



Parent Bulletin

Principal **Dr A T Fowler**

Issue 5: w/c Monday 6 October 2025 – Week 2

Dear Parents and Carers

In this week's bulletin, it is good to be able to welcome back the 'In The Loop' group, our club that offers support for students who have any form of hearing loss or impairment. In The Loop provides an opportunity for students to meet together. In previous years, this group has done much to raise awareness of hearing issues, both in our own school and in the wider community. My thanks to Mrs Kemp for her excellent leadership of this group, for the steadfast support and encouragement she gives our students, and for the friendly and constructive advice she gives to me and my colleagues.

Mrs Kemp is also coordinating the preparations for our Remembrance Ceremony, to be held on Tuesday 11 November. This year, students from our school will also be contributing to the Gateshead Field of Remembrance.

For parents and carers of students in Year 9, please see the message from Miss Zand about the residential trip to Lockerbie Manor in July 2026. We believe this will provide a great opportunity for students to enjoy a real alternative to school work – fun-filled outdoor activities that also develop self-confidence and teamwork skills. We have a few spaces still available for this trip.

I also want to signpost our academy production, *Singin' in the Rain Junior*, for which we have our first weekend rehearsal this Sunday, 5 October. Cast members will already have had a letter from Miss Brown. Thank you to all the cast, and to Miss Brown, Mrs Hall, Mrs Wilson and Mrs Gray for their hard work in preparing what I know will be a wonderful show! We have a cast of 102 students, which is one of the largest in my time at the academy. Tickets have been on sale for a week, and as I write this newsletter there are just a few left for Friday night, with more for the other nights still available. I encourage you to buy your tickets very soon.

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully,

Dr Andrew Fowler
Principal

In The Loop

On Wednesday 8 October we will hold the first meeting of this academic year of 'In The Loop', a club for any student with hearing loss, whether they use a hearing aid or not, to enable the students to get to know each other, to support each other, and to work together to raise awareness of how our school and the wider community can be more 'deaf aware'.

In The Loop meet once a half term. If you feel that your son or daughter would benefit from the support offered by In The Loop, and that I may not already be aware of them, please email me at jkemp@lordlason.academy, or ask your son or daughter to speak with me directly.

Mrs J Kemp
HL Coordinator and Cover Supervisor



In The Loop
We are 'hear' to support each other

Year 9 Residential Trip: Lockerbie Manor – 1 to 3 July 2026

We still have limited spaces available for our exciting Year 9 residential trip to Lockerbie Manor in summer 2026

This is a fantastic opportunity for students to enjoy a wide range of adventurous activities while building confidence, resilience, and independence before heading into Year 10.

The trip includes the following:

- Return coach travel to Lockerbie Manor
- 3 days and 2 nights fully catered accommodation in the pod village and manor house
- All necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) hire (e.g., waterproofs, helmets, life jackets, etc.)
- Qualified activity instructors and 24/7 group leader supervision
- Travel insurance (this is for the duration of the trip only and it does not cover personal possessions)

The fun-filled, multi-activity programme will include activities such as fencing, archery, axe throwing, climbing wall and abseiling, high all aboard, obstacle course, zip wire, high ropes and low ropes, mountain biking, canoeing, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, and raft building.

If you wish to explore the venue and learn more about Lockerbie Manor, please visit the following link:

<https://www.manoradventure.com/lockerbie-manor.php>.

To secure a space for your child, make a non-refundable deposit payment of £50 via ParentPay by no later than Friday 10 October 2025. Look for the fund 'Lockerbie2026'. Please note that the full balance of payment must be paid by 15 May 2026.

If you require any further information or details, please contact the year team on using the following details and we will be happy to help:

ahodgson@lordlawson.academy (Year Leader) or
bzand@lordlawson.academy (Deputy Year Leader).

Miss B Zand
Deputy Year Leader

Springwell Village Community Venue

Thank you to Springwell Village Community Venue for their kind donation of headsets to the academy. The headsets will be put to good use in our reading intervention sessions, designed to boost literacy skills across the student body.

Springwell Village Community Venue hosts activities for all ages and we are very grateful that their continued community spirit has been generously extended to our Academy.

If you are interested in learning more about the activities, regular and seasonal, that the venue hosts, please visit their website via the following link: <https://svcv.co.uk/>

Miss B Dixon
Librarian



GCSE Dance Updates

Congratulations to all Year 11 GCSE Dance students who completed the first of their dance exams this week, performing their two solo dance phrases 'Breathe' and 'Flux'.

All students did an amazing job throughout the exam and should be extremely proud of themselves, as I am of them. We now move ahead to focus on the duet / trio performances and choreography assessment.

Please note that to support preparations for the Academy Production Year 11 GCSE Dance and GCSE Drama Friday evening revision sessions will not run on Friday 10, Friday 17 or Friday 24 October. These sessions will recommence on Friday 7 November and be offered for the rest of the academic year.

For any further information about GCSE Dance at Lord Lawson please contact Miss Brown, Subject Leader Performing Arts via email at sbrown@lordlawson.academy
[Register now!](#)

Miss S Brown
Subject Leader – Performing Arts

Academy Production: Singin' In The Rain Junior – Tuesday 21 to Friday 24 October 2025, 7pm

Tickets for our academy production, Singin' in the Rain Junior, are now on general sale and can be purchased for £6.00 from the academy reception. Please note that tickets are non-refundable and are not transferable. 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; please ensure to purchase your tickets soon to avoid any disappointment of what is sure to be a sell-out week of shows.

Cast Update

Congratulations to all of our Singin' in the Rain Junior cast who continue to work extremely hard and bring all of the joy to rehearsals. You are doing an amazing job and creating a special production.

During Wednesday's rehearsal, Year 7 received an additional costume letter with details that should answer any remaining questions regarding specific Year 7 costume requirements.

This Sunday, 5 October, is the first of two Sunday rehearsal days from 10am to 4pm. All cast members have had numerous letters containing the relevant details. Students must arrive **promptly from 9.50am for a 10am** registration and start. After 10.15am, the academy reception doors will be locked and there will be no members of staff on the reception doors and latecomers will be unable to access the rehearsal.

Students wishing to perform in Singin' in the Rain **must** attend both Sunday rehearsals, failure to do so will lead to the student being withdrawn from the production.

Students must have a packed lunch, plenty of snacks and refreshments for the rehearsal day, as they are unable to leave the academy for the duration of the rehearsal. I also advise students bring a number of warm layers of clothing to ensure their warmth and comfort during the rehearsal.

Students must bring all of their required costumes to rehearsal this Sunday so we can complete a costume check. They should also bring a small box with a lid, e.g. a shoebox, which must have their name on it. This will be used to store their costumes and props throughout the day.

If you have any questions about Singin' in the Rain Junior, please contact me via email at sbrown@lordlawson.academy and I will be happy to help.

Thank you.

Miss S Brown
Subject Leader – Performing Arts



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

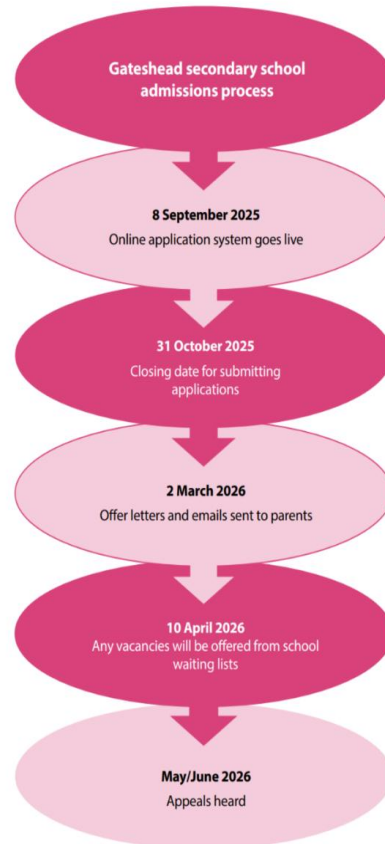


www.gateshead.gov.uk/schooladmissions
Tel: 0191 433 6185 / 3909 / 5232 / 8589

Gateshead Council Information for Parents

Important admission dates

September 2026



Apply online at: www.gateshead.gov.uk/schooladmissions



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

Online Safety Newsletter

Oct 2025

Risks of using AI for mental health

AI chatbots and wellness apps are becoming increasingly popular, which may lead to your child accessing them to support their mental health.

What should I be concerned about?

- The information/advice given may not always be accurate.
- Privacy concerns of how data is collected and used.
- Children may use these apps rather than seeking help from an adult.

What can I do?

- Chat to your child regularly about what apps and websites they are using and why.
- Remind them AI is a tool and not a substitute for qualified professionals who provide tailored advice/support.
- Talk to them about how they should fact check information.
- Check age ratings.

Further information

<https://stigmafreementalhealth.com/blog/supporting-youth-mental-health-with-ai-a-guide-for-parents-and-caregivers/>

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

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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/>

WhatsApp

WhatsApp is incredibly popular with young people and is used for group chats, voice messages and video calls. **Users should be at least 13 years old to use WhatsApp.**

We frequently receive reports of children using WhatsApp inappropriately, such as sharing images to embarrass others, sending hurtful messages, spreading rumours, or excluding people from group chats to make them feel left out. Since WhatsApp lacks parental controls, it is important to think about whether it is really the right platform for your child. For example, you should consider if your child has the critical thinking skills to recognise bullying. Furthermore, do they understand how to manage peer pressure and refrain from joining in on hurtful behaviour?

What should I be aware of if my child is using WhatsApp?

- **Group chats:** Everyone within a group, even if they are not one of your child's contacts, will be able to see all messages within that group. If your child is added to a group with someone that they have previously blocked, that person can still see their messages and send them messages within the group chat.
- **Inappropriate content:** users can be exposed to content that is not suitable for their age.
- **Location sharing:** talk to your child about the potential danger of sharing their location.
- **Chat lock/secret code:** users can lock chats as well as apply a secret code setting so a chat does not appear in the main chat.
- **Screentime due to addictive nature**
- **AI:** WhatsApp includes Meta AI.

What can I do?

- Check privacy settings, for example check who can add them to groups.
- Ensure your child understands that they can leave a chat at any time. Find out more here: <https://faq.whatsapp.com/424124173736394>
- Show your child how to block and report other users. Find out how here: <https://faq.whatsapp.com/1142481766359885/>
- Use parental controls such as screentime controls or do not disturb to reduce alerts.
- Talk about who they are chatting with, encourage them to think carefully about the messages they send and how they might be received by others. Talk about positivity and not saying anything hurtful. Ask them to think about whether they would say what they are messaging, face to face.
- Chat to your child about the groups that they belong to.

Further information

Find out more here:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zc8vxg8>
- https://faq.whatsapp.com/773166357950949?helpref=faq_content

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Italian Brainrot

Have you heard of Italian Brainrot? It is a viral trend consisting of AI generated characters featuring in memes and videos. It originally started on TikTok but can now be seen on other platforms such as YouTube and Instagram. There are also lots of spinoff content including a game on Roblox.

Whilst the content is generally nonsensical and children will find some of it funny, some content can include inappropriate/offensive language and content that might not be suitable for your child's age.

iOS 26

Apple have released their new operating system – iOS 26. Protect Young Eyes have published an article detailing the changes relating to your child's safety, including content filtering in Safari. Find out more here:

<https://www.protectyouneyes.com/blog-articles/a-parents-guide-to-ios-26>

Managing Digital Spending

Parent Zone have created a guide to help teach your child how to manage their online spending. You can read it here:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/managing-digital-spending-guide-parents>

ADHD, Screen Time, and Healthy Boundaries

Bark have created this guide for parents of children with ADHD to support you in helping your child create a healthy relationship with technology. You can access it here:

<https://www.bark.us/blog/adhd-kid-and-tech/>

Calendar Dates and Upcoming Events for the Autumn Term

Date	Event
Thursday 16 October	Year 7 Parents' evening – this is an in-person event and appointments are to be made via SchoolCloud
Tuesday 21 to Friday 24 October	Evening Performances of the Academy Production: Singin' In The Rain, Jr – tickets are now on sale from school reception
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