



Week Commencing Monday 30th September 2024

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had an extremely busy week this week with Open Evening and it was so good to see over 200 students volunteering to support departments and tours – a big thank you from me! We have also seen most clubs starting to run and I hope the sign up system has been easy to use.

One request from us at school. Please could you check in the morning that your child has their planner and/or a separate timetable. We have had a lot of students arrive saying they don't know what lessons they have and this inevitably makes them late. If they don't have their planner or timetable, they must speak with their tutor on arrival to be provided with a spare.

Thank you, Mr Farrer

WEEK A	CALENDAR - TERM 1
Monday 30 th September	•
Tuesday 1 st October	• Y12/13 UKMT Senior Challenge 9:00am – 11:30am
Wednesday 2 nd October	•
Thursday 3 rd October	• Y12/13 Space to Learn Masterclass 9:00am – 3:00pm
Friday 4 th October	• Y13 Sociology Trip 9:00am – 4:00pm • Y8/9 Shakespeare Schools Festival Workshop 9:05am – 4:30pm

A36 Limpley Stoke closure - Impact of Traffic issues within Bradford on Avon

Dear Parent / Carer,

Due to the part closure of the A36, Bradford on Avon has been experiencing some difficult traffic issues and this is causing some school buses to be delayed.

The bus companies, Wiltshire Council, along with National Highways, are monitoring the situation and are now actively looking at making some changes to the traffic diversions shortly. If these changes do not see any improvements to the school bus network, then Wiltshire Council may need to tweak some of the school times a little earlier to ensure that pupils are able to arrive at school in good time.

Thanks for your patience with this matter and we will endeavour to update you should changes be needed.



Check out our new 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)

From: The Drama Department

On Friday 4th October the Shakespeare Schools Festival cast of 'Macbeth' have a whole day workshop in F7 from 9:05am (after tutor) until 4:30pm. Letters have been emailed home with further details and with a reply slip to return for this and for the performance at the Merlin Theatre in Frome on Wednesday 6th November. Please let Mrs Nash know if you have not received the letter.

Tickets for the November performance are now available directly from the Merlin - [Shakespeare Schools Festival at Merlin Theatre event tickets from TicketSource](#)

We are in the process of selecting a musical to perform in the summer term and so would like to get an idea of how many students would be interested in performing (acting, dancing, singing) in this. Students in any year who are interested should come to a meeting on Thursday 3rd October 3:00pm – 3:30pm.

Anyone who cannot make the meeting should please email Miss Davies (emidav@st-laurence.com) or Dr Barclay (alabar@st-laurence.com). Backstage and Front of House crew need not do anything at the moment.

From: Mr Hainsworth – Assistant Headteacher

Y11 Mock Exam Revision Materials

Year 11 students will have their mock exams starting in the second week back after the October half term.

To support them with this, materials have been emailed to their school email accounts following briefings that have happened over the course of this week. There are similar materials provided there as were for the Year 10 mock exams. Teachers in their subjects may opt to extra revision tasks / materials for them on Bromcom.

There will also be a mock exam timetable with dates of each of their exams. On the back will be a summary of the main regulations and the practical exam dates. Please make sure your child reads this when the Exams team send it out. It will also be available on the school website in due course. If there are any questions about anything, please speak to your child's tutor or subject teacher.

From: The Careers Team

Please look out for our Term 1 Newsletter coming to an inbox near you soon, it will include: our student destinations, STEM club, Alumni and lots of other useful information.

From: Mr Blowers – Director of 6th Form

Dear Parent/Carer & Students,

You are warmly invited to our **6th Form Open Evening on Thursday 7th November 2024 in Trinity Hall**

The format will be as follows:

Students in Ashley, Budbury and Conigre 1-5

Presentation from the Headteacher, Head Students & Director of 6th Form at **5pm in Trinity Hall** where you will also receive Named Prospectuses. Then you will be invited to tour around the school and visit subjects to gain more information

Students in Conigre 6-10, Huntingdon & Westfield:

Presentation from the Headteacher, Head Students & Director of 6th Form at **6pm in Trinity Hall** where you will also receive Named Prospectuses. Then you will be invited to tour around the school and visit subjects to gain more information

Individual student letters will come home with further detailed information about the event. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Yours faithfully,

Aidan Blowers



St Laurence School
Care • Inspire • Succeed



Open Evening
6th Form
Thursday 7th November 2024
5:00pm – 7:30pm



6th Form Centre

Presentations led by the Headteacher and Director of 6th Form will be at 5:00pm and 6:00pm in Trinity Hall, followed by a tour of the school.



www.st-laurence.com

Ashley Road, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire. BA15 1DZ

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

From: Mrs Butterworth – Head of Psychology and Sociology

FAO - Parents of Year 7 Students

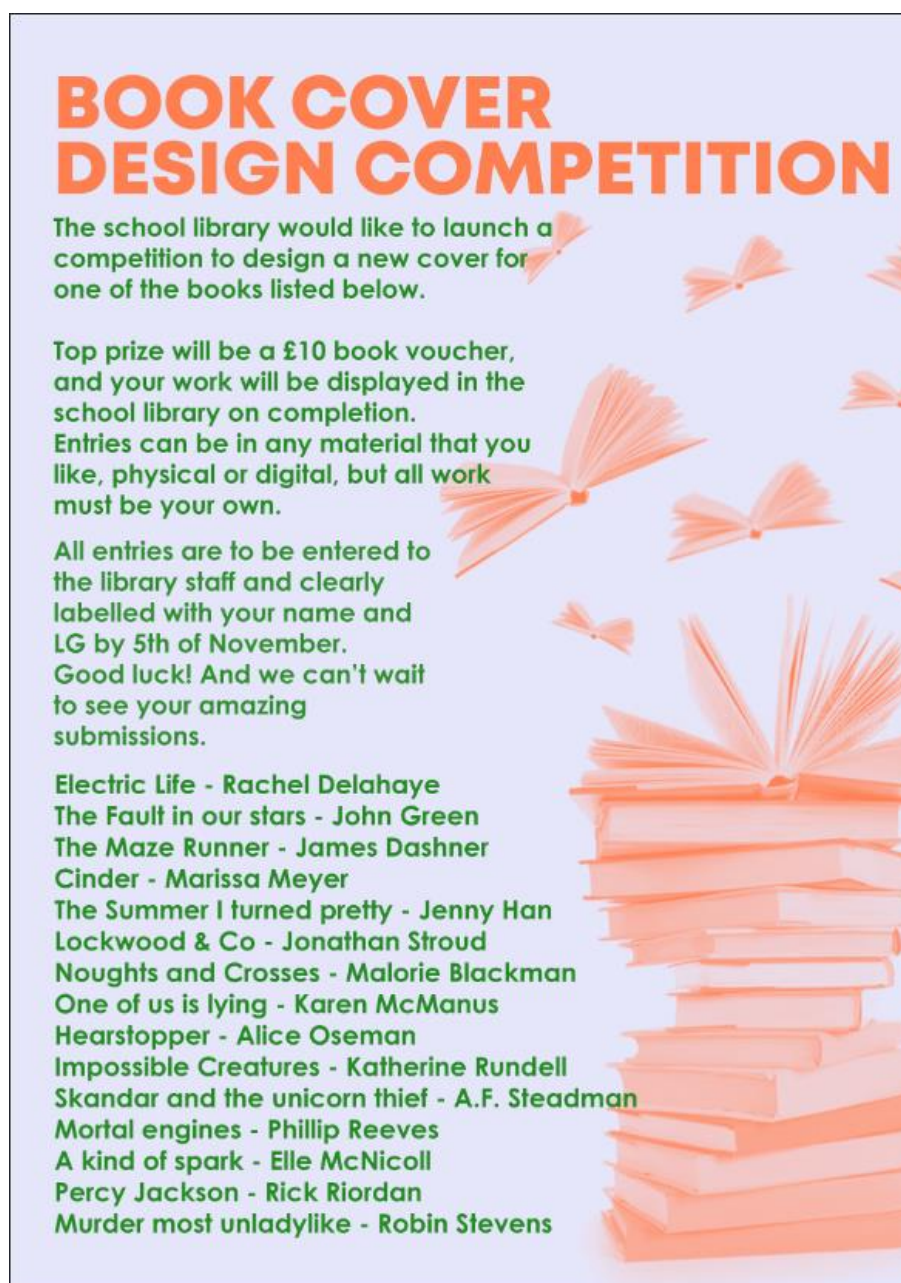
Knowledge organisers

All Year 7 students have been allocated one knowledge organiser to support their learning across every subject in Term 1. They should bring their printed copy to school. Teachers may use the knowledge organiser in class or as part of home learning.

There is also an online copy on the website in the curriculum area under Key Stage 3. You will also find a quick video tutorial that gives you more information about the use of knowledge organisers and how pupils and parents can use them to help them remember more. The page you will need is [Curriculum Overview | St Laurence School \(st-laurence.com\)](#)

From: The ILC Team

Please encourage your students to enter the Book Cover Design Competition

A poster for a book cover design competition. The background is light blue with several orange-tinted illustrations of open books and stacks of books. The text is in orange and green. The title 'BOOK COVER DESIGN COMPETITION' is in large, bold, orange letters. Below it, the text explains the competition details, including the prize, entry rules, and a list of books to be covered.

**BOOK COVER
DESIGN COMPETITION**

The school library would like to launch a competition to design a new cover for one of the books listed below.

Top prize will be a £10 book voucher, and your work will be displayed in the school library on completion. Entries can be in any material that you like, physical or digital, but all work must be your own.

All entries are to be entered to the library staff and clearly labelled with your name and LG by 5th of November. Good luck! And we can't wait to see your amazing submissions.

Electric Life - Rachel Delahaye
The Fault in our stars - John Green
The Maze Runner - James Dashner
Cinder - Marissa Meyer
The Summer I turned pretty - Jenny Han
Lockwood & Co - Jonathan Stroud
Noughts and Crosses - Malorie Blackman
One of us is lying - Karen McManus
Hearstopper - Alice Oseman
Impossible Creatures - Katherine Rundell
Skandar and the unicorn thief - A.F. Steadman
Mortal engines - Phillip Reeves
A kind of spark - Elle McNicoll
Percy Jackson - Rick Riordan
Murder most unladylike - Robin Stevens

From: The PE Team

As part of the weekly bulletin, we will be giving updates of sporting results and upcoming fixtures.

Congratulations to all students involved.

Results

Netball

St Laurence A 14 - 12 Clarendon A (U16)
St Laurence B 3 - 3 Melksham Oak (U16)
St Laurence A 19 - 1 John of Gaunt (U15)
St Laurence B 15 - 5 John of Gaunt (U15)

Football

St Laurence 2 - 1 Downend School (U14 National Cup)

Rugby

St Laurence 4 - 10 Kingdown School (Year 7)

Upcoming Fixtures

Tuesday 1st October

Year 7 Rugby vs Corsham (Away)
Year 9 and 10 Netball vs John of Gaunt (Home)

Wednesday 2nd October

Year 9 Rugby vs Corsham (Away)

Thursday 3rd October

Year 8 Rugby vs Corsham (Home)



PE Clubs – Term 1



Day	Club	Location	Staff Member
Monday	Trampolining (Invite only)	Sports Hall	Mrs Voutt
Tuesday	SLS Leadership Academy	Gym	Mr Carter
	Cross Country	Field	Mr Bailey, Mr Vince
	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
Wednesday	KS4 Badminton (Week <u>A</u> Only)	Sports Hall	Mr Woodburn
Thursday	Netball (All Years)	Astro/Courts	Mr Carter, Miss Rose, Miss Bryer, Mr Westley, Mr Povoas
	KS3 Rugby	Field	Mr Oaten, Mr Burrows, Mr Restorick
Friday			

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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about INSTAGRAM

Instagram is a highly popular social media platform with over 2 billion active monthly users. The app is continuously updating and adding new features to meet the wishes of its audience, allowing them to upload images and videos to their Instagram feed, create interactive 'stories', go live, exchange private messages or explore and follow other accounts that catch their eye.

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ADDICTION

Many social media platforms, Instagram included, are designed to keep us engaged on them for as long as possible. They encourage scrolling often and scrolling more in case we miss something important – in essence, a fear of missing out. On Instagram, young people can lose track of time when aimlessly scrolling and watching videos posted by friends, acquaintances, influencers and possibly strangers.

UNREALISTIC IDEALS

Children sometimes compare themselves to what they see online: how they look, how they dress, and the way their life is going in comparison to others on social media. However, most people only share the positives about their lives online and many use filters when sharing pictures of themselves. A constant comparison with unrealistic ideals can lead to insecurity over one's own appearance and lifestyle.

GOING LIVE

Livestreaming on Instagram allows users to connect with friends and followers in real time. Risks increase if the account is public, because that means anyone can watch the broadcast, which could result in further contact from strangers. Additional dangers of going live include an impulse to act inappropriately to draw more viewers, as well as being exposed to harmful content or offensive language.

INFLUENCER CULTURE

Social media influencers are sometimes paid thousands of pounds to promote products, services, apps and more. When celebrities or influencers post such content, it often says 'paid partnership' above the post. In April 2024, Ofcom found that over a quarter of children (27%) believed in influencer marketing, accepting their endorsement of products wholeheartedly. So it's perfectly possible for young people to be taken in by this kind of content.

PRODUCT TAGGING

Product tags allow users to tag a product or business in their post. This tag will take viewers directly to the product detail page on the shop where the item can be purchased. Children may also be encouraged by influencers to purchase products that they advertise.

EXCLUSION & OSTRACISM

Youngsters are highly sensitive to feeling excluded, which comes in many forms: not receiving as many 'likes' as expected; not being tagged in a friend's photo; being unfollowed; not receiving a comment on their post or a reply to a message they sent. Being excluded online hurts just as much as offline. Young people have reported lower moods and self-esteem when excluded in this way, feeling as if they don't belong and aren't valued.

Advice for Parents & Educators

AVOID GOING PUBLIC

If a young user wants to share their clothing style, make up or similar and use product tagging to show off the items in their post, they may be tempted to change their settings to public. This leaves their profile visible to everyone, which carries the risk of strangers getting in touch with them. Set a child's account to private and explain the importance of keeping it this way.

HAVE AN OPEN DIALOGUE

Talk to children about the positives and negatives of social media, including the risks involved and how they can view or create content safely with family and friends. Explain how safety settings will ensure only followers can view them, and why this is so important. Also, if you find a child continuously uses filters on their photos, ask them why and impress on them that they don't need it.

MANAGE LIKE COUNTS

Due to the potential impact on mental wellbeing, Instagram allows users to hide the total likes on their posts, to prevent people from obsessing over that number in the corner. Users can hide like counts on all the posts in their feed as well as on their own posts. This means others can't see how many likes a person gets. This can be done by going into settings > Notifications > Posts > Likes > ON.

USE MODERATORS

Instagram Live has implemented a mechanic called 'Moderators', meaning that creators can assign a moderator and give them the power to report comments, remove viewers and remove the ability for certain viewers to comment or sit. Consider this if a child in your care wants to go live on the platform. It's also recommended to keep devices in communal spaces so you're aware if a child does go live or watch a livestream.

FOLLOW INFLUENCERS

Following influencers will allow you to monitor what they're sharing as well as being able to discuss anything which you deem inappropriate. Talk to children about who they follow and help them to develop critical thinking skills about what the influencer is trying to do. For example, encourage the child to ask themselves if an influencer is trying to sell them a product when they make a video endorsing it.

BALANCE YOUR TIME

Instagram has a built-in activity dashboard that lets you control how much time is spent on the app. Make sure children sign in to the platform with the correct age as Instagram's 'Teen Accounts' afford much more control for parents and carers over how long they can use the app each day. Talk with young users about how much time they spend on Instagram and work together to set a healthy time limit.

Meet Our Expert

Dr. Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at @Cyberware. She has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. Claire has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://thenationalcollege.com/guides/instagram-8599>

On behalf of: GWR Customer Services

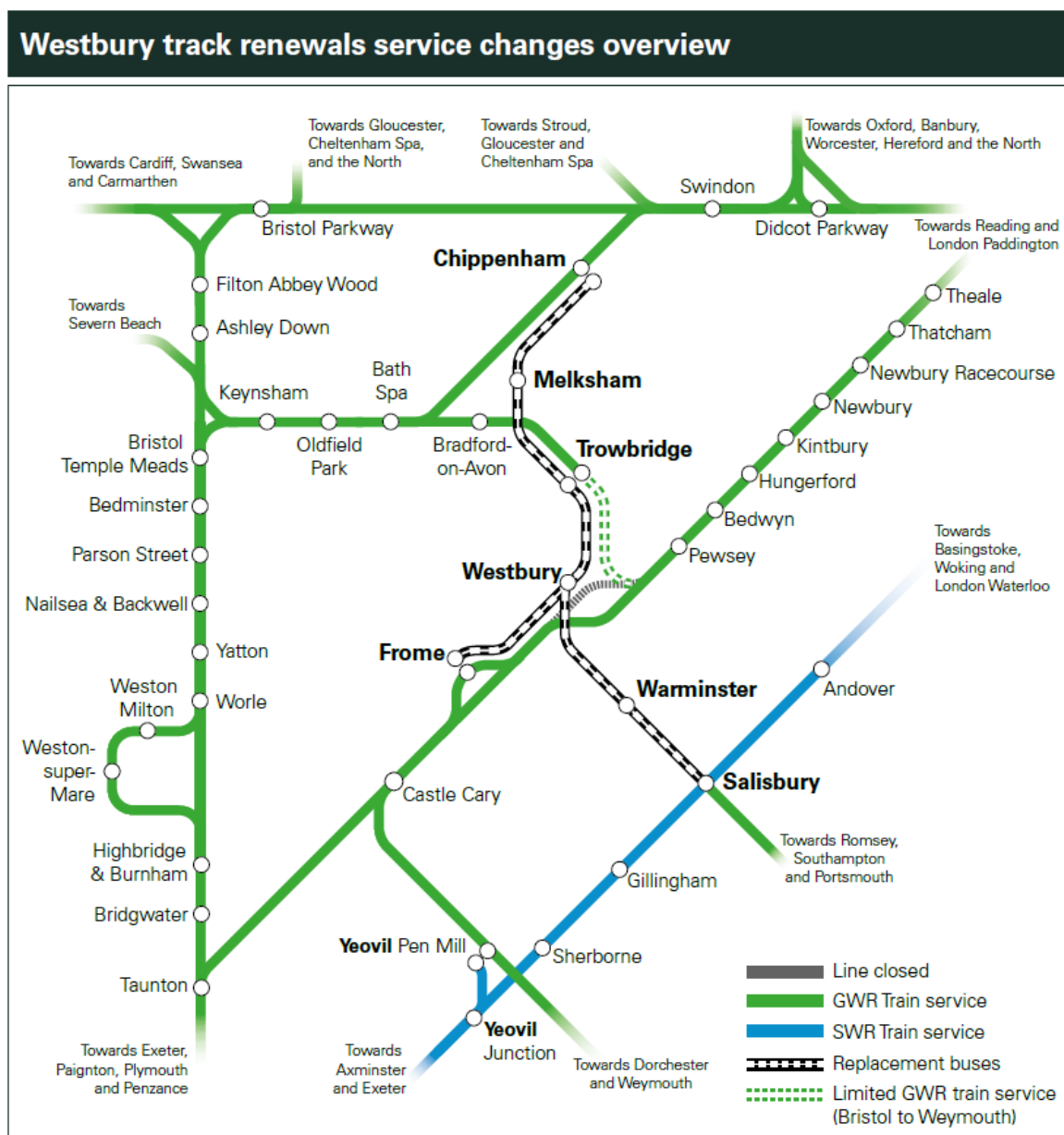
Hello,

I would like to bring to your attention the upcoming closure of **Westbury Station from close of business Tuesday 24th December 2024 until start of business on Friday 24th January 2025**. The reason for the closure is to modernise aging facilities within Westbury station and upgrade the rail infrastructure in the surrounding area.

This will affect pupils and staff who like to use the train for travelling to and from school when they return for the spring term. GWR would be very grateful if you could complete this survey if you use services that may be affected: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VPRDW8T>

It is our obligation to provide rail replacement services (RRS) during this time. To ensure the provision for RRS is adequate, I would like to improve accuracy and establish how many pupils and colleagues affected by the possession.

There will be no trains running from Warminster, Dilton Marsh, or Westbury during this time and services to Frome will be limited because the trains will be taking an alternative route to and from Trowbridge. Here is an illustration showing the impact of the possession on rail services in the region.



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

For the attention of all parents

Will your child be transferring
to a secondary school in
September 2025?

You must apply for a secondary school place

Apply online at **wiltshire.gov.uk** or
complete an application form, available at
all Wiltshire Council offices.

The deadline for applications is

12 midnight, 31 October 2024

All forms must be returned to the school admissions
team at County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire.

Contact customer services on **01225 713010**

For more information or to request our guide
to finding a secondary school place in Wiltshire.

Wiltshire Council

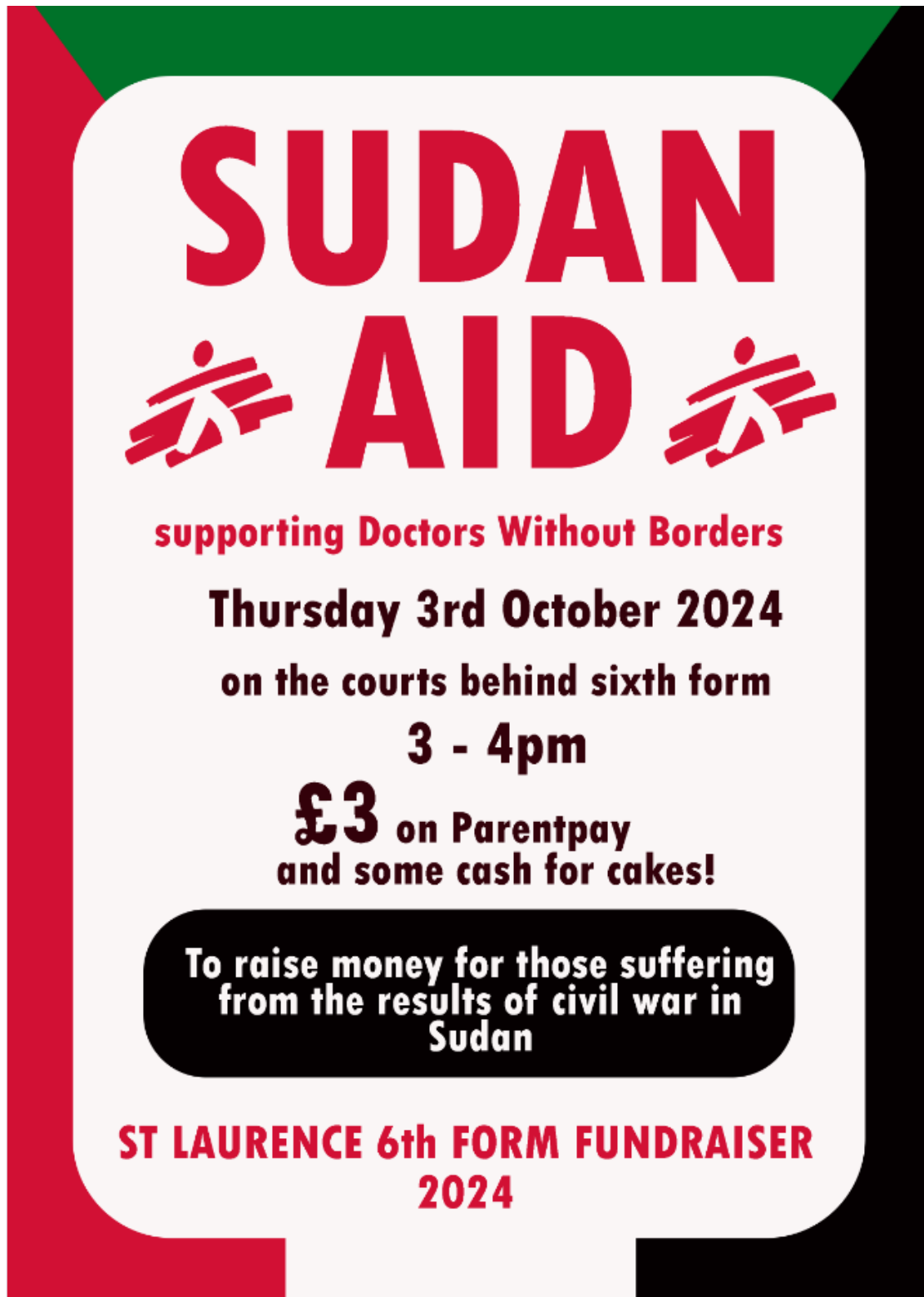
6th Form Fundraiser: Thursday 3rd October 3:00pm – 4:00pm

Each year the 6th Form Student Leaders conduct an event to raise money for an important cause. This year the event is to raise funds for **Doctors without Borders** in support of the people of Sudan which is being ripped apart by civil war causing homelessness for millions.

There will be lots of fun stalls for students and staff visit. The cost is £3 on ParentPay – please also bring cash for to buy delicious cakes from the Cake Stall.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Mr Blowers and the 6th Form Leaders

A vertical poster with a white background and rounded corners, set against a background of red, green, and black geometric shapes. The text is in bold, sans-serif fonts. At the top, 'SUDAN' is written in large red letters. Below it, 'AID' is written in large red letters, flanked by two red icons of a person carrying a bundle on their back. Underneath, 'supporting Doctors Without Borders' is written in smaller red text. The date and time 'Thursday 3rd October 2024' and '3 - 4pm' are in black. The cost '£3 on Parentpay and some cash for cakes!' is in black. A black rounded rectangle contains the text 'To raise money for those suffering from the results of civil war in Sudan' in white. At the bottom, 'ST LAURENCE 6th FORM FUNDRAISER 2024' is written in red.

SUDAN

AID

supporting Doctors Without Borders

Thursday 3rd October 2024

on the courts behind sixth form

3 - 4pm

£3 on Parentpay
and some cash for cakes!

**To raise money for those suffering
from the results of civil war in
Sudan**

**ST LAURENCE 6th FORM FUNDRAISER
2024**

WEAR YELLOW DAY

SCHOOL APPROPRIATE



YOUNG MINDS



**£1 MINIMUM
PAY ON
PARENT PAY**

£1

10th OCTOBER



Animation Workshop

Do you want to learn different ways to create stop motion animation?

FRIDAY 25TH OCTOBER

BRADFORD ON AVON
10AM - 3.30PM.
AGE 8-12YEARS OLD
COST £39

In this one-day workshop, Emily will use Stikbot Studio to create different animation. You will learn to plan & storyboard your ideas, make your characters, design your sets, film, edit, & add sound effects & audio.



TO LEARN MORE PLEASE VISIT
www.mightygirls.co.uk



Self Defence half day workshop

MONDAY 28TH OCTOBER

BRADFORD ON AVON
2PM - 5PM. SECONDARY AGE
COST £25

Mighty Girls & Helen from Systema bring you:

- Practical self-defence techniques
- A focus on movement, breath work, relaxation, and posture
- Enhance self-awareness & resilience
- Help equip you to handle various situations effectively

www.mightygirls.co.uk or QR Code to book



ALL STARS SPORTS ACADEMY



All Stars Netball
Coach: Charlie Potter
(Level 2 Netball and Team Bath
Coach)

St. Laurence School

Saturday Mornings

11-12 School Yrs 3- 6

12-1 School Yrs 7 - 11

£7.50 a session paid termly

Free taster session available

07812 211949

T: 07812 211949 W: www.allstarsportsacademy.com E: Charlie@allstarsportsacademy.com