

Parent / Carer Bulletin



Care • Inspire • Succeed

Week Commencing Monday 23rd September 2024

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you have had a lovely week and had an opportunity to enjoy this late sunshine. We are very much looking forward to our Open Evening this week and have had a record number of students offering to be tour guides or support in departments. I'm so pleased that they want to represent our school so a big thank you from me.

It was also good to see so many people attending our Year 10 and 11 Information Evening online. Thank you for joining us.

A reminder that **Friday 27th September is a staff training day.**

Thank you, Mr Farrer

WEEK B	CALENDAR - TERM 1
Monday 23 rd September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Y12/13 Drama Trip "1984" 5:45pm – 10:30pm
Tuesday 24 th September	
Wednesday 25 th September	
Thursday 26 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Open Evening 5:00pm – 7:00pm (see details below)
Friday 27 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Inset Day – No students in school



St Laurence School


Care • Inspire • Succeed



Open Evening

Year 5 and 6 Children

Thursday 26th September 2024
5:00pm – 7:30pm



Presentations led by the Headteacher will be at 5:00pm, 5:45pm and 6:30pm

BOOK YOUR PLACE HERE



SCAN ME
or visit our website
www.st-laurence.com

Ashley Road, Bradford on Avon
Wiltshire. BA15 1DZ



In the Wiltshire Music Centre

Y11 Winter Mock Exams

The Y11 mock exams are confirmed as:-

- Written Papers (11th – 22nd November)
- Practical Exams (w/c 25th November)

From: Mr Watkin – Head of RE

Year 12 - Auschwitz trip

You will have received a letter regarding our trip, just to confirm this is open to whole of Year 12.

From: School Immunisations Team (HCRG)

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child's flu vaccination is now due. Years 7-11.

This vaccination is recommended to help protect your child against flu. Flu can be an unpleasant illness and can cause serious complications. Vaccinating your child will also help protect more vulnerable family and friends by preventing the spread of flu. Please complete the consent form (yes or no) using the following link:

www.bswschoolagedimms.co.uk/Forms/Flu

Please use the school code: WT137057

Please ensure you complete your child's consent no later than 48 working hours before your school session to ensure your child receives their vaccination.

We are visiting your child's school St Laurence School on Tuesday 03-Dec-24 & Monday 09-Dec-24. Most children are offered a nasal spray vaccine which is a quick, simple and painless spray up the nose. The nasal spray vaccine is the preferred vaccine.

A leaflet explaining the vaccination programme for secondary aged young people can be accessed at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64a2e2e245b6a2000c3d47de/UKHSA-12388-protect-yourself-against-flu_information-for-those-in-secondary-school.pdf

This includes details about the small number of children for whom the nasal vaccine is not appropriate. The nasal spray vaccine contains a very small amount of gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine) as an essential ingredient to keep it stable and able to work. For those who may not accept medicines or vaccines that contain porcine gelatine, a flu vaccine injection is available. Consent can be provided using the link above. The Immunisation Team will send you a link to book your child into one of our Community Clinics you will then be directed to book a clinic appointment to have the injectable flu vaccine.

Even if your child had the vaccine last year, the type of flu can vary each winter, so it is recommended to have it again this year or they won't be protected.

Since the programme was introduced, most children offered the vaccine in schools have had the immunisation.

If you have any queries, please contact the School Aged Immunisation Team on 0300 247 0082 or email us using vcl.immunisations@nhs.net

Yours sincerely, Roanna Ellis

Professional Lead for School Aged Immunisation, B&NES, Swindon and Wiltshire, and School Nursing B&NES

If your child becomes wheezy, has a bad attack of asthma, or has started oral steroids for their asthma after you return this form, please contact the School Aged Immunisation Team on 0300 247 0082.

If you decide you do not want to vaccinate your child against flu, please complete the consent form giving the reason. This will help us plan and improve the service. For further information see: www.nhs.uk/child-flu

To report a student absence please ring the Attendance Line by 8:30am on 01225 309501

From: Mrs Martin - Medical Administrator

If your child is **asthmatic, diabetic or anaphylactic**, please ensure they have their relevant, in date, medication to treat their medical condition, such as an inhaler, EpiPens & diabetic equipment, with them at all times

They will also require these for all after school PE fixtures or trips. I will soon be conducting a check that students have their equipment in their bags.

Thank You

From: Ms Barber – Assistant Headteacher

Online Safety and Wellbeing - Video Games and Children

Unicef have shared an article with some nice, clear and simple advice for parents/carers about online gaming. The article covers how to create a positive and safe gaming environment, how parents can engage with their children, what the benefits of gaming are and more.

You can view the article on the Unicef website [Video games and children: A guide for parents | UNICEF Parenting](#)

YouTube - Parental Controls for Teens

Google (YouTube) have, in the past, always argued that YouTube is strictly for over 13's, much like most other social platforms. This age is predominantly for marketing/advertising purposes. However, that argument has never stood up given that Google have never had a means to prevent under 13's using the platform with or without an account.

Back in 2021 YouTube introduced new parental features, called Supervised Experience and this was for parents of children under 13 who were using YouTube.

Now, it looks like YouTube is extending Supervised Experience for parents of teenagers. In early September they announced that parents/carers will be able to link their teenagers account to the parent account where parents will have the ability to see some limited information such as number of video uploads, comments etc.

I think some parents may be disappointed that this is quite a limited set of features and I would agree.

You can read more about this: [A new choice for parents of tweens and teens on YouTube - YouTube Blog](#)

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FINAL FANTASY XIV

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
16

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The video game Final Fantasy XIV launched in 2010, and, despite being critically panned, it saw an overhaul that has made it one of the biggest success stories in gaming. Its huge world, epic story and versatile combat system have continued to draw in new players, but there's a lot that trusted adults need to be aware of – not least the cost of paying monthly to play.

ALWAYS ONLINE

Final Fantasy XIV is an MMORPG, which stands for Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game. Much like World of Warcraft, players create a character in a chosen class and level up by completing quests to gain power and items. The game requires a constant internet connection, whether you're playing on PC, Mac, PlayStation or Xbox, and there's no option to play offline.

REGULAR EXPANSIONS

As with similar titles in the genre, players can purchase expansions to unlock additional content for the game. Those without the expansions will be locked out of certain new quests and activities, meaning that young people who play regularly will potentially have the next release earmarked on their calendar, ready to buy it as soon as possible.

IN-GAME PURCHASES & SUBSCRIPTION FEE

Users need to pay £5.99 per month to play Final Fantasy XIV, but there's a free trial, if someone stops paying, they'll lose access to their character (although they'll be able to pick up the payments again and resume where they left off). If a player forgets to cancel their payments, however, these subscription fees will continue rolling on automatically.

FREE TRIAL

Advice for Parents & Educators

MANAGE PLAYTIME

Playtime limits are a great way to counter the addictive qualities of games like Final Fantasy XIV. They allow you discuss why it's still important to enjoy things outside of gaming while still letting a child enjoy playing online with their friends when it makes sense to do so. It's all well and good to have fun with a game, so long as they're able to step away and reconnect with the real world.

MAKE USE OF THE FREE TRIAL

The Final Fantasy XIV free trial is a generous one, with no limits on how long someone can play until their character hits level 70. That's easily dozens of hours for a child to go through the game, complete quests, and see if they enjoy it before purchasing expansions or subscribing to a membership. They may well move on to something else before you need to spend so much as a penny.

PLAY TOGETHER

The free trial makes it extremely easy to jump into Final Fantasy XIV and play alongside a child, provided they're old enough. Not only does that help you ensure that settings are adjusted for their privacy and safety, but it may also end up becoming a bonding experience for you both and any other family members that want to try it out.

REMEMBER, IT'S A PEGI 16

Despite its often-relaxing nature, Final Fantasy XIV carries a PEGI 16 rating for violence and drugs (although the latter is due to a character smoking a pipe on occasion). There's minimal blood, but characters can attack enemies (and other players) with weapons and spells. Take a look at some gameplay videos to see if the content is appropriate for a younger player.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor-in-Chief of GGRecon, and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A longtime fan of online games, he's also a parent, and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has previously been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar and plenty more.



WakeUp
Wednesday

The National
College



St Laurence School

has joined the following SOCIAL MEDIA platforms to keep you informed of some of the great work your children are doing at school.

We will post news and photos from school trips, dance and drama performances, STEM events and lots more. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and “like” and “share” our stories.

FOLLOW

LIKE |  & SHARE



facebook.com/StLaurenceSch



instagram.com/stlaurencesch/



twitter.com/stlaurencesch

www.st-laurence.com

For the attention of all parents

Will your child be transferring
to a secondary school in
September 2025?

You must apply for a secondary school place

Apply online at **wiltshire.gov.uk** or
complete an application form, available at
all Wiltshire Council offices.

The deadline for applications is

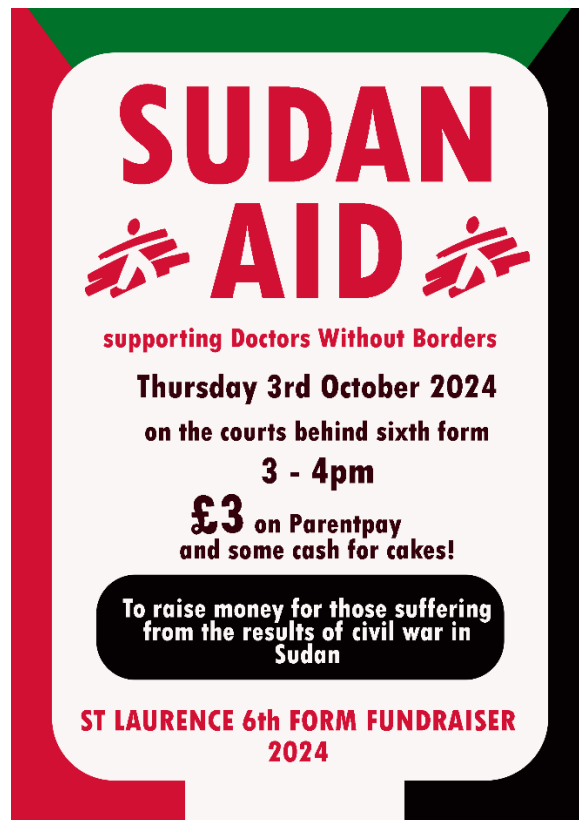
12 midnight, 31 October 2024

All forms must be returned to the school admissions
team at County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire.

Contact customer services on **01225 713010**

For more information or to request our guide
to finding a secondary school place in Wiltshire.

Wiltshire Council



6th Form Students Launch their Annual Can Appeal

New Head Students of 6th Form, Tom Ottley and Eve Brown, are leading the Can Appeal for the local foodbank this year.

The deadline for donations, to be dropped off in Tutorial, is Monday 21st October and this year there will be a prize awarded to the Tutor Group which collects the most cans.

All donations are gratefully received. Thank you.



The Royal Wootton Bassett Arts Festival

November 2024

9th & 10th - Guitar and Dance

16th & 17th - Speech & Drama, Musical Theatre and Dance

23rd & 24th - Music

Dance

*Tap, Modern,
Character, Solo,
Classical, Lyrical*



Music

*Piano, Singing,
Instrumental, Choirs,
Classical Guitar*

Speech & Drama and Musical Theatre



*BIFF affiliated with professional adjudicators
who provide valuable feedback.*

Entry Closing Date - 30th September 2024

www.rwbartsfestival.com  

Registered Charity Number 1135906