



Week beginning Monday 24th March 2025

Headteacher's update

Dear Parents and Carers

A massive well done to all the students who took part in the Spring Music Concert last week. It was an excellent evening and our thanks go to Miss Hancock and Dr Barclay for their efforts in putting it together

This week we have the Year 7 Subject Consultation Evening (online) which will be the first opportunity to meet with subject staff and discuss your child's progress. Please do let us know if you have any problems logging on or if you have any questions you were unable to ask.

Mr Farrer

Key dates for your diary - Week B

Monday 24 th March	
Tuesday 25 th March	
Wednesday 26 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chance to Dance Showcase – Wiltshire Music Centre • Y7 LG5 Conversation & Craft Event
Thursday 27 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y13 Reports Issued • SCHOOL ENDS AT 1:30PM (Y7 Subject Consultation Meetings - Online)
Friday 28 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Theatre Connections Festival

Week A

Monday 31 st March	
Tuesday 1 st April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y11 Dance Exam • Y13 Mock Exam - Criminology
Wednesday 2 nd April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y10 French Exam • Y10 NT Connections Event
Thursday 3 rd April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y10 French Exam • 6th Form Business Studies Trip
Friday 4 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y10 German Speaking Exam • Y13 DofE Route Setting • TERM 4 ENDS AT 1:30PM

In this week's bulletin:

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- Free Period Products – page 6
- Funded Courses for Parents & Carers – pages 8 & 9

.... And lots more!

From: Mrs Rhodes - Director of Learning and Progress KS3

Reminder: Book your Year 7 Subject Consultation Meetings -

will take place virtually (SchoolCloud) on:

Thursday 27th March 2:30pm – 7:30pm

Refer to your letter for information on how the system works. Remember - appointment slots get filled quickly so please book as soon as possible.

If there is an unavoidable reason why you cannot attend, please email progressteam@st-laurence.com so we can follow this up with you.

From: Mrs Butterworth - Head of Psychology and Sociology

Criminology Mock Exam

Y13 Criminology students will be sitting a mock unit 4 Criminology written paper (1h30m) on:

Tuesday 1st April 9:00am in the Lecture Theatre

From: Ms Browne – Feminista Club

Feminista Fundraiser

The Feminista film fundraiser event raised **£156.81** for Action Aid.

Students who attended made a £3 donation to the charity which supports women and girls living in poverty around the world.

We had a lovely time watching a screening of Taylor Swift's Eras Tour along with popcorn, drinks and cakes.

Thank you to all the students and staff who supported this event. Feminista is a student-led group which aims to empower students and tackle sexism and misogyny.

From: ILC Team



Author Spotlight: Neal Shusterman

Neal Shusterman is the New York Times bestselling author of more than fifty award-winning books for children, teens, and adults, including Challenger Deep, Courage to Dream, The Arc of a Scythe series and the Unwind Dystology. For his body of work, Neal won the 2024 Margaret A. Edwards Award, and the ALAN Lifetime Achievement Award.

Degrees in both psychology and drama give him a unique approach to writing, and his novels always deal with topics that appeal to adults as well as teens, weaving true-to-life characters into sensitive and riveting issues, and binding it all together with a unique and entertaining sense of humor.



From: Mrs Nash – Head of Drama

NT connections - You 2.0 (by Alys Metcalf)

The cast and crew of 'You 2.0' are reminded that there is a compulsory rehearsal from 10:00am – 3:00pm on Saturday 22nd March in Trinity Hall. Students should wear comfortable clothing and bring food/drinks for the day.

Students involved in the show will be off timetable on Friday 28th March and Wednesday 2nd April for technical and dress rehearsals. Please can permission forms be returned asap.

Tickets for the show in Trinity Hall on Friday 28th March are available now on Parentpay and will be available on the door priced £5. The show will transfer to the Weston Studios, Bristol Old Vic on 2nd April.

Please do come and support the students who are working really hard to make the production a success.

Praise for Macbeth (performed at the Shakespeare Schools Festival)

“A brilliantly eerie version of the “Scottish Play” by a strong committed ensemble”

“We are in awe of all your passion, hard work and creativity! What you have created is something truly special”

Praise for “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” (performed at St Laurence School)

“that was just awesome! So much fun, really enjoyable performances from everyone”

“what a great show! Well done to actors and tech crew”

National
Theatre

CONNECTIONS
2025



YOU 2.0

Alys Metcalf

St Laurence School

St Laurence
School, BA15 1DZ,
Trinity Hall, 28th
March 7pm

Bristol Old Vic,
Weston
Studios, 2nd
April, 7pm

Trinity Hall
tickets £5 on
ParentPay



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

BOV- £8 for
double bill on
BOV website

From: Heather Browne and Richard Bruten – Connect Team

Connect Spring Issue



The spring issue of the student-led school magazine is available now at [St Laurence Connect](#).

The theme is 'Compassion' and inside you will be able to read about visits to the school by MP Dr Brian Mathew and author Joseph Elliot. Student Harrison Quick invites readers into his life on a farm and the challenges facing UK agriculture, Gabby Charlton and receptionist Mrs Wilson discuss their experiences of hearing impairment and a 6th Form writer explores the challenges facing CAMHS.

There are also updates from our head students as well as plenty of other news and features.

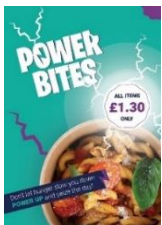
Talented Year 7 Student Enters Art Competition



Year 7 student Bethany has had her beetle lino prints selected for the Black Swan Arts "Young Open Art" 2025 competition which will be displayed in their gallery (Saturday 22nd March – Sunday 27th April).

We are all very impressed with her work and wish Bethany good luck in the competition.

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 \(st-laurence.com\)](https://st-laurence.com)

Free Period Products Available at School

The period product scheme is available to all state-maintained schools in England. It provides free period products to girls and women who need them in their place of study.

Period products, such as pads and tampons, should be available for all who need them, when they need them, in order to access education.

Having periods should not be a barrier to education for anyone. Making girls and women aware of the scheme is vital to making sure they can access period products when they are needed and to reduce the stigma surrounding periods.

This may include, for example, where students:

- have forgotten their own period products
- cannot afford period products
- have started their period unexpectedly

We have a range of free sanitary products available in the following locations for students to access:

- Student Reception & Medical Room
- PE Department Office
- 6th Form Office - from Mrs Brown & Mrs Chatfield
- Fitzmaurice Toilets - available during break and lunch

From: PE Department

Sporting Results and Upcoming Fixtures

Results - Congratulations to all students involved

Football

- St Laurence **1 – 0** Melksham Oak (Year 8 boys)
- St Laurence **3 – 2** Melksham Oak (Year 7 boys)
- St Laurence **3 – 5** Melksham Oak (U16 Girls County Cup ¼ Final)

Netball


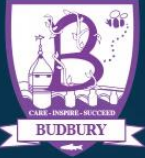



- St Laurence **4 – 2** Melksham Oak (Year 7A)
- St Laurence **7 – 0** Melksham Oak (Year 7B)
- Year 9 Tournament at Kingdown: **1st Place**

Upcoming Fixtures

Wednesday 26th March

- Year 11 Football vs Matravers (A). Return approx. 5:30pm
- Year 8 Netball Tournament at Kingdown. Return approx. 6:00pm

House Points

Ashley	Budbury	Conigre	Huntingdon	Westfield
				
104526	104040	103623	108416	101534

Online Safety

New TikTok Features

During the 2nd week of March TikTok released some new features which will help with supervision. These new features include Time Away, a feature to decide when it's time for children to take a break and a reoccurring schedule. There's also a feature which allows parents to see who their children are following on TikTok.

More information about these new features can be found [New ways we're supporting parents and helping teens build balanced digital habits - Newsroom | TikTok](#)

and the full range of TikTok Family Pairing features can be found [Family Pairing | TikTok Help Center](#)



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about STREAMERS

Livestreaming has become a big part of the entertainment people consume, and what began as a series of gamers sharing their screens has grown into a huge industry packed with personalities - and potential risks for your children. With over 2.5 million people watching Twitch, the most popular streaming service, at any one time, it's important to remain aware of the risks associated with streamers.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT** (Under 18): Some gaming streamers will stick to family-friendly titles, but others will play more violent games that tend to be more popular. Even gaming streamers focused on being educational just about anything, and some streamers will often discuss in-reviving games.
- NEGATIVE INFLUENCES**: While things have improved, streamers are often paid by companies to promote products, and this isn't always stated explicitly. While it's unlikely these goods will be harmful to your child, some streamers and influencers have engaged (knowingly or not) in actions to the past.
- FINANCIAL HARM**: Streamers will often have donation buttons on their screens for users to submit money, which can lead to small amounts can quickly spiral as streamers engage with paying viewers more often, potentially leading to financial issues.
- UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS**: Influencers often showcase how glamorous their lives are, making some users feel like though they are lesser. However, it's important to stress that in many ways, this is an odd, or at the very least, not common, Logan Paul, who has been successful as a streamer and influencer, has a Pokémon card worth \$5 million, but this is typical of anyone working in the medium.
- MISINFORMATION**: Streamers are, in many ways, just like us - and they can get things wrong or read off an opinion without having thought about it. Some can drop any kind of things to get a line out of viewers or to vary them to their side at a hot topic.
- ADDICTION AND SCREEN TIME**: If your child is watching a lot of a particular streamer, it can be just as damaging to their social life as playing too many video games.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- EXPLAIN HOW STREAMING WORKS**: For a younger viewer, being a streamer or influencer seems aspirational, but it involves a lot of work and no sense of good fortune. Streamers are often managed and unable to spend freely due to sponsors, and investors are just that - influencing young minds, for better or for worse.
- DO NOT LOG PAYMENT INFORMATION**: Streamers can request donations with additional content, on comments, third-party, and more. It's particularly important to let your child to watching consider avoiding linking payment information. This is especially notable with Twitch, which is owned by Amazon and therefore has some crossover.
- CHECK OUT STREAMING PLATFORMS**: While Twitch was the de facto streaming service for years, YouTube has gained popularity, too. Then there are Kick and Bumble, which have grown in popularity with viewers for big-name streamers - despite many being dogged by controversy.
- SET SCREEN TIME LIMITS**: You can set screen time limits for mobile apps on iOS and Google, but with other platforms like a PC, it may be more difficult to keep tabs. Consider checking in regularly to ensure your children aren't watching content they shouldn't be.

Meet Our Expert
Lloyd Coombes is the Games Editor of the Daily Star, and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for the past 10 years. Regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech-savvy writer and has been published at sites including iD, TechAdvisor, and plenty more.

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://thenationalcollege.com/guides/streamers>

The National College

Community News

Creative Writing Courses for Young People

Matthew Tett is a freelance English teacher, writer and creative producer working and living in Bradford-on-Avon.

Following the ongoing success of his writing workshops for adults, he is now offering Creative Writing Courses to budding young writers in the community.

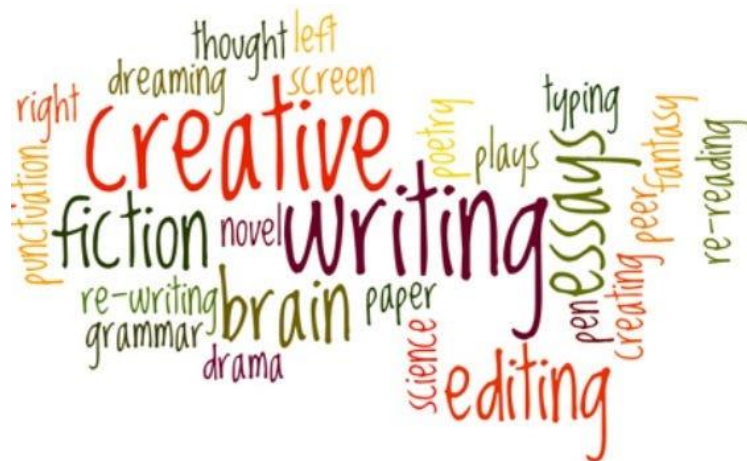
The sessions are open to young people aged 12 – 17 years old and will take place on Saturday mornings in a central BoA location from **10:00am – 11:30am** on the following dates:

- 26 April
- 17 May
- 7 June
- 19 July

During the sessions there will be plenty of opportunities to write and share ideas and potentially have work published in an anthology.

The total price will be between **£40.00** and **£50.00** for the four sessions (depending on numbers of attendees).

For further information and to register interest please email: boayoungwriters@gmail.com



Sent on behalf of Aspire Education

There is high demand from parents and carers to find work within a school, that fits in with family life.

We have specifically designed our courses to aid parents with their learning, as our live webinar sessions are run within school hours and within term times ONLY.

This allows parents and carers to fit their learning in with school drop off and collection.

No previous experience is required. All that is needed is access to the internet and a laptop or tablet



Family and Community Learning



Online Course

Booking closes
Tuesday 22 April

Supporting My Teen With Wellbeing

Online

Tuesday 29 April 10:00-12:00

- Understand the changes in a teenage brain
- Learn techniques to promote wellbeing
- Explore positive psychology

Contact familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk
or call the FaCL team on 01225 770478
Visit <https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-and-community-learning/>
or scan the QR code



Our courses are free if you are 19+ years old, resident in the UK/EU for over three years (some immigration status exempt), have a Wiltshire postcode, and meet any of the following criteria: earn less than £25,000 pa, in receipt of benefits, military family, foster carer/care leaver/carers, have a disability.

Wiltshire Council



Thursday 27 March
3-4pm



Meet the Conservators

Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

Join us to meet the talented team who are cleaning and conserving the nave walls and wall paintings at Christ Church and find out more about their work.

See the beautifully restored Archangels
Tea and cakes will be served

All are Welcome

With grateful thanks to our funder:



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