

Parent / Carer Bulletin

Care • Inspire • Succeed

Week Commencing Monday 20th January 2025

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this message finds you well. I would like to take a moment to reflect on some important events and offer my thanks for your continued support.

First, I trust that the Year 11 Subject Evening went well for all who attended. It was a crucial opportunity for both students and parents to engage with subject teachers and discuss the next steps in their academic journey. As we approach the final stages of preparation for GCSE exams, your involvement and encouragement are vital in ensuring that our Year 11 students feel supported and confident in their choices. If you were unable to get an appointment, please don't hesitate to reach out to subject teachers for further advice or guidance.

In addition, I would like to acknowledge the ongoing Year 13 mock practicals. These assessments are a key part of their preparation for the upcoming summer exams, and I hope your child is benefiting from the focused feedback they are receiving. Our staff are working hard to provide the best possible support to help students achieve their full potential. I encourage you to check in with your child regularly to ensure they are managing their revision effectively and feeling prepared.

Looking ahead, I would like to invite you to our Year 9 Options Evening. This will be an important event for Year 9 students and their families as they begin to make decisions about their future academic pathways. We would greatly appreciate your attendance to help guide your child through the decision-making process. It is always a pleasure to see parents engaging in these pivotal moments of their child's education, and I am confident the evening will be both informative and valuable.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Mr Farrer

In this week's bulletin:

- Ambitious about Autism – free online webinar
- Half Term holiday food parcel support from The Hub
- New Literacy Programme starts this week
- Uniform sale date
- Cross Country Championships Results
- RSPCA Young Photographer Awards – showcasing former student Chris Wardell's award winning photographs
- Community News – Pages 10-12

.... And lots more!

WEEK B	CALENDAR - TERM 3
Monday 20 th January	•
Tuesday 21 st January	• Y13 Graphics Exam 8:35am – 3:00pm
Wednesday 22 nd January	• Y13 Practical Exams End
Thursday 23 rd January	• Y9 Options Evening 4:30pm – 7:00pm
Friday 24 th January	• Y13 Photography Exam 8:35am – 3:00pm • 6 th Form Bouldering Trip

WEEK A	
Monday 27 th January	•
Tuesday 28 th January	•
Wednesday 29 th January	•
Thursday 30 th January	• Y7 & Y9 Reports Issued
Friday 31 st January	•

From: Ms Barber – Assistant Headteacher

Wednesday 29th January at 7:30pm **Game on: Supporting neurodivergent children in the online world** [Ambitious about Autism](#), in partnership with [Internet Matters](#) and Roblox, is hosting a free online webinar for parents and carers of neurodivergent children and young people.



In this live session, you'll hear from a diverse panel of experts including online safety professionals, autism specialists, and a fellow parent sharing their personal experience.

The webinar will cover a range of important topics, such as:

- Understanding life online for neurodivergent children and young people
- Insights from the online gaming research project
- Practical tools and resources to help you support your neurodivergent child in the online gaming world
- Tips to help your child stay safe online

This session is interactive, with time set aside for questions.

To secure your free ticket for this external online event, please use this link:

[Game on: Supporting neurodivergent children in the online world Tickets, Wed 29 Jan 2025 at 19:30 | Eventbrite](#)

School Bus from/to Paxcroft Mead and Hilperton

Due to an increase in the number of students using the SL1 Beeline Coach, students with weekly tickets and return tickets are given priority before students using the service for a single journey.

We recommend alternative plans are considered for the occasional user as seats cannot be guaranteed.

From: Mr Hainsworth – Assistant Headteacher

Food Parcels for February half term from The Hub, Bradford on Avon



The Hub have asked us to share with you that they are supplying food parcels for families who may need them for the February half term period.

If you or your family need support with food during this period, please complete this short survey to request a parcel.

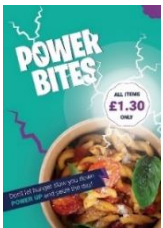
The deadline for requests is by **9:00am on Friday 31st January** to allow The Hub time to collate and distribute the parcels for half term.

If you would prefer to remain anonymous, we understand that but would encourage you to speak directly with The Hub about your food parcel. They can be contact via the details on their website here:

[Contact — Bradford on Avon Hub](#)

The survey should take no longer than 3 or 4 minutes. <https://forms.office.com/e/w3qf6cxmBj>

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: Miss Browne - Literacy Coordinator

Lexonik Advance: New six-week Literacy Programme



We are delighted to announce that our newly appointed Reading Mentor, Mrs Edwards, will start delivering a new six-week programme called Lexonik Advance.

This highly regarded package is taught to small groups of students and is aimed at boosting their vocabulary and spelling across subject areas. The programme is aimed at students within a broad mid-ability range and sessions are fast-paced and fun. The programme has been shown to improve reading age by up to 27 months and teaches how to decode and use language from across the subject areas. We hope it will benefit students in all their lessons. The first round of students have been selected based on data and staff input. More information can be found here: <https://lexonik.co.uk/solutions/lexonik-advance>

The programme will be taught in groups of four students from the same LG. The timetable has been designed so students do not miss core subjects and will only miss 3 non-core subject lessons. We hope this will minimise missed learning from the main curriculum and that students will be able to apply their learning when they return to their usual classes. The first round of the programme will start in the week commencing Monday 20th January.

From: Mrs Rhodes - Director of Learning and Progress KS3

Year 9 Parents/Carers

The Year 9 Subject Consultation Meetings will take place virtually (SchoolCloud) on Thursday 6th February 2:30pm – 7:30pm. A letter will be sent home on Monday with information on how the system works. Bookings open at 7:00am on Thursday 23rd January. Appointment slots get filled up quickly, so please make this a priority

From: Careers Team

Work Experience Forms

Thank you to those Year 10 and 12 students who have returned their completed work experience forms.

The deadline date for their return is

Monday 10th March

If you have any questions or need any help please contact careers@st-laurence.com

We are reaching out to you with an urgent request for support

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

UNIFORM SALE

Our sale of pre-loved uniform is taking place on:

Wednesday 12th February

4:00pm – 6:00pm

Trinity Hall

We are most grateful for donations of uniform in good, clean condition which can be dropped off at Reception during school hours.

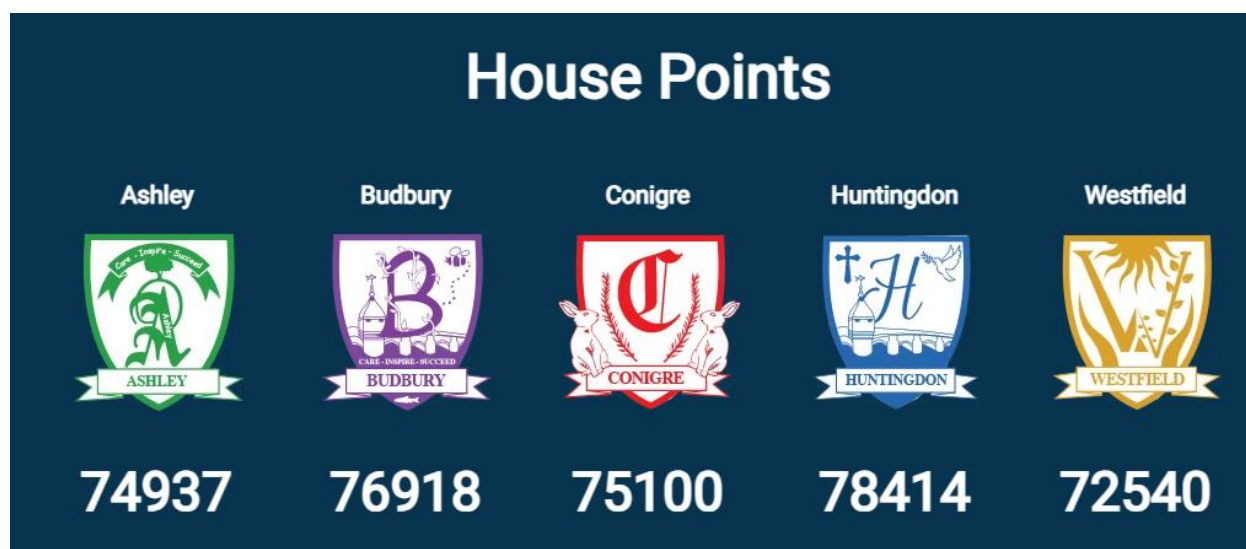


DO YOU KNOW...?

There is a parent run Facebook page dedicated to buying, selling or swapping uniform.

Join the group at: **St Laurence Buy Sell Swap School Items / Uniform**

House Points



From: English Department

The importance of reading

When we study subjects at school, we cannot learn effectively without a good understanding of the language of those subjects. When we study Biology, we are not just studying plants and animals: we are studying **language about** plants and animals.

We know that students who **read widely, and read for pleasure**, tend to learn more in their school subjects, and do better in those subjects, than students who do not. Reading widely increases our knowledge about the world, improves our vocabulary, and opens our minds to a great range of ideas about how we live.

At St Laurence, we study whole literary texts in English lessons in all years. We also make access to the ILC available in order to choose reading books, and we try to encourage students to have a reading book on the go at all times – whether this is the latest novel in a series that students have been reading, a biography of a sporting hero, or a collection of short stories.

We recognise that not everyone will enjoy every book but we know that there is “a book for everyone”. As such, we actively encourage students to discover and explore a range of books, and the ILC has lots of books with stories that cover the whole human experience. We want to challenge our students to develop their own reading journeys, and in doing so increase their insight, empathy and understanding of the wider world.

It’s important for students to experiment with what they read – for them not to get stuck in a rut or read books that are too easy. The staff in the ILC have an exceptional knowledge of all kinds of books that students will enjoy! The ILC runs competitions and events throughout the year, and these are particularly good at suggesting next steps or new challenges for reading.

St Laurence Reads is a weekly tutorial activity where everyone in the school reads the same book and discusses it, this helps to underline how important we think reading is at St Laurence.

Reading isn’t just something for English lessons: being a good, fluent reader helps students across school – and in **their whole life**. And, aside from this, in a world that can be dominated by the consumption of fleeting digital snippets, the feeling of getting immersed in a good book is simply one of the most **calming, rewarding and enjoyable** there is.

We have produced, with help from colleagues in the ILC, the following wider reading lists that complement the schemes of learning that years 7, 8 and 9 are respectively following at this point in the academic year. We hope your children can enjoy some of these.

English Wider Reading at St Laurence

Year 7
Term 3 and 4
Stories from the Past



Arthur – High King of Britain – Michael Morpurgo
 Arthur – The Seeing Stone – Kevin Crossley-Holland
 Here Lies Arthur – Philip Reeve
 The Short Knife – Elen Caldecott
 Under a Dancing Sky – Laura Wood
 Dragons at Crumbling Castle – Terry Pratchett
 The Mab – Matt Brown and Eloise Williams
 The Highwayman – Alfred Noyes
 The Fool's Girl – Celia Rees
 Young Merlin – Tony Bradman
 King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table – Roger Lancelyn Green

More of a challenge

The Once and Future King – TH White
 Kidnapped – Robert Louis Stevenson
 Treasure Island – Robert Louis Stevenson
 The Bride's Farewell – Nicola Morgan
 King of Shadows – Susan Cooper
 Legendborn – Tracy Deonn



English Wider Reading at St Laurence

Year 8
Term 3 and 4
Reading the World



The Child's Elephant – Rebecca Campbell-Johnson
 The Wall – William Sutcliffe
 The Kin – Peter Dickinson
 Siberia – Ann Halam
 The Explorer – Katherine Rundell
 Running on the Roof of the World – Jess Butterworth
 Swimming against the Storm – Jess Butterworth
 When Stars are Scattered – Omar Mohamed
 When Life gives you Mangoes – Kereen Getten
 Bone Talk – Candy Gourlay
 The Green Bicycle – Haifaa Al Mousir
 The Middle of Nowhere – Geraldine McCaughrean
 Firekeeper's Daughter – Angeline Bouley
 Everyone Dies Famous in a Small Town – Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock
 Kidnap in the Caribbean – Lauren St John

More of a challenge

Noughts and Crosses – Malorie Blackman
 Jock of the Bushveld – Percy Fitzpatrick
 Spud – John Van De Ruit
 The Call of the Wild – Jack London
 The Unforgotten Coat – Frank Cottrell Boyce
 The Princess and the Foal – Stacy Gregg
 Echo Mountain – Lauren Wolk



English Wider Reading at St Laurence

Year 9
Term 3 and 4
Conflict



War Horse - Michael Morpurgo
 Private Peaceful - Michael Morpurgo
 The Silver Sword - Ian Serraillier
 The Machine Gunners – Robert Westall
 Postcards from No Man's Land – Aidan Chambers
 Goodnight Mr Tom - Michelle Magorian
 Soldier Dog - Sam Angus
 The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas - John Boyne
 Maus - Art Spiegelman
 Carrie's War – Nina Bowden
 I am David - Anne Holm
 Code Name Verity – Elizabeth Wein
 In Darkness – Nick Lake
 The Skylark's War – Hilary McKay
 The Swallow's Flight – Hilary McKay
 When the world was ours – Liz Kessler
 After the War – Tom Palmer
 D-Day Dog – Tom Palmer
 Orphan Monster Spy – Matt Killeen
 Five Children on the Western Front – Kate Saunders
 They Called Us the Enemy - George Takei
 The Red Ribbon - Lucy Adlington

More of a challenge

All Quiet on the Western Front, Erich Maria Remarque
 Letters from a Lost Generation – Vera Brittan
 The Book Thief – Marcus Zusak



From: PE Department

Wiltshire Schools Cross Country Championship results

A huge congratulations to all of the runners who represent West Wiltshire and St Laurence school in the county championships last Saturday. Their fantastic achievements are shared below:

Year 7 girls Lotta Clarke - 30 th	Year 7 boys Freddie Makin - 21st Remy Pilkington - 22nd Toby Reed - 28 th Freddie Dowding - 39 th
Junior girls (Year 8/9) Amelia Makin - 18 th Tess Beatson - 41st Silva Gaines - 46 th Leah Burgess Forero - 47 th	Junior boys (Year 8/9) Ben Roberts - 11 th Gilbert Jackson - 17 th Peter Yeomans - 25 th
Intermediate girls (Year 10/11) Freya Newman - 31st Lilou Gagneux - 34 th Jessica Lewis - 36 th	Intermediate boys (Year 10/11) Marc Goulding - 16 th Noah Read - 19 th

Sent on behalf of: Lord Fitzmaurice Educational Foundation

The Lord Fitzmaurice Educational Foundation is a local charity that provides grants to local schools, groups and individuals in and around Bradford on Avon, with the objective of promoting and supporting education, in its broadest sense, to children and young adults aged 25 years and under.

The Foundation is administered by eight trustees who meet formally once a year.

The Foundation was set up when the assets of Fitzmaurice Grammar School, which was situated in Junction Road, were sold after the amalgamation with Trinity Secondary Modern school in 1980 to form St Laurence Comprehensive. The Foundation is a joint founder of the school together with the Church of England.

The trustees of the foundation play an active role at St Laurence, two of whom serve as School Governors and one who sits on the Academy Board.

The trustees, historically, have an association with the grammar school either being an ex-pupil or member of staff, however, going forward, the Lord Fitzmaurice Educational Foundation want to increase the number of trustees and appoint a representative(s) of the wider community to ensure the educational ethos of the foundation continues in the future.

If you have an interest in the education and support of young people in the town and would like to become a trustee of the foundation please contact, via email, Lloyd Stephens: lordfitzmaurice1980@gmail.com for further information.

RSPCA Young Photographers Award

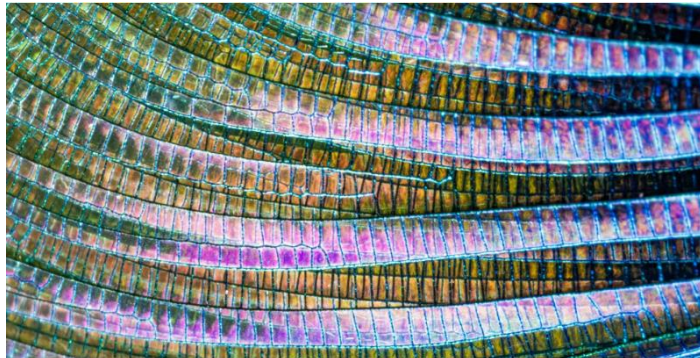
Former student, Chris Wardell, won in 2 categories, and was Commended in 2 others with these stunning photographs



“Fox in Backlit Motif” - Winner (Portfolio)



“A Spider Silhouetted in the Reflection of the Rising Sun”
– Winner (Small World)



“The Rainbow Wing” - Commended (Small World)



“Urban Fox Quenching It’s Thirst from a Street Puddle” –
Commended (City Life)



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



BOA
youth
DROP-IN

Discover Christ Church!
COMMUNITY | DISCOVERY | RESTORATION

Christ Church
Bradford-on-Avon

Every Thursday, term-time only
From 3pm – 4pm

- Enjoy hot chocolates, snacks & games
- Activities with a heritage twist
- Safe, warm and welcoming
- Space to relax and chat

All are welcome!

For more info, email becky.strike@discoverchristchurch.org.uk



Community Donations



With grateful thanks to our funders



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
St Laurence School
CALM • INSPIRE • SUCCESS

Discover Christ Church!
COMMUNITY | DISCOVERY | RESTORATION

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
Dementia Action Alliance

CONVERSATION & CRAFT

CHRIST CHURCH, BRADFORD-ON-AVON

2025 DATES ✂ 1.30PM - 3PM

WED 22 JAN	WED 26 FEB	WED 26 MAR	WED 14 MAY
WED 12 FEB	WED 12 MAR	WED 23 APR	WED 18 JUN

DELICIOUS CAKES

HOT DRINKS

FRIENDLY CHAT

GAMES & QUIZZES

VARIETY OF CRAFT

Free community event - all welcome



Community Donations



With grateful thanks to our funders



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY LEARNING: SCHOOL ANXIETY COURSES PATHWAYS

What are the signs that your child is struggling with school attendance?

We offer a number of courses that may be helpful.

Please take a look at these pathways to see which course/s
might be best for your family.

Contact our friendly team for more information on:

01225 770478

familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk

workwiltshire.co.uk/family-and-community-learning



- Child expresses worries and/or a dislike about school.
- Trouble getting child into school, but mostly manage to do so even if a little late.
- Child complains of physical symptoms when not wanting to go to school.
- Child speaks negatively about school.
- Child is receiving ELSA/pastoral support from school.

- Child has attendance lower than 94% (unless due to diagnosed physical illness).
- Child regularly has days off school when not physically unwell.
- Child has had CAMHS involvement relevant to school avoidance.
- Child is on a flexible/part-time school timetable already.
- Child is avoiding school for reasons other than emotional wellbeing or anxiety.



Suggested courses:

- **Understanding School Anxiety:** the early signs of Emotionally Based School Avoidance
- **Helping My Child with Anxiety and Worry**
- **Supporting My Teen with Wellbeing**

Suggested courses:

- **Helping My Child with Anxiety and Worry**
- **Supporting My Teen with Wellbeing**

Other support:

Individual support from CAMHS, MNERS, EWO, hcrng, Family Hubs and school.



Bradford on Avon's Repair Cafe

Around the back at
The Masonic Hall ~ Wallington Hall
 Church Street, Bradford on Avon
 Please park responsibly and legally

Saturday 18th January
1000 - 1230

Saturday 15th February
1000 - 1230

Saturday 15th March
1000 - 1230

Refreshments available

Donations are welcome and needed to cover costs. Repairs are limited to 2 items per person due to high demand. Simple sewing repairs only, not alterations.

General enquires: boa@shareandrepair.org.uk
 For specific questions about what can be repaired
 phone: 07963 878319
 Facebook Group: "BoA Share and Repair"



CIO reg no. 1189015

Could you provide a loving home for a rescue dog?

The Channel 4 series, The Dog House is looking for couples, individuals, friends and families who are seriously considering bringing a rescue dog into their lives and are willing to share their reasons for doing so.

Please follow this link to apply: [The Dog House | Channel 4](https://www.channel4.com/4viewers/takepart/the-dog-house) or email thedoghouse@fivemilefilms.co.uk



HOLDING OUT FOR A HERO

**COULD YOU
RESCUE A DOG?**

ON CHANNEL 4'S
HIT SHOW

the
Dog House

APPLY NOW

WWW.CHANNEL4.COM/4VIEWERS/TAKEPART/THE-DOG-HOUSE