

Parent Bulletin

Week commencing Monday 25 March 2024 – Week 2

Dear Parents and Carers

First of all, a huge thank you to your children who took part in our Year 5 Open Evening last night. It was a wonderfully busy event, with around 400 visitors – year 5 pupils, their parents, carers, grandparents and siblings. Our students were superb ambassadors for the school, speaking to primary school pupils and their parents, and generally being excellent examples of what it means to be a student at Lord Lawson. So many parents commented to us, either verbally or in their feedback forms, on the exceptional nature of our students and their obvious pride in the school.

The nature of questions asked by parents and carers has changed too. Many were wanting advice on how to ensure their child could get a place at Lord Lawson. Others were interested to know more about our curriculum, our extra-curricular activities, to hear about progression routes to employment and university, and to learn more about how we support students with special educational needs.

Our staff were fully engaged in the Open Evening as well. On top of a full day's work, many of them stayed on to provide activities and advice for our visitors. We received very positive feedback on the contribution our staff made to the evening. Speaking with my colleagues this morning, they were delighted with the questions and interest from prospective students, parents and carers. Like our students, they have a real pride in their school, and they speak warmly of the improvements in culture that we have made together. An increasing number bring their own children to this school.

Our Spring Assessments for students in years 10 and 12 finished today. Our students have conducted themselves very well indeed: please pass on our thanks and commendations to your children in years 10 and 12. For students in year 10, these assessments were their first experience of formal examinations in the hall and the gym. I congratulate them on their mature approach to these assessments.

Some years ago, we might have predicted that formal examinations would be phased out, replaced by other – perhaps computer-assisted – methods of assessment. However, the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) has meant that, more than ever, students need to prove that they can recall knowledge and apply skills on their own and without assistance. The formal closed-book examination, far from being on its way out, seems destined to outlive its critics.

Our understanding of how we think and learn, based on cognitive science, tells us that our working memory is easily overloaded, and that the stress of performing in unfamiliar situations can further reduce our ability to cope with the demands of questions. So that our students can show their knowledge and skills in high stakes public examinations, they need to be sufficiently familiar with the environment and the expectations, so that these do not add to their cognitive load.

In our spring and autumn assessments, therefore, we make sure that students have exactly the same experience as in their final examinations. We have examination timetables and seating plans; subject leaders give a briefing immediately before the examination; students line up and enter the hall in a highly ordered fashion; they hand in any mobile devices; anyone who qualifies for extra time or assistance receives it. This is another example of how planning ahead and thinking from the students' viewpoint enables us to create the best environment for our students to succeed.

Our spring term ends next Thursday, 28 March. There will be no parents' bulletin next week, therefore. I hope you and your family have a lovely Easter break, and we look forward to seeing your children again when school reopens on Monday 15 April.

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully

Dr Andrew Fowler
Principal

Reminders for parents, carers and students

As we come towards the end of the spring term, I would like to thank you all for your support over this half term in relation to uniform, attendance and punctuality. However, I would also like to take this opportunity to provide you all with reminders of key information for students when they return to school after the Easter holidays.

Detentions

- Detentions can be issued for students to attend after school as well as during the school day.
- As a school, we expect students to complete all detentions set.
- It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure there are arrangements or transport in place for their child to get home safely following an after school detention.
- Students who are placed in the Learning Support Room (LSR) must remain in the LSR until 3.55pm. (Again, it is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure there are arrangements or transport in place for their child to get home safely).
- Detentions are set as a sanction for students who display negative behaviour. To avoid detention, students must follow staff instructions and meet the expectations of our behaviour policy.

Attendance and Punctuality

- Students must be on the school site for 8.45am each morning
- Any absences must be reported directly to the absence line (0191) 4334026; absences must be reported daily. Absences must not be reported to the year base
- Appointments for doctors/dentists etc., should be taken outside of the school day where possible – when an appointment in school time is needed, a letter should be sent in with child to be given to the attendance office. You may also e-mail any appointment slips to our attendance team at: StudentAbsence@lordlawson.academy.
- Students who are leaving site during the school day must have an exit slip to present to reception, which they will need to collect from the attendance team or their year team, before they are allowed to leave school. Students should keep the exit slip with them during school hours when they have exited the building, to show as proof if they are challenged as to why they are not in school.
- Parents/carers should not arrive in school to collect students for any appointment without first advising the year team or attendance team.

Uniform

Any parent or carer who is unsure of our uniform requirements can visit our Uniform Policy on the school website and can be accessed using the following link: [Uniform Policy](#).

Jewellery

On return to school after the Easter holidays, students must remember that any false nails or eyelashes should be removed **before** their return. If an appointment is needed to affect this, we ask you to ensure it is booked well in advance.

With exceptions, students should wear no items of jewellery. For clarification on what is acceptable please refer to our uniform policy.

Thank you once again for your continued support. I hope, once the Easter holidays are here, you and your families enjoy some quality time together.

Mr I Cooper
Deputy Principal

Dance Updates

Dance Exam

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. We aim to finish the exam at the end of the academy day but students should be prepared to remain after school should there be any issues that may delay the exam throughout the day. It would be the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure transport home for their child in this event.

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

Educational Visit:

On the evening of Wednesday 27 March, KS4 and KS5 Dance students will be attending an educational visit to the Theatre Royal, Newcastle to watch Matthew Bourne's 'Edward Scissorhands'. The coach will be leaving the academy at 6.30pm prompt and students will be returning to the Academy at approximately 10pm (traffic dependant). Students do not need to wear academy uniform but must ensure dress is appropriate for an educational visit.

Gateshead Schools Dance Festival 2024

Congratulations to Year 10 GCSE Dance students who performed beautifully at the Gateshead Schools Dance Festival on Wednesday evening; the event was held at the Glasshouse International Centre for Music. This was an amazing opportunity for our students to perform in a world class venue and they shone for the occasion.

Year 10 performed 'Are you with me?', a contemporary dance performance, created in collaboration with Newcastle College student Leah Keenan. Leah is in the final year of her dance degree studies. It has been our privilege to host Leah's educational placements this year. Leah is a past Lord Lawson GCSE Dance student who performed at the Gateshead Schools Dance Festival whilst a student with us. The Performing Arts Department are so proud to see both current and past Lord Lawson students continue to succeed through Dance.

Congratulations to all schools participating in the event, especially all of our feeder primary schools whose performances were bursting with enthusiasm and joy! We hope one day to welcome you as future Lord Lawson dancers.

For further information about Dance at Lord Lawson or any of the above events please contact me via email at sbrown@lordlawson.academy.

Miss S Brown

Subject Leader – Performing Arts



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

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

The final after school revision session for English Language and English Literature for this term will run next week. Revision sessions will continue after the Easter holidays, details of which will be sent separately.

English Literature: 25 March – The Prelude, 3.30 to 4.15pm in EN10, with Ms Beck. This session will also 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: Wednesday 27 March, 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.

Grades 7 - 9	Grades 5 - 6	Grades 4 - 5	Grades 3 - 4
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

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 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

Upcoming School Events for the remainder of the Spring Term

Date	Event
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.

Upcoming School Events for the Summer Term

At the beginning of every term we 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. The events for the Summer Term are:

Date	Event
Monday 15 April:	First day of school for all staff and students.
Monday 22 to Friday 26 April:	Year 10 Work Experience Week.
Thursday 25 April:	Junior Maths Challenge.
Thursday 2 May:	Year 7 Parents'/Carers' Evening, 3.45 to 6.45pm, online.
Monday 6 May:	Early Spring Bank Holiday (School closed to staff and students)
Tuesday 7 May to Wednesday 26 June:	GCSE and A Level External Examinations
Friday 24 May:	Last day of school for staff and students – May half term begins Monday 27 May (Late Spring Bank Holiday). School reopens for all students on Monday 3 June.
Monday 24 to Friday 28 June:	Year 10 into year 12 Taster Days.
Friday 28 June:	Year 11 Prom.
Saturday 29 June:	Year 13 Prom.
Monday 1 and Tuesday 2 July:	Year 6 Transition Days – for pupils who will be joining us in September 2024.
Monday 1 to Friday 5 July:	Year 12 Work Experience Week.
Wednesday 3 July:	Year 11 into year 12 Transition Day.
Monday 8 to Wednesday 10 July:	Year 12 – Life After Lord Lawson.
Monday 8 July:	Year 7 Awards Evening, 5.30 – 6.30pm.
Tuesday 9 July:	Year 8 Awards Evening, 5.30 – 6.30pm.
Wednesday 10 July:	Year 9 Awards Evening, 5.30 – 6.30pm.
Thursday 11 July:	Year 10 Awards Evening, 5.30 – 6.30pm.
Monday 15 July:	Sports Day – All students.
Friday 19 July:	Last Day of Term for Staff and Students.
Thursday 15 August:	KS5 (A Level) Results Day.
Thursday 22 August:	KS4 (GCSE) Results Day.