



Parent Bulletin

Principal **Dr A T Fowler**

Issue 36: w/c Monday 29 June 2026 – Week 1

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a hot week! While not reaching the record-breaking temperatures seen in the south and the Midlands, it has certainly been warm for our area. I would like to begin by commending our students for their excellent conduct throughout the week, and to thank you for supporting them with water, sunscreen and even the occasional hat.

We ended the week with an unplanned fire evacuation, caused by some burnt toast in the cafeteria kitchen. Once again, the conduct of our students was exemplary. I often think you can tell a great deal about an organisation by how people respond to unexpected situations, and this was orderly, calm and efficient. It gives us strong confidence that, in the event of a genuine emergency, we would be able to keep all students and staff safe. We extended break time to compensate for the time taken during the evacuation, and students returned promptly to their usual routines.

On Wednesday 24 June, I marked seven years as Principal of Lord Lawson and began my eighth year in post. Thank you for your continued support and confidence, which have sustained both me and our staff as we work to improve the quality of education for all our students. Seven years ago today, our staff, students and governors co-created our vision: *Together we grow, learn and succeed*. This remains as powerful and relevant today as it was then and continues to guide us as we look ahead to the next stage of our development.

Yesterday evening, we welcomed our new Year 7 students and their parents and carers for transition meetings and an introduction to school life. Thank you to those of you who were able to attend. You will have heard familiar messages, including Mrs Jacobson outlining arrangements for the two Transition Days next week, details of which appear later in this bulletin.

The event also provided an opportunity for me to thank Mrs Jacobson for her outstanding contribution to Lord Lawson over many years. She will be retiring at the end of this academic year, and there will be more opportunities to recognise her exceptional service in due course. I was also delighted to introduce Mr Daniel Royal, who will join us in September as our new Year 7 Leader and Transition Coordinator.

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

With all best wishes,

Yours faithfully

Dr Andrew Fowler
Principal

• Trust

• Respect

• Courage

• Ambition



Chartwells

Schools

Cashless Payment System

We are pleased to inform parents and carers that from the start of the new academic year, following the summer holidays, our school meal service will move to a **fully cashless** payment system.

This change is designed to make the process of paying for school meals simpler, safer and more convenient for both families and the school.

What are the benefits for parents and carers?

- Convenient payments – Funds can be added to your child's meal account online at any time, without the need to send cash into school.
- Improved security – Removing cash from site reduces the risk of money being lost or misplaced.
- Easy account management – Parents can monitor balances and top up accounts quickly and securely on ParentPay.
- Faster service at lunchtime – Cashless transactions help to speed up queues, giving students more time to enjoy their lunch break.
- Reduced administration – The system reduces the handling of cash, allowing staff to focus more time on supporting students.

What do you need to do?

Further information about setting up and accessing the online payment system will be shared via ClassCharts with all parents and carers before September. We encourage all parents and carers to familiarise themselves with the system ahead of the new school year to ensure a smooth transition.

Ms L Doran
Business Manager

Transition Days: Tuesday 30 June and Wednesday 1 July 2026

It was fantastic to meet so many parents, carers and students at our New Intake Evening in school last night. I hope that you learned a lot of new information about our school and what your children can expect when they join us in year 7 on Wednesday 2 September 2026.

At last night's event you will have received an envelope of information which included:

- Login details for parents and students for their ClassChart accounts and information on how to access ClassCharts
- Information about My Child at School (MCAS)
- ParentPay login details – especially important with our move to a fully cashless system for purchasing food in school that comes into effect in September
- Musical tuition information
- Confirmation of tutor group allocation

For anyone who was unable to attend last night's event, the information envelopes will be handed to your child on the first day of transition next week. Tutor group information will be confirmed via email before then assuming you have provided us with your contact details by returning your transition pack.

Next week transition takes place across two days: Tuesday and Wednesday. Students will meet me and the year 7 Tutor team between 8.30 and 8.40am on the astro turf – they will be guided to the correct place when they come into school. Students must wear their primary school uniform.

If your child is absent on either of the transition days, you must contact us and not your child's primary school, by contacting us by no later than 8am on the day on: 0191 433 4026, selecting option 1 or extension 359, or via email to: studentabsence@lordlawson.academy.

A reminder that students are required to bring the following equipment for both days: pen, pencil, ruler, refillable water bottle – not glass – trainers, £3 per day dinner money or a packed lunch (we suggest £6 dinner money to be brought to school to upload to their account on Tuesday 30 June) and, if required, bus money. (Please provide your child with separate bus and dinner money, as we do not have a change facility in school).

Any money remaining on a student account at the end of transition will not be refunded but will remain on their account until they start with us in September.

Please note: any child receiving Free School Meals (FSM) at their primary school will receive this at Lord Lawson during both of the Transition days.

The whole of the year 7 team are very excited to meet all of our new year 7 students next week and it is our hope that they are just as excited to meet us.

Mrs A Jacobson
Year 7 Leader and Transition Coordinator

Quad Kids Athletics

Year 7/8 Quad Kids Athletics Tuesday 23rd June @ Monkton Stadium

On Tuesday this week, 16 of our students from years 7 and 8, battled against the energy sapping conditions to participate in a multi-event athletics competition at Monkton stadium. Our students competed against others from 10 schools from across Gateshead and South Tyneside.

All students participated in 4 events:

100m
800m
howler throw
long jump

To compete in all four events was a testament to the students' determination and resilience. All students deserve congratulations for their performances. Three students managed to finish in the top 3 in their respective individual competitions:

Ava Tweedie (Y7 Girls 1st place), Marley Coates-Donagan (Y8 Boys 2nd place) and Lloyd Jones (Y7 Boys 3rd place).

In the team competition the Y7 combined total of 1455 points meant they just missed out on the medals; finishing fourth and the Y8 combined total of 1495 points saw them finish fifth. A huge well done to all of our students, not only for their individual performances, but also for the manner in which they conducted themselves throughout the day, encouraging their team mates, and for showing gratitude and respect towards the officials at all times. Well done!

Y7 Team:

Lloyd Jones
Jotham Muguti
Jake Nicholson
Joey Dickson
Iona Maclean
Eva Baker
Ava Tweedie
Annabelle Cox

Y8 Team:

Marley Coates-Donagan
Thomas March
Daniel Graham
Louis Henry
Olivia Fiddes
Issy Bage
Madison Wilson
Danika Thomson

Mr D Wyllie
Teacher of PE

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 life 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.

Sixth Form staff will be 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



Kellogg's FREE Football Camps

Kellogg's are offering free places for children aged 7 to 14, at professionally run football camps led by FA-qualified coaches and delivered in partnership with the English Football League (EFL), Manchester City, Celtic FC and Rangers FC.

The sessions are designed to be fun, inclusive and confidence-building, helping children stay active, meet new friends and enjoy a positive, experience during the holidays. As well as giving children something to look forward to, they also provide a valuable free childcare option for families over the break, with supervised sessions taking place at a range of local clubs nationwide.

How to book your FREE place:

- 📍 Visit www.kelloggsfc.com on mobile
- 🔍 Find your local club
- 📞 Enter the code: **SCHOOL** and book a FREE day of football fun

*Please note: When booking asks you to enter a 'barcode', simply type the word **SCHOOL** into that box instead.*

Mrs S 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.knowsleycity.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
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