



# Laurence Jackson School's Parental Bulletin

20th February 2025

## Key information

Please be reminded that it is a PD Day on Friday 21st February. Half term holiday is 24-28th February. All students return at the normal time on 3rd March.

**New breaktime brunch service**—next half term we will be introducing a brunch service at breaktime for Y8 and 9, who have their lunch in the later time slot, and to Y11 as a Y11 privilege. This service will offer a single brunch item each day. The cost of the brunch item will be £1.20. Drinks will also be available to be purchased. If you would like your child to be able to buy brunch items, please ensure their Arbor account has sufficient credit to cover both this and whatever they will spend at lunchtime. Brunch is not part of free school meal provision so if your child is entitled to FSMs and you want them to have a brunch item, you will need to put money onto Arbor so that they can make this purchase. A reminder that we continue to offer free breakfast to all students as they arrive at school each morning.

**SAVE THE DATE – Y8 ACADEMIC REVIEW EVENING – 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025 3.15 – 6pm.**

**Road Safety**—Please do not to park on the zig zag lines near to the drop off area. We would appreciate parents/carers who drop off/pick up their child in the designated area to be conscious of the busy times of day at the start and end of school. Please reinforce the messages about road safety at home.

**Y9 immunisations and self-consent**—please see a letter within this bulletin about the immunisations happening on 11th March for Y9 students who have consent. Parents/carers can find a link to consent on this letter.

**Please note some specific information about self-consent.**

**Y9 Options**—a reminder that the deadline for Y9s to submit their options form is Wed 5th March. They do this via the Microsoft Form link that was sent to their school email on 7th February.

Please find [here](#) a link to **SEND and Disability sports** Sessions across the Tees Valley



**Sparx Reader (Y7/8) and Sparx Maths (Y7-9)** - Thank you for your ongoing support with Sparx Reader and Sparx Maths. We won't be setting any mandatory home learning on Sparx over the half term break, but will resume tasks on 3rd March. If your child would like to do some optional activities, they still can, and can earn extra points.

**World Book Day 2025** To celebrate this year and to continue to raise the profile of Reading in school, students in Y7-9 will experience a short story narrated by a range of staff on this day. We are also encouraging students to create a 'Zine' on any subject of their choice. Details of this can be found [here](#). We will be encouraging students to consider entering National Book Token *Design a Book Token* Competition - details [here](#). We would be grateful if you could raise the profile of these opportunities with your child and reinforce that if they choose to make a Zine, they should submit it to Mrs Ross in the Library by **10<sup>th</sup> March** and they will receive achievement points and be considered for a prize. If they wish to submit an entry to the National Book Token Competition they can do this independently or via Mrs Ross - deadline for entries for this is **20<sup>th</sup> March**.

**Scholastic Book Fair** - Mrs Ross has organised a range of books from Scholastic to be available for students to view (and purchase should they choose to) 5th, 6th and 10th March at social times and after school in the Library. If students wish to purchase any books, Mrs Ross will give them a leaflet to bring home with options.

**Author Visit**—The author of 'A Sporting History of The Laurence Jackson School' Les Thomson (*a former staff member*), is at school to talk about his book. We have invited students to express an interest in this event; they will meet Les on the afternoon of **6th March**. We will send details of how a signed copy of the book can be purchased by parents of those who attend, should they wish.

**Magazine Offer**—What on Earth! Magazine is an award winning non-fiction children's magazine. If any staff have children age late primary to Y9 you may like to consider purchasing a subscription for this magazine. They have an offer on at the moment. Please see this [link](#) and if you do proceed to purchase a subscription, use the code **TS146RD** at checkout and the school will receive a £10 book voucher for our library.

## Celebrating Student Success

Congratulations to Stephen 8C and George 7D on competing across both weekends of the Northumberland and Durham swimming county championships and reaching several finals. Stephen secured new entry times for the next regionals championships and George took Silver in the 200m Backstroke and 400 Individual Medley.



Y11 GCSE drama students had their Component 2 practical exam on Friday last week - this is worth 20% of the final GCSE and it went really well. You should all be very proud!

### Y7 Boys 5-a-side

Both our teams were excellent in finishing 3rd and 5th in the Redcar and Cleveland tournament. Well done!

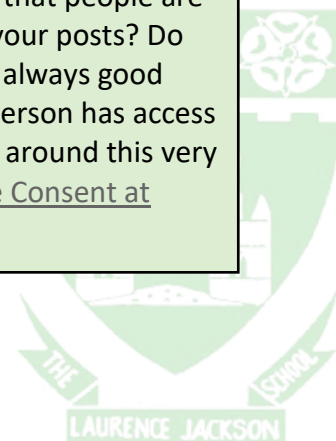


### Y7 Girls 5-a-side

Congratulations to our Year 7 girls 5-a-side team who were crowned champions at the Redcar and Cleveland Schools tournament after school last night!

## Safeguarding spotlight




This week we have received a safeguarding notification about scammers using AI to manipulate people's photos found online, modifying them with the intent to blackmail and use against them. This raises the question to us all, are your photos safe online? With this in mind could you consider, are your children's photos safe online? Today's social media interactions are all geared around sharing our positives and highlights, which are mainly photo-based posts. Whilst this is not bad or deemed a risk, the advances in AI mean photos can be manipulated in many different ways, making what seems a simple appropriate image into sexualised or traumatic photos when in the wrong hands. So it is even more essential that people are aware of who can access what they post online. Do you know all the people who can see your posts? Do you child know all the people who follow them, even when security settings are high? It is always good practice to review students' followers and safety settings regularly to ensure no unknow person has access to their personal photos and information. 'Ineqe' have developed a new guide for parents around this very topic. Please follow the link to read more [Is Your Child's Photo Safe? Understanding Image Consent at Schools and Preventing AI Image Exploitation - Ineqe Safeguarding Group](#)



## CAREERS

**National Career Week 2025 begins on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and runs until March 7<sup>th</sup>.** There are a variety of activities in school as part of your child's career education during this week. We are shining a spotlight on two important employability skills throughout the week (**speaking** and **aiming high**). This means that, in addition to usual achievement points, some students will be recognised by our staff for demonstrating these skills in lessons. All students who are recognised will receive extra achievement points and will have the chance to win an additional treat in a prize draw.

As an extra-curricular activity, we are asking students to submit entries for a 'dream job' competition. Students were provided with information about this competition on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February during form time. We also have the following lunch-time drop-ins for students to learn more about different career sectors:

| Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March  | Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March  | Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March   |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Progress Careers and Koch Technology Solutions</b><br><br>Lunch time drop ins - KS3 and KS4.<br><br> | <b>Careers in Policing</b><br>PCSO lunch time drop ins – KS3 and KS4.<br><br> | <b>Careers in Clean Energy</b><br>RWE/Sofia Wind Farm lunch time drop ins – KS3 and KS4<br><br> |

**Anglo America Visit—**As part of our Career Education Curriculum, some Y9s took part in a talk from employees at Anglo American about engineering in our local area on Friday. Students were able to learn about Anglo American as a company, their plans in the local area for the coming years and skills required to progress into the engineering sector. Phillipa Starmer, who is the manager of the Woodsmith Project at the site based near Whitby, spoke to students at length about her work and her inspiring career journey so far, which has taken her around the world.



Dear Parents/ Carers of **YEAR 9** Students at Laurence Jackson School

Tetanus, Diphtheria & Polio (Td/IPV) & Meningitis ACWY Immunisations are due to take place at your school on **11.3.25**. These vaccines are free of charge.

Most children have been immunised against Tetanus, Diphtheria & Polio and Meningitis C as part of the childhood UK schedule. Guidance from NHS England recommends that your child now receives a booster dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria & Polio and Meningitis ACWY.

Information regarding these vaccines is available on the website:

[MenACWY vaccine - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

[3-in-1 teenage booster overview - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

If you have any questions, you can contact us on the number below.

Please complete the link below within one week of receipt. If you do not wish your child to have the immunisations, please indicate this on the link.

<https://nhslmms.azurewebsites.net/session/21536bd6>

**Please be aware that if we do not receive completed consent forms, each young person will be assessed on an individual basis by a healthcare professional to self-consent and if deemed Gillick competent offered the vaccinations on the day.**

If your child is outstanding their MMR vaccination and you would like for them to receive this vaccination, please contact our office on 0333 3583 397 **option 3 and 3**.

[MMR \(measles, mumps and rubella\) vaccine - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Immunisation Team on 0333 3583 397 **option 3 and 3** or [immunisations.teesvalley@intrahealth.co.uk](mailto:immunisations.teesvalley@intrahealth.co.uk).

On behalf of the School Age Immunisation Service

