Parent/Carer Bulletin

28ᵗʰ September 2018

Week A	
1/10	Y12 Geography Field Trip to Swanage departs Y8 Maths Trip, Bath Racecourse Y12/13 DT Trip, Cardiff
2/10	Y12 Geography Field Trip to Swanage returns
3/10	6-7.30pm UCAS University Finance Talk for Parents & Students, Lecture Theatre
4/10	
5/10	

Collective Worship Theme: **Loyalty**

The scholar does not consider gold and jade to be precious treasures, but loyalty and good faith"
Confucius

Lorraine Marlow, "Spiritual Development Coordinator"

Absence Line/Registration
Y7-13 01225 309501
attendance@st-laurence.com

Restaurant Menus
Filepath on website: https://st-laurence.com/documents-and-forms

Have you looked at the latest on-line version of Connect?
https://st-laurence.com/newsletters

Food Parcels from The Hub@BA15

Some of you may know that for the past three years, The Hub@BA15 has provided over 1000 food parcels to those in need. We know that this has been a welcome help to many families during school holidays when free school lunches are not available. We want to let everyone know that we always welcome those in need. Your details can be provided to the school; alternatively you can contact the Hub directly. We also want you to know that we are able to provide parcels during non- school holidays for the entire family, not just your child or children. Your child's school is in possession of vouchers which they can sign and you can fill out. Bringing this voucher to the Hub on Church Street in Bradford on Avon allows you to receive a food parcel tailored to your family. The Hub is open Monday through Friday from 10 to 1. Our phone number is 01225 920148 should you need any information. We are also able to help with debt advice and some welfare benefit enquiries. We have a phone and computers with printing facilities which are available for use.

Trips

Lakes Trip:
Students in Year 8 going on the Lakes trip can hire boots and waterproofs from the school kit store on Monday 1ˢᵗ October. Please see Mr Bailey in A2 at 3pm.

Year 7 Challenge Day:
Please can all parents ensure that they have made the £25 payment for the Year 7 Challenge Day at Brokerswood. The deadline has been extended to **Friday 28ᵗʰ September.**

Road Closure and Travel Delays

We have been informed that from Wednesday 3ʳᵈ October Frome Road (junction of Junction Road and rail station) will be closed to all traffic between 0900 and 1530hrs. Traffic heading south will not be affected. Some delays should be expected but most of the coaches will route alternative ways but the Town Bus 98 will probably not be able to get to the school until about 1540 – about 30 mins later than usual (as the road is closed and the bus will be on the wrong side of the closure.) Any children using the town bus are fare paying passengers for Sainsburys side so they can either wait or walk home.
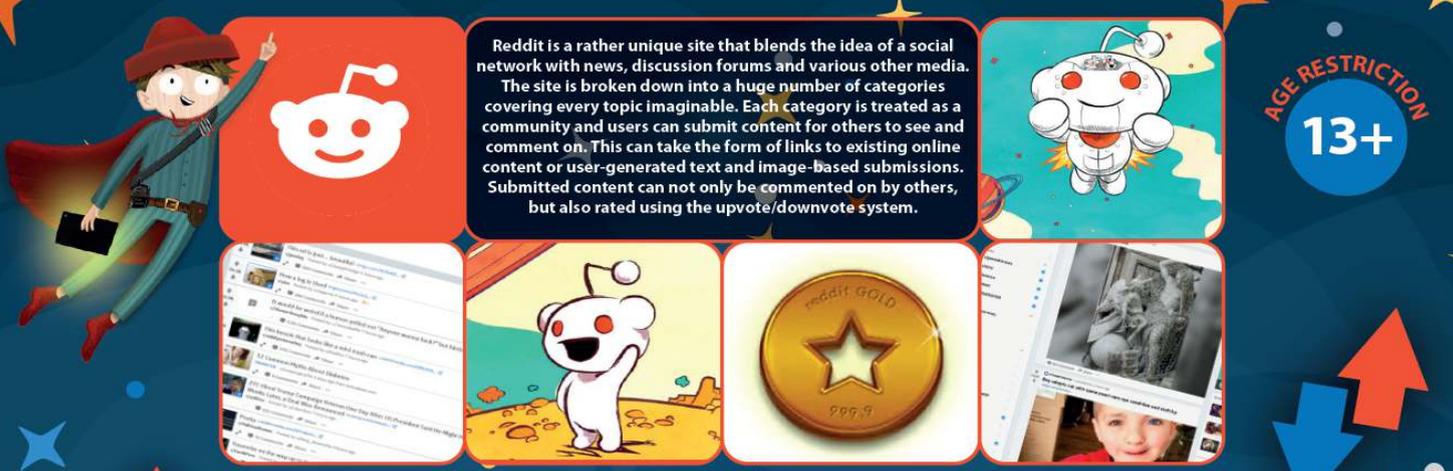The closure dates are:
Wed 3/10
Thur 4/10
Fri 5/10
Mon 8/10
Tue 9/10
Wed 10/10

SLSA News

As a result of our AGM, we need a treasurer and a vice-chair. These are vital roles and job descriptions are available on the SLSA page of the school website under 'About Us'. If no-one comes forward by Friday 12th October (12 noon), there will be an Extraordinary Meeting of the SLSA on Monday 22th October with a view to dissolving the 'Association on 31 December 2018.

If you have any interest in or questions about these roles or the SLSA, please email the chair: robert.beesley@talktalk.net

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Reddit is a rather unique site that blends the idea of a social network with news, discussion forums and various other media. The site is broken down into a huge number of categories covering every topic imaginable. Each category is treated as a community and users can submit content for others to see and comment on. This can take the form of links to existing online content or user-generated text and image-based submissions. Submitted content can not only be commented on by others, but also rated using the upvote/downvote system.

What parents need to know about
REDDIT

SUB-REDDITS

Each community (known as a sub-reddit) has its own set of moderators and its own set of rules, opening up the opportunity for your child to see inappropriate content or something they may find upsetting. Almost every subreddit is user-run, with practically no involvement from reddit employees. Anyone can submit content to a sub-reddit and it's not filtered.

REDDIT GOLD AND GIFTS

Reddit Gold is a premium membership scheme that gives 'extra features to improve the reddit experience,' such as no adverts, custom themes and avatars, and the ability to create Reddit 'secret societies.' Payment costs $3.99 a month (around £3), or $29.99 a year (£23). Users can reward each other for content they post by giving Reddit Gold, a process dubbed 'gilding.' Reddit Gifts is a giant online gift exchange for sending a gift to a randomly assigned user. Reddit recommends that you spend around $20 on a gift, so there is a concern that your child could rack up expenses if unmonitored.

ADULT AND NSFW CONTENT

While there are moderators in place for sub-reddits, they are not necessarily going to ensure that the sort of content you wouldn't want your child to see is banned. Reddit is concerned with free speech and light-touch moderation, so even the most open-minded of people may find deeply offensive content. Reddit generally provides a lot of leeway in the type of content which is acceptable. Some members choose vulgar usernames, while some communities have controversial or rude titles. Some content or communities are marked with 'NSFW' (Not Safe For Work) which means they may contain nudity, pornography, or profanity; it is easy for users to claim to be aged 18 and over to view this content.

REDDIT LINGO

Children and teenagers often manage to mask what they are talking about by wrapping it up in language their parents do not understand. While Reddit is certainly not used just by children and teenagers, like any online community there are words, phrases and abbreviations that may seem impenetrable to start with, such as TL;DR: Too Long; Didn't Read and ITT: In this thread.

CONTENT BIAS AND FAKE NEWS

Subreddits are particularly prone to bias - to the extent that some of them could be seen as propaganda. Reddit has been mentioned as one of the platforms used to promote Russian propaganda, for example. Other news stories can be completely false and not based on any evidence at all – known as fake news - these are written and posted online deliberately to create an impact. Both are nearly impossible to avoid.

TROLLS AND STRANGERS

Globally, millions of people of all ages use the Reddit platform to discuss any topic imaginable from just about every possible viewpoint. Although people can find users who have similar interests, some will choose to abuse the platform. Talking with strangers can lead to trolling and abuse, or your child encountering unsavoury subjects. Reddit users can also send each other private messages, so there is a danger of your child receiving inappropriate or unwanted communication.

National Online Safety

Top Tips for Parents

TURN SAFE BROWSING MODE ON AND ADULT CONTENT OFF

Some sub-reddits are marked as 'adult-only' and in order to access them users must be (or at least say they are) 18 or over. Within your child's user profile, it is possible to indicate that they are not 18 and this will block access to some sub-reddits, but certainly not everything you might consider to be unsuitable. Firstly, to protect them from unsuitable content, check that they have used their correct age when signing up. Secondly, turn off 'adult content' which will disable adult and NSFW (not safe for work) content from showing in the feed and search results. If you are happy to leave 'adult content' turned on, we highly recommend turning on 'safe browsing mode;' this blurs thumbnails and media preview for anything labelled NSFW (not safe for work).

REPORTING CONTENT

To a certain extent it can be useful to learn to just walk away from conversations that take a turn for the worse, but this is not always possible. Learn how to use the blocking feature and teach your child how to use it if someone becomes a problem. Beneath all content and comments that have been submitted by other users, there is an option to report it. Advise your child to report any form of abuse or harassment that they encounter on the platform. It is a good way to alert moderators to the user and hopefully, action will be taken against them.

SPOT FAKE NEWS

Encourage your child to read around topics and not to take something at face value. Just because something is said by someone on Reddit, in no way does this mean that it is true. Remember that the links people post and the comments they leave will cover the full range of political views, intelligence levels and opinions.

LEARN THE LINGO

It is impossible to provide a guide to all the vocabulary and language used on Reddit - it is something that is constantly evolving. There are some words and abbreviations that have become common Internet parlance (such as NSFW). If you want to check anything which your child has accessed (which can be seen in the 'Recently viewed links' panel on the front page of the site), be prepared to do a little searching if you encounter things you are unable to make sense of. There's probably a sub-reddit all about acronyms!

BLOCKING STRANGERS

Short of blocking access to Reddit completely, or blocking individual sub-reddits, it's difficult to police your child's use of the site without physically monitoring what they are doing. It is important to let your child know that there are unpleasant people out there and they need to take care about sharing personal information. Should someone start to be a harassment, you can control who can send you private messages and add users to a blocked list by simply clicking on the 'Block User' button.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com

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HomeRun

In the summer terms, St. Laurence School, along with several others in Wiltshire, started using the HomeRun app. The app. will enable us to collect the information that we need, to improve the ways that we travel to school each day. The benefits of these changes will be greater mental and emotional wellbeing for our students – as well as the physical benefits from exercise. In addition, we all need to consider how to address the significant problem of the air quality in Bradford-on-Avon.

At the start of the school year, we are relaunching the app. For this to be successful for everyone, we need you all to sign up. The data is absolutely secure and I am happy to outline this in more detail to any parents concerned. The app. is promoted and paid for by Wiltshire County Council and Bradford-on-Avon, who know that we need to do something about the way young people travel to school. Ofsted have rated the app. 'outstanding'. Please sign up as a parent/carer and also for your child's own account. We need all students to join in to give us a full picture of how we currently commute. This is not just for those of you using Sustainable Transport. We need to know about the car drivers too. The councils want to reduce congestion and we will only get it right with the correct information about journeys.

Our own internal promotions are continuing this term. Competitions will be coming through tutor time and gifts will be coming home via 'Lucky Lock' for those of you cycling in.

HomeRun connects parents, strengthens our school community and helps to make our students' school journeys safer, with a focus on wellbeing & the environment. It also enables you to abandon the 'school run' and form your own groups of students from nearby, to run a car share or allow them to walk together to school, safely. **Please sign up to this FREE innovative and exciting service** by clicking on the link below and following the simple steps to register with our St. Laurence School HomeRun Community:

https://user.homerun-app.com/createAccountViaSchoolLink/4fDkjs0P/St%20Laurence%20School

N.B. This link is exclusive for our school's parents and will not work for anyone else.

Here is how HomeRun can help you:

- **Community:** Connect with St. Laurence School parents across all year groups.

- **Better School Journeys**: Easily see which parents are looking to share the school run, or create travel buddy groups for your child's independent journeys.

- **Safeguarding:** If your child has their own smartphone, you can keep track of their journeys in real time and receive notifications when they reach school.

Take a look at the attached leaflet or visit www.homerun-app.com to find out more.

We look forward to you joining our St. Laurence School HomeRun community. If you have any queries then please contact me at St. Laurence School – matcro@st-laurence.com

Mr. M Croft

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