



Parent Bulletin

Principal **Dr A T Fowler**

Issue 23: w/c Monday 9 March 2026 – Week 2

Dear Parents and Carers

Outcome of the consultation to adjust school days and terms

I am writing to let you know the outcome of our recent consultation on the proposal to adjust our school day and term dates.

The intention of the proposal was to improve both the quality of learning and well-being, for students and staff at Lord Lawson. Thank you for your support and encouragement, and for engaging so fully with this consultation process.

This was a very broad consultation, including parents and carers, teaching and support staff, local primary and secondary schools, trades unions and the local authority. We sent out electronic surveys, and we engaged with parents, carers and others face-to-face.

Levels of engagement with our consultation were exceptionally high. This is a very positive sign, showing that the widest range of people want to work with us to improve the quality of education we provide. In all, we received 625 individual responses to our consultation. All the responses we received were carefully read and considered. There was strong support for a longer break in October, though no consensus on how best to achieve this. There was little support for a longer summer break.

Overall, there is not widespread support for the proposal across the different groups with whom we consulted. We will therefore not be making any changes to the school day times or term dates from September 2026.

The consultation has provided school leaders and governors with very substantial amounts of evidence, and a wide range of views on different aspects of school life, including workload and well-being. We will take time to further consider all these views. We will continue to look for ways to improve the school experience for students, staff and families. However, these will not involve any changes to school day times or term dates from September 2026.

Now that the consultation has concluded, we will publish term dates for 2026-27 as soon as possible.

Thank you again for being part of this excellent consultation. This is another strong example of how we work together as a whole school community for the good of our students.

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully

Dr Andrew Fowler
Principal



**Help your child stay
safe online**

Help Your Child Stay Safe Online

The UK government has launched the Kids Online Safety campaign to help parents and carers support children as they navigate the digital world safely and confidently. The campaign brings together practical and trusted guidance on starting meaningful conversations about online life, understanding the types of content children may come across and developing critical thinking skills so young people can question what they see and make safer choices.

The campaign also provides advice on using tools such as parental controls, recognising potential risks and knowing where to seek help or to report concerns. The aim is to make online safety an ongoing, open conversation within families rather than a one-off discussion, helping children feel supported as they explore apps, games and social media.

Further information and resources can be found by accessing the link below, or by copying and pasting <https://kidsonlinesafety.campaign.gov.uk/> into your internet browser.

[Help your child stay safe online - Kids Online Safety](#)

Mr I Cooper
Deputy Principal

Face Family Advice

Face Family Advice (FFA) is a service that was set up to help parents like you. With the stresses and strains of modern life, our children and young adults have never been under more pressure. FFA aim to offer advice, tips and support to parents who want to get the best out of their family relationships and need new tools to do that.

Face are offering a FREE online talk for parents and carers, on Thursday 23 April 2026, the focus of which is Decreasing Depression in children and young adults. If you are interested in joining the session, please refer to the details below to register, or to contact Face for further details about what they can offer you.

Mrs H Potter
Assistant Principal - SENDCO



FREE online talk by
Jane Keyworth

FACE family Advice Lead Facilitator

Decreasing Depression

23rd April 7-8pm



Book online

www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Parents - Live Talks page

Year 11 GCSE Drama

Congratulations to our year 11 GCSE Drama class who completed their Component Three practical exam on Thursday 5 March.

Students were excellent ambassadors for our Academy and our examiner complimented their behaviour.

The hard work doesn't stop there! We will be continuing with coursework in the upcoming weeks and working towards our theory paper, as well as enjoying an exciting visit to Sunderland Empire to watch Blood Brothers.

Well done Year 11, you were amazing!!

Mrs J Wilson
Teacher of Drama



Year 10: Boys Football Team Update

With only 3 league games left of the season and a cup final to look forward to, the Lord Lawson Year 10 Boys team invite you to show your support in the 2 upcoming league games this month. Dates and times can be found in the flyer above. Support on the sidelines would be very much appreciated.

The cup final will take place on Thursday 2 April, the last day of this term, at Dunston UTS Stadium with, a 4:30pm kick off.

Good luck to the whole team, we know you will give your absolute best, as always.

Year 10 Parents' and Carers' Evening: Thursday 12 March 2026

The year 10 parents' and carers' evening takes place in school on Thursday 12 March 2026; this is an in-school, in-person event. Appointments for the evening can be booked via SchoolCloud.

If you have not yet booked your appointment slots, please do so before the system closes for bookings at 12 noon, on Thursday 12 March. To login to SchoolCloud you will need:

Your name; Email address; Student's First Name; Student's Surname; Student's Date of Birth

If you experience any issues, please contact Mrs Coult at lordlawson@lordlawson.academy and she will be happy to help.

Mrs S Wakefield
Office Manager



Northumbria Police: Prevention Through Education

The Northumbria Police cadet opportunity is a rewarding three-year programme, during which you'll work alongside serving police officers, see behind-the-scenes of our stations and get involved with your local community. Each week of the cadet programme you'll be trained in a new subject, from learning the basics of the law to understanding arrest and custody processes.

Applicants must be 13/14yrs old on 1 September 2026 (going into year 9 or 10) and live within the Northumbria Police area. Further information can be found later in this bulletin and information on how to apply can be accessed using the following link: [Police Cadets - Northumbria Police](https://careers.northumbria.police.uk/volunteering/police-cadets/) or by copying and pasting <https://careers.northumbria.police.uk/volunteering/police-cadets/> into your internet browser.

The closing date for applications is 3rd May 2026

Miss J Leigh
Careers Coordinator

We are a Nut Free School: Reminder for Parents and Carers

Children who suffer from nut allergies can develop a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. If someone has a nut allergy it is not just eating nuts that can cause a severe reaction, just being touched on the skin or smelling the breath of someone who has had nuts or a product containing nuts can trigger anaphylactic shock (which can cause breathing and swallowing difficulties). First aid staff in the school are trained to use the Epi-pens (an injection of adrenalin) which is required immediately if this happens.

For this reason, we cannot have nuts in school, in any form, and ask for your support by ensuring your child does not bring any form of food in their lunch boxes, or as a snack, that may contain nut products. For example:

- Peanut butter products
- Chocolate spreads
- Cereal bars
- Some granola bars
- Cakes that contain nuts
- Biscuits / Cookies that contain nuts
- Some Asian food, including satay
- Sauces that contain nuts

This list is not exhaustive, so please check the packaging of products closely. We know you will recognise the importance of our request, and that you will support our whole school community by ensuring we are a 'nut free school,' reassuring any of our students who may be vulnerable to this life-threatening condition.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Ms L Doran
Business Manager





Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme

Do you want to know more about policing?

Do you want to make a positive difference in your area?

Be the difference! Apply for our Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme.

To apply, visit: careers.northumbria.police.uk



**NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE**



At the very heart of the cadets is community and citizenship!

Build Confidence & Life Skills

Develop teamwork, leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills. Grow confidence through new challenges and structured activities.

Experience Real Policing

Take part in practical policing-related sessions, demonstrations, and scenarios. Meet specialist teams such as dogs, horses, forensics, neighbourhood policing and more.

Make a Difference in Your Community

Support local events, community safety initiatives, and volunteering projects. Become a positive role model and help improve your community.

Work towards the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Gain nationally recognised achievement and valuable personal development.

Be Part of a Team

Join a friendly, supportive group of young people with shared purpose. Make new friends, learn together, and take pride in being part of something bigger.

Boost Your Future

Stand out on college, apprenticeship, or job applications. Learn skills and gain experiences valued by employers and public services.

Be part of a Uniformed Youth Group with Purpose

Wear the cadet uniform and represent Northumbria Police with pride. Learn about policing values, citizenship, and positive community impact.

Gateshead
Libraries



Gateshead

100 Years North East Celebration Day

North East
Combined
Authority

Kim McGuinness
North East
Mayor

Gateshead Central Library

Saturday 7 March • 9am-4pm

Join us to celebrate 100 years of Gateshead Central Library with a special day of events and activities.

Maker Place activities	10am - 3.30pm
Exploring Your Family History	10am - 4pm
Photomontage Workshop with Tommy Anderson	10am - 1pm
Family Storytelling with Chris Adriaanse*	10.30am - 11.30am
What's Behind the Door? Library tours*	10.30am and 2pm
How to Care for your Family Collections*	11am - 12pm
Book Illustration Workshop with Josie Brookes	1pm - 4pm
Meet Author Peter James*	2pm - 3pm
GemArts Heritage Detectives Workshop	10am - 12pm

All events **free** apart from Peter James (small charge) and those marked with * are **pre-bookable** in advance.

Discover more at Gateshead Libraries



Gateshead
Council

Drugs

Information for parents and carers

The misuse of drugs not only has negative effects for individuals but also for the community. The buying and selling of drugs often involves serious violence – or the threat of it – along with the exploitation and trafficking of vulnerable people, including children. Money gained can fund organised criminal gangs and contribute to gun and knife crime.

What does the law say?

Drugs – or controlled substances – are classified by type according to their relative harms and maximum penalties that can be imposed by a court. The consequences vary for producing, possessing, and supplying them. Class A drugs are considered to be the most harmful and carry the most severe penalty, followed by B then C.

Class A

e.g. cocaine, heroin, crack, LSD, MDMA (referred to as ecstasy), psilocybin (magic mushrooms)

Class B

e.g. cannabis, amphetamine, ketamine, codeine

Class C

e.g. some drugs without a valid prescription such as steroids, diazepam (brand name, valium), pregabalin; some new psychoactive substances (NPS)

It's illegal to do the following without legal reason. A legal reason could, for example, be a doctor who has in their possession a drug for the treatment of patients:

POSSESS

To have the drug 'in your control', meaning for example on your person, in your car, or in your house, even if you're not aware that it's a controlled substance.

SUPPLY

To give the drug to someone else, whether or not payment is made.

PRODUCE

To make a drug, or allow someone else to produce a drug in a property where you live or that you manage. The crime of growing cannabis plants is known as 'cultivation'.

What are the consequences of breaking the law?

Courts can decide whether to give a prison sentence as well as, or instead of, a fine:

Consequence Class A:

Possess: 7 years

Supply: Life

Produce: Life

Consequence Class B:

Possess: 5 years

Supply: 14 years

Produce: 14 years

Consequence Class C:

Possess: 2 years

Supply: 14 years

Produce: 14 years

Help, advice and how to keep safe

Have a conversation with your child about how they can keep themselves safe. You can find some tips here:

[Children and drugs - NSPCC](#)

Speak to them about what to do if they feel pressured into taking drugs:

- If they're offered or given any type of drug, then don't take it
- Encourage any friends or other young people not to take the drug
- Tell a trusted adult that someone has offered them drugs
- If they or another person takes a drug and they feel unwell, seek urgent medical advice

Find out more by visiting the following websites

[What are the UK drug laws? – DrugWise](#)

[Honest information about drugs - talktofrank.com](#)

[Drink and Drugs - Facts & Information - The Mix](#)



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 Spring Term

Date	Event
Thursday 12 March 2026	Year 10 Parents Evening 3.45 – 6.45pm (in-person event)
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