

Parent Bulletin

Week commencing Monday 13 November 2023 – Week 2



Dear Parents and Carers

Our students have made an excellent start back at school, and the first week after half term has gone well. Those who attended well in the previous half term enjoyed some time on the inflatables yesterday as a reward. I know that the continuation of the bus drivers' strike has caused problems for quite a number of people, however. Thank you so much for all the efforts you are putting into getting your children to school. Scholars' buses continue to run, and we have rarely seen them so full. We are using our own minibus twice a day, and through one of our governors we have been able to hire an additional minibus from a local Scout troop, which is also being driven by members of staff and another one of our governors. We are not able to reach everyone, however, and we thank sincerely those of you who are helping one another out with transport during this difficult time.

This morning we held our annual Remembrance Ceremony. This was a moving event, involving 26 students and watched by some distinguished guests, including the Deputy Lord Lieutenant. Eleven classes also watched the ceremony, and the whole school observed a minute's silence at 11am. As we think about those caught up in two international conflicts, in Israel/Gaza and in Ukraine, the need for remembrance has rarely seemed greater in recent years.

Our Remembrance Ceremony included some familiar ingredients. As well as hearing suitable readings and reading a list of names of those members of our community who have died in war, our students and visitors laid wreaths and planted poppy crosses in our own garden of remembrance. All this can seem very much linked to the past – past conflicts, remembering the dead. After the Last Post and the minute's silence, however, there was the opportunity for our school community to commit itself to work for peace and stability in our world for the future.

Like many of us I expect, I find the idea of 'remembrance' at times difficult. What are we remembering, exactly, when few of us (thankfully) have any real connection with war and sacrifice? How effective is our remembrance, and how sincere our hope for peace, when we seem so keen to wage war on one another all over again in each generation? Yet there is a better way, and remembering the past can be a key to unlocking a better future.

Mrs Kemp also created and presented an assembly for all our students. In it, she explored the work and legacy of the Birtley Belgians, wounded soldiers and refugees from occupied Belgium who were given a place to live in Elisabethville in Birtley during the First World War. These people worked in munitions factories in Birtley, making artillery shells to fire on the front line to reclaim the freedom of their country. Some people from Birtley extended the hand of friendship to the Birtley Belgians, but many were suspicious of them. Some were even jealous of the fact that the Belgians had electricity in their houses and a toilet that flushed, while many who lived in Birtley did not. As Mrs Kemp pointed out, the Belgians might have enjoyed electricity and a flushing toilet, but they had been deprived of their freedom, their homes, their families, and their country.

Most of Elisabethville has now gone, and there are few clues to the former existence of the Birtley Belgians. Their houses and most other buildings have now disappeared, but a few buildings and part of the perimeter fence remain, signs that – if you know where to look and how to interpret the past – there was once a foreign community in the middle of wartime Birtley.

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As Mrs Kemp's assembly reminded us, many people in our area offered a home to refugees from Ukraine last year. Whilst we can't all open our homes to others, we can support charities who are helping refugees. We can raise awareness of these people and the horrors that they are escaping, and we can be kind, helpful and welcoming to those who come to our communities, both from other areas in the UK and from around the world. Here at Lord Lawson, our school is an increasingly diverse community, and we welcome those who come to us from different parts of the country and the world. It is good to see students with different experiences and different heritages getting on so well together, learning tolerance and understanding as they learn alongside one another. Remembrance can seem an abstract and difficult concept, but the legacy we inherit of the sacrifices of previous generations, so we can live together in harmony and freedom, surely deserves a minute's thought at least once a year.

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully

Mr A T Fowler
Principal



Year 8 Homework Support

This week saw the start of regular homework support sessions for year 8 students. Mr Cumiskey and Miss Harrison provide homework support in the year 8 base every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at break time.

All year 8 students are encouraged to attend and are rewarded with a P2 and the opportunity to win Amazon vouchers. Students who regularly miss homework deadlines are instructed to attend and receive support.

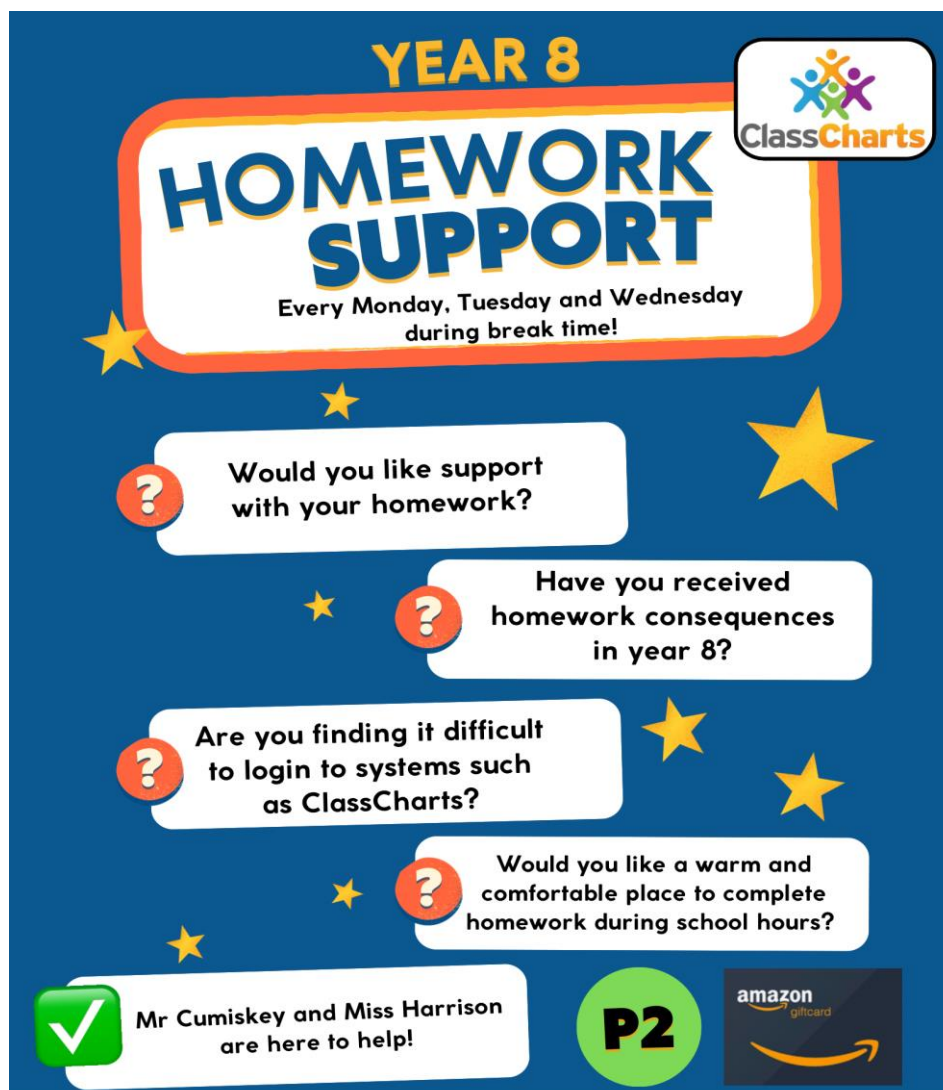
The poster below is displayed in the year 8 base and in year 8 tutor rooms, I have attached a copy of the poster for your reference.

Please encourage your child to attend homework support sessions to ensure all homework is completed.

Thank you for your support.

Mr Cumiskey
Year 8 Leader

Miss Harrison
Deputy Year Leader



The poster is titled 'YEAR 8 HOMEWORK SUPPORT' in large, bold, blue letters with a yellow outline. Below the title, it says 'Every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday during break time!'. The poster features the ClassCharts logo in the top right corner. It contains four question boxes, each with a red question mark icon: 'Would you like support with your homework?', 'Have you received homework consequences in year 8?', 'Are you finding it difficult to login to systems such as ClassCharts?', and 'Would you like a warm and comfortable place to complete homework during school hours?'. At the bottom left, there is a green checkmark icon and the text 'Mr Cumiskey and Miss Harrison are here to help!'. At the bottom center, there is a green circle with 'P2' in black. At the bottom right, there is an Amazon giftcard logo.

All attendees will enter a draw to win an Amazon voucher!

ALL YEAR 8 STUDENTS ARE INVITED

Go straight to the year 8 base after period 1

Everyone is supported. Nobody should miss a homework deadline

Dickens by Candlelight

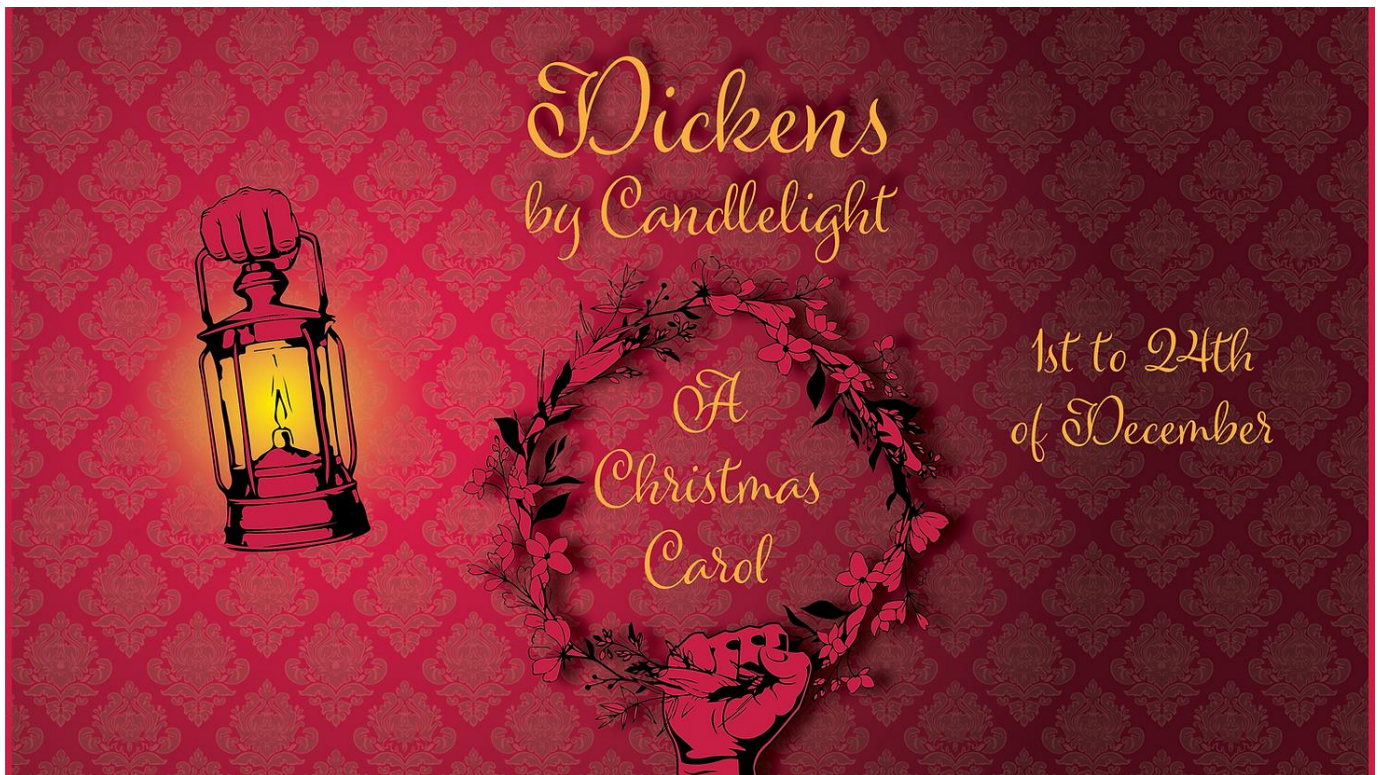
Please see below for details of an opportunity to see a performance of 'A Christmas Carol' that may be of interest to KS4 English Literature students, particularly year 11 who are currently studying the novella. This event runs from Friday 1 to Saturday 24 December in Newcastle.

The information below is an extract from the website, and gives you a flavour of what you can expect:

"Back for 2023, with a brand new Theatrical interpretation of Charles Dickens' celebrated Christmas novella. Once again set in the magnificent 17th century 'Great Room' at Alderman Fenwick House, Pilgrim Street in the heart of Newcastle upon Tyne. An intimate production for just 48 guests per night puts you at the heart of the performance. Set in the former dining room and bar salon of the former 'Queens Head hotel,' where Dickens himself would stay; and it is said, tell his stories over dinner to the assembled hotel guests. The room is dressed in full Mid-Victorian Christmas decoration - a stunning location this Classic festive tale. Christmas and Dickens - truly the most magical night of theatre this Christmas!
A Niltoni Creative and Northeast Productions Co-Production."

Please note this event is not linked to the academy; it is an external event. Tickets can be booked using the following website: <https://www.niltoni.com/event-details/dickens-by-candlelight>

Mrs F Robinson-Dodd
Deputy Subject Leader - English



Senior Maths Challenge Results

At the end of last term a group of students participated in the UK Maths Trust, Senior Maths Challenge. We are pleased to announce that the students below scored highest in the group and achieved the following results:

Gold Award

Navjot Kaur (Best in School)

Silver Award

Dominic Gao (Best in Year 11)

Daisy Gladstone

Michael Bruce (Best in Year 12)

Sam Davidson

Oscar Dunlavey

Mackenzie Burdon

James Chambers

Bronze Award

Benjamin Anderson

Thomas Brown

Daniel Carr

Harry Dobinson

Erin Fairbrother

Dulcie Gray

Oliver Hall

Sophie Henderson

Sophie Lee

Lucy McGuinness-Brown

Kyle Malcolm

Euan Mulholland

Samuel Nicholson

Hayden Pigott

Euan Rennie

Alyssa Scott-Hillman

Pui Chee Sham

Edward Slater

Matthew Ward

Congratulations to all who were placed, as this is a magnificent achievement considering the extremely challenging questions they faced. And a huge well done to all students that participated.

Mr L Robertson

Teacher of Mathematics

Year 11: Head Boy and Head Girl

Congratulations to the following students who have been successful in their application to gain a student leadership position. These students have been involved in a rigorous election process involving:

- Submitting a standout application for the role
- Creating a presentation – which they then presented to their peers
- Being interviewed by the Year Team.

At the end of this process, staff and fellow students took to the ballot box to cast their votes, and we are pleased to present the successful candidates:



Head Boy
Jack Cooke



Head Girl
Elena Mugnai



Deputy Head Boy
Gabriel Halpin



Deputy Head Girl
Ilham Kayira

Well done to all applicants! We look forward to working with our new Student Leaders over the coming year.

Mr G Thompson
Year 11 Leader

Mrs D Smith
Deputy Year Leader

Anti-Bullying Week

This year, Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy will once again support national Anti-Bullying Week. There will be a number of events throughout the week to raise awareness about bullying and opportunities for students to make voluntary donations, which will go to The Anti-Bullying Alliance.

Anti-Bullying Week will commence on Monday 13 November and will begin with Odd Socks Day, which is an opportunity for students to have a bit of fun and celebrate the idea that we are all unique individuals. A timetable for the week of activities can be found below.

Please encourage your child to participate as we celebrate together as a community.

Thank you

Miss K Barron
Teacher of English and Anti-bullying Lead



Anti-bullying week timeline 13th-17th November

There are many ways that you can get involved with anti-bullying week

MONDAY 13th NOVEMBER	TUESDAY 14 TH NOVEMBER	WEDNESDAY 15 TH NOVEMBER	THURSDAY 16 TH NOVEMBER	FRIDAY 17 TH NOVEMBER
Make a noise about bullying				
 Odd Socks Day	Pay it forwards	Craft fair and cake sale	Tutor reading- Famous authors making a noise about bullying	 How would you make a noise about bullying?

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:

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| 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. |