



Parent Bulletin

Principal **Dr A T Fowler**

Issue 38: w/c Monday 13 July 2026 – Week 1

Dear Parents and Carers

This week we launched our Character Education programme with staff on our professional development day. On Wednesday, we introduced it to year 7 students as a trial. The full programme will be launched with all students in our second week back in September.

Our programme of Character Education has been more than a year in the planning. We have involved staff across the academy, parents/carers and students. You may have been involved in one of the parental consultations we have held over the past year, in school, virtually or in our community. This letter also gives me an opportunity to recognise the progress that the staff team has already achieved, and to thank them all: Mrs Whittle, Ms Murray, Mrs McGregor, Mr Mahon, Mrs Kemp, Miss Hancill, Mr Dicocco, Mr Cumiskey, Mrs Connor, Mr Christos, Mr Cave, Miss Bramley and Mrs Bootes. Before leaving us at Easter, Miss Walker was also part of this team.

This programme has enormous potential to transform the lives of our students, now and in the future. I have always known that examination results are necessary, but not sufficient, both for students and for our school. We know that the best schools truly educate students by equipping them with opportunities to grow and develop in character as well as in knowledge. I know that parents and carers choose Lord Lawson not just for the excellent teaching your children receive, but also for our school culture. This programme of character education complements teaching by emphasising the whole child and their development. We are very excited about the transformational power of this initiative. Further details appear later in this bulletin.

You will have received from me via ClassCharts a letter about phone pouches, which will come into use in September. Thank you for taking the time to read and digest this information. Our students in years 7 to 10 all received the same message this morning in assemblies led by Mr Cooper and Mr Walsh.

It has been good to see high levels of attendance during this spell of hot weather. Thank you for working with us to make sure that our students continue to learn and to enjoy school even when the temperature rises. We are looking forward to next week, our last week of term, with our inclusive Sports Day on Wednesday. Mr Docherty, subject leader for PE, has included some useful reminders for students in this bulletin, about PE kit, water and sunscreen.

At the end of term, we will say goodbye to a few colleagues. On your behalf, I would like to thank Miss Falconer, Mrs Gray, Miss Mould, and Mr Utting, who are moving on to new opportunities. Mrs McCaugherty and Mr Crompton have also been with us for much of this academic year, and we thank them for their support. I am letting you know this week, in case you or your children want to offer personal thanks to our colleagues.

A very special thank you must go to Mrs Jacobson, Year 7 Leader and Transition Coordinator, who is retiring this summer. Mrs Jacobson is known to almost all parents, giving outstanding care to our students when they first start at Lord Lawson. We will miss her very much and we wish her a long and happy retirement.

Our academic year ends next Friday, 17 July. School will end at the usual time, 3:20pm, and buses will run as normal. We start again on Wednesday 2 September, with all year groups beginning together.

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully

Dr Andrew Fowler
Principal

Character Education

We would like to share some exciting developments for children at our school. Our Character Education programme seeks to praise, recognise and celebrate students when they take actions that demonstrate their character. An example is pictured.

Yesterday, two of our year 7 students, Annabelle and Jessica, decided they wished to help with our litter issues. They spoke to Mrs McGregor, our ever-helpful receptionist, who equipped them with litter pickers and Hi-Viz vests. Mr Dicocco joined them on their endeavour. Their actions embody the character trait: “At Lord Lawson we are **kind**”



As you can see in the second picture, their actions inspired others. Ayden, Kayden and Heidi asked staff how they could get involved. Their actions to join an existing movement demonstrate the character trait: “At Lord Lawson we **get involved**” These students are a credit to themselves, their families and to our school, and we very much hope and expect others to follow in their footsteps, perhaps end up running an eco or environmental club, helping out not just in our school but in the wider community.



When students display character like this, they will be recognised with a Character Award on ClassCharts. Parents and Carers of some students in year 7 will have seen these this week. Here are some examples:

At Lord Lawson we are **curious**

“Orianna and Erin completed some extra (challenging) homework (that I did not ask them to!) to try to work out how to create a % stacked bar graph. This shows a curious attitude, and we were able to discuss what they did in class and correct the process so we could all learn how to do these. Well done!”

At Lord Lawson we **work hard**

“Sienna has worked exceptionally hard throughout the entire year in Personal Development lessons. She always has her hand up to answer questions and works diligently to ensure her answers to questions are thoughtful and accurate. Sienna will always ask questions too, to further her learning, which helps both herself and peers to extend their knowledge. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with Sienna this year and I am sure she will continue to give 100% and develop her knowledge even further in Year 8. Well done, Sienna.”

It is truly an exciting time for us at Lord Lawson, as we grow, learn and succeed **together**.

These are early examples of recognition given for character traits. In my letters from now on, I will seek out and communicate practical examples of these traits in action. Here are images of all four character traits. All my colleagues at Lord Lawson look forward to working with you and with our community to develop and recognise excellent character in our students.



AI and Online Safety: Guidance for Parents and Carers

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming an increasingly common part of everyday life and many young people are engaging with AI-powered tools and content online. While AI offers many positive opportunities, it can also be misused to create, alter or share inappropriate images and videos of children. This constitutes child sexual abuse material (CSAM), which is illegal and can cause significant harm.

As parents and carers, hearing about these risks can be concerning. However, there are practical steps you can take to help keep your child safe online, many of which you may already have in place. Open conversations about online activity, regular reminders about safe and responsible behaviour and maintaining awareness of the apps and platforms your child uses can all make a positive difference.

To support families, the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) and the National Crime Agency (NCA) have produced a helpful guide explaining how AI can be misused, why this issue matters and what parents and carers can do to better protect children online. The guide can be accessed by following this link: [AI Guide for Parents and Carers](https://www.iwf.org.uk/media/eykfdnaz/ai-guidance-parents-carers-june-2026.pdf) or by copying and pasting the URL below into your internet browser.

<https://www.iwf.org.uk/media/eykfdnaz/ai-guidance-parents-carers-june-2026.pdf>

We encourage all parents and carers to take a few moments to read the guidance and continue the conversation with your children about staying safe online, at home.

Mr I Cooper
Deputy Principal

Performing Arts London Educational Visit: Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15 July 2026

Next week, 38 of our students will be taking part in a Performing Arts educational visit to London. During this visit students will be attending West End performances of Matilda and Wicked, as well as participating in a West End Workshop.

I would like to share some reminders for parents and carers of students who are attending the trip:

- On Tuesday 14 July, students must arrive to school by **6.20am**, to load their bags onto the coach and register their attendance
- The coach will depart from the school at **6.30am prompt**.
- Students should bring plenty of water and refreshments (no fizzy drinks or glass bottles/containers)
- We recommend comfortable but appropriate clothing be worn for the coach journey

For any parent/carer who has not yet completed and returned the safeguarding information slip, which contains details of student mobile numbers and the name and number of the appropriate adult collecting students on our return to the academy on Wednesday 15 July, this must be returned to me by the end of **Monday 13 July**. The slip can be left at main school reception or emailed to me direct at sbrown@lordlawson.academy

If you have any queries about the London Educational visit, or questions about Performing Arts in general, please contact me via the email address above and I will be happy to support you.

Miss S Brown
Subject Leader Performing Arts

Year 8 Careers Day

As advised in previous bulletins, our year 8 students have been busy with their preparations for their Big Grow careers day next week, on Tuesday 14 July.

During recent tutor periods, students have been finalising their detailed business plans, and creating their products and activities which they will sell to their year 8 'customers' on their market stalls during the afternoon. All of our budding entrepreneurs will be competing against each other to see which year 8 tutor group raises the most money for our nominated charity: Children In Need. Students can bring cash to purchase products or participate in activities, we suggest no more than £5. Alternatively students can purchase tokens to exchange for goods/activities, using their bank card and a QR code that we have in school.

We are looking for parents to support this enrichment day. If any parent or their family or friends work in business, we would appreciate your support to be our business advisers and experts for students during classroom based activities on the morning (between 9.10am and 12.30pm). If you are able to support this careers enrichment activity, please email me at Jlaidlaw@lordlawson.academy and I will contact you to discuss further.

Mrs J Laidlaw

Assistant Principal – Head of Sixth Form and Careers Lead

Health Talks

On the morning of Friday 17 of July, we are fortunate to have Emma Gilligan coming into school to talk to year 7 and year 8 students.

Emma is a women's health and fitness coach and has been in the industry for 8 years. She has helped women all over the world, through coaching and online content, around nutrition and particularly around menstrual health.

Although Emma primarily focuses on women's health, her talk will be tailored and inclusive for all of our students.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at cbramley@lordlawson.academy and I will be happy to answer them for you.

Miss C Bramley

Subject Leader – Personal Development

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

Performing Arts Updates

ABRSM Music Exam Successes

Last week two of our students sat external music exams, having worked extremely hard over the year to prepare new pieces and scales in preparation for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, Practical Music Grades. Huge congratulations to Caleb Dunlavy for passing the Grade III exam on clarinet and to Jessica Lamb for gaining a Grade II merit on cello.

We are very proud of your success and continue to be impressed by your commitment and dedication, which led to such great results! Well done.

Music Instrumental Tuition: Week Commencing 14 September 2026

Letters and forms regarding music tuition have been sent to parents and carers via ClassCharts, with paper copies posted for all students who currently receive instrumental lessons.

If your child is interested in undertaking instrumental tuition or wishes to continue with their previous involvement, consent forms must be completed and returned to school by **Wednesday 9 September 2026**, so that music tuition arrangements can be finalised.

By Monday 14 September, timetables will have been finalised and displayed in the Performing Arts department on the noticeboard outside PA10, Mrs Hall's music classroom, to confirm the time and day of a student's lesson – these will commence that same week.

All new Year 7 students will be contacted by me to make sure they know where and when their first lesson takes place. For any further queries about music lessons or if any other student is interested in learning a musical instrument, please contact me at: rhall@lordlawson.academy

Mrs R Hall

Teacher of Music

Academy Production: Billy Elliott

Our Billy Elliot cast were jumping for joy at the arrival of our official scripts during Wednesday's rehearsal. Billy rehearsals have now officially wrapped for this academic year and will resume again for leading cast on 8 September, and for all cast on 9 September. However, cast can use the summer holidays to learn lines, organise and create costumes and perfect those all-important Billy dance moves.

We would like to thank all of the cast for their hard work and dedication to the Academy Production since its launch back in January. We would also like to thank parents and carers for their continued support towards rehearsals.

Wednesday's rehearsal this week was bittersweet, as Mrs Gray led her final Performers session. Mrs Gray has been an integral member of the Performing Arts Department for 15 years and we cannot thank her enough for all of her time, expertise and dedication to all aspects of our Performing Arts department. We will all miss her greatly, especially as show week for Billy approaches; however, her contribution will be clear to see on stage during the performances. On behalf of all Team PA, we wish Mrs Gray the best of luck in her new school and role from September.

Wishing all Performers a wonderful summer and we will see you in September for show term.

Miss S Brown

Subject Leader – Performing Arts

Online Safety: Parental Controls

The online world gives us access to a huge amount of information and services, but the scale of information available also means that there is content that is inappropriate for children. What is or isn't appropriate is up to individual parents and carers to decide, and could be based on things like age, ability, beliefs and family values.

What are parental controls?

Parental controls allow you to block and filter upsetting or inappropriate content. They work across your Wi-Fi, phone network, individual apps and devices.

Parental controls can help you to:

- plan what time of day your child can go online and how long for
- create content filters to block apps that may have [inappropriate content](#)
- manage the content different family members can see.

Knowsley CLC have created a guide to support parents and carers with understanding more about parental controls which can be accessed via the following link [Parental Controls Guide](#) or by copying the URL below into your internet browser: <https://lordlawson.academy/parents/parent-bulletins/38-parental-controls-booklet/>

The guide also provides useful contact numbers and links for further advice.

Mr I Cooper
Deputy Principal

Important End of Term Reminders

On Friday 17 July, school will close to students at 3.20pm and, with the exception of A level and GCSE results days, will not be open again to students until Wednesday 2 September 2026.

As you prepare to enjoy your summer, please remember the following:

- Lost property – Any lost property items not collected by 3.30pm on Friday 17 July will be disposed of.
- Piercings – Any student who may decide to have a new piercing during the holidays should ensure this is completed and fully healed to ensure the piercing can be removed on their return to school. We suggest having these completed earlier in the holidays. The exception to this is if your child is having the lower lobe of their ear pierced for the first time and this will be the only piercing they have on their return to school.
- False nails and eyelashes – If an appointment is required to have any form of false nails, eyelashes etc. removed, this should be arranged prior to our return to school on Wednesday 2 September. Any student who returns to school with false nails, eyelashes etc. will be subject to the usual sanctions.

Mrs S Wakefield
Office Manager

Water Safety

As we move into the summer period, we would like to share some important water safety advice from the RNLI. Many young people will spend time near beaches, rivers, lakes and reservoirs during the holidays, and understanding how to stay safe around water could save a life.

The RNLI's key messages are:

- **Stop and think** about the dangers around water.
- **Stay together** with friends and family.
- If you fall into the water, **stay calm and float**.
- In an emergency, **call 999 or 112** and ask for the appropriate water rescue service.

We encourage parents and carers to take a few moments to discuss water safety with their children before the summer holidays. Please see the attached poster for further information.

Mr I Cooper
Deputy Principal

Sports Day 2026

School Sports Day will take place on **Wednesday 15 July**. ALL students are expected to attend school as normal and will participate as part of their tutor group team.

Students will take part in a variety of sporting activities including: dodgeball, orienteering, volleyball, rounders and many other activities!

All students should arrive in **school in their PE kit** and must be equipped for being outside for the majority of the day. Students should bring additional filled water bottles (no glass containers and no fizzy drinks) and also suncream. They may also want to bring a sunhat which they will be able to wear during suitable activities.

All the activities have been specifically chosen to enable all students to participate and have fun. Awards and praise points will be available throughout the day for displaying the core values: **Trust, Respect, Courage** and **Ambition**. Further awards will also be available for **Excellence** and **Leadership** throughout the day.

The PE Department



Great British Savings Scheme

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

Ms L Doran
Business Manager

WATER IS UNPREDICTABLE!

4 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW:

STOP AND THINK –
what dangers can you see?

*Don't be caught out on
your own – **STAY TOGETHER***

*If you fall in, stay calm and
FLOAT to live*

*Someone in trouble?
CALL 999 OR 112 and tell them that
someone's in trouble in the water*

BE SAFE AND HAVE FUN

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea
Royal National Lifeboat Institution, a charity registered in England and Wales (206496)
and Scotland (SC037756). Registered charity number 1044707 in the Republic of Ireland.



Lifeboats



Online Safety Newsletter

July 2026

Social media to be banned for under-16s

The government has announced that social media platforms will be blocked from offering services to under-16s from next Spring. The ban will include platforms like Snapchat, TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook and X.

Furthermore, there will also be blocks on live streaming and communication with strangers (these restrictions will also apply to 16 and 17-year-olds) and the government will also be looking at overnight curfews and breaks in infinite scrolling.

You can read the Government's press release here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/social-media-to-be-banned-for-under-16s-in-landmark-government-move-to-givekids-their-childhood-back>

In addition, you can find some FAQs here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fact-sheet-new-rules-to-protect-children-online/fact-sheet-new-rules-to-protect-children-online>

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

WhatsApp

We frequently receive reports of children using WhatsApp inappropriately, such as sharing images to embarrass others, sending hurtful messages, spreading rumours, or excluding people from group chats to make them feel left out. It is important to think about whether WhatsApp is the right platform for your child. For example, you should consider if your child has the critical thinking skills to recognise bullying and can they manage peer pressure and refrain from joining in on hurtful behaviour?

Users should be at least 13 years old to use WhatsApp. WhatsApp have announced that they are rolling out the option of Parent-Managed accounts for those under the age of 13. The settings will include allowing you to choose who can contact your child and ensuring only you can add them to groups. Find out more here: <https://faq.whatsapp.com/894871699629864>

What should I be aware of if my child is using WhatsApp?

- **Group chats:** Everyone within a group, even if they are not one of your child's contacts, can see all messages within that group.
- **Inappropriate content:** users can be exposed to content that is not suitable for their age.
- **Location sharing:** talk to your child about the potential danger of sharing their location.
- **Chat lock/secret code:** users can lock chats as well as apply a secret code setting, so a chat does not appear in the main chat.
- **Screentime due to addictive nature**
- **AI:** WhatsApp includes Meta AI including Incognito Chat with Meta AI so nobody (including Meta) can read your conversations.

What can I do?

- Check privacy settings e.g. who can add them to groups.
- Ensure your child understands that they can leave a chat at any time. Find out more here: <https://faq.whatsapp.com/424124173736394>
- Show your child how to block and report other users. Find out how here: <https://faq.whatsapp.com/1142481766359885/>
- Set up appropriate parental controls.
- Talk about who they are chatting with, encourage them to think carefully about the messages they send and how they might be received.
- Chat to your child about the groups that they belong to.

Further information

- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/whatsapp>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-apps/>

Livestreaming

What is livestreaming?

Livestreaming is when an individual broadcasts video live over the internet. People can watch livestreams from any device that is connected to the internet.

What are the risks?

There are risks associated with watching livestreams that you should be aware of. The main risk being that your child may see or hear something inappropriate as your child may come across themes or content that is not suitable for them. It is difficult to moderate live content as it is happening in real time.

How can I help my child?

- All online platforms have an age rating, ensure your child only accesses platforms that are appropriate to their age. For example, TikTok has an age rating of 13.
- For any platforms that your child uses, ensure appropriate parental controls and privacy settings are applied.
- Take an interest in what your child is doing online and on a regular basis, ask your child to show you what they are accessing.
- Ensure your child knows how to use any reporting/blocking tools on the app that they are using and as always please ensure that your child knows to talk to a trusted adult if they see anything that concerns them online.

Further information

- <https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/livestreaming-parents/>
- <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/what-is-live-streaming/>



Zangi Private Messenger

Although we always recommend checking age ratings, it is important to remember that a low app-store rating does not mean it is risk free for your child to use. Zangi has a low age rating, but because it is a private, messaging app, you should be aware of the potential safeguarding concerns.

Zangi allows users to send messages and make calls without using their personal phone number or inputting any other information on registration. Instead, on sign up, users are given a Zangi number, which they must share with others before they can be contacted. The app also uses end-to-end encryption, meaning messages are private.

These privacy features can make it harder for you to know who your child is communicating with. A particular concern would be if a child is encouraged to move a conversation from another app, game or social media platform onto Zangi, especially if that person is a stranger.

The usual risks with messaging apps also exist as outlined in our WhatsApp article overleaf.

Zangi also has a premium service available at £5.49 per month, which offers features such as PIN protected, hidden chats.

We would recommend having clear rules in place if you are allowing the use of messaging apps. Consider creating a family agreement as outlined here: <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/digital-family-agreement-template/>

Instagram: New supervision tool

You must be over 13 years of age to set up an account. Instagram is used to post photos and videos as well as send direct messages, make voice/video calls, and send disappearing messages.

Instagram have introduced a new supervision tool allowing parents/carers to view the general topics their child is engaging in. Find out more here: <https://about.fb.com/news/2026/05/new-supervision-tools-parents-insights-teens-algorithm/>

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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 10 July	Year 11 Prom - Ramside Hall, Durham
Monday 13 July	Year 12 Awards Evening (including year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Awards) – 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