

Parent Bulletin

Week commencing Monday 29 November 2021 – Week 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we held our Sixth Form Open Evening. The evening was very popular, with both students and parents and carers in attendance. It was lovely to see so many students engaging with their future, asking intelligent questions, and having high aspirations. We really do see each and every student here embarking on a 7-year journey with us, not a 5-year one. We are very fortunate as a school to have a thriving and vibrant Sixth Form where students achieve highly.

If your student is in Year 11 please encourage them to think carefully about their future and next steps. It may seem early in the year but Year 11 often passes in the flash of an eye. For students in Years 7-10, it is never too early to begin conversations at home around what they want to do in later life, what sort of career they aspire to, what subjects they currently enjoy. We have an ever-growing careers guidance provision in school but parental conversations are often the spark to get children really engaged in their futures.

On a different note, all school leaders were written to this week by the Secretary of State for Education, Nadhim Zahawi, about the importance of good attendance. It was hardly surprising to receive such a letter, as we all know how important good attendance is to facilitating good achievement for students. It is however, an important time to speak about attendance. For obvious reasons, school attendance nationally is significantly down compared to pre-pandemic figures, and we are no different in this. We must strive to regain good attendance for each and every one of our students, even against the difficult backdrop of a pandemic.

Some instances of non-attendance are unavoidable, we understand this. If a student has symptoms of COVID-19 they must get tested and wait for results. If a student contracts COVID-19 they must self-isolate. However, we are also entering the time period for seasonal colds and bugs, and the natural lethargy that occurs as mornings and evenings become dark and drab. It seems much easier in Winter to take a day off here and there than it is when the sun is shining and the world appears a better place. Unfortunately, for students, a day off here and there really matters; they miss vital stages in their education. More than one day off per half term reduces attendance to below 96%. We must all work together to avoid these absences.

I write about attendance against a backdrop of uncertainty around COVID-19 restrictions, and in the midst of schools having to prepare contingency plans in case exams are cancelled again this summer (we very much hope not). It is tempting to succumb to the seemingly inevitable, but we know just how important education is to all, especially this generation. Being at school provides vital social interactions that our young people need to develop, equipping them with the soft skills needed to be successful in later life. For the vast majority of students, school is also a source of enjoyment. Aside from the academic education we provide, we value these things and need to preserve them. By attending well and regularly students can begin to get back to a full school and life experience.

On a similar note, you may have noticed we are beginning to get educational and extra-curricular trips up and running again. This is also part of our drive to improve the student experience and enrich their lives. I encourage you to take advantage of these educational and extra-curricular visits when they become available to your child.

Finally, I hope you begin to enjoy the festive aspect to this season as it draws ever closer. I myself am firmly in the camp of no decorations in the house before December, but I must admit that seeing the early efforts of others on my commute in the dark mornings and evenings is a cheering experience.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Dicocco
Deputy Principal

Year 10: Subject Parents' Evening

You should have now received a letter home regarding the upcoming subject specific parent evening, to be held on Tuesday 7 December 2021.

If you have not received this letter, please email Mrs K Hubbard at: khubbard@lordlawson.academy who will ensure you receive an emailed copy. The letter contains important information on how to logon to School Cloud, the online video appointment system.

Thank you

Mrs K Hubbard
PA to SLT

Year 11: Performing Arts Revision Sessions

There are two remaining Year 11 Performing Arts revision/rehearsal sessions this term:

Friday 3 December: 3.15 – 4.15pm

Friday 10 December: 3.15 - 4.15pm.

These sessions are for Year 11 GCSE Dance, GCSE Music and GCSE Drama students.

Attendance at these sessions continues to be an expectation for Performing Arts students, as this is essential time to develop their GCSE Assessment Performance pieces to the desired standard.

If you have any queries about this please contact Subject Leader Miss Brown via email at: sbrown@lordlawson.academy who will be happy to answer your questions.

Thank you for your support as always.

Miss S Brown
Subject Leader – Performing Arts



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

Years 7 and 8: Reading Cloud

Reading Cloud is our online library and much more! Students in year 7 and 8 are now able to access this online resource.

To log into Reading Cloud, students must go to the following web address:

<https://u004088.microlibrarian.net/>

We are currently working to have this address added to our website for ease; in the meantime, this link can be added to browser favourites and visited whenever a student may wish to do so.

Using Reading Cloud, students can browse and reserve books in the LRC, read our latest news and events information, look-up their favourite authors, learn about the book of the week and find suggestions on new books to read. Reading Cloud makes it easy for students to see which books are trending, allowing them to take a look with one simple click. Students can even write reviews to be published on the Cloud!

Students have been issued with information on how to access Reading Cloud and how to set up their profile. Please encourage your child to take a look, or to call into the LRC for more information.

Thank you.

Miss B Dixon
LRC Coordinator

Parent Governor Elections

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

Tuesday is Newsday in the LRC

During Tuesday lunchtimes in our LRC, students will be able to access newspapers and magazines, and discuss the latest news and current affairs, science and technology and the issues that affect them.

Our aim is to encourage our more reluctant readers to access reading through media, to inspire debate and conversation, and to encourage all students to take an interest in their wider community.

Please encourage your child to attend Tuesday Newsday Group, or see Miss Dixon in the LRC for further information.

Thank you.

Miss B Dixon
LRC Coordinator

Flu Vaccinations

Flu vaccinations will take place on Thursday 2 December for all students in Years 7 to 11, who have previously returned a consent form and did not receive the vaccine during the last session in school.

Regards

Mrs K Maynard
Supported Learning Manager

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