



Parent Bulletin

Principal **Dr A T Fowler**

Issue 3: w/c Monday 21 September 2026 – Week 2

Dear Parents and Carers

This week we launched our co-curricular programme, a suite of activities and clubs for students of all ages, offered by our staff members at lunchtime and after school. I am delighted to announce that there are an increased number of activities on offer this year. Thank you to all teachers and support staff for offering such a wide range of interesting activities.

You will notice that I used the term "co-curricular" rather than any other term. This is deliberate: "co" means "with", because we believe that these activities stand alongside our academic and practical curriculum. They are not "extra" or "outside" the curriculum; they are an essential part of the education we offer our students. Please ask your children which activities and clubs they are intending to attend and encourage them to be fully engaged in this programme. The full range of choices has been displayed on our projector in the atrium this week, and we will send home a booklet with more details.

I have enjoyed seeing the character awards that have been given this week. A few examples of each character trait are given later in this bulletin. It is so interesting to see the different ways that our students are showing the different sides of their emerging character.

For example, students have shown that 'We are kind' through acts of consideration to other students, to members of the community and to their teachers. But they have also demonstrated kindness in thinking about the environment.

Students have demonstrated that 'We are curious' in many different ways: by asking perceptive questions in class, by going well beyond what was expected in homework tasks, by students challenging themselves to make links outside the taught curriculum, and by engaging in research 'just' for the pleasure of knowing more about a topic.

A few students have now achieved Character Awards in all four categories. We intend to recognise this achievement with a special letter and an honourable mention in assembly.

Finally, I am happy to report that our first fire evacuation practice of the year passed off well this week. Our newest students took a little longer to get to their positions, which is to be expected for a first time experience. I am confident that we can evacuate the building quickly and safely if we should need to.

I know I shall see many of you at our Open Evening on Thursday 24 September, either accompanying your Year 6 child or picking up your child who has been helping in the academy. Many thanks for your support with this event.

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully

Dr Andrew Fowler
Principal

Character Awards

Here are a few of this week's character awards.

At Lord Lawson we are curious

"It was fantastic to see Ralph step up and work alongside the sixth form with such confidence. His curiosity shone through as he asked big questions and engaged in meaningful discussions with older students. I was incredibly proud of the maturity, enthusiasm, and commitment he demonstrated throughout."

Awarded to Ralph in Year 11 by Mrs Arrowsmith

"After our tutor reading last week, Hikali brought in a book to show me that she had enjoyed reading in a similar style. It showed curiosity about the style of the verse novel which Hikali is interested in."

Awarded to Hikali in Year 7 by Mrs Hunter

At Lord Lawson we get involved

"Alfie has volunteered to get involved every morning that we do form reading so far this term. Today he and some others read to the form, Alfie read nearly half a chapter and only stopped as we ran out of form time together. A huge thank you from me for his consistent contribution during form time."

Awarded to Alfie in Year 8 by Mrs Boxall

"Well done, Scarlett. You kindly gave up your Sunday to distribute water with your Scout group to runners on the Great North Run and also encouraging them along the way."

Awarded to Scarlett in Year 7 by Mrs Hogg

At Lord Lawson we are kind

"Whilst forming groups before a practical task, Skyla noticed that another student was upset. She showed great kindness, empathy, and maturity by leaving her own group to comfort the student and ensure she felt supported. Skyla then encouraged her to join the group and made a conscious effort to include her in the activity, ensuring she felt welcome and involved. Skyla's thoughtful actions demonstrated our value of kindness and helped create a positive and inclusive environment for everyone."

Awarded to Skyla in Year 8 by Mr Croucher

At Lord Lawson we are kind

"I witnessed a lovely moment at lunch time. Omer approached a Y7 boy who was sat alone on the grass, looking rather lonely. With two other year 11 boys he sat with this boy and talked to him throughout lunch. The boy's body language changed - from looking down at the grass in silence he soon sat up, smiling and laughing. I hope the three year 11 boys know how much this little gesture positively impacted the year 7 boy who appeared to still be finding his feet in secondary school. A lovely moment of kindness, and the highlight of my day."

Awarded to Omer in Year 11 by Mr Cumiskey

At Lord Lawson we work hard

"Hannah has consistently worked hard in rugby lessons, taking leadership in her team. In her final lesson she performed to a very high standard."

Awarded to Hannah in Year 7 by Miss Munoz Saiz

"Carter really impressed me today. His whiteboard work about exploring the effects of language used to describe Miss Havisham was amazingly detailed. Clearly, Carter has considered the context of the story to help build insightful inferences and pushed himself really hard to display this. Keep it up!"

Awarded to Carter in Year 10 by Miss Small



Year 9: Dance Leaders Opportunity

On Tuesday 22 September we are launching Dance Leaders for our year students. The meeting will take place in the Dance Studio at the start of lunchtime, 12.30pm.

Any student who has previously shown an interest in Dance Leaders and has attended recent update meetings, will already be aware of this important meeting. Any student wishing to progress onto the start of the course **must** attend this meeting.

If you have any questions about this fantastic opportunity please contact me at sbrown@lordlawson.academy and I will be happy to help.

Miss S Brown

Subject Leader – Performing Arts

Small Steps

Operating since 2015, Small Steps is an organisation dedicated to reducing extremism via education, compassion, and understanding. They believe in having open and frank conversations in as many places as possible and want to share their insight and expertise with others.

As part of the Home Office Preventing Radicalisation fund for Local Authorities, Small Steps will deliver 10 virtual training sessions for parents/carers of the schools selected for this project, of which Lord Lawson of Beamish is one. Based on specific risks identified within the region, these sessions will focus on Extreme Right-Wing (ERW) risks, as well as other forms of extremism and exposure to violent online content.

Any parent who wishes to join any of the virtual sessions can register using the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2000169370430>

Further information can be found in the session flyer which can be accessed by the following link: [Small Steps Project Leaflet](#)

Mr I Cooper

Deputy Principal – Designated Safeguarding Lead



Young Carers

The first Young Carers drop in of this academic year will be on Wednesday 23 September in the conference room at the bottom of the Technology corridor.

Students who are already known to us as Young Carers will be issued with their new Autumn term pass by their tutor.

If you think your child is an unidentified young carer in school, i.e., they assist with the care of a family member who lives in their home, and you would like further support for them, please email me at mglass@lordlawson.academy and I will be happy to help.

Mrs M Glass
Cover Supervisor and Young Carer Coordinator

Year 7

We would like to provide parents and carers of our year 7 students with an update regarding communication with the Year 7 team.

As with all year teams in the academy, staff are not stationed their respective year bases at all times of the school day, as we are frequently in classrooms or corridors supporting our Year 7 students around the school.

If you need to contact either me or Miss Cooper, please contact the school and when asked for an extension number, enter 265. If we are not available, you will have the opportunity to leave a voicemail. You should note that a response may not be immediate due to teaching commitments, and our commitments with the students. However, we will always contact you at our earliest convenience.

For urgent matters: If your message requires immediate attention, i.e. safeguarding etc., please do not leave a voicemail; instead, contact reception directly so they can direct your query to the appropriate staff.

Thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation.

Mr D Royal
Year 7 Leader

Miss J Coper
Year 7 Deputy Leader

Help for Families who are Digitally Excluded

Digital Poverty Alliance/Connected Voice are promoting schemes to provide access to refurbished digital devices for children, young people and families who may be experiencing digital exclusion in Gateshead.

Free Refurbished Tablets for Young People: Tech4TakeOff

Young people are expected to use technology throughout the school week, not only during lessons. When that access is limited or shared, everyday learning can become harder to manage.

Tech4TakeOff directly addresses this by offering devices previously used by easyJet crew and flight-deck teams, made available to support young people who need better access to technology outside the classroom.

This scheme is open to children aged 11-19, living in Newcastle upon Tyne, Gateshead, Sunderland, North Tyneside and South Tyneside. Applications must be completed by the parent or carer of the child who will benefit from the tablet, or by the young person themselves if aged over 16.

To apply, please use [the application form](#) to apply and select 'Tech4Take Off Tyne & Wear' from the drop down menu.

Access to Free Devices for People in Gateshead

For adults, families and children under 11 who do not meet the Tech4TakeOff criteria, the **Tech4Communities** device donation scheme remains available.

People living in Gateshead can apply for a refurbished mobile phone, tablet or laptop. Devices donated locally have been securely wiped, professionally refurbished and are ready for distribution. To successfully qualify for a device applicants must:

- have a Gateshead address.
- complete [the application form](#), selecting "**Tech4Communities Gateshead**" from the drop-down menu.
- provide details of a professional who is **not** related to them who can act as a verifier.

The verifier will be contacted automatically to confirm the applicant's need for a device.

Once verification is complete and the application is approved, the Digital Poverty Alliance will ship the device directly to the applicant's address.

Please note that device numbers are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis once applications have been verified.

There is also support for families and young people who already have devices but are struggling to pay for their broadband. There are a number of social tariffs that are available, or a databank for mobile SIMs, details of which can be found here: [Access the internet - Gateshead Council](#)

Additional support is also available for those needing support in using technology via the Gateshead libraries service: [Digital Support - Gateshead Council](#), [Digital Skills for Beginners - Gateshead Council](#)

[A supporting leaflet](#) is also available containing information on digital skills support, connectivity options and free or discounted internet access

Ms L Doran
Business Manager



Chartwells Autumn Menu

Chartwells – our school meal provider – are passionate about encouraging and enabling more children to make healthy choices and enjoy a nutritious school meal to get the most out of their day.

The Chartwells culinary team are excited to be launching the new autumn menu which delivers on excitement and flavour with dishes including Mac Shack (Mac and Cheese pots), customisable Nachos, a return of the Burger Bar, and Spice is Nice. Our monthly pop-ups will also make a return with themes including Bonfire Night and Indian Street Food.

To view further details of their autumn menu, and to check to see if your child qualifies for free school meals, please use the following link: [Chartwells Autumn Newsletter](#)

Ms L Doran
Business Manager

Academy Production 2026: Billy Elliot the Musical

Ticket Sales

Tickets for Billy Elliot The Musical go on sale exclusively for cast members for one week only, from Monday 21 to Friday 25 September. Cast members must complete the cast ticket order form they received during rehearsals this week to purchase tickets between these dates.

Tickets will go on general sale from Monday 28 September and can be purchased from the Academy reception for **£7.00** per ticket. Payment is by cash only and, as we do not have a change facility in school, the correct money must be handed in when purchasing. Please purchase your tickets as soon as possible to avoid the disappointment of missing out.

Tickets are non-refundable and non-transferrable. Any tickets that are lost will not be replaced by the school.

Once tickets have been purchased, if you require any adjustment or assistance for access or seating in the hall, or if you have any queries at all about the forthcoming rehearsal process or show week, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at sbrown@lordlawson.academy and I will be happy to help.

Reminder: Cast Rehearsal Dates:

All members of Billy Elliot The Musical must attend the following compulsory Sunday rehearsals:

- Sunday 27 September 10.00am to 4.00pm
- Sunday 11 October 10.00am to 4.00pm

All students must bring a packed lunch and refreshments to both Sunday rehearsals, which must **not** contain any nut products or ingredients.

Students must wear layers of clothing for the rehearsals and ensure they have warm items of clothing.

No student will be given permission to leave the academy site during the rehearsals.

Thank you as always for your support.

Miss S Brown

Subject Leader – Performing Arts

Important Reminder About Allergies – We are a Nut Free School

Children who suffer from nut allergies can develop a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. If someone has a nut allergy it is not just eating nuts that can cause a severe reaction: just being touched on the skin or smelling the breath of someone who has had nuts or a product containing nuts can trigger anaphylactic shock (which can cause breathing and swallowing difficulties). First aid staff in the school are trained to use the Epi-pens (an injection of adrenalin) which is required immediately if this happens. **We cannot have nuts in school, in any form.**

So please, can we ask that you have **no nut products** in your child's lunch box, or in anything that they may bring into school as a snack. For example:

- Peanut butter products
- Chocolate spreads
- Cereal bars
- Some granola bars
- Cakes that contain nuts
- Biscuits / Cookies that contain nuts
- Some Asian food, including satay
- Sauces that contain nuts

This list is not exhaustive, so please check the packaging of products closely. We appreciate that this is an additional thing to check, and we know that you recognise how important it is, but we must ensure the safety of all children and staff in school, so we must insist that you support this request.

All school staff are completing training on food allergies, as required by the Government's new 'Benedict's Law' legislation.

We know that if it were your child who was potentially affected by this life-threatening allergy to nut products, that you would expect all the help we could give.

Thank you all for your understanding and for your continued support.

Ms L Doran
Business Manager





Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy production of

MUSIC BY

**ELTON
JOHN**

BOOK & LYRICS BY

**LEE
HALL**

ORIGINALLY DIRECTED BY

**STEPHEN
DALDRY**



BILLY ELLIOT

THE MUSICAL

TUESDAY 13 - FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER 2026 7PM START - MAIN HALL

Tickets £7 (Non-refundable) available from Academy Reception

Should you require any adjustment or assistance for access to seating please contact sbrown@lordlawson.academy directly on purchase of tickets. Late arrivals will not be permitted into the hall until the interval to maintain health and safety of all during the performance. This Performance is suitable for Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy audiences; however we recommend a 12A rating due to mature themes explored including scenes of protest and conflict.

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/>

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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 the Autumn Term (up to half term)

Date	Event
Thursday 24 September	Open Evening – for students in year 6: Primary Schools A – K: 4.15pm to 6.15pm Primary Schools L – Z: 6pm to 8pm
Sunday 27 September	First Sunday rehearsal for ALL Academy production cast members: 10am to 4pm
Monday 28 and Tuesday 29 September	School photographs – throughout the school day
Wednesday 7 to Friday 9 October	DofE Expedition Days
Sunday 11 October	Second Sunday rehearsal for ALL Academy production cast members: 10am to 4pm
Monday 12 October	All day dress and technical rehearsal for Academy Production – Billy Elliott the Musical – all cast members will be in school and off timetable for the full school day
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
Thursday 5 November	Year 7 Parents and Carers Evening: 3.45pm to 7.15pm
Thursday 12 November	Sixth Form Open Evening: 5pm to 7pm
Monday 23 to Friday 27 November	Year 9: Ullswater residential trip
Monday 30 November to Friday 11 December	Years 11 and 13 Autumn assessments
Thursday 10 December	Year 7 Pantomime
Tuesday 15 December	Christmas Showcase (timings tbc)
Friday 18 December	Last day of term for staff and students
Monday 4 January 2027	Staff Inset Day – Academy closed for students
Tuesday 5 January 2027	Academy open for ALL students as normal