

Parent Bulletin

Week commencing Monday 4 December 2023 – Week 1

Dear Parents and Carers

I start with a piece of good news: we hear that the bus drivers' dispute has been resolved, and that bus services will be back to normal from tomorrow. I know how much of a relief this will be to so many of you. I would like to thank several groups of people who have helped our students get to school during this disrupted time. First, thank you to the drivers who have kept our scholars' services going during the dispute. Secondly, thank you to parents and carers who made arrangements to share lifts and help one another. Thirdly, thank you to our site staff, governors and senior leaders who have helped us to borrow and hire minibuses and who have driven them every day.

We currently have three minibuses running every morning and evening to help students who would not otherwise be able to get to school. We have had to use school funds and staff time to provide this transport, so it is clearly not sustainable in the longer term. However, we will continue to run these minibuses for the next week – until 8 December – to enable students and families to make arrangements to get back to 'normal'.

The wintry weather has taken some by surprise this week. When the weather is dry and the yards are safe, it is better for children to be out in the open and the fresh air. Our students expect to be outside: some were clearly disappointed that we had everyone inside today, when the back yard was unsafe and the air was extremely cold! However, I have been surprised by the number of students who attend school in these conditions without a coat. Please make sure that your child comes to school with a warm and waterproof coat. Even if you drop your child off at school, it is likely that they will be outdoors at break and lunch time, so they still need their coat.

As part of our move to improve engagement with parents and carers, we will ask visitors to the school to complete a short survey about their experiences and their views on our reception area. We are hoping to redevelop this area over the coming year, and your views are valued.

Finally, I hope you will read the notice about our Christmas show. Miss Brown and the Performing Arts Department have created an original pantomime, featuring many of the characters from *Shrek*. It promises to be a *Shrektacular Christmas* performance, and I am sure it will be a sell-out. Tickets are on sale from Monday.

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully

Mr A T Fowler
Principal

Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy Pantomime: A Shrektacular Christmas

On Tuesday 12 December at 7pm, the Performing Arts department will be presenting **A Shrektacular Christmas**, an original Lord Lawson Pantomime.

Tickets are on general sale from Monday 4 December for £6.00 and can be purchased from the academy reception. Please see poster below for further details.

If you have any queries regarding the performance please contact me via email at sbrown@lordlawson.academy

Miss S Brown

Subject Leader – Performing Arts



Should you require any adjustment or assistance for access to seating please contact sbrown@lordlawson.academy on purchase of tickets. Late arrivals will not be permitted into the hall until the interval to maintain the health and safety of our students during the performance.

Flu Vaccinations

On Tuesday 5 December, the South Tyneside Immunisation Team will be in school to administer the flu vaccination. Any student whose parent or carer completed the online consent form and who are in school, will receive the vaccination on that day.

For further information relating to immunisations and booking online, please use the following link:

[Northumbria NHS Childrens Services](#)

Mr D Brydon
Health Unit Officer

Visitors Survey

From Monday 4 December, for a two-week period, visitors to the academy will be asked to complete a short survey with regards to the reception area.

The survey will be on an iPad and will take only a minute or two to complete. It will be completely anonymous but will provide us with feedback to inform future decisions we make about redesigning the reception area.

Your support, as always, is greatly appreciated.

Mr D Cave
Assistant 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

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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| 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. |