

Parent Bulletin

Week commencing Monday 25 September 2023 – Week 2

Dear Parents and Carers

I want to begin this week's letter by praising your children for the way they have worked with us in bringing improvements to our school since the start of term. The school feels really settled and purposeful – you would be welcome to visit to see for yourselves. Students in year 7, of course, have never known anything different. Older students have cooperated well with the changes. Our corridors are busy at the changeover of lessons; but corridors are orderly, and students now get to lessons on time. Our habits of attention ('STAR') and, where appropriate, silent independent work, are bringing increased focus and purpose to classrooms. Students tell us that they value these changes, because they help them to make the most of lesson time and improve their learning.

Next Thursday, 28 September, is our Year 6 Open Evening. If you have visited our school recently, you will have seen our eye-catching banner at the gate. Our Open Evening is very popular, and we run it twice on the same evening. Thank you in advance to the many students who will volunteer their time as tour guides and within subject areas. To ease traffic congestion, this year we are asking everyone to turn left out of the school grounds onto Birtley Lane: you will not be able to turn right as you leave the school gates.

Our Open Evening is a wonderful occasion for primary school pupils and their parents/carers to see our school in action. I know that many of you will be there if you have children in Year 6 currently. We have much to celebrate: we know that our facilities are excellent, and that the school provides a very good standard of education to all its students. As Lord Lawson continues to improve, we are sure that our school will be even more popular. We intend to keep the school at around its present size, however, since this gives all students a chance to know one another and to feel that they are known as individuals. This will be our first Open Evening since we were judged 'Good' in all areas by Ofsted. Please tell your wider family and friends – personal recommendation and word-of-mouth are by far the best publicity!

We have been notified of industrial action by bus drivers later this term. Some of you may already have heard about this. At present, we are waiting to hear the extent of the disruption, and we do not yet know whether we will be affected by it. As soon as I have any firm details, I will let you know.

At their meeting on Wednesday, Governors heard with interest about the work we are doing this year to form closer partnerships with parents and carers. Governors committed themselves and our school to improving communication, to making sure the school is always a welcoming place, and to inviting parents and carers into school more regularly, so you can feel more part of our community and be well informed about the ways in which your children learn.

One great opportunity to come into school and enjoy seeing our students demonstrate their performing skills is our show, *Shrek The Musical, Jr.* This is an entertaining family show, full of interesting songs and lovable characters. It is particularly suitable for our large and talented cast, which includes Year 7 students, even though they have only been here for 3 weeks. *Shrek* runs from Tuesday 24 to Friday 27 October. Tickets will go on sale soon.

Yours faithfully

Mr A T Fowler
Principal

Careers Fair

Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy is holding a Careers Fair on Tuesday 28 November 2023 and we are looking for employers to attend the event. It will take place in our main hall from 9.30am – 4.00pm.

Employers have the opportunity to have a table and stand in our hall, providing information about their organisations to all year groups.

Last year the event was very popular, and students gained knowledge about employers, apprenticeship training providers, colleges, and universities.

If you work for a company or know any companies who would like to attend, please email: cbraban@lordlawson.academy.

Thank you

Mrs C Braban
Careers and Enterprise Advisor

Remembrance Rehearsals

Rehearsals for our Remembrance Service begin this Wednesday, 27 September, from 3.20 until 4.00pm. Students should meet outside the main hall at the end of the school day. Weather permitting, the rehearsals will be held outside so students should bring a coat. As there will be no scholars' buses, you will need to make your own arrangements for your child to get home.

Any students who wish to be involved who have not yet given their names to Mrs Kemp are asked to do so as soon as possible – they will be very welcome!

Mrs J Kemp
Remembrance Coordinator

Mindfulness and Wellbeing Club

Mindfulness and Wellbeing Club will take place on a Monday lunchtime, Week 1, in MA20. This club is a space where students can learn more about their own mental health and are introduced to different strategies to manage their emotions, deal with stress, be more positive and ground themselves when things all feel a bit much. Mindfulness and Wellbeing Club is a fun way to look at how you feel with a range of activities to get involved with, such as: journalling, yoga, mindful colouring, nature walks and crafts. Activity passes are available from Mrs Kemp and should be collected at the start or end of the school day.

Mrs J Kemp
Cover Supervisor and HI Liaison

Study Strategies to Support your Child

In this free webinar, hosted by teacher and best-selling author Kate Jones, effective and efficient evidence informed study strategies will be explored and explained. This webinar is aimed at parents/carers of secondary age students (ages 11-18) and will offer practical advice and tips to help your child succeed. The webinar will also tackle ineffective study strategies, the techniques that are often popular with students but often don't lead to the desired results and are best avoided! There will be an opportunity to ask the host questions about student study strategies and how to best support your child.

The live webinar is sold out, but a recording of the event will be uploaded to her You Tube channel on Friday 22 September 2023 for those who are interested.

Ms Ford

Assistant Principal: Teaching, Learning and Staff Development

Year 10 Parents'/Carers' Evening: Thursday 19 October 2023

Letters will be emailed home soon with details about booking appointments for the upcoming Year 10 Parents' and Carers' evening.

Mrs S J Wakefield

PA to SLT

Young Carers Drop in Sessions

Young carers can meet with myself, Charlotte Osgerby and Christine Tindale from the Carers Trust in the small conference room at lunch time on the dates below. I am also available to meet with students on all other Wednesday lunchtimes; students will find me in the library. Students must show their pass to attend the drop-in sessions.

- 27 September 2023
- 25 October 2023
- 29 November 2023
- 20 December 2023
- 31 January 2024
- 28 February 2024
- 27 March 2024
- 24 April 2024
- 26 June 2024

If you have a child who helps to look after someone in their family due to illness or disability, and you would like them to receive extra support, please inform their year leader or myself on mglass@lordlawson.academy, and we can further support them in school and refer them to the carers trust.

Mrs Glass

Cover Supervisor

Drop Off and Collection of Students Before the Start and at the End of the School Day

To ease traffic congestion at peak drop off and collection times before and after the school day, we are asking parents and carers to ensure they remember to park safely and considerately. Once your child is safely dropped off or collected, please depart site immediately to allow movement for other vehicles.

Your support with this is appreciated.

Mr D Willis
Site Manager

Performing Arts update:

There are a number of events and important dates happening within the Performing Arts department this term. To ensure you do not miss any of these, I have listed key dates and events below:

GCSE Friday Creative Rehearsals /Intervention

Year 11 Performing Arts GCSE creative rehearsals/intervention for Drama, Dance and Music students have now begun. The rehearsals will continue every Friday evening and run from 3.20pm – 4.20pm. This is an excellent opportunity for students to develop their work and collaborate with their exam performance groups to ensure performance work is of the highest standard.

Year 11 GCSE Dance

Year 11 GCSE Dance students will participate in an online theory lesson with the James Cousins Dance Company on Thursday 5 October 2023, 9.00am – 1.00pm. This is an exciting opportunity for students to collaborate with a professional GCSE dance company. We hope this experience will elevate students' understanding of the anthology work 'Within Her Eyes' in preparation for their external theory examination.

Year 11 GCSE Dance students are currently rehearsing their solo exam performances (Breathe and Flux) in preparation for their examination day on Wednesday 11 October 2023.

Academy Production 2023: Shrek the Musical, Junior

Shrek the Musical, Junior rehearsals are now well underway in the Performing Arts Department. Over the summer holidays our main cast have perfected their lines, practiced their choreography, and developed their fairy-tale creature characterisation. Rehearsals this week have been extremely exciting as we near our performance dates.

We have welcomed over 20 new Year 7 students into the cast, who have impressed the Performing Arts team with their ability to pick up their musical numbers within two rehearsals. An amazing job Year 7, it is wonderful to have you in the cast!

The final opportunity for Year 7 students who wish to join the cast of Shrek is this coming Monday, 18 September, students must attend the rehearsal 3:20pm- 5:30pm. After this rehearsal, the cast will be finalised as we head towards more focused rehearsals.

Evening performances of the production will be Tuesday 24 to Friday 27 October inclusive, starting at 1.00pm. Further information re' ticket sales and arrangements will follow in upcoming bulletins.

For further information regarding Shrek or any other Performing Arts queries, please contact Miss Brown via email at sbrown@lordlawson.academy.

Miss S Brown
Subject Leader – Performing Arts

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 7.30pm – 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 Monday 8 January 2024.