

# Parent Bulletin

Week commencing Monday 12 February 2024 – Week 1

Dear Parents and Carers

For the past two weeks, students in years 11 and 13 have been sitting their Spring assessments. These examination-style assessments are designed to help our students evaluate their own learning and prepare for the summer examinations. We know that, in many cases, there has not yet been time to learn the whole course, and the assessments are designed with that in mind. They help students to revise and to recall the knowledge and understanding that they have already learned, and they help them to test this knowledge and understanding in new contexts and against examination-style questions.

My own research shows that students often misinterpret the demands of questions, and that in examination conditions they frequently do not remember to apply the processes and approaches that they use in lessons. More practice *in examination conditions* enables them to become more used to the varied demands and expectations of each subject. Over the next couple of weeks, teachers will be marking the examinations and providing feedback to students.

I want to commend your children for the mature and sensible way they have approached these Spring assessments. There has been a marked improvement in the preparedness of our Year 11 students, in particular. In conversation with students, several of them have told me that they have been more prepared for these examinations, that they have been putting aside time regularly for revision, and that they have been using some of the revision methods they have been taught. Of course, they may have just been telling their Principal what they thought I wanted to hear, so I asked them to give me examples and to show me some of the resources they have created. I was at least partly convinced! But I also told them that I shall wait to see the results.

Still on the subject of Year 11, you will see in this bulletin a schedule of revision sessions in mathematics. These sessions are organised by topic. We strongly encourage students to attend who need further help with these topics, regardless of their usual class teacher or teaching group. Maths teachers have already told students if they are relevant to them and if they should attend these sessions.

I am also delighted to be able to share details of the Sustainable Prom Shop hosted by Whickham School during half term week. I am grateful to our colleagues at Whickham School for making this excellent facility available to our students.

Mr Cumiskey has continued his work with the Pride Group, and I was delighted to hear that further progress has been made towards the Rainbow Flag Award. Thank you to all parents and carers who have supported this.

Finally, I need to repeat my plea that parents and carers make sure that their children have a waterproof coat with them when they come to school. We saw an increased number on this particularly wet and cold morning, but still – amazingly – a large number of students arrived without an adequate coat. If you need help in providing your child with a coat, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the appropriate year team.

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully

**Dr Andrew Fowler**  
**Principal**

### **Students Arriving to School On-time**

I would like to thank all parents and carers who ensure their children arrive to school on time. It is important for students to arrive by 8.45am so they can be in tutor time or assembly, as these are the forums where many items of important information are given to students. This also means they are set and ready to learn when their first lesson begins.

We are aware there are a number of roadworks in the local area which can cause delays to traffic. However, we ask students who travel to school on public transport, and where their usual bus service regularly experiences delays because of these works, to opt to take an earlier bus where possible. The 21 service is a good example, where buses run every 10 minutes.

Additionally, we would ask any parents/carers who bring students to school via car who may also regularly experience delays, where possible, please begin your journey earlier to ensure your children arrive to school on time.

As always, thank you for your support.

*Mr I Cooper*  
*Deputy Principal*

### **Lost Property**

We have a large number of lost property items at school reception. Any items that have been clearly labelled with a student's name have been returned.

Clothing items in good condition such as coats etc., will be donated to local charity shops. Items of uniform will be distributed amongst the year bases.

All other items will be disposed of after Friday 16 February.

We urge all parents and carers to ensure all items of school clothing are clearly marked with their child's name, including footwear.

*Mrs S Wakefield*  
*Office Manager*

### **Year 11: Blood Brothers Trip**

Last week, over 100 of our year 11 students visited Newcastle Theatre Royal for a matinee performance of Willy Russell's Blood Brothers. This is a set text as part of GCSE English Literature and was a valuable opportunity for students to see the musical performed live.

Many students commented that they now have a new appreciation of the text, having developed alternative interpretations of some characters and themes following the visit. It was a delight to hear students recalling the songs from the musical on our return coaches.

*Mrs F Robinson-Dodd*  
*Deputy Subject Leader - English*

## **Rainbow Flag Award**

We are continuing with our efforts to make Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy as inclusive as possible. You will be aware from previous parent bulletins that staff and students have been working together for over a year to achieve the Rainbow Flag Award.

We are delighted to announce that we have so far met 5 out of the 6 section requirements, and I have posted the some of the comments from the awarding body:

### **Pastoral Support:**

“Pastoral staff explicitly advertise their services and spaces as being LGBT+ positive and inclusive.”

### **Supportive Governors and Parents:**

“Governors have recognised the importance of challenging any bullying, discrimination or harassment which takes place within school so that all students, including those who are LGBT+, feel safe and supported. The comments parents shared illustrate that they feel that their children are supported within school and they therefore feel confident trusting you with their child’s education.”

### **Skilled Teachers:**

“Staff at Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy can confidently and consistently recognise and appropriately challenge LGBT-phobia, supported by organisational systems for recording and reporting such incidents.”

### **Effective Policies:**

“Inclusive policies are written and published that reflect a commitment to robustly combat LGBT-phobia and create an LGBT+ positive learning environment, in line with legal, statutory and moral obligations.”

### **Pupil Voice:**

“Student-led activities that positively promote LGBT+ lives and people are encouraged and supported by the school.”

We are one section (Inclusive Curriculum), away from gaining the prestigious Rainbow Flag Award. I hope to soon share with you the exciting news of meeting this section’s requirement’s and achieving the full award very soon!

Thank you for your continued support.

*Mr L Cumiskey*  
*Year 8 Leader*

## **Cheerleading Club**

On Tuesday 27 February we are launching our Cheerleading club. This will run every Tuesday lunchtime in the sports hall and is open to all year groups. Students can attend in their school uniform but should come equipped with a pair of trainers or flat footwear such as converse.

Any student wishing to join the club should collect an activity pass from me after half term in the PE office, either at the very start of lunch or at the end of the school day.

*Miss S Whiting*  
*Teacher of PE*

### **Sustainable Prom Shop – Whickham School**

Whickham School has launched a sustainable prom shop for prom clothing, which will be open during the February half term holidays. The aim is to make prom accessible to all students. All dresses and suits are FREE TO BORROW.

Any year 11 or year 13 student from any Gateshead secondary school is invited to contact the school for an appointment. All appointments must be pre-booked and are private.

Please view the details on the information flyer further in this bulletin for contact details.

*Mr A Hodgson  
Year 11 Leader*

### **Year 8 Subject Parents' Evening**

The year 8 subject parents' evening is scheduled to take place on **Thursday 7 March 2024**, 3.45 – 6.45pm.

The evening will once again be online. Further details will follow in the coming weeks, please check the parent bulletin and alerts you may receive via Class Charts.

*Mrs S J Wakefield  
PA to SLT*

### **Reports on My Child at School (MCAS)**

The reports for year 7 and year 8 students are now live on MCAS.

If you have forgotten your login details for MCAS, please email a request to: [lordlawson@lordlawson.academy](mailto:lordlawson@lordlawson.academy) giving the name and year group of your child and your login details will be emailed to you.

*Mrs S J Wakefield  
PA to SLT*



**WHICKHAM  
SCHOOL**

# Sustainable Prom Shop



## OPENING SOON!

**Making plans for your Y11 or Y13 Prom?**

**Worried about the cost?**

**Want to make a sustainable fashion choice?**

## Our Prom Shop is for you!

**Monday 19th - Friday 23rd February**

**10am - 4pm**

**All dresses and suits are FREE to borrow!**

## Private Appointments

**Booking essential: 0191 4960026**

## **Year 11: After School Maths Revision Sessions**

Your child has completed a mini review in their maths lesson, which has been used to identify which topics they need to complete further work on to embed their knowledge. To support our students in this, we are hosting a number of revision sessions over the next two weeks, which have been listed for you below.

- Monday 12 February:** Higher, Topic 5 (Error intervals) in Ma28
- Tuesday 13 February:** Foundation A, Topic 5 (Reverse percentages) in Ma29  
Foundation B, Topic 5 (Percentage of an amount) in Ma22
- Wednesday 14 February:** Higher, Topic 6 (Create and solve equations) in Ma20
- Monday 26 February:** Foundation B, Topic 6 (Basic probability) in Ma28
- Tuesday 27 February:** Foundation A, Topic 6 (Ordering standard form) in Ma23
- Thursday 29 February:** Higher, Topic 7 (Sharing in a given ratio) in Ma23  
Foundation A, Topic 7 (Pythagoras) in Ma25  
Foundation B, Topic 7 (Substitution) in Ma27
- Monday 4 March:** Higher, Topic 8 (Volume of cones/pyramids) in Ma28
- Tuesday 5 March:** Foundation A, Topic 8 (Relative frequency) in Ma22  
Foundation B, Topic 8 (2D shapes) in Ma26

Students know which sessions are relevant to them and should attend those.

We will be running a further series of sessions, details of which will be provided in future parent bulletins.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me on [djackson@lordlawson.academy](mailto:djackson@lordlawson.academy) and I will be happy to help.

*Mrs D Jackson*  
*Subject Leader – Mathematics*

## Upcoming School Events for the Spring Term

At the beginning of every term, we will publish a list of upcoming school events in this bulletin. Some events, such as Parents' Evenings, will also be communicated separately via email or ClassCharts. Please ensure you look out for these.

For your advance notice, the events for the Spring Term are listed below:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
Monday 12 to Friday 16 February:	National Apprenticeship Week – all year groups.
Friday 16 to Friday 23 February:	Ski Trip.
<b>Friday 16 February:</b>	<b>Last day of school for staff and students – Half term holidays begin Saturday 17 February. School reopens for all students on Monday 26 February.</b>
Wednesday 28 February to Saturday 2 March:	Berlin Trip.
Monday 4 to Friday 8 March:	National Careers Week – all year groups.
Thursday 7 March:	Year 8 Parents' Evening, 3.45 – 6.45pm. Appointments will be online. <a href="#">World Book Day</a> .
Thursday 21 March:	Year 5 Open Evening, 4.30 – 6.30pm., for students who will be joining secondary school in September 2025.
<b>Thursday 28 March:</b>	<b>Last day of school for staff and students – Easter holidays begin Friday 29 March (Good Friday). School reopens for all students on Monday 15 April.</b>
Tuesday 2 to Saturday 6 April:	Lloret de Mar Sports Trip.