

Parent Bulletin

Week commencing Monday 3 January 2022 – Week 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

What does it feel like to reach the end of term?! Happiness, relief, exhaustion and elation are emotions that are probably jostling with one another in each of us. And a pang of regret and sadness that we need to curb our gatherings with friends and family, prioritising our social mixing. I had plans to visit my elderly mother over Christmas, but she lives over 200 miles away and the journey would involve long periods on public transport. We agreed last night, with great regret, that it would be safer for both of us to postpone that trip.

It was great to see your children in festive spirit today. I was glad that we were able to enjoy our time together and have some fun on the last day of term, with year group quizzes and challenges, awards assemblies, a festive celebration and tutor group parties.

Yesterday, Mr Dicocco and I spoke to all students in years 7 to 11, letting them know about some changes to our norms and routines in the way we run lessons. These are designed to give a very structured start and end to lessons, and to help all our students learn and make progress in an orderly way. We are confident that the large majority of students (and parents) will welcome this change.

There are some changes to the consequence system as well. No student needs to be given a consequence, if they follow instructions and meet our expectations. If, however, a student is given a C3, they will work for the remainder of the lesson in a neighbouring classroom, and there will be a detention given; if they are able to work well, they can continue with their usual timetable for the rest of the day. The teacher will phone you to let you know that this has happened. If, however, they are unwilling to cooperate, they will be given a C4. This means that they will then work in the Inclusion Centre for at least an hour, until staff there judge that they are once again 'ready to learn,' at which point they will be able to go back to lessons. You will be contacted and notified of this, and of the after-school detention. This will affect only a small number of students. We rely on your support as we continue to improve the culture and ethos of our school.

I wrote to you over a month ago to let you know that, from January, every student needs to bring their school bag every day. Most students do this, but not all. They need to bring their equipment – pen, pencil, ruler and planner – and they will be given praise points for doing this. Tutors will check every day, and they will let you know by text if your child has arrived at school without the correct equipment, so that you can help them prepare better the next day. A reminder: school begins for students on Wednesday 5 January 2022 at 08:40.

Finally, I want to thank you and your children for your generosity to our Christmas appeal for Mission Christmas, providing gifts for families and children who are facing particularly difficult circumstances this Christmas. In my Christmas message to students in the festive assemblies today, I thanked them for their generous spirit. Christmas is seen by some as a time for receiving, but we gain so much more by what we give to others. Thank you for the gift of your support for our school, and thank you for all you give as you look after, love and cherish your children. I hope you enjoy your holiday time together.

With all good wishes for Christmas and the New Year,

Yours faithfully

Mr A T Fowler
Principal

Year 9 Parents' Evening

Letters have been posted to parents of our year 9 students containing a weblink for booking appointments with teaching staff, for the parents' evening scheduled for Tuesday 11 January 2022, 3.3 – 6.30pm.

If you have not received the letter, please email: khubbard@lordlawson.academy who will be happy to provide a copy.

Please note: For any appointments with Performing Arts staff, you should select only ONE of the teachers. Please speak to your child to confirm which teacher they are most familiar with or who may have taught them most recently.

Thank you.

Mrs K Hubbard
PA to SLT

Performing Arts Updates

Advent Calendar

The Performing Arts Social Media Performance Advent Calendar has been a huge success and to celebrate, performances will continue throughout the Christmas holidays, helping you to countdown to Christmas day. Performances will be posted on the official Academy Facebook page at 12pm daily.

A massive thank you to all students who have contributed performances towards the project. We would also like to thank everyone who has liked the posts and shared lovely comments praising and encouraging our performers; we really appreciate you taking the time and we are happy the performances have been warmly received.

Year 9: Dance Club Project

From January 2022, Miss Brown will be running a special Dance Club project, focused on Year 9 students, who may be interested in opting for GCSE Dance in Year 10. All Year 9 students are welcome to attend and the sessions will run every Monday evening, starting Monday 10 January, 3.15pm- 4.15pm. The sessions will focus on Performance and Choreography skills.

This is a fantastic opportunity for students to gain more information and experience relating to the GCSE Dance course and also for those students looking for a new exciting extra-curricular challenge to get involved with.

If you require any further information about the Year 9 GCSE Dance Club project please contact me via email at: sbrown@lordlawson.academy and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Miss S Brown
Subject Leader – Performing Arts

When parents and carers finally have the chance to spend some quality time with their child over Christmas, many face a familiar struggle to prise their young one's attention away from their phone, console, tablet or computer. Fun family bonding over the festive period, however, doesn't have to exclude devices. There are sockfuls of Christmas activities and ideas online which grown-ups and children can enjoy together. We've compiled our own 'nice list' of seasonal suggestions for how to

MAKE THE MOST OF THE ONLINE WORLD THIS CHRISTMAS

1 EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY

Budding bakers will relish helping out in the kitchen with some tasty festive treats. Spend some time together researching child-friendly Christmas recipes online (the BBC Good Food site is an excellent place to start), and then you and your little elves can rustle up gingerbread santas, marshmallow snowmen or reindeer shortbread. The only thing that's more fun is eating your creations afterwards!

2 THE OLD SONGS ARE THE BEST?

We've all had that Christmas compilation CD that was almost perfect, if it wasn't inexplicably missing one of your best-loved tracks. In this era of music streaming, however, your little helpers can assist you in compiling a definitive playlist of all your favourite seasonal songs – no more pinning for The Pretenders or wishing for Wizard.

3 DECK THE HALLS

There's no such thing as 'too many' Christmas trimmings! Let your child channel their excitement into some creative crafting, and you'll make memories as well as your own DIY decorations. There are loads of step-by-step guides online (including video walkthroughs on YouTube) for seasonal showpieces like paper plate angels, handprint wreaths and cupcake wrapper Christmas trees.

7 A WINTER'S TALE

Everyone enjoys a story at this time of year; after all, the whole celebration is based on an engaging yarn. Sites such as Audible are an excellent way of entertaining excited young ones, with classics like Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and seasonal short stories by Enid Blyton alongside more contemporary Christmas tales by the likes of Tom Fletcher, JK Rowling and Ben Miller.

9 BROUGHT ME SOME CORN FOR POPPIN'

Snuggling up against the winter weather with the family (and a generous helping of chocolates) to enjoy a well-loved movie is a delightful Christmas tradition. The usual streaming services have some classic candidates on offer: *Home Alone* and *The Santa Clause* are on Disney+, while Amazon Prime has *EV* and *The Grinch*, and Netflix goes with *The Princess Switch* and *The Christmas Chronicles*.

WHEN THE SNOWMAN BRINGS THE SNOW...

4 A WORLD OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW

From turkey on the beach in Australia to roller-skating to church in Venezuela, Christmas is celebrated in a variety of ways worldwide – curious youngsters might enjoy discovering other nations' festive traditions online. Google's Santa Tracker is a brilliant (and free) starting point, with games, activities and animations to help children enjoy learning as they count down to the big day!

5 THE NEAR AND THE DEAR ONES

Between time constraints, distance, the weather and Covid precautions (or a combination of all four) for many families it just won't be possible to physically spend time with everyone they'd ideally like to this Christmas. Video calling technology, of course, takes some of the sting out of the disappointment by virtually transporting loved ones into your living room.

6 KIDS FROM ONE TO 92

If Santa's brought your young ones a console this year (or they already had one), it's a perfect excuse for some quality time while they gleefully trounce you at *FFA* or *Mario Kart*. Digital versions of traditional board games like *Monopoly* and *Cluedo* are available on most platforms, too; get the whole household together for a modern take on some old-school family fun.

8 CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THOSE FACES

People used to express their gratitude for a thoughtful Christmas gift with a thank you card or a dutiful phone call. Not in the digital age: now your relations can see first-hand on video calls how delighted the children are with their presents – and even how they look in that slightly questionable hand-knitted pullover.

10 GUESS WHAT I FORGOT?

Friends and family pitting their wits against each other on Zoom, Teams or Skype really took off during lockdown, so why not revive the tradition over the holidays? Your questions could be on the biggest news, sport and showbiz stories of 2021, or be Christmas themed, or you could stick to classic general knowledge. Ideal for those days between Christmas and New Year.



Year 11

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you all as the newly appointed Year Leader – Year 11, as of January 2022. I will be working alongside Mrs Clarke, who has recently been appointed as Deputy Year Leader – Year 11.

We are both looking forward to working with you all over the coming months, to support our students in achieving their full potential and preparing them for life after Lord Lawson.

If you would like to contact us, please email: gthompson3@lordlawson.academy or jclarke1@lordlawson.academy and we will be happy to support you.

From January 2022, you will also be able to contact me via the academy phone number (0191 433 4026) on extension 206, and Mrs Clarke via extension 301.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr G Thompson

Vacancies

Lunchtime Supervisor

Lord Lawson Academy would be interested in hearing from you if you would like to become a Lunchtime Supervisor. The role will involve supporting and supervising our students over their lunch time period.

The hours are: 12:15 to 14:15pm every day during term-time. The current rate of pay is £9.87/hour.

For an application form contact: recruitment@lordlawson.academy

Exam Invigilator - Casual hours

Required for Summer 2022

We are looking to expand our team of Exam Invigilators to invigilate all internal and external examinations.

Invigilators are responsible for ensuring the examinations are conducted in line with JCQ guidelines and that all students are given the best opportunity when taking exams to realise their full potential.

Duties will include: supervision of candidates during examinations, the preparation of exam halls, distribution and collection of exam materials and papers, completion of exam invigilation paperwork.

Applicants should be well organised, calm and methodical with an ability to follow procedures.

The hours of work are casual and successful applicants will require enhanced DBS disclosure.

Rate of Pay: £10/hour

Please contact recruitment@lordlawson.academy for an application form or any further information.

Mr J Pedlingham
Business Manager