

Parent Bulletin

Week commencing Monday 9 October 2023 – Week 2

Dear Parents and Carers

I enjoyed meeting some of you at our Year 7 Meet the Tutors Evening last night. I hope that those of you who attended found the event worthwhile. For those who were not there, I spoke briefly about our school's vision and values, and about the work we are doing this year to develop the culture in our school and to improve levels of engagement. Mr Cave spoke about the different ways we communicate with parents and carers, including the apps Class Charts and My Child at School. Mrs Potter (SENDCo) and Mrs McCarthy (Deputy SENDCo) were available to consult about special educational needs.

We aim for as many parents and carers as possible to have access to these systems. It is good to see that so many of you – the majority of parents, in fact – are regularly accessing Class Charts, where you can keep track of your child's homework and their praise and consequence points.

Today we held our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning and bake sale, run and managed by our sixth form students with help from Miss Dixon in the Library and Mrs Jordan. This event is to raise awareness of cancer care, and to raise money for Macmillan. Congratulations to our sixth form students for their contributions to this worthy cause.

The front of our school hall currently resembles an assault course, with raised bridges and platforms, and strong ropes hanging from the ceiling. Over the course of the next week, this will transform into the stage set for our show, *Shrek the Musical, Junior*. I have attended some of the rehearsals, and in a small way I am assisting the Performing Arts teaching team in helping students polish their characterisation and performance skills. Students and staff are working over this weekend and in a fortnight's time, as well as during lunch times and after school, to make sure that the show they present to you will be a wonderfully enjoyable event. Tickets are available from school Reception. Please see Miss Brown's information and the poster later in this bulletin.

I hope that you are finding the weekly Careers Bulletin useful and informative. Miss Leigh and Mrs Braban, our Careers Team, make sure that we continually put you in touch with the latest opportunities for students to explore and find out more about the world of work and possible future careers. This is not just for those who will leave school soon: it is never too soon for your child to begin thinking about areas of work that may interest them. Please use the information in the Careers Bulletin to start a regular conversation with your child.

With all good wishes,

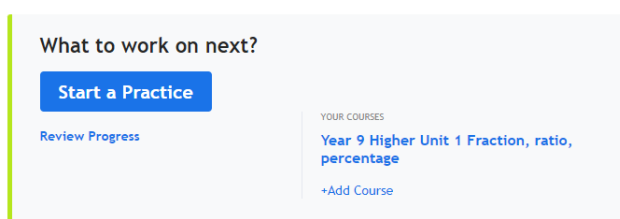
Yours faithfully

Mr A T Fowler
Principal

Maths Learning Platform: Dr Frost

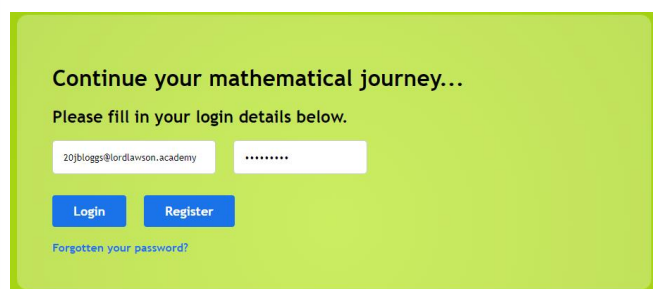
Lord Lawson subscribes to the online platform Dr Frost (www.drfrostmaths.com). The platform is for learning and practising mathematics and is built around the UK curriculum. Teachers are able to set and monitor tasks for classwork and homework and will be able to monitor results over time. Answers are automatically marked by the system, and students are provided with worked example videos where they need an extra level of support. Both teachers and learners can write feedback comments after each question, and learners can review past assigned tasks at any time.

The platform can also be used for independent practice. Your child may want to consider practising 'Key Skills' to start with, which allow repeated practice on very specific types of question, helping them to gain confidence and fluency with the skill they are practising. The school has set up a 'course' on the platform for our own scheme of work. After logging in, your child just needs to click on the direct link which is on their home dashboard (an example of this can be seen below). Each class has been set up with the unit they are currently working on, and in the case of years 10 and 11, all previous units which have been covered. This is ideal for revision and retrieval practice.



To practise questions independently, they simply need to click the blue 'Practise' button on their home dashboard or click on the relevant course to access all of the key skills within that course. After each practise, students are rewarded with points for practice, and their total 'mastery' score will increase as they become more confident with different topics.

Your child will have activated their account and set their own password. If they forget their password they can reset this by clicking in the *Forgotten your password?* link (as seen below). The user name is their school email. This will send an email with a link to reset the password.



Success with learning mathematics is all about purposeful practice, and **all** students can achieve excellent results at mathematics with a combination of practice and appropriate support. For this reason, we think that the Dr Frost platform will be of high impact to your child's learning and we ask you to encourage your child to use this tool that is free to them.

Mrs D Jackson
Subject Leader - Mathematics

Girls on Board

As part of our ongoing efforts to support students with all of their pastoral needs, we are going to be launching the 'Girls on Board' programme in school over the coming weeks.

The Girls on Board programme aims to empower girls in school to navigate the choppy waters of friendships for themselves. Whilst it is firstly aimed at girls, this programme will also be used to support boys where it will benefit them.

The following link will take you to a parent guide for the programme: [Girls On Board Parents Guide](#). If after reading the guide you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at kbarron@lordlawson.academy and I will be happy to help.

Miss K Barron
Anti-Bullying Coordinator

Message on Behalf of Birtley Swimming Pool

Gateshead Council closed **Birtley Swimming Centre on Friday 21 July 2023**. A project team comprising local community volunteers alongside members of Birtley and Gateshead and Whickham swimming clubs, plans to **reopen Birtley Swimming Centre in April 2024** as a Community Asset which will be run by a new not for profit charitable organisation. The activities they are planning will support the physical health and mental wellbeing of the local community.

We have already produced and submitted a detailed business case, which has demonstrated to Gateshead Council that **Birtley Swimming Centre can be financially viable** when run as a community asset. The project team are now working on a more detailed business plan, which will be presented to the Council in early November. We are currently **aiming to reopen the pool in April 2024**, if our business plan is approved by the Council.

A key part of our business plan will be to raise at least £100,000 which is what we need to reopen the pool. Part of this will be used to pay for **capital investment in the pool facilities and infrastructure**.

We will be applying for funding from a variety of sources, such as the **Community Ownership Fund** and the **Lottery Community Fund** but we are also asking local residents and businesses to help us raise some of our funds, as we will need to part match the funding we get from other sources. We have a crowd funding page, which can be accessed via the following link. The link will also take you to further information and a video explaining in further detail what we are trying to achieve and why.

[Help Us Reopen Birtley Swim Centre](#)

Thank you for taking the time to read this information.

Matthew Grant
Treasurer/Gateshead and Whickham ASC



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

SchoolCloud will be open to all parents and carers of students in year 10 to book appointments for the upcoming, online, parents' evening, on Tuesday 10 October 2023, at 9am. If you have any questions, please contact me at swakefield1@lordlawson.academy

Mrs S J Wakefield
PA to SLT

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: Tuesday 24 to Friday 27 October 2023

Tickets are now on sale for Shrek The Musical Junior and can be purchased for £6.00 each from school reception. If, after purchasing your tickets, you require any assistance regarding seating please contact me at sbrown@lordlawson.academy.

Our cast have been working extremely hard to bring the joyful story of Shrek to the Lord Lawson stage; you will not want to miss the opportunity to see our amazing students perform in this bright and fun show!

The Shrek cast are required to attend two upcoming Sunday rehearsals:

Sunday 8 October 10am to 4pm
Sunday 22 October 10am to 4pm

Students must bring a packed lunch, plenty of refreshments and layers of warm clothing to the rehearsal. Students will not be permitted to leave the academy throughout the day during the Sunday rehearsals.

Thank you to all parents, carers, and staff for all of your continued support for our production and towards the Performing Arts Department.

Professional Dance Workshops

This coming week we are excited to welcome back to the academy past student Georgia Robson, who will lead workshops with both KS4 and KS5 dancers and the Cast of Shrek.

Georgia is an industry professional having graduated from Laine Theatre Arts in 2021 and will return once again to the academy to inspire and challenge our students with some new workshop techniques.

Year 11 GCSE Dance and Year 13 BTEC Dance Updates

Year 11 and year 13 Dancers were wonderful ambassadors for the academy when they participated in a live online theory class with James Cousins, choreographer of GCSE Dance professional work 'Within Her Eyes' this week. The professionalism and enthusiasm from all students were superb. A thoroughly enjoyable and educational lesson which will support the GCSE students well for their theory exam in July.

Year 11 GCSE Dancers have their solo dance exam on Wednesday 11 October. Students will be off timetable all day to record both their Breathe and Flux solo performances.


If you require any further information regarding the GCSE Dance exam please contact me at sbrown@lordlawson.academy.

Miss S Brown
Subject Leader – Performing Arts



Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy

Presents

 DREAMWORKS
THEATRICALS

SHREK

THE MUSICAL JR.

Based on the DreamWorks Animation Motion Picture
and the Book by William Steig

Book and Lyrics by
David Lindsay-Abaire

Music by
Jeanine Tesori

Originally produced on Broadway by DreamWorks Theatricals and Neal Street Productions
Original Production Directed by Jason Moore and Rob Ashford "I'm A Believer"
by Neil Diamond

Tuesday 24 - Friday 27 October 2023

7pm Start - Main Hall

**Tickets £6.00 (Non-refundable)
Available from Academy Reception**

Tickets Available Now!

Should you require any adjustment or assistance for access to seating please contact
sbrown@lordlawson.academy on purchase of tickets.

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:

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.