



# Parent Bulletin

Principal **Dr A T Fowler**

## Issue 7: w/c Monday 20 October 2025 – Week 2

### Dear Parents and Carers

We held our first parents' and carers' consultation evening of the year on Thursday. It was very good to see so many parents and carers, with a good number of students attending as well. This was a face-to-face event, enabling both sides to put faces to names and to start building great relationships. Mrs Jacobson and Miss Cooper, our Year 7 team, had made an excellent job of organising the event, under the leadership of Mr Dicocco and Mr Rayner, and assisted by Mrs Wakefield and her administrative team. Thank you to everyone who attended this event. We supplied a QR code on the 'map' that was distributed on the evening – if you attended and you can give us some quick feedback, that would be much appreciated. Parental feedback helps us to improve our events, so you get a better experience of engaging with your child's school.

I was 'on the door' all night, and it was a great opportunity to speak with so many parents and carers as you arrived and left. Turnout was good, and I heard many comments about how valuable you felt the evening had been. One strand that was mentioned more than any other was about how well you felt your child had settled into our school, and how the big change from primary to secondary school had been much smoother than you had thought it would be. Several parents told me how their child is receiving the right support and encouragement in lessons, so that they are now thriving in school. It's clear that for students the change to secondary school, with its subject specialisms and access to excellent facilities, has been handled very well, and they are enjoying the difference. Thank you for working in partnership with us to make this transition so successful.

Before the Year 7 consultation evening, I spent the day at the Schools North East Summit 2025, held at St James's Park in Newcastle. This was a valuable opportunity to meet with other headteachers and educationalists from across our region, to hear and engage with ideas and challenges that will help us collectively shape the future of education here. Over the next month or two, we expect to hear important government announcements about schools, special educational needs, and the curriculum. Schools North East is the largest and longest-established organisation of educational leaders in the country. Working together, we have great potential to transform the educational landscape.

Finally, I hope you have bought your tickets for Singin' in the Rain! I shall look forward to seeing very many of you at the show next week, beginning with our premiere on Tuesday evening.

With all best wishes,

Yours faithfully

**Dr Andrew Fowler**  
**Principal**

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• Respect

• Courage

• Ambition

# Scholastic Book Fair

We are delighted to be holding a Scholastic Book fair as part of our literacy enrichment offer.

Students are invited to attend the fair which will take place next week in the library during **lunchtime**, on Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 October, giving students the perfect opportunity to browse an exciting range of current and popular books aimed at children age 8–16 years old.

Students will be able to visit the book fair to create a **wish list** of items they would like to purchase.

Parents and carers can pay online using the following links:

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay#>

After payment has been made, please take a copy of the reference number as this will be needed for your child to collect purchases made from the fair.

A limited number of copies of each title is available in the academy, so please be aware that any books that are ordered but we do not hold a copy of will be ordered in and should arrive within a couple of weeks.

You can view the selection of books available to students using the following links:

Books for Age 8+

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/bookcases/ro>

Teen Titles- Books for Age 11+

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/bookcases/tt>

**Miss B Dixon**  
**Librarian**



## Young Carers

The next young Carers' drop-in will be held next week on Wednesday 22 October. The drop-in will take place during lunchtime and will take place in the **large conference room at the end of the Technology corridor**.

The drop-in is a fantastic place for our young carers to meet other young carers. They play games, do crafts, and meet with representatives from Caregivers Connect, Gateshead, supported by me.

Students should have a pass to gain access to the drop-in. If they have lost their pass or would like to join us for the first time, please email at: [mglass@lordlawson.academy](mailto:mglass@lordlawson.academy) and I will be happy to sort this out.

If any parent or carer thinks their child may be a young carer for anyone living in their home and have not been registered then please email me and I will contact you with further information on how we can support your child within school.

**Mrs M Glass**

**Cover supervisor and Young Carers Coordinator**

# Year 10: Student Attendance

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child attends school every day. Year 10 is a particularly important year as students have begun the first year of study for their two-year GCSE subjects, laying the foundations for success in their summer 2027 examinations.

Studies have shown that regular attendance to school improves the academic and personal development of a child.

I am incredibly proud to share that our year 10 students are regularly maintaining an outstanding level of attendance, with only 2% absence across this week; a fantastic achievement that reflects the resilience and determination of our young people to be in school and learning.

Your ongoing encouragement and partnership play a vital role in helping students develop these positive habits and attitudes. Please know how much your support and the resilience of your children is valued and appreciated.

If you require any support or guidance regarding attendance or any other area of pastoral care, please do not hesitate to contact the year team via email using the following details:

Mr Cumiskey – Year Leader: [lcumiskey@lordlawson.academy](mailto:lcumiskey@lordlawson.academy)

Miss Harrison – Deputy Year Leader: [aharrison@lordlawson.academy](mailto:aharrison@lordlawson.academy)

Thank you once again for your continued support and for helping your children make such a positive start to year 10 life. Let's keep this excellent start going!

**Mr Cumiskey**  
**Year 10 Leader**

## Reminders

### Coats

As the weather has started to turn and we notice the days becoming cooler and slightly wetter, can we please remind you to ensure your child attends school with a coat to keep them warm and dry on their journey to and from school.

### Lost Property

Friday 24 October is the last day of school before the October half term. Any unclaimed and unidentified items of lost property will be disposed of on the Friday afternoon.

**Mrs S J Wakefield**  
**PA to SLT/Office Manager**

## Year 10 Work Experience

The Careers Team at Lord Lawson are launching year 10 work experience next week, with an assembly from the Head of Careers, Mrs Laidlaw. An information letter will then be sent to parents and carers via ClassCharts.

Work experience for year 10 students this academic year will run from Monday 30 March 2026 to Thursday 2 April 2026. Work experience gives students the opportunity to experience a real workplace and everything that accompanies it: working hours, day to day tasks, workplace conditions and regulations that they will encounter when they go on to their chosen job or career. Students should source their own placements by contacting organisations directly. This allows students to choose placements relevant to them. We ask that you please help and support your child in securing a work placement.

Our school uses the Unifrog platform to manage the administration of our work experience programme. It can be accessed at [www.unifrog.org](http://www.unifrog.org). This will allow students to collect information from the employer about their health and safety policy, as well as getting agreement from yourselves for the placement to go ahead.

Some important logistics for students to know:

- Students need to agree the placement with the employer **first**, and then students will begin the process by adding the placement to their Unifrog account (they will find the Placements tool on their Unifrog homepage)
- The Unifrog system will then email the employer, the parent/carer, and the school, to collect the necessary information and permissions. For the process to work, **it is essential that students accurately provide the initial information about the placement**

If your child is finding it difficult to source a placement, they should contact Miss Leigh via email at: [jleigh@lordlawson.academy](mailto:jleigh@lordlawson.academy) or by visiting her in her office, which is located within the Year 8 Base. Miss Leigh will organise a suitable time to assist your child in finding a placement.

If any student is unsuccessful in gaining a work placement, it will be compulsory to attend school on those dates.

A work placement may only take place if it has been submitted and verified on Unifrog, to ensure the placement can be assessed for insurance and health and safety purposes. This is also the case if the placement is with a family member.

The deadline for placements to be submitted on to Unifrog is **Friday 30 January 2026**. Your child's placement will require full school approval and verification via Unifrog before they are able to attend their placement.

***Mrs J Laidlaw***  
***Assistant Principal and Head of Sixth Form***

## Careers Opportunities

Is your child interested in a career in Performing Arts? Northern Stage are offering courses and groups starting in January for age 13 - 17 year olds. Groups take place during evenings and weekends.

### APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR JANUARY GROUPS!

Applications are now open for our courses and groups running from January-March! Read on for more information about **Young Designers**, **Young Directors**, **Young Technicians** and **Young Creatives**!

Our groups are for 13-17 year olds, and you'll need to be in this age range when the courses start in January. Discounted places and free bursary places are available. [Visit our website to apply!](#)

Website link: [Take Part at Northern Stage - October update](#)

## Co-Op Live! (Half term event in Manchester)

Is your child interested in exploring a creative career? ScreenSkills and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) are inviting young people aged 13–17 from the North East to an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the UK's largest entertainment arena, Co-Op Live in Manchester.

Discover the diverse creative roles that make major live events happen, meet industry professionals, and explore exciting career paths in the creative industries.

The tour will take place on **Wednesday 29 October 2025** (timings to be confirmed).

Details:

- Open to young people (13–17) and their parents/guardians
- Travel and expenses covered
- Half-term event
- Photography and filming will take place (parent/carer consent required)

This is an inspiring chance to see how creativity powers live entertainment! **There are 5 student spaces available.** If you would like to book a place, please contact Mrs Braban in the Sixth Form Common Room.

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# Rehearsal Update: Academy Production of: 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. **Tickets for Friday 24 October performance** have sold out and there are limited tickets available for the first evening performance on Tuesday 21 October. 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](mailto: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 you purchase your tickets soon to avoid any disappointment of what is sure to be a sell-out week of shows.

## **Rehearsals Update**

All rehearsals are compulsory for cast members.

We have one additional **lead cast Friday** rehearsal for invited students, to check rented costumes and for a rehearsal on the finalised staging:

- Friday 17 October 3.20pm – 5pm

One remaining **Sunday** rehearsal:

- Sunday 19 October 10am – 4pm

As previously advised, all cast members must attend the rehearsal on Sunday 19 October. Any student who does not attend this rehearsal will be withdrawn from the production. 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 must bring refreshments and a packed lunch to the Sunday rehearsal as they will not be allowed to leave site for the duration of the day. We recommend students wear layers of clothing and also bring some warmer items for the rehearsal day.

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

Thank you.

**Miss S Brown**

**Subject Leader – Performing Arts**



# Secondary School Admissions for September 2026 Entry: Deadline Approaching

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](http://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**

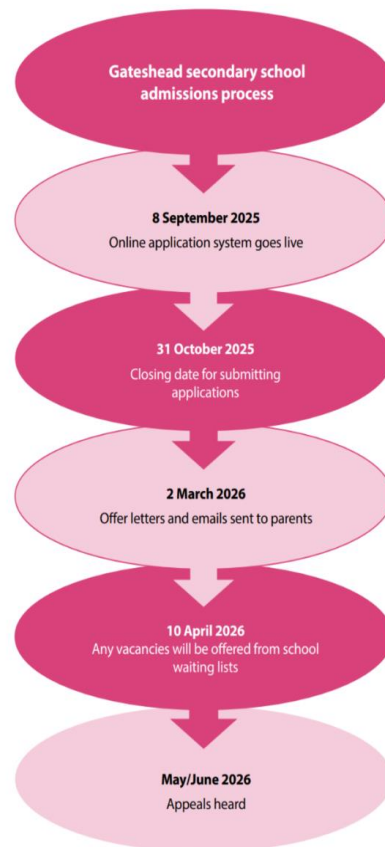
 **Gateshead  
Council**

[www.gateshead.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://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](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

Do you want your voice to be heard?



Speak to Mrs Braban or Ms Leigh for more information

- Gateshead Youth Assembly gives you a chance to represent Young People in Gateshead and have lots of fun.
- GYA is run by Young People for Young People.
- GYA design and deliver a range of social action projects such as the future of Gateshead town centre.
- You make decisions about issues that affect you and other Young People.
- GYA operates democratically, with members elected to take part in the Executive Committee.
- They meet weekly (Civic Centre and Gladstone Terrace, Gateshead)
- Attendance is at weekends, and it is vital to attend. (You must commit to this).
- Free tea and Greggs every week.

Watch the video:

<https://youtu.be/9TXamcbelow>

To join, GYA Membership Form :

<https://forms.office.com/e/Q2LnTdWT0K>

GYA Training weekend booking form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/F9dpVzvfd7>

Find out more by attending their training event on **Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 November 10am – 4pm**, Lobley Hill.

If you want to talk about GYA, contact [valerieender@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:valerieender@gateshead.gov.uk) (also on Facebook under Valerie WorkEnder)

# 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.
- **Screen time 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/zc8vvg8>
- [https://faq.whatsapp.com/773166357950949?helpref=faq\\_content](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/>

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# Calendar Dates and Upcoming Events for the Autumn Term

Date	Event
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