



Parent Bulletin

Principal **Dr A T Fowler**

Issue 3: w/c Monday 22 September 2025 – Week 2

Dear Parents and Carers

Did you see us on the television? In my letter last week, I mentioned the visit of the reporter Katie Cole from ITV Tyne Tees News. Lennon and Grace, local students and co-founders of State Elevate, are working with some of our sixth form students to encourage them to raise their aspirations and apply for places at outstanding educational institutions. Katie Cole was keen to find out more about this work. She interviewed Tom and Harry, Chloe and Mia from Year 13, and she asked me for a few words as well. Her report topped the local news at 6pm on Thursday 18 September. I have been contacted by several people who saw the item and wanted to say how well our students spoke and how nice our school looks. I completely agree!

One of the statistical examples highlighted by Katie is that, of students who apply to Oxford University, only 2% are from the north east, compared with over 20% from the south east, and 28% from London. This statistic does not recognise the difference between the populations of the regions. Nonetheless, when you adjust for this, it remains true that almost three times as many applications are from students in the south east, compared to the north east. As Lennon mentioned in the clip, it's not that our students are less intelligent or less able! Let's continue to work together to raise our students' aspirations – to apply to the best universities, if that is their direction; or the best apprenticeship providers; or to top employers. We know how wonderful our students – your children – are, and we know they deserve the very best opportunities. We will continue to work with State Elevate over the next year, as our sixth form students consider their future options.

Also on Thursday, we carried out our planned first fire evacuation practice of the academic year. I want to commend all our students (and staff) on the exemplary way they conducted themselves during this drill. Everyone left the building in less than four minutes from the sounding of the alarm, and everyone was quickly accounted for in registers taken on the school field. Although this was a practice, and the alarm was expected, this excellent drill gives us confidence that, should we need to evacuate in a real emergency, we would be able to do so quickly and safely.



Parent Bulletin

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Last week, Mr Dicocco led assemblies for all year groups on the theme of Integrity. He explained to students that integrity is about the standards that we hold ourselves to – it means the way we act even when no-one is looking. One of the ethical puzzles Mr Dicocco used with some year groups was to ask students to imagine that they had found a wallet containing some money and some means of identifying the owner (for example, a driving licence). What would they do? This caused some discussion and a few different answers. As it happened, this theoretical example was put to the test yesterday: two of our students in Year 8 found a debit card in the street. They might have been tempted to use the contactless facility to buy something for themselves at a shop; instead, acting with complete integrity, they handed in the debit card at school, enabling us to return it to the bank and the owner. Congratulations to those two students – they have set us all a great example!

All best wishes

Yours faithfully

Dr Andrew Fowler
Principal



Performing Arts Updates

Academy Production: Singin' in the Rain Junior – Tuesday 21 to Friday 24 October, 7pm

Tickets for our academy production, Singin' in the Rain Junior, go on sale exclusively for cast members for one week only, from Monday 22 to Friday 26 September. All cast members have received a ticket purchase form and must present this when purchasing tickets during this week. Tickets will then be on general sale to the whole school community from Monday 29 September. Tickets can be purchased for £6.00 per ticket from the academy reception. Please note that tickets are non-returnable and refundable.

Should you require any adjustment or assistance for access or seating in the main hall, please contact me via email at sbrown@lordlawson.academy as soon as tickets are purchased and I will be happy to discuss your request.

Singin' in the Rain Junior promises to be a wonderful performance, so please ensure to purchase your tickets soon to avoid any disappointment of what is sure to be a sell-out week of shows.

A special well done to our 42 new Year 7 cast members, who have committed to the production. The Performing Arts department have been impressed with your enthusiasm and work effort in this first stage of rehearsals and we welcome you to our Performers team.

Year 11: GCSE Dance Solo Performance Exam

The year 11 GCSE Dance solo performance exam will take place across two days on Thursday 2 and Friday 3 October 2025. The GCSE Dance class have been organised into two groups and students are aware which one of the dates is their exam day. Students will be off timetable for the whole day to record both solo exam performances.

Year 9 Dance Leaders: Level 2 Qualification in Dance Leadership

Our first cohort of Lord Lawson Dance Leaders have made an excellent start to this national level 2 qualification, which has been funded by the academy.

Dance Leader sessions will continue to run for the following three Tuesdays: 23 September, 30 September, and 7 October. We will then take a break until after the October half term to support both student and staff commitment to the academy production. During this time, Dance Leaders will have their Learner Evidence Record booklets to update.

Dance Leaders will resume on Tuesday 4 November, up to Tuesday 16 December, and takes place after school from 3.20pm to 4.20pm.



Extra-Curricular Dance Opportunity: GCSE Dance Anthology Online Lecture.

On Tuesday 7 October, 3.20pm to 5pm, A-level and GCSE Dance students alongside Dance Leaders are invited to participate in an online lecture with choreographer James Cousins, where he will discuss his work 'Within Her Eyes'. This professional dance work is a GCSE Anthology set work, which **all** GCSE Dance students study. Students will be given further information next week regarding the details of this opportunity.

GCSE Dance, Drama and Music Students: Friday evening revision session 3.20pm to 4.20pm.

The Performing Arts department continue to hold revision and creative rehearsals for Year 11 students studying GCSE Dance, Drama or Music. The sessions take place after school on Friday evenings from 3.20pm to 4.20pm. We strongly encourage students to make the most of this opportunity offered to support them to achieve their full potential in their upcoming Non-Examined Assessments (NEAs) and examinations.

London Theatre West End Educational Visit (July 2026)

All 40 places on the London Theatre Educational Visit quickly sold out as students were excited to secure a place on the visit to London with the Performing Arts Department, which takes place in July 2026. The itinerary will include watching two west end musicals: Matilda and Wicked, a sightseeing tour of London, and a west end performance workshop. Students should continue to hand their forms into Miss Brown if they wish to be added to the reserve list.

Year 12 Performing Arts

Congratulations to our amazing Year 12 Dance, Drama and Music students who have made a brilliant start to their KS5 studies in the department. The Performing Arts team are so proud of your achievements at KS4 and look forward to watching you further enjoy and excel in your KS5 studies.



For further information about any of the opportunities within Performing Arts, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Miss S Brown

Subject Leader – Performing Arts



Young Carers

The next Young Carers' drop in, hosted by Caregivers Connect, Gateshead, will be held at lunch time on Wednesday 24 September in the small conference room - near the entrance to the main hall. Here young carers can play games, do crafts and meet other young carers that attend the academy.

Students will be given an activity pass to gain access to the drop in.

If any parent thinks their child may be a young carer for anyone living in their home and have not been registered they can email me on mglass@lordlawson.academy and they will be contacted with further information on how we can further support their child within school.

Mrs M Glass
Young Carers Coordinator

Career Pathways

Pathway CTM is a leading early careers support service that helps students aged 14-18 secure apprenticeships and explore various career paths through free resources, mentoring, and events. It is a social enterprise dedicated to providing students with the tools and opportunities needed to kickstart their careers. They focus on helping young people navigate the apprenticeship landscape and gain valuable employability skills.

Pathway CTM offer a number of virtual insight days and careers taster events, including work experience for students and information for parents who are supporting their young people.

Students/parents can sign up to the Pathway CTM Programme and receive email alerts about events, job applications and work experience opportunities.

To see what's on offer, please click on this link: [Events - Pathway CTM](#)

Mrs C Braban
Careers and Enterprise Adviser



Additional Whole School Updates and Reminders

Flu Vaccinations

Flu vaccinations for any student in years 7 to 11, whose parents/carers have completed the consent forms, took place in school today.

If your child was absent today and missed their slot, or if you missed the consent deadline, please look out for future communications sent on behalf of the South Tyneside Immunisation team on Class Charts, as there will be a catch-up session in school on the morning of Thursday 20 November 2025.

School Photographs

Students will have their photographs taken in school on Monday and Tuesday of next week. Tutors have been provided with the schedule. Students must be in full uniform as normal. Further details about the ordering of photographs will be sent in the coming weeks via the parent bulletin.

Mrs S Wakefield
PA to SLT

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 Monday 22 September. 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
Principal

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

Apply online for your child's school place

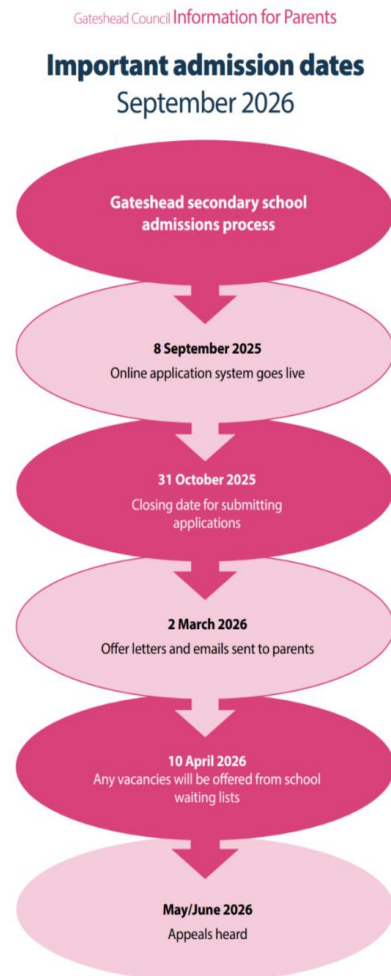
CLOSING DATE 31 October 2025

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
Tel: 0191 433 6185 / 3909 / 5232 / 8589



Apply online at: 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.



CYPS:

Is your child or someone you work with (aged 4 - 18 years) struggling with their mental health and wellbeing?

The CYPS team of friendly children's therapists will be present at one of their **free** drop-in sessions. 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

The sessions are set up throughout Gateshead and have monthly themes. The theme for October is **Emotional Regulation**, and the dates and venues for their October drop-in sessions can be found via the following link: [October Emotional Regulation Drop-in Sessions - Gateshead](#). However, we encourage you to chat to them about any mental health concerns, such as:

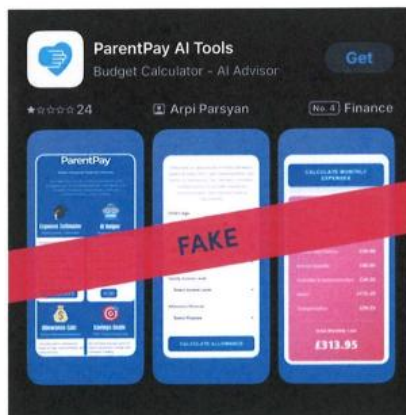
- Worries and anxiety
- Low mood
- Support with sleep
- Behaviour
- Confidence
- Anger
- Stress

Should you wish to find out more about the help and support CYPS can offer, please visit their website using the following link: [Children and Young Peoples Services \(CYPS\) Gateshead](#).

Mr I Cooper
Deputy Principal

Fraudulent App Alert – Message sent on behalf of ParentPay

We have been alerted to a fraudulent app in the Apple App store that mimics ParentPay branding.



Security and safeguarding are top priorities at ParentPay Group. We took swift action to report the app and are working closely with Apple to have it removed. To date, we have recorded only 2 cases of affected parents.

Please be aware:

- ParentPay does not have an app available for download from any app stores
- To use ParentPay, parents should visit <https://www.parentpay.com/> from a mobile phone or computer
- After logging in, parents can save a shortcut onto their phone's home screen

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>



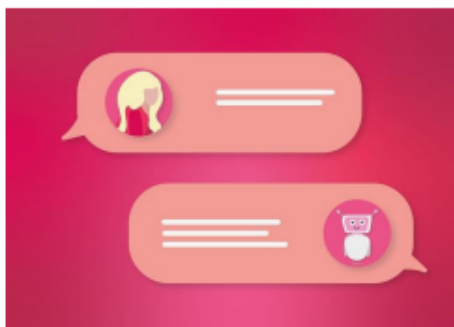
Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version:
<https://www.knowsleycitylearningcentres.org.uk/sept-2025/>

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
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 have been provided earlier in this bulletin
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 December	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