

These will be safe and inclusive spaces to:

- Talk about your child and their needs
- Get advice and guidance
- Receive tips and resources to take home

Our Drop Ins are set up throughout Gateshead and have monthly themes. However, we encourage you to chat to us about any mental health concerns, such as:

- Worries and anxiety
- Low mood
- Support with sleep
- Behaviour
- Confidence
- Anger
- Stress

**Gateshead Children and Young People's Primary Care Mental Health Service**

# Mindfulness and Wellbeing Club

The Mindfulness and Wellbeing Club is a space for students to come and try a variety of activities, which promote mindfulness and mental wellbeing.

The club is open to all students in any year group and will take place on a Monday lunchtime in the Library.

The first meeting of the club this academic year is Monday 15 September.

Students will require a pass to attend the club, which can be obtained from Mrs Kemp. Students can notify Mrs Kemp of their interest by speaking to her or by emailing her by the end of Thursday 11 September, at [jkemp@lordlawson.academy](mailto:jkemp@lordlawson.academy)

Passes will then be created and passed to tutors for students to collect during tutor time on Monday 15 September.

**Mrs J Kemp**  
**Cover Supervisor**



## Year 10

Welcome to the new academic year! This week marked the beginning of **Key Stage 4**, where our students will be studying **GCSE content in both core and their chosen option subjects**. It is an exciting and significant step that lays the foundation for their future success.

As we begin this crucial stage, I would like to highlight a few key areas that will support your child in reaching their potential:

**Homework and Coursework** – Regular completion of homework and coursework is vital. It allows students to consolidate learning, develop independent study skills and succeed academically. Please encourage your child to stay on top of deadlines and dedicate focused time each evening to their studies. Parents and students checking Class Charts regularly will help you both with this.

**Attendance** – High attendance is directly linked to progress. Every lesson counts! Missing even a small amount of lesson time can have a significant impact on learning. We ask for your support in ensuring your child attends school every day to avoid missed learning and arrives on time (in school by 8:45). An attendance score of 97%+ is the aim for all.

**Positive Behaviour** – A focused, respectful and motivated approach in lessons will help students make the most of their learning. We will continue to promote high standards of behaviour and expect students to demonstrate academy values. Again, the support of parents and carers by monitoring behaviour on Class Charts and encouraging positive behaviours is greatly appreciated.

I am confident that, with your support, Year 10 will rise to the challenges of GCSE study. Together, we can ensure your child achieves the best possible outcomes and enjoys success throughout the year.

If you have any questions or require support, please contact me at [lcumiskey@lordlawson.academy](mailto:lcumiskey@lordlawson.academy) or Miss Harrison (Deputy Year Leader) at [aharrison@lordlawson.academy](mailto:aharrison@lordlawson.academy)

Miss Harrison and I look forward to working with you during this important stage in your child's education.

Thank you for your continued partnership.

**Mr Cumiskey**  
**Year 10 Leader**



## PE: Extra-curricular Clubs

From Monday 8 September, the extra-curricular PE clubs will once again be open to all students.

Details of the variety of clubs open to students can be found below:

### **Breakfast Club: Monday to Friday, 8 – 8.30am**

This is a morning fitness club where students are able to participate in fitness classes or do their own workout in the fitness suite. The programme in the club will vary daily. Students will meet at the sixth form gates between 7.50 and 8am in their PE kit. A member of PE staff will collect students at the gate at 8am. After the session, students will have time to change into their school uniform before tutor time.

### **Lunchtime Clubs:**

#### **Monday: Sports Leadership**

Any Year 12 students that are interested in gaining a Sports Leadership Qualification as part of their enrichment activities, should attend a meeting in COM10 at lunchtime on Monday 8 September. Miss Whiting will provide further information for interested students during the meeting.

#### **Monday: Netball**

Students will need to collect an activity pass from Miss Mills. Students should then have their lunch first and make their way to the sports hall – they will need trainers for this activity.

### **After School:**

#### **Multi-Sports Club 3.20 – 4.20pm**

Any student is welcome to attend Multi-Sports Club. The activities will change each session.

Monday - Team Sports

Tuesday - Team and Individual Sports

Wednesday - Individual Sports

#### **Year 8 Boys Football Trials**

There will be Year 8 Boys Football trials, which will be held on the astro-turf, on Wednesday 10 September, 3.20 – 4.20pm. Please attend this if you are interested in representing the Lord Lawson Year 8 Boys football team.

Trials for other year groups and other sport clubs will be announced soon.

***If you would like any more information about sports clubs, please speak to a member of the PE department.***

**Miss S Whiting**  
**Teacher of PE**

## Field of Remembrance

Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy has been asked to create a display for the Field of Remembrance at Saltwell Park. This will be one of only six recognised fields within the country and is the furthest north in the UK, so this is a great opportunity to get involved in a local, national and community activity.

The display will be created by the students from the school and will involve devising ideas and physically creating the display, the elements of which are still being discussed.

Any student who is interested in participating in this project can express their interest during a meeting on Thursday 11 September, which will be held in the school library during lunchtime.

Please see Mrs Kemp or Miss Dixon (librarian) for a pass for the activity by no later than the morning of Thursday 11 September.

**Mrs J Kemp**  
**Cover Supervisor**



## IT Update

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for their patience this week, as we have dealt with a number of IT and technology related issues.

Please be assured that we continue to work closely with our service providers to ensure the continuance of all services that have been affected.

**Ms L Doran**  
**Business Manager**



## Scholars' Buses

We have received the following message from NEXUS in relation to the scholars' buses, and they have asked that we share this with you:

I am writing to ask you to please be patient with the scholars' buses as we enter the new academic year.

There may be some initial issues with the punctuality of services, as the new year 7 students settle into travelling for the first-time on-board services.

New companies and new drivers may also be operating your services and there could possibly be teething problems as they become familiar with routes, stops and schools.

Regards

Jayne Hollingshead  
Bus Contract Officer

**Mr A Rayner**  
**Assistant Principal**

## Young Carers

Young Carers is a support group for our students who may provide support in the home for a loved one.

If any parent or carer would like to refer their child to Young Carers for more support for this academic year, or would like to find out further information, please contact at [mglass@lordlawson.academy](mailto:mglass@lordlawson.academy) and I will provide you with further information as to how we can support further support your child in school.

All of the drop-in sessions take place during a Wednesday lunchtime and are held in the small conference room near to the main hall. Young carers will be provided with a new pass to access the building and the session.

The dates for all drop-in sessions this year are:

24 September

22 October

26 November

17 December

28 January

18 February

25 March

22 April

24 June

**Mrs M Glass**  
**Young Carer Support**



# Personal Development (PD) Curriculum

Please find below the most up-to-date version of the Personal Development curriculum that students will be studying this year. I encourage you to take a look through the topics and discuss them with your children at home.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [cbramley@lordlawson.academy](mailto:cbramley@lordlawson.academy).

<div>  <h2>Personal Development Curriculum 2025 - 2026</h2> <p>Please speak to your PD teacher if you have any questions about your upcoming lessons</p>  </div>					
Lesson	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
1	British Values - Mutual Respect	British Values - Tolerance	British Values - Rule of Law	British Values - Democracy	British Values - Individual Liberty
2	The Importance of Laws and Rules	Understanding Good Behaviour	Tackling SEND Discrimination	Local Elections	(A) My Powerful Voice (Voting and General Elections and Sexual Pressure)
3	Taking Pride in My Work	We Say No to Racism	We Say No to Prejudice	(A) Tackling Hate Crime	Further Education
4	How to Use My Powerful Voice	Sexual Orientation	(A) Celebrating Pride	Managing the Stress of School, Exams and Social Anxiety	Revision Skills
5	The Equality Act 2010	Gender Identity	Future Finances	Eating Disorders	Interview Preparation
6	(A) Stereotyping, Discrimination and Prejudice	(A) Why Can't Some People Access Education?	GCSE Options	(A) Basic First Aid	(A) Volunteering
7	Anti-bullying	Sexual Abuse and Harassment	(A) Future Careers	Work Experience	Peer Pressure (Drugs, Smoking and Alcohol)
8	Safety in the World	(A) Safety in the World	Online Grooming and Bullying	Work Experience	(A) The Dark Web (Including Gambling and Pornography)
9	(A) Staying Safe Online	My Life Ambitions	Sharing Sexual Images, Pornography and Body Image	Revision Skills	Grief and Bereavement
10	Self Belief	How Can I Become An Entrepreneur?	County Lines - The Law	(A) Further Education	Self-harm Prevention
11	(A) Careers and My Future	(A) Employment	(A) Extremist Groups	Incel Culture	Suicide Prevention
12	Family Relationships	Healthy Relationships (on and offline)	What is Love?	Anti-social Behaviour, Knife Crime and Gangs	(A) Cancer and Self-examination
13	Healthy Relationships	Managing Broken Relationships	My Body, My Choice	(A) My Digital Footprint and Online Safety	Intimate and Sexual Relationships
14	(A) FGM (Female Genital Mutilation)	(A) What is Contraception?	Teamwork and Communication Skills	Consent	Consent, Rape and Sexual Harassment L1
15	Understanding Puberty	Periods and the Menstrual Cycle	(A) Understanding Safe Sex	Religion and Marriage	(A) Consent, Rape and Sexual Harassment L2
16	Healthy Diet and Active Lifestyle	Drugs - The Law	The Dangers of Drugs	Toxic Relationships	Student Voice
17	Mental Health	Smoking and Alcohol	Mental Health (How can I help someone?)	Domestic Abuse	
18	Understanding my Emotions	Mental Health - Anxiety and Depression	Understanding Self-harm	Understanding STIs	
19	(A) Hygiene and Germs - Including Vaccination and Dental Care	(A) What is 'Self Love'?	(A) Positive Thinking	(A) Parenthood	
20	Student Voice	Student Voice	Student Voice	Student Voice	

(A) = Assessment

■ = Values
 ■ = Staying Safe
 ■ = Careers and My Future
 ■ = Relationships and Sex Education
 ■ = Health and Wellbeing

There will be reminders about upcoming PD topics in the parent bulletin throughout the year.

**Miss C Bramley**  
**Personal Development Coordinator**



# Online Safety Newsletter

Sept 2025

## Coverstar

Coverstar say they are "the safe TikTok alternative." They state, "there is no specific age limitation...however, if you are under the age of 13, you must obtain parental consent." Users can post, comment and livestream.

Whilst Coverstar does not include private messaging, users can still interact via public comments. Coverstar does use moderation tools to scan all user-generated content. It is also important to be aware that Coverstar does allow in-app purchases ranging from £0.99 - £59.99.

If your child is using this app, ensure they know how to use the reporting tools. Bark provide a full review of Coverstar here, but they rate it as suitable for 10+:  
<https://www.bark.us/app-reviews/apps/coverstar-app-review>.

## Test your knowledge: Online Scams

Childnet have created a quiz for 9-13 year-olds that includes a range of potential online scams, as well as tips to help your child protect themselves online. Find out more here:  
<https://www.childnet.com/blog/test-your-knowledge-about-online-scams-with-our-quiz-for-9-13-year-olds/>

## Online Safety Act

### What is the Online Safety Act?

The Online Safety Act 2023 is a set of laws introduced to protect children and adults online. Ofcom is the regulator for online safety in the UK, responsible for ensuring companies follow the new rules. As part of this role, Ofcom have designed the Children Codes of practice, which came into force in July

2025. The codes outline what all online services likely to be accessed by children must do to protect children online, for example:

- Enforce age limits.
- Protect children from accessing harmful or age-inappropriate content. This includes content relating to self-harm and eating disorders.
- Ensure users can easily report harmful content.

Ofcom has the power to enforce the rules as well as issue fines if companies fail to comply. You can find out more here:

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/new-rules-for-a-safer-generation-of-children-online>

### How will it help to protect my child?

One of the main purposes of the Act is to protect children online. Ofcom has published information on how they are helping children to be safer online. The first link is a guide for parents, which also includes a section on what you can do as a parent. You can access this information here:

- <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/how-ofcom-is-helping-children-to-be-safer-online-a-guide-for-parents>
- <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/how-the-online-safety-act-will-help-to-protect-children>

### Further information

Online Safety Act: explainer:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/online-safety-act-explainer/online-safety-act-explainer>



Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version:  
<https://www.knowsleycitylearningcentres.org.uk/sept-2025/>

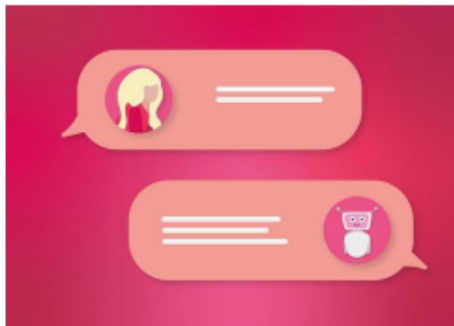


# Artificial Intelligence (AI)

## What is AI?

AI is when a computer/machine can learn and perform tasks like a human. Its popularity continues to grow, and examples include:

- **Search engines** such as Google now include an AI-generated overview as part of their results.
- **Virtual assistants** like Alexa, Meta AI and Siri.
- **Chatbots** such as ChatGPT and My AI from Snapchat.



## Opportunities

AI can be an effective tool when used correctly, for instance:

- **Homework** – children can use AI to support and assist their learning.
- **Advice** – AI can be used to provide information and suggestions on a variety of topics.

## Risks and concerns

- **Misinformation** – ensure your child understands that AI can sometimes provide incorrect or misleading information.
- **Privacy issues** – read any privacy policies before using.
- **Chat apps** – a simple search of “AI Chat” within the App store highlights the number of apps already available that are not suitable for children as many are rated as 17+.
- **Image manipulation** – there are AI tools that can be used to digitally remove clothes from photos, which clearly raises serious safeguarding and privacy concerns.
- **Deepfakes** – there are also AI tools that create realistic, fake videos that can be used to spread misinformation or cause harm.

## How can I protect my child?

To help keep your child safe online, it is important to:

- Check age ratings of any apps or websites that your child accesses.
- Develop your child’s digital literacy by highlighting the risks of AI and showing them how important it is to verify what they see online.
- Set up appropriate parental controls on their devices/ broadband.
- Chat to your child regularly and ensure your child knows that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

## Further information

- Overview: <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/by-activity/using-artificial-intelligence/what-is-ai-artificial-intelligence/>
- Should you worry if your child has an AI friend? <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/should-you-worry-if-your-child-has-ai-friend>

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## Roblox: Grow a Garden

Roblox is a platform consisting of a collection of games. Grow a Garden is one of the latest games available on Roblox and is extremely popular. The game is labelled as ‘minimal’ for content maturity, which Roblox define as “may contain occasional mild violence, light unrealistic blood, and/or occasional mild fear.” Roblox believe that the game play is suitable for everyone. However, as the game is on Roblox, it is important to be aware of the following:

- **Chat** – strangers can interact with your child.
- **In-game purchases** – this game does include in-game purchases.
- **Screen time** – set limits for how long your child is playing.

A lot of the content on Roblox is user generated, which may mean not all games will be suitable for your child to view/play. If your child is playing Roblox, it is important to monitor what your child is accessing, ensure they know how to use any reporting tools and set up appropriate parental controls.

## Further information

<https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/30428310121620-Parental-Controls-Overview>

## Grooming online

Grooming is when somebody seeks to build a relationship with a child to exploit them or cause harm.

It is important that we teach our children how to recognise red flags. Childline have lots of useful information on their website, including where to get further support from:

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

# Calendar Dates and Upcoming Events for the Autumn Term

Date	Event
Wednesday 10 September	UCAS Open Evening for year 13 students, parents and carers – 6 to 8pm
Wednesday 17 September	Introduction Evening for year 12 students, parents and carers – 6 to 8pm
Friday 19 September	Flu Immunisations – Years 7 to 11 – throughout the school day
Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 September	School photographs – throughout the school day
Thursday 25 September	Open evening for students in year 6 – 4.15 to 8pm
Thursday 16 October	Year 7 Parents' evening – timings tbc (this will be an in-person event)
Tuesday 21 to Friday 24 October	Evening Performances of the Academy Production: Singin' In The Rain, Jr – timings and ticket sales information will be provided in upcoming Parent Bulletins
Friday 24 October	Last day of term for staff and students – school finishes as normal at 3.20pm
Monday 3 November	Staff and students return to school at 8.40am
Thursday 6 November	Year 11 exam preparation evening for students, parents and carers – timings tbc
Thursday 20 November	Flu immunisations (catch-up sessions) – Years 7 to 11 – throughout the morning
Thursday 20 November	Open evening for prospective sixth form students – 5 to 7pm
Friday 28 November	Occasional day – Academy closed to staff and students
Thursday 11 December	Year 7 Pantomime trip – timings tbc
Friday 19 October	Last day of term for staff and students – school finishes as normal at 3.20pm
Monday 5 January 2026	Staff and students return to school at 8.40am