

Parent Bulletin

Week commencing Monday 4 September 2023 – Week 1

Dear Parents and Carers

It gives me great pleasure to write my weekly letter to you – for the 31st time this year – at the end of a landmark year for our school. Looking back over the letters I have written this year, I can see how the path of this success has been marked.

From my letter of 9 September I see that we started the year reporting on much improved examination results, which saw Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy recognised as the most improved school in Gateshead and in the top 10% of schools in the North East in terms of improved progress. In my letter of 12 January, I was able to announce that Ofsted inspectors had judged the school to be ‘Good’ in all areas. It would be hard to overstate the significance of this judgement for our school and our community, after two successive ‘Requires Improvement’ judgements. In my letter of 30 June, I was able to report that our school was shown to be the most improved of all similar schools in the country, according to data from the Education Endowment Foundation.

Of course, the label “most improved” has a double edge, because although it recognises that the school has made progress, it acknowledges that it was at a low level previously. You know that this was the case – and you know that we knew too! We were not satisfied with this.

The work that has been done to improve our school, for the benefit of your children, is not finished, and we have clear plans for further improvements. In our presentations to parents, and in my letter of 30 June, we outlined the areas on which we will focus particularly next year. These are:

- School culture – focusing on engagement and respect
- Improving the quality of teaching and learning in all classrooms
- Improving the quality and consistency of leadership, at all levels.
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Mr Dicocco, Ms Ford and Mr Walsh have been holding assemblies this week with students in years 7 to 10, so that they know what to expect on their return in September. Our focus in presenting these further areas for improvement has been simple: we know that school can be hard work, and we want to make it as straightforward as possible for all students to be successful in their work, and to enjoy that success. It is important that students are punctual, getting to lessons on time. Once in their lessons, we will expect them to develop their habits of attention, and at times to work in silence so that they can truly focus on their work. Between lessons, we expect high standards of politeness and respect. I will give more detail about these expectations in the autumn.

At the start of the year, I was delighted to welcome seven new colleagues to the school. At the end of the year, I have the opposite and less pleasurable duty, to say goodbye to a number of colleagues. These colleagues are leaving for a variety of reasons – for retirement, for promotion, to work closer to home, or to take a year out for travel and personal development.

I want to take a short time to recognise and acclaim our colleagues who are retiring this summer. Kim Morton is retiring from the English Department, having taught at Lord Lawson for an astonishing and unrivalled 43 years; Sue Nellist is leaving as an Assistant Principal after 29 years; and Andrew Chanse is hanging up his white coat as a science technician after 7 years with us.

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Other colleagues are leaving for posts elsewhere: Jasmine Foxton-Smith, Tobi Miranda Isles and Gillian Greenwell are leaving our Technology Department; Darryn Chesterton-Gemmell and James Pennington are leaving the Humanities Faculty; Clare Turnbull and Dom English are leaving our support staff team. Jack Hunter and Julia Glover are leaving school for a year's travel and personal development.

All these colleagues have given unstintingly of their time and energy, and your children have benefited immensely in so many different ways. We thank them for their time and work here, and their gifts of friendship and professionalism. We wish them the very best in the future. We have been able to recruit new colleagues, and I shall introduce them to you in the autumn.

We will meet with some of you as we join our students in years 11 and 13 to collect their examination results on Thursday 17 August (Year 13) and Thursday 24 August (Year 11).

In September, the new school year begins with two staff training days, on Monday and Tuesday 4 and 5 September. **ALL STUDENTS** are expected back in school on **WEDNESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER** at the **usual starting time of 08:45**. Summer uniform concessions end today, and we expect **all students in school in full uniform** on Wednesday 6 September.

It only remains for me to thank you all for your support over the course of the past year, and to wish you and your children a happy, peaceful and relaxing holiday.

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully

Mr A T Fowler
Principal

A Level and GCSE Exam Results Days

We look forward to welcoming our students on their respective results day, when they will be able to come into school and collect their exam results between 9am and 11am on the following dates:

A Level results: Thursday 17 August 2023

GCSE results: Thursday 24 August 2023

If students are unable to collect their results in person, the results will be emailed to their **academy email** address sometime after 1pm on their results day.

Should a parent or carer be collecting on a student's behalf, the student **must** email Mrs Cooksey, Exams Officer, from their academy email address at: acooksey@lordlawson.academy, giving their authorisation and the name of the person who will be collecting on their behalf. If Mrs Cooksey does not receive this email, or someone who has not been nominated by the student arrives, the results will not be handed over.

On Thursday 24 August, students wishing to enrol in our Sixth Form will also be able to do this between 9am and 11am; staff will be on hand to guide them.

Mr D Cave
Assistant Principal

Class Charts

As you may know, Lord Lawson use Class Charts as one of the ways we communicate with parents and carers, to ensure you have up-to-date information regarding your child's education. Using Class Charts allows us to provide real-time updates on the praise and consequences issued during the school day, and for you and your child to keep track of homework and detentions.

In September we will continue to use Class Charts to award behaviour points, but we are extending its use to include the setting of homework for all subjects. This will allow you to have visibility on the homework set for your child and accompanying details and deadlines. Students will be able to see the homework relevant to them, and parents and carers will be able to see any announcement or communication relating to the homework.

Earlier this week we provided students with a reminder of parent/carers and student login details for their Class Chart accounts. If you have any issues logging in, please contact your child's year base on return in September. For our new year 7 students, you were provided with your Class Chart log in details at the transition evening or, if you did not attend on the night, they were posted home to you.

Mr D Cave
Assistant Principal

Uniform

We know that many parents and carers will be purchasing uniform for September at the beginning of the holidays.

To avoid any confusion, we would like to ask you to revisit and review our uniform policy, which can be found on the school website via the link below, before you make your purchase. This will ensure we do not have any students returning to school wearing incorrect uniform in September.

[Uniform Policy](#)

Sixth Form Uniform

On the following page you will find a reminder about our expectations regarding uniform for our sixth form students. We feel this clarifies any misconceptions a student or parent/carer may have about what is considered to be appropriate dress for our sixth form students, and our expectations from September 2023.

Mr I Cooper
Deputy Principal

Year 8: Reports on My Child at School (MCAS)

Year 8 reports are now available to view on MCAS.

If you have forgotten your login details for MCAS, please contact Mr Davison at: ddavison@lordlawson.academy who will be happy to help. Please ensure you quote the name of your child and their tutor group.

Mrs S J Wakefield
PA to SLT

f6rm
@ LLOB



Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy Sixth Form Dress Code 2023 - 2024

Sixth Form students are not required to wear uniform but are expected to be appropriately dressed for the school environment in which they work. It is at the discretion of the Senior Leadership Team as to whether a student is deemed to be appropriately dressed for school.

For avoidance of doubt, the following are not accepted items within the dress code policy:

- Offensive slogans
- Ripped Jeans
- Sportswear – this includes leggings, joggers, tracksuit bottoms and football shirts
- All styles of shorts – this includes cycling and football shorts
- Low cut or strappy tops (thin/spaghetti style straps)
- Sliders, flip flops and crocs

Further points to note:

- Tops worn must meet the trousers/skirt without a gap
- Skirts/dresses should be of a suitable length. This length should be just above the knee or longer
- Hats, hoods and caps should only be worn outside
- These guidelines offer further detail to the existing policy. A consultation is currently being carried out on a sixth form dress code, for adoption in 2023 -24



Trust

Respect

Courage

Ambition

Laptops on Loan from Lord Lawson

Laptops currently on loan to our students will need to be returned to us temporarily, as we are required to update the security and monitoring software on each of them. It would be helpful if students, where possible, could begin to return their loan devices next week. This would help us stagger the work we need to complete on all devices.

All devices should be returned to main reception in school. Students should return them either at the start of the day, at the beginning of break or lunchtime, or at the end of the school day. If parents or carers are returning the laptops, please go to main reception between 8.30am and 3.30pm.

We understand that some students may need the use of their loan laptop over the summer; if this is the case, could you please advise your year team, and we will work to prioritize these devices.

Many thanks for your understanding and support.

Mr L Gale
ICT Support Manager