

Parent Bulletin

Week commencing Monday 22 April 2024 – Week 2

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the summer term! This is an important term for all of us, and if you have a child in Year 11 or Year 13, you will be particularly aware of the significance of this term in their lives. It was good to see so many of you as parents and carers of Year 11 students in the academy on the last evening of the spring term, meeting with Mr Cave and subject specialists, and hearing about revision methods in different subjects. I hope you and your children found this evening useful.

Mr Dicocco spoke to year 11 students on Monday about their approach to the examinations. Many had worked over the Easter period; for others, this was a missed opportunity, but it is not too late to do some additional work. Many of our students appear ready for the assessments – they have prepared well, and now they are ready. As we continue with practical examinations and start written examinations, we will continue to work with you to support all our students.

Year 10 students are on their work experience placements next week. Thank you for helping to arrange these placements. We brought the work experience period forward this year, and this has enabled some additional employers and organisations to work with us, some for the first time.

We have noticed that, since the pandemic, some of our regular partners have stopped offering opportunities for students. If you work in an organisation or business – whether large or small – and you would be interested in offering some work experience to a student in year 10 or year 12, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Miss Leigh, Careers Officer, at jleigh@lordlawson.academy

We are about to launch our search for our next Head Boy and Head Girl and their deputies in the Sixth Form. Our head students are important ambassadors for the school, and they perform vital roles in welcoming visitors, speaking at events, being part of staff appointments, and representing the voices of students to school leaders. These roles are open to all students in our current Year 12. I shall speak to sixth form students in assembly on Wednesday, and I shall offer an informal opportunity for discussion in the following week, before asking for expressions of interest in writing by Tuesday 7 May. If your child is in Year 12, please speak to them about this possibility, even if they have not previously taken any leadership roles in school. Mrs Jordan, Sixth Form Leader, is also happy to answer any questions.

Finally, it has been very good to work recently with the organising committee for Birtley Community Pool. As a school, we are strongly supportive of their bid to reopen the swimming pool as a community asset. Congratulations to Callum Hastings, whose graphic design for the new logo has been selected for us, via a public vote. This morning all the sixth form graphic designers and I met with the Pool's organisers to celebrate Callum's design.

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully

Dr Andrew Fowler
Principal

Exam Stress Dropin Sessions

Gateshead Children and Young People's Primary Care Mental Health Service team offer children, young people and their parents/carers support to manage low mood, anxiety and emotional regulation difficulties.

The team have planned regular drop-in sessions for parents and carers on specific mental health presentations. Initial feedback from parents has been positive for example, "Very helpful, thank you for the resources. I really appreciate your support".

A common issue around this time of year is the exam stresses many children experience. To support our Gateshead community the team have arranged a number of sessions for this particular issue. Why not drop-in and meet children's therapists to find out how exam stress can present in a child, and what you can do to support them? There will be various free resources to take away with you.

The sessions are planned to take place on the following dates at a number of different venues:

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday 23 April	2pm to 3pm	Whickham Library, 9 Front Street, Whickham, NE16 4DN
Thursday 25 April	1pm to 3pm	Deckham Family Hub (The Elgin Centre), Elgin Road, Deckham, NE9 5PA
Friday 26 April	1pm to 2pm	Birtley Library, Durham Road, Birtley, DH3 1LE
Monday 29 April	2pm to 3pm	Gateshead Central Library, Prince Consort Road, Gateshead, NE8 4LN
Tuesday 30 April	2pm to 3pm	Larkspur House, Larkspur Community Primary School, Beacon Lough East, NE9 6SS

We hope many of you will take the opportunity to access one of these sessions.

Mr I Cooper
Deputy Principal

Ski Trip 2025

Following the successful ski trip this year, we are organising another ski trip to take place during the February half term 2025. We will be returning to Radstadt, in the vast ski area of the Sportwelt Amadé, Austria. This trip will be offered to students who are **currently in years 7 to 12** and places are limited. Any student who is currently in year 11 but is not returning to Sixth Form at Lord Lawson in September 2024 should not apply.

Students can collect a letter with further information from Mrs Hulme in MA29. Students should collect the letter at the start of lunchtime.

Completed forms for students wishing to be considered for the trip need to be handed in by no later than Friday 26 April 2024.

Mrs S Hulme
Teacher of Maths and Trip Leader

Important Message About the Scholars Bus Services

Due to a noticeable increase in concerns raised by the drivers of Gateshead schools scholars' buses, Go North East are now monitoring the cameras of every Gateshead scholar service bus on a daily basis.

The issues reported by drivers include students littering the bus, throwing items at other students, failing to follow the instructions of the drivers which can be a health and safety concern, fighting on the buses, and generally being unpleasant to others.

On each bus service, there are cameras that cover all areas of the bus. This CCTV will be provided to schools to review if issues are identified.

Should any Lord Lawson students be observed acting inappropriately on any of our scholars' buses, sanctions will be issued within school. Incidents may also be reported to Northumbria Police and the privilege of using the scholars' service may be removed from a student.

Our students have been advised of this information in tutor time this week. Should any student have a concern in relation to their journey on a scholars bus, they should speak to their year team.

Mr I Cooper
Deputy Principal

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, and will take place online.

If you have not as yet booked your appointments online via School Cloud, please do so as soon as possible. If you are experiencing any difficulty logging onto the system, or have forgotten your login details, please contact Mrs Spraggon at: sspraggon@lordlawson.academy and she will be happy to help.

Mrs S J Wakefield

PA to SLT

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 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.
Wednesday 26 June:	Year 10 into year 12 Taster Day.
Wednesday 26 June:	Transition Evening for parents'/carers of pupils who will be joining us in September 2024.
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.