

Parent Bulletin

Week commencing Monday 22 November 2021 – Week 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Wednesday, **Ofsted published the letter** following their monitoring inspection carried out on Tuesday 5 October. I hope you will take the time to read the letter in full, because this is an important document about your school. Mr Dicocco has already let you know some of the headlines, and I wrote to parents and carers on Wednesday. It is worth spending time taking you through some of the points in more detail.

The letter is written partly in ‘Ofsted-speak,’ a language that is foreign to many of us! There are conventions to this sort of writing, and to monitoring inspections. The first is that, although the overall judgement is extremely important, it cannot alter the grading given to a school. Only a full inspection (what is called a ‘Section 5 inspection’) can do that. Nonetheless, the inspector’s judgement at this stage is crucial. He wrote that:

Leaders and those responsible for governance are taking effective action in order for the school to become a good school.

Please notice these important terms: ‘taking effective action’ means that the school leaders are working intelligently, using the information they have, and that they are **doing the right things to improve the school**. You should therefore have confidence in school leaders and in governors. And we need your support.

A second convention is that Ofsted tends to comment in these letters on **what still needs to be done** and **does not pause to acknowledge and evaluate what has already been done**. The **points for improvement are useful**, and they are important. Comparing them to points in the June 2019 Ofsted report shows they are also relatively small: **they can now be achieved**.

The link to the Ofsted letter is here: <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50172348>

Improving our school is vital, and it is also extremely hard! (I know this, having worked in school improvement and in leading an Outstanding school before I came to Lord Lawson.) To improve a school effectively, you must **identify and challenge what is not working**, and you must **encourage, inspire, and instruct people to do things differently**. This is what we have been doing. Despite the pandemic!

People catch on at different speeds. Some want to change everything, immediately, and you must hold them back so that changes are sustained. Others look positive but do little; some are confused, some reluctant. Many do not really want to change at all! Most, however, want to make positive changes: **our staff have welcomed the improvements, and they have worked with us**.

Children are no different from adults in this respect: some welcome change, many resist it. We are currently working to **improve behaviour** in the school. Most children welcome this, because it allows them to **feel safer, to work harder and to achieve more**. But some resist. In some cases, their parents back them or do not want to have the ‘difficult conversations’ at home. Again, we need your support! If you think we are getting something wrong, please talk to us (in a calm manner). We will listen. Otherwise, please back us.

/Cont.

We will be using much of the **staff training day on Tuesday 4 January 2022** to focus on **improving behaviour**. We are already working on improving the quality of teaching. Better behaviour will allow teaching raise learning standards further. When **your children return on Wednesday 5 January**, we will work with them to make sure they understand and can follow the changes we are making.

Another way you can help improve your school is by **volunteering to be a governor** (also called a 'trustee'). We are looking for **two parent governors**, who can help steer the school through its next phase of improvement. The perspective of parents and members of our community is extremely important to us. A separate letter has already been emailed to parents/carers earlier this week. Please consider whether you might be able to volunteer.

With all good wishes

Yours faithfully

Mr A T Fowler
Principal

Year 11 Parents: Prospective Sixth Form Open Evening – Tuesday 23 November 2021

We would like to remind parents/carers that we need your support to gauge attendance for the upcoming Sixth Form Open Evening presentation, to ensure we make COVID appropriate arrangements.

It is important we know if your intention is:

- To attend in person
- To attend on line
- You are not attending either format

Please use the following link to confirm your intentions to us: [Sixth Form Open Evening Attendance Form](#)

If it is your intention to view the presentation online, we would like you to confirm the email address you will be using to facilitate this.

Should you have any issues accessing the form via the above link, please advise me by return at: khubbard@lordlawson.academy.

Thank you for your support

Mrs K Hubbard
PA to SLT

Parent Governor Elections

Earlier this week, parents/carers were emailed an invitation to submit their nomination to join our Board of Trustees as a Parent Governor.

The deadline for submission of nominations is: Thursday 2 December 2021 – end of the school day.

If you are interested in joining our Board of Trustees further information and the nomination form can be accessed on our website using the following link: [Parent Governor Election Information](#).

If you require a hard copy of any of this paperwork, please submit your request to: swakefield1@lordlawson.academy and I will ensure this is posted to you.

Regards

Mrs S J Wakefield
PA to SLT/Office Manager

Text Messages

Over recent weeks we have seen an increase in the number of text messages we are receiving from parents/carers to the main school number.

Unfortunately, these messages appear to be in response to a text message received by a parent or carer from the academy. It is impossible for us to identify the sender or the intended recipient of the message.

Text messages from school are sent via our computer-based Management Information System (MIS), which does not have a facility for parents to respond. If you receive a text message from school that does not have the contact details of a named member of staff and you wish to query the message, please either phone (do not respond via text message) the main school number: 0191 433 4026, or email your query to: lordlawson@lordlawson.academy.

Thank you

Mrs S J Wakefield
PA to SLT/Office Manager

Year 10: Subject Parents' Evening

The year 10 Subject Specific Parents' evening is to be held on Tuesday 7 December, 3:30 until 6:30pm, and will be a virtual event.

Further information will be communicated in due course.

Thank you

Mrs K Hubbard
PA to SLT

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