



# Parent/Carer Bulletin

29th February 2019

Week A	
2/03	10am -1pm - Drama GCSE Exam Rehearsals
3/03	10am -1pm - Drama GCSE Exam Rehearsals 9am-5pm - U18 Rugby 7s Tournament, Colston School;
4/03	Y10 Geography Field Trip (Quantocks)
5/03	Y10 Geography Field Trip (Quantocks)
6/03	German exchange students arrive from Noden.
7/03	6.30pm-8pm Science Build Information Evening

**Collective Worship Theme: Grace**

*"One kind word can change someone's entire day"*

The new social work magazine, university of Texas  
Lorraine Marlow, "Spiritual Development Coordinator"

### Absence Line/Registration

Y7-13 01225 309501

[attendance@st-laurence.com](mailto: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>

**ParentPay Please**  
be reminded that  
**ParentPay is the school's preferred method of payment for trips, events and purchase of goods.**  
Please log into your ParentPay account to pay for the items shown on the table above right.

Trip/Item	Payment	Due
Donations Project	Various	All Year
Work Experience	Various	All Year
Calculators	£6.80	All Year
Geometry Sets	£1.25	All Year
A Level Calculator	£20.25	All Year
KS3 Materials	£5.00	All Year
KS4 Materials	£7.50	All Year
KS5 Materials	£10.00	All Year
Sketchbooks	Various	All Year
Maths Revision Guides	Various	08/03/19
New York	£1029.00	01/02/19
Italy	£810.00	01/07/19
Romania	£1235.00	01/04/19
Black Rock	£280.00	26/04/19
German Exchange	£200.00	30/04/19
Battlefields	£305.00	10/05/19
Berlin	£450.00	12/07/19
Paris	£295.00	01/04/19
Gold DofE	£100.00	ASAP
Geography Field Trip River Holford/Bath	£20.00	ASAP
Oxbridge Conference	£17.00	ASAP
Senior Ski Trip	£150.00	29/03/19

### Digital Parenting

We recognise that parents and carers wish to provide digital protection for their children and promote safe usage. As within school, there is a need to combine education with responsible oversight and to impose age appropriate controls over access to online materials and time spent with multi-media devices. Each week we publish an infographic with some excellent examples of advice in respect to discussing e-safety with young people and understanding how to deploy home filtering. We are aware that these might not always reproduce well in this format and recommend that you access the link below to the weekly infographic. When we publish an infographic in future we will also post an accompanying link for you to access the information in larger format. This week's theme is "What parents need to know about Momo" and can be accessed here <https://2j39y52a62gm1afygb3g1xbu-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/MOMO-Online-Safety-Guide-for-Parents-FEB-2019.pdf>

### Autism Awareness

Wiltshire Council is in early discussions with the WPCC and other services about coproducing a film to raise awareness about what autism is and how it affects young people. The plan would be to try to have it ready in time for Autism Awareness week (1st to 7th April 2019) so that it could be used to give a positive message to as many people as possible about autism.

We would very much like this film to be led as much as possible by young people and we would like to see young people "interviewing other young people." We are aware that we will need to sort out filming consent, etc. but in the first instance we would like to know if young people of secondary school age who might be interested in being filmed as part of this project.

If your young person is interested, please email me with:-

- Your Name (parent carer)
- Your Child's name
- School or other setting (e.g. educated at home)
- Your contact details

We are hoping to begin filming March 7<sup>th</sup>

I look forward to hearing from you.

Dexter Chipeni  
Apprentice Commissioning Support Officer  
Wiltshire Council  
Mobile: 07450588020  
Email: [Dexter.chipeni@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Dexter.chipeni@wiltshire.gov.uk)  
Web: [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk)  
[www.onyourmind.org.uk](http://www.onyourmind.org.uk)

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Momo is a sinister 'challenge' that has been around for some time. It has recently resurfaced and once again has come to the attention of schools and children across the country. Dubbed the 'suicide killer game', Momo has been heavily linked with apps such as Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube, and most recently (and most worryingly)... YouTube Kids. The scary doll-like figure reportedly sends graphic violent images, and asks users to partake in dangerous challenges like waking up at random hours and has even been associated with self-harm. It has been reported that the 'Momo' figure was originally created as a sculpture and featured in an art gallery in Tokyo and unrelated to the 'Momo' challenge we are hearing about in the media.

What parents need to know about

# MOMO



## CHILDREN'S VIDEOS BEING 'HIJACKED'

There have been recent reports that some seemingly innocent videos on YouTube and YouTube Kids (such as 'surprise eggs', unboxing videos and Minecraft videos) have been edited by unknown sources to include violence provoking and/or other inappropriate content. Even though YouTube monitor and remove videos that include inappropriate content, clips can be uploaded and viewed thousands of times before they get reported and removed. As a parent, it's difficult to spot these videos as the harmful content doesn't appear until partway through the video.

## DISTRESSING FOR CHILDREN

Popular YouTubers and other accounts have been uploading reaction videos, showing their experience of the MOMO challenge. Some of the videos include a disclosure message warning that the content may be "inappropriate or offensive to some audiences" and that "viewer discretion is advised" but these videos are still easily accessed by clicking 'I understand and wish to proceed'. The image of the 'Momo' character can be deeply distressing to children and young people and it's important to note that it may slip through parental settings and filters.

## SUGGESTED VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE

Video apps such as YouTube include an 'up next' feature which automatically starts playing another video based on the video just watched. Due to YouTube's algorithm, users are shown 'suggested videos' that they may be interested in. The thumbnails used on suggested videos are purposefully created in a way to encourage viewers to click them. During our research, we found that when watching one Momo related video, we were shown countless other Momo themed videos and other scary content which would be age-inappropriate for children under 18.



**National Online Safety**

# Top Tips for Parents

## TELL THEM IT'S NOT REAL

Just like any urban legend or horror story, the concept can be quite frightening and distressing for young people. Whilst this may seem obvious, it's important for you to reiterate to your child that Momo is not a real person and cannot directly harm them! Also, tell your child to not go openly searching for this content online as it may only cause more distress.

### BEPRESENT

It's important for you, as a parent or carer, to be present while your children are online. This will give you a greater understanding of what they are doing on their devices, as well as providing you with the opportunity to discuss, support and stop certain activities that your child may be involved in. As the nature of each task become progressively worse it's also important to recognise any changes in your child's behaviour.

## TALK REGULARLY WITH YOUR CHILD

As well as monitoring your child's activity, it's important for you to discuss it with them too. Not only will this give you an understanding of their online actions, but those honest and frequent conversations will encourage your child to feel confident to discuss issues and concerns they may have related to the online world.

## DEVICE SETTINGS & PARENTAL CONTROLS

Ensure that you set up parental controls for your devices at home. This will help to restrict the types of content that your child can view, as well as help you to monitor their activity. In addition to this, it's vital that you are aware of your device and account settings to ensure your child's utmost safety. For example, on YouTube you can turn off 'suggested auto-play' on videos to stop your child from viewing content that they have not directly selected.

## PEER PRESSURE

Trends and viral challenges can be tempting for children to take part in; no matter how dangerous or scary they seem. Make sure you talk to your child about how they shouldn't succumb to peer pressure and do anything they are not comfortable with, online or offline. If they are unsure, encourage them to talk to you or another trusted adult.

## REAL OR HOAX?

As a parent it is natural to feel worried about certain things you see online that may be harmful to your child. However, not everything you see online is true. Check the validity of the source and be mindful of what you share as it may only cause more worry.

## REPORT & BLOCK

You can't always rely on parental controls to block distressing or harmful material. People find ways around a platform's algorithm in order to share and promote this type of material. Due to this, we advise that you flag and report any material you deem to be inappropriate or harmful as soon as you come across it. You should also block the account/content to prevent your child from viewing it. Also encourage your child to record/screenshot any content they feel could be malicious to provide evidence in order to escalate the issue to the appropriate channels.

## FURTHER SUPPORT

Speak to the safeguarding lead within your child's school should you have any concerns regarding your child's online activity or malicious content that could affect them.

If your child sees something distressing, it is important that they know where to go to seek help and who their trusted adults are. They could also contact Childline where a trained counsellor will listen to anything that's worrying them.

The Childline phone number is 0800 1111.

SOURCES:  
<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/sick-videos-youtube-youtube-kids-14052196>  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-47359623>





6.30pm - 8.00pm  
7th March 2019

Trinity Hall,  
St Laurence  
School  
Ashley Road  
Wiltshire  
BA15 1DZ



# COME AND JOIN US AT ST LAURENCE SCIENCE BUILD FUNDRAISER

Help us raise £60,000 to build .....

**3**

### 3D Model

Come and see a 3D model of the planned science extension and hear how you can help.

**NEW**

### Special Guest

Professor Carole Mundell, Professor of Extragalactic Astronomy and Head of Physics at the University of Bath and Chief Scientific Advisor at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

**LABs**

### Hear from Students

Presentation by former and current students working in and studying STEM.

Cash and card payments can be accepted on the evening.

RSVP: 01225 309500 or [admin@st-laurence.com](mailto:admin@st-laurence.com)