



Parent Bulletin

Principal **Dr A T Fowler**

Issue 4: w/c Monday 29 September 2025 – Week 1

Dear Parents and Carers

“Good morning, good morning!” sang Scarlett, Tobi and Ted yesterday, as they launched our Year 6 Open Evening with an extract from our production *Singin’ in the Rain*. They were followed by our superb hosts for the evening, Head Girl Jeannie and Head Boy Luke, who welcomed to the school pupils in Year 6, their parents, carers and families. It was a beautiful sunny autumn evening, and the school and its grounds looked magnificent, as they frequently do. Jeannie and Luke spoke confidently and with expertise about the subjects they are studying, their aspirations for the future, and how their experiences at school have helped them to become who they are. They introduced first me and, later, Mrs Jacobson, whose meticulous organisation had made the event such a success, and whose pastoral care ensures our transition process works so well for students and families.

Over 620 people attended the evening, which ended for staff at 8:30pm. I want to begin by thanking all our own students, who volunteered within subjects and acted as tour guides. Over 300 students gave their time, including many students in Year 7 – who have been members of Lord Lawson for only just over three weeks! Very many of our visitors commented on how impressed they were with our students, who confidently showed them around their school, demonstrated the different subjects, and spoke with year 6 pupils. Our visitors spoke about how genuinely lovely our students are, how enthusiastic they are, and how well they get on with one another and with the adults in the school. If your child was involved, thank you so much for supporting them to be part of this special event. I shall be giving the Principal’s Award (P5) and a certificate to every student.

A reminder to those of you who have children in Year 6 and who want a place at Lord Lawson next year: you need to complete the online application through Gateshead (or your own local authority if you live in a different area). The deadline for applications is 31 October, but I urge you to complete your application well before then, after you have visited the schools in which you are interested. In response to increased demand, we are making an additional 30 places available at Lord Lawson next year.

I also want to thank my colleagues, our staff, for their work at our Open Evening. The majority of our teaching and non-teaching staff were present all evening, and their contribution to this important event was critical.



Parent Bulletin

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Scarlett, Tobi and Ted have now given us the first preview of our forthcoming production, the classic musical *Singin' in the Rain* (Junior). Our next public preview will be the dress rehearsal on Monday 20 October, to which pupils in our feeder primary schools have been invited. This takes place during the school day. The four performances are from Tuesday to Friday, 21-24 October. Tickets for these performances go on sale from Monday 29 September. Performances begin at 7pm. Please see Miss Brown's notice in this bulletin for more details.

All best wishes,

Yours faithfully

Dr Andrew Fowler

Principal

Performing Arts: Music Updates

Instrumental Music Lessons Autumn 2025

Thank you to everyone who returned their forms regarding Music Lessons for this term and made their payments via Parent Pay. All timetables have now been created and are displayed on the Music noticeboard in the Performing Arts Department, outside PA10 and the Dance Studio. Students should check the timetable on the day of their lesson and make a note of their lesson time.

As a guide for students, instrumental provision takes place for:

Piano/Keyboard – on Monday or Thursday

Drum Kit – on Tuesday

Guitar lessons – on Wednesday

Woodwind and Brass – on Thursday

String – on Friday

Any students bringing their own instrument into the Academy should safely store it in Rehearsal Room 1 before tutor time. See a member of the Performing Arts team in the department to ensure the instrument is securely stored and locked in the room. Please note that as with all personal possessions, these are brought into the academy at your own risk and are not covered by our insurance.

There are also opportunities still available for any students who wish to begin learning a brass or string instrument; please contact me for further information at: rhall@lordlawson.academy

Music Homework Years 7 – 9

Focus on Sound Music homework is set every fortnight and is completed on the Focus on Sound platform. The platform is designed to promote independent learning through text, video and audio clips and culminate in a structured quiz that tests students recall of prior learning and will also consolidate skills taught in class. Student logins and passwords have been setup so that they are the same login as their email address and password details that they use to login to computers in school. If you wish to explore the platform further, you can also access Focus on Sound through the hyperlink: <https://portal.focusonsound.com/>, or use the help guide found later in this bulletin.

All homework links to Focus on Sound are set in Class Charts so students can easily access their homework. Students are asked to log in to the program and complete the work before their next Music lesson. All students who meet the deadline and achieve a score of 30% or above are allocated a P1 praise point. Students who achieve 75% or more are rewarded with a P2. If, at the end of a half term, a student has worked outstandingly to a 100% grade in every piece of work they have submitted, they will receive a P3 for their consistent, positive effort and attitude. It is wonderful to give out so many rewards to recognise the dedication and commitment our students have towards their home learning and supporting their work in class.

If your child has any problems accessing their homework, please encourage them to speak to their music teacher or email them prior to their next lesson, so that any issues can be avoided, and the teacher can help them as soon as possible. The contact details for all music teachers are listed below, but if you have any general questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs Hall: rhall@lordlawson.academy

Mrs Gray: agray@lordlawson.academy

Mr Hodgson: ahodgson@lordlawson.academy

Mrs R Hall

Assistant Subject Leader – Performing Arts

CYPS

In last week's bulletin we placed a link on behalf of CYPS, relating to their monthly drop-in sessions throughout Gateshead, the theme of which for October is Emotional Regulation.

We have been advised that a number of the sessions on the poster (accessed via the link in the message) have been changed, and advise you of the updates below:

Thursday 1 October: Winlaton – this has been cancelled

Friday 3 October: Wrekenton Family Hub – this session has been added

Thursday 9 October: Central Library – this session has been added

Should you wish to remind yourself of the dates for all of the sessions in October, please use the link: [October Emotional Regulation Drop-in Sessions - Gateshead](#).

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](#).

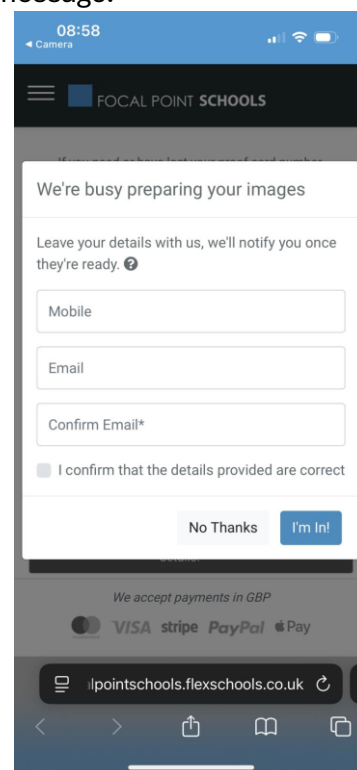
Mr I Cooper
Deputy Principal

School Photographs: Orders

All students who had their photograph taken in school on Monday and Tuesday of this week, were provided with an order card from the photographers – Focal Point.

These cards provided you with a personal QR code for your child, and details as to how you place your orders once the photographs have been processed and uploaded to their system.

If you have attempted to scan the QR code already, you will likely receive the following message:



08:58
Camera

FOCAL POINT SCHOOLS

We're busy preparing your images

Leave your details with us, we'll notify you once they're ready. ?

Mobile

Email

Confirm Email*

☐ I confirm that the details provided are correct

No Thanks I'm In!

We accept payments in GBP

VISA stripe PayPal Apple Pay

ilpointschools.flexschools.co.uk

Focal Point have advised that the system should be open for orders before the end of this weekend.

Mrs S Wakefield
PA to SLT



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, will be on sale to the whole school community from Monday 29 September 2025. Tickets can be purchased for £6.00 per ticket from the academy reception. Please note that tickets are non-returnable and non-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.

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.

As always, should you have any questions in relation to any of these items, or Performing Arts in general, please do not hesitate to contact me at: sbrown@lordlawson.academy and I will be happy to help.

Miss S Brown

Subject Leader – Performing Arts

Year 11 into 12 Taster Day

On Monday 6 October, all year 11 students will be off timetable to experience a post-16 careers day. During year 10, these students were interviewed by our careers advisors, Mrs Braban and Mrs Leigh, and discussed what their plans are for further education or employment, following their GCSEs in 2026. As a result of the responses received, 160 of these students will participate in a Lord Lawson Sixth Form Taster Day, where they will experience A level lessons in four subjects of their choice.

Our sixth form students actually study only three subjects, unless they select further maths as a fourth; however, the taster day will enable them to experience a greater range of subjects, to ensure they feel confident in making the decision that is right for them and their future academic or career pathways.

For students wishing to study at college or apply for an apprenticeship, we have representatives from New College Durham coming into Lord Lawson to deliver a carousel of three sessions designed to support this pathway. In the afternoon these students will participate in a virtual work experience, watch a documentary, and have the opportunity to visit a small careers fair in the main hall.

We hope students' will find this day informative and enjoyable. For this day, all students will be allowed to wear sixth form dress code, this is smart casual clothing. Our only exceptions are sportswear, i.e. football tops, shorts, lycra – leggings, crop tops or stringy vest tops.

For any questions about the day or post-16 opportunities, please contact me at: jlaidlaw@lordlawson.academy and I will be happy to help.

Mrs J Laidlaw

Assistant Principal – Head of Sixth Form



Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy

Presents

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN



Screenplay By
BETTY COMDEN
and **ADOLPH GREEN**

Songs By
NACIO HERB BROWN
and **ARTHUR FREED**

Based on the classic Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film,

by special arrangement with Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures, Inc.

Music Published by EMI

(Original Movie Choreography by Gene Kelly and Stanley Donen)

Produced by Arrangement With Maurice Rosenfield, Lois F. Rosenfield and Cindy Pritzker, Inc.

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with
Music Theatre International

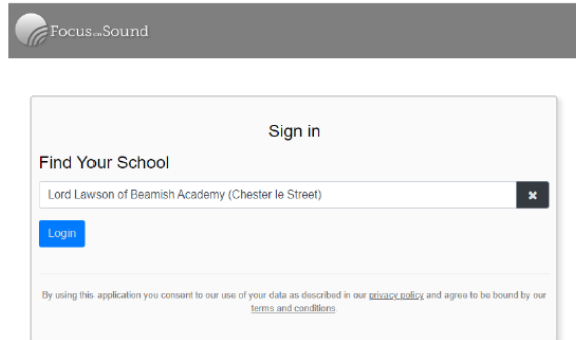
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI

www.mtishows.co.uk

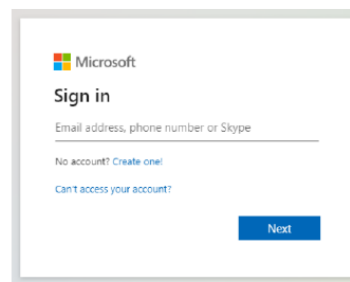
Tuesday 21 - Friday 24 October 2025
7pm Start - Main Hall

Music Homework – How to Find the Task

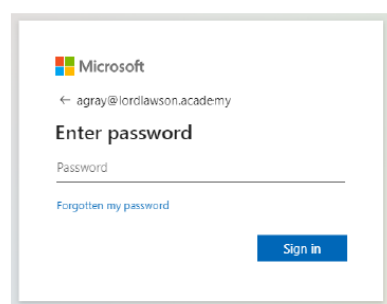
1. All music homework is set in a program call *Focus on Sound* (www.portal.focusonsound.com) However, the easiest way to reach the task is simply to **log in to Classcharts and click on the link** attached to your homework task.
2. Find our school in the drop down menu then click on the 'login' button



3. Sign in using your school email address. This is your username (the username that you use to login to the school computers) followed by @lordlawson.academy eg. 24asmith@lordlawson.academy.



4. Enter your password. This is the same password that you use to log in to the school network too.



At this point you will be logged in with the task on your screen and ready to work through it. When you finish the quiz at the **end of the task you MUST click on the 'end/save lesson' button** to save your work. If you don't do this then your score will be lost and you will have to take the quiz again.

Birtley Community Centre

KIDS ZONE

SNACKS

£3

EVERY THURSDAY

4.30PM - 6.30PM

**• GAMES • CRAFTS • LEGO •
• MOVIE NIGHTS •**

BOOKING REQUIRED

MORE INFORMATION:

Call 0191 4102343

email

admin@birtleycommunitycentre.co.uk

**6 - 12
YEAR OLDS**

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



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

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Calendar Dates and Upcoming Events for the Autumn Term

Date	Event
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