



Parent Bulletin

Principal Dr A T Fowler

Issue 6: w/c Monday 12 October 2026 – Week 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday, I attended the Schools North East annual summit, a gathering of more than 500 school leaders from across our region. We came together to discuss matters that concern us all - including student engagement, school funding and the rising levels of special educational needs in our schools - and to hear from and learn alongside national speakers. Two speakers in particular prompted me to reflect on how we can continue to improve our school in partnership with others.

I was inspired by Jonny Uttley, a school and system leader from Yorkshire. Jonny argued powerfully that the competitive system of schooling born from the 1988 Education Reform Act has produced a model of school improvement, but not a model of place improvement. School league tables and Ofsted inspection grades can make education feel like a competitive marketplace, in which it would be all too easy to prioritise the interests of an individual school over those of every child in the community.

He urged school leaders to work collaboratively and to take collective responsibility for the education of children in their area, rather than seeing schools as competitors. Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy is, as many of you will know, a single academy trust: we are a stand-alone school funded directly by the Department for Education. This status can leave us relatively isolated, as we are neither part of a multi-academy trust nor a local authority school.

Since my arrival at Lord Lawson more than seven years ago, I have worked hard to build collaborative links with other local schools. We have benefited from our partnership with secondary schools across Gateshead, notably Whickham School and Cardinal Hume Catholic School, and we continue to work closely with the local authority, taking a lead on matters such as inclusion and fair access. We are also exploring closer ties with schools in County Durham so that we can bring our expertise together for the benefit of all our students.

Another speaker, Lord Tony Sewell, reflected on his experience of the London Challenge in the early part of this century. This bold and highly successful initiative helped transform educational outcomes for children in London from among the worst in the country to among the best. Lord Sewell was clear that a significant part of its success came from harnessing the high aspirations that many parents held for their children.

Parents mirrored the school's approach: praise at school was echoed by praise at home, while consequences at school were reinforced at home. Students therefore received a clear and consistent message about the habits and attitudes that would help them make the most of their education. We want to strengthen this link in our own context, with home and school working together to support, guide and encourage our children.

• Trust

• Respect

• Courage

• Ambition

On the subject of supporting students, we were pleased to welcome Mr Cumiskey back from paternity leave this week. Please take a moment to read his notice about the study support available to students in Year 11. With the encouragement of families and the right support from school, our students will be well placed to approach the months ahead with confidence and purpose.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school and our young people.

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully

Dr Andrew Fowler
Principal

Academy Production 2026: Billy Elliot the Musical

Show week is upon us with opening night of Billy Elliot The Musical on Tuesday 13 October at 7pm.

There is currently limited ticket availability for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening performances. Please purchase your tickets soon 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.

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 show week please do not hesitate to contact me via email at sbrown@lordlawson.academy

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.

A reminder that all cast are expected to attend our second Sunday rehearsal, this Sunday, **11 October, 10am to 4pm.**

Students must bring plenty of refreshments and their lunch, which should not contain fizzy drinks or any products containing **nuts**. Warm layers of clothing and any remaining costumes and props, which have not already been organised and stored within the department, should also be brought to rehearsal on Sunday.

Failure to attend this rehearsal will result in the withdrawal of the student from the production due to health and safety concerns.

All cast members have previously received a parental permission safeguarding letter. If the reply slip has not been returned, then they must be handed to me by no later than Sunday 11 October during the rehearsal. Failure to return this information may result in a student being withdrawn from the production due to lack of parental permission. Parents/carers would also then be contacted to collect their child from the Sunday rehearsal.

All cast members will be off timetable on Monday 12 October as they will participate in a dress / technical rehearsal. To avoid misplacing uniform items, all cast members may attend school in their all-black costume/clothing.

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

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

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

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



**NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE**

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/>

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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 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