

# Parent Bulletin

Week commencing Monday 26 February 2024 – Week 2

Dear Parents and Carers

As the spring sunshine begins to appear, plants push their shoots through the ground, and birds begin to sing, so the thoughts of many of our students and staff turn to extra-curricular activities and trips. Early this morning, students and eight members of staff set off on their ski trip, led by Mrs Hulme and Mr White. Parents, carers and students were also in school last night to hear more details about upcoming trips to Germany and Spain, led by Ms Cross and Miss Golby. I am grateful to my colleagues, who willingly take on the awesome task of organising and running foreign trips, in order to give many of your children such wonderful educational and leisure opportunities.

We have enjoyed welcoming in speakers from different organisations this week, presenting ideas about apprenticeships to different year groups. On the whole, I have been impressed with the speakers' abilities to tailor their messages to the age of their audience, and their awareness of the different options available to young people, including school sixth form, employment and apprenticeships. Please continue these conversations with your children – it's fine (normal, even) for them not to 'know' yet what they want to do when they leave full-time education aged 18, and our conversations with them are part of a process of discernment and exploration. Our careers leads – Miss Leigh, Mrs Braban and Mrs Jordan – provide a wealth of opportunities for students to find out more about different future routes.

This has been a term of hard work and challenge. January and February can feel like difficult months, with uncertain weather and restricted hours of daylight. For some students, these challenges are ones from which they run away, rejecting the help that is on offer, and persisting in behaving in ways that are disturbing and disruptive to others. Governors have supported my decisions to permanently exclude five students this term, whose continued poor behaviour and persistent disruption have been detrimental to the education and wellbeing of other students. The large majority of students, however, have risen to and met the challenges of their work and our shared expectations. I congratulate them, and thank you for your support: your children are an absolute credit to you, and they are great ambassadors for the school.

The word 'ambassador' implies one who is 'sent out' to represent a state or an organisation. As some of our students prepare to visit foreign countries, they are literal ambassadors for our school. This week, Mr Cooper and I have also been showing groups of people round our school, as they decide whether to apply for a position here. In our tours of the school, we continually see how well our students represent themselves and our school. Without exception, our visitors have been impressed by the settled and calm feeling of the school, the politeness of our students, the quality and quantity of work that our students are doing, and the expert guidance given by our teachers. It is good to hear this external view, reminding of us things we should never take for granted.

I hope you and your families have a relaxing half term break together.

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully

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

## **Years 7 to 9 Music Homework: Focus on Sound**

Well done to all the students who have regularly completed their music homework and have been receiving their praise points for ensuring their homework is handed in on time and to an outstanding standard. We are delighted with the dedication and hard work students have committed to their homework so far this year and look forward to seeing this dedication continue on our return from the half term break.

Music homework is set every fortnight and is completed on the **Focus on Sound** platform. All homework links to Focus on Sound are set in **ClassCharts** so students can easily access their homework. The platform is designed to promote independent learning through text, video and audio clips and culminate in a structured quiz that tests students' recall of prior learning and will also consolidate skills taught in class. Student logins and passwords have been set so that they are the same login as their email address and password details that students use to log into the computers in school.

Students are asked to log into the Focus on Sound program and complete the work before their next music lesson. All students who meet the deadline and achieve a 30% score or above, are allocated a P1 praise point. Students who achieve 75% or above are rewarded with a P2. After a half term, if a student has worked outstandingly to a 100% grade in every piece of work they have submitted, they will receive a P3 for their consistent positive effort and attitude. It is wonderful to give out so many rewards to recognise the dedication and commitment our students have towards their home learning and supporting their work in class.

If your child has any problems accessing their homework, please encourage them to speak to their music teacher or email them prior to the lesson so that any issues can be avoided and the teacher can help them as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on [rhall@lordlawson.academy](mailto:rhall@lordlawson.academy) and I will be happy to help. You can also contact Mrs Gray on [agray@lordlawson.academy](mailto:agray@lordlawson.academy) or Mr Hodgson on [ahodgson@lordlawson.academy](mailto:ahodgson@lordlawson.academy).

Thank you and enjoy your half term.

***Mrs R Hall***  
***Assistant Subject Leader – Performing Arts***

## **Intermediate Maths Challenge 2024**

The results are in and we can announce that 23 of our students achieved either Silver or Bronze awards in the National Intermediate Maths Challenge.

### **Silver Award**

Izzie Deng  
Emirhan Erkal  
Sam Lawrence  
Hector Sadlowski  
Sarah Cabbab  
Jacob James

### **Bronze Award**

Tiffany Wang  
Rhys Downey  
Tom Jenkins  
William Marshall  
Abigail Coe  
Leonor Pereira Da Silva  
Erin Anderson  
Madeleine Jobe  
Lola Gibson Tuck

Ben Ives  
Jack Iley  
Kristian Irwin  
Natasha Bowes  
Alice Mugnai  
Evie Rayner  
Dan Hulme  
Ava Yule

Congratulations to you all! Special congratulations to Izzie Deng, who has been invited to participate in the next stage of the competition.

*Mr L Robertson*  
*Teacher of Mathematics*

## **GCSE Dance Updates**

The year 11 GCSE Dance, Performance and Choreography exam is on Wednesday 27 March. Students will be off timetable all day to prepare and record their exam performances.

Year 10 GCSE Dance students performing in choreography exams will also be off timetable all day, until their performances have been recorded.

On the evening of Wednesday 27 March, KS4 and KS5 Dance students will attend an educational visit to the Theatre Royal Newcastle, to watch Matthew Bourne's 'Edward Scissorhands'. Permission slips to attend this visit should already have been returned either direct to Miss Brown or to school reception.

Friday creative rehearsals, which take place after school, will continue every week and the dance studio is open to students every lunchtime for additional rehearsals. Please collect an activity pass from Miss Brown.

For further information about the GCSE Dance exam or the Matthew Bourne educational visit, please contact me via email at [sbrown@lordlawson.academy](mailto:sbrown@lordlawson.academy) and I will be happy to help.

*Miss S Brown*  
*Subject Leader – Performing Arts*

### **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 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 using the School Cloud platform. The appointment system is now open to all parents and carers. Should you have any issues accessing School Cloud, please email:

[lordlawson@lordlawson.academy](mailto:lordlawson@lordlawson.academy).

*Mrs S J Wakefield  
PA to SLT*

### **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*





**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 English Revision Sessions**

Week beginning Monday 26 February, after school revision sessions for English Language and English Literature will begin for year 11 students. These will continue until the Easter Holidays. Further revision updates will be sent nearer the time; please look out for these in future parent bulletins.

For the revision schedules, please see below.

**English Literature:** Will run on a Monday from 3.30 to 4.15pm in EN10, with Ms Beck.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
26 February	Charge of the Light Brigade
4 March	Kamikaze
11 March	Storm on the Island
18 March	Exposure
25 March	The Prelude

Each of the above sessions will be repeated the next day (Tuesday) during lunch time, 12.30 to 1.00pm, and will again be hosted by Ms Beck in EN10. Students should collect a pass from Ms Beck to attend a lunchtime session.

**English Language:** Will run on a Wednesday from 3.30 to 4.15pm. Students should speak to their English teacher about the sessions they should attend.

The focus of each session will be on tackling Question 4 of the Paper 1 and Paper 2 English Language exams.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Grades 7 - 9</b>	<b>Grades 5 - 6</b>	<b>Grades 4 - 5</b>	<b>Grades 3 - 4</b>
28 February	EN10	EN11	EN15	EN111
6 March	EN10	EN11	EN15	EN111
13 March	EN10	EN11	EN15	EN111
20 March	EN10	EN11	EN15	EN111
27 March	EN10	EN11	EN15	EN111

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

***Ms C Beck***  
***Subject Leader – English***

## **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 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>
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.