

Laurence Jackson School's *Parent Bulletin*

16th October 2026

Data collection for 26/27 - FAO YEAR 8 9 10 and 11 parents/carers - We routinely like to request updated contact details and consent each academic year - please complete the link below to allow us to keep our records up to date. Thank you.

[LINK TO 26/27 FORM](#)

Reminder of upcoming key dates

It is PD Day next Friday, 23rd October, and school is closed to students on this day.

Half term holidays are Monday 26th - Friday 30th October and students return at the normal time on Monday 2nd November.

National Hate Crime Awareness Week 10-17th October - a national campaign aimed at raising awareness of hate crime and encouraging people to report incidents. We encourage parents and carers to take some time to discuss the importance of kindness, respect and acceptance with their children. Further information and support can be found from Cleveland Police via their Facebook post and website: [National Hate Crime Awareness Week Facebook Post](#) and [Cleveland Police Awareness Week Information](#).

Behaviour in the Community - We have received reports of increasing anti-social behaviour in the local community, including large groups of young people gathering and causing disruption to residents and local businesses and incidents involving the use of catapults to harm wildlife. We ask parents/carers to speak with their children about behaving responsibly, respecting others, and understanding the serious consequences of anti-social behaviour and care to animals.

Year 11 Update - We're pleased with the Year 11 students who have engaged with after-school revision so far, numbers attending this extra support is increasing which is great to see. The revision programme will start back up again 9th November - 11th December. As already shared in the Year 11 Information Pack, students start their first assessment week commencing 2nd November. Good luck to everyone.

Year 10 Update - Year 10 students and parents/carers received their first Progress Check on Friday, well done to students who are making an excellent start to their KS4 lessons and home learning.

Flashcards: helping your child learn what matters most - We're now half a term into the new school year, and students are now beginning to encounter scheduled assessments designed to test how well they can recall key knowledge and apply it. To help students be ready to recall their knowledge and apply it, we have placed a spotlight on the study technique 'Flashcards'. They have been challenged to:

1. Know the most important information within each topic, across every subject.
2. Identify what they don't yet know.
3. Use flashcards to close those knowledge gaps.

Students have been given guidance on how to use flashcards well. You can watch a short narrated guide [here](#). You can help by talking to your child about flashcards, provide some simple resources, check they know what the most important information is for each subject, and get involved by testing them with the cards they've made. You don't need to know the answers yourself, just read the question, let them answer, then flip the card to check. The information on the following page shares top tips providing further insight on making flashcards genuinely effective. The 'watch this video' link is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CTkNRC7kkwo>

Flashcards to support and challenge thinking

How to help your child turn a pile of cards into real learning



1 Know the most important information in each topic, in every subject

2 Identify what they don't yet know

3 Use flashcards to close those knowledge gaps

Six top tips

Based on advice from Jon Tait



Hide the answer

Read the question, stop, think and **say the answer out loud** before turning the card over. Producing the answer is where the learning happens.



Familiar isn't the same as known

"Yes, I knew that" after seeing the answer doesn't count. Getting it wrong or only partly right is **useful** – it shows what to practise.



Ask specific, challenging questions

Not "What is photosynthesis?" but "What three things does a plant need for photosynthesis?" Include **explain, compare and apply** questions too.



Use them more than you make them

Colours and perfect layouts can eat up revision time. A quick, plain card that makes them think beats a beautiful one. Digital works too.



Sort into three piles

Know well • Unsure • Couldn't remember. Spend most time on the tricky pile rather than racing through the whole pack every night.



Little and often beats cramming

Revisit a missed card tomorrow, again in a few days, then next week. Each successful recall makes the knowledge more secure.

How you can help at home

Supply the basics – blank cards are cheap at most supermarkets.

Check the essentials – does your child know the most important information for each topic?

Test them – you don't need to know the answers. They read the question, answer, then flip to check.

Make it a family quiz – have a go at a few cards together.



Watch this video

Our short narrated video will give you further insight into how to support your child effectively with flashcards.

[youtube.com/watch?v=CTkNRC7kkwo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CTkNRC7kkwo)