



Parent Bulletin

Principal **Dr A T Fowler**

Issue 35: w/c Monday 22 June 2026 – Week 2

Dear Parents and Carers

Today we said a fond goodbye to our Year 13 students. Many of these young people have been with us at Lord Lawson since Year 7. I first met many of them – and you, their parents and carers – at the new parents' information evening in late June 2019, within my first week at the school. As a result, I feel a special bond with this year group, as we have grown together through our shared experience of Lord Lawson.

These students have witnessed the full journey of improvement at the school, and they have benefited from the strong academic and pastoral support we continue to provide.

In my message to our Year 13 leavers, I encouraged them to keep in touch – with their friends, with our staff, and with the school. These relationships have supported them at every stage of their journey so far and, alongside your continued support as families, will remain important as they move on to the next chapter of their lives. Our school vision – that together we grow, learn and succeed – extends beyond their time at Lord Lawson, and we are committed to maintaining these connections.

With this in mind, I am delighted to introduce a new initiative. All Year 13 students have been invited to return to school for afternoon tea in December, approximately six months after leaving. For some, this will coincide with the end of their first term at university or college; for others, it will mark their first few months in employment or apprenticeships. We will also invite our new Year 12 students, who will be completing their first term in the sixth form. We look forward to welcoming our Year 13 leavers back, hearing about their experiences, and providing an opportunity for them to share their insights with our current students.

Meanwhile, Year 10 students have begun their trial examinations, with their first full-cohort examination (Science) taking place on Monday. A full schedule is included in this bulletin. It has been very encouraging to see so many students make a positive start to their revision. We would greatly appreciate your support at home in helping them prepare. Revision is most effective when completed in short, focused sessions, with a clear plan in place. Please also support your child in maintaining good routines, including a full night's sleep and a healthy breakfast each morning. We wish all Year 10 students every success in these examinations.

Finally, a reminder that Monday 6 July is a staff training day, and the school will be closed to students.

With all best wishes,

Yours faithfully

Dr Andrew Fowler
Principal

Goodbye Year 13: Good Luck – We Will Miss You All!



Thank a Teacher Day

This week, our school community joined schools across the UK in celebrating National Thank a Teacher Day. This annual event is an important opportunity to recognise the dedication, care, and hard work of everyone who supports our young people each day.

We were delighted to see so many students and families take the time to share messages of appreciation. Whether through kind words, cards or simple gestures, these messages mean a great deal to our staff and highlight the positive relationships that make our school such a special place.

Thank a Teacher Day reminds us that education is a collective effort. From teachers and teaching assistants to support staff working behind the scenes, every member of our team plays a vital role in helping students grow in confidence, character, and achievement. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all colleagues for their continued commitment and to our families for their ongoing support.

Mr I Cooper
Deputy Principal

Final Young Carers of 2026

The next, and final, Young Carers drop in of this academic year will be on Wednesday 24 June in the conference room at the bottom of the Technology corridor.

If you think your child is an unidentified young carer in school, i.e., they assist with the care of a family member who lives in their home, and you would like further support for them, please email me at mglass@lordlawson.academy and I will be happy to help.

Mrs M Glass
Cover Supervisor and Young Carer Coordinator



A Level and GCSE Results Days – 2026

Year 13: Thursday 13 August 2026 – results will be available for students to collect in the main hall from **8:30am**. Staff will be on hand to celebrate the hard work of our students, and to give advice and support around destinations for Higher Education and beyond Lord Lawson.

Year 11: Thursday 20 August 2026 – results will be available in the main hall from **9am**. Staff will be on hand to celebrate the hard work of our year 11 students.

There will be Sixth Form staff available to enrol year 11 students into Lord Lawson sixth form. Staff from our Careers Team will also be on hand to offer advice beyond life at Lord Lawson.

Mrs J Laidlaw
Assistant Principal – Head of Sixth Form

Year 10: Mock Examinations

Year 10 students have begun their mock examinations this week, with students undertaking their Drama and their Hospitality and Catering examinations. Students have conducted themselves brilliantly so far. The next mock will be Science on Monday 22 June. The timetable for the remainder of the mock examinations can be found later in the bulletin.

Students can access revision materials online on the ClassCharts App, as well as accessing hard copies of resources from the year base. Many students have already collected additional revision materials. Students/parents are encouraged to contact classroom teachers or the year team for support if required. of Mr Cumiskey and Miss Harrison team for support.

Attending school daily, home learning and a strong work ethic have never been more important for our year 10 students than now, as they begin their preparations for year 11.

We continue to be extremely proud of the year group and both me and Miss Harrison urge our students to embrace the challenging yet exciting opportunity of mock examinations.

Mr Cumiskey
Year Leader

Miss Harrison
Deputy Year Leader

Maths Challenge Kangaroo

Huge congratulations to Matilda Larkham, Caleb Dunlavy and Kane Simpson who were selected to take part in the follow-on round of the Junior Maths Challenge.

This is a nationwide competition for those that excelled at the previous round - hence the level of questions were much more challenging for those taking part.

Matilda achieved Bronze, Caleb narrowly missed out on Bronze and Kane scored well but did not place.

Well done to all three of you! You did yourselves, the school and the maths department proud.

Mr L Robertson and the Maths Department

Summer Savings for Families

The Great British Summer Savings scheme is running from 25 June to 1 September 2026, helping families feel a bit less squeezed this summer.

The new scheme includes reduced VAT on days out, including tickets at attractions like soft play, adventure centres and theme parks, children's tickets for theatres and cinemas, and children's meals in restaurants. Children aged 5 to 15 in England will also be able to travel free on local bus services throughout August.

For further information about the scheme visit [Summer Savings](#). If helpful, please share this with parents, carers, and families through your usual channels.

This is in addition to further support available to families, with more information available at [Cost of Living Help](#).

Ms L Doran
Business Manager



Year 8: Careers Day

On Tuesday 14 July, all of our year 8 students will be off timetable for a career's day. The students have been busy preparing in tutor time for the event, which will involve students making their own detailed business plans, creating products, and designing activities.

In the afternoon they will then host their own market stall, competing against their peers to raise money for Children In Need. For the market stall students can bring in cash, no more than £5, and they will be able to purchase items or compete in the activities on offer. Alternatively, they will have access to a QR card to use with bank cards to enable them to purchase tokens to spend.

To further support the day and our students, we are looking for parents/carers to support this enrichment day. If any parents, family, or friends work in business, we would appreciate your support on the day in the form of 'business advisers'. These volunteers will be our 'experts in business' and provide fantastic support in the classroom-based activities in the morning, 9.10am to 12.30pm. If you or someone you know are able to support this careers enrichment day, please email me at: Jlaidlaw@lordlawson.academy

Mrs J Laidlaw
Assistant Principal – Head of Sixth Form and Whole School Careers Lead

Changes to Year 7 Pastoral Team Contact Details

From Monday 22 June, Mr Rayner and Mrs Clarke will take over the pastoral care of our year 7 students, in readiness for their progress into year 8 in September.

Any calls for the year team will be directed to Mr Rayner and Mrs Clarke. Their contact details are:

Year Leader – Mr Rayner: arayner@lordlawson.academy
Extension 206

Deputy Year Leader – Mrs Clarke: jclarke1@lordlawson.academy
Extension 301

Mrs Jacobson and Miss Cooper's focus for the remainder of this term will be the transition of our new cohort of year 7 students in September.

Mr Rayner
Year 11 Leader

Changes to Free School Meal (FSM) Entitlement

If your child already receives benefit related Free School Meals, the FSM team at Gateshead Council will automatically review your eligibility over the summer: **you do not need to take any action at this time.** However, it is very important that families who could qualify to apply for Targeted Free School Meals, do so as soon as possible.

If you are in receipt of Universal Credit, you may be entitled to targeted free school meals. Even if you have not previously qualified for benefit related free school meals, you are strongly encouraged to apply or reapply, as many families will now be eligible, so please ensure you apply now.

How to Apply

You can apply in any of the following ways:

- Online via the council website: <https://myservice.gateshead.gov.uk/housing-benefit-forms/apply-for-free-school-meals/>
- By phone: 0191 433 3729
- By completing a paper application form

Applying is quick and could make a significant difference, so we strongly encourage all eligible families to check and apply.

If you have any questions or need support completing the form, please contact main reception.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Louise Doran
Business Manager

FREE Family Fun Day

North East Diversity Education and Solidarity (NEDES) are holding a Refugee Week Family Fun Day, on Saturday 20 June at Gateshead Leisure Centre, NE8 4JA, from 11am to 2pm.

This free family event celebrates Refugee Week 2026. This year's theme; The Courage to Build Community Together, aims to bring people together through culture, creativity, learning and community engagement while celebrating diversity and inclusion.

Activities will include art workshops, Ebru, calligraphy, macramé, live music, cultural performances, maths games, science experiments, VR experiences, The Humanity Cartoon Exhibition and free light snacks.

Further information can be found on the flyer below.

Mrs S Wakefield
Office Manager

Year 10 Mock Examination Schedule


Date	Start time	Length	Exam
22/06/2026	9:10AM	105 minutes	BIOLOGY
23/06/2026	9:10AM	90 minutes	GEOGRAPHY
24/06/2026	9:10AM	105 minutes	ENGLISH LANGUAGE
25/06/2026	9:10AM	105 minutes	RELIGIOUS STUDIES
25/06/2026	9:10AM	120 minutes	HISTORY
25/06/2026	1:20PM	100 minutes	COMPUTER SCIENCE
26/06/2026	1:10PM	50 minutes	MATHS
29/06/2026	9:10AM	105 minutes	ENGLISH LITERATURE
29/06/2026	1:20PM	75 minutes	FRENCH
29/6/2026	1:20PM	75 minutes	GERMAN
02/07/2026	9:10AM	80 minutes	HOSPITALITY AND CATERING
02/07/2026	9:10AM	105 minutes	CHEMISTRY
02/07/2026	1:20PM	45 minutes	MUSIC
02/07/2026	1:20PM	90 minutes	BUSINESS
03/07/2026	9:10AM	105 minutes	PHYSICS
03/07/2026	1:20PM	105 minutes	DRAMA
03/07/2026	1:20PM	105 minutes	RELIGIOUS STUDIES


2026 REFUGEE WEEK


FAMILY FUN DAY

The Courage to Build Community Together

Celebrate Refugee Week with a day full of fun, creativity, culture, and connection for the whole family!

 Art activities – artwork display, Ebru, Calligraphy, Macrame & more

 Live music and cultural performances

 Maths games and science experiments

 VR experiences and interactive fun

 Free light snacks for everyone

 The Humanity Cartoon Exhibition

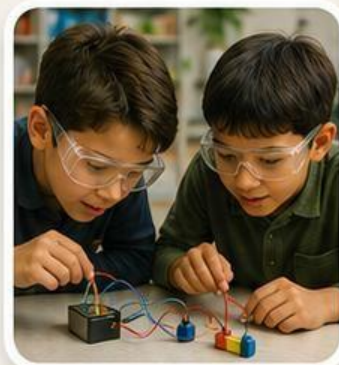
 And more!


SATURDAY
20 JUNE
2026



11:00
to
14:00



FREE LIGHT SNACKS
12:00
to
13:00

 **GATESHEAD LEISURE CENTRE**
Alexandra Road, Gateshead NE8 4JA
Free entry • Everyone welcome!



Join the fun!

 Have fun, learn and connect!

 Be part of the cultural exchange – connect, share, and celebrate!

 Celebrate cultures and communities together!



**COURAGE!
COURAGE!
COURAGE!
COURAGE!**

COUNTERPOINTS

BLF FOOTBALL CAMP

in association with Jermain Defoe

Is your child aged between 5 & 14?
Do they love football?

Our football camps are designed specifically around the FA's 4 corner model, aimed to develop your child's physical, technical/tactical, psychological and social skills.

Delivered by UEFA licensed coaches and current Sport Lecturers.

FOCUSING ON:

- ✓ Skills & ball techniques
- ✓ Footwork Experiences
- ✓ Strategy & team building activities
- ✓ Fun games and tournaments

Dates:

21st, 22nd, 23rd July
28th, 29th, 30th July
4th, 5th, 6th August

East Durham College

Willerby Grove, Peterlee, SR8 2RN

Register at
www.bradleyloweryfoundation.com

Prices

£20 per day
£50 for 3 days

Times:

9:30AM to 3:30PM

Participants need:

Indoor & Outdoor Footwear,
Packed Lunch and a Drink.



BradleyLoweryFoundation®





BIRTLEY
COMMUNITY CENTRE

YOUTH CLUB

FOR
YOUNG
PEOPLE
AGED
12-18

**OPEN
SESSION!**

**THURSDAY
9TH JULY**


6PM - 8PM

COME ALONG AND SEE
WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER!




ALL ABSOLUTELY FREE!

BIRTLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE

 Ravensworth Road,
Birtley, DH3 1EN

 01914102343

 admin@birtleycommunitycentre.co.uk

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**FRIENDS.
FUN.
BELONGING.
YOUR SPACE.**



#BRIGHTENTHEDAY

Brighten The Day is back for the school Summer holidays!

It's funded fun and food in the holidays for children in years reception to Year 11.

Check your email on **Tuesday 23 June** (it could end up in your spam/junk folder so check there too) and click on your e-voucher to see what is on offer and make bookings.



 **HolidayActivities**

#BRIGHTENTHEDAY

Gateshead Council Holiday Activities
& Food Programme Summer 2026

If you need help booking you can contact the club provider with your **16 digit e-voucher code** or visit us at one of our in-person troubleshooting sessions.

Dates can be viewed at www.gateshead.gov.uk/BrightenSummer26 or flip over for online help and video guides.

This super quick video guide shows you how easy it is to make bookings:

www.gateshead.gov.uk/BTD-Booking-Guide



More than one child to book clubs for?

Here is the help you need:

www.gateshead.gov.uk/BTD-Multi-evouchers

In Year 9, 10 or 11? HAFplus is for you! Details at:
www.gateshead.gov.uk/HAFplus

You can email us at: BrightenTheDay@gateshead.gov.uk



Can't make a club you have booked?

Please let us know (even on the day) so another child can benefit.

BrightenTheDay@gateshead.gov.uk

#BRIGHTENTHEDAY

 **Gateshead Council**

#BRIGHTENTHEDAY

What is Brighten The Day?

It's funded fun and food in the holidays for children in years reception to year 11. There are clubs of all types, dance, arts and crafts, sports and mixed activities. There is something for everyone.

Please check your inbox for your e-voucher one month before each school holiday period. Brighten the Day operates over the Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays only. If it's not in your inbox, please check your junk/spam folder too. Once you have found your e-voucher, please click on it to see what's on offer and make bookings.

THE E-VOUCHER LOOKS LIKE THIS

What does your e-voucher get you?

Credits that allow you to book onto funded activity days across Gateshead. You can 'spend' them across several holiday clubs, you don't need to stick to just one.

All children who receive benefits-related free school meals will receive an e-voucher

You can also email us at: brightentheday@gateshead.gov.uk for booking help. All club providers can help you make your bookings too, just give them the 16 digit code at the bottom of your e-voucher.

This super quick video shows you how easy it is to make bookings:
www.gateshead.gov.uk/BTD-Booking-Guide



More than one child to book clubs for? Here's the help you need:
www.gateshead.gov.uk/BTD-Multi-Evouchers



TO FIND MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT

www.gateshead.gov.uk/brightentheday



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/>

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

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
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
Thursday 13 August	A level Results day (further information will be provided nearer the time)
Thursday 20 August	GCSE Results day (further information will be provided nearer the time)
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