



# Parent Bulletin

Principal **Dr A T Fowler**

## Issue 6: w/c Monday 13 October 2025 – Week 1

### Dear Parents and Carers

Have you got your ticket yet for Singin' in the Rain? Sales are going well: Friday is sold out, and we have a few tickets still for Tuesday and Wednesday, 21-22 October, and quite a number for Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>. If this will be your first Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy production, I know you are in for a great evening! Please be aware that the performances will begin at 7:00pm, and we are unable to admit latecomers. If you are bringing younger children, perhaps brothers and sisters of members of our students, please make sure that they have made any necessary toilet visits before the show begins, or at the interval, so that all the audience can enjoy the performances without interruption.

I wrote a couple of weeks ago about our successful fire evacuation practice, held on Thursday 18 September. We also need to practise our lockdown drill, and we intend to do this in the final week of this half term. All schools are obliged to have lockdown procedures in place, to protect children and adults against a range of possible threats. This is called Martyn's Law, known more officially as the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025. The law is named after Martyn Hett, who lost his life in the Manchester Arena bombing in 2017. It was championed by his mother, Figen Murray, who has campaigned for improved safety in public spaces since the attack.

We updated our lockdown systems, installed new locks and software, and held our first drill last academic year. Mr Cooper, Deputy Principal, will brief staff on Monday, and he will hold short briefings for all our students in assembly next week, to reassure and inform them of the procedures they need to follow in the event of a lockdown. Mr Cooper will explain these procedures in more detail to our students in Year 7, and Mrs Potter and the SEND team will tailor explanations to help individual students understand what they need to do. We will send you a letter during the coming week, giving more details about the lockdown procedure and drill, and giving some answers to frequently asked questions. Please be reassured that our school is taking sensible and practical steps to look after your children. Emergency situations in school are, thankfully, very rare; it is important that we all know what to do in the face of unexpected circumstances.



# Parent Bulletin

Principal **Dr A T Fowler**

As Principal, I am working with my fellow headteachers in the other secondary schools within Gateshead and with the local authority, to develop our provision for students who face different challenges, and to improve our shared sense of 'belonging.' This involves my working closely with groups of headteachers and other senior leaders, to make sure that students have fair access to school places and working with local authority leaders to bring together a new Re-engagement and Belonging Strategy to benefit all our students cross Gateshead. We all instinctively feel the benefit when we feel that we 'belong' - to a family, a group, an area or a club, for example – and this feeling of belonging is vital for children at school. The Department for Education has published research on school attendance that demonstrates the importance of belonging in encouraging good attendance at school and great achievement. Beyond this utilitarian view, however, I believe that a sense of belonging also provides great support for our mental health and wellbeing. At Lord Lawson, we continue to work with you, our parents and carers, to grow our community and increase our sense of belonging. On this note, it will be very good to see parents and carers of our Year 7 students this coming Thursday for our parents' and carers' information evening.

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully,

**Dr Andrew Fowler**  
**Principal**

## Year 7: Parents' Evening Staff Updates

As you will be aware, the year 7 parents' evening will take place next week on Thursday 16 October 2025, 3.45 to 6.45pm. This is an appointment based evening and appointments are booked via the SchoolCloud system. If you have not yet booked your appointments please do so a.s.a.p. using the following link:

<https://lordlawson.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Four members of our staff who are currently absent will not be available for appointments on the evening; however, the staff members who are currently taking their lessons will be available to provide updates on their behalf.

The staff affected by this are:

English: Miss Malloy – covered by Mrs Flint

History: Miss Bell – covered by Miss McCaugherty

PE: Miss Golby – covered by Ms A Munoz Sais

PE: Mr Earle – covered by Mr R Tomlinson

If you experience any difficulty accessing SchoolCloud, please email us at: [lordlawson@lordlawson.academy](mailto:lordlawson@lordlawson.academy), quoting the name of your child and their tutor group and we will be happy to help.

**Mrs S Wakefield**  
**PA to SLT/Office Manager**

## Important Notice: Contact Details

The majority of school communications are sent to parents/carers via Class Charts. We have experienced a number of issues recently where parents or carers have contacted us to say they are no longer receiving the alerts via the app which, after investigation, has found they have changed some of their contact details and not advised the school.

If you change any of your contact details such as email, mobile or home/work telephone numbers, or move home address, please advise us a.s.a.p. by emailing: [lordlawson@lordlawson.academy](mailto:lordlawson@lordlawson.academy) with the updated details, quoting your child's name and tutor group.

**Mrs S Wakefield**  
**PA to SLT/Office Manager**

## Year 9 Residential Trip: Lockerbie Manor – 1 to 3 July 2026

We still have limited spaces available for our exciting Year 9 residential trip to Lockerbie Manor in summer 2026

This is a fantastic opportunity for students to enjoy a wide range of adventurous activities while building confidence, resilience, and independence before heading into Year 10.

The trip includes the following:

- Return coach travel to Lockerbie Manor
- 3 days and 2 nights fully catered accommodation in the pod village and manor house
- All necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) hire (e.g., waterproofs, helmets, life jackets, etc.)
- Qualified activity instructors and 24/7 group leader supervision
- Travel insurance (this is for the duration of the trip only and it does not cover personal possessions)

The fun-filled, multi-activity programme will include activities such as fencing, archery, axe throwing, climbing wall and abseiling, high all aboard, obstacle course, zip wire, high ropes and low ropes, mountain biking, canoeing, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, and raft building.

If you wish to explore the venue and learn more about Lockerbie Manor, please visit the following link:

<https://www.manoradventure.com/lockerbie-manor.php>.

To secure a space for your child, make a non-refundable deposit payment of £50 via ParentPay by no later than Friday 10 October 2025. Look for the fund 'Lockerbie2026'. Please note that the full balance of payment must be paid by 15 May 2026.

If you require any further information or details, please contact the year team on using the following details and we will be happy to help:

[ahodgson@lordlawson.academy](mailto:ahodgson@lordlawson.academy) (Year Leader) or  
[bzand@lordlawson.academy](mailto:bzand@lordlawson.academy) (Deputy Year Leader).

**Miss B Zand**  
**Deputy Year Leader**

# Career Opportunities: In Medicine

## Future Doctors Month – Free Online Programme (November 2025)

Throughout November, students interested in pursuing a career in medicine can participate in **Future Doctors Month**, a **completely free, month-long virtual programme**.

- **6 live sessions** with NHS doctors (case studies, clinical skills, medical ethics)
- **Recordings available** for 60 days, so students can watch on-demand
- **End-of-programme knowledge test** with an official **Certificate of Completion** (ideal for UCAS applications)
- Open to **students aged 14+** who might be considering careers in medicine
- **2,000 students** are expected to take part, making this one of the largest pre-medical events of its kind.

[Register for Future Doctors Month](#)

## 1-Day London Medicine Work Experience Events – (October 2025)

For students who would like in-person experience, there are **two full-day events** at **University College Hospital, London**:

- **Saturday 25th October – A&E + GP Surgery**
- **Sunday 26th October – On-Call Doctor for a Day**

These immersive days give students a realistic insight into life as a doctor, with hands-on activities and guidance from NHS professionals. They're ideal for students interested in careers in medicine or healthcare and provide certificates for your future applications to med school. Students travel from all over the UK to attend and students have to be 14+ to take part.

Full details: [Medicine Work Experience Day Event](#)

# Career Opportunities: Engineering Apprenticeships

Seta is a long-established, not-for-profit engineering and business training provider based in North East England. They deliver accredited, industry recognised training, including apprenticeships, up to an advanced level. We have an Engineering Apprenticeship Open Evening on Thursday 4 December, 4:00 to 8:00 at our training centre in Washington. This event is a fantastic opportunity for students, parents, and carers to:

- Learn about highly sought-after engineering apprenticeship programmes
- Tour Seta's industry-standard training facilities
- Meet leading employers who are recruiting apprentices to start in September 2026

Early application is advised as we received over 700 applications last year for 96 apprenticeship roles across:

- Mechanical and Electrical Maintenance and Fitting
- Fabrication and Welding
- Machining Technician
- Design and Quality Engineering

Seta apprenticeships offer practical, hands-on learning with cutting-edge technology and innovation, both at Seta and with our world-class employers, where progression to higher and degree apprenticeships is common practice.

Students **MUST** book a place to attend at: [Seta Engineering Apprenticeship Event\(Sunderland Engineering Training ...\)](#)  
[Tickets, Thu 4 Dec 2025 at 16:00 | Eventbrite](#)

## Career Opportunities: Young Professionals Parent and Guardian Information Evening – *Your Child, Their Future*

Young Professionals is dedicated to supporting students through their career journeys, providing them with the opportunities they need to thrive, regardless of their socioeconomic status.

Their mission is simple yet profound: to bridge the gap between education and employment by offering resources, mentorship, and real-world experiences to students and young professionals. They believe that every student, regardless of their background, deserves the chance to achieve their dreams and build a successful career.

The Young Professionals would like to invite you to an exclusive online parent/guardian event designed to provide valuable insights about career and work experience prospects for your child in sectors such as Finance, Data, Technology, Law, Engineering, and Corporate Functions. Major brands from various sectors who will be joining the event.

You will find out about the application process, commercial awareness and how young people can develop these skills as well as highlighting degree apprenticeships, what they are and key deadlines to make applications.

There will be breakout room sessions with sector-specific panels and workshops that you and your child can participate in throughout the evening. Please note that to join the breakout rooms, you will need the Zoom app on your laptops or phones.

This is an online event (Zoom) that will take place on Thursday 16 October 2025, 6 to 7.30pm.

Employers Involved:

- **Law:** Mishcon de Reya, Clifford Chance, A&O Shearman, University of Law
- **Business/Finance:** KPMG, PwC, BDO, CIMA, RSM
- **STEM:** Wates, RAF, The Army, National Grid

The whole session will be led by the direct hiring managers at these global firms, so you will learn from the very best on how to support your child as they transition from education to the professional world with leading brands.

We would encourage you to join this event with your child to get the most out of this session.

Sign up using the following link to secure your place: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Childs\\_Future\\_25](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Childs_Future_25)

## Careers Opportunities: Year 11 – Engineering, Computing or Technical Design Scholarship

Arkwright Engineering Scholarships provide financial support, mentoring, exclusive events and work experience opportunities to ambitious students pursuing a career in engineering!

The Scholarships support students through their Sixth Form studies and provide a variety of enrichment opportunities and £500. The [application](#) deadline is 11 December.



# Gateshead Rainbow Guide

The Gateshead Parent Carer Forum (PCF) have the launch event of their Rainbow Guide at the Metrocentre on Wednesday 15th October. Please see attached the poster with the details. We would be really grateful if you can share this with your parents/carers via your social media channels/websites please.

The Gateshead Parent Carer Forum (PCF) are excited to share the Rainbow Guide. This is a straightforward guide to Gateshead's SEND support organisations created by parent carers, for parent carers. The guide is free to download using the link below, or you can pick up a physical copy at the launch event, which will take place on Wednesday 15 October 2025 at the Gateshead Metrocentre, 9:30am to 2pm.

[Gateshead Rainbow Guide](#)



The poster features a large, stylized rainbow graphic in the background. At the top left, the text 'GATESHEAD RAINBOW GUIDE LAUNCH' is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. To the right, the 'Choice WELLBEING SERVICE' logo is displayed. Below the main title, a box labeled 'WHEN?' lists four launch events: Monday 8th September (9:30am to 12 - Blaydon Winlaton Family Hub), Thursday 25th September (9:30am to 12 - Chowdene Family Hub), Tuesday 7th October (9:30am to 12 - Felling Family Hub), and Wednesday 15th October (9:30am to 2pm - Metrocentre Community Hub). On the left side, there is an image of the 'RAINBOW Guide' booklet, which includes the Choice logo and the text 'GATESHEAD'S GUIDE TO SEND SUPPORT BY PARENT CARERS FOR PARENT CARERS' and '2025/2026'. At the bottom, a large blue box contains the text 'COME ALONG TO PICK UP YOUR COPY OF THE GATESHEAD RAINBOW GUIDE, MEET THE CHOICE TEAM AND YOUR PARENT CARER FORUM!'. The footer contains logos for Gateshead Council, NHS North East and North Cumbria, Gateshead Parent Carer Forum, and the Rainbow Guide logo.

**GATESHEAD RAINBOW GUIDE LAUNCH**

**Choice**  
WELLBEING SERVICE

**WHEN?**

**MONDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER, 9:30AM TO 12 - BLAYDON WINLATON FAMILY HUB**

**THURSDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER, 9:30AM TO 12 - CHOWDENE FAMILY HUB**

**TUESDAY 7TH OCTOBER, 9:30AM TO 12 - FELLING FAMILY HUB**

**WEDNESDAY 15TH OCTOBER, 9:30AM TO 2PM - METROCENTRE COMMUNITY HUB**

**COME ALONG TO PICK UP YOUR COPY OF THE GATESHEAD RAINBOW GUIDE, MEET THE CHOICE TEAM AND YOUR PARENT CARER FORUM!**

**Gateshead Council** **NHS North East and North Cumbria** **Gateshead Parent Carer Forum** **RAINBOW Guide**

**Mr I Cooper**  
**Deputy Principal**

# Rehearsal Update: Academy Production: Singin' In The Rain Junior – Tuesday 21 to Friday 24 October 2025, 7pm

Tickets for our academy production, Singin' in the Rain Junior, are now on general sale and can be purchased for £6.00 from the academy reception. **Tickets for Friday 24 October performance** have sold out and there are limited tickets available for the first evening performance on Tuesday 21 October. Please note that tickets are non-refundable and are not transferable. Should you require any adjustment or assistance for access or seating in the main hall, please contact me via email at [sbrown@lordlawson.academy](mailto:sbrown@lordlawson.academy) as soon as tickets are purchased and I will be happy to discuss your request.

Singin' in the Rain Junior promises to be a wonderful performance; please ensure to purchase your tickets soon to avoid any disappointment of what is sure to be a sell-out week of shows.

## Rehearsals Update

All rehearsals are compulsory for cast members.

We have one remaining **lead cast Monday** rehearsal:

- Monday 13 October 3.20pm – 5.30pm

We have two additional **lead cast Friday** rehearsals for invited students, to check rented costumes and for a rehearsal on the finalised staging:

- Friday 10 October 3.20pm – 5pm
- Friday 17 October 3.20pm – 5pm

We have one remaining **whole cast Wednesday** rehearsal:

- Wednesday 15 October 3.20pm – 5.30pm

One remaining **Sunday** rehearsal:

- Sunday 19 October 10am – 4pm

As previously advised, all cast members must attend the rehearsal on Sunday 19 October. Any student who does not attend this rehearsal will be withdrawn from the production. Students must arrive **promptly from 9.50am for a 10am** registration and start. After 10.15am, the academy reception doors will be locked and there will be no members of staff on the reception doors and latecomers will be unable to access the rehearsal.

Students must bring refreshments and a packed lunch to the Sunday rehearsal as they will not be allowed to leave site for the duration of the day. We recommend students wear layers of clothing and also bring some warmer items for the rehearsal day.

If you have any questions about Singin' in the Rain Junior, please contact me via email at [sbrown@lordlawson.academy](mailto:sbrown@lordlawson.academy) and I will be happy to help.

Thank you.

**Miss S Brown**

**Subject Leader – Performing Arts**



# Secondary School Admissions for September 2026 Entry: Deadline Approaching

This information is for any parents/carers who have primary school aged children who are looking to apply to a secondary school.

Gateshead Council recognises that your child's education is one of the most important aspects of their life. It influences their formative years and their future. We know how important it is that you receive as much information as possible about the school admissions process.

We recommend that you apply for a school place using Gateshead Councils online school admissions system where you can also access all the information. You can apply online at:

[www.gateshead.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

## Apply online for your child's school place

**CLOSING DATE**  
31 October 2025

### Applying online for admission to Secondary School is quick & easy...

- Simple instructions help guide you through the form
- You receive email confirmation when we receive your form
- You receive email confirmation of which school your child has been offered
- No risk of your application getting lost in the post

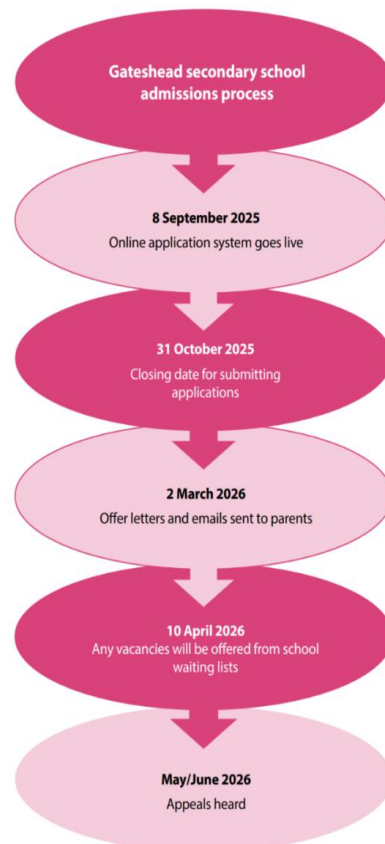
**Before you apply - check your child is the right age**



[www.gateshead.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/schooladmissions)  
Tel: 0191 433 6185 / 3909 / 5232 / 8589

Gateshead Council Information for Parents

### Important admission dates September 2026



Apply online at: [www.gateshead.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/schooladmissions)



Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy

Presents

# SINGIN' IN THE RAIN



Screenplay By  
**BETTY COMDEN**  
and **ADOLPH GREEN**

Songs By  
**NACIO HERB BROWN**  
and **ARTHUR FREED**

Based on the classic Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film,

by special arrangement with Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures, Inc.

Music Published by EMI

(Original Movie Choreography by Gene Kelly and Stanley Donen)

Produced by Arrangement With Maurice Rosenfield, Lois F. Rosenfield and Cindy Pritzker, Inc.

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with  
Music Theatre International

All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI  
[www.mtishows.co.uk](http://www.mtishows.co.uk)

**Tuesday 21 - Friday 24 October 2025**  
**7pm Start - Main Hall**

# Online Safety Newsletter

Oct 2025

## Risks of using AI for mental health

AI chatbots and wellness apps are becoming increasingly popular, which may lead to your child accessing them to support their mental health.

### What should I be concerned about?

- The information/advice given may not always be accurate.
- Privacy concerns of how data is collected and used.
- Children may use these apps rather than seeking help from an adult.

### What can I do?

- Chat to your child regularly about what apps and websites they are using and why.
- Remind them AI is a tool and not a substitute for qualified professionals who provide tailored advice/support.
- Talk to them about how they should fact check information.
- Check age ratings.

### Further information

<https://stigmafreementalhealth.com/blog/supporting-youth-mental-health-with-ai-a-guide-for-parents-and-caregivers/>

Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version: <https://www.knowsleylcs.org.uk/october-2025/>

L

## YouTube

YouTube is one of the most popular platforms, available across many different devices - phones, tablets and Smart TVs etc.

**YouTube is intended for users over the age of 13**, however, younger children can still access YouTube with consent from a parent/ guardian. There are different options available to access YouTube, depending on your child's age:



**1. YouTube Kids** – a separate app that includes a smaller selection of videos based on the age category you select: Preschool (ages 4 and under), Younger (ages 5–8) or Older (ages 9–12).

**2. Supervised accounts** – a parent-managed version of YouTube that allows you to control the content your child can access. You can select one of the following options:

- **Explore** - Generally for viewers aged 9+.
- **Explore more** - Generally for viewers aged 13+
- **Most of YouTube** - This setting includes almost everything except for videos marked as 18+.

Find out more: <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/10315420>

### What do I need to be aware of?

Whilst YouTube can be educational and fun, it is important to be aware of the potential risks, such as:

- **Inappropriate content**
- **Excessive Screen time** – particularly due to the autoplay feature.
- **Unwanted contact / cyberbullying** – particularly via comments if your child is sharing videos.
- **Algorithms** – algorithms influence what we see to keep us engaged. This can lead to a user being exposed to large amounts of content about one topic/theme, which may not be helpful if it is negative.
- **Adverts** that may not be aimed at or suitable for your child's age.

### What can I do?

- Set up appropriate parental controls.
- Show your child the reporting and blocking tools available.
- Watch YouTube together or supervise use.

### Further information

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/youtube-app/>

# WhatsApp

WhatsApp is incredibly popular with young people and is used for group chats, voice messages and video calls. **Users should be at least 13 years old to use 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. Since WhatsApp lacks parental controls, it is important to think about whether it is really the right platform for your child. For example, you should consider if your child has the critical thinking skills to recognise bullying. Furthermore, do they understand how to manage peer pressure and refrain from joining in on hurtful behaviour?

## 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, will be able to see all messages within that group. If your child is added to a group with someone that they have previously blocked, that person can still see their messages and send them messages within the group chat.
- **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.

## What can I do?

- Check privacy settings, for example check 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/>
- Use parental controls such as screentime controls or do not disturb to reduce alerts.
- Talk about who they are chatting with, encourage them to think carefully about the messages they send and how they might be received by others. Talk about positivity and not saying anything hurtful. Ask them to think about whether they would say what they are messaging, face to face.
- Chat to your child about the groups that they belong to.

## Further information

Find out more here:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zc8vxg8>
- [https://faq.whatsapp.com/773166357950949?helpref=faq\\_content](https://faq.whatsapp.com/773166357950949?helpref=faq_content)

*Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date released 01.10.25. 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 or copyright in the content of the linked materials.*

## Italian Brainrot

Have you heard of Italian Brainrot? It is a viral trend consisting of AI generated characters featuring in memes and videos. It originally started on TikTok but can now be seen on other platforms such as YouTube and Instagram. There are also lots of spinoff content including a game on Roblox.

Whilst the content is generally nonsensical and children will find some of it funny, some content can include inappropriate/offensive language and content that might not be suitable for your child's age.

## iOS 26

Apple have released their new operating system – iOS 26. Protect Young Eyes have published an article detailing the changes relating to your child's safety, including content filtering in Safari. Find out more here:

<https://www.protectyouneyes.com/blog-articles/a-parents-guide-to-ios-26>

## Managing Digital Spending

Parent Zone have created a guide to help teach your child how to manage their online spending. You can read it here:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/managing-digital-spending-guide-parents>

## ADHD, Screen Time, and Healthy Boundaries

Bark have created this guide for parents of children with ADHD to support you in helping your child create a healthy relationship with technology. You can access it here:

<https://www.bark.us/blog/adhd-kid-and-tech/>

# Calendar Dates and Upcoming Events for the Autumn Term

Date	Event
Thursday 16 October	Year 7 Parents' evening – this is an in-person event and appointments are to be made via SchoolCloud
Tuesday 21 to Friday 24 October	Evening Performances of the Academy Production: Singin' In The Rain, Jr – tickets are now on sale from school reception
Friday 24 October	Last day of term for staff and students – school finishes as normal at 3.20pm
Monday 3 November	Staff and students return to school at 8.40am
Thursday 6 November	Year 11 exam preparation evening for students, parents and carers – timings tbc
Thursday 20 November	Flu immunisations (catch-up sessions) – Years 7 to 11 – throughout the morning
Thursday 20 November	Open evening for prospective sixth form students – 5 to 7pm
Friday 28 November	Occasional day – Academy closed to staff and students
Thursday 11 December	Year 7 Pantomime trip – timings tbc
Friday 19 December	Last day of term for staff and students – school finishes as normal at 3.20pm
Monday 5 January 2026	Staff and students return to school at 8.40am