



Parent Bulletin

Principal **Dr A T Fowler**

Issue 4: w/c Monday 28 September 2026 – Week 1

Dear Parents and Carers

Last night, we held our Open Evening for Year 6 pupils and their families. It was wonderful to welcome more than 550 visitors into our school.

This was the first Open Evening for Mr Royal in his role as Year 7 Leader and Transition Coordinator. Working alongside Miss Cooper, our students and staff, Mr Royal maintained the high standards established by Mrs Jacobson. Many parents commented on the excellent organisation of the evening, and I heard countless positive remarks about our students, their interactions with visitors, and their relationships with staff.

Lily and Tom, our Head Girl and Head Boy, also did an excellent job hosting the presentations in the hall. My thanks go to Grace and Sam for giving us a foretaste of our forthcoming production of *Billy Elliot*, for which tickets go on general sale on Monday, 28 September.

I would particularly like to commend the almost 300 students who stayed behind to support the evening. They volunteered more than four hours of their time, the equivalent of almost an additional school day, to showcase their school to prospective students and their families. In recognition of their commitment, all student helpers will receive the Character Award: **At Lord Lawson, we get involved.**

We received a great deal of valuable feedback, which will help us continue to improve. Some of the comments included:

Parents' feedback

"The children were all a real credit to the school."

"Enjoyed looking around the classrooms and joining in with the activities in the science classroom."

"Pupils were very interactive throughout the whole school."

"I liked how we were able to explore for ourselves after the talk and the guided tours."

"Staff and students were all great – so friendly and approachable. Our guides from Year 7 were so helpful too."

"The staff and student presentations in the hall were excellent. The sixth form students were so confident. We enjoyed the *Billy Elliot* performance too."

Pupils' feedback

"I enjoyed talking to the geography teacher, exploring the school, and taking part in the activities."

"I liked how kind everyone was and how they let me join in."

These comments reflect our whole-school approach to character education: **we are kind, we work hard, we are curious, and we get involved.**

We know that the strongest recommendation for any school comes through word of mouth. If you know families who are considering Lord Lawson for their child, please share your experiences with them, tell them what you value about our school, and let them know about our ongoing journey of improvement.

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

"We are currently studying WW1 Fiction in English. I encouraged the students to speak to family members to find out any interesting stories about their relatives who may have links to WW1. Erin has emailed me some fascinating photographs and information she has uncovered after conversations with her great grandma and her grandad - I loved reading them. Thank you for sharing them Erin, and continue to be curious!"

Awarded to Erin in Year 8 by Mrs Goodacre.

"Bailey accessed the Geography fieldwork with great curiosity. You asked questions to allow a deeper understanding of content and showed a great interest in what we were doing. You were even able to support your peers with the knowledge you had secured. Every member of staff talked about you in such a positive manner Bailey, you were a credit to our class."

Awarded to Bailey in Year 11 by Mrs Connor.

At Lord Lawson we get involved

"Jake has been an excellent drama student, getting really involved and volunteering to help me perform a drama technique for the whole class. Not only this, but he has rehearsed really well to make a new drama performance and also answered many questions in the class discussion. Great work Jake!"

Awarded to Jake in Year 9 by Mrs Wilson.

"Chloe is always keen to contribute to discussions in Photography. She shares her knowledge and understanding of processes, techniques and use of visual language with other students. Chloe has also volunteered to be in charge of the laptop trolley at the end of lessons, ensuring all laptops are on charge and in their correct slots. A really kind and helpful thing to do. Thank you, Chloe!"

Awarded to Chloe in Year 10 by Miss Dixon.

At Lord Lawson we are kind

"Today, Summer was helping in a year 8 RE class. A pupil became upset, and Summer not only managed to calm her but through talking to her managed to get to the bottom of the issue. Above and beyond, it was a lovely act of kindness towards a younger pupil who was having a difficult moment."

Awarded to Summer in Year 13 by Mrs Arrowsmith.

"During PE, Layton showed great kindness and encouragement when supporting a classmate who was feeling nervous and unsure about the trampoline exercises. He patiently talked him through each activity, offering reassurance and praise along the way. Thanks to Layton's positive attitude and support, his peer grew in confidence and was able to complete the exercises successfully. Well done Layton."

Awarded to Layton in Year 7 by Mrs Hogg.

At Lord Lawson we work hard

"Abbie is receiving this award in recognition of her outstanding dedication and hard work in Sport coursework. She has consistently demonstrated a positive attitude, excellent commitment, and a determination to achieve her best in every task. Her effort, perseverance, and willingness to go above and beyond have resulted in high-quality work."

Awarded to Abbie in Year 13 by Mr Docherty.

"Zhwan is working really hard in maths this year. Even after doing a maths assessment period 5 this afternoon, she came to after school revision and worked hard on a topic that she is struggling with. Zhwan has impressed me with her positive and mature attitude."

Awarded to Zhwan in Year 11 by Mrs Jackson.

Communication with School

We welcome parents and carers contacting the Academy to share information, raise concerns or seek clarification regarding their child's education and wellbeing. Many parents and carers choose to communicate directly with members of our pastoral team, including Year Leaders and Deputy Year Leaders.

We would like to remind families that colleagues are not always available to respond immediately to telephone calls or emails. Throughout the school day, staff are teaching, supporting and caring for students and may not be able to access messages straight away. As our pastoral team are not office-based, they are often working across the school and may not see emails or voicemail messages immediately.

Similarly, attending the school without a pre-arranged appointment does not guarantee that the member of staff you wish to speak with will be available. If you would like to meet with a colleague in person, we kindly ask that an appointment is arranged in advance.

For urgent matters, particularly those relating to safeguarding, please contact Reception who will ensure that the appropriate colleague is informed as quickly as possible.

For all non-urgent enquiries, we ask for your patience and understanding while colleagues respond. As a guide, it is reasonable to expect a response to email communication within **48 working hours**, although we will always endeavour to respond sooner where possible.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Mr I Cooper
Deputy Principal

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 found later in this bulletin.

Mr I Cooper
Deputy Principal – Designated Safeguarding Lead

Scholars' Bus Service

We are aware of ongoing concerns regarding the scholars' bus service, particularly around overcrowding on some routes. We appreciate that this can be uncomfortable for students and may be causing concern for families.

Please be assured that we are actively liaising with Nexus to address these issues to find a suitable resolution. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and will provide parents and carers with an update as soon as further information becomes available.

In the meantime, we thank you for your patience and understanding while this matter is being addressed.

Mr I Cooper
Deputy Principal

Ceremony of Remembrance

Thank you to all of the students who have signed up to be a part of our Remembrance Ceremony, which will take place in school on Wednesday 11 November.

Our first rehearsal will take place on Tuesday 29 September, 3:30pm until 4:15pm. Students are to meet in the Atrium.

If your child is interested in playing a part in our Ceremony of Remembrance, but has not yet registered their interest, they are welcome to join the rehearsal on 29 September and signup then.

Rehearsals will take place every Tuesday, ending on Tuesday 10 November.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on jkemp@lordlawson.academy and I will be happy to help.

Mrs J Kemp
Ceremony of Remembrance Coordinator

Co-curricular Offer at Lord Lawson

We are pleased to share the wide range of co-curricular activities available to our students. This increased offer demonstrates our desire to enrich the school experience of students, and to provide opportunities for them to become involved in activities they may not usually participate in.

Students have already had the opportunity to express their interest in the activities they would like to join. If you would like to review our Co-curricular offer, then please click on the link below:

[Lord Lawson Co-Curricular Offer](#)

Mr D Cave
Assistant Principal

Boost Your Child's GCSE Maths Grades

To help our students achieve their best possible results in their upcoming mock examinations and this summer's GCSEs, the Maths Department is offering a programme of additional revision sessions. The full timetable is displayed on the poster in the Maths Department and can also be found below.

Students should attend either the Foundation or Higher sessions, depending on the tier they are studying. If they are unable to attend a session led by their usual class teacher, they are welcome to attend an equivalent session with another teacher.

Please take a few moments to discuss with your child which revision sessions they plan to attend. Your support will help them to feel confident, well prepared, and ready to succeed in their examinations.

Mrs D Jackson

Subject Leader – Mathematics



MATHS

Year 11 Support Sessions

Work hard today. Achieve beautiful grades tomorrow!

FOUNDATION MATHS

Year 11 Support Sessions

WHO	WHEN	WHERE
Mr Dicocco	Tuesday lunchtime	Ma22
Mrs Jackson	Monday lunchtime Wednesday 3:20 – 4:00	Ma25
Mr Bramham	Monday lunchtime (week 1)	Ma28
Mr Hunter	Monday lunchtime (week 2)	Ma24

HIGHER MATHS

Year 11 Support Sessions

WHO	WHEN	WHERE
Mrs Barras	Wednesday lunchtime	Ma22
Mrs Scully	Friday lunchtime	Ma23
Mrs Cassidy	Friday lunchtime (week 1)	Ma27
Mrs Hulme	Wednesday 3:20 – 4:00 (week 2)	Ma29

Academy Production 2026: Billy Elliot the Musical

Ticket Sales

Tickets for Billy Elliot the Musical are on general sale from Monday 28 September. Tickets can be purchased from the Academy reception for £7.00 each and must be paid with the correct cash as we do not have a change facility.

Please note that once purchased, tickets are non-refundable and are not transferable.

Please purchase your tickets as soon as possible to avoid the disappointment of missing out. Tickets for the Friday evening performance are almost sold out!! 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.

Please check ClassCharts for an announcement with information regarding the Academy mobile phone number to make contact with a member of staff in case of emergencies during this Sunday's rehearsal (Sunday 27 September).

Year 7 do not require any costumes for the rehearsal this Sunday; however, they will receive an information letter about costumes next week.

Year 8 to 13 cast members **do** require their costumes for the rehearsal this Sunday for a costume check. Detailed information was shared with students regarding costumes last term.

If you have any queries about the Academy Production, please do not hesitate to contact me using the email address quoted above.

As always, thank you for your support.

Miss S Brown

Subject Leader – Performing Arts

EXTREMISM AND VIOLENT CONTENT IN THE ONLINE SPACE: MAKING INFORMED CHOICES



North East Virtual Training Sessions
for Parents and Carers

Who are we?

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

Training Sessions

As part of the Home Office Preventing Radicalisation fund for Local Authorities, Small Steps will deliver 10 virtual training sessions for North East parents and carers between October 2026 and July 2027. 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.

Sessions aims

- Increase knowledge & awareness of Extreme Right-Wing (ERW) and its influence within online radicalisation.
- Increased parental ability to intervene early around online harms.
- Provide parents/carers with practical tools to monitor online activity.
- Reduce Prevent referrals linked to online ERW and violence fixation in the medium term (2025 had a 33% increase from 2024).
- Create regional consistency in early intervention safeguarding approaches.

[CLICK HERE TO CHECK ALL DATES AND REGISTER](#)



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/>

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

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

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

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

Nex Playground

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

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

Online Safety Quiz

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

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

WhatsApp Usernames

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

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

LORD LAWSON OF BEAMISH ACADEMY

Academic Year 2026 - 2027 Calendar

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

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

Date	Event
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