

# Parent Bulletin

Week commencing Monday 9 May 2022 – Week 2

Dear Parents and Carers

It was a great privilege to welcome Christopher Cook to our school yesterday morning. Chris, as I'm sure you won't need me to remind you, is an Olympian swimmer and a Commonwealth Games double gold medallist. Perhaps most significantly for us, Chris is a 'local lad' – he grew up in South Shields and trained in Newcastle. He came to Lord Lawson, at Mrs Jordan's invitation and as part of our careers provision, to talk with Year 11 students. Chris's very first public speaking engagement, in 2009 after his Olympic and Commonwealth Games success, was at Lord Lawson, so it was great to be able to welcome him back.

You might expect Chris Cook to be inspiring, and he certainly was, but perhaps not in the conventional way. His talk was no tub-thumping 'you can do it, so just go for it' rallying cry. Instead, Chris was honest about his own journey and how he felt at different points in his career. He told our students, in ways they could relate to, about his own disappointments and the times when he was 'not good enough.' He shared some of his triumphs too, and we got to see one of his gold medals. He told our students about the long road to success, and the hard work that it had involved. He told them also about the people who had believed in him, as well as those who had not, and about those who had helped him pick himself up from his disappointments to build towards future success. He told us about how much hard work it takes to be successful, but that it's never too late to start; never too late to make a difference.

Chris asked our students how many of them had a dream. Almost no-one put up their hands! He saw them look along the rows, at one another, to see who might be about to raise their hands – that nervous, 'if you will, I will' moment. He contrasted this with a hall full of younger students, almost all of whom are happy to share their aspirations and dreams. 'You're waiting for other people to give you permission,' he told our students. 'But you don't need to be given permission – to dream, to succeed – you give it to yourself.'

Chris also tied his talk into our school's values: he explained how everyone's journey to success starts with Courage. Without courage to take that first step, there can be no success. We need to show courage, to act in spite of our own fears and that 'inner voice' predicting failure.

Chris also spoke about the power of the word 'yet,' transforming 'I can't do this' into 'I can't do this yet.' He spoke of his first time at the swimming club in South Shields, paralysed with fear when he saw how good everyone else was, powering up and down the pool, and how he thought 'I can't do that!' His dad echoed his thoughts, but with an important difference: 'you're right – you can't do that – YET.' Yet is a small word, but it brings a powerful psychological change. I would mention here that the educational psychologist Carol Dweck talks about how adding the word 'yet' totally changes the way we think, from a 'fixed mindset' (I'm just not good enough) to a 'growth mindset' (with continued effort, I could get there).

Chris Cook's messages of encouragement are ones that we can all take to heart, whatever our age or stage. I urge you to use this same sort of language with your own children. With courage, with the power of 'yet', with determination, each one of us can work to transform our lives.

With all best wishes,

Yours faithfully

**Mr A T Fowler**  
**Principal**

### **Year 6 SATS**

Wishing best of luck to all Year 6 students who are sitting their KS2 SATS exams during week beginning 9 May. Everyone at Lord Lawson wishes you well. Remember, all you can do is to try your very best.

Good luck to each and every one of you!

*Mrs A Jacobson and Mrs K Coates  
(Year 7 Team)*

### **Year 12 and 13**

The 2022 edition of the 'Parents' Guide to University' brochure has been released. This includes information from over 40 higher education practitioners on key information parents and guardians need to know about university.

Please visit the website below to download a copy.

<https://www.unitasterdays.com/parents/>

*Mrs A Jordan  
Head of Sixth Form/Careers Lead*

*Mrs C Braban  
Careers Adviser*

### **YOTO Carnegie Awards 2022**

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

Students wishing to participate in the shadowing group, where we will be reading and discussing each book in advance of the award winner being announced, should come to the LRC at 3:15pm - 4:00pm each Thursday. Refreshments will be available!

Please encourage your child to take part in this opportunity to further expand their love of children's and young adult fiction.

Thank you.

***Miss B Dixon***  
***LRC Co-ordinator***

### **Learning Resource Centre (LRC) Opening Times**

The LRC is open for students after school to complete homework, study and revision. Homework support is available. Students are welcome to access the LRC quiet areas and ICT suite and browse our range of resources to assist learning.

Our opening times after school are as follows:

Monday – Thursday: 3:15pm - 4:15pm

Friday: 3:15pm - 4:00pm

Thank you.

***Miss B Dixon***  
***LRC Co-ordinator***

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:recruitment@lordlawson.academy) for an application form or any further information.

***Mr J Pedlingham***  
***Business Manager***