

Parent Bulletin

Week commencing Monday 25 April 2022 – Week 2

Dear Parents and Carers

As I write this letter, on the last Friday of the Spring term, the first of our newly planted anniversary trees is in flower: a true sign of Spring. Those of you who bring your children to school by car will possibly have seen this tree – a flowering cherry – near to the ‘drop-off’ point near our front entrance. I hope this harbinger of Spring heralds a good two weeks of rest, recuperation and revision over the Easter period.

It was good to see so many of you at our Examination Preparation Evening this week, supporting your children who are in Year 11 and Year 13. My thanks to my colleagues who provided tailored information, guidance and encouragement to you and your children. There is an African proverb that says, ‘It takes a village to raise a child’, meaning that all of us in the community need to work together and support one another. As we approach the examination season, we feel this need to come together more than ever. Some students are well prepared; others are frightened and overwhelmed. Perhaps the same goes for their parents and carers! Working together, we can support one another through this next period.

We have welcomed some new members of staff to the academy, working to support students. Mr Henderson joins as an ICT Technician. Miss Thompson is our Social and Emotional Mental Health Learning Mentor, a newly created role within the academy; she will work from our Inclusion Centre and Special Educational Needs base. Mrs Braban, as Careers and Enterprise Adviser, augments our careers and guidance team; she has an office in the Sixth Form Common Room, and will be working closely with Mrs Jordan and Miss Leigh. We welcome these three new colleagues, and we look forward to what they will bring to support and enhance the education of your children.

Finally, the Government’s position of the management of COVID-19 has changed recently. I have summarised this guidance later in this bulletin. Please take a few moments to familiarise yourself with the new rules and expectations.

With all best wishes for a Happy Easter!

Yours faithfully

Mr A T Fowler
Principal

COVID-19: The Current Position

Parents and Carers may be aware that the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has recently set out the next steps for 'Living with COVID-19' in England, effective from 1 April. This has been followed by communication from the Department for Education and some updated guidance from Public Health on managing infectious diseases in schools. Most of the previous guidance for education settings has now been withdrawn.

In summary, the current position is:

- Regular asymptomatic testing is no longer recommended in any educational setting.
- **Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.**
- Children and young people aged 18 and under with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for three days.
- Educational settings are being asked not to hand out test kits to staff or students, unless advised by their local public health protection team, local authority, or Director of Public Health.

We remain very concerned about the ability of COVID-19 to cause disease and illness within our community, and its potential to disrupt students' education, including the preparations for examinations that start in just over a month.

We will continue to maintain our enhanced cleaning regime at school, encouraging good hygiene and proper ventilation. Please encourage your children to maintain their care and hygiene too.

Mr Fowler

Dear parent/carer

I am writing to you, to inform you about the upcoming Personal Development topics that our students will be studying throughout the remainder of this academic year..

Within the Personal Development Curriculum, students learn about a wide range of topics that are planned and delivered in a sensitive manner. All lesson content is in line with Department for Education statutory guidance, with developing positive values being at the heart of our provision. Lessons are planned with a detailed understanding of the needs of young people within our local community.

I have included a table which shows the upcoming lesson topics. All students are regularly reminded of the upcoming lessons by their Personal Development teacher. Due to the sensitive nature of some topics I feel that it is important that students are fully prepared for learning by knowing what will be taught in their next Personal Development lesson.

Students will be completing a carefully planned lesson around bullying upon their return to school after Easter. This lesson has been planned by Mr Walsh, who is keen to develop students personal awareness and understanding of bullying. In this lesson, students will accurately complete an online questionnaire which will provide every student in the academy with a platform to express their powerful voices.

Our students continue to impress me, and make me feel a real sense of pride. I have the pleasure of teaching Personal Development to all year groups, as well as observing Personal Development lessons being taught across the academy. Students are mature and actively engage in classroom discussions. In recent weeks, many of our students, including members of our Personal Development Leadership Team, have been creating diversity posters to be displayed in the academy – the posters look amazing and I will be excited to share the finished posters with you soon. Our new diversity posters will be proudly displayed above the student entrance and will be unveiled after the Easter Holidays.

For further information on the delivery of Personal Development at Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy, you can view our newly revised 'Personal Development Policy', which is available on the academy website. I will regularly update you prior to new topics being taught.

Should you have any questions relating to Personal Development or any of the topics we cover, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr L Cumiskey
Personal Development Coordinator
Teacher of English and Physical Education
lcumiskey@lordlawson.academy

Date	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
WB 21 or 28 MAR	Healthy Relationships	Safe and Positive Relationships On and Offline	Consent and sharing sexual images	Anti-Social Behaviour	Intimate and Sexual Relationships and Contraception
WB 4 or 25 APR	Understanding Puberty	Managing Broken Relationships	What is Love?	Knife Crime and Gangs	Consent, Rape and Sexual Harassment
WB 2 or 9 MAY	FGM (Female Genital Mutilation)	What is Contraception?	My Body, My Choice	My Digital Footprint	Further lessons to be added if necessary
WB 26 or 23 MAY	Healthy Diet	Periods and Menstrual Cycle	Teamwork and Communication skills	Religion and Marriage	
WB 6 or 13 JUNE	Active Lifestyle	Drugs - The Law	Understanding Safe Sex	Toxic Relationships (Control)	
WB 20 or 27 JUNE	Mental Health - Depression	Smoking and Alcohol	Understanding Eating Disorders	Domestic Conflict	
WB 3 or 11 JULY	Understanding my Emotions / Mindfulness	Managing Anxiety	Understanding Self-harm	Understanding STIs	
WB 18 JULY	Hygiene and Germs	What is 'Self Love'?	What is 'Self Love'?	Parenthood (including adoption, fostering and pregnancy)	

Year 11 and 13 reports

Reports for students in years 11 and 13 are now available and can be accessed via the My Child at School (MCAS) app.

The reports contain details of the predicted grades that subject teachers have entered for your child. These predicted grades are our best projection of what students will achieve as their final outcome qualification in those subjects. They are based on our assumption that students continue learning and working at the current rate.

It is vital you review the information contained in the report, and discuss the predicted grades with your child. If the predicted grades are lower than you or your child would want to achieve, action must be taken now. Possible actions to improve grades at this point would be more revision at home, working harder in lessons, and attending more after-school academic sessions.

All predictions are 'fine graded' with either a '+' or a '-'. These denote our confidence in the prediction made. For example, a prediction of a 4+ means we are fairly sure the student will achieve a grade 4. A prediction of a 4- indicates we are unsure, and the student could achieve a grade 3 or 4.

These predictions are our best informed estimates that your child will achieve. By providing this information to you at this point, before the Easter break, we hope to provide you and your child with the relevant information to best direct their revision efforts over the break and going forward.

Mr J Dicocco
Deputy Principal

Year 8 and Year 9 Immunisation Catch-up Session

On Friday 6 May 2022, the School Immunisation Team will again be visiting Lord Lawson. They will provide catch-up immunisations for any year 8 or 9 students who were absent when the original immunisations took place for the following:

Year 8: HPV vaccine

Year 9: ACWY and DTP vaccine

These immunisations will take place in the main hall in school and will be spread across the day. Only students who have returned a consent form and missed the original immunisation will be included on the day. Details of timings will be given to students on their return from the Easter break.

If you have any questions please contact me on the details below.

Mrs K Maynard
Supported Learning Manager
kmaynard@lordlawson.academy

Year 10 Work Experience: Monday 4 - Friday 8 July

The deadline for submission of year 10 work experience placement forms is:

Friday 6 May 2022 – the second Friday on our return after the Easter break

If you are struggling with your child to secure a work experience placement, please advise Mrs Hubbard on: khubbard@lordlawson.academy as soon as possible. We have a database of contacts available to us to aid placement searches.

Mrs K Hubbard
PA to SLT

Year 12 Work Experience: Monday 27 – Thursday 30 June

Please note that we are still accepting work experience placement forms for our year 12 students. If your child is yet to secure a placement, please advise them we can offer support with this on our return from the Easter break.

Tutors will discuss with individuals who have not yet secured a place. Further support is being given to our year 12 students by Mrs Braban, our newly appointed Careers and Enterprise Advisor.

Mrs A Jordan
Head of Sixth Form and Careers Lead

Updated Reporting of 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. Thank you to those of you who are already following this procedure and contacting us before the 8.50am cut-off.

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, although our preferred method of contact is via telephone, providing you with the opportunity to speak to staff who can give support if needed. Reporting absence to the email address above should only be when parents are unable to access a phone; absence reported via this media 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

A Level Dance Exam: Tuesday 26 April

A Level Dance students will be performing for their performance and choreography exam on Tuesday 26 April 2022. The students will be off timetable on the day of the exam, to enable them to prepare, rehearse and perform their exam pieces.

A Level Dance students are currently attending additional rehearsals, and are arranging these on a weekly basis; this is encouraged to ensure the students are happy with the final quality of their exam performances.

If you require any further information relating to any of the upcoming dance exams, or rehearsals, please contact me via email at sbrown@lordlawson.academy and I will be happy to help.

Miss S Brown

Subject Leader - Performing Arts

Summer Term Instrumental Tuition Opportunities

If any student is interested in learning a musical instrument, we currently have spaces available for students to learn: guitar, bass guitar, drums, violin or viola, flute or clarinet, and trumpet, trombone, or cornet. If any student is interested, please ask them to call in to see me in PA10 to collect a letter and to find out further details.

Mrs R Hall

Assistant Subject Leader – Performing Arts

Year 11 (and above): Civil Service (HMRC) Apprenticeship Opportunities

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will be advertising 35 exciting new apprenticeship vacancies, opening on 11 April 2022, based in their location at Waterview Park, Washington.

These apprenticeships are excellent entry roles into the Civil Service, and come with full training, support, qualifications, and very competitive terms and conditions. The window for submitting applications is open for two weeks.

To support students interested to learn more about these vacancies, representatives from HMRC will be hosting a bespoke 30-minute webinar in school, on Thursday 7 April at 9.30am, for students with a potential interest in these opportunities.

Mrs A Jordan

Head of Sixth Form and Careers Lead

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