

Parent Bulletin

Week commencing Monday 21 June 2021 – Week 1

Dear Parents and Carers

Today I announced a change in our pastoral system. Our pastoral system, as you will know, is the way we look after our students and make sure that they are making the right amount of progress. We are moving from a system based on house blocks (a vertical arrangement) to one based on year groups (a horizontal arrangement). I made the announcement to students in assemblies today, and I have sent a letter to all parents and carers. Please take the time to read the letter.

Most people will notice little change: they will have contact with a form tutor, a Year Leader and a Deputy Year Leader. The difference for the school is that Year Leaders and their deputies will be able to focus more on student progress, and on making sure that students who are at the same age and stage receive the same guidance and advice. The needs of students in year 7 are very different from those in year 11: our new system recognises this. If, after reading my letter, you would like more details, or you would like to ask a question, please contact admin@lordlawson.academy and ask to join the webinar next week.

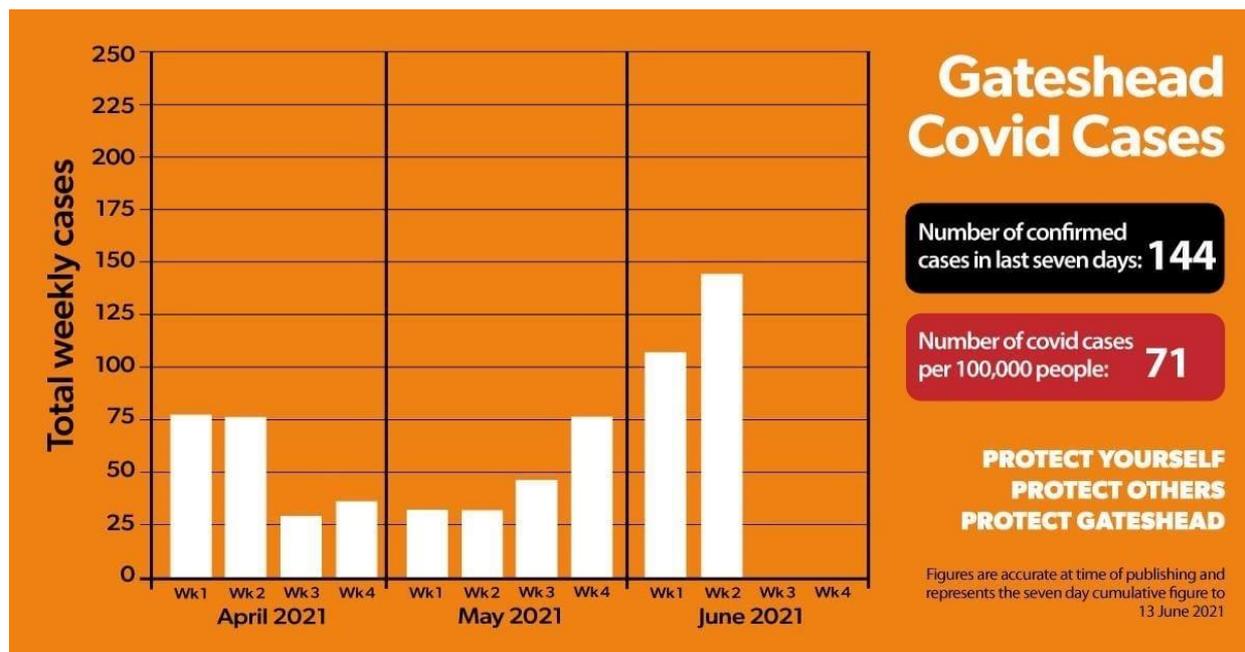
On Monday, the Prime Minister announced that the national ‘unlocking’ would be paused for another four weeks. This is disappointing news for many businesses and individuals, even though we understand the reasons for the delay. This change has unfortunately had an impact on some of our planned activities in the academy. Beamish Hall has cancelled our booking for the year 11 prom, and is not able to offer an alternative date before the end of term. Our parents’ evenings for years 7 and 8 will have to go online (a letter to parents in these year groups follows). We are revising our plans for Sports Day. And we have had to revise plans for transition. Fortunately, our summer schools will go ahead as planned, which will give pupils in year 6 a good opportunity to experience life in the academy, and to meet one another, before September. Almost three quarters of students have booked a place at our summer school.

Next week is Sixth Form Induction. Applications have increased considerably this year. We look forward to seeing many of our year 11 students returning to the academy for taster sessions in their sixth form subjects and for a range of enjoyable activities.

Best wishes – please stay safe!

Mr A T Fowler
Principal

Latest COVID Figures from Gateshead Public Health



The latest figures from Gateshead Public Health show that COVID cases have continued to rise over the past week. This is the fourth week in succession that case numbers have risen. We all need to continue to observe precautions and protect one another from the spread of disease. Although many adults are now vaccinated, some adults and children are still vulnerable.

At Lord Lawson, we continue to ask adults to wear face coverings in communal areas. We ask students to wash their hands and sanitise them, and to help keep tables and other surfaces clean. We continue to keep year groups separate at break time and lunch time, and time is spent out of doors. We open windows in classrooms to give better ventilation. We use the same seating plans for different lessons, so that, if one student becomes infected, we can isolate only a small number of close contacts.

We need students to keep a social distance from one another, wherever possible. Please remind your child that COVID is easily spread by being close to other people. Students who use public transport must wear a face covering.

Students should continue to test themselves twice a week. If your child would like some lateral flow test kits, please ask them to ask their form tutor.

Mr A Fowler

Year 7: Parents' Evening

We would like to confirm that our planned Year 7 parents' evening will go ahead on Thursday 1 July 2021; however, this will be a virtual rather than in person event, due to the recent changes in government guidelines.

For this parents' evening, we are working with School Cloud. This a new online booking system that allows you to choose your appointment times. Your personal login will allow you to access and view your schedule for the evening. You would speak to each teacher via a video link.

The system will be open for you to complete bookings from 8:00am Tuesday 22 June, up to 3:30pm on 1 July.

All year 7 parents will receive a letter and instructions in the post over the next couple of days.

Should you have any questions, please contact Mrs K Hubbard on: khubbard@lordlawson.academy or 0191 433 4026.

Thank you.

Mrs S Nellist
Assistant Principal

School Sports Week: Week commencing Monday 21 June 2021

Next week Lord Lawson is celebrating School Sports Week! We have lots of activities planned, including tutor challenges and an alternative PE curriculum, with a focus on the Euro 2020 competition.

In addition, we are fortunate to have access to external providers, who will visit the academy and give free taster sessions to our students throughout the week – all of which will follow current COVID safety guidelines. This will be a fantastic opportunity for students to experience different sporting pathways in the community.

The free taster sessions available are:

- ❖ Monday 21: Rugby Union with Gateshead RUFC
- ❖ Tuesday 22: Cricket with Fell Cricket Club
- ❖ Wednesday 23: Fencing with Durham Phoenix Fencing club
- ❖ Thursday 24: Martial arts with Denchi Kai Academy

The taster sessions are available to all our students. Clubs do however have limited spaces so students must sign up as soon as possible. Students have been advised of this process during tutor time this week.

If you have any questions or queries, please feel free to contact me on: kgolby1@lordlawson.academy

Thank you

Miss K Golby
Teacher of PE

Mental Health Workshops

I am delighted to inform you that singer-songwriter Asher Knight will be performing and delivering two separate 1-hour Mental Health workshops with year 9 and year 10 students on Thursday 15 July. This is part of our Personal Development provision.

In recent years, Asher has supported Boyzone, The Vamps, and Steps on their UK arena tours. In 2019 Asher joined the 'Power of Muzik' collective, an initiative which promotes positive messages and awareness of important issues such as Bullying and Mental Health, through high energy live shows. Having had his own struggles with bullying, body image and mental health, Asher is now an official ambassador for the charity Barnardos and is the perfect advocate to deliver such a positive message to our students.

Asher will discuss mental health, the causes of mental health problems, a time when he has had his own mental health issues, who to turn to for help, and the importance of speaking up. He will also speak about the stresses of the last year during the pandemic, the loss we might all have felt and how we can all better handle the unpredictability and hardship of it all. Asher will link mental health to body image, which has become a real issue for the younger generation linked to social media. He will also discuss the importance of treating each other fairly, why diversity should be celebrated, what to do if you're being discriminated against and why it is wrong to discriminate.

I am sure you will agree that this is a very exciting opportunity for our students. I am confident that students will enjoy the sessions and will take away lots of very important messages and information.

Mr L Cumiskey
PSHE Coordinator



Personal Development Curriculum

I am writing to you to advise you of the upcoming Personal Development topics our students will be studying from week beginning Monday 28 June, until the end of this academic year.

Within Personal Development, students learn about a wide range of topics that are planned and delivered in a sensitive manner. All lesson content is in line with Department for Education statutory guidance, with British Values being at the heart of our provision. Lessons are planned with a detailed understanding of the needs of young people within our local community.

For further information on the delivery of Personal Development at Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy, you can view our 'Personal Development Policy' which is available on the academy website. Should you have any questions or require any clarification, please get in touch with me at: lcumiskey@lordlawson.academy

The table below displays the upcoming topics as well as some helpful contact details for additional support. I will regularly update you prior to new topics being taught.

Thank you

Mr L Cumiskey
Personal Development Curriculum Coordinator

June - July 2021		
Year Group	Topic	Support
10	Anti-Social Behaviour	www.victimsupport.org.uk
	Women's rights and equality	www.rightsofwomen.org.uk/get-advice
	Unhealthy relationships	Childline: 08001111
9	The Dangers of Social Media	www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe
	Social Anxiety	www.nhs.uk/mental-health/conditions/social-anxiety/
	Eating disorders/body image	www.nhs.uk/mental-health/feelings-symptoms-behaviours
8	Sex Education and Contraception	www.youngminds.org.uk/find-help
	Periods and Menstrual Cycle	www.womenshealth.gov
	Sexual Orientation	www.kidshealth.org/en/teens/sexual-orientation.html
7	Breaking Down Stereotypes	National Bullying helpline: 0300 323 0169
	Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)	www.nhs.uk/conditions/female-genital-mutilation-fgm/
	The Equality Act 2010	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents



First Aid Unit Awareness Topic: Sun protection

Childhood and adolescence are critical periods in a child's life, when exposure to UV radiation of 3 or higher is more likely to lead to **skin cancer** later in life. UV radiation can't be seen or felt, which is why it is easy to be caught out. It's not the same as the light or heat of the sun, which we can see or feel. This makes the sun protection message challenging for teens as it's not always obvious when sun protection is required.

Teens face a number of other hurdles when it comes to being sun safe:

Natural risk takers: Typically, teenagers don't anticipate all possible consequences of their actions and despite 91% of teenagers acknowledging they can avoid skin cancer by using sun protection, they're still more likely to spend extended periods of time in the sun compared to other age groups.

Influence of friends and fashion: Teenagers' attitudes and behaviours are strongly impacted by their friends' opinions. Their choices are often influenced by what they perceive to be accepted and trendy. This may mean they will choose less protective clothing styles.

Focus on the here and now: While teenagers may understand that sun exposure can cause skin cancer, this may seem like a problem that doesn't relate to them now.

Preference for a tan: Almost a third of teenagers believe a person looks healthier with a tan and the majority agree their friends think a suntan is a good thing. In reality a tan is a sign of skin damage, and there is no such thing as a 'safe' tan.

Tips to encourage SunSmart behaviour:

Make skin cancer relevant – There is a myth that skin cancer only affects the older generation. Educate your son/daughter about the high rates of melanoma amongst young people.

Be a SunSmart role model – Role modelling is an important way to encourage teenagers to be SunSmart. When you use sun protection such as hats, shade, sunscreen, and clothing, not only are you protecting yourself, but it also means the children and teenagers in your life are more likely to use them too. Encourage your teen to role model for younger siblings.

Use the free SunSmart app – If your teen has a phone, encourage them to download the free SunSmart app and set up UV alerts. This will help remind them of when sun protection is required each day.

Enjoy the sun safely everyone!

Mrs K Maynard
Health Unit Coordinator



Year 11 Leavers: What's Next? Careers Survey

If your child is in Year 11, they are required to complete the short online: What's Next Survey, launched by Gateshead Council, which is now open and will be throughout the summer. Thank you to all leavers who have already completed the survey.

Information identified from this survey helps Gateshead Careers Team to offer help, information and advice on education, training and employment, and can support young people up to the age of 18 to make choices and plan for their future.

*All completed surveys will be entered for the chance to win Metro Centre vouchers. The link to the survey can be accessed here: <https://bit.ly/3xvPDIf>

Many thanks

Mrs A Jordan
Head of Careers

Year 12 Parents

To support your children in their UCAS applications and for you to find out more about the university application process, many local universities will offer information sessions.

Northumbria University would like to invite you to our: [Parents' and Carers' Information Event 2021](#). The event will begin with pre-recorded content which will be available from **Wednesday 23 June** covering topics such as the transition to higher education, student finance and graduate futures. This will then be followed by a **live Q&A** session between **18:00 and 18:45 on Wednesday 30 June**, with representatives from our Professional Support teams including Accommodation, Student Recruitment, Security, Applicant Services, and we will also be joined by a parent of a Northumbria University alumnus.

We hope that this event will help you to support your son/daughter with the application cycle and answer any questions you may have about the transition to university and university life.

To sign-up for the live Q&A session and to watch the pre-recorded content, please [click here](#).



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Mrs A Jordan
Head of Careers

Miss J Leigh
Careers Coordinator