

Parent Bulletin

Week commencing Monday 28 June 2021 – Week 2

Dear Parents and Carers

It was good to meet some of you at our webinar on Wednesday to explain more about the pastoral reorganisation from house blocks into year groups. It is clear that the logic and benefits of the new system have been quickly appreciated by parents and carers.

Today I can follow up with the detail about the names of the new **Year Leaders and Deputy Year Leaders**. Year Leaders are senior members of staff, part of our middle leadership team; they have a half-time teaching timetable in addition to their pastoral duties. Deputy Year Leaders are non-teaching members of staff. We are fortunate to have such an experienced and dedicated team of pastoral leaders, and they are looking forward to working with your children, promoting their progress and wellbeing. We have one appointment of a Deputy Year Leader still to make, and the position is attracting a good deal of interest. The whole system represents a considerable investment in looking after your children.

Mrs Kendall has written in this bulletin about **class setting** arrangements next year for students who will be in years 7 and 8. Please take the time to read this information. Setting arrangements for students in older year groups will remain unchanged, although there may be some movement of individual students between teaching groups. The year group system gives more flexibility for such moves, if they are needed.

Other schools locally have seen **rising numbers of COVID-19 cases**. In some schools, these cases have resulted in substantial numbers of other students having to self-isolate, or schools having to close to all students for a period of time. We need to continue to avoid this at Lord Lawson if at all possible. It is therefore important that all students test themselves twice weekly, using the lateral flow tests we supply. A positive test result needs to be reported to the NHS and to school, and the student must not attend. Remember that many people who have COVID-19 do not show symptoms, but can still pass it on to others. Included in this bulletin is a health briefing from Mrs Maynard in our Supported Learning Centre. The Education Secretary has also written an open letter to parents and carers, available [here](#).

Finally, I need to remind everyone that **dogs are not permitted on the school grounds**. Some parents are walking to meet or collect their children from school: we welcome parents and carers, but we need to ask you to leave the dog at home or with someone else outside the school grounds. Some children are afraid of dogs, others are allergic to them, and dog mess on school grounds is a nuisance. Thank you for your help.

With all best wishes

Mr A T Fowler
Principal

Year Groups – Pastoral Leadership 2021-22

Year Group	Year Leader	Deputy Year Leader
7	Mrs Alison Jacobson	Mrs Kay Coates
8	Mrs Vickie Liddle	Miss Katie Milburn
9	Mr Scott Earle	Mrs Jade Clarke/Mr Craig Sturrock
10	Mr Dave Cave	Mrs Denise Smith
11	Mr Ali McConway	[not yet appointed]
Sixth Form	Mrs Alison Jordan	Mr Paul McGovern

Please note that these are the year groups as from September 2021. If your child is currently in year 7, for example, they will be in year 8 next year and their Year Leader will be Mrs Liddle.

In the Year 9 pastoral leadership team, Mrs Clarke is currently on maternity leave, and Mr Sturrock will work as Deputy Year Leader until she returns.

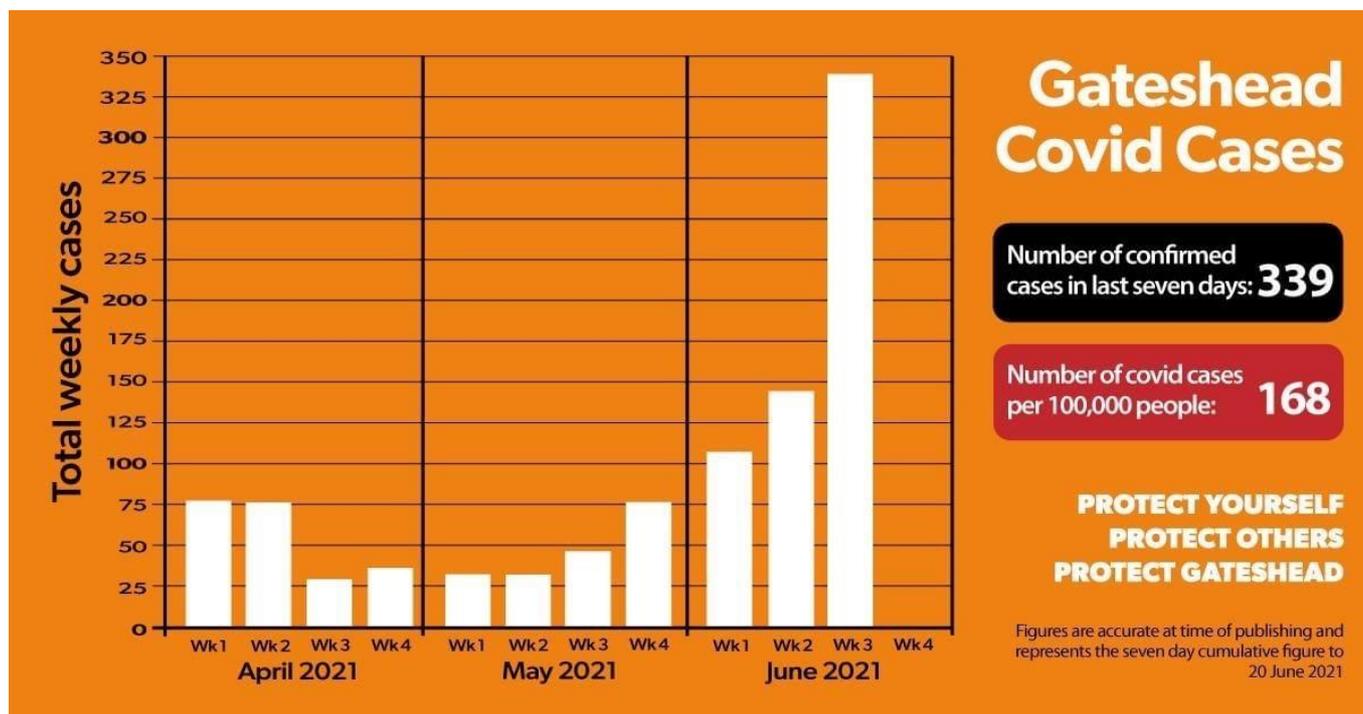
We welcome Mrs Jacobson to the pastoral leadership team. Mrs Jacobson is already well-known to many parents and carers, as our Transition Coordinator. She is delighted to be working with children in year 7 throughout their time in this year group, and to continuing her very strong links with primary schools. Mrs Coates is a highly experienced and well-qualified pastoral leader, and I know that she and Mrs Jacobson will make an excellent and effective team.

The other pairings of Year Leader and Deputy Year Leader are continuing from their work together as Head of House and Student Welfare and Family Liaison Officer (SWAFLO). We will make the appointment of the Deputy Year Leader for Year 11 within the next three weeks.

Our new Year Leaders and Deputy Year Leaders will introduce themselves to their new year groups in assemblies in the week beginning 5 July.

Mr A Fowler

Latest COVID Figures from Gateshead Public Health



Year 8: Parents' Evening – Thursday July 8 2021

We would like to confirm that our Year 8 parents' evening will go ahead as planned on Thursday 8 July 2021; however, this will be virtual rather than in person, due to the recent changes in government guidelines.

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

The system will open to enable you to begin making your appointment bookings from 8:00am Tuesday 29 June, up to 3:30pm on Thursday 8 July.

All year 8 parents will receive a letter and instructions in the post over the next couple of days.

For any questions please contact Mrs K Hubbard: khubbard@lordlawson.academy or 0191 433 4026.

Thank you.

Mrs S Nellist
Assistant Principal

Year 7: Parents' Evening – Thursday 1 July 2021

If you have not already done so, please remember to make appointments for the upcoming parents' evening with your child's teachers, using School Cloud. Appointment slots are from 3:30 – 5:55pm.

If a teacher has no availability this will show on the School Cloud system. Please email the subject teacher direct to arrange a telephone appointment for a later date. All staff email addresses can be found on our website by accessing the following link: [Staff at Lord Lawson](#)

Should you have any questions relating to this system, please email Mrs Hubbard at: khubbard@lordlawson.academy

Thank you

Mrs K Hubbard
PA to SLT

Year 10: End of Year Tests – Monday 28 June to Friday 2 July

Year 10 students will sit their End of Year tests, commencing Monday 28 June. Students have been provided with their timetables, so are aware of which test they are sitting on which day.

Students are aware of the following information, and have also received a reminder from me today via their academy email address:

‘Dear Year 10

Just a few reminders regarding your end of year tests next week. Please remember the following:

You will have your timetables, please make sure you check them carefully so you know which rooms/seats you are in.

Remember all your equipment, you will need a pen at the very least

Your timetable will tell you what you can and cannot take in to the exam hall, please read this carefully.

Bags/phones/coats etc. cannot be brought into the hall; use your lockers or leave in your house block.

Your lunch will be slightly earlier at 12:40pm, whether you are in lesson or exams.

The afternoon session starts at 1:30; you will return to lesson 4 if you have a lesson until 1.55.

You will be allowed in the canteen at 12:55, until then you will be in the front yard outside English.

If you bring a mobile phone into the exam hall you must hand it in to the invigilators. It is not permitted to have a mobile in an exam room and could result in your mark not counting.

Good luck everyone. I know you have worked hard for these tests; do your very best! ‘

Miss S Nellist
Assistant Principal

Year 7 and Year 8

Class structure for current year 7: As year 7 students move into year 8 they will be placed into new teaching groups. In maths and science students will be streamed using progress information from across the year as well as the end of year assessments. For all other subjects, all students will be placed in mixed ability groupings.

As an Academy we have drawn on educational research as well as our own experience in making this decision. Through educational research it has found that ALL students make better progress in mixed ability groupings. Over the course of this year, we have had a teaching and learning focus during our professional development time in adapting our teaching to meet the needs of all students in the class and our staff are well equipped to support all students in making the right progress using in-class setting where appropriate. The decision to stream students in maths and science is to support the tiered entry at GCSE.

When deciding on the new class groupings we will consider both academic and social information provided by the teaching and pastoral staff.

Class structure for current year 8: Students in this year group will remain in their house block classes for all subjects, with the exception of maths and science. Within maths and science students will be streamed, based on their progress data across the year, in order to support the tiered entry at GCSE.

If you have any questions or queries regarding the class structures please submit these to:
admin@lordlawson.academy

All questions received will be collated and reviewed; answers to frequently asked questions will be issued in the parent bulletin next week.

Thank you

Mrs K Kendall
Assistant Principal

Young Writers Competition

Congratulations to 17 of our wonderful year 10 students whose work has been chosen to be published in a new book!

Students were asked to write a mini saga of just one hundred words, based on the crime and mystery genres, in response to the Young Writers national competition 'Unsolved'.

Students now eagerly anticipate the naming of prize winners in the next few weeks, in the hope of winning £100, an awesome book bundle, and the Young Writers Award of Excellence Trophy.

Thanks go to the students who participated and to English Teacher - Mr J Parkin - who inspired them to have a go!

Students involved are:

Pui Chee Sham	Joe Coulson	Benjamin Todd
Neve Howe	Rowan Henderson	Erin Fairbrother
Navjot Kaur	Florence Ross	Matthew Ward
Ivy Wang	Daisy Gladstone	Kelsie Walker
Paige Pilkington	Amber Bailey	Lucy McGuinness-Brown
Sienna Spalding		

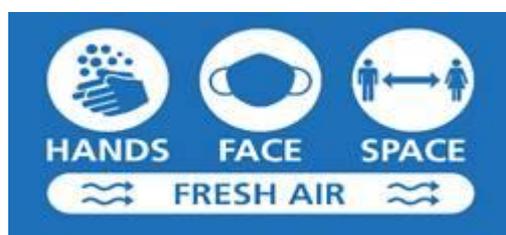
Good luck to all of you – we are keeping our fingers crossed!

Mrs B Dixon
LRC Coordinator

First Aid Unit Awareness Topic: COVID-19 - A Reminder!

As the number of COVID cases in our region continues to rise, it's important to remember the basics for keeping this virus under control:

- Hands
 - Face
 - Space
 - Test
1. The number of cases of coronavirus in County Durham is increasing rapidly.
 2. The greatest rise is among 19 to 24 year olds, with the dominant strain being the Delta variant, which originated in India.
 3. All staff and students have been offered lateral flow device (LFD) test kits to use at home, and we ask that these are used to test yourself twice a week. We suggest on a Sunday and a Wednesday evening.
 4. The vast majority of cases appear to be in young people but that does not mean other age groups do not need to be vigilant.
 5. Some schools have already been affected by high numbers of cases meaning another interruption to the education of their students. We want to give our students the best chance to succeed so we must remain vigilant and follow the guidelines given.
 6. Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub, or wash them with soap and water. This eliminates germs - including viruses - that may be on your hands.
 7. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth. From there, the virus can enter your body and infect you.
 8. Cover your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately into a closed bin and wash your hands. By following good 'respiratory hygiene', you protect the people around you from viruses, which cause colds, flu and COVID-19.
 9. Clean and disinfect surfaces frequently especially those which are regularly touched, such as door handles, computer keyboards and phone screens.



All About Apprenticeships: June – Parents’ and Carers’ Pack

The June issue of ‘All About Apprenticeships’ includes information on T Levels in Science, understanding apprenticeships in the food and drink industry, employer perspective on Digital Marketing apprenticeships; the ‘Parent Perspective Podcast’, and, as this month is Pride Month, advice is also included on finding an LGBT+ inclusive employer.

As a reminder, there are also thousands of new vacancies being added to the apprenticeship and traineeship portals: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship> and <https://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship>

The June Issue can be found by following this link: [Parents' and Carers Pack - June 2021](#)

Many thanks!

Mrs A Jordan
Careers Lead

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