



Week Commencing Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024

## Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that if you attended the post 16 options evening this week that you found it informative. It was great to see so many students and parents there along with a really high number of external students as well. If you have any more questions about the process, please do contact the 6<sup>th</sup> Form team.

I also wanted to share my joy at spending the day with the cast of Macbeth and watching them perform at the Merlin Theatre in Frome on Wednesday evening. They were just brilliant and fantastic ambassadors for the school

Thank you, Mr Farrer

WEEK B	CALENDAR - TERM 2
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GCSE Mock Exams Begin</li> <li></li> </ul>
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U12 Girls Football County Cup Fixture 12:30pm – 5:30pm; NBR (Swindon Academy)</li> <li>Y7 Online Parent/Carer Information Assessment and Reporting 5:30pm – 6:15pm</li> </ul>
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Y7, 10 &amp; 12 Tutor Review</li> <li>Y8 &amp; Y9 Reports Issued</li> </ul>
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children in Need Non Uniform Day</li> <li>Y7, 10 &amp; 12 Tutor Review</li> <li>Y8 &amp; Y9 Reports issued</li> <li>6th Form Crime Scene to Courtroom Day 9:00am – 3:00pm; NBT (S1, S2)</li> </ul>

## Dates to Remember

Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Y12/13 Science Trip Y8 Boys Rugby Waterfall Tournament
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Y13 Subject Evening
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Y 11 Mocks Written Exams end

## **From: Mr Hainsworth - Assistant Headteacher**

### **Feedback from parents/carers of Y10 & Y11 students**

We are in the process of planning the KS4 options evening for January 2025 for the current Y9 and we would like to gather some feedback on how we have run the evening for the past two years.

If you have a child in Y10 or Y11 who you attended the options evening with and you would like to offer your thoughts, please can you complete this survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/cizGY91YNs>

## **From: The Careers Team**

Live Webinar for Year 11 parents and carers: What are the choices for students after Year 11?

**Wednesday 20th November 2024, 6:00pm -7:00pm (via Teams).**

Last week, Year 11 students took part in a carousel of talks regarding the choices available to them after GCSEs. Now we invite parents and carers of Year 11 students to join us for an opportunity to learn more.

A promotional graphic for a Career Pilot webinar. The background is dark blue. On the left, the text 'Career Pilot' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below it, in a smaller white font, is 'Live webinar for Year 11 parents and carers:'. Underneath that, in a bold white font, is 'What are the choices for students after Year 11?'. At the bottom left, a white URL is provided: 'https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/parent-zone/choices-at-16'. On the right side, there is a circular image of a young woman with dark hair, wearing a light-colored top, looking thoughtful with her hand to her chin. The background of this circle is white with several black question marks. Surrounding the woman are four white thought bubbles, each containing a question: 'School or College?' (top left), 'Technical or vocational course? T-levels?' (top right), 'A-levels?' (bottom left), and 'Apprenticeship?' (bottom right).

The webinar will explain:

- pathways Year 11 students can choose and what they need to be thinking about
- where their choices could take them in the future, including the many routes to degree level study, apprenticeships and courses at college
- the key points to bear in mind and explain how to use Career Pilot to find out lots more – so you can effectively support your young person in making a positive progression decision

The session will be run by Careers Advisers from the Career Pilot Team based at the University of Bath.

[Click here to book your place](#)

### **From: Mrs Baldwin – Outdoor Education Coordinator**

#### **Gold Duke of Edinburgh - Year 12 students**

The deadline for programme planners is on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November. Completed Planners can be returned to S1 or Student Reception. Students have been emailed the relevant information.

#### **Year 7 Farm Trip Feedback**

After another successful year at the farm, we would like feedback regarding your child's experience of the trip. Please complete the short questionnaire linked below.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=PDGYhH1FF0aVVn0XJ5MMZue-wT8hfyVFsk6ICu2ZPDxUNFY4TURRMTc4QUplNDUxVTI3TDU5UzIZVy4u>

Thank you in advance for your time.

### **From: The ELSA Team**

ELSA's are looking to replace some of their well-used games for student use in the DEN.

The games must be complete with no broken pieces and robust enough to withstand daily use. If anyone has any games which they would be willing to donate - such as Connect 4, Guess Who, Kerplunk, Kanoodle, UNO, Deal or no Deal or any other popular board games and puzzles, we would appreciate them.

Donations can be dropped off at Reception.

Many thanks from the ELSA's.

### **From: The Food Team**

The Food Department currently has a large quantity of unnamed small plastic tubs which have been left behind after lessons. Can all tubs be name labelled so that they can be returned to their owners.

Sadly, any that we can't return will be sent to recycling due to lack of storage space for them all.

Many thanks, The Food Team.

### **From: Ms Eyles – Head of Dance**

#### **Bath Forum Dance Notice**

West Wiltshire Schools Sports Partnership Dance Festival "It's in the Game" takes place at The Bath Forum, St. James Parade, Bath, BA1 1UG on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

Tickets can be booked online at [bathforum.co.uk](http://bathforum.co.uk) or via the box office on 0844 888 9991. A maximum of 8 tickets can be booked per transaction.

Tickets go on sale Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 9:00am. Tickets prices have remained the same as last year Adults - £8.50, children, OAPs and concessions - £5.00 (exc. fees). Please book early to avoid disappointment as the event has been sold out early in previous years.

### **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)

## Children in Need non-school uniform day Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November

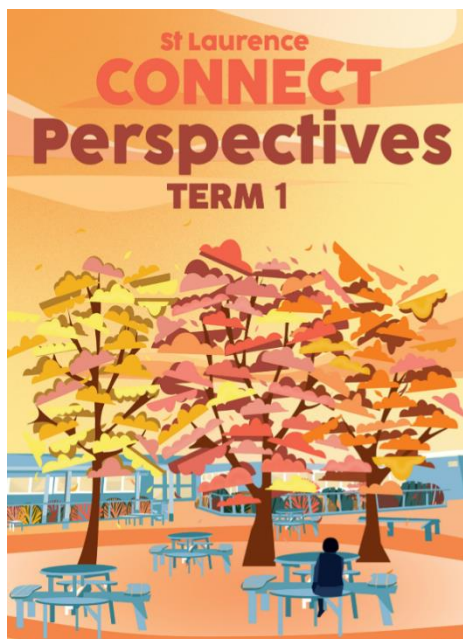


Students are holding our annual fund raiser in aid of Children in Need with a non-school uniform day.

Participating students must adhere with the 6<sup>th</sup> Form dress code: [fe5050\\_f6736ded580f4853a16f357870bfd51.pdf \(st-laurence.com\)](https://fe5050_f6736ded580f4853a16f357870bfd51.pdf)

A contribution of £1 can be paid through Parent Pay and all money raised will be donated to Children in Need.

## Connect School Magazine New Issue – Ms Browne and Mr Bruten



The new issue of our student-led school magazine Connect is now available online at: [Connect Term 1 2024 Perspectives \(adobe.com\)](https://connect-term-1-2024-perspectives.adobe.com)

This edition is packed with the latest news, events, interviews and features from our school community and beyond.

Inside you can read about some of our new members of staff, go behind the scenes at rehearsals for the school production of Macbeth, find out what a group of 6<sup>th</sup> formers did on the Zanzibar trip and read student views on fast fashion, lowering the voting age and St Laurence itself.

We also catch up with two former students who are now finding success, one as a doctor and the other as an online comedian and content maker.

The magazine showcases some of the best student writing, photography and design at the school. We hope you enjoy it. If you have a story for Connect, please email [heabro@st-laurence.com](mailto:heabro@st-laurence.com) or [ricbru@st-laurence.com](mailto:ricbru@st-laurence.com)

St Laurence School

# Carol Service



Holy Trinity Church, Bradford-on-Avon

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024

7:00pm



# PE Clubs – Term 2



Day	Club	Location	Staff Member
<b>Monday</b>	Trampolining (Invite only)	Sports Hall	Mrs Voutt
<b>Tuesday</b>	SLS Leadership Academy	Gym	Mr Carter
	Girls Football	Field	Mr Burrows, Mr Restorick, Mr Povoas, Mr Gregory, Mr Abrahams
	U14 Boys Football (Invite Only)	Field	Mr Woodburn
	Hockey	Astro	Mrs Voutt
<b>Wednesday</b>	KS4 Badminton (Week A Only)	Sports Hall	Mr Woodburn
<b>Thursday</b>	Netball (All Years)	Astro/Courts	Mr Carter, Miss Rose, Miss Bryer, Mr Westley, Mr Povoas
	KS3 Rugby	Field	Mr Oaten, Mr Burrows, Mr Restorick
	Table Tennis (All Years)	Gym	Mr Quantrill
<b>Friday</b>	KS3 Badminton	Sports Hall	Mr Oaten

# Timetable of Y11 Mock Written Examinations in Sports Hall (11-22 November 2024)

Mon, 11 Nov week B	Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	German Listening – 1h05m (Lecture Theatre) French Reading - 1h30m	Early Lunch	Session 2 Exam	Geography UK Paper 2 - 1h30m
Tue, 12 Nov	Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	Maths Paper 1 (non-calculator) - 1h	Early Lunch	Session 2 Exam	Combined Science Biology - 1h15m Separate Science Biology - 1h45m
Wed, 13 Nov	Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	RE Ethics – 1h30m	Early Lunch	Session 2 Exam	Business - 1h45m
Thu, 14 Nov	Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	History Paper 1 - 2h	Lesson 3	Session 2 Exam	English Language – 1h45m
Fri, 15 Nov	Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	Computer Science paper 1 - 1h30m Design Technology - 2h Food - 1h45m Sociology – 1h45m Music - 1h45m (Lecture Theatre)	Normal lesson	Session 2 Exam	French Listening – 1h05m (Lecture Theatre) German Reading - 1h30m
Mon, 18 Nov	Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	Maths Paper 2 (calculator) - 1h	Lesson 3	Session 2 Exam	Combined Science Chemistry - 1h15m Separate Science Chemistry – 1h45m
Tue, 19 Nov	Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	English Literature - 1h	Lesson 3	Session 2 Exam	Computer Science paper 2 - 1h30m Dance - 1h30m Drama - 1h45m PE - 1h15m
Wed, 20 Nov	Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	History Paper 2 - 1h	Lesson 3	Session 2 Exam	Combined Science Physics - 1h15m Separate Science Physics– 1h45m
Thu, 21 Nov	Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	Maths Paper 3 (calculator) - 1h	Lesson 3	Session 2 Exam	German Writing – 1h40m French Writing - 1h40m
Fri, 22 Nov	Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	Geography Global Paper 1 - 1h	Lesson 3	Session 2 Exam	Catch-Up

Y11 Mock Timetable Winter 2024 (General)

# Online Safety

## Online Parenting Courses - Family Lives

Being a parent has never been easy. There are no manuals for it, and previous generations may not be able to provide the insight you're looking for. The family unit is more dispersed than ever, with some families existing hundreds of miles from what may be called a 'core unit'. The rapid pace of societal change in the UK rapidly outstrips the knowledge of the immediate past. The result is that many parents may find themselves lost in a maelstrom of contradictory advice. For adults, time has never been more compacted.

Family Lives has produced a series of online parenting courses, to make this challenge a little easier. If interested please follow the link below:

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help/online-parenting-courses>

Family Lives offers a confidential and free\* helpline service for families in England and Wales (previously known as Parentline). They can be contacted on 0808 800 2222 for emotional support, information, advice and guidance on any aspect of parenting and family life. Their website is also a rich source of useful support and advice.

(\* Free from landlines and most mobiles)

**10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators**  
**ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO CHOOSE RESPECT**

Sometimes, differences between children can escalate into bullying, potentially impacting their mental health in a way that can persist into adulthood. While it's natural to disagree sometimes, teaching children the importance of respect is essential – especially in difficult situations. This guide provides strategies for encouraging respectful behaviour, even during a dispute, to foster a kinder, more inclusive environment for everyone.

- 1 LEAD BY EXAMPLE**  
As adults, we play a crucial role in modelling respectful behaviour for children. They observe and learn from what we do every day. Be mindful of the way you interact with others, even in front of your children. A culture of mutual respect, even if you disagree, will be more likely to be adopted by your children.
- 2 AGREE TO DISAGREE**  
Make sure children know that it's fine to have differing opinions – and that disagreeing with someone doesn't mean you can't get on or respect each other's space. Encourage them to express their opinions and to listen to others. Encourage them to agree to disagree, using words like 'I see your point, but I see it differently'.
- 3 PROMOTE ACTIVE LISTENING**  
Teach children about the importance of active listening. This involves giving someone your full attention, without interrupting or jumping in with your own thoughts. Encourage them to repeat back what they've heard to ensure they've understood correctly.
- 4 ENCOURAGE THE USE OF 'I' STATEMENTS**  
Encourage children to use 'I' statements when they disagree. This means expressing their own feelings and needs, rather than blaming others. For example, 'I feel upset when you talk over me' instead of 'You're always talking over me'.
- 5 FOCUS ON BEHAVIOUR, NOT CHARACTER**  
When disagreements happen, encourage children to focus on addressing the specific behaviour, rather than attacking the person's character. For example, 'I don't like when you speak over me' instead of 'You're a rude person'.
- 6 STAY CALM AND TAKE BREAKS**  
It's particularly important to stay calm during a disagreement – especially if it's getting heated. Take a break if you need it. Encourage children to do the same. This can help to de-escalate the situation and allow everyone to think more clearly.
- 7 START CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RESPECT**  
Take opportunities to talk about respect in everyday life. Discuss how they might feel if someone is disrespectful to them. Encourage them to be respectful to others, even if they disagree.
- 8 SEEK COMMON GROUND**  
When a disagreement has occurred between children, they may find it hard to move past it. Help them to find common ground. Encourage them to think about what they both like or agree on. This can help to build a bridge between their differing views.
- 9 AVOID MAKING THINGS PERSONAL**  
It's important that we make it clear to children that disagreements are about behaviour, not about who they are as a person. Encourage them to focus on the specific behaviour that is causing the disagreement, rather than making personal attacks.
- 10 REFLECT AND LEARN**  
After a child has had a disagreement, encourage them to reflect on the experience and think about what they can learn from it. Encourage them to think about how they might improve their communication skills in the future.

Meet Our Expert  
The Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) is an anti-bullying charity that works to prevent and reduce the impact of bullying on children, young people and adults. They provide support and advice to schools, parents and young people. They also provide support and advice to young people who have been bullied.

Wake Up Wednesday  
The National College

**10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators**  
**SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO BUILD EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE**

With increasing societal pressures, many children struggle with managing emotions, facing challenges and processing failure in a healthy way. This is why building emotional resilience in young people is vital for their mental health and personal success. This guide provides practical strategies for parents and educators to help children develop resilience and foster confidence, adaptability and a positive mindset.

- 1 ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION**  
Regularly engaging children in open dialogue is key to building emotional resilience. Encourage them to share their thoughts and feelings freely without judgement. Set aside some time, perhaps during dinner, to ask open-ended questions such as 'What's your favourite hobby?' This encourages children to express themselves openly.
- 2 MODEL POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR**  
Children often learn how to manage emotions by observing adults. By modelling calm and positive responses to challenges, you can teach them effective emotional management skills. For example, if you've had a difficult day, verbalise how you're feeling and explain how you plan to handle it, such as 'I'm a bit worked-up, so I'm going for a walk to clear my mind'.
- 3 TEACH PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS**  
Helping children break down challenges into manageable steps is a key technique. Explain that every problem has a solution, even if it's not immediately obvious. For example, if a child is stuck on a homework task, suggest they try breaking it into smaller steps, saying things like 'Let's focus on just this first question for now'.
- 4 FOSTER A GROWTH MINDSET**  
Encourage young people to view mistakes as learning opportunities. A growth mindset helps them see setbacks as a part of the process, rather than something to be upset about. After a child loses a game or performs poorly on a test, for example, ask them what they've learned from the experience. This reinforces the idea that effort – and not failure – leads to improvement.
- 5 PROMOTE SELF-CARE PRACTICES**  
Teaching children about self-care helps them understand the importance of balancing work with relaxation to maintain emotional wellbeing. Parents and carers could start a screen-free hour before bedtime where the family engages in relaxing activities like reading, listening to music or taking a walk together.
- 6 BUILD HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS**  
Strong relationships with peers and adults provide a support system that builds resilience. Encourage positive, reciprocal interactions to develop social skills. Praise or group activities can be instrumental in teaching children how to resolve conflicts with healthy modelling and practicing calm communication.
- 7 SUPPORT EMOTIONAL AWARENESS**  
Helping children to identify and name their emotions allows them to manage those feelings more effectively. When a child is upset, encourage them to talk to you about what they're feeling in an empathetic and supportive manner, and ask them why they might be experiencing these emotions.
- 8 ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENCE**  
Giving children opportunities to make their own decisions builds confidence and problem-solving skills. A good example of this would be letting children choose and pack their own clothes for school, guiding them with options but allowing them to take ownership responsibility for the task to help them take ownership.
- 9 DEVELOP COPING STRATEGIES**  
Teaching children techniques like mindfulness, deep breathing or journaling can help them to manage stress. Show them how to perform breathing exercises when they're feeling anxious, and practice this regularly. Encourage them to use these techniques if they ever feel stressed during stressful moments.
- 10 CELEBRATE SMALL WINS**  
Recognising effort, no matter how small, reinforces persistence and encourages children to keep trying. After a child completes a difficult task, praise them for their effort or resilience. Another type of personal goal practice that offers emotional and social skills is to just to let them know how proud you are.





**The Footlights**  
Present  
A Family Pantomime

The Dragonfly Theatre  
Writhlington School,  
Radstock, BA3 3NQ

Adults £14  
Concessions £12

**Dick Whittington**

Friday 22nd November 7pm  
Saturday 23rd November 2pm & 7pm  
Sunday 24th November 10:30am & 3pm

Book your tickets: [ticketsource.co.uk/the-footlights](https://ticketsource.co.uk/the-footlights)  
Tel: 01225 752030  
Email: [thefootlightstrowbridge@outlook.com](mailto:thefootlightstrowbridge@outlook.com)



**Julian House**  
The home of opportunity

**At Julian House, our community is our greatest strength.**

Your support this Christmas can help to sustain our services and expand our impact to help individuals who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Heading into 2025 funding for much-needed homelessness services is at risk. With deep cuts to public funding now a very real threat, Julian House relies on community fundraising to keep our doors open.

As we celebrate the festive season, we are inviting our community to consider donating to the Julian House Christmas Appeal. It is only through the continued generosity of our supporters that we can keep our services running and ensure that no one is left behind.

Thank you for all your amazing support.

Please email [gavin.osborn@julianhouse.org.uk](mailto:gavin.osborn@julianhouse.org.uk) if you need any help with your fundraising.



**Mental Elf**  
Festive Fun Run  
SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2024

**SOUTHWICK COUNTRY PARK**

## Festive Fun Run 2024 – join us and help raise much needed funds!

Kick start your festive season by joining us at Southwick Country Park on Sunday 8th December for a 5km Mental Elf family fun run, and help to raise awareness and funds for mental health support in your community.

### Mental Elf is coming to Wiltshire for the first time!

Pull on your best running kit or festive fancy dress and join us for our first Wiltshire Mind Mental Elf fun run. You can run, walk, jog or skip your way around the 5km course. The whole family can take part.

Our services are low cost and most don't need a referral. We rely on fundraising and donations to meet our financial shortfall in providing these services. By donating to our Mental Elf campaign or sponsoring someone who is taking part, you are helping to ensure we can continue our work. All funds raised during Mental Elf will stay here in Wiltshire to help support the vital services supporting people with their mental health.

Thank you to all our elves and to everyone who sponsors them. Together we can ensure no one has to face their mental health struggles alone.

For more information and to register, [click here for our Eventbrite Page](#).



## 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](https://facebook.com/StLaurenceSch)



[instagram.com/stlaurencesch/](https://instagram.com/stlaurencesch/)



[twitter.com/stlaurencesch](https://twitter.com/stlaurencesch)

[www.st-laurence.com](http://www.st-laurence.com)