

# Parent Bulletin

Week commencing Monday 15 July 2024 – Week 1

Dear Parents and Carers

This will be my last letter to you this academic year. I would like to thank you for the way we have been able to work together as parents and school to give your child the best education we can.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our **Awards Evenings** this past week, where we celebrated the achievements, efforts and contributions of so many of our students. Thank you to the year teams and tutors, and to Miss Race and the girls who performed each night.

This has been an unusual summer term, weather-wise! One of the privileges of the principal is to declare summer uniform. I have been waiting for the weather to warm up, so I can do this. Unfortunately, temperatures have remained stubbornly low. I have been teaching for almost 30 years, and I've never known a summer term like this. We will continue with our normal uniform unless it suddenly brightens up next week.

This week we say goodbye to several members of **staff who are leaving** us. Staff leaving this year are as follows:

- Ms Jade Adair – Subject Leader for Religious Education
- Mrs Jane Bradley – Associate Assistant Principal
- Mrs Lyn Smith – Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages
- Mr James Pedlingham – Business Manager
- Mr Connor Templeton – Higher Level Teaching Assistant
- Miss Sophie Tulip – Science Technician
- Mr Jakob Ward – Teacher of Mathematics
- Mr Chris White – Teacher of Business

I would like to thank all my colleagues who are leaving us for their excellent contributions to life at Lord Lawson. We will miss them, and we wish them the very best for the future.

On **Wednesday 17 July** we have our **Sports Day** – please see the notice later in this bulletin. On Thursday 18 July we have our attendance and behaviour rewards fun day. Students will be informed separately about this.

We look forward to seeing our Year 11 and Year 13 students for their **results days** in August. A level results are released on Thursday 15 August, and GCSE and vocational results are released on Thursday 22 August.

Next term begins for **all students on Wednesday 4 September**, at the usual time. Students are expected in school at 08:40. The Department for Education's guidance on absence from school changes in September: please see the letter from Gateshead Council that we have included in our bulletin.

We have an ambitious programme of work and summer schools at Lord Lawson during the summer holidays. In September, we look forward to opening two new food technology rooms at the end of the Art corridor. We are grateful to all our contractors, site staff and cleaners who will be working over the holiday period to improve our facilities for the benefit of your children.

Whatever your plans for the summer, I hope you have an enjoyable and relaxing time with your families.

With all good wishes.

Yours faithfully

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

Dear Parent/Carer,

Gateshead Council considers children's attendance at school to be of great importance and will always seek to work in partnership with schools and parents in order to reduce absences, before taking more formal measures.

We would, however, like to take this opportunity to share some important changes to School Attendance Penalty Notices (DfE) which will come into effect from 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024, which we must adhere to.

This will affect the rules around penalty notices issued to parents for their child's poor school attendance, including holidays taken during term time.

### **What are the changes?**

#### **Issuing of a Penalty Notice:**

There is a new national threshold of 10 unauthorised sessions, within a rolling 10 school week period.

#### **Increase in Penalty Notice amount:**

<b>Previous Fine</b>	<b>Reduced if paid within 21 days</b>	<b>New Fine</b>	<b>Reduced if paid within 21 days</b>
£120	£60	£160	£80

#### **Escalation in cases of repeat offences**

Any second penalty notice issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3 year period, will be charged at the higher rate of £160 with no option for this second offence to be discharged at the lower rate of £80.

#### **Limited number of penalty notices per parent**

A national limit of 2 penalty notices can be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period. At the 3rd (or subsequent) offence(s) another tool, such as prosecution, will be considered.

For more information please see: [Fines for parents for taking children out of school: What you need to know – The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

Regards,

Victoria Cramman  
Strategic Lead Education Support Service  
Gateshead Council

## **Sports Day: Wednesday 17 July**

All students will be participating in sports day on Wednesday 17 July, They will participate as a tutor group team.

There will be a variety of sporting activities throughout the day including dodgeball, orienteering, beach volleyball and rounders.

Students should arrive in school in their school PE kit and be equipped for being outside for the majority of the day. Assuming the weather is warm, please ensure they come to school on the day equipped with a sunhat, suncream, and additional water to remain hydrated throughout the activities.

All the activities have been specifically chosen to enable all students to participate and have fun. Awards and praise points will be available throughout the day for displaying the core values of our school: Trust, Respect, Courage and Ambition.

*Mr D Wyllie*

*Subject Leader – Physical Education*



## **Diana Award: Anti-bullying Workshop**

On Thursday 18 July 2024, you are invited to participate in The Diana Award online anti-bullying workshop, which will begin at 6.30pm.

The workshop is for parents and carers who want to learn more about the ways in which you can support your child and spot the signs of bullying behaviour, including LGBTQ+ targeted behaviour.

If you are interested and wish to join the online workshop, please use the following link:

[The Diana Award Anti-Bullying Workshop](#)

Bullying can be a worrying and emotive topic in school and we value the support that we get from parents.

*Miss K Barron*

*Anti-bullying Coordinator*

## **Kooth**

Further to the information in our bulletin last week, and the assemblies that were given to our students around mental health, Kooth have asked that we provide parents and carers with the following information around the support they are offering over the summer holiday period.

*Mr I Cooper*  
*Deputy Principal*

### **[KOOOTH.com](http://www.kooth.com) is still here to support young people during the summer holidays!**

Kooth offers free, safe and anonymous access to online wellbeing support and advice for children and young people aged 11-18 in Newcastle and Gateshead. The registration process is quick, anonymous and safe. Using non-identifiable information, Children and Young People can access support, simply by registering at [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com).

With no thresholds, waiting lists or referrals required, young people can access support for ANY issues they may be experiencing. These may include body image, self-esteem, bereavement, academic pressures, anger, anxiety, suicidal thoughts, self-harm, friendships, sexuality, transition from primary to secondary school etc.

Kooth's BACP (British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy) qualified therapists are online 365 days a year. Monday to Friday, from midday until 10pm and on weekends, 6pm until 10pm. Users can also message the team 24 hours a day and receive a next day response.

Young people can access fully moderated support forums, self-help tools, and online magazine articles (written by our professional team and other users across the UK) covering topics ranging from health and wellbeing, sport, technology, fashion etc. alongside social, emotional and wellbeing support. Everything on [www.Kooth.com](http://www.Kooth.com) is pre-moderated before going 'live' on the site, allowing for young people to offer and receive peer support in a safe and secure online environment.

Kooth delivers 1000's of online wellbeing sessions each year in Local Authorities across the UK. As 50% of referrals to CAMHS are unfortunately deemed inappropriate to their criteria, Kooth gives schools, professionals and families an alternative way of ensuring children and young people can access free support when they need it, in a way that they find comfortable to access, via any web-enabled devices.

Please find a selection of Parent/Carer resources that can be accessed using this link: [Parents/Carers resources](#) and if you have any questions or would like to discuss what [Kooth.com](http://www.Kooth.com) can offer, please, simply email [parents@kooth.com](mailto:parents@kooth.com).

## Online Safety

Most of us see our online lives and offline lives as being totally different.

But for children growing up with technology and the internet, there isn't a difference – online life and offline life is just life!

Technology can move at an extraordinarily fast pace and it can be difficult to know how to start talking to your child about what they are doing online, who they might be speaking to or discussing the potential risks and issues.

To help parents who may find it initially difficult to have these conversations, but are nonetheless concerned for their children, Knowsly CLCs have produced a Guide to Parental Controls, to help you to adjust privacy settings to provide your child with a safer online environment.

Parental controls can help to protect your child from seeing something that they shouldn't — although it is important to emphasise that no system is effective all of the time, so it is important to engage with your child and talk to them about their online life regularly.

To access this extremely useful guide, please use the following link:

[Online Parental Controls Booklet 2024](#)

*Mr I Cooper*  
*Deputy Principal*



## **Road Safety**

Many of you, including some of our students, may have access to some form of motorised bike, i.e. E-scooter, Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycle (EAPC), E-bikes, Mopeds and Motorcycles.

As we approach the summer holiays, Northumbria Police would like us to remind you (on their behalf) of road safety law and have provided a comprehensive fact sheet which you can access via the following link:

[Northumbria Police Bike Safety Information for Parents and Carers](#)

*Mr I Cooper  
Deputy Principal*

## **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:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
Wednesday 17 July:	Sports Day – All students.
Thursday 18 July:	Attendance Rewards Day
<b>Friday 19 July:</b>	<b>Last Day of Term for Staff and Students.</b>
<b>Thursday 15 August:</b>	<b>KS5 (A Level) Results Day.</b>
<b>Thursday 22 August:</b>	<b>KS4 (GCSE) Results Day.</b>

