

Parent Bulletin

Week commencing Monday 13 December 2021 – Week 2

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been another busy week here, as it almost always is. This is the sign of a thriving and improving school, and while it may tire us out, we must look to the positives. It has been a long but rewarding term for all involved. Developments on the wider COVID-19 front may be worrying, as we move into 'Plan B', but we have achieved so much as a school this year. We have enjoyed well attended parents' evenings, both in person and virtual. We have run trips again. We held our long-awaited performance of Les Misérables. Sports fixtures continue. Extra-curricular opportunities abound. We are looking forward to festive celebrations next Friday.

Our students have in the main been fantastic in supporting the change to mask wearing, showing high levels of care and compliance. Thank you for your efforts in encouraging this. Year 11 have treated their Autumn Assessments in the manner expected, as have those involved from Years 10, 12 and 13. We are getting lots of donations in for Mission Christmas, thanks so much to those who are supporting us in this, it is lovely to see the generosity and kind spirit of all involved.

As we move into the final week, can I ask again for your support with attendance up to and including the final day of term. We are teaching as normal from Monday through Thursday. We have an exciting day planned on Friday, with it being both Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner day, and a series of events planned from period 3 onwards. We are all very much looking forward to ending the term on a festive high!

With all best wishes

Yours faithfully

Mr J Dicocco
Deputy Principal

Festive Friday – End of term celebrations

On the final day of term – Friday 17 December - we will be having a festive celebration day for students. From period 3 onwards, students will be involved in a range of festive activities. On this day, we are allowing students to wear non-uniform, but would like them to get into the festive spirit by wearing an appropriate Christmas jumper/t-shirt if they have them. (Further information about non-uniform day will be supplied next week). On the Friday we will also be serving Christmas lunch for staff and students.

Throughout the month of December we have been collecting food for ‘The Hub Community Partnership’, which is located in the heart of Birtley. This organisation offers a variety of services to our most vulnerable families including:

- Benefit advice
- Employment and training search and support
- Foodbank
- Community groups and trips
- Parenting support
- Credit Union
- Citizens Advice
- Signposting to agencies

To support their work, we are asking students to donate £1 on Festive Friday. All money collected on the day will be donated The Hub to support their work. This donation will be used to help run their emergency food fund, which buys items to replenish their emergency food cupboard, providing families in greatest need with essentials such as UHT milk, bread, nappies, baby milk etc. The emergency cupboard operates all week and Lord Lawson have instant access to much needed essentials to tide people over until they can get to a foodbank.

Supporting this very local charity would allow us to directly support Lord Lawson families, at a time when many feel the most need.

Thank you all

Mr P Walsh
Assistant Principal

Year 7 Homework

A reminder for parents/carers and students, that year 7 maths homework is set online using Sparx. Students are set a piece of homework, which is personalised to them, every week. Homework is set on a Monday and due for submission the following Monday.

The LRC is open after school to all students, so they have access to computers should they need access to this resource. The LRC will reopen over lunch on our return in January. Paper homework is not set.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me at: djackson@lordlawson.academy

Regards

Mrs D Jackson
Subject Leader - Maths

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

Mental Health Engagement

Lord Lawson will be hosting a Mental Health Engagement 'drop in' service, on Tuesday 14 December 2021.

There will be a mini bus parked on site in the visitor car park. Representatives from the Children and Young People's Service (CYPS), Kooth and Platform, will be available to offer advice, guidance and information to parents and students around mental health and support available to them.

The 'drop in' service will be open after school from 3:30pm until approximately 4:30pm.

Regards

Mrs K Hubbard
PA to SLT

Year 9

Advance notice that the year 9 Parents Evening is scheduled for Tuesday 11 January 2022. Further details will be provided on our return in January.

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

Performing Arts Updates

GCSE Revision Sessions

The final Friday after school revision session this term for GCSE Dance, Drama and Music students is Friday 10 December, 3.15 - 4.15pm. There will be no revision session on the last day of term, Friday 17 December.

Social Media Performance Advent Calendar

Every school day in December, the Performing Arts department are showcasing Lord Lawson's amazingly talented performers by sharing one performance per day in our social media performance advent calendar. We hope you have enjoyed the performances shared so far. You can find performances on the official academy Facebook page; posts are made at 12.00pm each day.

Thank you for all of your continued support towards The Performing Arts department and our students. We have some very exciting performance opportunities launching in the New Year.

If you have any queries about Performing Arts opportunities at Lord Lawson, please do not hesitate to contact me on: sbrown@lordlawson.academy.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank students for their contribution and enthusiasm towards the project and to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Miss S Brown

Subject Leader – Performing Arts

Learning Resource Centre (LRC) Updates

Drop Everything and Read (DEAR)

On Thursday 16 December we are running our first 'Drop Everything and Read (DEAR)' of the academic year. The bell will sound during period 3 for students across the academy to stop what they are doing, pick up their books, and read.

DEAR time is designed to promote reading by inspiring more students to read for pleasure, fostering confidence in reading ability, and offering opportunities for our students to share their reading experience. Further DEAR events will be happening after the Christmas break.

Please encourage your child to bring a book, newspaper, comic or magazine (in hard copy), to school for this purpose. Students will also be reminded by tutors and teaching staff, who will also be bringing their own reading material.

For students struggling to find reading material, the LRC is open after school and most lunchtimes where our staff will be more than happy to help.

Year 7: Bookbuzz

Bookbuzz orders have arrived for our year 7 students – just in time for Christmas! Earlier in the term, each student in year 7 chose a book from one of 17 titles offered by the charity 'BookTrust'. This book is theirs to keep, read, and enjoy.

Books will be delivered to tutor groups over the coming days. It is fair to say that our year 7 students have really been looking forward to their arrival, and are eager to get reading.

Enjoy reading for pleasure year 7!

Book Donations – A thank you to parents/carers

A few weeks ago I appealed to parents of students in our academy to support us in building a collection of books to be housed in each of our classrooms. The purpose of this was to ensure that reading material is available and accessible at all times during the day, so that any time between tasks in lessons can be filled with meaningful reading.

I am delighted and overwhelmed with your response. Thank you so very much for your kind donations of wonderful books to help us in this cause. These books will be put together with our own resources to encourage more of our students to pick up a good book and develop a passion for reading,

Once again, thank you for your support!

Best wishes

Miss B Dixon
LRC 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