

Parent Bulletin

Week commencing Monday 18 March 2024 – Week 1

Dear Parents and Carers

Please continue to tell others about our **Open Evening for children in Year 5 on Thursday 21 March, beginning at 4:30pm**. As the news spreads within our community about the improvements we have made at Lord Lawson, and about the great quality of education your children are able to access, the number of students wanting to come to our school increases. This is really good news for you and your children!

An **oversubscribed and popular school** means that we can continue to improve the learning experiences your children receive, underpinned by healthy school finances and high levels of staff retention. If you know people with children currently in Year 5, please encourage them to visit our school next Thursday afternoon.

School meals have hit the national news this week, when the headteacher of a school in Southampton felt the need to apologise to parents. We know what an important role school food plays in fuelling the learning of our students. I am pleased to say that we have an excellent relationship with our school meals contractor, Chartwells, and the quality of meals available to your children at Lord Lawson is good; it has also improved over recent months. The Chair and Vice Chairs of Governors ate with students in the cafeteria last week, and they were able to taste the high standards of food for themselves.

Nonetheless, we are not complacent. I met with **student leaders** a couple of weeks ago to discuss **further improvements** to our school, and they made some suggestions for improvement in our school food. Student representatives will meet with our catering manager and regional representatives of Chartwells to discuss further developments and improvements.

On **Thursday 28 March**, we will host an evening event for students in Year 11 and their parents and carers, to give support for **examination preparation and revision techniques**. Exam timetables will be available at this event. Please see Mr Cave's letter in this bulletin for more details.

Our **term dates for the 2024-25 academic year** have now been published. These appear later in this bulletin and on our website. Please use these dates to plan your family holidays. Great attendance at school is an essential foundation for students' success. We cannot authorise holidays during term time, and the level of financial penalties imposed by the government will increase from September. For the sake of your children's education, their wellbeing and their future, please do not take your children on holiday during school term time.

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully

Dr Andrew Fowler
Principal

Lord Lawson Open Evening – Year 5 Pupils: Thursday 21 March 2024, 4.30pm - 6:30pm

On Thursday 21 March 2024, Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy will be holding an Open Evening for Year 5 pupils.

On 28 September 2023 we held an open evening for Year 6 pupils, which was a wonderful opportunity to open our school to visitors. We were able to demonstrate the fine quality of education we provide for our students. There was a great buzz to the evening. Over 200 of our own students participated in this event, showing the sense of pride they have in their school. It gives me great pleasure to introduce our Open Evening for Year 5 pupils.

Teaching and learning are at the heart of everything we do, and we have made huge improvements over recent years. School is also a place where students make friendships that will last for their whole lives, and where they experience excellent care and wonderful opportunities that enable them to grow and develop as individuals. Our vision statement captures this well:

“Together we grow, learn and succeed.”

This is my vision for Lord Lawson, and this has driven the many improvements we have made together. In November 2022, Ofsted recognised that we are a ‘Good’ school in all areas. I am so proud of our staff and students, and we continue to work together with our community to make this an excellent school.

You already know a good deal about Lord Lawson as a school, and we need you to spread the word. Pictures and text on a website can only say a certain amount. Please encourage parents and carers of children in year 5 to come and see for themselves.

Our Open Evening for Year 5 pupils is on Thursday 21 March 2024. We are asking people to arrive at 4.20pm for a 4.30pm start in the main hall.

Dr A Fowler
Principal

Year 11 Exam Preparation Evening

On Thursday 28 March we are holding an exam preparation evening, which will be held in the main hall of Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy, from 5pm to 6.30pm.

This evening is for students in year 11 and their parents and carers.

The purpose of the evening is to inform students how to prepare effectively for their upcoming external examinations. For parents and carers, it is an opportunity for us to provide you with key information and revision strategies to support your child in their preparation for these examinations.

We feel that involving you as parents and carers is essential, so you are able to fully support your child, giving them the confidence and reassurance needed during their exam preparation. The feedback we received from you during the recent year 11 parents' evening highlighted a need parents and carers have to further understand revision strategies and how else they may be able to support their children.

During the evening, as well as providing you with a pack of key information, we will be giving each student their exam timetable.

The schedule of the evening is:

- 5.00 to 5.25pm: Presentation in the main hall which will include:
 - Timeline in the lead up to the exams
 - Exam dates and times
 - Arrangement before and after exams
 - Support available to students
 - General revision tips

- 5.30 to 6.30pm: Revision workshops – there are 5 workshops; you will be able to attend 3.

5.30 to 5.50pm	Revision workshop 1
5.50 to 6.10pm	Revision workshop 2
6.10 to 6.30pm	Revision workshop 3

Prior to the evening you will be able to select which workshop you wish to attend, based upon which revision strategy you would like to know more about. The strategies being shared are:

- Using flash cards to revise quotations (English)
- Using past papers and questions to plan responses (English)
- Online resources and flash cards (Maths)
- Using revision guides and revision workbooks, and the '10 minutes on' strategy effectively (Science)
- Read, cover, write, check (History)

To confirm your attendance to the event, and select the workshops you are interested in, please use the link below to access the registration form.

[Information evening registration](#)

Mr D Cave
Assistant Principal

Maths Revision Sessions

From week beginning Monday 18 March, maths revision sessions will take place after school on a Monday and Tuesday, 3.20 to 4.00pm, for both higher and foundation students.

Students have been advised in lessons today as to which evening they should attend and with which teacher.

Should you have any questions regarding the revision sessions, please contact me at djackson@lordlawson.academy and I will be happy to help.

Mrs D Jackson
Subject Leader – Maths

Year 10 and 12: Spring Assessments

Spring Assessments are continuing next week, for students in years 10 and 12. The assessments will end on Friday 22 March.

Mr D Cave
Assistant Principal

Advance Notice: Year 7 Subject Parents' Evening

The year 7 subject parents' evening is scheduled to take place on **Thursday 2 May 2024**, 3.45 – 6.45pm.

The evening will be online using the School Cloud platform. Further information will appear in future parent bulletins.

Mrs S J Wakefield
PA to SLT

Year 11: After School English Revision Sessions

After school revision sessions for English Language and English Literature have begun 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.

Date	Topic
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.

Date	Grades 7 - 9	Grades 5 - 6	Grades 4 - 5	Grades 3 - 4
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 and I will be happy to help.

Ms C Beck
Subject Leader – English

Mindfulness and Wellbeing Club

As part of our World Book Day activities, our Mindfulness and Wellbeing Club students created a booklet, full of happiness and positivity.

The booklet can be accessed using the following link: [Mindfulness and Wellbeing Club](#).

The Mindfulness and Wellbeing Club is a fun way for our students to look at how they feel with a range of activities to get involved in, such as: journalling, yoga, mindful colouring, nature walks and crafts.

The club is a space where students can learn more about their own mental health and are introduced to different strategies to manage their emotions, deal with stress, be more positive and ground themselves when things feel a bit too much.

The club runs for students in years 7 to 11 in MA20 on a Monday lunchtime on the following days/weeks:

Week 1: Years 7 and 8

Week 2: Years 9, 10 and 11

Passes can be collected from Mrs Kemp.

Mrs J Kemp
Cover Supervisor



LORD LAWSON OF BEAMISH ACADEMY

Academic Year 2024 - 2025 Calendar

Autumn Term Begins	Monday 2 September 2024	Staff PD Day - Academy closed to all students
	Tuesday 3 September 2024	Staff PD Day - Academy closed to all students
	Wednesday 4 September 2024	Academy opens for staff and ALL students
	Friday 25 October 2024	Last day of term - staff and students finish at 3.20 pm
Autumn Half Term	Saturday 26 October 2024 to Sunday 3 November 2024 inclusive	
Autumn Term Ends	Monday 4 November 2024	Academy opens for staff and ALL students
	Friday 29 November 2024	Occasional Day - Academy closed to staff and students
	Friday 20 December 2024	Last day of term - staff and students finish at 3.20 pm
Christmas Holidays	Saturday 21 December 2024 to Sunday 5 January 2025 inclusive	
Spring Term Begins	Monday 6 January 2025	Staff PD Day - Academy closed to all students
	Tuesday 7 January 2025	Academy opens for staff and ALL students
	Friday 21 February 2025	Last day of term - staff and students finish at 3.20 pm
Spring Half Term	Saturday 22 February 2025 to Sunday 2 March 2025 inclusive	
Spring Term Ends	Monday 3 March 2025	Academy opens for staff and ALL students
	Friday 11 April 2025	Last day of term - staff and students finish at 3.20 pm
Easter Holidays	Saturday 12 April to Sunday 27 April 2025 inclusive	
Summer Term Begins	Monday 28 April 2025	Academy opens for staff and ALL students
Early May Bank Holiday	Monday 5 May 2025	Academy closed for staff and students
	Friday 23 May 2025	Last day of term - staff and students finish at 3.20 pm
Summer Half Term	Saturday 24 May 2025 to Sunday 1 June 2025 inclusive	
Summer Term Ends	Monday 2 June 2025	Academy opens for staff and ALL students
	Friday 18 July 2025	Last day of term - staff and students finish at 3.20 pm
Summer Holidays		
* Good Friday 18 April 2025 Late Spring Bank Holiday Monday 26 May 2025		*** Return to school date September 2025 tbc

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:

Date	Event
Thursday 21 March:	Year 5 Open Evening, 4.30 – 6.30pm., for students who will be joining secondary school in September 2025.
Thursday 28 March:	Year 11 Exam Preparation Evening – for students in year 11 and their parents and carers.
Thursday 28 March:	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.
Tuesday 2 to Saturday 6 April:	Lloret de Mar Sports Trip.

