

# Parent / Carer Bulletin

Care • Inspire • Succeed

Week Commencing Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024

## Headteacher's Update

Dear Parent/Carers,

There will be an end of term letter coming out to all parents from me with some updates about the new year so please do look out for it.

All I would want to do now is wish you the happiest of Christmases and enjoy the break.

Regards  
Tim Farrer

<b>WEEK A</b>	
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Y9 Dance Workshops</li></ul>
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Y10/11 Visit to Bath Dance College</li></ul>
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul>
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TERM 2 ENDS AT 1:30PM</li></ul>

## 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)

## From: 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

#### Football

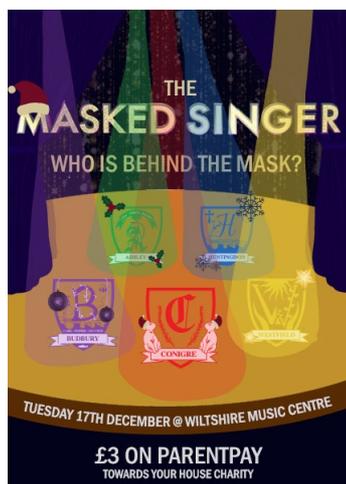
St Laurence 7 – 2 Wellington Academy (U16s Girls County Cup)

#### Upcoming Fixtures

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December

U14s 8-a-side Football Tournament at JOG (astro) return around 5:45pm

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



This year will be Christmas themed and hosted on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> December, straight after school in the Wiltshire Music Centre.

This year, we are opening the masked singer up as a whole school fundraiser, where the price of a student's ticket will go to their House charity, so encourage your House to be the ones who raise the most amount of money.

## **Year 11 students 1-1s with the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Team – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

Please be aware that Year 11 students, who have applied for 6<sup>th</sup> Form, will be attending 1-1s with Mr Blowers and Mrs Chatfield for the entirety of this week to discuss their application.

Mr Blowers – will be in his office in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Centre

Mrs Chatfield – will be in the glass walled office in the ILC

Students and tutors have been emailed the times, so please ensure that Year 11 students know the: date, time, staff member and place for this 1-1.

If you have any questions about this at all, please do get in touch with a member of the 6<sup>th</sup> Form team.

Thanks

Mr Aidan Blowers

## **Connect Term 2 issue – Richard Bruten, Heather Browne and the student editors**

Welcome to this term's issue of Connect. Inside our student writers and designers explore the importance of 'Togetherness'. There are festive features about gift giving, Christmas celebrations around the world as well as articles about Christmas for young carers and those experiencing food poverty in the community. Plus, we find out about a special member of staff who will be dressing as Santa to raise funds for a children's hospice. We also round up all the latest school news including trips, visits and sporting successes. The issue can be viewed at <https://indd.adobe.com/view/26f123a3-c17e-498d-a408-3532c7976232>. We welcome new members to our club which takes place on Tuesdays 3-4.15pm in F4.

## **From: Vanessa Martin – Medical Administrator**

Sanitary items are available from Student Reception, 2 packs can be taken home for the Christmas Holiday, please encourage your child to collect items before/after school, lunch or breaktimes, until end of next Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December. Please also encourage your child to collect packs from student reception during term also, these are supplied by the Government for Students.

[Period product scheme for schools and colleges - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/period-product-scheme-for-schools-and-colleges)

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# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, travelling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

## 1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

## 2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

## 3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

## 4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

## 5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

## 6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

## 7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, topping Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

## 8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

## 9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

## 10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

### Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 30 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>

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# **Timetable of Y13 Mocks**

## **6-10 January 2025 (Lecture Theatre) week B**

Mon, 6 January	Morning Session		Afternoon Session
Arrive at exam room by 8.30am	Law Paper 2 (Tort) - 2h Maths Paper 1 - 2h English Literature - 3h	Arrive at exam room by 12.50pm	Biology - 2h Drama & Theatre - 3h Further Maths Paper 1 - 2h Philosophy Paper 1 - 3h
Tue, 7 January			
Arrive at exam room by 8.30am	Business - 2h Chemistry Paper 1 - 2h15m French Paper 1 (Listening & Reading) - 2h PE Paper 1 - 2h Sociology Paper 1 - 2h <b>Music – 2h15m (Training Room)</b>	Arrive at exam room by 12.50pm	English Lang & Lit Paper 2 - 1h Geography Paper 1 - 2h15m Maths Paper 2 - 2h
Wed, 8 January			
Arrive at exam room by 8.30am	History Paper 1 (Germany 1h) & 2 (Stuarts 45m) Film Studies - 2h Further Maths Paper 2 - 2h PE Paper 2 (1h) & 3 (1h) Psychology Paper 1 - 2h	Arrive at exam room by 12.50pm	English Lang & Lit Paper 1 - 1h Sociology Paper 2 - 2h Philosophy Paper 2 - 3h Chemistry Paper 2 - 2h15m
Thu, 9 January			
Arrive at exam room by 8.30am	Geography Paper 2 - 1h20m History Paper 3 (Russia) - 1h30m Psychology Paper 2 - 2h	Arrive at exam room by 12.50pm	French Paper 2 (Writing) - 2h40m Law Paper 3 (Human Rights) - 2h Physics - 2h15m
Fri, 10 January			
Arrive at exam room by 8.30am	<b>Clash / Catch-Up</b>	Arrive at exam room by 12.50pm	<b>Clash / Catch-Up</b>

- Written papers will be held in Lecture Theatre and occasionally, an extra classroom
- Individual timetables will show resolved subject clashes and will be issued via school email accounts
- Candidates who require access arrangements in an alternative room should go to the canopy by reception at the start of each session
- Extra time can be accommodated for students with approved access arrangements, but please be aware that buses will not wait after school so alternative transport home must be arranged by students/parents/carers
- Study Leave for all Year 13 students Monday, 6 January - Friday, 10 January
- Year 13 lessons will recommence on Monday, 13 January

### Y13 Mock Practical Timetable

<b>Art</b>	Mon, 20 January (all day)
<b>Drama</b>	Wed, 15 January (all day)
<b>French</b>	Thu, 16 January (Lesson 1)
<b>Graphics</b>	Tue, 21 January (all day)
<b>Music</b>	Tue, 14 January (Lesson 1-3)
<b>PE</b>	Thu, 16 January (all day)
<b>Photography</b>	Fri, 24 January (all day)

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**



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