



Headteacher's update

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you have been enjoying the much-needed change in the weather. The signs of Spring were certainly apparent by the end of the week. I also hope that if you attended the Year 12 Subject Evening you found it useful.

This coming week is our student Wellbeing Week with a broad range of activities and speakers so please do talk about your child's experiences when they come home. It has been generously funded by our Friends Association, the SLSA, and if we want to do these in future years, we need your support in joining them, so please do make contact if you are happy to offer a few hours across the year.

Mr Farrer

In this week's bulletin:

- Non-uniform day in support of Denim4Dementia – page 1
- Key dates for your diary - page 2
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- Online Safety – WhatsApp – Page 13
- Community News – Pages 14-17

.... And lots more!

*Non-Uniform Day – Denim for Dementia



Tuesday 4th March we will have a non-uniform day. Research suggests that emotionally and mentally, Tuesday is the most challenging day of the week. Monday is close to the weekend, Wednesday is 'hump day' and Thursday and Friday are close enough to the end of the week to be less emotionally taxing. For this reason, we are hosting our first non-uniform Tuesday. Our Student Leadership Team have chosen the charity Alzheimer's Society, who are running the national Denim4Dementia campaign.

It is **not compulsory** for students to wear denim on this day. Please go to parent pay to donate to the charity.

Key dates for your diary - Week A

Monday 3rd March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Careers Week • Y10 Science Trip • Y13 Drama Exam •
Tuesday 4th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non uniform day – supporting Denim for Dementia • Y13 Drama Exam
Wednesday 5th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Level Music Exam • Y8-12 Awards Evening
Thursday 6th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y10 Photography Exam • Y9 Black Rock Information Evening • Y12 Parent Film Night
Friday 7th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y10 Art Exam • Y9 Blunt Truth Talk

Week B

Monday 10th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y11 Mock Exams Begin
Tuesday 11th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y12 Geography Trip • Y10 – 12 Careers Webinars
Wednesday 12th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y12 Geography Trip • Y7 (LG8) Craft & Conversation
Thursday 13th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STEM Robotics Competition • Y8 Reports Issued
Friday 14th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y13 Mock Music Exam

Mental Health and Wellbeing Week March 3rd - 7th 2025

	Daytime	After school	The I Can & I Am Bus
Monday 3rd March	Ben Smith – Happy Talks Year 8-13 (see schedule) – Trinity Hall Y7 briefing with LBR during p1 Monday in the gym		All y7 Mon-Thurs p2-5 (check schedule) Year 8-11 Friday p2-5 (selected students only)
Tuesday 4th March	*Non uniform day – supporting Denim for Dementia		
Wednesday 5th March	Chris Lubbe - Talk from speaker Year 12&13 p5 in Trinity Hall	Rewards Event WMC	
Thursday 6th March			
Friday 7th March	P1 whole school wellbeing activities – no lesson 1 – extended tutor time		

From: ILC Team

World Book Day – Thursday 6th March

At St Laurence we believe that reading is for every day of the year not just World Book Day. To celebrate we have a number of activities taking place throughout the term.

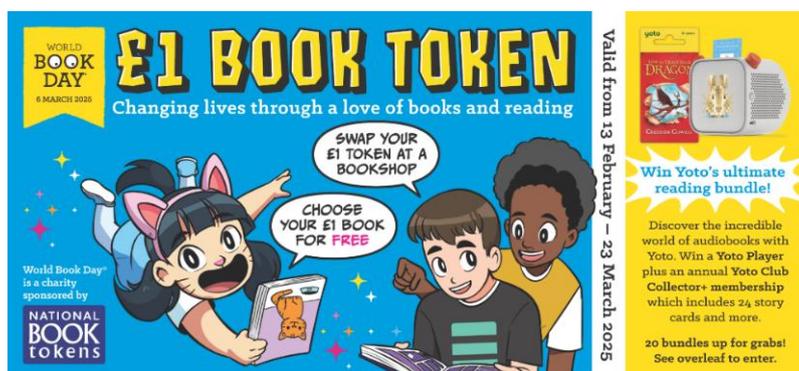
The Literacy Leaders will celebrate the joy of reading and the power of books to bring positive change in a Collective Worship to mark World Book Day and the 'Read it Your Way' theme. Students will share books that have transformed the world for good and staff will reveal their top reads and favourite places to enjoy them.

Mrs Edwards has created a display of some books that have changed the world. We hope our students will be inspired by this selection, which includes:

Gray's Anatomy - Published in 1858. A groundbreaking text known for its clear and concise descriptions complemented by Carter's beautiful woodcut images brilliantly rendered in light and shadow.

Hunger Games - Published in 2012. The Hunger Games it explores issues like poverty, inequality of wealth, commodification and how strong the power of television really is. It also boosted the status of Young Adult literature, something that the Harry Potter franchise had previously started.

Species Plantarum - Published in 1753 by Carl von Linne. He was a Swedish biologist and physician who formalised binomial nomenclature, the modern system of naming organisms. He is known as the "father of modern taxonomy."



Each student will receive a World Book Day token which entitles them to either a free World Book Day book, or £1 off a book of their choice.



The ILC are having a 'guess the book title' emoji quiz for students to take part in. Winners will be entered into a draw to win a book and all participants can collect a badge from the ILC desk.

There will also be an Author Spotlight feature each week of Term 4 in the Parent/Carer Bulletin. The graphic will tell you about an author and their books. Keep an eye out each week and you might discover some new favourites.

Here is this week's Author Spotlight:

Author Spotlight: Elle McNicoll

Elle McNicoll is a bestselling and award-winning novelist and screenwriter. Her debut, *A Kind of Spark*, won the Blue Peter Book Award and the Overall Waterstones Children's Book Prize, as well as Blackwell's Book of 2020. Her debut novel, *A Kind of Spark*, has also been adapted for television, which debuted on UK and US screens on the 2nd of April, 2023.

She is an advocate for better representation of neurodiversity in publishing, as an autistic and dyspraxic novelist, and currently lives in North London.

From: Ms Bryer - Head of PSHE

Blunt Truth



Wiltshire and Swindon's Police and Crime Commissioner's Office the 'Blunt Truth' will be delivered to Year 9 PSHE students throughout the day on **Friday 7th March**.

'Blunt Truth' is a session which empowers young people to make the right decision in reporting someone they know who carries a weapon. The session also touches on basic First Aid and how to help someone who has been injured. It is an interactive session with a short delivery by the Police, followed by an NHS Doctor or Trauma Nurse and some group work.

House Points

Ashley	Budbury	Conigre	Huntingdon	Westfield
93627	94286	93158	98563	91703

What are the key dates I need to be aware of this term?

Over the course of this term, you need to be aware of the following:

	This term	Next term
Year 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 24th February – Term 4 commences for all students Thursday 27th March – School closes at 1.30pm to all students for Year 7 online subject consultation meetings. These are held from 2.30pm-7.30pm, more information to follow. Friday 4th April – Term 4 ends at 1.30pm for all students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday 22nd April – Term 5 commences for all students Thursday 8th May – School closes at 1.30pm for all students for Year 8 subject consultation meetings Friday 23rd May – Term 5 ends at 3pm for all students

What will my child be learning this term?

Each subject has provided for you a breakdown of what will be studied in each subject this term. This can be found on our website here in the form of a curriculum map: [Curriculum Overview | St Laurence School](#)

	This term	Next term
Year 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 24th February – Term 4 commences for all students Thursday 13th March – Year 8 full report issued Thursday 27th March – School closes at 1.30pm to all students for Year 7 subject consultation meetings Friday 4th April – Term 4 ends at 1.30pm for all students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday 22nd April – Term 5 commences for all students Thursday 8th May – School closes at 1.30pm for all students for Year 8 online subject consultation meetings. These are held from 2.30pm-7.30pm, more information to follow. Friday 23rd May – Term 5 ends at 3pm for all students

What will my child be learning this term?

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	This term	Next term
Year 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 24th February – Term 4 commences for all students Wednesday 26th February – Year 9 Options form return deadline Thursday 6th March – Y9 Black Rock Parents information evening 6pm-7pm Trinity Hall Thursday 27th March – School closes at 1.30pm to all students for Year 7 subject consultation meetings Friday 4th April – Term 4 ends at 1.30pm for all students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday 22nd April – Term 5 commences for all students Thursday 8th May – School closes at 1.30pm for all students for Year 8 subject consultation meetings Thursday 8th May – Year 9 full report issued Friday 23rd May – Term 5 ends at 3pm for all students

What will my child be learning this term?

Each subject has provided for you a breakdown of what will be studied in each subject this term. This can be found on our website here in the form of a curriculum map: [Curriculum Overview | St Laurence School](#)

	This term	Next term
Year 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 24th February – Term 4 commences for all students Thursday 27th March – School closes at 1.30pm to all students for Year 7 subject consultation meetings Friday 4th April – Term 4 ends at 1.30pm for all students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday 22nd April – Term 5 commences for all students Week commencing 22nd April – Year 10 written papers start Thursday 8th May – School closes at 1.30pm for all students for Year 8 subject consultation meetings Friday 23rd May – Term 5 ends at 3pm for all students

What will my child be learning this term?

Each subject has provided for you a breakdown of what will be studied in each subject this term. This can be found on our website here in the form of a curriculum map: [Curriculum Overview | St Laurence School](#)

	This term	Next term
Year 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 24th February – Term 4 commences for all students W/c Monday 10th March – Year 11 core mock exams Thursday 27th March – School closes at 1.30pm to all students for Year 7 subject consultation meetings Friday 4th April – Term 4 ends at 1.30pm for all students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday 22nd April – Term 5 commences for all students Thursday 1st May – Year 11 report issued Thursday 8th May – School closes at 1.30pm for all students for Year 8 subject consultation meetings Thursday 8th May – GCSE written exams begin Friday 23rd May – Term 5 ends at 3pm for all students

What will my child be learning this term?

Each subject has provided for you a breakdown of what will be studied in each subject this term. This can be found on our website here in the form of a curriculum map: [Curriculum Overview | St Laurence School](#)

From: Drama Department

The cast and crew of our NT Connections play 'You 2.0' really enjoyed the workshop that was held on Monday 3rd March.

Run by a director from the Bristol Old Vic the students worked on ensemble movement and transitions, and we all came away with some good idea to apply to our remaining rehearsals of the play.

The performance in school takes place at 7:00pm on Friday 28th March in Trinity Hall and we'd love as many people as possible to support as it will be watched by an assessor from the National Theatre.

Tickets for this will be available on ParentPay soon. The play will also be performed at the Bristol Old Vic Weston studios on Wednesday 2nd April and tickets for this will be available from Monday 3rd March directly from the theatre website [NT Connections 2025 | Bristol Old Vic](#).

The cast and crew are reminded that there will be a whole day rehearsal on Saturday 22nd March from 10:00am – 3:00pm. Students should wear comfortable clothing and bring food/drink for the day. They are also off timetable for technical and dress rehearsals on Friday 28th March, prior to the evening performance.

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: PE Department

Sporting Results and Upcoming Fixtures

Results - Congratulations to all students involved

Football

St Laurence 0 – 6 Lydiard Park Academy (u14 Girls County Cup ¼ Final)

Netball

St Laurence A 9 – 10 John of Gaunt A (Year 7 Netball)

St Laurence B 11 – 8 John of Gaunt B (Year 7 Netball)

Table Tennis

KS3 Wiltshire County Finals: 3rd Place

Upcoming Fixtures

Tuesday 4th March

Year 10 West Wiltshire Netball Tournament at St Augustine's. Return approx. 6pm.

Year 8 Football vs Kingdown (H). Finish approx. 5:15pm

Wednesday 5th March

Year 7 Boys football (2 Teams) vs Kingdown (A). Return approx. 5:30pm

Thursday 6th March

Year 9 Boys football vs Kingdown (A). Return approx. 5:30pm

Year 11 Boys football vs Kingdown (H). Finish approx. 5:30pm

Dodgeball event at St Laurence.

From: The Careers Team



St Laurence School
Care • Inspire • Succeed

Are you able to help?

Y12: 2nd-6th June 2025 Y10: 9th-13th June 2025

Want to inspire the next generation? Offer a work experience placement to our GCSE and A-Level students! We're looking for businesses passionate about helping young people gain valuable skills.

If you have the time and commitment to support our students please get in touch at:

careers@st-laurence.com



<https://www.st-laurence.com> Ashley Road, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire, BA15 1DZ

Save Your School PTA

Dear Parents,

As a school community, we rely on the PTA to raise the vital funds needed for essential resources, school events, and enrichment activities that benefit all our children. However, without additional parental involvement, the PTA will face the difficult decision of having to cease its operations.

We are asking for just a few hours of your time to join the PTA and help continue the tradition of enhancing our students' educational experience. Whether it's assisting with fundraising events, organising school activities, or offering support behind the scenes, every bit of time you can contribute will make a significant difference.

Being part of the PTA doesn't require a huge time commitment—just a willingness to get involved and make a positive impact. Your participation will directly help fund important programs, from field trips to classroom supplies, and even extracurricular activities that enrich our children's learning.

Please consider stepping forward to keep the PTA running and ensure that our school continues to thrive. Together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of our students.

Please contact: Suzie Bowling suziebowling1@gmail.com

Sent on behalf of: School Aged Immunisation Team

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Year 9 Td/IPV (DTP) & MenACWY vaccination

Your Year 9 child is now due their Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio – (Td/IPV) & Meningitis ACWY (MenACWY) vaccinations, which will be delivered by the School Aged Immunisation Team at your child's school in the new year. These vaccinations are offered to all boys and girls in Year 9 (aged 13/14 years).

Full product details of the vaccines used can be found at: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc>: enter Nimenrix or MenQuadfi for information about the MenACWY vaccine, and Revaxis for information about the Td/IPV vaccine

To consent for your child to receive the vaccination, or to decline, please click on the link below:
<https://www.bswschoolagedimms.co.uk/Forms/DTP>

The school code for your school is: WT137057

You can also use this link to find out further information about the vaccination before you provide your response. If you have any difficulties completing the consent, please contact our Immunisation Team on 0300 247 0082 or email vcl.immunisations@nhs.net for support.

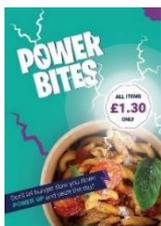
Please respond as soon as possible to accept or decline the vaccination. Where no response is received, all young people will be offered the opportunity to discuss the vaccination and self-consent if appropriate.

Once completed you will receive an automated email with a reference number as confirmation. Please check your junk/spam box if not in your in box and contact the team if it is not received.

Information for parents and young people about all school aged vaccinations can be found on our website: wiltshirechildrensservices.co.uk

Thank you, School Aged Immunisation Team

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

Ramadan Grab Bags are available throughout March; homemade pancakes are available on Shrove Tuesday 4th March.



Ramadan GRAB BAG

DURING THIS RAMADAN INNOVATE ARE OFFERING GRAB BAGS FOR YOU TO TAKE AND ENJOY AT HOME TO BREAK YOUR FAST

EACH GRAB BAG INCLUDES:

- Dates
- Apple & Mango Juice
- Vegetable Samosa

AVAILABLE EVERY SCHOOL DAY FROM THE FIRST DAY OF RAMADAN UNTIL EID AL FITR COLLECT YOURS AFTER SCHOOL FROM THE RESTAURANT!

£ 2.80

*All Grab Bags are available at the price of a free school meal.

COMING UP... CELEBRATE EID AL FITR WITH US THIS MARCH!



IT'S FLIPPIN' FANTASTIC

SAVOURY SWEET

Join us ON 4th March

GET CRACKING WITH OUR HOMEMADE PANCAKES

SAVOURY OR SWEET. THEY'RE ALWAYS A TREAT!

From: The Exams Department

Timetable of Y11 March English & Maths Mock Exams <i>w/c 10 March 2025 (in Sports Hall) Week B</i>	
Mon, 10 March	
Lesson 1&2	8.35am - Maths paper 1 1h30m (non-calculator)
Lesson 4&5 early lunch	1.00pm - English Language 1h
Tue, 11 March	
Lesson 4&5 early lunch	1.00pm - Maths paper 2 1h30m (calculator)
Wed, 12 March	
Lesson Tut&1	8.35am - English Literature 45m
Lesson 4&5 early lunch	1.00pm - Maths paper 3 1h30m (calculator)

- All Y11 students will be involved in these exams, and they will be held in the Sports Hall.
- Students should gather under the DT canopy at the times indicated above before making their way to the Sports Hall.
- Students who are in other rooms due to agreed access arrangements will be collected from the canopy by reception.
- All information relating to exams will be displayed on the exams notice board and on Student Portal.
- On exam days students will be free to go home after the last exam of the day or if they need to remain on site to wait for transport, a room will be provided for this.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION

13+

With more than two billion active users, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. The UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging, but for the time being, this controversial feature remains.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency' – plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CHAT LOCK AND SECRET CODES

In 2023, WhatsApp introduced a feature that lets users keep their chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind their phone's passcode, fingerprint or face ID. There is an additional feature – 'Secret Code' – where users set a unique password for locked chats. Unfortunately, this creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user they want to message. Therefore, if a child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that the child might be added to a group chat or community (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people they don't know.

VIEW ONCE CONTENT

The ability to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate material or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't reopen them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this disappearing content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing protection of privacy.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allow news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original – and might not be entirely factual, either.

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's Live Location feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child is safe while out, for example. However, anyone in a user's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution; get them to consider whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. You can give permission to My Contacts or My Contacts Except... Additionally, if a child needs to use Live Location, emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Check in with the child about how they're using WhatsApp, making sure they know you only have their safety at heart. If you spot a locked Chats folder, you might want to talk about the sort of content they've stored in there, who they're talking to, and why they want to keep these chats hidden. Also, if children send any View Once content, it could be helpful to ask them why.

DISCUSS GROUP CHATS

Make children aware that there could be members of a group that they don't know well and that words can be misinterpreted. Encourage them to leave a good impression, to avoid joining in if conversations turn towards bullying, and to respond to such situations in an appropriate way. Make sure they know that it's OK to leave a group chat if it makes them uncomfortable – or for any reason, in fact.

THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content that a user posts to be shared more widely, even publicly on social media. Encourage children to consider how an impulsive message or forwarding might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/whatsapp-2023>



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

A fundraising poster for Luke Hughes' Bath Half Marathon. The poster has a red and blue color scheme. At the top left, it says "CARE 4 CALAIS". To the right, it says "Luke Hughes Year 13 St Laurence". At the top right, it says "BATH HALF". The main title is "Bath Half Marathon For Care4Calais". Below the title, it says "More Info". On the left, there is a QR code and text: "Care4Calais: distribute essentials (clothes, sleeping bags, etc), offer phone charging and food packs to refugees in France + Belgium". At the bottom left, it says "(Care4Calais registered charity number 1169948)". At the bottom right, it says "Please Donate!!".

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: <https://care4calais.enthuse.com/pf/luke-hughes-bath-half>

You can find out more about Luke's chosen charity here: [Care4Calais](#) | [Refugee Charity](#) | [Fundraise](#) [Donate](#) [Volunteer](#)