Parent & Carer Bulletin

St Laurence School Care • Inspire • Succeed



Headteacher's update

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been an exceptional week with all of our wellbeing activities. Students have heard from inspirational speakers, had the chance to go on the I Can I Am bus, meet together and 'just talk' over a hot chocolate with the weather looking favourably on us. I hope that they have come home and shared stories of their week.

We wish Year 11 good luck with their English and Maths mocks too and I hope they have been working hard to prepare for these.

I would like to take this opportunity just to reiterate our approach to the use of toilets in school. You will have heard that we have had to remind students that only one student is allowed in a cubicle. If we find that there is more than one, there will be a sanction which includes suspension. There is no reason why students should be in a cubicle together and the **school will not** be taking a flexible approach to this

Finally, we are about to start our next round of Year 5 Open Mornings – the time seems to fly – but if you know anyone with a Year 5 child then please do direct them to our website where they will be able to book a place.

Mr Farrer

In this week's bulletin:

- Key dates for you diary page 2
- DofE Briefings for students and parents and carers page 3
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- Using Technology to Boost Reading Skills Page 13
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.... And lots more!

Monday 10 th March	 Y11 Mock Exams Begin Y12 Social Sciences Students – Guest Speaker
Tuesday 11 th March	 Y12 Geography Trip (day 1) Y10 – 12 Careers Webinars
Wednesday 12 th March	 Y12 Geography Trip (day 2) Y7 (LG8) Conversation & Craft
Thursday 13 th March	 STEM Robotics Competition Y8 Reports Issued Y5 Open Morning Y10 Students DofE Briefing DofE Briefing for Parents & Carers
Friday 14 th March	 Y13 Mock Music Exam Y12 Social Sciences Students – Guest Speaker

Week A	
Monday 17 th March	 Y13 & Y11 Practical Exams begin Y9 Vaccinations Day (MenACWY & TdIPV) Y11 Food Exam Y12 Social Sciences Students – Guest Speaker DEADLINE TO ORDER Y11 LEAVERS HOODIES DEADLINE Y11 LEAVERS BALL DEPOSIT
Tuesday 18 th March	Y10 Geography Trip
Wednesday 19 th March	 Y10 Geography Trip Y13 Business and Sociology Trip Spring Concert Rehearsal and Performance 6th Form Quiz Night
Thursday 20 th March	 Y11 Food Exam (Group 1) Y11 Music Exam Y8 Wellbeing Trip Parents Evening NYC Trip Parents Information Evening
Friday 21 st March	

What's on the Menu?



Click the link to our Catering page for information on all the different ways our

students can enjoy healthy and nutritious meals at school:

Catering | St Laurence School (st-laurence.com)

From: Mrs Baldwin – Outdoor Education Coordinator

Bronze DofE Briefing

On Thursday 13th March, Y10 students are required to attend a briefing regarding their upcoming practice Bronze DofE expedition.

It is important that students attend this briefing as it goes over what to expect, behaviour expectations and what kit they will need for the 2 days. Students are not able to remain on site after the briefing.

Please encourage your child to attend from 3:00pm – 4:00pm

Invitation to Parent/Carer Information Briefing – Thursday 13th March at 6:00pm – 7:00pm in Trinity Hall Students do not need to attend this as they will have already had their briefing.

DEADLINES - Y11 Leavers Hoodies and Leavers Ball

REMINDER If your child is interested in a school leavers hoody, please make sure that you have paid for one via the link in the letter sent to parents / carers before the half term (see extract below). The **deadline for this is 17th March and this is a <u>hard deadline</u> – anyone who hasn't placed an order by this time will not be able to order one!**

All students have the opportunity to purchase a hoody. It is essential that their orders are placed in plenty of time so that they don't miss out. **There will only be** <u>one</u> order; students will <u>not</u> be able to place orders after **17**th **March 2025**. The price per hoody is £27. To place an order, please visit the following website: <u>https://shop.fizz-group.co.uk/</u> **Our School Unique ID is: 26905YR11**

Leavers Ball

If your child would like to attend the Y11 Ball, please make sure their deposit is paid. The cost of the deposit is £10, with the full cost being £35. The **Y11 Ball deposit is due on 17**th **March**. The link for the deposit is via Parent Pay.

Food Parcels for Easter Holidays from The Hub, Bradford on Avon

The Hub is again sorting food parcels for families who may need them for the Easter Holiday period. If you or your family need support with food during this period, please complete this short survey to request a parcel. The survey should take no longer than 3 or 4 minutes. <u>https://forms.office.com/e/w3qf6cxmBj</u>

Requests will need to be made by 9:00am on Wednesday 19th March to allow The Hub time to package and distribute them for half term.

If you would prefer to remain anonymous, we understand and would encourage you to speak directly with The Hub about your food parcel. They can be contacted via the details on their website here: <u>Contact — Bradford on Avon</u> <u>Hub</u>

From: ILC Team



From: Mrs Nash – Head of Drama

The 39 Steps

49 students and 4 members of staff travelled to the Salisbury Playhouse to watch 'The 39 Steps' - a comedy adaptation of the spy thriller filmed by Alfred Hitchcock in 1935. This fast moving play, with it's versatile set and impressive multi role playing was enjoyed by all those present. Mrs Nash would like to thank Miss Davies, Mrs Wilson and Mrs Curtis for accompanying the trip and all the students for their impeccable behaviour.

We Will Rock You

Rehearsals are now underway for the summer musical and cast are reminded to check the schedule posted on the drama noticeboard every Monday to see when they are required. If anyone cannot make a rehearsal, they should let Mrs Nash or Miss Davies know as persistent absence may result in parts being recast. Letters with more information and important dates will be sent home next week.

You 2.0

We are now very close to our 'home' performance of 'You 2.0' for the NT connections festival. Tickets for this performance, which takes place on 28th March, are now available on Parentpay. Tickets for the performance in Bristol can also now be purchased directly from the Bristol Old Vic. Please be aware that the cast will be expected to support the other school performing that evening so please do purchase a 'double bill' ticket for both shows.

Finally, congratulations to the Year 13 A Level Drama students who performed their scripted exam pieces this week. Although we will not know the results until the summer all the students worked very hard and did themselves proud. Our thanks to Mr Evans for his invaluable technical support.

From: Mrs Butterworth - Head of Social Sciences

Social Sciences Opportunities

We are delighted that a range of speakers are giving up their time to support our subject and give students an insight into careers this term.

Monday 10th March, 3:00pm – 4:00pm

Dr Antonietta Dicaccavo will be speaking to students about her career in CBT, Psychotherapy and as a lecturer in counselling psychology.

Friday 14th March, Period 4 and 5

Former student Lucy Vincent, Founder of Food Behind Bars, will discuss the food in prisons programme.

Monday 17th March, 3:00pm – 4:00pm

Sam Osborne, a counsellor and gestalt psychologist, will be speaking to students about his journey into counselling and EMDR therapy.

Students from Year 11-13 can sign up to the after school speakers with Mrs Butterworth. For sessions in Period 4 or 5 students in the 6th Form with free periods can sign up with Mrs Butterworth

From: 6th Form Leadership Team

6th Form Quiz Fundraiser

Students in Year 12 & 13 are invited to join us for Quiz Night in aid of Year 13 Prom Night:

- When Wednesday 19th March
- Where Trinity Hall (via Ashley Road entrance)
- Time 5:00pm 7:00pm
- Price £7 per person via ParentPay

120 tickets are available and these will be sold on a first come first served basis.

Teams can be self-organised to consist of a minimum of 4 students and a maximum of 8. Alternatively, they can join a team on arrival.

Ticket price includes a soft drink and a slice of pizza with vegetarian and vegan options available.

In addition to this there will be a cake sale (cash only).

We look forward to your support, 6th Form Leadership Team



From: Mr Blowers - Assistant Headteacher / Director of 6th Form / DDSL

Year 12 Summer Exams

Written Exams will run in school from Monday 28th April – Friday 2nd May.

All Year 12 Students will be on study leave for the duration of these written exams and should only come into school for their timetabled exams.

Revision:

We will be launching a range of revision practice with Year 12 this term. All Year 12 Students should be:

- Creating a structured revision timetable
- Minimum of 3 x 40 mins session each day after school
- This may increase over Easter Hols but students should factor in time off too and prioritise wellbeing

Where possible teachers will set Revision tasks for homework in the coming weeks.

Thanks for your support, Mr Blowers

6th Form Active:

We continue to run a range of 6th Form Active events this year.

Football:

Our boys team have reached the County Cup Semifinal once again following a range of strong performances and will play Bishop Wordsworth of Salisbury, hoping to gain a place in the final. Thanks to our captains Joel Kirby (Year 13) and Tom Felstead (Year 12) for supporting the running of this team.

We had our first ever Senior Girls fixture against John of Gaunt. It was a great game, played competitively and with great spirit with St Laurence prevailing 2-0 with goals from Erin Bool and Daisy Walton. We hope to provide more fixtures in the coming weeks.

Finally, following our Climbing trips to the "Boulder Rooms" at Frome we are on to the next venture which will see us try out the new Virtual Golf at Cumberwell Park with a group of 6th Formers.

Thanks to Mrs Rose for pulling this all together for us.



From: Ms Browne - Teacher of English / Literacy Coordinator

Feminista Fundraiser - Thursday 13th March

act:onaid

Students from all year groups are invited to the Feminista Fundraiser on Thursday 13th March 3:00pm – 5:00pm in aid of ActionAid.

with women and girls The event will include a screening of Taylor Swift's Era Tour in the Lecture Theatre. Tickets are £3 on ParentPay. This will cover popcorn and a drink for attendees. Proceeds go to development charity ActionAid which works with women and girls living in poverty around the world.

The tour film is rated as a 12A so purchase of a ticket will indicate parental consent for your child to watch it is given.

There will also be a bake sale on the day in aid of the charity. This will be cash only.



From: PE Department

Sporting Results and Upcoming Fixtures

Results - Congratulations to all students involved

Football

St Laurence 2 – 1 Kingdown (Year 8 boys) St Laurence 2 – 1 Kingdown (Year 7 boys A) St Laurence 6 – 4 Kingdown (Year 7 boys B) St Laurence 3 – 1 Kingdown (Year 9 boys)

Netball

Year 10 West Wiltshire Netball Tournament at St Augustine's: 2nd Place

Upcoming Fixtures

Tuesday 11th March

Year 9 Boys Football vs Matravers (H). Finish approx. 5:30pm.

Wednesday 12th March

Year 8A Netball vs Matravers (H). Finish approx. 5pm. Year 9A Netball vs Matravers (H). Finish approx. 5pm. Year 7 Boys Football vs Matravers (H). Finish approx. 5:15pm.

Thursday 13th March

U16 Girls Football County Cup vs MOAK (A). Return approx. 5:30pm

MCAS Parental Consents

Please could we ask parent/carers with the MCAS App to review their parental consents for the use of images and videos.

The Parental Consent option is accessible from the menu bar on the MCAS Dashboard:

-	Dashboard
	Data Collection Form
•	Announcements
	Attendance
	Behaviour
	Detentions
	Homework
	Reports
0	Timetable
•	Clubs
	Trips
~	Parental Consent

Please give or revoke consent for the use of images/videos within each of the options:

Parental Consent		
	YES, I give consent	NO, I do not give consent
1 Images or video in School For my child's images or video footage of my child to be used in the school on activity boards, screens, reception area for promotional purpose.	0	0
2 Images or Video on school website For images or video footage of my child to be used on the school website for publicity purposes (no names)	0	0
3 Images or Video on social media For images or footage of my child to be used on social media: Facebook & Instagram. (no names) Note: our social media accounts are public groups.	0	0
4 For images to be used in printed materials For images of my child to be used in printed materials such as the school newsletter or the school prospectus. (no names)	0	0
5 Images or video in the media For images or video footage of my child to be used in the media (local / national press). We will only print their name in exceptional circumstances, and with your permission.	0	0

Should you not have the MCAS App, please contact us for a hard copy of the consent form (<u>pauhud@st-laurence.com</u>)

Timetable of Y10 Mock Written Exams in Sports Hall (25 April - 7 May 2025)					
Fri, 25 April (week B)		Late Break	Lesson 3	Early Lunch	
Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	Y10 Maths Non- Calculator Paper 1h	11.05 – 11.30	11.30 – 12.30	12.30 – 1.00 Line up under main quad canopy by 1.00	Y10 Biology - Combined Science 1h15m - Separate Science 1h45m
Mon, 28 April (week A)		Late Break	Lesson 3	Early Lunch	
Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	Y10 History 2h	11.05 – 11.30	11.30 – 12.30	12.30 – 1.00 Line up under main quad canopy by 1.00	Y10 Chemistry - Combined Science 1h15m - Separate Science 1h45m
Tue,29 April		Late Break	Lesson 3	Early Lunch	
Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	Y10 Sociology 1h30m Y10 German Reading 1h30m	11.05 – 11.30	11.30 – 12.30	12.30 – 1.00 Line up under main quad canopy by 1.00	Y10 English Language 1h15m
Wed, 30 April		Late Break	Lesson 3	Early Lunch	
Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	Y10 Drama 1h Y10 PE 1h15m Y10 Dance 1h30m	11.05 – 11.30	11.30 – 12.30	12.30 – 1.00 Line up under main quad canopy	Y10 Maths Calculator Paper 1h
Thu, 1 May		Late	Lesson 3	by 1.00 Early	
Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	Y10 Business 1h45m	11.05 – 11.30	11.30 – 12.30	12.30 – 1.00 Line up under main	Y10 Philosophy & Ethics 1h30m
Fri, 2 May		Late	Lesson 3	Early	
Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	Y10 Geography Paper 1 - 1h & Paper 2 - 50m	11.05 – 11.30	11.30 – 12.30	12.30 – 1.00 Line up under main quad canopy by 1.00	Y10 French Reading 1h30m Y10 German Listening 1h (in Lecture Theatre)
Mon, 5 May (week B)					
	Bank Holiday				Bank Holiday
Tue, 6 May		Late Break	Lesson 3	Early Lunch	

Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	Y10 English Literature 1h	11.05 – 11.30	11.30 – 12.30	12.30 – 1.00 Line up under main quad canopy by 1.00	Y10 Physics - Combined Science 1h15m - Separate Science 1h45m
Wed, 7 May		Late Break	Lesson 3	Early Lunch	
Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	 Y10 German Writing 1h40m Y10 French Writing 1h40m Y10 Food 1h45m Y10 Design Technology 2h 	11.05 <i>–</i> 11.30	11.30 – 12.30	12.30 – 1.00 Line up under main quad canopy by 1.00	Y10 Catch-Up

Please line up under the DT canopy before each exam. Students who are entitled to a word processor, reader, scribe or separate/smaller room access arrangement will be collected from the canopy by reception and taken to their exam room.

If you are not taking an exam on any of the exam sessions, you must follow your normal Year 10 timetable. You will return to your normal timetable after your morning and afternoon exams.

Extra time can be accommodated if required for students with approved access arrangements, but please be aware that buses will not wait after school therefore alternative transport home must be arranged by students/parents /carers.

All exams will be held in the Sports Hall unless otherwise indicated on the timetable.

All information relating to exams, including seating plans will be displayed on the exams notice board in the main school quad and on Student Portal.

You may bring water into the exam hall in a clear, label-free bottle. Do not bring food.

Please bring equipment in a clear pencil case or plastic bag and do not bring calculator cases into the exam hall.

You must not bring watches or mobile devices, including air pods & headphones, into the exam hall

A very small number of Y10 students will have an exam clash in the option sessions and will have to catch-up these exams in a later session. Your individual student timetable will show the order which you should sit your exams if you do have a clash.

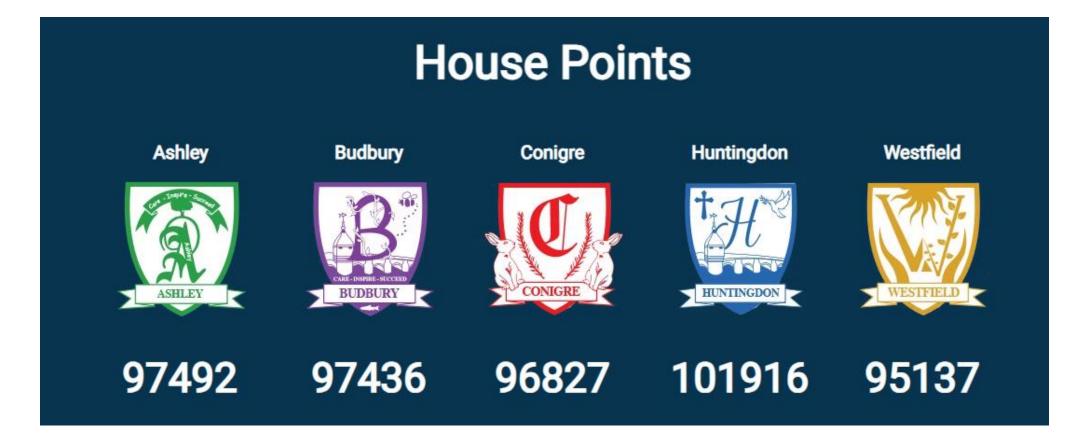
Practical Timetable

Y10 Art – 7 March Y10 Dance – 13 May Y10 Drama – 19 May Y10 Food – TBC Y10 French Speaking – 2/3 April Y10 German Speaking – 2/3 April Y10 Graphics – 10B 28 February, 10D 27 February Y10 Music – 6 April Y10 Photography – 6 March

Timetabl	e of Y12 Mock Written I	Exams in Sport	s Hall (28 April – 2 May 2025)	
Mon, 28 April	Session 1 Exam		Session 2 Exam	
(week A)				
Arrive at the sports	Y12 English Lang & Lit 2 x 1h	Arrive at the sports	Y12 French 2x1h30m	
hall by 8:35am	Y12 Chemistry 1h30m	hall by 1:00pm	Y12 Philosophy 3h	
	Y12 Film Studies 2h			
Tue, 29 April				
Arrive at the sports hall by 8:35am	Y12 Business 1h30m	Arrive at the sports hall by 1:00pm	Y12 Maths 2 x 1h	
Wed, 30 April				
Arrive at the sports hall by 8:35am	Y12 English Lit 2h Y12 PE 2h Y12 Physics 2 x 1h30m	Arrive at the sports hall by 1:00pm	Y12 Biology 2h	
Thu, 1 May				
Arrive at the sports hall by 8:35am	Y12 Sociology 2h Arrive at the sports		Y12 Further Maths 1h30m	
	Y12 History 2h30m	hall by 1:00pm	Y12 Law 2h	
			Y12 Geography 2 x 1h15m	
			Y12 Drama & Theatre 3h	
Fri, 2 May				
Arrive at the sports hall by 8:35am	Y12 German 2 x 1h30m	Arrive at the sports hall by 1:00pm	Y12 Catch-Up	
	Y12 Psychology 2h			

- Individual timetables will show resolved session clashes and will be issued via Student Portal
- Extra time can be accommodated for students with approved access arrangements, but please be aware that buses will not wait after school so alternative transport home must be arranged by students/parents/carers
- Study-leave for Year 12 students is Monday, 28 April Friday, 2 May
- All information relating to exams, including seating plans will be displayed on the exams notice board in the main school quad and on Student Portal

Practical Timetable Y12 Art – Thu, 15 May Y12 Drama – Tue, 19 May Y12 French Speaking – in class Y12 German Speaking – Fri, 9 May Y12 Graphics – Fri, 16 May Y12 Photography – Wed, 14 May



Online Safety

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exame if they re part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting fort type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, while text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dystexio-friendly lonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

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Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Access tibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-to-tot and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make adjust reading more user thendy, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impoirments, whe might have an easier lime with spoken language thon the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, other features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and mativating experience.

S VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission abjectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve starytelling, puzzles or problem-solving aften include large amounts of text - encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

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Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced StNCO. She recently lounched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a liberry of short, how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers colline training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.

SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

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Watching videos with subtities or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aboud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtities reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobaoks are an excellent way to develop Estening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the test while Estening to a namotor, reinforcing word recognition and luency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook baters attempting to read the text independently can bacst their confidence and comprehension.



Text-to-volce software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggie with decoding written words.

VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children are the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them. learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

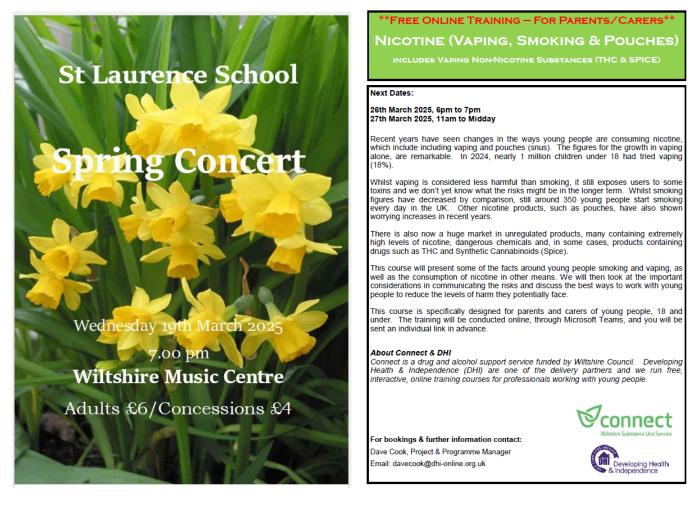


While social media provides apportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos includes coptians and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational anime environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to diatel literax.



The National College

Community News



6th Form Student to run the Bath Half Marathon in Aid of Refugee Charity



On Sunday 16th March, Year 13 student Luke Hughes will be joining 15,000 other runners to complete the "BATHHALF".

If you wish to donate and help Luke reach his goal, this is his fund-raising page: <u>https://care4calais.enthuse.com/pf/luke-hughes-bath-half</u>

You can find out more about Luke's chosen charity here: Care4Calais | Refugee Charity |

Fundraise Donate Volunteer

aqualetes swimming academy



BRADFORD ON AVON SWIMMING POOL

Swimming Lessons available from 3 months old! Stage 1 (for beginners) school aged children from 5 years old

Aquateens (for beginners) aged 8 to 14 years old.

- ✓ £25 Joining fee per family
- ✓ £32.50 per month (£23.75 with proof of concession)
- ✓ Free swimming in public and fun & float sessions
- ✓ Free swimming hat and swimming bag
- ✓ Free badge and certificate on completion of each stage

For more information or to book please call 01225862970 Or email Kayleigh.salter@wiltshire.gov.uk Are you between the ages of 18 - 25?



Would you like to make a positive contribution to your community?

Become a Christ Church School Governor.

We are looking for enthusiastic people to join our vibrant, forward-looking Governing Body.

Full training will be provided.

Phone (01225) 863444 to speak to Sue for more details.

