

Parent Bulletin

Week commencing Monday 16 October 2023 – Week 1

Dear Parents and Carers

I wonder if your attention has been grabbed this week – as mine certainly has – by the appalling events in Israel and Gaza. The pictures and coverage of families torn apart by violence is distressing in the extreme. It has also made me reflect further on a theme I had been discussing with my senior team this term: how we deal with disagreements in our own school and society in order to resolve them and prevent them becoming violent.

We have experienced a few instances of children trying to settle differences through violence. We have issued severe sanctions for this. Separately, I am sad to say that we have also experienced several angry phone calls and emails to school staff from individual parents and carers, some of which have appeared quite aggressive. There are many possible sources of frustration in our society at present, but I need to make it completely clear that aggression of any sort is not acceptable, whether from children or adults. It is also counter-productive: it inflames a situation rather than resolving it. Global situations remind us that, as adults, we need to model to our children peaceful ways of resolving differences.

As many of us know, in situations of disagreement, the danger is that we stop listening to one another before we know the full facts. Partial information is dangerous: it paints a picture that is often outrageous, and frequently misleading. In all the incidents with which I have dealt over the past week, children and adults were able to start to resolve our differences only when we began once more to listen to one another.

If your child has experienced something that appears wrong or unacceptable at school, please tell us, and we will try to resolve it. But please keep the tone respectful and factual, and please keep listening. In that way, we will be able to explore and resolve the issues together.

I hope it doesn't appear facile to move onto industrial unrest: next week, we expect more strike action by bus drivers. Our scholars' buses should run as expected, but public service bus routes are likely to be badly affected. We have just one school minibus, and we will be using it to help some students in particular areas get to school. We have already contacted some parents and carers about this.

I would also appeal to any parents and carers who will be driving their children to school and who have spaces in their cars to offer these places to other Lord Lawson children in your neighbourhood. Your child may know someone who has difficulty getting to school next week, and it would be wonderful if you could make the difference for that child and their family.

Later in this bulletin, there are notices about our production of *Shrek the Musical, Junior*, our Remembrance Ceremony, and the football match to raise awareness of knife crime. It is really good to see so many students involved in these high profile events. Some tickets for the Tuesday and Thursday performances of *Shrek* are still available – please see Miss Brown's message for further details.

To end on a further positive note, it is good to see almost all students getting to their lessons really quickly now, which increases their learning time. On a walk around school this morning with the Chair of Governors, it was also excellent to see students in lessons focused and using their time well to engage with their learning. Thank you for encouraging and promoting our improvements this term: they are making a real difference to your children.

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully

Mr A T Fowler
Principal

Knife Crime Awareness: Lawson Leaders vs Friends of Tomasz Oleszak

On Friday 20 October we will come together again as a school community to stand united against knife crime.

A charity match is scheduled for one day after what would have been Tomasz Oleszak's 16th birthday. Tomasz tragically lost his life to knife crime last year; he has many friends within our school community.

The game will kick off at 3:45pm on the astro turf. Tickets are currently on sale from main reception in school for a suggested donation of £3. All money raised will go to the charity 'Samantha's Legacy.'

The charity match last year was an incredibly inspiring occasion made even more special by the fact the event was organised by close friends of Tomasz.

I'd like to thank you for your continued support in our stance against knife crime and determination to raise money for such a brilliant cause.

Thank you

Mr L Cumiskey
Year 8 Leader and Event Coordinator

Ski Trip 2024

For any parents of students involved in the Ski Trip 2024, we would like to invite you to an **information evening on Thursday 9 November 2023 at 5.30pm**, which will take place in the main hall in school.

As well as finding out further details about 'Ski 2024' and being able to ask any questions you may have, there will be an opportunity to meet staff who will be accompanying the students on the trip. We do not anticipate that the meeting will last longer than an hour. However, it is important that all parents, and students if they wish, attend this meeting, as there will be paperwork that must be checked and signed.

Thank you

Mrs S Hulme
Teacher of Maths and Ski Trip Leader

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

If you are experiencing any difficulties in booking appointments via the SchoolCloud platform, please contact me at swakefield1@lordlawson.academy and I will be happy to help.

Mrs S J Wakefield
PA to SLT

Macmillan Cancer Support Bake Sale and Raffle

Thank you to all parents, carers and students who contributed to the success of our Macmillan Cancer Support fundraiser bake sale on Friday 6 October.

We are pleased to report that £388.82 was raised for this worthy cause. This could not have happened without your generous donations and dedication.

Thank you

Miss B Dixon
Librarian

Mrs A Jordan
Head of Sixth Form



Book of Remembrance

Our Book of Remembrance will be displayed in school from next Monday. This is a place for anyone within the school community to have someone remembered at our Service or Remembrance on Friday 10 November.

Students are welcome to write in the book which will be placed in the Atrium outside the main hall. Alternatively, you can email details to me at jkemp@lordlawson.academy and I will update the book on your behalf. Please include as much information as possible, including name, rank, service number, information about their service (such as where and when they died if they were killed in action, campaigns they were involved in, heroic actions or other notable details).

With thanks

Mrs J Kemp
Remembrance Coordinator



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

If you are experiencing any difficulties in booking appointments via the SchoolCloud platform, please contact me at swakefield1@lordlawson.academy and I will be happy to help.

Mrs S J Wakefield
PA to SLT

Academy Production – Shrek The Musical, Jr: Tuesday 24 to Friday 27 October 2023

Due to high demand, we are SOLD OUT for our evening performance on Wednesday 25 and Friday 27 October. Tickets are still available to purchase for the evening performance on Tuesday 24 and Thursday 26 October. Tickets can be purchased from school reception for £6.00 each.

If, after purchasing your tickets, you require any assistance regarding seating please contact me at sbrown@lordlawson.academy.

The Shrek cast have one more Sunday rehearsal they must attend on:

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.

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.

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 the Council approves our business plan.

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



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 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.
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.