



Parent Bulletin

Principal **Dr A T Fowler**

Issue 10: w/c Monday 17 November 2025 – Week 1

Dear Parents and Carers

First, I need to ask for your increased cooperation. Our school enjoys very good relationships with the large majority of parents and carers. We see these relationships as essential for the education of children and young people. However, like many other schools and public services, we are unfortunately seeing an increase in aggressive and demanding behaviour from parents and carers. This is clearly unacceptable. It is also counterproductive: we want to help you get what you need, but it's not easy to do this if we are not working together. Please take time to read Mr Cooper's message in this bulletin, and let's work together to support all our children.

On Tuesday this week, 11 November, the academy hosted its most formal and solemn annual event, our Ceremony of Remembrance. The significance of this event is that it brings the school community together with representatives of our local and regional communities to remember the sacrifices of lives and service made on our behalf by previous and current generations. We remember the service and comradeship during two World Wars and in conflicts since 1945. We listen to poems and first-hand accounts of the conditions that were faced in the fight for freedom. We were honoured to host the Deputy Lieutenant Wing Commander David Harris, attending on behalf of the Lord Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear, representing His Majesty King Charles.

During a minute's silence, the whole school community took the opportunity to think about these sacrifices and to commit ourselves to working together for peace. The importance of this continuing commitment to peace is evident every day in our news programmes and news feeds. As individuals, as a society, and as a global community, we are so far from eliminating war and conflict!

A report on the various remembrance events appears later in this bulletin. I am very proud of our students who have taken part in the different events this year, and I have awarded them the Principal's Award (P5). Huge thanks go to Mrs Kemp for her organisation of these events. Speaking to our students and visitors on Tuesday, it was clear that the ceremony was much appreciated by those who attended.

On Thursday, Mr Cooper and I attended training on the new Ofsted school inspection framework. Our school can expect to be inspected again some time next academic year, and this new framework outlines the standard against which we will be judged. Ofsted inspects for children, on behalf of parents. There is a real focus on inclusion, in all its forms, as the inspection team want to understand what it is like to attend a particular school, where the strengths are, and in what areas practice can be improved.



Parent Bulletin

Principal **Dr A T Fowler**

The way that inspection judgements are reported and communicated has changed considerably. A new 'report card' replaces the old set of judgements, and there is no overall judgement of education provided by the school. Instead, there is a binary judgement on safeguarding (met/not met), followed by eight different judgements on areas of the school's provision – for example, curriculum and teaching, or behaviour and attendance. Each of these eight areas is graded on a five-point scale. The middle point of the scale is 'Expected Standard.' Above this are 'Strong Standard' and 'Exceptional.' Exceptional judgements are expected to be just that: very rare. They will describe practice that is nationally significant. Lower than the Expected Standard is 'Needs Attention' - this is like the old Requires Improvement. Needs Attention is not a 'fail' grade for a school: it indicates that particular action is needed, and inspectors will specify what that action is. Below that is 'Urgent Improvement.'

The old grading does not map directly onto the new system, and this is something that we all need to understand. For example, schools that were previously graded Outstanding for many aspects of their provision are most likely to receive 'Strong Standard' grades, not 'Exceptional.' Most schools that were previously graded 'Good' - as ours was in November 2022 – will be hoping to be graded as 'Expected Standard' or 'Strong Standard' across the eight priority areas. The first inspections nationally under the new framework took place just this week. As we find out more about the new inspection framework and how it is being applied in practice, I will give you more information.

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 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:

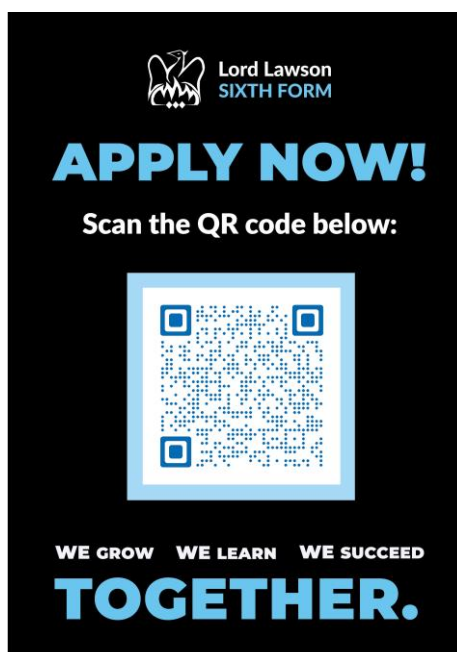
[Sixth Form Open Evening Registration](#)

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



Communication between Parents, Carers and School Staff

At Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy, we greatly value strong communication with parents and carers, as working together is key to supporting our students, 'your children's, success.

We understand that, as parents and carers, there may be issues you wish to discuss with a member of staff and that at times, parents and carers can become frustrated at the perceived lack (or speed) of response they may receive.

Our staff, including Year Leaders, have teaching and other responsibilities throughout the school day, as well as supporting after-school events and meetings. This impacts their response time to parental requests for contact as they are not always in a position to answer a phone call or respond immediately to an email.

If you would like to meet with a member of staff, please arrange an appointment **in advance** rather than arriving at school requesting to speak to someone, as it is likely the member(s) of staff you request will not be available to see you at that moment in time. For email communication, we ask that you allow up to 48 hours for a response. This ensures staff have time to manage their teaching and other duties, whilst giving your query the attention it deserves.

We wish to reassure you that we respond to matters relating to safeguarding as a matter of priority.

We thank you for your understanding and support in helping us to maintain a respectful and productive relationship between home and school.

Mr I Cooper
Deputy Principal

Year 13 Politics Students Engage in Dialogue with Congress

On Thursday 6 November, our Year 13 Politics students had the exciting opportunity to participate in 'The Politics Project's' USA Digital Dialogue session.

The event featured a live discussion with two former U.S. Congress members: **Mike Ross** (Democrat) and **Jeff Duncan** (Republican).

Students deepened their knowledge of the American political system, shared perspectives on global issues, and asked thoughtful questions about American democracy and bipartisan cooperation. It was a unique chance to hear directly from experienced policymakers to bring their studies to life.

We are extremely proud of our students for representing the school so well and engaging meaningfully in this global conversation.

Well done Gabriel, Lucas and Daisy!

Mrs A Tahir
Subject Leader – History

Year 10 Boys Football Success!

Following an impressive 3-1 league win against Grace College this week, on Monday 17 November, the year 10 boys team will be back in cup competition action!

Having won the Gateshead Schools Cup in both years 8 and 9, the team are hoping to have another successful cup run starting next week. Please come along and show your support at 4:15 on Monday if possible.

Mr L Cumiskey
Year Leader



Newcastle University Medical Sciences Summer School (MSC Summer School)

We are pleased to share that in July 2026, Newcastle University are hosting a Medical Schools Council, Medicine Residential Summer School. These NHS England funded programmes offer an exceptional opportunity for eligible Year 11 and 12 students in England to gain a deeper understanding of what it's like to study medicine — at no cost to them. The programmes are designed for students from underrepresented backgrounds, particularly those with limited access to medical outreach.

Applications are now open and will close on **30 November 2025**.

Find out more and check eligibility [here](#).

Mrs C Braban
Careers and Enterprise Adviser

Remembrance 2025

North East Field of Remembrance, Saltwell Park

Students from Years 7 to 11 were involved in creating a piece of art work which was to form part of the North East Field of Remembrance display at Saltwell Park. There are only six official Fields of Remembrance across the country, and this one is the furthest north. The students shared their ideas and decided to use clay as their medium, as they felt it was something that could withstand the weather and look effective; each student created their own tile which was glazed and fired before being put on display.

On Saturday 11 November Mrs Kemp attended the dedication service with students George Kemp, Joseph Kemp, Ellie Marshall and Hollie Malloy, representing Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy. The event was also attended by the Lord Lieutenant for Tyne and Wear and Her Grace, The Duchess of Northumberland. The students were smart and respectful, absolutely fantastic ambassadors for our school. Our display received a lot of lovely comments from the public and we were lucky enough to get The Band of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers to come over for a photograph. with our display too!

A huge well done to all of the students who contributed to the display and thank you to the students, and their families, who attended on a Saturday in half term, in their uniform!

Birtley Remembrance Parade

On Sunday 9 November the streets of Birtley fell silent to remember those who fought, and continue to fight, for our freedoms. A wreath was laid at the cenotaph on behalf of the school by Year 11 students Skye Watson and Maria Farzam, who were dignified and represented the school with great respect. We are very proud of them, as we are for every one of our students on parade today, representing the Scouts, Guides and Army Cadets. There was a real community spirit in Birtley and it was an honour to be part of it.

Theme of the Week and Display

As part of our in-school theme of the week, which this week was Remembrance, our students were asked to think about what makes someone 'heroic.' Students have had the opportunity to find out about many different men, women and children who have been considered as heroic during times of war from around the world and were asked to consider how they themselves could be more heroic in their everyday lives.

Our display in the Atrium has shared many stories of those heroes, including many from the local area; our own "Local Heroes". As Remembrance Week also falls on Anti-Bullying Week this has been a fantastic opportunity for students to think about how they personally can use their own powerful voices to stand up against bullies and how this can be seen as a step towards heroism.

Nelson Mandela once said: *"I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear."*

What does that mean for us? This means that being a hero isn't about being fearless. It's about choosing to do the right thing, even when it's hard, even when you're afraid.



Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy Ceremony of Remembrance

On Tuesday 11 November, Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy held its annual Ceremony of Remembrance. Staff and students came together to honour all those who served and sacrificed in the First and Second World Wars, as well as in more recent conflicts around the world.

Our Year 7 students are to be commended for the respect and maturity they showed throughout the ceremony. They were joined by the families of those taking part, members of the Birtley Heritage Group, and we were honoured to welcome Deputy Lord Lieutenant Wing Commander David Harris to our service, representing His Majesty the King.

The parade was led by Mrs Morton — in her other role as Flight Lieutenant Morton — alongside Cadet Corporal Callum Bell. Students represented the school as Army and Air Cadets, Scouts, and Guides. The Last Post and Reveille were beautifully performed by Year 9 student Dean Walker and WO1 (BM) Peter Elcoat from the Band of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. Our thanks for the band for their support with our service.

A minute's silence was observed across the school as we reflected on the courage and sacrifice of all who have served.

Thank you to everyone who supported all of our remembrance events.

Mrs J Kemp

Cover Supervisor and Ceremony of Remembrance Coordinator



FOOD UNION

BY CHARTWELLS

Chartwells Autumn Menu

Chartwells – our school meal provider – are passionate about encouraging and enabling more children to make healthy choices and enjoy a nutritious school meal to get the most out of their day. The Chartwells culinary team are excited to be launching the new autumn menu filled with excitement and flavour with dishes including: Crispy Chicken Katsu Burger, Sweet and Sour Beef Meatballs, Tandoori Chicken, Cheesy Bolognese Hot Pot, plus vibrant vegan choices with their Black Eyed Bean Burger, Vegetable Jambalaya and Brazilian Black Bean Stew, to name a few.

To view further details of their autumn menu, please use the following link: [Chartwells Autumn Menu 2025](#)

Ms L Doran
Business Manager

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-kanale-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

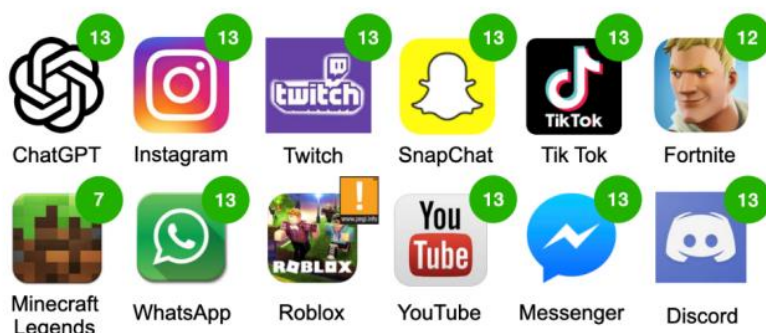
<https://www.esafety.gov.au/newsroom/blogs/ai-chatbots-and-companions-risks-to-children-and-young-people>

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