



Parent Bulletin

Principal **Dr A T Fowler**

Issue 5: w/c Monday 5 October 2026 – Week 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have been greatly encouraged by the way in which the school's co-curricular programme is gaining momentum. Already, more than 500 students have signed up for our wide range of clubs and activities. This is a very encouraging start. However, it also means that many students have not yet signed up for an activity.

Please take some time to talk with your child about our co-curricular programme. Discuss the activities that interest them and encourage them to become involved if they have not already done so. We know that participation beyond the classroom helps students develop confidence, build friendships and discover new interests and talents.

Alongside our regular programme of activities in school, we continue to expand our programme of educational visits and residential experiences. Our aim is to offer something for everyone. Some opportunities necessarily have limited places, while others can be opened to an entire year group.

Later in this bulletin, you will find information about an activity holiday that we are offering to all students currently in Year 9 for July 2027. This visit to Dearne Valley in South Yorkshire builds on the success of the residential trip to Lockerbie that took place towards the end of the last academic year. Students who attended that trip had a wonderful experience, although several were understandably apprehensive beforehand. I strongly encourage Year 9 families to consider this opportunity. Although there is a cost involved, we hope that the trip will be affordable, particularly with ample time to plan and budget. Bursary support will also be available for families who would benefit from financial assistance.

This week's bulletin also highlights many of the ways in which our students are already embracing opportunities beyond the classroom. You will be able to read about success in a mathematics competition, the academic and mental health support available to students, our forthcoming Ceremony of Remembrance, and the academy production of *Billy Elliot*, for which a small number of tickets remain available.

I hesitate to mention Christmas quite so early in the year. However, as festive displays begin to appear in the shops, I am conscious that many families prefer to spread spending across several months. With this in mind, I encourage you to read Mr McGovern's important message regarding e-scooters and e-bikes. Many such vehicles are not road legal and can cause difficulties within our community. Character-building experiences, whose memories last a lifetime, often prove more valuable than possessions that are quickly discarded or soon lose their appeal.

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

"Toby asked an excellent question last week about how asteroids are affected by the Earth's magnetic field. Unfortunately, I didn't know the answer, but Toby showed great curiosity by researching it himself and then emailing me the information. It's always great to learn something new; thank you, Toby!"

Awarded to Toby in Year 9 by Mr Blair

"Zachary asked excellent questions of his peers who described Merton's Strain theory and modes of adaptation as an explanation for crime in society. He listened carefully to the responses of others and then thought of interesting questions to ask them which furthered his own understanding of the concept and also that of his peers. The questions and responses really pushed the learning forward, so thank you for your curiosity, Zachary!"

Awarded to Zachary in Year 13 by Mrs Rutherford

At Lord Lawson we get involved

"Michaela, thank you so much for stepping up and delivering your Timeline a week early! I know that talking in front of your classmates would be a challenge for you, but you absolutely nailed it! I learnt so much about you! I wanted to recognise the immense character this took and say well done for getting involved and doing something out of your comfort zone so proactively and positively."

Awarded to Michaela in Year 12 by Mr Clarke

"Some amazing contributions to today's lesson giving brilliant examples of how one religion can be different in different countries. We learnt a lot! Keep it up!"

Awarded to Natalia in Year 7 by Mr Forsyth

At Lord Lawson we are kind

"Jessica is undoubtedly a team player. She works excellently on her table in food technology and supports others with their work each and every lesson. Today, she went even further and supported other students in other parts of the class by tidying up and supporting their work. I'm really impressed!!"

Awarded to Jessica in Year 8 by Mr Walsh

"In our lesson today, Lewis took it upon himself to complete his work and the work for his peer who has sustained a hand injury. This was done quietly, with no seeking of recognition, just Lewis quietly showing kindness in supporting his peer. This was a brilliant example of the character within you Lewis, well done."

Awarded to Lewis in Year 10 by Mrs Connor

At Lord Lawson we work hard

"Well done Josh for working really hard in your English lessons. I really appreciate your enthusiasm and your contributions and can tell that you are making a real effort to do your best. Keep it up - it will pay off!"

Awarded to Joshua in Year 11 by Mrs Hunter

"Gracie has stayed behind every night this week completing work. She has also spoken with staff to gain support. This shows Gracie's commitment to her studies."

Awarded to Gracie in Year 13 by Miss Milburn

Year 9 Activities Trip – Dearne Valley: 5 July to 7 July 2027

We are delighted to offer all Year 9 students the opportunity to take part in an exciting three-day activities holiday at Dearne Valley, South Yorkshire.

The trip will take place from Monday 5 to Wednesday 7 July and will provide students with the opportunity to experience a range of outdoor and team-building activities, whilst spending time away with their friends and developing confidence, independence and teamwork skills.

During the three days students will participate in a range of activities, with a range of activities such as:

- Raft building
- Archery
- Zip wire
- Orienteering
- Team-building activities

There will also be two evening activities, which could include laser tag, a campfire and a quiz. The exact programme will be confirmed closer to the time.

Transport to and from Dearne Valley will be provided by coach, departing from and returning to school. More information will be given at a later date.

The final cost of the trip will depend on the number of students who choose to attend. However, the total cost will not exceed £330 per student. All year 9 students are invited to participate with this trip. We see it as a vital co-curricular opportunity that allows students to deepen relationships with their peers and teachers and build a team culture as a year group. It allows the students to display their character traits of curiosity, hard work, and a willingness to get involved. However, should individual student behaviour decline prior to the trip, we reserve the right to cancel places due to potential health and safety and safeguarding concerns.

To secure a place, a non-refundable deposit of £50 will be required via ParentPay by Friday 16 October. Further information regarding the remaining balance and payment schedule will be provided once we have confirmed the number of students attending.

If your child would like to attend, please complete and return the relevant consent/payment information by the deadline. Places will be confirmed once the deposit has been received.

Bursaries are available for this trip, and any parent/carer who feels that they would benefit from some financial support, should submit a request to: finance@lordlawson.academy. You will be provided with the necessary forms and information. All applications are dealt with in the strictest of confidence.

If you have any questions at all about the trip, please contact me on shulme@lordlawson.academy and I will be more than happy to help.

Mrs S Hulme
Teacher of Mathematics and Trip Coordinator

Ceremony of Remembrance

A reminder for those students involved in our Ceremony of Remembrance, that rehearsals take place **every Tuesday, 3:30 to 4:15pm**, meeting in the Atrium (outside the main hall).

It is important that students are there every week until the service on Wednesday 11 November. Those involved in Billy Elliot rehearsals have already spoken to me and I am aware that they will join us once the school show is over.

If there are any questions or you have any concerns about the ceremony, please don't hesitate to contact me on jkemp@lordlawson.academy and I will be more than happy to help.

Mrs J Kemp

Ceremony of Remembrance Coordinator



THINK!... Before Buying a Christmas Present that Cannot be Used

In the run up to Christmas, Northumbria Police would like to help you make informed decisions about presents you buy for your children, to ensure you are not helping your child to inadvertently break the law, by purchasing e-scooters, e-bikes, and other off-road motor vehicles/bikes.

As we are sure you are aware, either from stories in the news, or from personal experience, these illegally ridden vehicles cause not just a nuisance in our communities, but they also pose a huge risk to the safety of the public, including that of your own child.

All privately-owned e-scooters are NOT LEGAL to be ridden anywhere on public land. This includes roads, cycle lanes, footpaths, and bridleways. *The only place they may be ridden legally is on **private land, with the landowner's permission.***

Electrically assisted pedal cycles (EAPCs) and e-bikes are a little more complex, as various conditions apply for them to be considered road legal. The flyer found later in this bulletin provides further information on EAPCs.

CONSEQUENCES OF ILLEGAL RIDING

- The vehicle can be seized by police and crushed
- The rider (including a child) could be prosecuted for driving offences, resulting in penalty points and a fine.
- If the rider doesn't have a driving licence, a 'ghost' licence is created where the penalty points are held until a provisional licence is issued.
- A parent/carers can be prosecuted for the offence of 'use, cause and permit' the illegal use of a vehicle, i.e. they have bought the vehicle and have allowed the child to ride it.

Again, penalty points and a fine can apply.

Mr P McGovern

Safeguarding Manager

UK Maths Trust – Mathematical Competition for Girls: Lord Lawson Success!

The Mathematical Competition for Girls was introduced in 2025 as a new opportunity designed to inspire and challenge young female mathematicians across the UK.

Why? Over the last twelve years, the [Mathematical Olympiad for Girls](#) (MOG) has become an extremely popular Olympiad, with entries reaching nearly 5,000 in 2024. Starting in 2025, this new competition, the Mathematical Competition for Girls (MCG) will run alongside MOG, allowing even more girls to engage in mathematical problem solving. The questions for the MCG will be similar in style and level to the MOG answer-only questions, with some questions shared between the two papers.

Last week, eight of our students participated in the competition, which focusses on high attaining students.

This was an extremely challenging 90-minute session that really tested our students' knowledge in a variety of mathematical areas.

We are delighted to announce that five of the students achieved a Merit grading: Rachel Law, Ava Turnbull, Maisie Ewart, Lana Burleigh and Isabelle Skelton. Gracious Obi was one point short of a Merit grading, with Tayo Adekotujo and Zoe Brown both also achieving well.

Congratulations to you all for your efforts and for agreeing to participate in this national competition. You really do demonstrate what it means to get involved

Mr L Robertson and all of the Mathematics Department

Scholars' Bus Service

Further to my message in last week's issue of the parent bulletin, we have received an update from Nexus, the service provider for the scholars' buses.

We have been advised that although the buses are busy, they are not over-capacity. Nexus has reviewed the data for usage over the last few weeks and has fed back the following:

- 873 – Morning service: This is a very busy service, particularly at Wrekenton high street. However, there is an alternative bus that follows this on a morning, the 871, which students can use.
- 874 – Morning and service: There is sufficient capacity on the 874 with an average of 73 scholars travelling on this service bus on a morning.
- 873 – Afternoon service: This is sometimes at full capacity; however, students can also use the 874 on an afternoon as there is sufficient space available.

To help us to support your children to access the scholars' service, ensuring that all who wish to access the buses may do so safely, please speak to your children and go through the services available to them so they know that they may have more than one to choose from.

Please be assured we will continue to monitor this situation with Nexus.

Mr I Cooper

Deputy Principal – Designated Safeguarding Lead

Year 11: Academic Support Table

As our Year 11 students continue their preparation for their forthcoming assessments/mock examinations and summer GCSE examinations, I am pleased to share with you our comprehensive Assessment Support timetable. The extensive programme of support reflects the dedication and commitment of our team of teachers. The timetables can be found later in this bulletin.

As Year Leader, I firmly believe that our Year 11 students can be among the best-prepared in the country for their examinations, provided they regularly access the Academic Support on offer and attend school daily, demonstrating positive character and working hard. The provision of Academic Support complements the high-quality teaching that takes place in our classrooms every day.

I look forward to welcoming all parents and carers on the evening of Thursday 22 October for our Year 11 Exam Preparation Evening. This is a fantastic opportunity for students and their parents/carers to find out important information ahead of their mock examinations in November.

As always, your support in ensuring your child attends the Academic Support sessions will be invaluable in helping them to achieve and exceed their academic potential. Please discuss the timetable with your child and ensure they know when and where sessions take place — as you will see, Academic Support runs before, during and after school.

Mr L Cumiskey
Year Leader – Year 11

Mindfulness and Wellbeing

On Monday 28 September, the Mindfulness and Wellbeing Club met for the first time this academic year. The group set a target for themselves to help them to be more mindful, more present, or to be kinder to themselves.

We learned that Mindfulness doesn't mean never getting stressed or worried but is about being able to be present in the here and now, and to slow our thinking down to help us feel calmer. Each week the Mindfulness and Wellbeing Club shares with each other a journal 'Prompt of the Week,' for those that find writing down their thoughts helpful, and a 'Positive Affirmation of the Week,' to remind us how brilliant we really are! We would like to share these ideas with you and you can find the journal later in this bulletin.

Next week we will be looking at what makes us who we are, and how being our own unique person is what makes us so special.

Mrs J Kemp



Cover Supervisor and HI Liaison

Academy Production 2026: Billy Elliot the Musical

Thank you to our wonderful Billy Elliot cast members for all of their hard work and enthusiasm during our first Sunday rehearsal last weekend; you are making this a show not to miss! A reminder that there is no Sunday rehearsal this weekend, but our second Sunday rehearsal is **Sunday 11 October, 10am to 4pm**.

Tickets for Billy Elliot The Musical are now on general sale with tickets available for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening performances. Please purchase your tickets as soon as possible to avoid the disappointment of missing what is sure to be a sellout show week.

Tickets can be purchased from the Academy reception for £7.00 each and must be paid for with the correct cash as we do not have a change facility. Please note that once purchased, tickets are non-refundable and non-transferrable.

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.

Please note requests for accessible seating have been high this year. I will respond to all requests as soon as possible but your patience with this is greatly appreciated. I will endeavour to arrange accessible seating alongside one other guest within the party; however, this cannot be guaranteed if the demand for accessible seating during the event does not allow. Thank you for your understanding with this.

Cast members in year's 8 to 11 are performing in assemblies next week, Monday 5 to 9 October. Students must arrive promptly to school and report straight to their tutor for their morning mark and then report to the dance studio **for 8.45am**.

All cast members received a parental permission safeguarding letter during rehearsal on Wednesday this week. The permission slip must be fully completed, signed and returned to me by **Wednesday 7 October**. Failure to return this may result in a student being withdrawn from the production due to lack of parental permission.

This letter also included detailed information regarding Year 7 costumes. Year 7 require their costumes at rehearsal on Wednesday 7 October. This will allow us to support students with any additional items that may be required prior to show week.

Thank you to the whole Lord Lawson community for supporting our cast and production of Billy Elliot, The Musical. I urge you to purchase your tickets for this powerful and inspiring academy production.

Miss S Brown

Subject Leader – Performing Arts



Mindfulness isn't about emptying your mind or never feeling stressed. It's about noticing what is happening right now, and being present in your surroundings, without immediately having to change it.

Mindfulness and Wellbeing Club

Small acorns, big growth



The 5-4-3-2-1 Grounding Technique A Simple Sensory Exercise to Manage Anxiety



Why It Works

Activates rational brain	Signals safety	Grounds you in the present
Engages prefrontal cortex to reduce fight-or-flight response	Deactivates anxiety and calms your nervous system	Uses 15 sensory details to shift focus from anxious thoughts

Practice anywhere: at work, home, or on the go - no tools needed

Take a moment to think about how you would like to grow this year. Choose one small thing you would like to develop in yourself – a habit, attitude, skill or way of looking after yourself.

Remember, growth doesn't have to happen all at once. Small steps still move you forwards.

Some examples: take five minutes when I feel overwhelmed; be kinder to myself when I make mistakes; try something new; notice three good things each day.

Journalling Prompt of the Week

What is one small change that could make a positive difference to my wellbeing this year?

Affirmation of the week

I don't have to be perfect. I just have to keep growing.

Character Focus: We Are Kind

Remember that kindness isn't just something we give to other people. We can practise being kind to ourselves too.

Mindfulness isn't about emptying your mind or never feeling stressed. It's about noticing what is happening right now, and being present in your surroundings, without immediately having to change it.

Mindful Monday

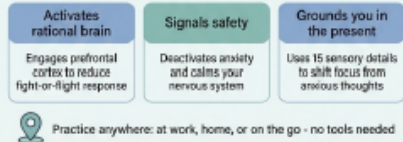
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YEAR 11

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

TIMETABLE



WEEK ONE			
Day	Before School (8AM)	Lunchtime (12:30)	After School (3:20 – 4:30)
Monday	Year Base Open for Studying	Child Development – COM10 Science (Homework Support) – COM35 Combined Science (Physical Science) – SC23 Foundation Maths – MA28 & MA25 GCSE Business – BS31 English (Specific focus each week - all welcome) - EN10	Year Base Open for Studying English Language target 4-5 - EN19
Tuesday	Year Base Open for Studying	Child Development – COM10 Foundation Maths (aiming for grades 4 or 5) – MA22 GCSE French – MFL32 English Support session EN10 Sports Science – COM11	Year Base Open for Studying
Wednesday	Year Base Open for Studying Combined Science – SC21	Religious Studies – RE30 Textiles – TE10 Computer Science (11A/IC) – COM31 Foundation Combined Science – SC26 Maths (Homework Support) – MA25 Higher Maths – MA22	Year Base Open for Studying Foundation Maths – MA25 GCSE RE – RE30 German – MFL30 English Language – target 7-9 EN10 English Language target 4-5 – EN13/18/111
Thursday	Year Base Open for Studying Chemistry – SC24	History – HI32 Science (Homework Support) – COM35 Maths (Homework Support) – MA25 Computer Science – COM37 Sports Science – COM11	Year Base Open for Studying
Friday	Year Base Open for Studying	Child Development – COM10 Textiles – TE10 BTEC DIT – COM35 Maths (Homework Support) – MA25 Higher Maths – MA23 English Support session EN10	Year Base Open for Studying

WEEK TWO

Day	Before School (8AM)	Lunchtime (12:30)	After School (3:20 – 4:30)
Monday	Year Base Open for Studying	Child Development – COM10 Science (Homework Support) – COM35 Foundation Maths – MA24 & MA25 GCSE Business – BS39 English (Specific focus each week - all welcome) - EN10	Year Base Open for Studying Combined Science (Life and Environmental Science) – SC24 English Language target 4-5 - EN17
Tuesday	Year Base Open for Studying	Child Development – COM10 Foundation Maths (aiming for grades 4 or 5) – MA22 Foundation Maths – MA25 English Support session EN10 Sports Science – COM11	Year Base Open for Studying
Wednesday	Year Base Open for Studying Combined Science – SC21	Religious Studies – RE30 Child Development – COM10 Textiles – TE10 GCSE RE – RE30 Maths (Homework Support) – MA25 Combined Science (Physical) – SC28 Higher Maths – MA22	Year Base Open for Studying Higher Maths – MA29 English Language target 4-5- EN13/18/111 English Language target 7-9- EN15
Thursday	Year Base Open for Studying Physics – SC23 Combined Science – SC24	History – HI32 Science (Homework Support) – COM35 Maths (Homework Support) – MA25 Media Catchup and Practice Skills – COM33 Computer Science – COM37 GCSE French – MFL32 Sports Science – COM11	Year Base Open for Studying
Friday	Year Base Open for Studying	Child Development – COM10 Maths (Homework Support) – MA25 Higher Maths – MA23 English Support session EN10	Year Base Open for Studying

**WORK HARD TODAY.
ACHIEVE BEAUTIFUL GRADES TOMORROW!**



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.

E-scooters, EAPCs, E-bikes, and Motorcycles

Information for parents & carers



Road safety law is there to protect riders and other road users. In the event of a collision, the physical consequences can be devastating, life-changing and can ultimately result in the loss of life. Make sure that when your children ride on the roads they are doing so legally and safely with protective equipment such as helmets. Visit [THINK! Road safety](#) and [Road safety - Police.uk](#) for more information.

What does the law say?

E-scooters

NOT ROAD LEGAL
for ANYONE to use

It is illegal for ANYONE to ride a private e-scooter on public land – roads, pavements and cycle paths included. In law, they are treated as motor vehicles and, because they have no number plate, often don't have rear lights or signalling ability, **they cannot be used legally in public.**

[Read more here](#) about penalties and offences.

EAPC (electrically-assisted pedal cycle)

ROAD LEGAL
for those aged 14 and over. Helmet use is advised but optional

An EAPC must have pedals meaning that the bike can be used with or without the motor, and the fitted motor must cut off at a top speed of 15.5 mph (the speed of an average pedal cyclist)

[Read more here](#) and [here](#)

Electronically powered motorcycle – "E-bike"

Whether or not these are road legal depends on certain conditions (see below)

To be road legal an E-bike must have :

- A number plate
- Brake lights
- Indicators

An E-bike without these is **NOT ROAD LEGAL.**

Also, the rider is subject to the same licence requirements as those for a moped/scooter/motorcycle (see column to the right), and they must have insurance.

Mopeds, scooters and motorcycles

ROAD LEGAL
for those aged 16 and over with a motorcycle licence. Helmet use is mandatory

A provisional driving licence is required and compulsory basic training (CBT) must be completed. The age limit will depend on the type of motorcycle – [visit this link for details](#)

What's the difference between a moped and a scooter? Basically, it's all about engine size, but [read more about it here](#)

Why are rented e-scooters road-legal?

- Renters must have at least a provisional driving licence which has [category Q or P/M entitlement](#)
- The rental company provides insurance for the rider as part of the rental agreement
- They must be ridden in approved areas and only on the road

Read the following article for tips on how to [protect your motorcycle, moped or scooter from theft](#)

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
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 12 November	Sixth Form Open Evening: 5pm to 7pm
Thursday 19 November	Year 7 Parents and Carers Evening: 3.45pm to 7.15pm
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