



Parent Bulletin

Principal **Dr A T Fowler**

Issue 39: w/c Monday 20 July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of another school year, it is a natural time for reflection and celebration. Looking back over the past year, and echoing some of the messages in our recent awards evenings, I am immensely proud of all that our students have achieved, both inside and outside the classroom. Their commitment, resilience and enthusiasm have contributed to a vibrant and successful year for our school community.

Our Year 7 students, in particular, deserve special recognition. Starting secondary school is a significant milestone – a real hurdle for many – and they have embraced the opportunities and challenges of secondary school life with confidence and maturity. It has been wonderful to see how quickly they have settled into the routines of the school, formed new friendships, and become valued members of our community. They should be very proud of the progress they have made during their first year with us. I also take this opportunity once more to thank Mrs Jacobson and Miss Cooper for their work with them, and to wish Mrs Jacobson a happy retirement.

As we look ahead, we are equally excited by the promise shown by our other year groups, including our Year 10 and Year 12 students. Throughout this year, they have demonstrated increasing independence, determination and ambition in their studies. Their attitude to learning and commitment to personal development give us increased confidence that they will thrive as they move into crucial examination years. We look forward to supporting them as they continue their journey towards achieving their goals. A reminder that A level results will be available for collection on Thursday 13 August, and GCSE results on Thursday 20 August.

The partnership between school and home is critical to all we do here. I would like to thank all parents and carers for your ongoing support, encouragement and engagement throughout the year. Working together, we continue to create the best possible opportunities for our young people.

Finally, as the summer holiday begins, I would like to wish all our students, families and staff a happy, restful and enjoyable break. I encourage everyone to take advantage of the opportunities the summer offers to relax, spend time with family and friends, and recharge for the year ahead. Please also take a moment to read the information later in this bulletin regarding online safety, water safety and local holiday activities, which we hope will help families enjoy a safe, healthy and rewarding summer.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to welcoming students back on Wednesday 2 September for another exciting and successful year.

With best wishes,

Dr Fowler
Principal

Thank You and Goodbye

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you for all of the kind wishes, gifts and cards I have received from students and their families.

As I leave my role of Head of Year 7 and Transition Coordinator, I reflect and can honestly say it has been my privilege to work with all of our students as they have started their secondary school journey with us. I leave with so many fond memories of times shared with students and staff.

Lord Lawson is a brilliant school and I feel so lucky to have been able to work in this community, both inside and outside of school.

Wishing you all a fabulous summer and good times ahead. And for our new year 7 cohort starting with the school in September, you are in safe hands!

Best wishes to you all.

Mrs Jacobson

Parking Issues

We have been contacted by our neighbours at The Moulders Arms, who have raised concerns regarding the use of their car park and surrounding area by some members of our school community.

The owners of The Moulders Arms have requested that parents and carers do not use their car park for student drop-offs or pick-ups before or after school. In addition, they have asked that students do not meet or congregate at the pub before the start or end of the school day.

The continued use of the site in this way is causing disruption to the pub's business operations and impacting the home life of those who live on the premises. Please be aware that the site is monitored by CCTV.

As an academy, we place great importance on being respectful to members of our local community. The Moulders Arms is an important neighbour and we ask all families and students to respect this request and make alternative arrangements for travel to and from school.

Thank you for your support and cooperation in helping us maintain positive relationships with our local community.

Mr I Cooper
Deputy Principal

Advanced Notice - Traffic Survey

On Tuesday 8 September, a traffic survey is being completed on Birtley Lane, on behalf of St. Joseph's Catholic Junior School.

The survey will be completed by highways specialists during the morning and afternoon drop-off and pick-up times. We are providing advance notice as they will be parked at various points along Birtley Lane to monitor traffic flow, parking etc. from their vehicles.

Mrs S J Wakefield
Office Manager

Class of 2027

I wanted to take a moment to say a huge **thank you** to our fantastic Year 10 students, and to all of their parents and carers who have supported them throughout this academic year.

Students have shown incredible dedication, resilience, positivity and maturity across the academic year. Highlights at a glance include:

Successful work experience. Placement hosts provided such amazing feedback for every student

Excellent results and effort in the mock exams, alongside consistently strong conduct and dedication in lessons.

The Year 10 boys football team making history by becoming the first team to win the Gateshead Schools Cup **three years in a row** — a competition that has been running since 1922!

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award students who showed real commitment to complete their award

We are also delighted to celebrate the **huge improvements** in both individual and whole year group attendance. This has been positively highlighted this week by the Gateshead Council Attendance Support Team who contacted the academy to highlight attendance success within the year group. The efforts of our students really are being noticed.

To every student: you have demonstrated so many qualities of a good student this year. These qualities will serve you brilliantly as you move into Year 11. Both Miss Harrison and I are very proud of you.

As the summer holidays begin, we encourage all students to **enjoy some well-earned rest**. Look after yourselves, spend time with family and friends, and return refreshed and ready for the exciting challenges of Year 11 in September.

Thank you once again to all students and parents and carers for making this such a memorable and successful year. We are incredibly proud of every single one of our students **and appreciative of the amazing support from home**.

Wishing all members of who will be The Class of 2027 a wonderful summer!

Mr L Cumiskey
Year 11 Leader

Miss A Harrison
Year 11 Deputy Leader



Gateshead United FC – Summer School Information

Gateshead United FC in partnership with LJB Coaching, are delivering a range of **fun, inclusive and engaging holiday activities for children aged 5–16 years**, with sessions taking place at both **Kibblesworth Park Pavilion** and **White Mere Primary School** throughout the summer holidays.

Their programme includes a wide variety of activities including:

-  Football and sports activities
-  Creative activities
-  Food-based activities
-  Outdoor learning and nature activities
-  Friendship building and team games
-  Sensory play, Lego, giant games and free play opportunities

They have both:

-  **Funded HAF places available for eligible children**
-  **Paid places available for families who do not qualify for HAF funding**

Their aim is to provide a safe, supportive and inclusive environment where children can stay active, make friends and enjoy meaningful experiences over the summer holidays.

Their summer timetables can be accessed via the following link: [Gateshead FC Summer Camps](#)

Booking links are below:

Funded HAF Places:

<https://app.holidayactivities.com/parent/providers/gateshead-united-fc>

Paid Places:

<https://form.jotform.com/261745261095055>

Mrs S J Wakefield
Office Manager



Birtley Community Pool



Birtley Community Pool – Summer Holidays

During the summer holidays, Birtley Community Pool will be running a full timetable of activities, including two inflatable obstacle courses and the water slide in the main pool – these will be on a Monday, Wednesday, Friday and at weekends.

Their newsletter, which can be accessed via the link below and can also be found on our website, details a number of other summer activities along with information about reduced prices for 16 to 19 year olds to swim at the pool during the summer. Their full swim and activities schedule can also be found in their newsletter.

[Birtley Community Pool Summer Newsletter](#)

Mrs S J Wakefield
Office Manager

Performing Arts: London West End Educational Visit, July 2026

This week the Performing Arts department concluded an amazing academic year with an educational visit to London.

All of our students were impeccable, showing kindness, enthusiasm and team spirit throughout the whole visit and we received wonderful feedback from our tour guide and coach drivers.

The itinerary included a visit to Buckingham Palace where we saw the Changing of the Guard, a visit to two West End shows, Matilda the Musical and Wicked, and a West End Dance and Drama workshop at Dance Works studios, led by Millie a Matilda, cast member, who provided us with encouraging industry tips and advice.

I would like to thank all students, parents and carers for their support with the visit which allowed everything to run smoothly and ensured a fun and inspirational experience.

A massive thank you must also go to Mrs Wilson, Mr Hodgson and Miss Masters for offering their time, support and interest to accompany the visit, safeguarding our students and providing such a wonderful enrichment opportunity for all. We are all very lucky to have such incredible members of the Performing Arts Department.

On behalf of all of the Performing Arts Department I would like to thank all students, parents and carers for their support this year with all Performing Arts events.

We wish you a wonderful summer holiday and look forward to our return in September, which is our Academy Production show term. Billy Elliot the Musical will be performed Tuesday 13 to Friday 16 October. Tickets will be on sale in September with more details to follow in the new academic year.

Miss S Brown

Subject Leader – Performing Arts





Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy production of

MUSIC BY

**ELTON
JOHN**

BOOK & LYRICS BY

**LEE
HALL**

ORIGINALLY DIRECTED BY

**STEPHEN
DALDRY**



BILLY ELLIOT

THE MUSICAL

TUESDAY 13 - FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER 2026 7PM START - MAIN HALL

Tickets £7 (Non-refundable) available from Academy Reception

Should you require any adjustment or assistance for access to seating please contact sbrown@lordlawson.academy directly on purchase of tickets. Late arrivals will not be permitted into the hall until the interval to maintain health and safety of all during the performance. This Performance is suitable for Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy audiences; however we recommend a 12A rating due to mature themes explored including scenes of protest and conflict.

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

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



is back again in the Summer Holidays!

Gateshead HAF Plus is for young people in receipt of benefits-related free school meals and have just left Year 9, Year 10 or Year 11 when the school holidays start in July. There'll be lots of fun activities, meals to enjoy when you are out and about and Bus Travel is included*

For more information turn over or visit: **gateshead.gov.uk/HAFplus**

*5 to 15 year olds will get free bus travel as part of the UK governments 'Great British Summer Savings' but we'll sort that out for 16 year old participants too!

Get ready for fun!



Activities will start from 27th July and will end on 21st August 2026. If you are entitled to take part in HAFplus, your parent/carer will receive the e-voucher code you need on 23 June 2026

Getting Help

If you need assistance, we will be at the Metrocentre Community Hub (upstairs in the green quadrant opposite Next on 20 July, 27 July and 3 August between 1pm and 4pm. You can also email us at: BrightenTheDay@gateshead.gov.uk



Look out for an email on Wednesday 1 July inviting you to download the HAFplus app. You will need your e-voucher code to register. If you registered before you will need to re-register - accounts are not carried across holiday periods.

The app works best when it is downloaded onto the phone of the young person. You can book activities on there, receive your perks and find out about other useful/fun local activities happening.



 **Gateshead
Council**

www.gateshead.gov.uk/HAFplus



**Youth
focus:**
North East

BIRTLEY

OPEN ACCESS

**FREE
FOOD &
DRINK!**

**TASTER
SESSIONS!**

MONDAYS 6 - 8PM

DATES:

- ★ 27TH JULY
- ★ 10TH AUGUST
- ★ 24TH AUGUST

COME ALONG AND TRY
OUT **OPEN ACCESS!**
MEET NEW PEOPLE,
ENJOY ACTIVITIES
AND HAVE YOUR SAY
ON OUR **BRAND NEW**
YOUTH CLUB!



FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 12-18

FRIENDS. FUN. BELONGING. YOUR SPACE.



**You+h
focus:**
North East

NAME OUR YOUTH CLUB!

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO
NAME OUR NEW YOUTH CLUB
AT BIRTLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE!



COMPETITION WINNER
WILL RECEIVE A
£20 VOUCHER!



**YOUR CLUB.
YOUR VOICE.
YOUR NAME.**

HOW TO ENTER:



EMAIL YOUR SUGGESTION TO
admin@birtleycommunitycentre.co.uk
PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME & AGE

GET INVOLVED. BE CREATIVE. MAKE YOUR MARK!

CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY 7TH AUGUST 2026

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, no liability accepted for loss and damage. ©2016 RNLI
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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.knowsleycitylearningcentres.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 and the start of the Autumn Term

Date	Event
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
Thursday 24 September 2026	Open Evening – for students in year 6 (timings tbc)
Monday 28 and Tuesday 29 September	School photographs – throughout the school day