



Week Commencing Monday 9th September 2024

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you have had a wonderful summer and that the thought of returning to school has not caused too much anxiety at home. We have had an excellent first week, welcoming both new and current students and we have been hugely impressed with the positive and resilient attitudes shown.

At the start of the year, can I please ask:

- That you do take time to read the bulletin. It contains everything you need to know for the upcoming week and beyond
- Keep a note of any key dates visible for everyone at home
- If you change contact details (email, mobile phone, address etc) please also let us know. There were several occasions last year when we needed to contact home but the numbers were no longer in use
- If you feel we need to know something, please do get in touch as soon as you can. Working together and communicating regularly is so important
- If you think we have missed something then feel free to contact us and let us know but equally, if we have done something well, that feedback is very gratefully received!
- If you have any questions and are unsure of who to contact, use the admin@st-laurence.com email address

Thank you, Mr Farrer

WEEK B	CALENDAR - TERM 1
Monday 9 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y7 Activity Day Launch (Ashley and Budbury) 8:35am – 9:05am
Tuesday 10 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•
Wednesday 11 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y7 Activity Day Launch (Huntingdon) 8:35am – 9:05am• Y6 Open Morning 9:00am – 9:45am
Thursday 12 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y7 Activity Day Launch (Westfield) 8:35am – 9:05am• Y10 & Y11 Parent Info Evening (Online) 6:00pm -7:00pm
Friday 13 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y7 Activity Day Launch (Conigre) 8:35am – 9:05am

Welcome to Term 1

As we start the new academic year, and welcome new parents and carers of Year 7 students, we've put together a list of responses to the most common FAQ's:

Attendance - If a student is unwell or is going to be absent, please do one of the following:

- email attendance@st-laurence.com
- call the student absence line **01225 309501** by no later than **8:30am**

Please state the Students Name, Year, Tutor Group, and the reason for their absence.

Breakfast Club – open from 7:45am- 8:30am.

Period Products - 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: Mrs Baldwin - Teacher of Maths / Outdoor Education Coordinator

For the attention of Parents and Carers of Year 7 Students

Activity Days - In October, each learning group will go to a local farm for a day as part of a team building experience. The briefings for these will be held in the **Lecture Theatre** directly after registration (an older tutee will accompany them), on the following days:

Ashley and Budbury: Monday 9th September

Huntingdon: Wednesday 11th September

Westfield: Thursday 12th September

Conigre: Friday 13th September

If, for whatever reason your child misses their briefing, they can attend one of the other sessions.

All children wishing to go on the trip must return a completed medical form (pink) following the briefing. There is a post box outside Reception for the forms to be dropped in.

Letters explaining the details of the trip will be sent out as hard copies and emails.

For the attention of Year 11 Parents and Carers

Duke of Edinburgh Awards:

There will be an award presentation held on the 14th October during tutor time where your child will receive their DoFE award **if** they have completed all the sections on eDofE. To check if this is completed, your child will need to log into eDofE. If they are unsure how to complete any of the sections, please email me on helbal@st-laurence.com

Warm regards, Mrs Baldwin (Outdoor Education Coordinator)

From: Mr Hainsworth – Assistant Headteacher

KS4 Parent / Carer Information Evening

Last term you will have received a “save the date” for the Y10 & 11 Parent/Carer Information Evening that will be held next Thursday 12th September from 6:00pm until 7:00pm on MS Teams.

An invite will go out to all students via their school email address before the evening. This evening is predominately aimed at Y10 families to introduce them to effective study and revision and will follow a largely similar format to last year. If Y11 families wish to join, they are of course welcome do so to refresh information that was shared last year. We hope you will be able to join us and look forward to seeing you then.

From Club Team

School club Information will be sent early next week for students to sign up.

PE UPDATE Mr Carter

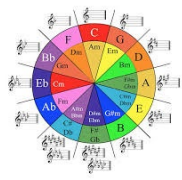

Term 1 Sporting Fixtures







Here are the current sporting fixtures for Term 1. More fixtures will be added once confirmed - including Girls Football County Cup fixtures. Please note: Students **must** attend the relevant after school club to be considered for selection.

Date	Fixture	Venue
TBC	U14 Boys Football vs Downend School (National Cup)	St Laurence School
1/10/24 (Tuesday)	Year 7 Rugby vs Corsham	St Laurence School
2/10/24 (Wednesday)	Year 8 Rugby vs Corsham	Corsham School
3/10/24 (Thursday)	U16 Netball Tournament	Marlborough College
8/10/24 (Tuesday)	U14 Netball Tournament	Marlborough College
9/10/24 (Wednesday)	Year 7/8 Rugby vs Devizes	Devizes School
15/10/24 (Tuesday)	Year 9 Rugby vs Corsham	Corsham School

From: Music Department – After-School Clubs

Music Activities 2024 - 25

Any day with advance notice (dependent on staff availability)		GCSE/A Level Clinics By appointment
Monday MC1		Ukulele Club

Wednesday MC1		Choir
Wednesday MC2		Guitar Club
Wednesday WMC		Bands/Ensembles By appointment
Thursday MC2		Sing-A-Capella
Friday MC1		Percussion
Friday MC2		Random Band

From: English Department

In years 7 and 8, students visit the ILC for part of a designated English lesson in order to read independently, and to read to staff and 6th Form students. These lessons are a privilege as they:


- Provide a period of time in a busy day for students to become immersed in a book that will stimulate their imagination
- Allow students to be calm and focused for an extended period of time
- Give students an opportunity to read something purely for pleasure
- Let students find out about new writers and books

We ask that parents and carers support the school and their children by doing the following to prepare them for these reading lessons in the ILC:

- ✓ ensure their child has their reading book in their bag on the day the ILC reading lesson is timetabled
- ✓ encourage their child to read at home for 20+ minutes per day, and cultivate a habit of reading for pleasure
- ✓ remove mobile devices from their child during dedicated, personal reading time
- ✓ read to their child, and talk to them about what they are reading
- ✓ read themselves, so that their child sees them as a reading role model.


Year 7
Term 1 and 2
Difficult Choices

English Wider Reading at St Laurence




Framed – Frank Cottrell Boyce
 (Un)arranged marriage – Bali Rai
 Pig Heart Boy – Malorie Blackman
 Holes – Louis Sachar
 The Diary of Anne Frank
 No Fixed Address – Susin Nielsen
 Our Sister, Again – Sophie Cameron
 A Kind of Spark – Elle McNicoll
 Show Us Who You Are - Elle McNicoll
 I Have No Secrets – Penny Joelson
 Bus Stop Baby – Fleur Hitchcock
 The Honest Truth – Dan Geimenhart
 Needle - Patrice Lawrence

More of a challenge
 Touching the Void – Joe Simpson
 Long Way Down – Jason Reynolds
 We Were Liars - E Lockhart




Year 8
Term 1 and 2
Visions

English Wider Reading at St Laurence



The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time – Mark Haddon
 I Capture the Castle – Dodie Smith
 My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece - Annabel Pitcher
 Ghost Hawk – Susan Cooper
 The Ghost of Thomas Kempe – Penelope Lively
 A Stitch in Time – Penelope Lively
 Skellig – David Almond
 My Name is Mina – David Almond
 Mondays Are Red – Nicola Morgan
 There will be Lies – Nick Lake
 The Haunting of Aveline Jones – Phil Hickes
 Tsunami Girl – Julian Sedgewick and Chie Kutsuwada
 Show Us who you are – Elle McNicoll
 The Upper World – Femi Fadugba

More of a challenge
 The Woman in Black – Susan Cooper
 Dracula – Bram Stoker
 The Midnight Library – Matt Haig
 The Electric Kingdom – David Arnold



Year 9
Term 1 and 2
Inequality

English Wider Reading at St Laurence



TimeRiders series - Alex Scarrow
 Refugee Boy - Benjamin Zephaniah
 The Perks of being a Wallflower, Stephen Chobsky
 Divergent, Veronica Roth
 Stone Cold – Robert Swindells
 Wonder – R.J. Palacio
 Trash – Andy Mulligan
 Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn – Mark Twain
 To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee
 Chains – Laurie Halse Anderson
 All The Truth That's in Me – Julie Berry
 Between Shades of Grey – Ruta Sepetys
 Ghost – Jason Reynolds
 The Crossing – Manjeet Mann
 Run, Rebel – Manjeet Mann
 Can you see me? – Libby Scott and Rebecca Westcott
 Clap When you Land – Elizabeth Acevedo
 Cane Warriors – Alex Wheatle
 Some places more than others – Renee Watson
 Piecing me together – Renee Watson
 Fountains of Silence – Ruta Sepetys
 Black Brother Black Brother – Jewell Parker Rhodes

More of a challenge
 Oliver Twist - Charles Dickens
 Hard Times – Charles Dickens
 Great Expectations - Charles Dickens
 Les Miserables - Victor Hugo
 12 Years a Slave - Solomon Northup
 The Help - Kathryn Stockett
 North and South – Elizabeth Gaskell
 Punching the Air – Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam
 The Power – Naomi Alderman
 The Handmaid's Tale/ The Testaments – Margaret Atwood



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING AND REVIEWING PARENTAL CONTROLS

Phones and computers are essential parts of children's lives, but with unfettered Internet access comes a multitude of risks. While not foolproof, parental controls can help with this; filtering out inappropriate content, limiting the ability to spend real money, capping screen time and generally making devices safer for young people.

1 KNOW THE TYPES

While parental control software can apply to an entire device, it also pays to know about options on individual apps and websites. TikTok, for example, has Restricted Mode for limiting unsuitable videos, while Snapchat lets you keep an eye on who a child has been talking to. Check the settings of any new app young users want and review your options.

2 COVER ALL DEVICES

Knowing what parental controls cover is crucial, as remaining unaware can run the risk of 'blind spots' in the device's safety measures. Controls on a phone will apply whenever a child's on that device, for instance – but you'll want to ensure that parental controls are set up across any laptops, tablets and potentially other phones, too. Remember, buying a new device may require you to set everything up again.

3 DON'T NEGLECT SHARED TECH

While children often have their own devices, if you have a shared family computer or tablet, for example, you'll need to make sure that's not a weak point in your safety measures. Parental controls for your router, that cover everything connected to your Wi-Fi, are one option – or you can just be thorough with each device and online account. Just ensure that unprotected laptops, phones and tablets are password locked.

4 CONSIDER TIME CONTROLS

Even safe internet content can be harmful if it's viewed in excess. Not only are certain apps addictive enough to distract from other duties, but late-night usage can badly disrupt sleep, which is vital for adolescent brain development. Most parental controls offer some kind of time limit – either blocking access at certain hours or capping the number of minutes it can be used per day – so be sure to consider these.

5 BLOCK APP SPENDING

Seemingly free apps can sometimes include microtransactions; purchases that can be made using real money. While plenty of developers implement these fairly, some companies attempt to manipulate children into paying for additional features or content, which can soon add up to hundreds of pounds if a child gets carried away. Thankfully, iOS and Android's settings allow you to block in-app purchases, preventing any huge bills.

6 NO CONTROLS ARE PERFECT

Parental controls can be very useful, but they're far from infallible. Some unpleasant content can and unfortunately will slip through the net, so remember that setting up these measures isn't a substitute for taking an active interest in young people's digital lives. Talk to them, and make sure they're aware of the risks of the internet as well as its benefits.

7 MIND THE GAPS

There'll undoubtedly be some gaps in parental controls, no matter how thorough you intend to be. For example, if you use router-level parental controls, bear in mind that these won't cover Wi-Fi outside the home. For that reason, it's important to keep an open dialogue with children about the many unpalatable aspects of social media and the web.

8 KEEP THINGS SECURE

Some children can react poorly to parental controls and feel tempted to circumvent them. It's important to ensure that the passwords to these settings remain unknown to children, otherwise they can easily modify the restrictions without you knowing. Similarly, make sure your phone isn't left unlocked and unattended.

9 REVIEW CONTROLS REGULARLY

Parental controls shouldn't be a 'set and forget' deal. Not only can parental summaries provide you with a frequent overview of a child's digital life – so let you spot any warning signs – but companies often add new features, and some of these may be useful to enable (or disable). Regularly checking in ensures that if a child has found a way to wiggle out of the controls, you'll be the first to know.

10 KNOW WHEN TO LET UP

The parental controls you install on a computer for a seven-year-old probably wouldn't be appropriate for a child of 16 – and as young people approach adulthood, bubble wrapping the internet can do more harm than good. Consider relaxing parental controls as children get older, so they can learn to manage the risks of the internet themselves, without so many training wheels.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist and the former deputy editor of technology and internet culture website Alphr. Now freelance, he has contributed articles to publications including the New Statesman, CNET, the Evening Standard, Wired, Rock Paper Shotgun, Gizmodo, Pocket Gamer, Stuff, T3, PC Pro, Macworld, TechRadar and Trusted Reviews.



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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.

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**ST LAURENCE SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION (PTA)**



DONATE 1 HOUR & MAKE AN IMPACT

We are aware that everyone works and having teenagers is a busy time. But a few hours of your time (regularly or adhoc) will make a huge difference. Scan the QR code and let us know how you can help.

WE NEED:

- People's time**
- Skills**
- Ideas**
- Cash donations**
- Uniform donations**

admin@st-laurence.com



The focus of the SLSA is to support well-being (mental, physical and financial) across the school community. To do this we need great people and great ideas to make the fundraising possible