

Parent Bulletin

Week commencing Monday 2 October 2023 – Week 1

Dear Parents and Carers

We held our annual Open Evening for Year 6 students and their parents and carers last night. Thank you so much to all our students who participated. Over 300 students volunteered to take part – presenting with me in the hall, performing, as tour guides, helping out in all our different departments and as part of the year base team. I shall be giving the Principal's Award (P5) to everyone who took part in the evening. It was good to see some of you there too, with children in Year 6 currently, looking to make the best choice for the future. Thank you also to you, as parents and carers, who made it possible for your children to be part of this wonderful event.

Your children may already have told you that we were exceptionally busy last night. In fact, we had over 500 visitors, and we had to put out extra chairs. Members of staff who have been here for 10 years told me that this is the first time we have needed to do this. Our popularity is testament to the improvements we have made here and the high quality of education we are able to offer all our students.

Some parents shared their concerns about the school being oversubscribed for next year. My message to them – and please pass this on if you are asked, or if you are wondering yourself – is that the best way to secure a place at Lord Lawson is to put this school as 1st choice on the admission form. We have not been oversubscribed with first choices in the past, so there is a very strong likelihood that a 1st choice for Lord Lawson will secure a place for your/their child.

We are continuing to monitor the proposed bus strike. Information is not completely clear, because drivers intending to strike are not required to inform their employers in advance, and some drivers may not have made up their minds yet. However, the information we have from Nexus and Go No East is that they will prioritise the scholars' bus services, and that they expect them to run as usual. Public bus services – such as the number 21 – are more uncertain, and we do not have definite information about them. Please see Mr Rayner's message later in this bulletin.

I am looking forward to meeting parents and carers of students in Year 7 at our 'Meet the Tutors Evening' on Thursday 5 October. This evening begins in the main hall at 3:30pm with some messages and information, before breaking into tutor groups.

I know that many of you are eagerly waiting the opportunity to buy your tickets for our production of *Shrek the Musical, Junior*, which takes place on the last week of this half term. Tickets are on sale from our school reception from Monday 2 October. It has been great to see the show coming into shape during the twice-weekly rehearsals. If you have not seen a Lord Lawson show before, I urge you to come: the standard is amazing, and the performances are wonderful!

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully

Mr A T Fowler
Principal

Bus Strikes

We are aware of the industrial action which is taking place from Saturday 30 September to Friday 6 October inclusive.

We have spoken to Nexus and Go North East who have confirmed that all of the scholars' services will be running. However, public services will be significantly impacted. Therefore, we ask parents and carers of students who are potentially affected to make alternative transport arrangements where possible if their child uses public transport, as there will be no skeleton services in operation.

For holders of Go North East Season tickets (weekly, monthly, annual passes) please note these will be accepted on Tyne and Wear Metro services during the strike periods; please show staff on the Metro your pass to travel.

If your child usually travels to school by car, then please allow additional time for your journey as the roads will be busier than normal.

Academy staff are aware of the situation and will make appropriate allowances for any students who may arrive slightly later than normal as a result of the strikes.

Mr A Rayner
Assistant Principal

Macmillan Cancer Support Bake Sale: Friday 6 October 2023

We are delighted to be once again raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support by hosting a bake sale for students and staff on the morning of Friday 6 October, in our library. This is a wonderful cause that has been supported by Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy Sixth Form and Mrs Jordan for well over twenty years, and we look forward to raising much needed funds through bake sales, raffles, and competitions.

The bake sale will run through periods 1, 2 and 3 for staff and sixth form students, with access for students in years 7 to 11 at break and lunch time. Sixth Form volunteers will be staffing the sale throughout the morning, and we would love parents to get involved by baking cakes, biscuits etc. to sell at the event, or by donating raffle prizes that would be suitable for both staff and student winners – no alcoholic prizes. If you can't bake, then you can support by donating shop bought items. The more donations we get, the more money we can raise.

All donations are very much appreciated and should be brought to the library on the Friday morning.

Sixth Form students will be visiting lessons throughout the morning to sell raffle tickets, and prizes will be delivered to lucky winners in the afternoon.

We look forward to reporting back to you how much we have raised for this worthy cause in the coming weeks and thank you in advance for your support.

Mrs Jordan
Head of Sixth Form

Miss Dixon
Library Coordinator



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.

- 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 the 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:

Academy Production – Shrek The Musical, Jr

Rehearsals are well underway for Shrek The Musical, Jr. Public evening performances will run from Tuesday 24 to Friday 27 October at 7pm.

Tickets are currently on sale exclusively for cast members; they will be on general sale from Monday 2 October. Tickets can be purchased from school reception at a price of £6 per ticket. If you require any adjustment or assistance for access to seating please contact Miss Brown via email at sbrown@lordlawson.academy once you have purchased your tickets.

This week we held our final auditions to cast the remaining roles of Young Shrek, Pappa Ogre, Young Fiona, Teen Fiona, and Storyteller. This provided all of our new Year 7 cast members an opportunity to audition for these roles. We would like to say congratulations to the following successful students who secured the roles below:

Young Shrek – Fin Charlton (Year 7)
Pappa Ogre – Tobi Cowen-Pickard (Year 10)
Young Fiona – Scarlett Malone (Year 7)
Teen Fiona – Hope Crozier (Year 10)
Storyteller – Maddie Walters (Year 9)

Please note that rehearsals will continue every Monday and Wednesday after school, 3.20 to 5.30pm. All cast members must attend the upcoming two compulsory Sunday rehearsals:

1. Sunday 8 October 10am to 4pm
2. Sunday 22 October 10am to 4pm

If you have any questions regarding Shrek The Musical, Jr., please do not hesitate to contact me.

Year 11 GCSE Dance Update

A reminder that Year 11 GCSE Dance students will participate in a theory workshop with the James Cousins Dance Company on Thursday 5 October, 9 to 10am. They will also complete their GCSE Solo Performance exam on Wednesday 11 October.

If you require any further information about the above events please contact me.

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 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 all students on Monday 8 January 2024.