



Headteacher's update

Dear Parents and Carers

Those parents of Year 11 students will hopefully have seen some good preparation for the second mocks that took place this week. It is a final opportunity for students to get key feedback so they can achieve their best in the summer. Staff will be working hard to mark the papers and return them as soon as possible.

The most exciting thing coming up will be our Spring Music Concert on Wednesday 19th March and it would be lovely to see as many of you there as possible – the students really do deserve the biggest audience.

Mr Farrer

Key dates for your diary - Week A

Monday 17 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y13 & Y11 Practical Exams begin • Y9 Vaccinations Day (MenACWY & TdIPV) • Y11 Food Exam • Y10 Geography Trip • Y12 Social Sciences Students – Guest Speaker • DEADLINE TO ORDER Y11 LEAVERS HOODIES • DEADLINE Y11 LEAVERS BALL DEPOSIT
Tuesday 18 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y10 Geography Trip
Wednesday 19 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y10 Geography Trip • Y13 Business and Sociology Trip • Spring Concert Rehearsal and Performance • 6th Form Quiz Fundraiser Evening
Thursday 20 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y11 Food Exam (Group 1) • Y11 Music Exam • Y7 Girls Period Talk • Y8 Wellbeing Trip Parents Evening • NYC Trip Parents Information Evening
Friday 21 st March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-School Uniform Day in aid of Red Nose Day
Saturday 22 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dress Rehearsal for National Theatre Connections Performance+

Week B

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

In this week's bulletin:

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.... And lots more!

Psst! – did you know that this year's Spring Concert features:



- School ensembles: - Random Band, Choir, A Capella Singers, Chamber Choir and Guitar Ensemble
- student-led ensembles: - The Lowly Trio, George's Marvellous Medicine and Half-Life
- solos from some of our senior musicians, including Pip Ousby (voice), Ren Crompton (voice), Chris Hawkins (piano) and Jess Matthews (clarinet)

Tickets are still available on ParentPay – Book now for an amazing night of entertainment.



From: Mrs Eyles – Head of Dance



Chance to Dance Showcase

The St Laurence School **Chance to Dance Showcase** is taking place on Wednesday 26th March 2025 in the Wiltshire Music Centre, starting at a new time of 6:30pm.

Tickets for this event are available via ParentPay - £8.00 per adult, £5.00 for students.

A fantastic evening of dance, showcasing all Year 11 exam work and key stage 3 and 4 auditioned pieces choreographed by students.

Hope to see lots of you there, Mrs Eyles

From: Ms Whitehead - Head of DT

Unfortunately, the **Easter Baking Club** isn't able to take place this term. We will share details of the next baking club on offer in due course.

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/catering)

From: Mrs Rhodes - Director of Learning and Progress KS3

Year 7 Subject Consultation Meetings

The Year 7 Subject Consultation Meetings will take place virtually (SchoolCloud) on Thursday 27th March 2:30pm – 7:30pm.

Bookings are now open. A letter has been sent home, with information on how the system works. Appointment slots do get filled up quickly, so please make this a priority.

There is an expectation that all parents/carers will attend this virtual event. If there is an unavoidable reason why you cannot attend, please do email progressteam@st-laurence.com, so one of the team can follow this up with you.

From: Budbury House Staff and Students



Budbury House is running a fundraiser for our amazing house charity **Cots for Tots** on Tuesday 1st of April!

Starting at 3:15pm in the Sports Hall, the event will consist of a sponsored run alongside a bake sale - students can join in the run and buy some delicious cake or buy cake if they don't want to run.

We'd love to see as many students come along as possible, come in groups and have a fun run and a chat!

We are asking for a minimum donation of £3 (via ParentPay) to join in with the run. Cash is required to buy cakes.

Cots for Tots do amazing work helping sick or premature babies get the appropriate care they need at the NICU in St Michael's hospital in Bristol. We want to raise as much money as possible to support them in the amazing work they do.

From: Mrs Butterworth - Head of Psychology and Sociology

Careers and the Criminal Justice System

We are always looking for any speakers that are willing to come into school or do an online session about their work in the following agencies:

- Prisons and probation
- Forensics
- Judiciary
- the CPS
- a charity that helps support people that are involved in the CJS.

Please email nicbut@st-laurence.com if you can help or have any questions.

From: ILC Team

Author Spotlight: Maz Evans

Maz Evans is a bestselling, award-winning author – she just doesn't do either terribly often. She is the proud creator of the WHO LET THE GODS OUT?, VI SPY and SCARLETT FIFE series for children

Her writing career began in national journalism and she still regularly broadcasts her views on anything from politics to parenthood on BBC Radio 2 and the bus.

Maz believes passionately in the power of words, the importance of stories and the necessity of kindness. She doesn't believe in horoscopes, teeth-whitening toothpaste or anyone who relies on the word "literally".

From: Mrs Nash – Head of Drama

Reminder: You 2.0 at the National Theatre Connections Festival

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 Friday 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.

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 (max.120 tickets, 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 Holidays 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

Election of Head Students 2025-26

We are very pleased to announce that following a rigorous selection process of Student votes, followed by an interview, that Jazz Norris-Gant and Sam Atherton will be our Head Students for St Laurence over the next year.



Sam Atherton



Jazz Norris-Gant

We would also like to pay tribute to all of the students who put themselves forward for the position - we are so proud of each of you and the resilience, creativity, and confidence you displayed.

Student Leadership is such a powerful vehicle for change at St Laurence, from Year 7 – all the way up to these positions in 6th Form. We are exceptionally proud of the students you are, the ideas you have and the change you have elicited.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to the incredible work done by our incumbent Head Students: Evie Brown and Tom Ottley. Mrs Chatfield, Mrs Brown and I cannot praise them enough. They have been a genuinely dynamic duo, taking on a range of responsibilities within the school, always doing so with positivity, maturity, and humour, and balancing their studies as they go. I believe they have been one of the strongest set of leaders we have ever had, and they will go on to achieve great things.



Evie Brown



Tom Ottley

From: PE Department

Sporting Results and Upcoming Fixtures

Results - Congratulations to all students involved

Football

St Laurence 3 – 1 Matravers (Year 9 boys)

St Laurence 1 – 0 Matravers (Year 7 boys)

Netball

St Laurence 4 – 4 Matravers (Year 8A)

Upcoming Fixtures

Tuesday 18th March

Year 8 Boys Football vs Melksham Oak (H). Finish approx. 5:15pm.

Wednesday 19th March

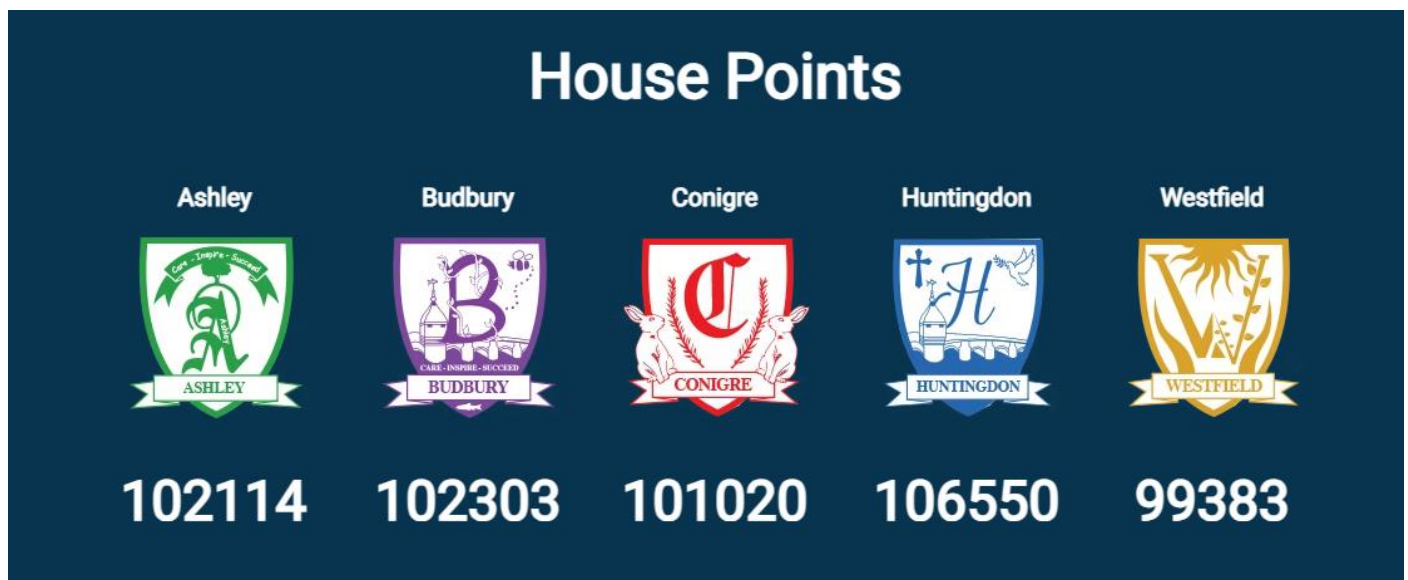
Year 7 Netball vs Melksham Oak (H). Finish approx. 4:45pm.

Year 7 Boys Football vs Melksham Oak (A). Return approx. 5:30pm.

Thursday 20th March

Year 9 Netball Tournament at Kingdown. Return approx. 6pm.

U16 Girls Football County Cup ¼ Final vs Melksham Oak (A). Return approx. 5:45pm.



Online Safety

Report - Children's Wellbeing in a Digital World

Internet Matters have released their new report for 2025 and there's some really interesting findings. On the positive side the report finds that children are more open with their parents about online activities, and parents' awareness of their children's online activities has increased.

But on the negative side, the wellbeing scores for vulnerable children have risen to their highest level with 24% saying that upsetting experiences happened to them quite a lot, up from 10% last year.

You can read the full report [HERE](#).

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ROBLOX

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 7

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable on smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back – or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.

IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pence up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.

SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Upcombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at GAMINGible.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

RED NOSE DAY

NON SCHOOL UNIFORM DAY FOR



COMIC RELIEF

21st of March 2025



Please wear red if possible –

Clothes must be
appropriate for study in
school



PLEASE PAY £1
ON
PARENT PAY

Venue: Wiltshire Music Centre
When: Wednesday 26th of March 2025
Time: 6:30 pm – 9pm (approx. end time)

Tickets on sale Friday 14th March
Via Parent pay to purchase tickets
£8 adults, £5 concessions and students

Family and Community Learning



Supporting My Teen With Transitions to Adulthood

5 Online Sessions Wednesdays 12.45pm - 2.45pm
Starting Wednesday 26 March 2025

*Book by
19 March*

Session Dates: 26 March, 2 April, 23 April, 30 April, 7 May



- Promote emotional wellbeing
- Explore post 16 opportunities
- Support life skills, online safety and decision making

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



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/carer, have a disability.

Wiltshire Council