



Week Commencing Monday 21st October 2024

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers

Aside from being an especially wet term, it has been the usual exciting and busy start to the academic year. If you are the parent or carer of a Year 7 student, I hope that they have settled well and have felt welcomed into the school. From my perspective and from attending many of their lessons, they have been really impressive by their attitude and their engagement. I hope also that any new students across the school have felt welcomed.

One key date for the calendar is the **6th Form Open Evening on Thursday 7th November**. If you have a Year 11 child, I do hope we have the opportunity of seeing you there

Thank you, Mr Farrer

WEEK B	CALENDAR - TERM 1
Monday 21 st October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Y7 Rescheduled Activity Day for LG5 9:05am – 4:15pm
Tuesday 22 nd October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Y13 Berlin Trip
Wednesday 23 rd October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Y12 Gold DofE launch <p>TERM 1 ends at 3:00pm</p>

Dates to Remember

Thursday 31 st October	Closing date for secondary schools applications
Tuesday 5 th November	Connect Club guest speaker
Wednesday 6 th November	Y9 Black Rock Residential launch/Macbeth Performance
W/C 4 th November	Remembrance Day Poppy Sales
Thursday 7 th November	6 th Form Open Evening
W/C 11 th November	Mock exams begin
Friday 15 th November	Children in Need Non-Uniform Day

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)

Additional Bus Service Announcement

Following the success of our recent Open Evening and Open Mornings, the school is pleased to announce the introduction of an additional bus service covering the Box and Bathford areas. The specific routes and schedules will be determined based on the placements offered to new students for the September 2025 intake, which will be confirmed in March.

If you are interested in utilizing this new service starting in September 2025, please register your interest via the following link: <https://forms.office.com/e/P7TnsadSeY>.

Please note, this additional route will not impact the current bus service for our Trowbridge students and parents. However, we will be conducting a review with our provider, Beeline, to ensure the continued quality of service for all users.

For any further comments or inquiries, please contact us at admin@st-laurence.com.

From: Mrs Butterworth – Head of Psychology and Sociology

For Parents of Year 11-13 (Triple Science or Psychology and Biology A level) students

The Psychology Team are running a brain dissection class after school on Wednesday 4th December. Letters can be collected S2 or S4. Students with parental permission must sign up by Monday 4th November. 30 spaces are available.

From: Mrs Baldwin – Outdoor Education Coordinator

Gold DofE Launch Year 12

If your child is interested in Gold DofE, please encourage them to come to the Lecture Theatre at the start of tutor time on Wednesday 23rd October.

Black Rock Launch Year 9

The residential trip to Black Rock will be launched on Wednesday 6th November. Please encourage your child to attend this briefing during tutor.

Thank you, Mrs Baldwin

From: The Drama Department

Shakespeare Schools Festival

The students worked really hard at their workshop for the forthcoming production of Macbeth at the Merlin Theatre in Frome on Wednesday 6th November.

Please note: rehearsals will every Monday and Friday after school from now on to ensure that the performance is ready

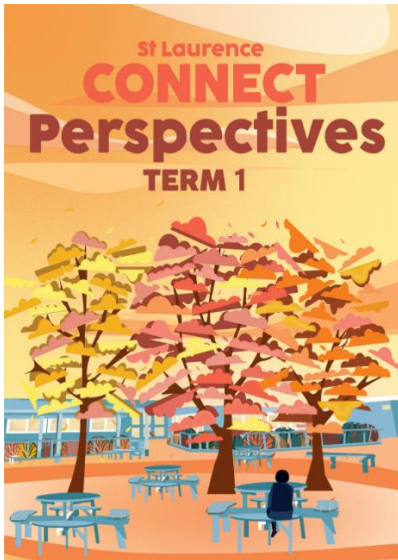
Cast are reminded of the need to wear black clothing, including black shoes/trainers and they will need something tartan to show their character - a scarf, waistcoat, tie, shirt, skirt etc. Anyone who is having problems sourcing any of these items should speak to Mrs Nash asap.

Anyone is welcome to come and watch the performance - tickets are available directly from the Merlin Theatre website: [Merlin Theatre : Home](#)

From: Ms Browne and Mr Bruten – Connect Team

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

Connect School Magazine New Issue



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

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 **5:00pm 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 **6:00pm 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.

St Laurence School
Care • Inspire • Succeed

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

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.

5th Form Centre

www.st-laurence.com Ashley Road, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire, BA15 1DZ

In the Wiltshire Music Centre

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

From: The PE Team

Sporting Results and Upcoming Fixtures

Results

Rugby

Year 7: St Laurence = 9 John of Gaunt = 2

Year 8: St Laurence = 12 John of Gaunt = 5

Football

Year 9: St Laurence = 2 Devizes = 5

Congratulations to all students involved.

Upcoming Fixtures

Tuesday 22nd October

U14s Girls Football vs John of Gaunt (Home)

From: English Department

A polite reminder for Year 10 parents and carers - GCSE English Literature set texts

Parents and carers are reminded to purchase their Year 10 children copies of the set texts, either "The Woman in Black" or "An Inspector Calls", for their English Literature GCSE to enable them to have personal copies to re-read and revise from and also to make notes alongside the text as they read and study it.

You may also wish to buy students a *revision guide* for these texts too.

Some students who are in receipt of the Pupil Premium will have the relevant text and revision guide provided for them by the school.

Thank you for your support.

From: Dan Webb – School Chaplain

Some of you will be aware of the recent tragic passing of a former student, who left in 2017. This kind of news is always difficult, especially for those of us who have built relationships, invested into the lives of those who have gone, and subsequently have fond memories of those individuals.

In our own way and in our own time, each of us process these types of difficult events as best as we can. Words can often feel cheap in these situations but we can draw some comfort from Psalm 34 which highlights the posture of God towards those who are bereaved:

"The Lord is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

Prayer: Father God, we thank you for the gift of life you give us. We ask you to help us in our grief and broken heartedness by drawing close to us. As we grapple with the bigger questions of "why?", may we experience a tangible sense of your comfort and peace. We pray for the family and friends of Cameron who has passed away at such a young age and ask that you bring him healing and comfort too. Please provide others around him with love and guidance and encourage them on this difficult journey. Amen.

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

From: Eve Brown and Thomas Ottley - Student Heads of House



**Remembrance Day Poppy Sales:
Monday 4th – Friday 8th November**

To commemorate those who fought in WW2 poppies will be available for sale.

Eve and Thomas, Student Heads of House, will visit tutor rooms so everyone has a chance to purchase a poppy.

All money raised will be donated to Royal British Legion.

CASH PAYMENTS ONLY PLEASE.



**Children in Need non-school uniform day:
Friday 15th November**

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

Participating students must adhere with the 6th Form dress code: [fe5050_f6736ded580f4853a16f357870bfda51.pdf \(st-laurence.com\)](https://www.st-laurence.com/fe5050_f6736ded580f4853a16f357870bfda51.pdf)

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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HORROR FILMS & AGE RATINGS

The 'on-demand' availability of streaming platforms in many homes creates extra possibilities for young viewers to be exposed to age-inappropriate content. Material which features horror or violence can cause anxiety and nightmares for children, especially since it can be hard for young ones to grasp that what they're watching isn't real.

CLASSIFICATION BREAKDOWN

The British Board of Film Classification has the following age ratings:

- U: Suitable for all ages
- PG: For children aged 8 and above; this content shouldn't unsettle them
- 12A: Children under the age of 12 should not watch without an adult; this content potentially features bad language, nudity or sexual references
- 15: Suitable only for 15-year-olds and above
- 18: Exclusively for an adult audience, with potentially explicit themes of violence, nudity or sex

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

STREAMING IS EVERYWHERE

Modern mobile devices make it very easy for children to watch streamed films without the need for a TV. The availability of inappropriate content has risen significantly on streaming platforms, almost all of which host 18-rated content. If not restricted by parental controls, this could be viewed by children who aren't quite ready for such adult themes, concepts and imagery.

FACT VS. FICTION

Many children have no trouble separating fact from fiction. However, with modern day technology making pretend violence and horror look ever more realistic, it's becoming harder for youngsters to tell the difference. For instance, consider remakes of older films, where dated special effects (making it easy to discern that something wasn't real) have been replaced by far more convincing monsters and gore.

PEER PRESSURE

Friends encouraging each other to watch the latest film featuring violence or horror can lead to children consuming content that they're not ready for. As 18+ content is available on many streaming platforms, youngsters can watch these together - potentially without their parents' or carers' knowledge.

CHILDREN SCARE DIFFERENTLY

It can be difficult to decide what content is appropriate for children. What's fine for one child could be extremely frightening for another. As many children admit to not sharing or discussing the content they watch with their parents, encouraging an open dialogue around the kind of media that young people consume can help avoid exposing them to any inappropriate content.

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS

Horror prides itself on its ability to startle or induce genuine fear in the viewer - so it's no surprise that this genre isn't usually intended for children. A natural side-effect of this is that 'jump scares' or a creepy, suspenseful atmosphere can have lasting effects on younger minds. The resulting anxiety can impact a child's sleeping patterns or eating habits.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WATCH THE FILM FIRST

If you're concerned that a film might be unsuitable for children (whether it's their first dive into the horror genre or a step up in age classification), then take a look for yourself. There's no better way to judge whether this content is something you'd deem appropriate for a child - and if a parent, for example, has actually seen the film (or at least a portion of it), they can construct a far more credible case if they decide it's inappropriate.

REMEMBER - IT'S NOT REAL

Emphasise to children that the content they're viewing is entirely fictional and has no chance of affecting them in real life. If a child is upset after watching a film, try to understand what exactly has unsettled them; this can help you approach the topic in a healthy and informative manner, to dispel any fears or anxieties they may have.

DISCUSS THE CONTENT OF FILMS

If a child has seen a film that you think may have exposed them to potentially uncomfortable themes and ideas, don't shy away from talking about it, and answer any questions they may have. This is especially important if they watched the film without an adult present. Ask them to summarise the story for you, as this will give you an understanding of what they've learned from watching it.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Most streaming platforms have the option to put age ranges on children's accounts. This means that films and shows that are inappropriate for children won't be advertised while they're browsing and won't even appear if a child specifically searches for them. This can be changed any time at parents' discretion, but it's wise to protect these settings with a password, so a child can't alter anything on their own.

Meet Our Expert

John Inley is an assistant principal at a secondary school. He has been involved with e-safety in schools for over 10 years, writing policies and supporting various schools in developing their e-safety provision. John has introduced a range of strategies at multiple schools aimed at helping parents to better support their child in the ever-changing digital world.



#WakeUpWednesday



Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/horror-films-and-age-ratings>

SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAYS DATES 2025-2026

St Laurence Inset Days 2025-2026

Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd	September	No Students in School
Wednesday 3rd	September	ONLY Years 7 & 12 in school
Friday 26th	September	No Students in School
Monday 20th	July	No Students in School
Tuesday 21st	July	No Students in School
Wednesday 22nd	July	No Students in School

September 2025							October 2025					November 2025						
M		1	8	15	22	29	M		6	13	20	27	M		3	10	17	24
Tu		2	9	16	23	30	Tu		7	14	21	28	Tu		4	11	18	25
W		3	10	17	24		W	1	8	15	22	29	W		5	12	19	26
Th		4	11	18	25		Th	2	9	16	23	30	Th		6	13	20	27
F		5	12	19	26		F	3	10	17	24	31	F		7	14	21	28
Sa		6	13	20	27		Sa	4	11	18	25		Sa	1	8	15	22	29
Su		7	14	21	28		Su	5	12	19	26		Su	2	9	16	23	30

December 2025							January 2026					February 2026						
M		1	8	15	22	29	M		5	12	19	26	M		2	9	16	23
Tu		2	9	16	23	30	Tu		6	13	20	27	Tu		3	10	17	24
W		3	10	17	24	31	W		7	14	21	28	W		4	11	18	25
Th		4	11	18	25		Th	1	8	15	22	29	Th		5	12	19	26
F		5	12	19	26		F	2	9	16	23	30	F		6	13	20	27
Sa		6	13	20	27		Sa	3	10	17	24	31	Sa		7	14	21	28
Su		7	14	21	28		Su	4	11	18	25		Su	1	8	15	22	

March 2026							April 2026					May 2026						
M		2	9	16	23	30	M		6	13	20	27	M		4	11	18	25
Tu		3	10	17	24	31	Tu		7	14	21	28	Tu		5	12	19	26
W		4	11	18	25		W	1	8	15	22	29	W		6	13	20	27
Th		5	12	19	26		Th	2	9	16	23	30	Th		7	14	21	28
F		6	13	20	27		F	3	10	17	24		F	1	8	15	22	29
Sa		7	14	21	28		Sa	4	11	18	25		Sa	2	9	16	23	30
Su	1	8	15	22	29		Su	5	12	19	26		Su	3	10	17	24	31

June 2026							July 2026					August 2026							
M		1	8	15	22	29	M		6	13	20	27	M		3	10	17	24	31
Tu		2	9	16	23	30	Tu		7	14	21	28	Tu		4	11	18	25	
W		3	10	17	24		W	1	8	15	22	29	W		5	12	19	26	
Th		4	11	18	25		Th	2	9	16	23	30	Th		6	13	20	27	
F		5	12	19	26		F	3	10	17	24	31	F		7	14	21	28	
Sa		6	13	20	27		Sa	4	11	18	25		Sa	1	8	15	22	29	
Su		7	14	21	28		Su	5	12	19	26		Su	2	9	16	23	30	

Community News



WILTSHIRE MUSIC CENTRE
Bradford on Avon

COME AND JOIN THE FUN!

**Charity
MUSICAL
BINGO
night**

£12 pp or
4 for £40
inc. drink on
arrival

FUN GAMES - DRINKS - FOOD - PRIZES

A fun and entertaining night of
bingo reimagined - with a
musical twist!

WED 23 OCT 5.30PM for 7PM

Wiltshire Music Centre, Bradford on Avon, BA15 1DZ



WILTSHIRE MUSIC CENTRE
Bradford on Avon

COME AND JOIN THE FUN!

**LISTEN FOR THE POP SONG TITLES,
THEN MARK THEM OFF
ON YOUR BINGO CARD!**

**FUNDRAISING FOR BRADFORD ON AVON'S
COMMUNITY CONCERT HALL**

EVENING TO INCLUDE:

FOOD BY FEAST BROTHERS.	WELCOME DRINK ON ARRIVAL	LIVE MUSIC FROM COVERS BAND FLQ
4 PRIZE- WINNING ROUNDS	OPTIONAL FANCY DRESS COMPETITION	LICENSED BAR

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**Shakespeare
LIVE**

**THE PRINCE
& THE KNAVE**

Performances start at 8pm
Tickets £14 from shakespearelive.com or 07780 938 107

The Mission Theatre - Tues 22 & Weds 23 Oct

The Town Hall, Corsham - Thurs 24 Oct

The Merlin Theatre, Frome - Fri 25 Oct
Tickets from merlintheatre.co.uk / 01373 465949

The Cause, Chippenham - Sat 26 Oct
42 The Causeway, Chippenham, SN15 3DD

Marden House, Centre, Calne - Sun 27 Oct
Tickets also available from Calne Visitor & Information Centre (cash only)

www.shakespearelive.com | Registered Charity 1155756

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



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**



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www.st-laurence.com