



Parent Bulletin

Principal **Dr A T Fowler**

Issue 20: w/c Monday 9 February 2026 – Week 1

Dear Parents and Carers

I wonder if you, like me, are glad to see the back of January? As a month, it starts so well, with the excitement and promise of New Year, new possibilities, new resolutions and intentions. But then we come face-to-face with the reality of dark mornings and dark nights, the cold – and, this year, *the rain!* I hear that, in parts of the south west, it has rained every day this year. It's not been much better here, but at least our reservoirs and aquifers should be full for the summer.

The change of the month appears to offer the new promise of lighter mornings and possibly warmer days. So far, February has continued with the wet theme, but I see welcome signs of life in our hedgerows and gardens – catkins on hazel trees, the first spring flowers, buds on roses and other shrubs. The idea that Spring might be just around the corner lifts our mood.

We have much to look forward to in school. In the Sixth Form, Mrs Laidlaw, Mrs Goodacre and Mr McGovern have begun their mentoring programme, working intensively to support students who need that extra push and some specific short-term strategies to make the most of their potential. Our Year 9 students have enjoyed three days of taster sessions this week, helping them to think about the subjects they want to study at key stage 4. Responses from students have been excellent. There has been a lot of enthusiasm; and even a negative response (we overheard a student say, “Well, I’m definitely not doing that subject!”) is useful in helping to inform choices.

In our Performers group, auditions are continuing for lead roles in our next academy production, *Billy Elliott the Musical*, which will be performed next October. There are some great roles for male and female characters, and we have been stunned by the quality of auditions so far.

In this bulletin, you will also see the announcement of the date and venue of the 2027 Prom celebration, for students currently in Year 10 – it may seem a long way off, but that is definitely something to look forward to!

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully,

Dr Andrew Fowler
Principal

Durham University: Free Maths Circles

In September 2026, students in years 7 to 10 are invited to register for the **free** maths circles programme: We Solve Problems, an opportunity that is being offered to them by Durham University.

"We Solve Problems" is a registered charity and they are inviting students to join the in-person weekly Maths Circle at Durham University.

Maths Circles are free, maths-loving, training sessions that promote the art of problem-solving and structured thinking. All students in school years 7-10 who love to solve a puzzle are sure to enjoy the sessions, regardless of their proficiency in maths. The programme is also being run around the rest of the UK, from KCL and UCL in London, to the Universities of Oxford, Bath, Warwick and Cardiff, among others.

Not only does the activity help students to develop their skills, but it also gives them the opportunity to visit and study at the university premises. Maths Circles are run by Maths students of Durham University, supported by professional mathematicians.

To register for participation in Maths Circles, please complete the pre- registration form accessed via the following link: [Maths Circles Pre-registration form](#).

To find out more information about Maths Circles, please visit [We Solve Problems Maths Circles](#).

Please note that the school is not involved in any of the organisation or delivering of this programme.

Mrs D Jackson
Subject Leader - Mathematics

Mindfulness and Wellbeing Club

This week in our Mindfulness and Wellbeing Club, students made flowers using pipe cleaners, an activity that many parents and carers may remember from their time in school across the years. Some students took their flowers home and we hope you enjoyed their colourfulness, while other students left theirs to make a colourful bouquet for the library!

Next week the students will make a "Jar of Smiles" (or a Happy Jar). Students have been asked to bring in one (clean) jar that they can decorate. We do have some jars but not enough for everyone!

Mrs J Kemp
Cover Supervisor



Class of 2027: Prom

We are excited to announce the date and venue of the Class of 2027 (current year 10) Prom!



Further details will be shared nearer the time. For now, please save the date.

The Year 10 Team



Billy Elliot the Musical:

Congratulations to all of our auditionees for the Billy Elliot female lead roles. The Performing Arts department have been so impressed with your performances over the past two weeks; you have left us with some very difficult decisions to make for our final casting of the roles of Mrs Wilkinson, Grandma and Mum.

Over the next two weeks, Wednesday 11 February and Wednesday 18 February, we will hold the auditions for the lead male roles of Billy, Michael, Jackie and Tony. Students who have signed up to audition are expected to attend **both sessions** from 3.20pm to 5pm.

Performers sessions will resume as normal for all existing members after half term on Wednesday 4 March at the usual time of 3.20pm to 5pm.

If you have any questions about Billy Elliot The Musical or Performing Arts at Lord Lawson, please contact me at sbrown@lordlawson.academy and I will be happy to help.

Miss S Brown

Subject Leader – Performing Arts



Year 11 GCSE Dance NEA Dates and Details:

There are two remaining GCSE Dance NEAs:

1. Duet/Trio Performance: Week 1 – Wednesday 11 (Group 1) and Thursday 12 February (Group 2)
2. Choreography: Week 1 Wednesday 18 (Group 1) and Thursday 19 March (Group 2)

The 15 GCSE Dance students are aware of their groups for each exam. Each student will attend only **one** of the exam days listed above.

Please note these are current working groups and may potentially be updated nearer the time.

The Year 9 dance leaders who have volunteered to dance in Choreography assessments will be off timetable on **Thursday 19 March only**.

Students will attend tutor period and then be off timetable to record their exams for the whole day. Once a student has recorded their exam, they may return to timetabled lessons.

Students must arrive to school in full academy uniform, with their hair fully tied back. They will then be required to change into bright coloured clothing for the exam recordings, as they did previously with the solo exam recording.

If you have any queries about the GCSE Dance NEA days please let me know by contacting me directly via email at sbrown@lordlawson.academy and I will be happy to support.

Miss S Brown

Subject Leader – Performing Arts

Personal Development (PD) at Lord Lawson

Please find below the Personal Development curriculum that students continue to study this year. I encourage you to take a look through the topics and discuss them with your children at home.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about any of the topics listed below, please do not hesitate to contact me at **cbramley@lordlawson.academy**. I will continue to include reminders of the curriculum, and other personal development related events, in the parent bulletin throughout the year to keep you informed.

Miss C Bramley

Personal Development Coordinator

 Personal Development Curriculum 2025 - 2026 Please speak to your PD teacher if you have any questions about your upcoming lessons 					
Lesson	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
1	British Values - Mutual Respect	British Values - Tolerance	British Values - Rule of Law	British Values - Democracy	British Values - Individual Liberty
2	The Importance of Laws and Rules	Understanding Good Behaviour	Tackling SEND Discrimination	Local Elections	(A) My Powerful Voice (Voting and General Elections and Sexual Pressure)
3	Taking Pride in My Work	We Say No to Racism	We Say No to Prejudice	(A) Tackling Hate Crime	Further Education
4	How to Use My Powerful Voice	Sexual Orientation	(A) Celebrating Pride	Managing the Stress of School, Exams and Social Anxiety	Revision Skills
5	The Equality Act 2010	Gender Identity	Future Finances	Eating Disorders	Interview Preparation
6	(A) Stereotyping, Discrimination and Prejudice	(A) Why Can't Some People Access Education?	GCSE Options	(A) Basic First Aid	(A) Volunteering
7	Anti-bullying	Sexual Abuse and Harassment	(A) Future Careers	Work Experience	Peer Pressure (Drugs, Smoking and Alcohol)
8	Safety in the World	(A) Safety in the World	Online Grooming and Bullying	Work Experience	(A) The Dark Web (Including Gambling and Pornography)
9	(A) Staying Safe Online	My Life Ambitions	Sharing Sexual Images, Pornography and Body Image	Revision Skills	Grief and Bereavement
10	Self Belief	How Can I Become An Entrepreneur?	County Lines - The Law	(A) Further Education	Self-harm Prevention
11	(A) Careers and My Future	(A) Employment	(A) Extremist Groups	Incel Culture	Suicide Prevention
12	Family Relationships	Healthy Relationships (on and offline)	What is Love?	Anti-social Behaviour, Knife Crime and Gangs	(A) Cancer and Self-examination
13	Healthy Relationships	Managing Broken Relationships	My Body, My Choice	(A) My Digital Footprint and Online Safety	Intimate and Sexual Relationships
14	(A) FGM (Female Genital Mutilation)	(A) What is Contraception?	Teamwork and Communication Skills	Consent	Consent, Rape and Sexual Harassment L1
15	Understanding Puberty	Periods and the Menstrual Cycle	(A) Understanding Safe Sex	Religion and Marriage	(A) Consent, Rape and Sexual Harassment L2
16	Healthy Diet and Active Lifestyle	Drugs - The Law	The Dangers of Drugs	Toxic Relationships	Student Voice
17	Mental Health	Smoking and Alcohol	Mental Health (How can I help someone?)	Domestic Abuse	
18	Understanding my Emotions	Mental Health - Anxiety and Depression	Understanding Self-harm	Understanding STIs	
19	(A) Hygiene and Germs - Including Vaccination and Dental Care	(A) What is 'Self Love'?	(A) Positive Thinking	(A) Parenthood	
20	Student Voice	Student Voice	Student Voice	Student Voice	

(A) = Assessment

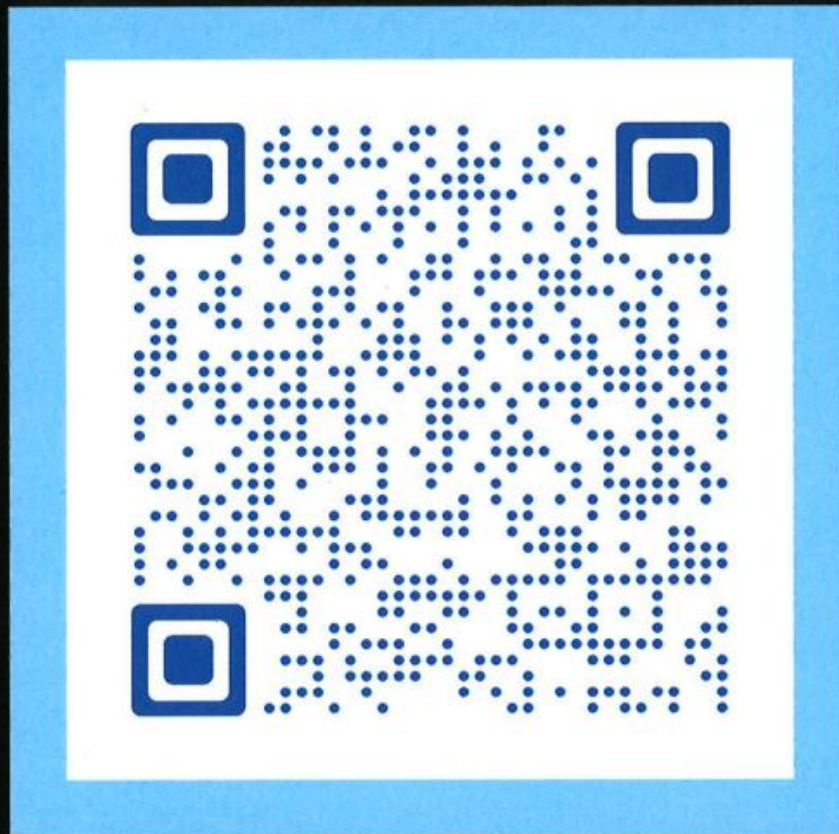
■ = Values
■ = Staying Safe
■ = Careers and My Future
■ = Relationships and Sex Education
■ = Health and Wellbeing



Lord Lawson
SIXTH FORM

APPLY NOW!

Scan the QR code below:



WE GROW WE LEARN WE SUCCEED

TOGETHER.



Online Safety Newsletter

February 2026

Screen time and resilience: A psychologist's guide

The BBC have published an article with an expert in parenting and child development, Dr Martha Deiros Collado. It includes tips and advice to help you in supporting your child online.

The article explores nine ways in which you can help your child to develop their media literacy skills, for example how to encourage your child to challenge what they see online and how to start conversations using real life examples, as well as how to develop healthy screen time habits.

At the end of the article, there are links to further articles that may be of interest to you, such as how to manage your child's online world without clashing.

You can find out more here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zwb3tcw>

Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version: <https://www.knowsleycitylearningcentres.org.uk/february-2026-secondary/>

Using AI to alter images

AI image generator and moderator tools are widely available and often used by children. Whilst these tools can be used for creative purposes, we need to ensure our children are aware of the appropriate way in which to use them and the circumstances when they should not be used, even if harm is not intended.

What are AI image generator and moderator tools?

It is when Artificial Intelligence is used to create or modify images, for example it could be used to swap faces, change expressions or for more sinister reasons, such as to remove clothes. These images are often very realistic and therefore difficult to see that they are fake.

Privacy concerns and consent

If your child is using these tools, they need to be aware of potential loss of privacy and the importance of consent. They should know that they should only use images of other people with consent.

What does my child need to know about using these tools?

- Children shouldn't use AI tools to manipulate images of school staff. Even if the child's intention is not malicious, children should not use AI tools to create or edit photos of teachers under any circumstances.
- Manipulation of images of friends or other children – if you are using images of other people, then consent **must** always be sought.
- The tools should not be used to create images that can embarrass or hurt others - this is a form of online bullying.
- Copyright issues – who owns the copyright? These images could be reused by others, which can affect their own digital footprint.

What should I do?

- Chat to your child if they are using these tools and ascertain the reason why. Ask them to show you the images that they have created.
- Check the age ratings of any apps/websites that your child is using and set up appropriate parental controls.
- Develop your child's digital literacy by teaching them to recognise online risks and to behave responsibly online

Further Information

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-to-children-about-ai>
- <https://oursaferschools.co.uk/2025/02/18/understanding-image-consent-at-schools/>

TikTok

You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok. TikTok is a social media platform for sharing and watching short video clips. If your child is using TikTok then make sure appropriate security / privacy settings are applied.

Account set up

It is important that your child enters their real date of birth as accounts are tailored by age e.g., Direct Messaging is disabled for accounts aged 13-15. In addition, advertisements are tailored by age. By default, accounts for people under 16 are set to private. You can read more about the other settings available, such as switching off comments and restricted mode here:

<https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacy-settings/privacy-and-safety-settings-for-users-under-age-18>

Family Pairing

Family Pairing allows you to link your own account to your child's account. You can then set controls such as restricted mode or tailor your child's 'For You' feed by selecting keywords that TikTok will use to filter out posts. You can find out more here: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/safety-hc/account-and-user-safety/family-pairing>

What do I need to be aware of?

- **Inappropriate content and themes:** whilst against guidelines, explicit and inappropriate content can be found on this platform, for example nudity/sexual content and hate speech. Some of the songs available to lip sync to may contain inappropriate lyrics/themes.
- **Challenges:** We often see viral challenges on social media, some of which can be **risky/dangerous**. Sadly, there are reports that children have died whilst attempting online challenges. Children may not yet have developed the skills and ability to critically analyse that what they see online is not always safe for them to replicate.
- **Stranger contact:** chat to your child about how people may not be who they say they are when online.

Refresh your feed

You can refresh your "For You" feed to update the content recommended: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacy-settings/refresh-your-for-you-feed>

Blocking and Reporting

Show your child how to use the safety features available.

Further information

- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/tiktok>
- <https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date released 01.02.26. The inclusion of any links does not imply any affiliation with or endorsement of the linked website.



Balance screen time tips

Internet Matters have created simple tips to help you develop healthy online habits for your child. They also answer key questions such as "how much screentime is too much" and "is gaming bad for children." Access this information here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/creating-a-balanced-digital-diet-with-screen-time-tips>

7 Steps to Good Digital Parenting

The Family Online Safety Institute have created seven steps to assist you as a digital parent. Find out more here:

<https://fosi.org/program/7-steps-to-good-digital-parenting/>

Children's Commissioner launches new guide for parents and carers

The Children's Commissioner has released a new guide to help you in managing your child's digital life. The guide was written with direct involvement from children.

It includes advice on setting boundaries such as no devices in the bedroom and how to chat to your child. You can find the guide here:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/blog/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-childrens-commissioner-launches-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>

Calendar Dates and Upcoming Events for the Autumn Term

Date	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 5 March 2026	Year 12 Parents Evening 3.45 – 6.45pm (details to follow)
Thursday 12 March 2026	Year 10 Parents Evening 3.45 – 6.45pm (details to follow)
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