



# Parent Bulletin

Principal **Dr A T Fowler**

## Issue 2: w/c Monday 15 September 2025 – Week 2

### Dear Parents and Carers

We have had another good week at school – I hope you have felt this too from your perspective. We have also had our first wet lunchtime, to which our students adapted well, using the academy's hall, sports hall and year bases as well as the cafeteria.

I want to focus on our Sixth Form in this letter. There is a huge amount of positivity here, inspired by Mrs Laidlaw, Assistant Principal and Head of Sixth Form. Mrs Laidlaw is assisted by Mrs Goodacre, Deputy Head of Sixth Form (while Mrs Stevenson is on maternity leave), and Mr McGovern, our Sixth Form Pastoral Assistant. We see our Sixth Form as the final stage of our students' seven-year educational journey with us.

We have been delighted to welcome 82 Year 12 students into our Sixth Form this year. This represents an increase of over a third in our numbers from the previous two cohorts. Our incoming students are mostly from our own lower school, but we are also thrilled to welcome a growing number of excellent students from neighbouring schools. We hope to continue to grow our sixth form in future years.

We offer one of the widest ranges of subjects available in our area. We do this to keep student choice as broad and appropriate as possible. Students are taught in relatively small classes, where they can get the maximum benefit from our teachers' expertise and experience. We have added Religious Education (Philosophy and Ethics) to our curriculum this year, taught by Mrs Arrowsmith and Mr Clarke. Both teachers' classes achieved excellent results in their GCSE RE this summer.

Sixth Form students have unique access to two areas of our school building: the Sixth Form Common Room and the Independent Learning Centre. These two areas have very different vibes and purposes. The Common Room is, as you would expect, a relaxed space with comfortable chairs and a games table, as well as our Costa Coffee bar. The Independent Learning Centre (ILC), by contrast, is an area for quiet study. This year we have introduced silent working in the ILC, enabling students to achieve some really focused work to consolidate and extend their learning in lessons. Students have adapted well to this change to silent working – they can see that they get much more done, and it can be quite companionable to work alongside your friends. In the summer, our students achieved the school's best results for many years – and our current Year 13 students are predicted to beat this!



# Parent Bulletin

Principal **Dr A T Fowler**

Today we were visited by a reporter from ITV News. We are working with State Elevate, a group founded by two local students who went on to prestigious universities and who are intent on helping ambitious state school students like ours raise their aspirations and secure places in our country's top universities. ITV News heard about this work and were keen to find out more. We spent an hour together: Len and Grace from State Elevate spoke with some of our Year 13 students and gave them some individual mentoring on their personal statements. Then four of our students, Mia, Chloe, Tom and Harry, gave short individual interviews about their aims and aspirations. We look forward to seeing the finished item on television next week, and we look forward to our further work with State Elevate.

Mrs Laidlaw and her team are hosting two events for Sixth Form students and their parents/carers at the start of term, introducing themselves and a range of speakers including careers advisers, State Elevate, apprenticeship providers and universities. The event for Year 13 students was held on Wednesday this week and was very well attended; the event for Year 12 students and their parents/carers will be this coming Wednesday, 17 September, beginning at 6pm. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully,

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

## Year 7: Subject Parents'/Carers' Evening

On Thursday 16 October 2025, we will hold our first subject parents' and carers' evening of this academic year, which is for year 7 students.

The evening will be appointment based and all appointments will be made via the SchoolCloud platform. This may be unfamiliar to many of you, but it is the platform we have successfully used for several years at Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy.

SchoolCloud is an online booking system that allows you to choose your own appointment times. Your personal login details, which will be provided to you at a later date, will allow you to book appointments and allow you to view your schedule for the evening.

Information about the evening, including timings, set-up etc., will be sent to you via Class Charts by the end of next week. You should also look out for any future updates about the evening in our weekly parent bulletin.

**Mr D Cave**  
**Assistant Principal**



## 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 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**

## 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**



## Career Challenge

‘Pitch for a Purpose Plan: Plan the ultimate Charity Event with HSBC’  
First Step Career Challenge for students in years 7 – 9 on Wednesday 1 October at 4.30pm.

This challenge will include:

- A 45-minute briefing with the HSBC team
- Complete the career challenge their own pace
- Certificate awarded on completion
- [Register now!](#)

‘HSBC and the Nature Trust UK – nature Projects That Make a Difference’  
Next Step Career Challenge for students in years 10 – 13 on Thursday 2 October at 5.00pm.

This challenge will include:

- A 45-minute virtual briefing with the HSBC team
- Complete the career challenge at their own pace
- Certification awarded on completion
- [Register now!](#)

**Mrs C Braban**  
**Careers and Enterprise Adviser**




# Sixth Form Personal Development

Please find below this year's overview for Personal Development (PD) in Sixth Form. We are fortunate to have a range of external speakers and experts who will be delivering a large proportion of our curriculum this year.

Please note that Year 13 PD lessons will end after the Spring term to allow students to prepare for their summer examinations.

Should you have any questions about any of the individual topics we will be covering or the PD curriculum as a whole, please email me at [bgoodacre@lordlawson.academy](mailto:bgoodacre@lordlawson.academy) and I will be happy to help.

**Mrs B Goodacre**  
**Acting Deputy Head of Sixth Form**

<div><div> Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy</div><div><h1>SIXTH FORM</h1><h2>PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT CURRICULUM 2025 - 2026</h2></div></div>		
HALF TERM	YEAR 12	YEAR 13
1	Health and Wellbeing	UCAS and Apprenticeships
2	Health and Wellbeing	Career and Risk Management
3	Sexual Health and Healthy Relationships	Managing Personal Safety
4	Employment Rights and Responsibilities	Leaving Further Education
5	Revision and Study Skills	
6	Bullying, Discrimination and Life After Lord Lawson	

## UCAS

Parent and Carers can follow the following link for everything you need to help your child decide on their next steps. <https://www.ucas.com/discover/advice-for-parents-guardians-and-carers>


UCAS

[WWW.UCAS.COM/PARENTS](https://www.ucas.com/parents)

Parent, Guardian and Carer Guide

Download our free guide, containing everything you need to support a young person with their options and decision-making, and help them through the UCAS application process.

Parent, Guardian and Carer Guide



Sign up for our parent newsletter

Whether your child is set on going to uni, or still looking into their options - including apprenticeships, gap years, or conservatoire courses - we can help. Sign up and we'll send you everything you need to help them make an informed decision.



# Remembrance 2025



## REMEMBRANCE 2025

**CALLING ALL CADETS, SCOUTS, GUIDES AND ANYONE ELSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE INVOLVED!**

Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy's Remembrance Parade and Ceremony is a well-respected event in our school calendar that is shared with many members of the school community, invited guests and parents. And we need you!

We will rehearse on a Tuesday after school until 4:15pm, starting on Tuesday 23 September. You must commit to all rehearsals and will get a P3 for every rehearsal you attend (and a P5 for the service itself!). If you are interested, please attend a short meeting at lunch time on Tuesday 16 September in the Year 8 Base.

## FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

Saltwell Park is one of only six Fields of Remembrance in the country and is the one furthest north.

This year we have been asked to create a display for the Field of Remembrance, so we need your creative ideas and then your creative hands!

First meeting Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September in the Library. If you want to come but haven't got a pass yet, please see Mrs Kemp or come to the library at the very beginning of lunch to collect a pass. We will meet every Thursday until half term and you get a P3 for attending!



# Secondary School Admissions

This information is for any parents/carers who have primary school aged children who are looking to apply to a secondary school.

Gateshead Council recognises that your child's education is one of the most important aspects of their life. It influences their formative years and their future. We know how important it is that you receive as much information as possible about the school admissions process.

We recommend that you apply for a school place using Gateshead Councils online school admissions system where you can also access all the information. You can apply online at:

[www.gateshead.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

## Apply online for your child's school place

**CLOSING DATE**  
31 October 2025

### Applying online for admission to Secondary School is quick & easy...

- Simple instructions help guide you through the form
- You receive email confirmation when we receive your form
- You receive email confirmation of which school your child has been offered
- No risk of your application getting lost in the post

**Before you apply - check your child is the right age**

**Gateshead Council**  
[www.gateshead.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/schooladmissions)  
Tel: 0191 433 6185 / 3909 / 5232 / 8589

Gateshead Council **Information for Parents**

### Important admission dates

September 2026

**Gateshead secondary school admissions process**

**8 September 2025**  
Online application system goes live

**31 October 2025**  
Closing date for submitting applications

**2 March 2026**  
Offer letters and emails sent to parents

**10 April 2026**  
Any vacancies will be offered from school waiting lists

**May/June 2026**  
Appeals heard

Apply online at: [www.gateshead.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

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If you are interested in applying to Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy, come along to the open evening held on Thursday 25 September. More information about this can be found in an announcement above.



# 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/>

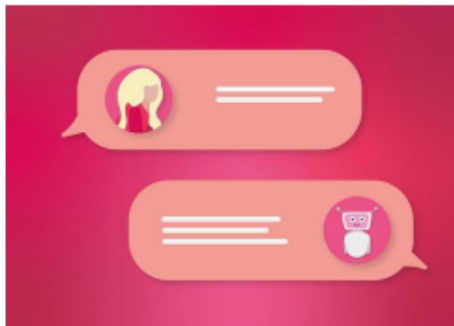


# Artificial Intelligence (AI)

## 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/>



# GATESHEAD RFC

## GIRLS RUGBY OPEN DAYS



For Ages 6 - 17

All sessions offer contact & non contact (touch rugby)

1hr sessions followed by a Women's World Cup fixture viewing & activity in the clubhouse

🏉 SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER - 11:00AM - 12:00PM

🏉 SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER - 12:00PM - 1:00PM

🏉 SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER - 2:30PM - 3:30PM

🏉 SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER - 11:30AM - 12:30PM

### CONTACT US -

EMAIL:  
[womenandgirls@gatesheadrfc.com](mailto:womenandgirls@gatesheadrfc.com)

Instagram Direct Message:  
[gatesheadrfc\\_womenandgirls](https://www.instagram.com/gatesheadrfc_womenandgirls)

### BASED AT -

Hedley Lawson Park  
Eastwood Gardens  
Low Fell, Gateshead  
NE9 5UB

# Calendar Dates and Upcoming Events for the Autumn Term

Date	Event
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