

Parent Bulletin

Week commencing Monday 27 November 2023 – Week 2

Dear Parents and Carers

Your bulletin comes one day earlier this week, owing to our school being closed tomorrow for the occasional day.

You may remember that last week was national Anti-Bullying Week, and our school played its part in the week's events. We work hard to make sure that our students are not bullied and that they do not bully others. This is because we recognise that good relationships between students are vital to students' wellbeing and progress. Trust and Respect are two of our school values. Ms Barron is our Anti-Bullying Coordinator, and she works with a team of anti-bullying ambassadors and with our pastoral leaders to promote understanding of what bullying is, why it is wrong, and what to do about it if students feel they are being bullied or they witness bullying. Ms Barron and her team take all reports of bullying very seriously, and they act quickly to intervene and to resolve issues.

Any student who has concerns, for themselves or for others, can speak to any member of staff, or they can write a note and post it in one of the drop boxes that are in the student entrance and in year bases. As a result of the work that is done at Lord Lawson, incidents of bullying have been greatly reduced. New students who come to Lord Lawson frequently comment to us about how they very quickly feel safe and how little bullying there is here. We are not complacent about this, however: we would like to eliminate bullying altogether.

We understand what an emotive subject bullying can be. Sometimes the situation is complex; a bully can also be a victim, and a victim can lash out at others. We always ask students, parents and carers to work closely with us so we can resolve any issues. Occasionally I receive complaints that have been made to the local authority or Ofsted, but about issues that have not been made known to us. Please understand that the local authority and Ofsted have no power to investigate complaints. Instead, they ask parents and carers to follow the school's processes, because that is the best way to reach a resolution.

Through their activities last week, including odd socks day and a bake sale, students and members of staff also raised a considerable sum of money for the Anti-Bullying Alliance. As part of Anti-Bullying Week, students were given the opportunity to 'make a noise' about bullying. Some students chose to write poems on the subject and to enter them for our competition. Later in this bulletin you will see some winning examples of these poems. I hope you enjoy reading these as much as I did.

Above all, our message to students is not to be a bystander: if you see bullying, you need to call it out. Our students support one another, and they are able to help one another. In his 1867 lecture at St Andrews University, the philosopher John Stuart Mill said, "Let not any one pacify his conscience by the delusion that he can do no harm if he takes no part, and forms no opinion. Bad men need nothing more to compass their ends, than that good men should look on and do nothing." In slightly more modern terms, we understand that to do nothing when we see bad things happening is to be complicit in these bad acts. A 'No Bystanders' culture can change this.

I hope you and your families enjoy the long weekend. School begins again as usual on Monday morning, for the start of the last four weeks of term.

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully

Mr A T Fowler
Principal



Lord Lawson Community Christmas Project: Give the Gift of Food this Christmas

This week saw the launch of our Community Christmas Project, which is being driven by our Student Council, in partnership with The Birtley Hub.

From Monday 27 November, we will accept food donations on behalf of The Birtley Hub (linked to the Birtley Foodbank) and will continue to do so for the four weeks leading up to Christmas.

Further information relating to the project i.e. suggested items for donation, appropriate packaging etc., can be found on our website by using the following link:

[Community Christmas Project 2023](#)

If you would like information on how to access foodbanks, or how you can volunteer at a foodbank across the Christmas period, then please use the following link: [Trussell Trust Foodbanks](#).

Thank you as always for your support.

Mr D Cave
Assistant Principal

Uniform Reminder

A number of students are attending school with inappropriate hairstyles; in particular, there has been an increase in the number of male students attending school with various lines and patterns shaved into their hairline.

I would like to draw your attention to the extract below, taken from our Uniform policy:

‘While we encourage students to be individual, with their own unique personality, we also wish to cultivate a positive and consistent image for the Academy. The Academy does not accept inappropriate or extreme hairstyles (e.g. short, shaved sides, razor-cuts, or Mohican-style) nor unnatural colours, blocks, stripes, braids with colours or extensions. The school reserves the right to determine what is considered “inappropriate;” If a student wishes to dye their hair, they must choose a natural colour.’

Your continued support with regards to uniform is greatly appreciated.

Mr I Cooper
Deputy Principal

Dropping Off and Collecting Students from School

Traffic congestion at the entrance and exit of the school grounds continues to be an issue.

Can we politely ask parents and carers exiting the school grounds, to turn left at the exit gate. We have trialled this method on recent Open Evenings, and it has proven to reduce the congestion for traffic entering the school from the right, as the road is not then blocked with traffic attempting to exit on the same roads.

Mr I Cooper
Deputy Principal

PE Success: Gateshead Under 15 Sportshall Athletics Championships

This morning, two teams of our year 9 and 10 students participated in the Gateshead U-15 Sportshall Athletics Championship.

Although competition was strong, both teams were victorious. We are super proud of all who took part.

Well done to:

Izzie Deng	Jamie Anderson
Eddie Robson	Callum Bailey
Tiffany Wang	Kris Clark
Erin Ward	Connor Noble
Mya White	Isaac Smails
Ava Yule	Joshua Smith

Well Done!

Mr D Wyllie
Subject Leader - PE

Lord Lawson Christmas Pantomime

Further to our announcement last week about our upcoming performance of the Lord Lawson Pantomime 'A Shrektacular Christmas', I would like to provide you with information about ticket sales.

From Tuesday 28 November to Friday 1 December, tickets will be on sale exclusively for the cast members. These students will be able to purchase a maximum of three tickets for the performance during this week.

From Monday 4 December, all remaining tickets will be placed on general sale and sold on a first come first served basis. Unfortunately, we are unable to reserve tickets.

Please purchase your tickets as soon as possible to avoid the disappointment of missing out. We are confident this will be a sell-out performance.

If you require any adjustment or assistance for access or seating in the hall, please contact me once you have purchased your tickets.

Further information about performance times etc. will be provided in future editions of this bulletin.

If you have any queries about the pantomime or any of the extra-curricular activities in Performing Arts in general, please contact me via email at sbrown@lordlawson.academy and I will be happy to help.

Thank you.

Miss S Brown
Subject Leader – Performing Arts



Anti-Bullying Week: 13 to 17 November 2023

Anti-Bullying week 2023 was a national event, the theme of which was 'Make A Noise About Bullying'.

As reported in previous bulletins, Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy once again supported the event with a variety of activities, one of which involved asking our students to decide how they would want to make a noise about bullying, by creating a poster, a chant, a poem, a story, or anything else they could think of. Prizes would be given for the best entries.

We were delighted with the response from students. There were some superb examples across the school, but the entries on the following pages stood out as exceptional!

Well done to Mrs Kemp's tutor group, Mr Wallace's tutor group, and Steven McGann and Will Robson in Mrs Hall's tutor group.

It is important for us all to encourage young people to consider what bullying means, how banter can turn into something more hurtful, and what we can do to stop bullying.

Thank you all for your support.

Ms K Barron
Anti-Bullying Coordinator



The Bully

In the schoolyard where children play,
A bully lurks in the light of day.
He takes his power from other's cries,
And feeds on the pain in their tear streaked eyes.

Taunts and jeers, they fill the air,
As the bully preys without a care.
His words like daggers, sharp and unkind.
Inflicting wounds on the hearts and minds.

But in the shadows, a glimmer of hope,
A light shines through the darkness's scope.
The bullied find strength in kinship and friends,
Toether we stand, as the tormentor's reign ends.

For words can wound and hearts can ache,
But love and support will never forsake.
Together they rise against the bully's might,
With courage and unity they'll win the fight.

So let us stand against the bully's sway,
And make the schoolyard a safe place to play.
With kindness and empathy, lets pave the way,
To end the torment of bullying each day.



Bullying is Not Cool

Bullying is not cool.
It doesn't make you rule.
If you bully you're a massive fool.

Bullying is not cool.
It doesn't make you strong like a mule.
If you bully I'll push you in the pool.

Bullying is not cool.
We don't like it in this school.

Sticks and Stones

Sticks and stones may break my bones
But words, they cannot hurt me.
But they do.

Sharp. Barbed.
Blunt. Pointed.
Spiky. Burning.
Words.

Words that crash into my head
And pierce my heart.

Your words make me feel
Small, torn and worn.
You're breaking me down.

When you hurt someone
It's not just one person you hurt.
The ripples of your words
Spread far and wide.

It's time I took the power from you.
It's time to stand tall and
To be proud of who I am.
To wear the armour
Those who care about me have given me.

You can't win.
Not this time.
Words have power.
But so do I.



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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| 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. |