

Parent Bulletin

Week commencing Monday 6 December 2021 – Week 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the last two weeks of term, our thoughts turn towards Christmas and the New Year. The weather certainly seems to be turning us towards winter. Storm Arwen last weekend caused problems across our region: the electric power supply to my house was reconnected only on Thursday, and I know many others have been affected to a greater or lesser extent. It has been good to see so many students sensibly dressed for the weather; please check that your child has their coat with them when they leave for school in the morning.

From January, we will be making some changes to further improve the structure of lessons. We know that students work well within routines and, as part of our drive to improve both behaviour and learning, we will work to create greater consistency in these classroom routines. More details will follow. We will also ask all students to bring their school bag every day. If your child does not already have a bag for school, or if they need a new one, please can you equip them with this by January?

It has also been good to see such a strong response to our appeal for new parent governors. Five parents have volunteered their services. Since there are only two vacancies, we now need to hold a ballot. Full details and ballot papers are being released during the week. We will send these home with your children, and we will send a text message to let you know when to expect them.

Year 11 students will begin their Autumn Assessments next week. These are important examinations, fulfilling two purposes. They will indicate to students how much progress they have already made, and where they need to focus further. They will also, in the event of summer examinations being cancelled, provide essential assessment evidence towards Teacher Assessed Grades. If you have a child in Year 11, please support them as they revise and prepare for these assessments.

We ask for full attendance right up to the last day of term, Friday 17 December. To encourage this, we are planning some fun and ‘Christmassy’ events for days in the last week, and on the last day itself. Further details will follow. Already our Christmas tree in the foyer is looking splendidly festive! You will also have heard details of our Christmas appeal, for children who have less and for whom Christmas can be a very difficult time.

Finally, a plea from me for all students to continue to take lateral flow tests twice a week. If your child needs a fresh supply of these tests, please ask them to ask their tutor. We will also be testing all students on their return to school in January. The first day of term is Wednesday 5 January 2022.

With all best wishes

Yours faithfully

Mr A T Fowler
Principal

Student Planners

You will know that your child has been given a student planner this week to record all home learning. Students will need to bring their planner to school every day to record their home learning. The information that they should record is what the task is, how long it will take to complete and when the homework is due.

Tutors will check and sign the planners each week to ensure that students are actively using them. As a parent or carer, please can you check and sign your child's planner every Sunday and check that the homework has been completed.

Thank you for your support in ensuring home learning is completed.

Regards

Mrs K Kendall
Assistant Principal

Year 10 Parents' Evening: Tuesday 7 December 2021

Parents/careers should have received a letter informing them of the above Parents' Evening, which is scheduled between 3:30 and 6:30pm. Appointments with staff will not take place in school but 'virtually'.

The letter provided a weblink: <https://lordlawson.schoolcloud.co.uk/> that is to be used to book your video appointments. If you have not received this letter, please email Mrs Hubbard at: khubbard@lordlawson.academy.

The appointment booking system will close Monday 6 December at 9:00am.

Thank you.

Mrs K Hubbard
PA to SLT

Maths: Changes to Sets in Class

In order to fully support your child in achieving their full potential we may need to make a change to their current maths set. Class teachers will discuss with any student affected during week commencing Monday 6 December.

If your child is moving class/set, this will not take place until our return in January 2022.

If, following student notification of a set change, you would like to discuss this in further detail, please contact me via email at: ismith4@lordlawson.academy and I will respond as soon as possible.

Regards

Mrs L Smith
Deputy Subject Leader - Maths

Year 9

Advance notice that the year 9 Parents Evening is scheduled for Tuesday 11 January 2022. Further details will be provided in the Parental Bulletin next week.

Regards

Mrs K Hubbard
PA to SLT

Sixth Form Recruitment

If your child is interested in applying for our Sixth Form, please visit our Sixth Form webpages (using the link below) to view the prospectus. The online application form will also be available within that area shortly; you will be advised when this is ready to access.

<https://www.lordlawson.academy/sixth-form/application-and-prospectus/>

Regards

Mrs K Hubbard
PA to SLT

Year 13: UCAS Applications

For any of our students wishing to go to university, the sixth form team are currently working with them in year 13 to give feedback on their UCAS personal statements. In addition, the team are reviewing their applications and submitting these to UCAS.

Our deadline for submission of UCAS applications is **Friday 10 December** – next week. Our aim is to ensure all applications and personal statements are completed to allow the students' the time to concentrate on their upcoming mock exams.

We have already submitted a number of applications that have resulted in interviews and university offers. However, we do still have a lot to complete. If your son or daughter would like to go to university, they should ask to have their personal statement checked by their tutor/teachers/sixth form staff, ensuring they then edit their statement following the feedback and advice they receive.

This should be completed a.s.a.p. so they are able to complete their UCAS application and have sufficient time to arrange a one-to-one meeting either with me or Mrs Jordan, to allow us the opportunity to complete a final check before submission.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs McDowell: amcdowell@lordlawson.academy or Mrs Jordan: ajordan@lordlawson.academy who will be happy to help.

Regards

Mrs A McDowell
UCAS Coordinator

Amazing Apprenticeships: Parent/Carer Pack - November 2021

The November edition of the '**Parents' and Carers' Pack**' is full of interesting articles about T Levels, traineeships, apprenticeships and how to help your child search and find apprenticeship opportunities. In addition, you can explore 'Supported Internships' and hear from apprentices about their roles.

Your pack is available here: <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/app/uploads/2021/11/Parent-Pack-November-2021.pdf>

Best Wishes

Mrs A Jordan
Careers Lead

Mrs J Leigh
Careers Coordinator

School Photographs

Students have been provided with the proof packs of their recent school photographs.

Any parents wishing to place an order for delivery before the Christmas holidays will need to order online – details on how to do this are within the proof packs – by no later than Monday 13 December 2021. We have been advised by Focal Point this **should** ensure delivery prior to Christmas.

Any orders submitted after this date, or submitted to school rather than online, will be delivered sometime in the New Year. As yet there is no confirmed delivery date for these orders.

Mrs S J Wakefield
Office Manager



Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy Angel Tree 2021

For many years within Lord Lawson, the Education Welfare Officer has promoted, supported and driven our 'Angel Tree' initiative. The Angel Tree is a way of the Academy giving some of our most disadvantaged students and parents an extra gift at Christmas. The gifts are targeted to those families who are experiencing genuine financial hardship and/or significant welfare issues.

With ever changing economic climates and more and more families finding it difficult to make ends meet, we have looked for ways to adapt and make the most of our limited resources. To support us in achieving this goal we have, in recent years, teamed with Metro Radio Mission Christmas, which has allowed the initiative to continue, as well as being able to access financial support for our families throughout the whole year.

Here is how you, as students, parents and the wider community can get involved:

From Tuesday 30 November 2021, students will be able to leave any gift donations in our 'Christmas Sleigh' - cleverly disguised as a shopping trolley - which will be 'parked' in Mrs Wakefield's office (next to the Tree of Knowledge outside the main hall). We do ask that you do not send used items as a donation.

To take part, just follow these simple steps...

- Get shopping and pick up a fantastic present suitable for a child aged 0 - 18 years. Please note that, historically, there is a real shortage of gifts for teenagers.
- Pop your gift in the trolley - there's no need to wrap! We will make sure it gets delivered in time for Christmas morning.
- All donations must be received by Friday 10 December 2021 - but the earlier the better so there is more time for 'Mrs Santa' to deliver them where they are needed.

A staggering one in three children are currently classed as living in poverty in the North East; the prospect of purchasing Christmas presents can be daunting or simply unachievable for families in need, especially this year. Lots of these children attend this school and I will be making applications to the appeal for gifts for those students.

The Mission Christmas campaign aims to provide every disadvantaged local child with a present to open on Christmas morning, allowing them to still believe in the magic of Christmas. Hopefully by continuing our work with Metro Radio we will be able to continue with the Angel Tree, supporting not only our own students but also the wider community.

Thank you

Mrs J Walsh
Education Welfare Officer

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