



Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy Prospectus 2027/28

Pupils achieve well and blossom at this welcoming school.

Ofsted, 2025

• 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

We are a school that has improved very significantly in recent years, since my appointment in 2019. We continue our journey of transformation! The impact of the changes we have made is recognised by our students, our community, and through our results and inspections.

Education for the whole person

We believe that success in examinations is important, but not enough on its own. We have introduced an ambitious programme of character education. This sits alongside our excellent teaching, our co-curricular and our student leadership programmes.

At Lord Lawson we are kind; we work hard; we are curious; and we get involved. Through engaging in this programme, our students move from doing things because we expect them, to embodying these character traits because it's who they are.

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 and develop their interests.

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. We are recognised nationally for the ways we use research and evidence to improve. Our staff 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. I look forward to welcoming you to our school community.

Best wishes

Dr Andrew Fowler - Principal



Mission, vision and strategy

Together we grow, learn and succeed

Our mission

Working with our community, and building on the best evidence and research, the mission of Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy is to provide inclusive education that transforms lives, so that together we grow, learn and succeed.

Our vision

The last part of our mission statement sets out our vision, that together we grow, learn and succeed. Every word of this is important – and perhaps the most important of all is 'together'. We work together as a school community – students and parents, teachers and support staff, leaders and governors – and we believe every child and adult can reach the very highest standards. We believe that, through excellent pastoral care and inspiring teaching, children can grow and learn. Success comes in many different forms, and is important in all aspects of school life, including examinations.

Our strategy

Leaders have brought forward strategic plans to develop students' character, and to improve reading and progress across the curriculum. Attendance and behaviour at Lord Lawson are already recognised as strengths, and we continue to work with students and parents to emphasise their importance.



Dr Andrew Fowler - Principal

2027/28



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.

*Pupils experience various leadership opportunities. For example, they act as peer mentors, sports leaders and anti-bullying ambassadors. They value the impact of these roles and how they benefit their own development. Sixth-form students act as role models to younger pupils. They lead assemblies, support younger pupils and work with school leaders to further improve aspects of the school's provision. **Ofsted, 2025***

*Leaders' actions have created a culture where personal development is prioritised, pupils are confident, respectful and ambitious. They understand diversity, value difference and contribute positively to the school community. **Ofsted, 2025***



Safe, secure, happy and making good progress

At Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy, students' wellbeing lies at the heart of everything we do. We believe that children learn best when they feel safe, secure, happy and valued. Our pastoral care is a real strength of the school, with dedicated Year Leaders and Deputy Year Leaders ensuring that every student is known, cared for and supported. Through strong relationships, high expectations and tailored support, we help students to develop the confidence, resilience and ambition they need to succeed.

*Pupils feel safe and secure in this positive environment. They have excellent relationships with teachers and their peers. **Ofsted, 2025***

Every student is part of a tutor group and meets with their tutor each day. Tutors get to know students well and provide daily support, guidance and encouragement. Alongside the Year Leader and Deputy Year Leader, they help to ensure that every student is known as an individual, supported in their wellbeing and challenged to achieve their full potential.



High expectations

We believe that every student can succeed when they are supported, challenged and held to high expectations. We celebrate individuality while promoting a culture of respect, responsibility and ambition.

Our high expectations help students to develop the character, habits and attitudes that will enable them to thrive both in school and beyond. We encourage every student to be kind, work hard, remain curious and get involved in school life.

Our expectations are clear and consistent. Students are expected to attend regularly, arrive ready to learn, wear their uniform with pride and demonstrate positive behaviour at all times. These high standards create a calm, purposeful environment where everyone feels safe, respected and able to achieve their best. We are committed to ensuring that all students can meet these expectations and provide support for families who may need assistance with uniform costs.

To maximise learning and minimise distractions, mobile phones are not permitted during the school day. Our approach to behaviour is firm, fair and rooted in positive relationships. Students understand what is expected of them and are supported to make good choices. When mistakes are made, we use a restorative approach that encourages reflection, accountability and personal growth.

By working together with parents and carers, we help students develop the self-discipline, resilience and character needed to succeed in school and beyond.

*Pupils arrive calmly and respond positively to the high expectations of staff. They follow routines consistently and look after each other, creating a well-established sense of harmony and community. **Ofsted, 2025***



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 have constructed a broad and balanced curriculum. This provides pupils with appropriate opportunities for their next steps in education, employment or training.

Ofsted, 2025

Our subject curricula are designed to support students' progress through carefully sequenced knowledge. All students study the same content at Key Stage 3 (Years 7 to 9) and are supported to achieve key aims and challenged to progress beyond the requirements where they are able to. Students select their Key Stage 4 options in Year 9 and we offer three different pathways, all of which give the students the opportunity to choose some subjects from the full range we offer.

Teachers are well trained and demonstrate secure subject knowledge. They teach well-planned lessons with clearly sequenced topics. This helps pupils to develop their understanding.

Ofsted, 2025



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.

At Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) students study 8 or 9 subjects, choosing their optional subjects from the range of over 25 GCSE and vocational subjects. This allows students to specialise in subjects of interest to them, whilst receiving a firm grounding in Mathematics, English and Science. At all stages our students benefit from subject specialist teachers in all areas.

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

Leaders train teachers effectively, ensuring that the curriculum is taught well. Students work with confidence and independence. **Ofsted, 2025**

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 which prepares them for their future beyond Lord Lawson.



Character education

This year, we embark on an ambitious programme of character education. Every student at Lord Lawson is someone's child. We recognise this and aim to work alongside families to develop the character of our students.

My child means everything to me. She is my pride and joy, and one of the greatest privileges of my life is watching her grow into the person she is becoming. To me, she represents hope for the future - not only her own future, but also the positive contribution she can make to the world around her.

Character education recognises that knowledge and qualifications matter, but they are more powerful when accompanied by the development of character. We want every student to flourish in life, developing the character needed to contribute positively to society and navigate life's opportunities and challenges.

We promote four character traits at Lord Lawson, that we want all students to embody:

At Lord Lawson we are kind
At Lord Lawson we are curious
At Lord Lawson we work hard
At Lord Lawson we get involved

We believe, that through our character education programme, all students will leave Lord Lawson as kind, curious, hard-working people, who get involved in all sorts of endeavours. They will do this not for reward, but simply because it's who they are.

Being curious is about thinking about how something might work, then figuring out how something works, and having that adrenaline rush when you find out how it works. Year 7 student

It affects everyone when someone is being kind to you because it makes them feel good also. Year 7 student

I revise a lot, a lot more than I ever thought I would. I stay back in the Independent Learning Centre from about 3:20 till around 6pm consistently. Year 13 student

IT'S WHO
WE ARE

WE WANT A
BETTER FUTURE

WE WANT
PRAISE AND RECOGNITION

WE WANT TO
AVOID CONSEQUENCES



AT **LORD LAWSON**



WE
ARE
KIND

AT **LORD LAWSON**



WE
ARE
CURIOUS

AT **LORD LAWSON**



WE
WORK
HARD

AT **LORD LAWSON**



WE
GET
INVOLVED



Co-Curriculum

One of the character traits we are encouraging students to develop is:

At Lord Lawson we get involved.

This means that students grasp the full range of opportunities offered them in their time at Lord Lawson. We believe that success in examinations is important, but not enough on its own. This is why we offer an incredible variety of co-curricular opportunities.

We run a wide variety of co-curricular clubs before school, during lunch, and after school. These range from those related to a subject, such as creative writing, robotics or science, to those related more to personal interest, such as manga club, chess or Warhammer. Some clubs are beginning to be formed by students themselves, such as 'The Change Makers', whose initial focus is on litter picking and community gardening.

We also seek to provide wider co-curricular experiences wrapped around the taught curriculum. This programme provides enrichment for students in every year they spend with us. For example, all Year 7 students have the opportunity to attend a professional pantomime performance in their first term with us. Year 9 students benefit from an outdoor adventure residential. All students can become part of our performing arts productions, which are rightly celebrated for their excellence in the wider community.



The third strand of our co-curricular offer relates to student leadership opportunities. In addition to the formal leadership opportunities such as Year Council, students can become ambassadors for the character traits in our character development programme. The students who are regularly kind, hard-working, curious, and those who get involved, are recognised and celebrated.

We believe that students at Lord Lawson should 'get involved' and we provide them with every opportunity to do so.





Successful sixth form

We have a successful sixth form offering a wide range of subject choice. Students deepen their learning in three or four subject areas, becoming specialists who love their subjects as well as developing wider skills essential for success after sixth form.

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 their future options, whether that be university, apprenticeships or wider career pathways. Students receive support with university applications, 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**



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Together we grow, learn and succeed

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