

Parent Bulletin

Week commencing Monday 28 March 2022 – Week 2

Dear Parents and Carers

This past week has been marked by great weather. Even the back yard has been warm and (in places) sunny! The grass is green, the skies are blue and the sunshine is warm: what could be better? Well, in two words, attendance and behaviour.

I am not suggesting that good weather causes student absences or outbursts of poor behaviour, but I do notice that we are dealing with many issues currently.

In common with most schools nationally, we have seen a sharp rise in COVID-19 absences recently. 24 students were absent yesterday because of a confirmed case of COVID-19, up from 6 at the start of the previous week. Other schools report an increase in other infectious diseases, although fortunately we have not yet seen this at Lord Lawson.

Some students report that they are feeling uncertain and anxious, and this is affecting their attendance. We know that school provides many features that benefit good mental health. These include regular routines, the company of friends, stimuli to think about something completely different, and regular opportunities to enjoy fresh air and exercise. Please continue to work with us to give your children the best chance in life by encouraging them to keep their attendance high and their focus on enjoying themselves and doing well, both now and in the future.

I am pleased to announce that our new Social, Emotional and Mental Health Learning Mentor, Miss Thompson, starts work with us on Monday. Initially, she will be based with our Special Educational Needs department, and she will work closely with students via our Year Leaders and their teams.

In terms of behaviour, it is wonderful to see that so many of our students continue to earn large numbers of praise points each lesson and every day. Year 11 and 13 students have been exemplary in their Spring Assessments again this week. A small number of students are responsible for a large proportion of negative behaviour incidents, however, and we are dealing with these, so that all our students can learn safely and effectively.

We have also seen some friendships break down. Schools nationally have been reporting increased levels of tension among and between students. It's a lesson to us, as adults, that, when we have differences of opinion, we need to model ways to disagree well. Our children learn from what they see around them, and we are ambitious for them to see good examples of trust and mutual respect, both at school and at home. Where difficulties arise, we ask you to work with us. In most cases, we can together help our children resolve their problems.

With all good wishes,

Yours faithfully

Mr A T Fowler
Principal

Year 11 and 13 Summer Examinations Preparation Evening – Tuesday 5 April 2022, 4pm – 6pm

On Tuesday 5 April we will be hosting an exam preparation evening for students in years 11 and 13; the event is also for their parents/carers.

The purpose of the evening is to inform these students as to how they should effectively prepare for their upcoming external examinations. The purpose, for parents and carers, is to provide you with strategies to support your child in their upcoming external examinations.

Attendance is incredibly important, given that these students experienced a particularly disrupted two year period on the approach to these examinations.

The format of the event will be confirmed to you in detail next week, but will include:

- A presentation on general revision strategies and how you can help your child;
- Presentations in English, mathematics and science for year 11 focusing on subject specific revision strategies and how you can help your child;
- Opportunities to see the staff who teach your child in subjects that are primarily exam based. Here you would be able to obtain specific guidance on areas your child needs to focus on in their revision.

We hope the evening will enable you to work with your child to kick-start their preparation over the Easter break and into exam season. We want every student to be as prepared as possible to excel in their external exams in May and June.

Mr Dicocco
Deputy Principal

Mr Thompson
Year 11 Year Leader

Mrs Jordan
Head of Sixth Form

GCSE Dance Exam: Additional Rehearsal Saturday 2 April

To support the upcoming GCSE Dance Performance and Choreography exam on Tuesday 5 April 2022, I am happy to be able to offer an additional rehearsal on Saturday 2 April 2022, from 10am until 2pm. This rehearsal is to give our GCSE Dance students time to feel fully prepared and confident towards their exam performances.

Students have been given an information letter with further details and a parent/carer consent form, which must be returned to me before Friday 1 April 2022.

If you require any further information please contact me via email at sbrown@lordlawson.academy and I will be happy to help.

Miss S Brown

Subject Leader - Performing Arts

Performing Arts Updates

Monday 4 April 2022: Year 13 A Level Drama

Year 13 A Level Drama students have been working towards their external practical examination. Their exam, which forms 20% of their overall grade, will take place on **Monday 4 April**. Students will be off their normal school timetable all day.

Once they have completed their practical examination, students will then be working towards their Drama theory paper.

Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 April 2022: Year 11 GCSE Drama

Year 11 GCSE Drama students have been working towards their external practical examination. Their exam will take place over two days, **Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 April**. Students will be given a lesson off timetable with their group to enable them to rehearse their exam in the space, and then perform their final exam. This is 20% of their overall GCSE grade.

Once they have completed their practical examination, students will then be working towards their Drama theory paper to complete the course.

Should you have any questions in relation to the Drama examinations or course work, please do not hesitate to contact me on: jrace@lordlawson.academy and I will be happy to help.

Miss J Race

Performing Arts – Teacher of Drama

Year 10 and 12 Academic Reports

The academic reports for students in years 10 and 12 are now available on MCAS for parents/carers to view. The reports contain the target and predicted grades for your child, along with guidance on how to read and interpret the data.

Any parent/carer experiencing difficulty accessing MCAS should contact Mr Davison, Reports Manager, at ddavison@lordlawson.academy who will be happy to help.

Mr J Dicocco
Deputy Principal

Reporting Student Absence

Any student absence should be reported to school **before 8.50am** on the first day of absence. It is important the absence is reported before 8.50am to enable us to verify the whereabouts of our students in a timely manner, ensuring their safeguarding.

There is a dedicated absence line for students in years **7 to 11**, which can be accessed by calling the school on: 0191 4334026; you will then hear a message and should follow the prompts.

The information required is:

- Student year group;
- Student name;
- Reason for absence;
- Expected duration of absence.

We have also opened a dedicated email address for your use: studentabsence@lordlawson.academy, but you should note that any reporting here must also be **before 8.50am** on the first day of absence.

Sixth form students should continue to follow their existing procedures.

Many thanks in anticipation of your support.

Mrs J Walsh
Education, Welfare and Attendance Officer

Skiing Trip – February 2023

We are launching a skiing trip to Radstadt, Austria, which will take place during the February half term 2023.

Any student who wishes to express an interest in participating in the trip should collect an information letter and consent form from Mr White in BS39. The deadline for submission of completed forms is Thursday 31 March 2022.

Mr C White
Teacher of Business

Carnegie Awards 2022

We are once again running the Carnegie Award Shadowing Scheme, which celebrates work in children's and young adult fiction. This year's shortlisted books celebrate the power of friendship, empathy, connection, and hope.

The sessions will be held in the LRC and begin on Thursday 31 March, 3.15 – 4pm; we will be reading and discussing each book in advance of the award winner being announced.

Students wishing to participate in the shadowing group should report to the LRC next Thursday for the first session; we will continue to meet weekly on a Thursday at 3.15pm.

Please encourage your child to take part; refreshments will be available for our reading connoisseurs!

Miss B Dixon
LRC Coordinator

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 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