



Laurence Jackson School's Parental Bulletin

12th January 2024

Messages from the Headteacher

Happy New Year! We were pleased to have welcomed back students after the holidays—I hope you and your families had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. As we approach this new term, I would like to draw your attention to the attendance update within this bulletin containing some key pieces of information about attendance including a change to the time morning registers close.

Please see below details of the **2024-2025 term dates** -

General term dates [calendar link](#) plus PD Days below where school is closed to students at LJS:

1. Monday 2 September 2024
2. Friday 29 November 2024
3. Friday 21 February 2025
4. Friday 11 April 2025
5. Monday 21 July 2025

Payment system change—I would like to inform you that this academic year we are moving from School Gateway for our payment system, to a platform called Arbor. This is the initial notice of the change, and we will of course keep you updated with more details and any action you need to take to get your Arbor account up and running as things progress this term and beyond.

Year 9 academic review evening 18th January 3-6pm—arrival on site is from 3pm with refreshments available from this time and appointments commence at 3.15pm. We look forward to seeing all of our parents/carers of our wonderful Year 9 students there!

Duke of Edinburgh Award—Year 9 Parent information evening—If your child has been successfully registered onto the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze award, you are invited to a parent/carer information evening on Tuesday 16th January 5pm-6pm in our main hall. Your child may also attend this event with you if they wish.

Year 9 Learning4Life - a reminder that students will start their relationships and sex education block towards the end of January. Please use this [link](#) to review the lesson content in this block

Year 10 Learning4Life - a reminder that students are covering suicide and child abuse over subsequent lessons.

If you have any concerns your child may struggle with any of these topics, please contact Miss Russell on russellp@laurencejackson.org or the relevant year manager.

Year 10 NHS Work Experience opportunity—Miss Mitchinson has secured 10 NHS placements with South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust for the Work Experience Week, 8—12 July. This will be an exciting placement for those who are thinking of a career in the health, care or therapeutic sector and places will be allocated on a first come – first served basis - these placements do not come along very often! Please ask your child to inform Miss Mitchinson if they are interested.

Year 11 Apprenticeship Information - All Year 11 students have been provided with an apprenticeship presentation to support with information, advice and guidance about Apprenticeships. Apprenticeship Vacancies are via [Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK](#) (www.gov.uk) where you/your child can search for an apprenticeship, create an account and set alerts. Further information on Apprenticeships can be found via our website: [Careers Education Programme - Laurence Jackson](#).

KS4 STEM Careers Opportunity—Please advise your child to see/contact Mrs Reed in A16 if you are interested in applying. Please see the flyer at the end of this bulletin for details.

Safeguarding Spotlight

A warm welcome back after the busy festive period. Within safeguarding spotlight, we like to share as much information as possible which is current and up to date. However it is always important to stress that the world of safeguarding and online safety never stops evolving. Over the next couple of weeks we would like to share with you some free online courses which may help you develop your understanding further around issues that may affect you, your family or your young person. This week is a link to our local CAMHS offer of free courses for parents and carers (information on page3).



Attendance matters at Laurence Jackson!



Attendance at Laurence Jackson is a priority for staff and students. We endeavour to work with students in all aspects of school life. Attendance is a topic of daily conversations in form time and lessons. Rewards and intervention strategies are used here at Laurence Jackson to help students attend well. We have a dedicated attendance team to help and support you and your child. Please use attendanceteam@laurencejackson.org for all communication.

School expect children to be on site for 8.20 ready for line up/ in form rooms for 8.30 for a prompt start to the day.

As of Monday 15th January, Morning registers now close at 9am. Meaning if student arrive after this time, without valid reason, they will not their morning mark and this will effect their attendance.

GCSEs and Attendance:

On 2 November 2023 the Children's Commissioner reported new data suggesting that persistent absentees (attendance below 90%) in year 10 whose attendance improved in year 11 were much more likely to get 5 good GCSEs than those whose attendance didn't. 54% of pupils who were persistently absent in year 10 and then rarely absent in year 11 passed at least 5 GCSEs including English and maths, compared to 36% of pupils who were persistently absent in both years.

Attendance really matters when it comes to your success!

[Missing Children, Missing Grades | Children's Commissioner for England \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/missing-children-missing-grades/)

Being in school and having the best attendance possible underpins all the many benefits of school - not just children's learning but their wellbeing and wider development. But, for some children, attending school every day will be harder than for others. The following link is an interesting read for parents/careers about how to best work with your child and school if they are worried about attending due to issues at home, in the classroom or wider school life - [DfE external document template \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/missing-children-missing-grades/)

Please do keep Laurence Jackson in the know of any medical appointments, needs and updates as well as leave of absences. We understand medical appointments can fall within school times and we endeavour to work with families on leave of absences.

Leave of absence forms can be found at Reception. Please read below the leave of absence policy-

Any requests for leave during term time will be considered on an individual basis and the pupil's previous attendance record will be considered. Where the absence is granted, the headteacher will determine the length of time that the pupil can be away from school. The school is unlikely to grant leaves of absence for the purposes of family holidays.

Requests for leave will not be granted in the following circumstances:

- During Year 7 when a pupil is settling into the school, unless certain exceptional circumstances apply, e.g. the death of an immediate family member at any time in September
- If a holiday warning letter or Penalty Notice has been issued in the previous 12 calendar months, measured from the date before the first day of the leave of absence regardless of overall attendance during the previous 12-month period.
- Holidays taken during term time due to cost
- Holidays for the purpose of visiting a relative, unless where the person is critically ill
- During any formal assessment periods. This includes but is not limited to KS4 mock exam periods/formal examinations and preparation time prior to these taking place.
- For any more than 5 consecutive school days, even when some exceptional circumstances apply
- When more than one term-time holiday has been requested and takes place within one school year.

How can you help your child's attendance?

- Think is **your child fit to learn?** We all can feel tired and a bit poorly on a morning but is your child so unwell they need to be off school? Could they come into school will they start to feel better and pick up as the day goes on?
- Make sure they are on time. Get them up, set that alarm and off they go ready and **on school site for 8.20.**
- If your child is going to be off please **contact the school office by 8.30 on option 3**, the attendance line, and explain their symptoms.
- Keep us updated! If you child is going to off for more than one day then please ring each morning and update school on their symptoms.
- Medical appointment coming up? Let us know in advance and provide proof if possible please.
- Use Attendanceteam@laurencejackson.org or 01287 636361 option 3 for all communication.

Guidance from the government on illness and anxiety-

It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. we are aware that more children may be absent from school due to symptoms of anxiety than before the pandemic. Worry and mild or moderate anxiety, whilst sometimes difficult emotions, can be a normal part of growing up for many children and young people. Being in school can often help alleviate the underlying issues. A prolonged period of absence is likely to heighten a child's anxiety about attending in the future, rather than reduce it. [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](https://www.nhs.uk/health-topics/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/)

No missed learning	100%	Outstanding
3 days missed 15 learning hours	98%	Impressive
7 days missed 35 learning hours	96%	Good
9 days missed 45 learning hours	95%	Nearly there
19 days missed 95 learning hours 1 month of absence	90%	Persistently absent
28 days missed 140 learning hours	85%	Substantial impact
38 days missed 190 learning hours 2 months of absence	80%	Extreme impact

**New Dates Available for
2024**

NHS

Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys
NHS Foundation Trust



CAMHS Training Programme for Parents & Carers

The workshops are delivered live via Microsoft teams and **free of charge** for all parents and carers in Teesside (child does not need to be open to CAMHS)

Available sessions include:

- Understanding **Anxiety**
- Understanding **Emotional Wellbeing**
- Understanding **Self-harm**
- Understanding **ASD**
- Understanding **ADHD**

Visit our webpage



[Training for parents and carers of children under 18 in Teesside - Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust \(tewv.nhs.uk\)](https://www.teewv.nhs.uk/camhs-training)

To access the CAMHS parents and carers workshops, please contact:
TEWV.CAMHS-Training@nhs.net And provide the following information:

- Which workshop(s) and date you would like to access
- Which locality you live
- Your name
- Email address
- The school(s) your child(ren) attend
- Age(s) of your child(ren)

Scan me



YOUNG INNOVATORS COUNCIL

The voice of young people at Northern Gas Networks

The Young Innovators Council (YIC) gives young people the opportunity to share their perspectives on Northern Gas Networks' (NGN) projects and plans, and NGN ensures that these thoughts and opinions are put at the heart of the business' decision making.

We are looking for 40 young people to join the YIC 2024, attending a minimum of five online meetings between January and September 2024 (outside school hours).



By joining the Young Innovators Council, you will:

- inform and influence the agenda and decisions of a major utility company.
- expand your network and develop skills such as teamwork, leadership, communication.
- increase your knowledge about UK energy infrastructure.
- co-create ideas with Northern Gas Networks around environmental issues, approaches to sustainability, innovation and net zero programmes, social strategy and supporting customers in vulnerable situations.

Celebrating Student Success



A number of our KS4 5-a-side teams were in action this week, representing LJS in the Redcar and Cleveland tournaments. Congratulations to all students who took part. The results were:

Year 11 Boys—Winners

Year 10 Boys—3rd place

KS4 Girls—Winners

