



Welcome to our Prospectus

2026/27



• Trust • Respect • Courage • Ambition



Welcome from the Principal

A Warm Welcome to Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy

As Principal, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy. We are a school with a clear mission: to transform lives through education. Everything we do is designed to remove barriers to learning and help our students flourish – both now and in the future.

A Journey of Transformation

Since my appointment in 2019, we have focused relentlessly on improving the quality of education we offer. Thanks to strong leadership and exceptional teamwork, our school has undergone a remarkable transformation. Students joining us today benefit from the progress we've already made – and we continue to improve at pace, always putting students first.

Our People, Our Strength

Our greatest asset is our dedicated team of support staff, teachers, and leaders. Their shared purpose is to help every student thrive. At Lord Lawson, we see our students as whole people. We want them to grow academically, socially, and personally – and we are proud of our strengths in the visual and performing arts, sports, and pastoral care. We offer a wide range of opportunities for students to build confidence, develop leadership skills, and explore their interests – through a wealth of curriculum subjects and our rich programme of extra-curricular activities.

Living Our Values

Our core values – trust and respect, courage and ambition – are not just words. They are woven into the fabric of school life and guide everything we do. I warmly encourage you to visit us and see these values in action across our classrooms, corridors, and community.

An Ambitious and Inclusive Curriculum

Our curriculum is broad, ambitious, and inclusive. Our expert teachers are subject specialists who continually develop their practice through evidence-based training. They are confident in helping students make excellent progress. We are proud to be an inclusive school, where every student is supported to discover who they are and to grow in confidence. Students with additional needs learn alongside their peers and benefit from a wide range of tailored support. We view secondary education as a seven-year journey. Our Sixth Form offers an academic and aspirational college experience within the caring environment of our school.

A Strong and Supportive Community

Our staff and governors are united in our mission to transform lives. We work closely with parents and carers, and we are proud to have received the Leading Parent Partnership Award, recognising our commitment to collaboration with families.

Come and See for Yourself

This prospectus offers just a glimpse of life at Lord Lawson. I invite you to explore our website and, most importantly, to visit us in person. You'll see first-hand how we bring our mission to life – through education that transforms lives, grounded in our values. I look forward to welcoming you to our school community.

Best wishes

Dr Andrew Fowler – Principal



Dr Andrew Fowler - Principal



Vision and values

"Together we grow, learn and succeed"

Our vision for outstanding education

Students, staff and governors have set an inspiring vision for the school. This vision shows our belief that, when we work together as a community, every child and adult can reach the very highest standards. We believe that we are strongest when we work together, and that through excellent pastoral care and inspiring teaching, children will be able to grow and learn. Success comes in many different forms, and is important in all aspects of school life, including examinations.

Strong values for growth and success

• Trust • Respect • Courage • Ambition

Our academy's strong values capture the spirit of our vision. By showing respect for ourselves and each other, we learn to trust and be trusted. We show courage in tackling new and complex tasks. We are ambitious for ourselves, and we encourage one another to attain ambitious goals.

2026/27



Lord Lawson - making your voice heard

Jack Lawson (1881-1965), after whom this school is named, believed passionately in the power of education to transform lives. After working as a miner near Birtley, educating himself and his brother, he was given the opportunity to study at Oxford University. He had no money, but he cared about education so much that he and his family sold all they had – including their furniture – to pay his way. As a union worker and then as a member of parliament, Jack Lawson faithfully represented the views and interests of working people in this area. The school today aims to capture Jack Lawson's commitment to education and to public service.

The views of students, parents and staff are essential in our drive to improve the school. Students can become part of their Year Council, and can stand for election as Head Girl, Head Boy and their deputies. Students can become Anti-Bullying Ambassadors or Ambassadors for Personal Development. Staff can join working parties to improve behaviour, teaching and learning, and mental health.

There are frequent opportunities for two-way communication with home, and we are always happy for parents and carers to share their views and concerns with the Principal and other senior members of staff. Parents are also represented on the Governing Board.

“Leaders ensure that pupils can access a varied programme of extra-curricular activities and wider opportunities. There are many opportunities for pupils to develop leadership skills. Some pupils are librarians, while others are well-being ambassadors. A newly formed ‘Pride’ group promotes tolerance and acceptance in this inclusive school that celebrates difference.” (Ofsted, 2022)



Safe, secure, happy and making good progress

The wellbeing of students at Lord Lawson is our number one concern. Children need to feel safe, secure and happy in order to learn effectively, and to grow as human beings. Pastoral care at the academy is very good. Year Leaders and Deputy Leaders look after around 240 students, making sure that each person is known as an individual.

“Pupils know that there is always a trusted adult that they can speak to if they have any concerns. Bullying is rare. Pupils are confident that staff will help them with any issues that may arise.”
(Ofsted, 2022)

Each member of the school has a tutor, who they see every day. The tutor is the first point of contact for students, parents and carers. The Year Leader and Deputy Leader look after the wellbeing and progress of each student.



High expectations

Expectations are high at the academy. We respect students' individuality. Our uniform is straightforward and inclusive: we expect all students to wear uniform correctly, and to behave appropriately at all times. In this way they show respect for others, and learn self-respect too. We offer help with uniform costs, for students and families who need it. The use of mobile phones is not allowed anywhere in school, except under the specific direction of a teacher.

“Leaders and staff share the same high expectations for all pupils. Leaders have established strong routines to encourage good behaviour. There has been a marked improvement in pupils' behaviour as a result. Pupils' behaviour in lessons is calm and lessons are rarely disrupted.” **(Ofsted, 2022)**

Our firm but fair approach to discipline is to set out our expectations clearly, so that students know how we want them to behave. As a result, standards of student behaviour have improved rapidly at Lord Lawson, which enables everyone to learn more effectively. Where students make mistakes, we operate a restorative system.

We expect students to think about what they have done, and who has been affected by their actions. They may need to take time out to do this. We then expect students to repair the relationships they have damaged, with teachers or other students. We expect to receive the support of parents in putting things right in this way.



The curriculum

The curriculum at Lord Lawson is broad and demanding. By 'curriculum' we mean not only what is taught, when and how it is taught, but also the amazing range of extra-curricular opportunities the academy provides. These include trips and visits, clubs and activities, sports and performing arts. By taking advantage of the full curriculum offer, students can be ambitious for themselves and enjoy success in many different forms.

"Leaders widen pupils' understanding of the world around them through trips, visits, assemblies and tutorial periods." (Ofsted, 2022)

From year 7, students study the core subjects of English, mathematics and science, and the broadest range of other subjects, including history, geography and religious education, the arts and technology – music, art, technology and performing arts – modern foreign languages and physical education. The curriculum for Key Stage 3 (years 7 to 9) has been recently revised, to add further depth and challenge. Our Personal Development Curriculum helps students learn how to keep themselves and one another safe and happy, and to prepare for life in 21st century Britain.

"Pupils receive a good standard of education. Leaders have ensured that there is an ambitious curriculum in place in all subjects. There is a consistent approach to the structure of lessons across the school. As a result, pupils know what is expected of them." (Ofsted, 2022)



Academic curriculum

The curriculum at Key Stage 3 helps students progress from the high demands of the primary school curriculum. The breadth of the subjects, and the depth of study offered, provides a wonderfully well-rounded education. It also prepares students to select their options for GCSE and the sixth form. Further details of the curriculum are available on our website.

In the sixth form, a rich choice of vocational and academic subjects is offered. Sixth form students benefit from specialist teachers, who are able to stretch their understanding and help them prepare for university, college, careers or apprenticeships.

"Students in the sixth form speak eloquently and proudly of their school. They value the support that they receive in preparing for their future destinations." (Ofsted, 2022)

Specialist impartial careers guidance is a real strength at Lord Lawson, with a programme of events, trips and opportunities, including work experience in years 10 and 12. Students benefit from frequent and sustained links with local employers and businesses.



Successful sixth form

We have a successful sixth form offering a wide range of subject choice. The vast majority of students who apply for university places enter their university of first choice.

Our sixth form

Our students benefit from expert subject teaching and an experienced pastoral team. Students regularly excel in their studies and go on to pursue their chosen subjects at university. We have recently expanded the choice of subjects available, providing ambitious courses for everyone.

We are an inclusive sixth form, providing opportunities for all students to take a wide range of academic and applied courses. Students have the opportunity to complete the Extended Project Qualification, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and other accredited qualifications in addition to their A levels. We work with students to develop their independent learning skills and help prepare them for university and employment. We aim to give students greater responsibility for their own learning and encourage students to make well informed decisions about their futures.

All sixth form students benefit from independent advice regarding university work, interviews and life after Lord Lawson. We offer taster days at universities, work experience opportunities and practice interviews with employers, and we have well-established links with local and national businesses.

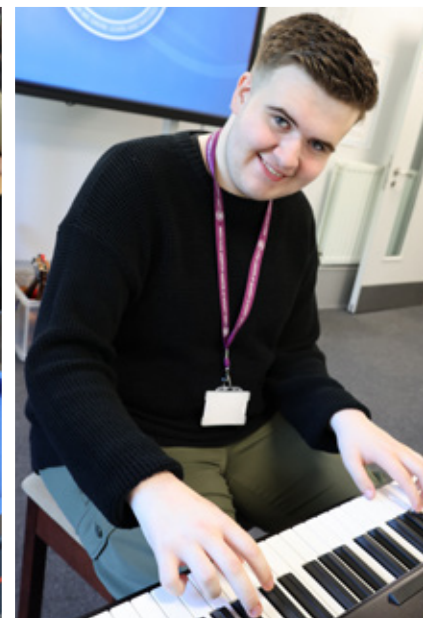


Independent learners

Many students now take the Extended Project Qualification, which helps them develop their independent learning skills. Our Deputy Head of Sixth Form works with students to help them analyse their needs and develop the skills to learn successfully and meet their own ambitious targets.

"We encourage all our students to make the most of their opportunities whilst in the sixth form. Many students want to progress onto university and other forms of higher education, whilst others want to experience a gap year or proceed onto a higher or degree apprenticeship. We help prepare all our students for their next steps and support them in achieving their goals."

**(Mrs Laidlaw – Assistant Principal,
Head of Sixth Form)**



Courses students go on to study

- Archaeology • Biomedical Science • Business and marketing
- Criminology • Economics and Finance • English Literature
- Environmental Science and Geography • Fine Art • Food and Nutrition
- Forensic Psychology • Geography • Health, Education and Social Care
- History and Archaeology • History and English • Law • Mathematics
- Music • Philosophy • Photography • Physics • Physiotherapy
- Policing Studies • Psychology • Theatre, Writing, Directing and Performing • Zoology

Destinations

- Anglia Ruskin • Bath Spa • Cambridge • Central Lancashire
- De Montfort • Edinburgh • Durham • Leeds Beckett • Liverpool
- Liverpool John Moores • London South Bank • Manchester
- Newcastle • North East School of Art • Northumbria • Oxford
- Sunderland • Teeside • York • University College of London

Other Destinations

- Deck Sea Cadetship • Dental Nurse Apprenticeship
- Personal Trainer • Lloyds Bank

Apprenticeships

- Ernst and Young • Sage • Deloittes • Gateshead Council
- Accenture





We are a **'GOOD' SCHOOL** in **ALL AREAS**
Inspection - November 2022

"Together we grow, learn and succeed"

Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy, Birtley Lane, Birtley, Co. Durham, DH3 2LP

T: 0191 433 4026 **E:** lordlawson@lordlawson.academy **W:** lordlawson.academy

or follow us on

