

# Parent Bulletin

Week commencing Monday 11 September 2023 – Week 2

Dear Parents and Carers

I write to you at the end of the first week of the new school year. We have had a wonderfully positive start to the year. My colleagues were all fully engaged in the two training days at the start of the week, and we have been delighted with the response of (almost) all our students to the changes and improvements we have made to routines and expectations at Lord Lawson.

We have welcomed an unusually large number of new colleagues to our school, and it gives me great pleasure to introduce them to you. Here they are, in alphabetical order:

Mrs Berry – Teacher of Geography  
Miss Bowman – Teacher of Technology  
Miss Bramley – Teacher of Science  
Mrs Brooks – Teacher of Mathematics  
Mrs Craven – Higher Level Teaching Assistant (specialist in speech and language, and English as an additional language)  
Mrs Ganning – Higher Level Teaching Assistant (behaviour)  
Miss M Nethercott – Teacher of Technology  
Miss Rooks – Teacher of English  
Miss Small – Teacher of English  
Mrs Smith – Teacher of French  
Miss Walker – Teacher of Science  
Mrs Whittle – Higher Level Teaching Assistant (special educational needs)

School buildings have been much in the news. We are exceptionally fortunate at Lord Lawson in our excellent buildings and our grounds. **I am happy to report that I have received written confirmation that our school does not contain RAAC.** RAAC is the aerated concrete that has caused problems in schools and other public buildings. Our written confirmation came from David Hosken, a Chartered Surveyor who is a director of the company that owns and maintains Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy. We have confirmed this formally with the Department for Education.

The improvements that we have introduced this term are starting to take effect. We are improving our corridor culture, so that students get to lessons in a timely and orderly manner. We are making sure that students engage more deeply with their learning, through being more attentive and through working independently in silence where appropriate. Classrooms have a very calm atmosphere. This means that students will be able to make the most of every lesson.

A few students – and it is a very small number – are finding it hard to adjust to the new expectations. We are working with them to help them adjust, but we cannot allow them to disrupt the concentration of other students. The large majority of students, however, are meeting our expectations and are doing really well. We will continue to reward our students for their efforts. Please encourage your children and congratulate them on an excellent start to the year.

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully

**Mr A T Fowler**  
**Principal**

## **PE Extra-curricular Activities**

The PE department have been delighted to see an influx of interest from both parents and students regarding this year's extra-curricular offer in PE.

We are pleased to announce this year's extra-curricular clubs will take place on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday every week starting from Monday 11 September. The clubs will run from 3.20pm to 4.20pm. All extra-curricular clubs are free and require no prior sign up.

Students are required to bring their PE kit to take part.

Our extra-curricular clubs focus specifically on fun, engagement, and participation. Students come down to PE on the day and choose from a variety of activities on offer. This can range from football, netball, basketball, volleyball, dodgeball, trampolining, fitness and much much more.

### **Team trials**

In the next few weeks, we will be running several trials for the new Year 7 teams. They will take place on the following days from 3.20pm to 4.20pm:

Boys' Football – Tuesday 12 September

Trampolining – Monday 18 September

Girls' Football – Tuesday 19 September

Girls' Netball - Wednesday 20 September

Other Year 7 sports team trials will be announced closer to their competition dates.

Any students in Years 8 - 11 who are interested in becoming part of a team, who have not previously been part of one, should approach the appropriate team coaches.

Year 8 boys' football:	Mr Cumiskey
Year 9 boys' football:	Mr Earle
Year 10 boys' football:	Mr Wallace
Year 11 boys' football:	Mr Thompson
Year 8 - 11 girls' football:	Miss Golby
Year 7 - 8 girls' netball:	Miss Brown
Years 9 - 11 girls' netball:	Miss Troughton
Year 8 - 11 trampolining:	Miss Golby and Miss Golby

Any questions please contact me at: [kgolby1@lordlawson.academy](mailto:kgolby1@lordlawson.academy) and I will be happy to help.

***Miss K Golby***

***Deputy Subject Leader - PE***

## **Young Carers: Drop In Sessions**

If you have a child who helps to look after someone in their family, and you would like them to receive extra support, please inform their year leader or myself and we can refer them to The Carers Trust.

Charlotte Osgerby and Christine Tindale from The Carers Trust host monthly drop-in sessions for our young carers in school, all of which are supported by me.

All the sessions are held on a Wednesday in the small conference room next to the atrium at lunchtime on each of the dates below:

27/09/23

25/10/23

29/11/23

20/12/23

31/01/24

28/02/24

27/03/24

24/04/24

26/06/24

Students must have a pass to attend which they can collect from me and must have this with them to show to staff to access the sessions.

On all other Wednesdays I am available for additional support; I will be based at the far end of the school library.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at: [mglass@lordlawson.academy](mailto:mglass@lordlawson.academy) and I will be happy to help.

*Mrs M Glass*

*Young Carers Support*

## **Gateshead SEND Thresholds Pilot Program**

We are excited to announce that Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy has been chosen to take part in the Gateshead SEND Thresholds pilot program.

The SEND Thresholds provide a framework to support identification of needs, curriculum adaptation, guidance on assessment and the deployment of resources. The Thresholds are based on the four areas of the SEND Code of Practice (cognition and learning, communication and interaction, social emotional and mental health, and sensory/physical) and gives practical guidance and ideas from Early Years to Post 19. It also includes the Preparation for Adulthood (PfA) outcomes (employment/training, independence, good health, and community inclusion) from the Early Years through to 25 under each area of need. These have been written in consultation with education, health and social care professionals, and with parents, carers, and young people.

Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy is a pilot school for the Gateshead SEND Thresholds and we will be trialling them throughout the Autumn term. Some of our students will be taking part in this. We constantly review the provision in place based on the needs of our students. Future reviews will ensure that the SEND Thresholds support the best possible progress for children and young people within our setting.

The school will be supported in piloting the SEND Thresholds by a team of experienced SENDCOs and a SEND specialist advisor. We look forward to receiving feedback from the children/young people and parents and carers in October to shape the final document. This document will then be launched across all Gateshead schools in 2024.

***Mrs N McCarthy***  
***Deputy SENDCo***

## **Upcoming School Events**

At the beginning of every term, we will publish a list of upcoming school events in this bulletin. Communication of some events, such as Parents' Evenings, will also be communicated separately via email, so please ensure you look out for these.

The events for this term are:

Thursday 28 September:	Prospective Year 7 Open Evening, 4.15 to 7.45pm – for pupils in year 6.
Thursday 5 October:	Year 7 Meet the Tutors evening, 3.30 to 5.00pm – for parents/carers of year 7 students.
Monday 9 October:	School Photographs – for students in years 7, 8 and 9.
Tuesday 10 October:	School Photographs – for students in years 10, 11 and 12.
Thursday 19 October:	Year 10 Parents' Evening, 3.45 to 6.45pm – Appointments will be online.
Monday 23 October:	Academy Production – Primary School Performances during the day.
Tuesday 24 to Friday 27 October:	Academy Production – Shrek the Musical, Junior. Evening Performances. Ticket sales information to follow.
Saturday 28 October to Sunday 5 November:	Half Term – School closed for staff and students.
Monday 6 November:	School reopens for staff and students – students to be in school for 8.40am.
Monday 6 to Friday 17 November:	Autumn Assessments for years 11 and 13.
Thursday 16 November:	Year 12 parents' Evening, 3.45 – 6.15pm – Appointments will be online.
Friday 24 November:	Occasional Day – School closed for staff and students. School will reopen for staff and students Monday 27 November.
Tuesday 28 November:	Careers Fair (all year groups) throughout the school day.
Tuesday 5 December:	Flu Vaccinations for years 7 to 11.
Thursday 7 December:	Sixth Form Open Evening, 5.00 to 7.00pm – for students considering their post-16 options and future academic pathways.
Thursday 14 December:	Year 7 – Pantomime at Theatre Royal Newcastle: Pinocchio.  Year 13 parents' Evening, 3.45 – 6.15pm – Appointments will be online.
Friday 22 December:	Last day of school for staff and students – Christmas holidays begin Saturday 23 December. School reopens for students on Tuesday 9 January 2024.