

Parent / Carer Bulletin

Care • Inspire • Succeed

Week Commencing Monday 2nd December 2024

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your patience with the school closure on Monday and Tuesday and I do hope that you have not been personally affected by the flooding. It was shocking to see Bradford on the news and hear the stories of people having to be evacuated. Year 11s have been affected as we have had to move some of the practical mock exams. The details for when these will now happen will be circulated so you are aware.

The closure does bring into question the growing need to become as resilient as possible to the impact of climate change. Having such little notice of the need to close means that we are not able to set up online lessons as we did during Covid but we will be working on developing the tasks that we set on MCAS.

Our Carol Service is on 2nd December, starting at 7:00pm in Holy Trinity. It is much earlier this year, right at the start of Advent, and it would be lovely to see you there and celebrate the talents of our students

Mr Farrer

In this week's bulletin:

- 6th Form Applications - **extended deadline**
- Updated CAT's timetable
- Black Rock information
- Praise for Macbeth at the Shakespeare Schools Festival
- Lost property collection information
- Sports News – Results and Fixtures
- Community News – Safety advice from Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service

.... And lots more!

WEEK A	CALENDAR - TERM 2
Monday 2nd December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y7 Carol Service Rehearsal & Performance • Y11 French Speaking Mock Exam • School Carol Service at Holy Trinity Church
Tuesday 3rd December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y7-11 Nasal Flu Immunisations (students will be given their appointment time during tutorial) • Y11 French Speaking Mock Exam • Y11 Football Practical Moderation • Y11 Graphics Exam (rescheduled) • Pre-audition for Summer Production (Little Shop of Horrors)
Wednesday 4th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y11 Art Exam • Y11 Food Exam (rescheduled) • Y7 Boys Rugby Waterfall Tournament • U18 Boys County Cup • Y12/13 Psychology Brain Dissection
Thursday 5th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y11 German Mock Speaking Exam • Y13 Mock Interviews • Y9 Glass Workshops
Friday 6th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y11 Photography Exam

WEEK B	
Monday 9th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y7-11 Nasal Flu Immunisations (students will be given their appointment time during tutorial) • Y7-8 Glass Workshop
Tuesday 10th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y13 Criminology Q&A with Avon & Somerset Police Officer • Y10-11 visit to Bath Dance College • Y10 Glass Workshop
Wednesday 11th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Thursday 12th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear a Christmas Item day • Christmas Fair
Friday 13th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

From: Ms Favali and Mrs Butterworth

Social Sciences

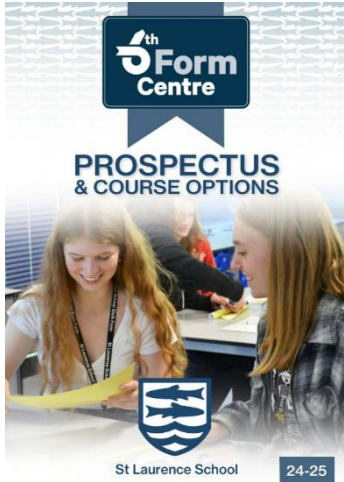
On **Wednesday 4th December** the Social Sciences department will be running a sheep brain dissection with those students who have signed up to attend. This will be taking place in T6 at 3:15pm.

Any questions please contact Ms Favali vanfav@st-laurence.com or Mrs Butterworth nicbut@st-laurence.com

From: Mr Blowers – Director of 6th Form

Year 11 Applications for St Laurence 6th Form

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,



The deadline for students applying for St Laurence 6th Form has been extended due to the recent poor weather:

New

**Deadline – Wednesday 4th December
3:00pm**

Applications are made via the electronic form here: [St Laurence School | Wiltshire](#)

A reminder of a few key points:

1. Students should opt for 3 subjects – Only one subject per option block
2. The option blocks can be found in the Prospectus that all students have received and also online here: [6th Form Prospectus | St Laurence School](#)
3. Students should opt for what they enjoy and think they can attain well in
4. We encourage the majority of the year group to apply, as they have the ability to cope with 3 x A levels
5. Remember, you can apply to several schools/colleges – so be sure to add us

We look forward to Year 11 students joining our 6th Form which was the “**Strongest attaining State 6th Form in Wiltshire**” again this year.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask us. Mr Blowers & 6th Form Team

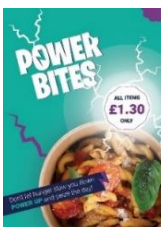
From: Mrs Baldwin – Outdoor Education Coordinator

Year 9 Black Rock Trip

If you have yet to complete the medical form for Black Rock, please can this be completed as soon as possible. It can either be emailed to helbal@st-laurence.com or students can put in the collection box just outside Reception.

If your child is **not** going on the trip, please email me.

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 \(st-laurence.com\)](#)

Y7 Cognitive Abilities Tests (CAT)

Timetable of the remaining CAT's and rescheduled sessions (highlighted in yellow)

7LG1	Date	P	Teacher	Subject	Rm
Test 2	Mon, 2/12	P3	Mr Peters	Info Technology	T14
Test 3	Tue, 10/12	P2	Ms Davies	Literacy Extra	ILC Lower

7LG2	Date	P	Teacher	Subject	Rm
Test 3	Tue, 3/12	P1	Mr Peters	Info Technology	T14

7LG3	Date	P	Teacher	Subject	Rm
Test 3	Mon, 2 Dec	P4	Mrs Curtis	Literacy Extra	ILC Lower

7LG4	Date	P	Teacher	Subject	Rm
Test 2	Thu, 5/12	P1	Dr Barclay	Info Technology	T13
Test 3	Fri, 6/12	P3	Miss Rose	PSHE	S3 to T13

7LG5	Date	P	Teacher	Subject	Rm
Test 2	Wed, 4/12	P3	Ms James	Literacy Extra	ILC Lower
Test 3	Mon, 9/12	P1	Miss Bryer	PSHE	T16 to T14

7LG6	Date	P	Teacher	Subject	Rm
Test 1	Mon, 2/12	P2	Ms Davies	Literacy Extra	ILC Lower
Test 2	Tue, 3/12	P4	Mr Peters	Info Technology	T14
Test 3	Wed, 4/12	P1	Mrs Rhodes	PSHE	T15 to T13

7LG7	Date	P	Teacher	Subject	Rm
Test 2	Mon, 9/12	P4	Mr Allen	PSHE	A1 to T14
Test 3	Wed, 11/12	P1	Mr Peters	Info Technology	T14

7LG8	Date	P	Teacher	Subject	Rm
Test 2	Thu, 5/12	P5	Mr Westley	Literacy Extra	ILC Lower
Test 3	Mon, 9/12	P2	Mr Abrahams	PSHE	A3 to T14

From: Mrs Nash – Head of Drama

We were delighted to receive our official appraisal notes from the Shakespeare Schools Festival - they were very complimentary and, once again, our thanks and congratulations to the whole cast and crew.

We are now turning our attention to the National Theatre Connections Festival. Our performance of Alys Metcalf's brand new play 'You 2.0' will be performed in school and at the Weston Studios, Bristol Old Vic next year. Rehearsals start on Thursday 28th November for our Year 10 GCSE students. More details coming home soon.

"SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES"

Macbeth
by St Laurence School
at Merfin, 06/11/2024
appraised by Holly Meechan

It is my great pleasure to congratulate you, St Laurence School, on your brilliant performance of Macbeth as part of Shakespeare Schools Festival this autumn. It was a joy to watch you shine on your performance night, and I'd like to spend some time now highlighting all the aspects of your production that I loved the most.

Your play had a splendidly spooky start with the ensemble creating the eerie heath. You continued to 'reimagine your company' throughout your piece to great effect creating architecture and shapes to frame each scene, often with the witches watching and weaving in and out of the shadows.

You had great projection and command of the language, speaking Shakespeare's words very clearly and making it sound very natural. What was certainly not natural was the physicality of the witches, I loved how still and sinister their bodies were, with jerky head movements and clawed hands! I also loved their direct relationship with the audience and how they descended upon us, pointing accusatorily at the end.

I really liked your stylised staging of the banquet scene, creating an image of the vast table stretching right across the stage, and highlighting Macbeth's vision of the ghost. I also enjoyed your choice to speak the 'knock, knock' rather than use a sound effect, this really helped to build the tension in that moment.

You made some smart lighting choices, designed well to emphasise key moments and create a good sense of mood and place. The tartan sashes and shawls were also a great design choice for their simplicity and cohesion. It is clear that everyone was fully and equally invested in this show from the workshop, through to the rehearsals to how you performed on stage- you had a lovely company ethos.

A brilliantly eerie version of the Scottish play by a strong, committed ensemble.

We are in awe of all your passion, hard work and creativity! What you have accomplished is something truly special, and we are already looking forward to reimagining Shakespeare with St Laurence School again next year.

**"A BRILLIANTLY EERIE VERSION OF THE
SCOTTISH PLAY BY A STRONG
COMMITTED ENSEMBLE."**



ST LAURENCE SCHOOL

St Laurence School

Carol Service



Holy Trinity Church, Bradford-on-Avon

Monday 2nd December 2024

7:00pm

Lost Property

Each term, we have a large amount of lost property left at **Student Reception**, which often goes unclaimed.

At the end of each term, unnamed and unclaimed belongings are disposed of and can no longer be collected. Lost property can be collected between 3:00pm – 4:00pm each day

**This term the deadline for collection from Student Reception is:
Monday 16th December between 3:00pm – 4:00pm only**

Lost property remaining unclaimed by this date will be donated to the St Laurence School Association or a local charity.

From: PE Team

Sporting Results and Upcoming Fixtures

Results

Football:

St Laurence 4 – 0 Wellington Academy (U14 Girls County Cup)

Congratulations to all students involved.

Upcoming Fixtures

Tuesday 3rd December

U12 Girls 8-a-side football tournament (2 teams) at JOG School (A) Return approx. 5:30pm

Wednesday 4th December

Year 7 Rugby Waterfall Tournament at Devizes School (A) Return approx. 5:15pm

Year 7-11 West Wilts Badminton Competition at Melksham Community Campus. Return approx. 4:30pm.

Thursday 5th December

Year 11A Netball Tournament at Matravers (A) Return approx. 5:30pm

Year 11B Netball Tournament at Matravers (A) Return approx. 5:30pm

Senior School West Wiltshire Cross Country Championships Results 2024

Minor Boys (Y7)

Minor Boys								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	Position
St Laurence	1	7	11	13	22	26	80	1st
Warminster	4	14	17	30	36	39	140	2nd
St Augustines	10	12	18	29	32	42	143	3rd
Clarendon	9	19	21	25	37	44	155	4th
Melksham Oak	3	31	33	34	35	43	179	5th
Matravers	6	28	38	45	47	51	215	6th
Stonar	16	20	46	48	52	53	235	7th
John of Gaunt	23	24	41	61	62	63	274	8th

Minor Girls (Y7)

Minor Girls								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	Position
Stonar	1	5	6	7	12	19	50	1st
St Laurence	10	11	13	23	24	26	107	2nd
St Augustines	3	14	18	29	34	41	139	3rd
Clarendon	8	30	31	32	37	45	183	4th
Melksham Oak	16	20	22	40	42	44	184	5th
John of Gaunt	9	33	35	38	39	55	209	6th
Matravers	27	36	47	48	51	52	261	7th

Junior Boys (Y8/Y9)

Junior Boys								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	Position
St Laurence	3	5	12	25	29	30	104	1st
Kingdown	4	9	13	19	37	39	121	2nd
Melksham Oak	15	17	24	26	28	43	153	3rd
Clarendon	2	14	31	33	35	47	162	4th
Stonar	7	23	40	41	44	45	200	5th
Matravers	18	20	21	22	60	61	202	6th
Warminster	11	32	34	38	49	52	216	7th
John of Gaunt	10	27	42	46	51	53	229	8th

Junior Girls (Y8/Y9)

Junior Girls								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	Position
St Laurence	2	5	8	13	16	21	65	1st
Stonar	3	11	12	14	15	30	85	2nd
Warminster	1	23	26	28	31	43	152	3rd
Kingdown	10	24	27	33	39	40	173	4th
Clarendon	4	6	34	60	61	62	227	5th
Matravers	19	29	35	42	51	54	230	6th
Melksham Oak	17	41	47	48	49	52	254	7th

Inter Boys (Y10/Y11)

Inter Boys							
	1	2	3	4	Total	Position	
Clarendon	4	6	16	19	45	1st	
Warminster	5	11	12	18	46	2nd	
John of Gaunt	1	7	21	22	51	3rd	
Matravers	14	15	17	20	66	4th	
St Laurence	2	10	23	33	68	5th	
Stonar	8	25	26	30	89	6th	
Melksham Oak	28	31	32	34	125	7th	

Inter Girls (Y10/Y11)

Inter Girls						
	1	2	3	4	Total	Position
Stonar	2	4	5	11	22	1st
Warminster	1	3	16	17	37	2nd
St Laurence	6	7	15	20	48	3rd
Matravers	14	19	32	33	98	4th
John of Gaunt	22	25	29	31	107	5th

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SNAPCHAT

SNAP STREAK
97
DAYS

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

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/snapchat-2021>

6th Form students launch their Shoebox Appeal!



Please donate unwrapped gifts to your child's tutor group to put in shoeboxes. These will be donated to Salvation Army who will distribute them to the members of our community who need them most.

Here are some suggested gift ideas for different age brackets:

- **0-3 years:** dolls, teddy bears, cot mobiles, baby clothes, bath toys, puzzles
- **3-5 years:** dolls and action figures, cars, lorries, colouring sets, pencils, crayons, books, puzzles
- **5-9 years:** educational games & toys, stationery (colouring sets, pencils, crayons, school sets), books, puzzles, wordsearch, crosswords
- **9-12 years:** games and toys, stationery, books, t-shirts, hair accessories, gloves, scarves, hats
- **13-16 years:** books, make-up and toiletries (please try to ensure hypoallergenic ingredients if possible), gloves, scarves, hats, t-shirts, hair accessories and gift vouchers

We cannot take preloved items so please make sure your donations are new. The deadline for this appeal is Friday 13th December when Student Heads of House will come and collect the boxes.

Thank you for your support, Evie and Tom

Sent on behalf of Mighty Girls

Mighty Girls are delighted to invite St Laurence students to the **3rd Annual V Coding Bootcamp** at the University of Bath on Saturday 22nd February 2025. This **free event** is a unique opportunity for girls to explore coding, develop hands-on skills, and learn about STEM careers.

The workshop is a collaboration between Mighty Girls, University of Bath students, and local firm AB Dynamics, who have generously funded this initiative. It has been useful for Y8 and Y9 girls choosing their GCSE's, Y11 thinking about A Levels, and Sixth Formers thinking about university

🧠 Watch our video for more information <https://www.mightygirls.co.uk/vcodevideo2025> and go to our website to register and book one of the limited free places: www.mightygirls.co.uk/shop

V Code

STEM Code & Careers Bootcamp
Saturday 22nd February 2025
University of Bath Campus

Who we are?
V Team is the student volunteering group of the Students' Union at the University of Bath. We are committed to providing a range of different ways to get involved in volunteering with the local and wider community.

Project V Code
In collaboration with Mighty Girls, V Code are encouraging more girls to consider a career in STEM and STEM subjects by teaching them how to code.

Certification
You will receive certification to prove your participation. Add to your CV, UCAS Personal Statement and LinkedIn.

Greater Awareness
Learn about STEM in education & industry, hear from current students & industry professionals what it's like being in STEM.

Digital Skills
Crucial in the job market and something universities also look for. You will be introduced to a variety of these in the program!

Goodie Bags
You will receive a goodie bag of items to take home.

Why are we holding this bootcamp for girls?

- 35% of students studying STEM subjects at UK universities are female
- 29.4% of the STEM workforce are female
- There is a strong demand for coding skills not only within the tech sector but also in most STEM industries
- With 47% of women saying they learn best with hands-on experience, coding provides a practical and engaging way for girls to develop problem-solving skills and boost their career prospects.

©2023 from GOV.UK (2023), UCAS (2021), AB Dynamics (2024)



Growing Well Wiltshire

Download the NEW

Growing Well Wiltshire App

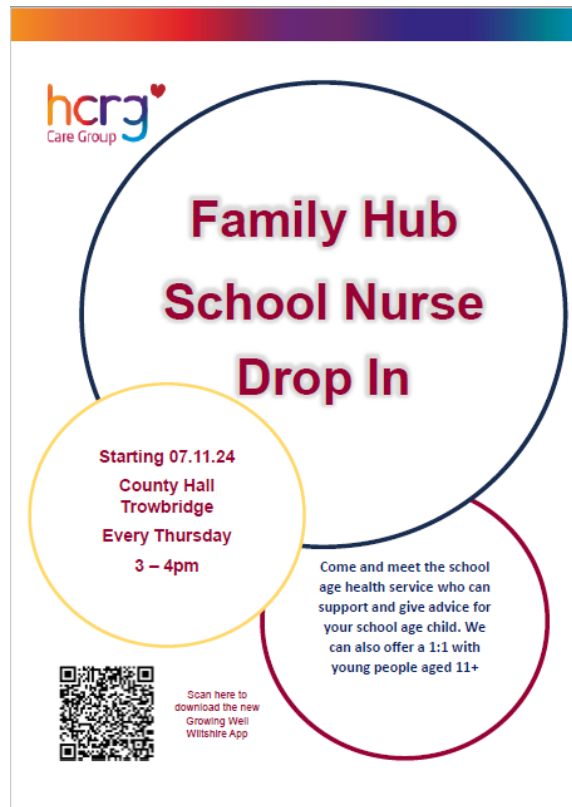
NEW

MY FAMILY | CHAT | EATING HEALTHY | EMOTIONAL HEALTH | VITALS | ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Scan the QR code or search for 'Growing Well Wiltshire'

www.wiltshirechildrens-services.co.uk

Available on the App Store | Get it on Google Play



hcrj
Care Group

Family Hub School Nurse Drop In

Starting 07.11.24
County Hall Trowbridge
Every Thursday
3 – 4pm

Come and meet the school age health service who can support and give advice for your school age child. We can also offer a 1:1 with young people aged 11+

Scan here to download the new Growing Well Wiltshire App

Sent on behalf of: Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE**

Following on from Storm Bert and Storm Conall the Met Office has now predicted a sudden drop in temperature.

To help keep yourself, your family, friends and neighbours and others safe please consider reminding yourself of the following advice:

Road Safety

- [Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service | Driving in adverse conditions](#)
- [Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service | Winter driving checklist](#)

Home Safety

- [Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service | Storms and power cuts](#)
- [Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service | Staying warm safely](#)

Water Safety

- Stay away from flooded or swollen rivers, and the coast in storm conditions
- Keep dogs on leads around water
- Keep children away from water and ice
- If somebody (or animal) is in trouble in the water never go in the water to rescue them yourself, Call 999 and ask for the fire and rescue service (if inland) and coastguard (if at the coast)

Where are you?

Consider downloading what3words on your mobile phone to help give an accurate location should you need the emergency services when out

To report a student absence please ring the Attendance Line by 8:30am on 01225 309501



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