



Parent Bulletin

Principal **Dr A T Fowler**

Issue 11: w/c Monday 24 November 2025 – Week 2

Dear Parents and Carers

It was good to see so many Year 11 students and their parents and carers at last night's Sixth Form Open Evening. My thanks to Mrs Laidlaw and her sixth form team for their superb organisation of this event. If your child is in Year 11, please continue to hold conversations around sixth form options, aims and ambitions in the coming days and weeks. The QR code for a link to the application form appears later in this bulletin.

As many of you already know, our sixth form is a distinct and very special part of our school. Our thriving sixth form provides so many opportunities, and it enhances the experience for all members of our school community, including all our students and staff. As an example of this, our Reading Partners scheme pairs up sixth form students with students in years 7 and 8, to support and encourage their progress in reading. The results of this scheme are spectacular, with younger students making considerable and measurable progress. They form close bonds with their sixth form partners, and our sixth form students gain opportunities for leadership and for being a positive role model.

In this week's assemblies, Mr Rayner has been exploring the topic of men's mental health. The statistics are alarming, but there are things we can all do to help. Mr Rayner focused particularly on the need to help boys to communicate well, and he explained the ALEC model. The ALEC acronym stands for:

- **Ask:** initiate conversations about mental health by asking simple, open-ended questions. For example, you might say, "You've seemed a bit off lately: is everything all right?" This encourages the person to start to share their feelings and experiences.
- **Listen:** actively listen to the person without interrupting. Showing a genuine interest in their responses – and remembering that boys often find it hard to talk openly about their feelings – helps create a safe space for them to open up about something they are struggling with.
- **Encourage action:** support the boy in taking positive steps towards improving their mental wellbeing. This could include talking to a professional or engaging in social or physical activities.
- **Check in:** follow up with them after your initial conversation, to show them that you continue to care about their wellbeing. This reinforces that your concern is not 'one-off', that they are not alone, and that their mental health matters.

The ALEC mnemonic is a useful guide for us all in communicating with our children: we don't need to be in crisis to need to talk.



Parent Bulletin

Principal **Dr A T Fowler**

Finally, a reminder that school will be closed to students on Friday 28 November, when we are taking an occasional day.

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully

Dr Andrew Fowler
Principal

Year 10: Weekly Success

Congratulations to our year 10 cohort on another successful week. The attendance of the majority of our students was exceptional, and many of them received positive praise points (Ps). Along with our Daily Ps League and Golden Ticket incentive, students are recognised for attainment, attendance and praise points across the full week. I am pleased to share our weekly winners with you.

Attainment: Rohan Morrison won the attainment trophy for his impressive History assessment grade. Rohan also represented the academy during the Ceremony of Remembrance last week.

Praise Points: Anto Phillip gained the most praise points across the full year group, gaining a HUGE 122 Ps!

Attendance: Amelia Cleveland won the trophy this week, with her tutor group 9BC also having the best attendance!

The following students won Golden Tickets this week for their hard work. They have secured their place at our upcoming Christmas movie afternoon: Dylan Kelley, Sophie Roberts, Lacey Powell, Scarlet Johson, Matthew Robson, Ava Turnbull, Harry Gilhespie, Safaa Ahmed, Lacey Richardson, and Mazie Bullock!

In other news, our year 10 boys football team progressed to the semi-final of the cup following an 11-0 win against Kingsmeadow School. Our amazing year 10 girls football team also played fantastically in their Futsal tournament on Monday.

We look forward to seeing all of our students in full attendance each day next week, arriving by 8:45am. Attendance is key to academic and personal progress, as the more a student is in, the more they will learn.

For any year 10 pastoral support please email me at: lcumiskey@lordlawson.academy or email Miss Harrison (Deputy Year Leader) at: aharrison@lordlawson.academy and we will be happy to help.

And a big thank you to you! The continued support and encouragement of the parents and carers of our year 10 students really does have a positive affect!

Mr Cumiskey
Year 10 Leader



The banner features the Lord Lawton of Beamsley Academy logo on the left, the text 'YEAR 10 WEEKLY WINNERS' in the center, and a 'CLASS OF 2027' badge on the right. Below this, three students are showcased in individual frames: Amelia Cleveland for Attendance, Anto Phillip for Praise Points, and Rohan Morrison for Attainment. Each student is holding a trophy and a bag of snacks. At the bottom, contact information for Mr Cumiskey and Miss Harrison is provided.

YEAR 10 WEEKLY WINNERS

ATTENDANCE
AMELIA

PRAISE POINTS
ANTO

ATTAINMENT
ROHAN

Please contact Mr Cumiskey (Year Leader) or Miss Harrison (Deputy Year Leader) should your child in Year 10 require support
lcumiskey@lordlawson.academy aharrison@lordlawson.academy



Northumbria Police Educational Visit

On Tuesday 25 November, the Prevention Through Education Team from Northumbria Police will be visiting our school to deliver sessions to students in year 10, the focus of which will be the dangers of grooming: what it is and how to recognise the signs.

The session also aims to help students understand vulnerability – theirs and the vulnerability of others – and sources of support will also be discussed.

For further information and links to support videos, please access their e-leaflet via the following link:

Young Carers

The next young Carer's drop in will be on Wednesday 26 November over lunch time in the small conference room - near the entrance to the hall.

Here young carers can play games, do crafts and meet other young carers that attend the academy. This is hosted by caregivers connect Gateshead, with the support of myself - Mrs Glass.

Students should have been given a drop in pass to gain access to the session. If any student has lost this, please contact me by email at:

mglass@lordlawson.academy

If you think your child may be a young carer for anyone living in your home and they have not been registered as such, please email me direct 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



Field of Remembrance Clay Tributes

All students who made a clay tribute for the Saltwell Park Field of Remembrance are welcome to collect them from Ms Dolman's classroom - AR10 - and take them home should they wish to do so. Any that are not collected by the end of Thursday 27 November will be disposed of.

Mrs J Kemp
Remembrance Coordinator

In The Loop

'In The Loop' is a group for any student in school 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 and our next meeting will take place on Wednesday 26 November during lunchtime, in MA21. Passes will be provided to students by Mrs Kemp.

During next week's meeting we will welcome visitors from Thorpe Academy, who are joining us to find out more about how we support our students with a hearing loss at Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy. We are looking forward to sharing our good practice and hope it will inspire students and staff at Thorpe Academy.

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
HI Coordinator and Cover Supervisor



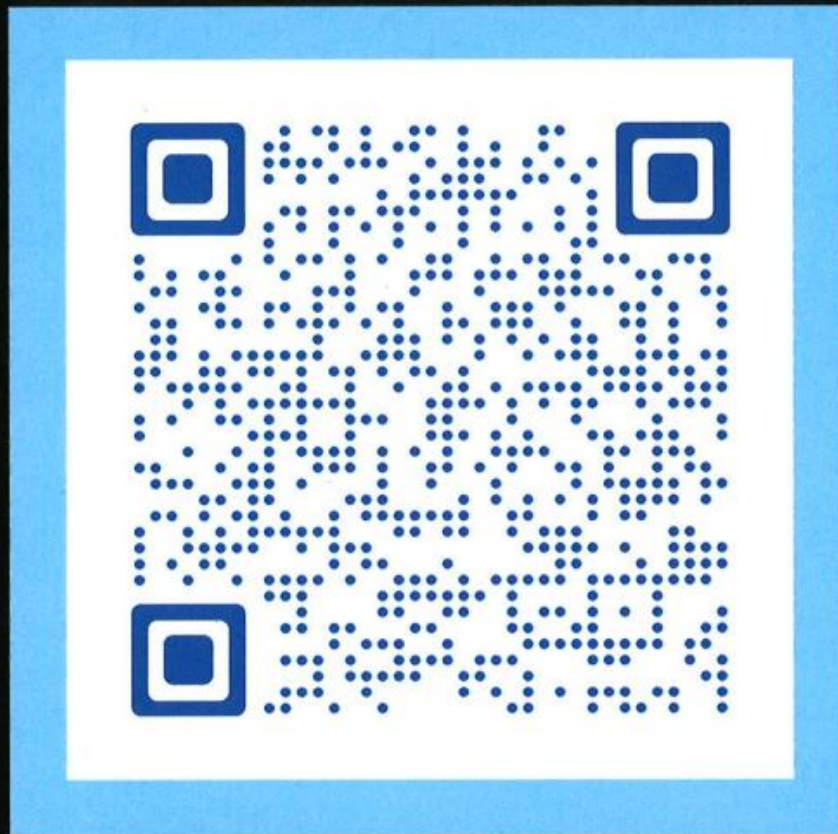
In The Loop
We are 'hear' to support each other



Lord Lawson
SIXTH FORM

APPLY NOW!

Scan the QR code below:



WE GROW WE LEARN WE SUCCEED

TOGETHER.

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

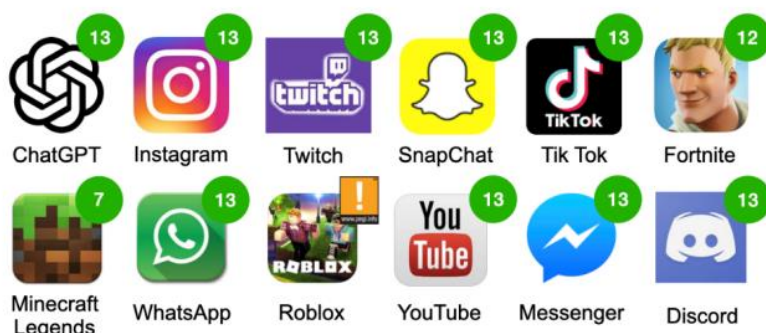
<https://www.esafety.gov.au/newsroom/blogs/ai-chatbots-and-companions-risks-to-children-and-young-people>

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>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date released 01.11.25. The inclusion of any links does not imply any affiliation with or endorsement of the linked websites, documents, or videos, nor are we claiming any ownership or copyright in the content of the linked materials.

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
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