



Parent Bulletin

Principal **Dr A T Fowler**

Issue 33: w/c Monday 8 June 2026 – Week 2

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you enjoyed the half-term break. The weather was unusually warm and sunny for the late May bank holiday, and we were fortunate that it stayed warm all week.

The record-breaking heat, however, had some severe downsides. Like many of you, I'm sure, I was shocked and saddened to hear of the deaths of so many young people from drowning during that week. Although the air was hot, the temperature of the open water in our rivers and lakes was still very cold.

Last year, with the help of Lucas, one of our sixth form leaders, I led assemblies for all year groups on the topic of water safety. Lucas is a lifeguard at Birtley Community Pool. He was able to tell our students about his part in saving the lives of a young father and his children, who had got into trouble in the water.

I explained the science of cold water shock – where even strong swimmers and fit young people are unable to cope with the effect of sudden immersion in cold water – and I outlined some strategies that young people can adopt if they find themselves getting into trouble in water. The Royal Life Saving Society has some excellent information for young people and their families: see for instance [Water Safety for Teenagers | Royal Life Saving Society UK \(RLSS UK\)](#) Please take some time to investigate these materials and discuss water safety with your child.

Can your child swim? According to information from Sport England, around a quarter of children nationally swam last week. Unfortunately, however, swimming is a real marker of inequality. Sport England (2022) reported that, while 86% of children from better-off families could swim by the time they left primary school, this figure was only 42% for children from socially disadvantaged backgrounds.

I am delighted to be able to tell you that, during the summer holidays, Birtley Community Pool has decided to offer pool sessions at the junior swim price of £3.30 per session – which is normally for children between 4 and 15 years old – to include young people who are aged between 16 and 19. This offer covers all public swimming times except for the inflatable fun sessions. Matthew Grant, from Birtley Community Pool, said to me that, “We hope this will encourage more young people from this age group to swim in a safe indoor pool environment rather than in open water. This could also be an opportunity for them to improve their confidence and skills in the water.” Thanks to everyone at Birtley Community Pool for making this offer. It could save your child's life.

With all best wishes,

Yours faithfully

Dr Andrew Fowler
Principal

A Parents' Guide to University

Is your child considering university? Do you want to support them but you don't know where to begin? UniTasterDays.com have compiled a comprehensive guide to support parents' in supporting their children.

The guide contains information about everything from open days to student finance. There are a lot of open days at Universities across the country this summer, and this guide is a great place for you to start.

The guide is attached to this announcement and can also be found on the parent section of our website, within the parent bulletin area, and can be accessed via the link below:

[A Parents' Guide to University](#)

Mrs B Goodacre
Acting Deputy Head of Sixth Form

Maths Success

A number of our students participated in the OSMC (Online Simulated Maths Challenge) last half term. This is a worldwide competition.

The students did amazingly well, with particular success and congratulations to Miranda Edworthy who achieved OSMC Elitist status. This means that Miranda scored in the top 15% of this worldwide competition.

Well done, Miranda, this is a fabulous achievement!

Mrs D Jackson
Subject Leader - Mathematics

Parent Partnership

Parent partnership is important to us as a school, and as such, I am delighted to advise you that our Parent Partnership Forum will be starting soon.

This forum plays an important role in building a strong partnership between home and school. We firmly believe that working together helps us create a strong foundation that supports and prepares your child for success.

In previous partnership meetings, we have reviewed parents' evenings, the use of praise through ClassCharts, how homework is set and accessed, and how we communicate effectively with parents.

Our initial Parent Partnership meetings will take place on Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17 June. Both meetings will be online via MS Teams and will start at 4:15pm on both evenings. The focus for both of these meetings will be to gather your thoughts on the parents' evenings that take place throughout the academic year. We will also provide an update on Character Education and discuss how an effective partnership between home and school can support the development of your child's character.

If you would like to be part of the working group or attend the meetings, please use the link provided below to register your interest, or copy the URL into your internet browser. We warmly welcome all parents and carers to get involved, as your thoughts and experiences are highly valued. Your feedback helps us to continually improve the quality of education we provide.

[Parental Partnership Sign-up – Fill in form](#)

https://forms.cloud.microsoft/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=-oP0GRA_l0eccizjeE1wu05_pHXeZbBCp62AFzKRHoBUQjdRQzdBQTJHQk5FNE5ERDIEWkdYS1daWS4u&route=shorturl

We hope that many of you will join us one of the meeting days.

Mr D Cave
Assistant Principal



Performing Arts Updates

Performing Arts London West End Theatre Educational Visit – July 2026

On Wednesday 10 June, Miss Brown and Mrs Wilson will be hosting a parent and student information evening for all students who are attending the London West End Theatre visit in July. The meeting will begin at 5.30pm and is expected to end at 6pm. Mrs Wilson will meet all parents at the main reception door and direct you to the meeting venue. Please ensure you arrive for a prompt 5.30pm start.

Thank you for your continued support toward this educational visit and we look forward to meeting with you all on 10 June.

This is Rambert: Theatre Royal Educational Visit – Tuesday 16 June

On Tuesday 16 June, 30 of our Dance students will be attending the Theatre Royal, Newcastle, to watch Rambert Dance Company perform their centenary celebration production: This is Rambert. This is a highly exciting opportunity for students, particularly our A Level Dance students who study Rambert as part of their A Level studies. Students must meet at the academy reception at 6.15pm on Tuesday 16 June to ensure prompt departure from the academy to the Theatre Royal.

Year 7 and 8 Dance Club: Monday lunchtime – 12.45pm in the Dance Studio (PA13)

A new Dance Club has launched and will run every Monday lunchtime until the end of the academic year. This opportunity will be led by our current Year 9 Dance Leaders as part of their Dance Leader qualification. All Lord Lawson dancers are welcome and this is a great opportunity for those students who would love to participate in dance within school but are unable to commit to our provision of after school extra-curricular activities. Activity passes are available from Miss Brown.

For more information about any of the above Performing Arts events please email me directly at sbrown@lordlawson.academy and I will be happy to support you.

Miss Brown

Subject Leader Performing Arts

United Against Knife Crime

This week it was confirmed that the Football Foundation has provided a grant of £868,000 to fund a 3G pitch, which will be built in Gateshead, in memory of Tomasz Oleszak, who sadly was a victim of knife crime and passed away in 2022.

Although Tomasz didn't attend Lord Lawson, many members of our school community were close to him. We are proud to have raised almost £3,000 in recent years through the delivery of charity football matches organised by his friends in his memory.

Tomasz will always be remembered by the school community of Lord Lawson.

For further information about the grant and how the pitch will be used for a variety of purposes please visit the following link: [Tomasz Oleszak](#)

Mr L Cumiskey

Year Leader – Year 10

In The Loop

The next In The Loop meeting will take place at lunchtime on Wednesday 10 June in MA21.

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'.

We meet once a half term in MA21. The group is open to any student with a hearing loss. 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



Acts of Kindness

Acts of Kindness are being recognised and rewarded each week at Lord Lawson. Staff and students are nominating individuals who have acted kindly towards them or others. Certificates will be awarded each week in assembly and all recipients will receive a reward.

Please reach out either to Ms Houghton, Anti-Bullying Lead, Year Teams or Tutors with your nominations.

This could be for anything you consider an act of kindness including: someone going above and beyond to be helpful, cheering someone up, being a particularly good friend or volunteering for a school event.

If you choose to be anything....choose to be kind.

Ms H Houghton
Anti-Bullying Lead



Pride Week

Next week as a school we will be celebrating Pride Month with our very own Pride Week.

As part of the activities, students will be able to collect a Pride sticker from their tutor to wear, to show support for Pride and for equality and diversity for all. They will have an assembly which was created with the help of our Pride Group, and a Theme of the Week centred around Pride, as well as cross-curricular links in lesson time. We look forward to celebrating Pride as an academy.

Miss C Bramley

Subject Leader – Personal Development



Open Water Safety Campaign

The Open Water Safety campaign, organised by Tom Dean Swim School, is specifically targeted at secondary school students.

They have created a safety awareness video – which is quite hard-hitting – and is a timely reminder considering the number of incidents in recent weeks where children have drowned in open water in the UK. If you would like to view the video, you can do so by copying and pasting the link at the end of this message into your internet browser.

To support the water safety campaign, our friends at Birtley Community Pool are offering their junior swim price of £3.30 per session, which is normally for children aged between 4 and 15 years old, to young people who are aged between 16 and 19 during the summer holidays. This offer covers **all** public swimming times, with the exception of any of the inflatable fun sessions. It is their hope that this offer will encourage more young people from this age group to swim in a safe indoor pool environment, rather than taking unnecessary risks by swimming in on open water. This could also be an opportunity for them to improve their water skills and confidence.

https://drive.usercontent.google.com/download?id=14MIBuc4XEnc42ULDew_AeCnalfHtWl&export=download&authuser=0

Mrs S J Wakefield
Office Manager

Online Safety Newsletter

June 2026

Pinterest

You need to be at least 13 years old to use Pinterest.

Pinterest is a social media app, where users can share images and videos (called Pins). Users can browse through the images based on their stated interests, for example cooking. Users can then 'pin' (save) these images to their own boards to revisit.

There is content on Pinterest that is not suitable for young people to see. Also, did you know that there is a messaging element to it, so your child could be interacting with strangers? Therefore, if your child is using Pinterest, it is important to show your child how to use the blocking and reporting tools. You can find out more information, including how to set up parental controls here: <https://help.pinterest.com/en/article/resources-for-parents-and-caregivers-of-teens>

Find out more here: <https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/what-is-pinterest-what-parents-need-to-know/>

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

Online Scams

It is important to be aware that scammers can target your child whilst online through social media, messaging apps and games. These scams often look genuine, and children may not have the digital literacy skills to question their authenticity. This can happen across lots of platforms that your child is accessing, for example Roblox or TikTok.

Scams can include:

- Offering in game currency.
- Befriending your child, which can then lead to requests for money or account details/personal information.
- Phishing links, with the intention of sharing malware or requesting account details/personal information.

What can I do?

It is important to have regular conversations with your child about what they are doing online and remind them to:

- Never share passwords or verification codes.
- Speak to you or another trusted adult if they are unsure about anything.
- Ensure appropriate parental controls and privacy settings are in place.
- Talk to your child about the different scams that can appear online and remind your child to check links before clicking on them.
- Remind your child that if they do think that they have been scammed, then to tell you straightaway.

Further information

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/how-deal-online-scams-parent-guide>



Digital Footprints

When we go online, we create a digital footprint, which is a record of what we do online. This can be by visiting websites, sharing photos, liking or commenting on other people's posts or playing games. It is important that children are aware of the digital footprint that they are creating and the lasting effect it can have. Childline provides further information about digital footprints, including advice on how to protect our privacy online:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/taking-care-your-digital-footprint/>

Risks of Auto saving

Does your child use the likes of WhatsApp, which may automatically download any image/video that is sent to them to their phone's own camera roll? We would advise switching this feature off.

Children may receive lots of photos/videos, particularly within group chats, that they have not requested. If auto download is allowed, then your child does not have control over what is being saved to their camera roll. Potentially, it may also be content that you would not want your child to have saved. Additionally, from a safeguarding perspective, if everything is automatically downloaded to your child's camera roll, it can become difficult to ascertain the source of the image.

How can I disable this feature?

If your child is using a platform that allows this, then there is usually an option to disable this feature, so your child has control over the images saved to their device. The option to disable will be within the settings of the App, here is how to do this on WhatsApp:

- In WhatsApp, go to settings (click on 'You' in the bottom right).
- Click on 'Chats'.
- Toggle 'Save to Photos' to off.



"Retro – Photos with Friends" App

This is a photo sharing app, and it is rated as 13+ by the App store. The aim of the app is users share their photos with close friends only, like a photo journal. Whilst it is marketed as a safer alternative to other social media apps, you do need to be aware of the following:

- Privacy and data access.
- It does include group chats so there is still the potential for cyberbullying and peer pressure.
- Users may feel safer sharing images as it is with close friends, but content can still be shared with others (through screenshots).

If your child is using this app, make sure you check that privacy settings are set up appropriately.

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date released 01.06.26. 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

Deepfake content

Deepfake content, also known as synthetic media, is computer generated content that looks and sounds real. Deepfake content can be used to spread misinformation, used in scams, or used to cause upset to others. It can be difficult to spot, so it is important to be aware of it.

Find out more here:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/topics/synthetic-media-deepfake/>

Emoji Meanings

Did you know that some children and young people may be using emojis to mean something completely different? For example, a cap emoji may be used to represent a lie. It is important that you are aware of how emojis can be used and keep up to date with the way in which they can be used as their meanings are changeable. You can find out further information here:

<https://www.bark.us/blog/emoji-slang-guide/>

Omoggle

Omoggle is an online platform that is for adults only. However, you can simply lie and say you are over 18 to access it. The platform joins two strangers together and uses AI to rate their appearances in a "mog battle."

As you are paired up with a stranger and can see and hear them, there are serious safeguarding concerns and **young people should not be accessing this site.** Find out more here:

<https://www.waynedenner.com/omoggle-parent-guide/>

BIRTLEY'S GOT
TALENT
AUDITIONS

★
AT BIRTLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE

★ **THURSDAY 28TH MAY 4.30PM**

★ **FRIDAY 29TH MAY 12PM OR 2PM**

★ **SATURDAY 30TH MAY 3PM OR 6PM**

★ **SATURDAY 6TH JUNE 3PM OR 6PM**

HOW TO ENQUIRE OR BOOK YOUR AUDITION SLOT:



Send us a
Facebook message



Call the office on
01914102343



Email
admin@
birtleycommunitycentre.co.uk

★ **THE MAIN LIVE SHOW WILL BE HELD IN**
AUGUST DATE TBC ★

★
ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS
PAYING FOR A NEW INTERCOM SYSTEM

Thank you for supporting our community!

BIRTLEY'S GOT
TAL★**LENT**
AUDITIONS
DATES

SATURDAY
6TH JUNE

3PM - 4PM

OR

6PM - 7PM

SUNDAY
14TH JUNE

3PM - 4PM



CAN'T MAKE IT?
SEND IN A
VIDEO AUDITION!

EMAIL YOUR VIDEO TO
admin@birtleycommunitycentre.co.uk



AT BIRTLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE



CASH PRIZE
FOR THE
WINNER!



ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO
TOWARDS HELPING
BIRTLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE
INSTALL A NEW
INTERCOM SYSTEM



OPEN TO
ALL AGES!



SING, DANCE, PERFORM, ENTERTAIN - WE WANT TO SEE YOUR TALENT!



DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE BIRTLEY'S NEXT BIG STAR?
WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU SHINE!

LORD LAWSON OF BEAMISH ACADEMY

Academic Year 2026 - 2027 Calendar

Autumn Term Begins	Tuesday 1 September 2026	Staff PD Day - Academy closed to all students
	Wednesday 2 September 2026	Academy opens for staff and ALL students
	Friday 23 October 2026	Last day of term - staff and students finish at 3.20 pm
Autumn Half Term	Saturday 24 October 2026 to Sunday 1 November 2026 inclusive	
Autumn Term Ends	Monday 2 November 2026	Academy opens for staff and all students
	Friday 18 December 2026	Last day of term - staff and students finish at 3.20 pm
	Christmas Holidays	
Saturday 19 December 2026 to Sunday 3 January 2027 inclusive		
	Monday 4 January 2027	Staff PD Day - Academy closed to all students
Spring Term Begins	Tuesday 5 January 2027	Academy opens for staff and all students
	Friday 12 February 2027	Last day of term - staff and students finish at 3.20 pm
	Spring Half Term	
Saturday 13 February 2027 to Sunday 21 February 2027 inclusive		
Spring Term Ends	Monday 22 February 2027	Academy opens for staff and all students
	Thursday 25 March 2027	Last day of term - staff and students finish at 3.20 pm
	Easter Holidays	
Saturday 27 March 2027 to Sunday 11 April 2027 inclusive		
Summer Term Begins	Monday 12 April 2027	Academy opens for staff and all students
Early May Bank Holiday	Monday 3 May 2027	Academy closed for staff and students
	Friday 28 May 2027	Last day of term - staff and students finish at 3.20 pm
Summer Half Term	Saturday 29 May 2027 to Sunday 6 June 2027 inclusive	
Summer Term Ends	Monday 7 June 2027	Academy opens for staff and all students
	Friday 16 July 2027	Last day of term - staff and students finish at 3.20 pm
	Summer Holidays	
	* Good Friday 26 March 2027	** Return to school date Monday 6 September 2027 tbc

Year 11 Summer Exam Series: Revision and Exam Schedule – w/c Monday 8 June 2026

Timings	Monday 8 June	Tuesday 9 June	Wednesday 10 June	Thursday 11 June	Friday 12 June
08:00-08:40 Independent revision	Biology (paper 2) - Foundation/Higher PY36 - Miss Nicholson Combined Science (Synergy Paper 3) - Foundation/Higher 11y2: Miss Bramley SC29 11y3: Mr Croucher SC28 11y4: Mrs Long SC26 11y5: Miss Craig SC27 11x1: Dr Dale SC20 11x2: Mrs Falconer SC21 11x3: Mr Blair SC25 11x4: Mr Boxall SC23 11x5: Miss Craig SC27	Japanese - independent revision	Mathematics (paper 3&6) - Foundation/Higher MA20 - Miss Seddon MA21 - Mrs Green MA22 - Mrs Barras MA23 - Miss Scully MA24 - Mr Hunter MA25 - Mrs Jackson MA26 - Mr Robertson MA27 - Miss Cassidy MA28 - Mr Bramham MA29 - Mrs Hulme	Geography (paper 3) GG35 - Mr Surtees GG32 - Mrs Connor GG33 - Dr Winstanley	Chemistry (paper 2) - Foundation/Higher SC21 - Miss Falconer Combined Science (Synergy Paper 4) - Foundation/Higher 11y2: Miss Bramley SC29 11y3: Mr Croucher SC28 11y4: Mrs Long SC26 11y5: Miss Craig SC27 11x1: Mrs Dann SC22 11x2: Mrs Falconer SC21 11x3: Mr Blair SC25 11x4: Mrs Long SC26 11x5: Dr Dale SC20
08:40-08:55 Guided revision					
Pre-exam arrangements	08:55-09:00 Line up outside exam 09:00-09:02 Exam tips talk 09:02-09:05 Enter exam hall 09:05-09:10 Exam talk by invigilator				
09:10 - Exam start	Physics (paper 1) - Foundation/Higher - 105/132 mins (24/3) Combined Science (Synergy Paper 1) - Foundation/Higher - 105/132 mins (139/41)	Japanese (writing) - 85 mins (1/0) Spanish (listenign/reading) - 105 mins (2/0)	Mathematics (paper 3 and 6) - Foundation/Higher - 90/113 mins (170/47) Foundation - 94/39 Higher - 76/6	Geography (paper 3) - 90/113 mins (65/15)	Chemistry (paper 2) - Foundation/Higher - 105/132 mins (24/3) Combined Science (Synergy Paper 4) - Foundation/Higher - 105/132 mins (139/41)
10:10-10:30 - Break					
Arrangements after exam	105 mins - Go to café for late break (10:55 - 11:30) for the remainder of P2. 132 mins - Go to café for late break (11:25 - 11:45) then go to the remainder of P3.	80 mins - Go to café for late break (10:30 - 10:50) and then to the remainder of P2. 105 mins - Go to café for late break (10:55 - 11:30) for the remainder of P2.	90 mins - Go to café for late break (10:40 - 11:00) and then to the remainder of P2. 113 mins - Go to café for late break (11:03 - 11:30) for the remainder of P2.	90 mins - To go to the remainder of P5. 113 mins - To go to the year base for the remainder of P5.	105 mins - Go to café for late break (10:55 - 11:30) for the remainder of P2. 132 mins - Go to café for late break (11:25 - 11:45) then go to the remainder of P3.
11:30-12:15 Revision session (changes to P3)	Further Mathematics (paper 1) - Room tbc	Construction TE14: Mr Walsh TE13: Mrs Nethercott	Greek (listening/reading) - independent revision - year 11 base	N/A	Portuguese & Persian - Independent revision - Year 11 base Hosp and Catering FD11: Miss Bowman FD15: Mrs Nethercott Dance (written) Room tbc
12:15-12:57 Lunch					
Pre-exam arrangements	13:00-13:05 Line up outside exam 13:05-13:07 Exam tips talk 13:07-13:10 Enter exam hall 13:10-13:20 Exam invigilator talk				
13:10 - Exam start	Further Mathematics (paper 1) - 105 mins (4/0)	Construction - 90/113 mins (10/10)	Greek (listening/reading) - 105 mins (1/0)	N/A	Portuguese (writing) - 80 mins (1/0) Persian (writing) - 85 mins (1/0) Hosp & Catering - 80/100 mins (28/11) Dance (written) - 90/113 mins (12/2) Hosp and Catering - 80 mins (1/0) Dance - 90 mins (1/0) (2:50)
Arrangements after exam	105 mins - To go to the year base for the remainder of P5	90 mins - To go to the remainder of P5. 113 mins - To go to the year base for the remainder of P5.	105 mins - To go to the year base for the remainder of P5	N/A	80/85/90 mins - To go to the remainder of P5. 100/113 mins - To go to the year base for the remainder of P5 2:50 - To leave site
Supervising staff		Mathematics (paper 3&6) - Foundation/Higher MA20 - Miss Seddon MA21 - Mrs Green MA22 - Mrs Barras MA23 - Miss Scully MA24 - Mr Hunter MA25 - Mrs Jackson MA26 - Mr Robertson MA27 - Miss Cassidy MA28 - Mr Bramham MA29 - Mrs Hulme	Geography (paper 3) GG35 - Mr Surtees GG32 - Mrs Connor GG33 - Dr Winstanley	Chemistry (paper 2) - Foundation/Higher SC21 - Miss Falconer Combined Science (Synergy Paper 4) - Foundation/Higher Rooms ybc	Physics (paper 2) SC22 - Mrs Dann

Calendar Dates and Upcoming Events for the Summer Term

Date	Event
Friday 1 May to Wednesday 24 June	GCSE and A Level external exams
Thursday 25 June	New Intake Parents Evening for students joining us in year 7 in September 2026
Saturday 27 June	Year 13 Prom – As You Like It, Jesmond
Tuesday 30 June to Wednesday 1 July	Transition days for students joining us in year 7 in September
Wednesday 1 to Friday 3 July	Year 9 – Lockerbie Educational Visit
Monday 6 to Friday 10 July	Year 12 Work Experience
Monday 6 July	Staff professional development day – academy open to staff only
Monday 6 July	Year 7 Awards Evening – 5.30 to 6.30pm (Please note this is a training Day for staff and students will NOT be in school during the day. They must attend the evening in full uniform)
Tuesday 7 July	Year 8 Awards Evening – 5.30 to 6.30pm
Wednesday 8 July	Year 9 Awards Evening – 5.30 to 6.30pm
Thursday 9 July	Year 10 Awards Evening – 5.30 to 6.30pm
Friday 10 July	Year 11 Prom - Ramside Hall, Durham
Monday 13 July	Year 12 Awards Evening – 5.30 to 6.30pm
Tuesday 14 to Wednesday 15 July	London Theatre Educational Visit
Wednesday 15 July	Sports Day – Whole school
Friday 17 July	Last day of term for staff and students – school finishes as normal at 3.20pm for summer holidays
Tuesday 1 September 2026	Staff professional development day – academy open to staff only
Wednesday 2 September 2026	Staff and students return to school at 8.40am