



Parent Bulletin

Principal **Dr A T Fowler**

Issue 17: w/c Monday 19 January 2026 – Week 2

Dear Parents and Carers

I write to you at the end of another busy but productive week at the Academy. External examinations have been happening for some of our sixth form students, they appear to be going well, and students are happy with the support provided to them. We hope they have performed to the best of their ability and look forward to receiving their results in a couple of months.

This week, we decided for the first time to do a formal 'mock results day' for students in year 13. They received their results from internal assessments individually, with a member of the sixth form team present. Some students were over the moon, and we rightly celebrated their successes. Others were not, and we put in place steps for them. We chose to do this as failure and disappointment are, unfortunately, something we all encounter at some point in our lives. How we bounce back from setbacks is what defines us, not the setbacks themselves. By addressing this now, students have time, and plans, to improve their performance in time for their examinations in summer. We wish them the best with this. Good luck to those parents and carers supporting students in the run-up to formal examinations, both in year 13 and year 11.

We also launched another round of our Golden Ticket incentive this week, with regular opportunities for students to qualify for the reward event over the next 9 weeks. Next week, the reward criteria is 'Excellent Homework.' This can be a one-off piece, or a sustained record of excellence in homework completion over time.

Homework is critical to the learning of your children. One benefit of homework is that they begin to work at home as well as at school, building resilience for when they are in year 11 or 13 and need to revise for many hours at home to be successful. Building good work habits as early as year 7 helps students massively with this demand.

The other benefit comes from what we know about how learning and memory works. Working independently is challenging, and bringing back knowledge into working memory helps the brain code it into long term memory, making retrieval of key information easier. A good analogy is thinking of a journey you make regularly. Do you sometimes find yourself realising you have not fully paid attention to it? Your brain has taken over, making something that was once unfamiliar, so routine it does not require your full attention. This is similar to the impact of homework on learning; students begin to remember a vast array of knowledge and skills automatically, without effort. Thank you for your unfailing support for us by getting your children to do their homework on time. Together, we will enable your children to grow, learn and succeed.

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully

Mr Joe Dicocco
Deputy Principal



Educational Visit: London West End Theatre

Tuesday 14 to Wednesday 15 July 2026

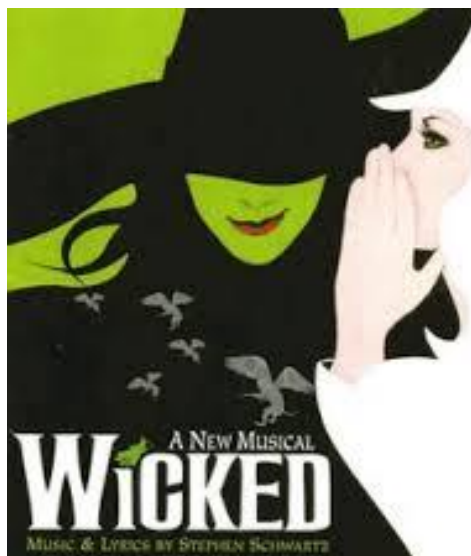
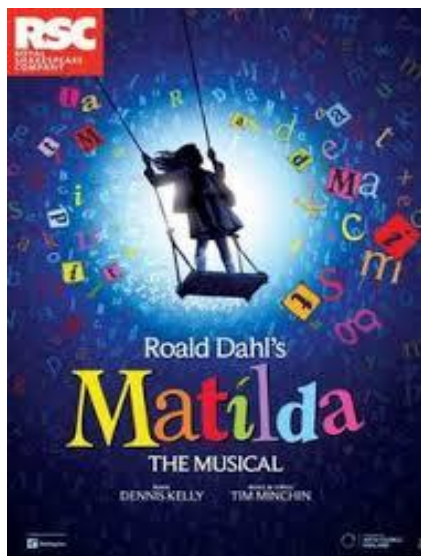
Plans have been in progress behind the scenes for our educational visit to London in July. Thank you to all parents and carers for meeting payment deadlines on ParentPay; this has supported the administration of the trip and we are extremely grateful for this.

Students who are participating in the trip must attend a meeting next Thursday, 22 January, in the Dance Studio (PA13) at 12.30pm, for a general update meeting and to receive an information letter.

If you have any queries about this educational visit please do not hesitate to contact me via email at sbrown@lordlawson.academy and I will be happy to assist you.

Miss S Brown

Subject Leader – Performing Arts



Year 10 (Class of 2027)

It has been a great start to 2026 for students in year 10! As we begin the new term, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a few key areas that will support your child in reaching their potential:

Homework and Coursework – Regular completion of homework and coursework is vital. It allows students to consolidate learning, develop independent study skills and succeed academically. Please encourage your child to stay on top of deadlines and dedicate focused time each evening to their studies. Parents and students may find checking Class Charts regularly helpful.

Attendance – High attendance is directly linked to progress. Every lesson counts and missing even a small amount of time can have a significant impact on learning. We ask for your support in ensuring your child attends school every day to avoid missed learning and arrives on time (in school by 8:45). An attendance score of 97%+ is the aim for all.

Positive Behaviour – A focused, respectful and motivated approach in lessons will help students make the most of their learning. We will continue to promote high standards of behaviour and expect students to demonstrate academy values. Again, the support of parents and carers by monitoring behaviour on Class Charts and encouraging positive behaviours is greatly appreciated.

Work Experience – Students have until Friday 30 January to submit their placement provider details to Unifrog, which is only two weeks today. Please email Careers Advisor Miss Leigh jleigh@lordlawson.academy for support if required.

I am confident that, with your support, Year 10 will continue to rise to the challenges of GCSE study. Together we can ensure your child achieves the best possible outcomes and enjoys success throughout 2026 and beyond.

If you have any questions or require support, please contact me at lcumiskey@lordlawson.academy or Miss Harrison (Deputy Year Leader) at aharrison@lordlawson.academy and we will endeavour to help you.

Miss Harrison and I look forward to continuing to work with you during this important stage in your child's education. Below is a lovely photo of year 10 from our festive celebration day prior to Christmas.

Mr Cumiskey
Year 10 Leader



Year 9 Options

The Year 9 options process commenced this week with a launch assembly on Wednesday, during which students were introduced to the different pathways and the range of subjects available.

Starting on Monday 19 January, students will watch a series of short videos during tutor time in which subject staff outline what students can expect to study within each course. After each video, students will complete a brief reflective activity to consider what they may or may not enjoy about the subject. Once all activities are completed, students will bring these home, along with the options information booklet, so that you are able to discuss the various choices with your child.

This year, we are also providing students with the opportunity to take part in taster lessons across six different subjects, giving them further insight into what each course involves. On Thursday 22 and Friday 23 January, again during tutor time, students will select and complete two taster sessions for each option block.

The next stage of the process is the Options Open Evening on **Thursday 12 February**. During this event, you will receive further information about the options process, and there will be a market-style showcase in the sports hall where you and your child can speak with staff and students to learn more about the subjects on offer. Following the information assembly, subject videos, taster sessions, and the open evening, students will then have until **Tuesday 3 March** to submit their final option choices.

The options process represents a significant milestone in a child's education, as it is the first occasion on which students are able to make informed choices about the subjects they want to specialise in. By providing a broad range of opportunities and experiences to explore the various subjects on offer, we aim to support you and your child in making well-considered decisions. Our intention is that, with a clear understanding of each pathway, your child will be well-placed to enjoy and succeed in their studies throughout Years 10 and 11.

Mrs K Kendall

Assistant Principal - Curriculum

Year 11 and Year 13 Parents' and Carers' Evenings

The **year 11 parent and carer evening** takes place in school on **Thursday 22 January 2026**. Details have previously been sent via Class Charts and can also be found in previous parent bulletins.

This is an in-person event and appointments should be booked via the SchoolCloud system, which can be accessed via the following link: <https://lordlawson.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

If you have not as yet made appointments to meet with your child's teachers, we encourage you to do so before the system closes at 12 noon on Thursday 22 January.

The **year 13 parents' and carers' evening** will take place the following week on **Thursday 29 January 2026**. This will also be an in-person event held in school. Appointments must also be booked via SchoolCloud using the above link. Bookings close at 12 noon on Thursday 29 January 2026.

Please note that Mrs Kendall, teacher of English, will not be available for year 13 appointments on 29 January. However, the parents/carers of students affected by this have been sent a message via Class Charts regarding alternative arrangements.

Mr J Dicocco

Deputy Principal

Mindfulness and Well-being Club

The Mindfulness and Wellbeing Club is a space for students to come and try a variety of activities, which promote mindfulness and mental wellbeing.

Mindfulness Club will return on Monday January 19 2026 and takes place during lunchtime in the library. Mindfulness Club has proven very popular in the past. For this reason there will be fewer passes available this term and I will speak to each student before they are given a pass to ensure they are joining the club to explore 'mindfulness' rather than an opportunity to socialise with other students.

Students interested in joining the club should see me for further details and to collect a pass.

Mrs J Kemp
Cover Supervisor



In the Loop

'In The Loop' is a club for any student 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.'

Our next In The Loop meeting will take place on Wednesday lunchtime, on the 28 January.

If you feel that your son/daughter should be involved, then please contact me on jkemp@lordlawson.academy.

Students can collect passes from me.

Mrs J Kemp
Cover Supervisor and HI Coordinator



Thank you!

LORD LAWSON OF BEAMISH ACADEMY



*For your Dress Down Day Donations towards our
work in the Community*

Ann Humes

Gateshead Salvation Army

Jan 2026

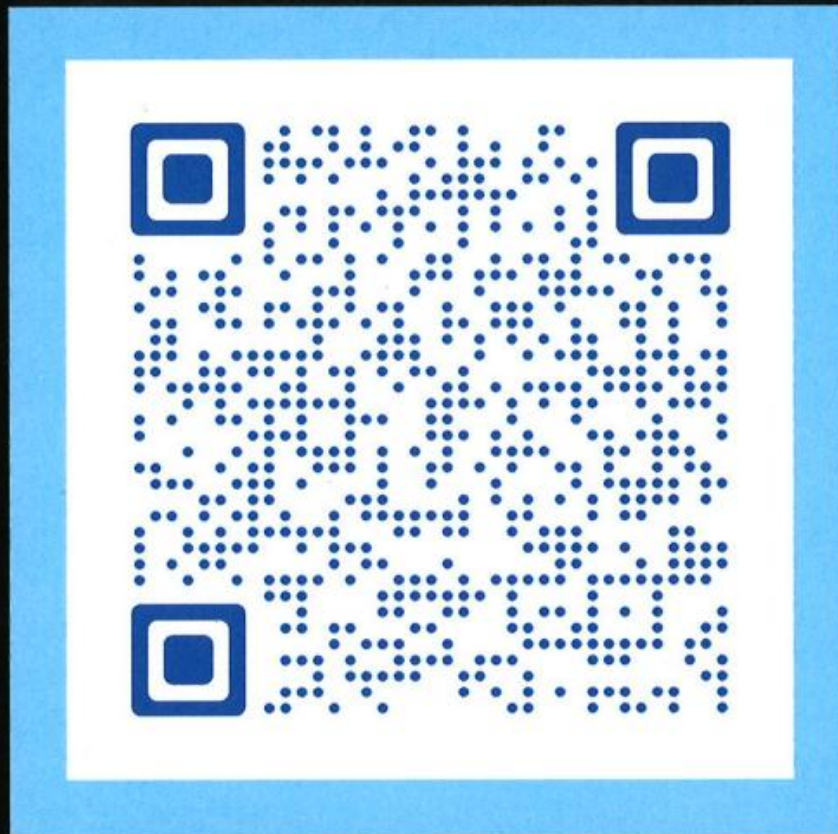
Date



Lord Lawson
SIXTH FORM

APPLY NOW!

Scan the QR code below:



WE GROW WE LEARN WE SUCCEED

TOGETHER.

Online Safety Newsletter

January 2026

Instagram Teen Accounts - update

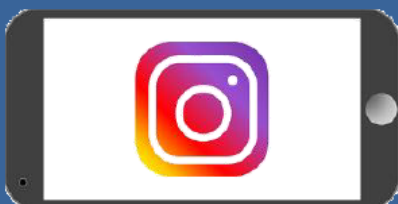
You must be over 13 years of age to set up an account. Instagram is used to post photos and videos as well as send direct messages, make voice/video calls, and send disappearing messages.

Teen accounts are automatically set up for users aged 13 – 17. Instagram have announced that teens will now see content similar to content that they would see in a PG-13 movie.

Instagram have also updated their policies around content to include “hiding or not recommending posts with strong language, certain risky stunts, and additional content that could encourage potentially harmful behaviors”

Finally, for parents who would like to apply more stringent settings, Instagram are also introducing a new, stricter setting called ‘Limited Content.’ This setting will mean your child is not able to see, leave, or receive comments under posts as well.

You can read about the updates here: <https://about.instagram.com/blog/announcements/instagram-teen-content-safety-pg-13>



Playing games online

Does your child play games online? We have outlined some risks that you should consider:

Chatting to strangers / risk of inappropriate language

Some games will allow communication via text chat, direct messages or chatting. Some games do offer the ability to switch communication off and/or the option to restrict bad language, so make sure settings appropriate to your child are applied. If your child is playing online with strangers, then you need to be aware that there is a risk of grooming. Some games do allow you to restrict communication to ‘friends only,’ however you would need to monitor that their online friends are real life friends. It can be difficult to moderate online chat so ensure your child knows how to block and report other players.



Cyberbullying

It can be very easy online for children to behave in a way that they would not if they were face to face. Talk to your child about how they speak to others online and encourage them to talk to people online with respect. Other forms of cyberbullying whilst playing games could be excluding others, criticising the ability of other players and ganging up on others.

In app purchases

Many games include the option to purchase additional items/ subscriptions so ensure you do not have payment cards saved or set up restrictions/ a password to approve purchases.

What can I do?

- **Set up parental controls** - as well as setting up appropriate parental controls through the game’s settings, ensure you have set them up on the console/device your child is playing on.
- **Check age ratings** - before buying the game, check that your child is old enough to play it. All games will either have a PEGI rating or be rated by the App Store/Google Play.
- **Chat to your child regularly** about the risks above so that they are aware of what can happen online and remind them to always talk to you or a trusted adult if they have any concerns

Further information

CEOP provides further guidance and support regarding this topic: <https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming/>

Snapchat

Snapchat is a popular social media app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos. **You must be 13+ to sign up.** Users can send messages (snaps) to others that are only seen for a set time, and users can also upload snaps to stories, which disappear after 24 hours.

Key Concerns

There are potential risks such as:

- the risk of your child viewing content that is not appropriate for their age.
- location sharing (via Snap Map).
- cyberbullying.
- contact from strangers.
- excessive screen time – children may have a fear of missing out (FOMO) as well as pressure to maintain “streaks”.
- “disappearing” messages can lead to more risky behaviour and a “false sense of security.” These messages could be screenshot or another device used to take a photo, so they’re not actually deleted as the sender believes. The image could then be shared.
- in app purchases.



Parental Controls / Safety settings

Snapchat's Family Centre is a set of parental controls and includes tools such as allowing you to:

- see who your child is friends with.
- see who your child has sent messages (not the contents of conversations though), photos or videos to in the last week.
- view a list of group members for groups that your child has been active in.
- restrict content to limit access.
- report any accounts that you are concerned about.

You can learn more about Family Centre here:

<https://parents.snapchat.com/parental-controls?lang=en-GB>

If your child is using Snapchat, then make sure the appropriate privacy settings are set up, including who can see their location and who can contact them. Also ensure your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary:

<https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/7012343074580-How-do-I-change-my-privacy-settings-on-Snapchat>

More information

For more detailed advice and information:

- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/snapchat>
- <https://parents.snapchat.com/safeguards-for-teens>

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Sharing Explicit Images

Bark have published an article about teens sharing explicit images without fully comprehending the risks. The article discusses why teens share images, what you need to know and how you can chat to your child about it. Find out more here:

<https://www.bark.us/blog/teens-sharing-explicit-images/>

Cyber security

Cyber security is the process of protecting your information and data whilst online against scams and cyber-attacks. Cyber-attacks are the process of maliciously targeting individuals or organisations to disable networks or steal data for example.

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) have an area on their website with guidance to help protect you and your family. The guidance includes how to manage your digital footprint online, information about anti-virus software as well as top tips for staying online such as:

- Using a strong password
- Setting up 2step verification

You can find the resources here:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/advice-guidance/you-your-family>

The NCSC also provide advice on what you should do if you are the target of a scam or cyber-attack. Find out more here:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/respond-recover/you>

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/january-2026-secondary/>

Calendar Dates and Upcoming Events for the Autumn Term

Date	Event
Thursday 22 January 2026	Year 11 Parents Evening 3.45 – 6.45pm (In-person event)
Thursday 29 January 2026	Year 13 Parents Evening 3.45 – 6.45pm (In-person event)
Thursday 12 February 2026	Year 9 Parents and Options Evening 3.45 – 6.45pm (In-person event)
Friday 20 February 2026	Ski Trip
Friday 20 February 2026	Last day of term for staff and students – school finishes as normal at 3.20pm
Monday 2 March 2026	Staff and students return to school at 8.40am
Thursday 12 March 2026	Year 10 Parents Evening 3.45 – 6.45pm
Thursday 26 March 2026	Year 5 Open Evening 4.30 – 6.30pm
Thursday 2 April 2026	Last day of term for staff and students – school finishes as normal at 3.20pm
Tuesday 14 April 2026	Naples Trip
Monday 20 April 2026	Staff and students return to school at 8.40am