



Parent Bulletin

Principal **Dr A T Fowler**

Issue 9: w/c Monday 10 November 2025 – Week 2

Dear Parents and Carers

This week, the government published the Final Report of its Curriculum and Assessment Review, proposing revisions to the National Curriculum and changes to GCSEs, due to take effect from 2027. While I am still digesting the full 197 pages, several key headlines stand out:

- Religious Education will become a National Curriculum subject, resolving its current anomalous status.
- Single Science GCSEs will be encouraged.
- There will be greater emphasis on the Arts and Performing Arts.
- Strong transition from primary to secondary school is highlighted as essential.
- The academic core – particularly English and Mathematics – is reaffirmed as central to student success.

In all these areas, Lord Lawson is already well placed to respond. I hope this is part of the reason you chose our school for your child. Visual and performing arts have long been strengths here, and I have worked closely with senior leaders, subject leaders, and teachers to preserve and enhance these subjects. We know how deeply they enrich our students' lives, and it is encouraging to see their importance recognised nationally.

We are fortunate to have strong specialist teachers in the three sciences and Religious Education, positioning us well to meet the government's aspirations. Our Mathematics department is among the strongest in the school – and a leader in our region – and our transition programme with primary schools is already well established.

The review also highlights ongoing challenges, particularly in supporting students with special educational needs. We anticipate further changes in this area through the forthcoming Education White Paper. Many of you will already be aware of the excellent work led by Mrs Potter, Assistant Principal and SENDCo, alongside Mrs Whittle and Miss Mouat, our Assistant SENDCos, and our dedicated team of teaching assistants. All our teachers continue to develop their expertise in meeting diverse student needs. Nonetheless, we remain acutely aware of the growing demand for support and the limited resources available.

It can feel as though everything in education is changing – new Ofsted frameworks, curriculum reviews, and policy shifts. Amidst this, we remain committed to delivering a great education, built on strong attendance, high standards of conduct, meaningful partnerships with parents and carers, and excellent teaching and learning.



Parent Bulletin

Principal **Dr A T Fowler**

I'm pleased to share that our school has received a National School Attendance Award, recognising that our attendance in the 2024–25 academic year placed us in the top 25% of similar secondary schools nationwide. Congratulations to every student – and every parent and carer – who contributed to this achievement!

Finally, as we approach Remembrance weekend and our school ceremony on Tuesday 11 November, I want to thank all students and families who will be representing our community. Together, we honour those who gave their lives for our freedoms and renew our commitment to peace in our own time.

With all best wishes,

Yours faithfully

Dr Andrew Fowler
Principal

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Thursday 20 November 2025



We welcome Y11 students from Lord Lawson and those from other local schools, together with their parents and carers to our sixth form community event for those wishing to join us in September 2026.

5pm - 7pm

Prospective Sixth Form Open Evening

On Thursday 20 November 2025, we are excited to invite all of our current year 11 students who are planning to join our Sixth Form in September 2026, or who have not yet decided what pathway to follow at the end of year 11, to come and see what makes Lord Lawson **the** choice to continue your post-16 studies.

Students and their families can come along to meet staff and current sixth form students and discover what makes our Sixth Form the place to be; how we can help students to find the right courses, and support and challenge them in their studies, so they can thrive academically and personally.

If you have not yet signed up for the evening, please ask your child to register using the link below, as there are a few questions that are relevant to students:

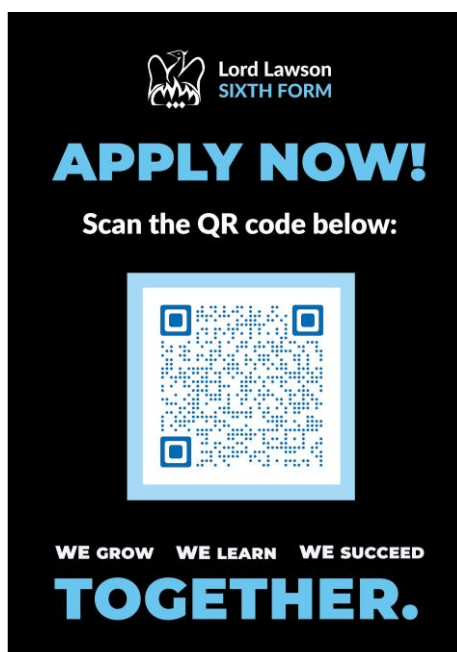
[Sixth Form Open Evening Registration](#)

The evening is also open to external candidates and we look forward to welcoming those students and their families also.

To apply to study at our Sixth Form, to access our prospectus, or for any further information, please scan the QR code below.

Mrs J Laidlaw

Assistant Principal – Head of Sixth Form



Anti-Bullying Week: Monday 10 to Friday 14 November 2025

Next week, Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy will be participating in national Anti-Bullying Week, the theme of which for this year is 'The Power of Good.'

Throughout the week, students will take part in activities and discussions that promote kindness, inclusion, and respect, reminding us all that our school is a place where **everyone** should feel valued and accepted.

As part of the week, students are invited to enter our 'Everyone Belongs' poster competition, creating a bright and colourful design that celebrates kindness and inclusion.

Deadline: Thursday 13 November

Hand in to: Miss Walker

A selection of entries will be displayed near the main hall, with a prize for the overall winner.

On Friday 14 November we will be joining in with Odd Socks Day and we encourage all of our students (and staff) to wear fun and colourful odd socks to celebrate diversity and individuality.

We cannot wait to see our students' creativity and enthusiasm as we come together to celebrate kindness, respect, and belonging

Miss E Walker

Anti-Bullying Coordinator

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK POSTER COMPETITION

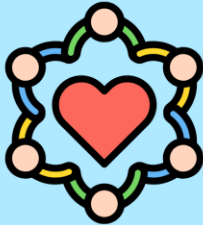
THEME: "EVERYONE BELONGS"

SHOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE KIND, RESPECTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE!

CREATE A BRIGHT AND COLOURFUL POSTER THAT CELEBRATES THE IDEA THAT EVERYONE BELONGS IN OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

YOUR POSTER SHOULD:

- BE EYE-CATCHING, POSITIVE, AND COLOURFUL
- INCLUDE THE WORDS "EVERYONE BELONGS"
- SHOW WHAT KINDNESS AND INCLUSION LOOK LIKE
- BE A4 OR A3 SIZE
- CAN BE HAND-DRAWN OR DIGITAL



PRIZES TO BE WON!

THE BEST POSTERS WILL BE DISPLAYED ON THE BOARD NEAR THE MAIN HALL
THE OVERALL WINNER WILL RECEIVE A PRIZE!

DEADLINE: HAND POSTERS IN TO MISS WALKER BY THURSDAY THE 13TH OF NOVEMBER



Year 11 Prom – 10 July 2026: Ramside Hall Hotel

We are excited to share a special opportunity from **Luv Bridal**, a local store in Chester-le-Street, who are generously offering **10% off all Prom dresses** for Year 11 students from **Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy**! The store has a stunning selection of dresses.

If you are interested in this offer, students should come to the year 11 base to collect a **10% discount gift card**.

Further details about Prom 2026 will be shared with parents, carers and students soon. Please check the weekly parent bulletin for further details

Mrs Clarke

Year 11 Deputy Leader

Autumn Offer

Dresses from £99

Get a FREE CATCH BAG when you purchase any prom dress

Get a FREE DRESS BAG + GARTER when you purchase any wedding dress including our preloved range

LUV BRIDAL

Get in touch while stocks last!
Appointment only
tel: 07739 581969
email: Luvbridal@aol.com
150 front street, Chester Le- street, DH3 3AY

Scan me!

f We're on Facebook

Remembrance 2025

We remember

As we approach the activities surrounding Remembrance, both in and outside of school, we are asking families within the wider community if they have someone who served or who died whilst in the service of their country, who they may wish for us to remember at this time. We have a Book of Remembrance that will be displayed in the Atrium in school for students to add the names of those they wish to be remembered. Students will need the name, rank, who they served with and any details of their service. Details can also be emailed to me at jkemp@lordlawson.academy and I can add them to the book on your behalf. The names will be read out as part of our Remembrance Service in school on Tuesday 11 November.

Do you know a hero? Did you have a hero in your family?

We are also looking for stories of heroic people during times of conflict. As we marvel at the acts of bravery, courage, resilience and moral fortitude shown by people at the most difficult of times, we'll be asking our students how they can be 'heroic' in their day to day lives. We would love to hear your stories, perhaps of family members or friends, stories that may have been passed down from previous generations, where someone has gone above and beyond during times of war. They may be soldiers on the frontline, or they may be the unsung heroes left at home, but we would love to know more about them! Stories and pictures can be emailed to me at jkemp@lordlawson.academy. Please note that any stories shared may be used for display in school, for materials shared with students during tutor activities, or on the school social media channels.

North East Field of Remembrance

The North East Field of Remembrance at Saltwell Park is now in its fourteenth year and is one of only six recognised fields of remembrance in the country, this one being the furthest north. Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy has been invited to provide a display as part of the Field of Remembrance, and a number of students have been involved in creating a piece of clay art work to create our school piece. The Field of Remembrance is free to visit so please do go to the park and see the students' work during November!

Service of Remembrance

A reminder for those students involved in the Service of Remembrance that the final rehearsal will take place on Monday 10 November (until 4:30pm). All students involved must attend the rehearsal.

Mrs J Kemp

Cover Supervisor and Service of Remembrance Coordinator



As we approach Armistice Day on Tuesday 11 November 2025, we have a small number of poppy merchandise items for sale at main school reception. Available items are listed below, and the suggested donation is listed beside each. Please note that neither the paper nor plastic poppies are supplied with a pin.

Mrs J McGregor
Receptionist



Poppy Snap Bands
Suggested Donation: £1.50 each



Poppy Reflector
Suggested Donation: 50p each



Poppy Rubber Wrist Band
Suggested Donation: £1.00 each



Poppy String Pull-Close Bracelet (sample pic)
Suggested Donation: £1.00 each



Paper/Plastic Poppy
Suggested Donation: 20p each

Online Safety Newsletter

Nov 2025

CapCut

CapCut is a video editing app. Their services are intended for those over the age of 13 (those under the age of 18 must have consent from their parent/legal guardian). It is rated as 13+ on the App store.

What can I do on CapCut?

CapCut is used as a video and image editing tool allowing users to edit their videos/ images as well as add music, sound effects, text and stickers.

What should I be aware of?

- The templates are user generated, therefore they may not always be appropriate for your child to view, for example may contain adult themes.
- CapCut includes access to a library of music that can be used within videos that may include explicit lyrics.
- Premium content – CapCut does include in-app purchases/monthly subscriptions to allow users access to premium content.

Further information

Internet Matters have created this useful guide:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/apps-and-platforms/skills-building/capcut/>

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

WhatsApp Channels

Users should be at least 13 years old to use

WhatsApp. If your child is using WhatsApp, then you should be aware of WhatsApp Channels.

Channels are a one-way broadcast tool used by companies and individuals to send updates to followers. WhatsApp Channels can be found on the Updates tab. From here you can view a whole host of channels, including channels that will not be age appropriate and may include adult content.



You cannot switch off access to channels and there is no age rating associated with the channels so you would have to access them to know what the content truly is. Klicksafe highlight what you should be aware of: <https://www.klicksafe.eu/en/news/was-sind-whatsapp-kanaele-und-was-muessen-eltern-beachten>

Find out more about WhatsApp channels in general here: <https://faq.whatsapp.com/549900560675125>

AI chatbots and companions

A simple search of “AI Chat” within the App store highlights the number of AI apps already available, many are rated as 18+ so it is important to speak to our children about them and the risks associated with them. Examples of AI chatbots that your child may have heard of are Character.AI (18+) and My AI from Snapchat (13+).

What are the risks?

- Over reliance on AI companions, for example they may replace ‘real life’ friendships or reliance on using them for homework or problem solving.
- Exposure to inappropriate content.
- Privacy/data risks.
- Misinformation as not all information shared is correct and can be biased.

How can I protect my child?

- Check age ratings of any apps or websites that your child accesses.
- Discuss the risks of AI chatbots with them and have open conversations about why they may be using them.
- Set up appropriate parental controls on their devices/ broadband.
- Chat to your child regularly and ensure your child knows that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

Further information

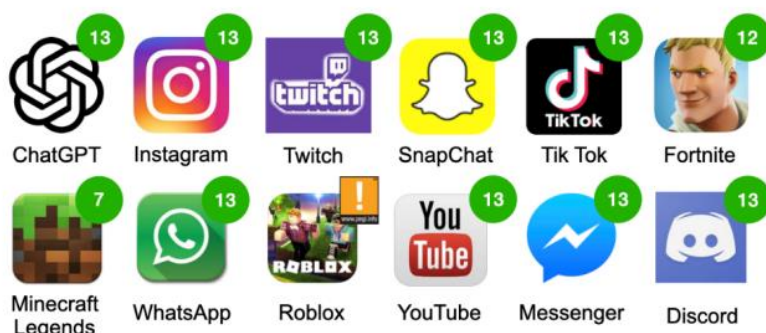
<https://www.esafety.gov.au/newsroom/blogs/ai-chatbots-and-companions-risks-to-children-and-young-people>

Age Ratings

Age ratings exist to help protect your child by showing whether content is suitable for your child's age. Whether your child is viewing films, accessing apps, playing games online or using social media— make sure you check the age rating first to see if your child is old enough.

Popular apps and their age ratings

Here are the age ratings of some of the more popular apps that young people are currently accessing.



For users under 18, a parent or legal guardian's permission may be required to use the service

In addition to checking the age rating, the likes of PEGI (Pan European Game Information) provide further content descriptors, which will give you an indication of the type of content that your child might encounter e.g. violence or bad language within a game.

What else should I review?

It is important to note that whilst age ratings do allow you to see if something may be appropriate for your child, **it is also vital to review the content yourself**. This will allow you to make an informed decision as to whether it is suitable for your child to access and if it is necessary to apply further parental controls. For example, does it include the ability to communicate with others and are in game/app purchases available?

What else can I do?

- Explain the importance of age ratings to your child and how they protect them.
- Go online together to see what your child is accessing.
- Set up parental controls on your broadband, devices and on any individual apps that your child is using. This will reduce the chances of them accessing or viewing anything unsuitable.
- Chat to your child regularly about what they are doing online and remind your child that if anything is worrying them then they should talk to you or another trusted adult.

Further information

You can find out more here:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/age-ratings>

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What You Need to Know about Instagram Map

Instagram has released a new feature that allows you to share your location with friends. This feature is off by default, but if your child is using Instagram then this is a useful article to find out more about it:

<https://connectsafely.org/what-you-need-to-know-about-instagram-map/>

Online Roasting

Have you heard of this term? It has been around a while now, but Online Roasting refers to a form of cyberbullying. Roasting typically involves making fun and insulting somebody, sometimes with their consent and other times not.

What can I do?

- Talk to your child about what online roasting is, ask them if they have ever experienced it and what they think about it.
- If this has negatively impacted your child then save any evidence and involve the school (if appropriate). Childline also offer further advice and support in relation to cyberbullying.

Further information

Find out more here:

<https://www.bark.us/blog/online-roasting-signs-cyberbullying/>

What to do when...from CEOP

CEOP Education have published this poster directing you to the relevant information around six different situations, such as what to do to protect your child from online blackmail. You can access it here:

<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/globalassets/professional/resources/wtdw-round-up.pdf>

Calendar Dates and Upcoming Events for the Autumn Term

Date	Event
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