

Parent / Carer Bulletin



Friday 10th September 2021

Headteacher's Update

	Week B
13/09	
14/09	
15/09	Y11 Information Evening (on Teams); 6.00-7.00pm
16/09	
17/09	

Collective Worship Term 1 Theme: Curiosity

Help us to be curious in our everyday lives.

Let us use our inquisitive minds for the better.

May we find a deeper interest in new topics and new ways to help in our collective society.

We hope to become more involved in the social issues we see around us.

We ask for help in consolidating our knowledge.

May we gain the knowledge to fulfil our curiosity for the better.

Let us ask the right questions and in life about the things that truly matter.

From Mr Dutton - Deputy Headteacher, Standards & Assessment/KS3 & 4

On the front page of the school's website, you will find two key tabs – "**Links for Parents and Carers**" and "**Links for Students**".

These links take you to a list of weblinks to a variety of useful school systems/ platforms we use. This will be particularly helpful if your child is off school with a COVID related absence.

Dear All,

I would like to say on behalf of all of the staff at St Laurence, how impressed we have been with the attitude, focus and energy of the students. I have managed to get into almost every classroom since the beginning of term and I have seen really positive engagement and a genuine desire to learn and get started. Year 7 arrived with us last Friday, along with year 12, and one of our core values, Care, was tangible as the sixth formers toured the school with the new students, showing them where to go and answering questions from 'what's the food like?' to 'how do you get into sixth form?'. You will know we have returned to vertical tutor groups and the positive impact has already been felt. I have run the Collective Worship this week and again, for a group of students who have not even used the Wiltshire Music Centre or had a physical gathering for a long time, students showed focus and high standards of behaviour and interest.

Lessons this week have had two priorities. The first is to listen to students and build relationships again within the classroom as these have been sadly restricted due to the pandemic. The other has been to re-establish the routines which support learning. Reminders about equipment, presentation in books, positive behaviours and so on. Any support at home would be appreciated

Every year the final number of students attending often changes as people move house etc. and we actually have a very limited number of spaces in year 7. If you know of anyone who is moving to the area or in search of a Secondary School, please let them know.

We also have our Open Evening planned for this year and we are hoping it can be a physical event. The date is Wednesday 29th September and details will be shared with Primary schools and advertised in the local press. It has been at least 2 years since the last Open Evening and we are keen to share with year 5 and 6 some new facilities that they may not know about and most importantly, get them to know who we are face to face. If you have children in these year groups, please look out for the invites and feel free to share with other parents. We will be asking our own students to be tour guides for the event so please also encourage your child to take part in some way. Our students are always our best ambassadors.

There have been some teething issues with the bus service, apologies, and we are working hard, talking with them daily, to resolve these. Please do stay in touch if you have questions about this.

Kind regards
Tim Farrer

From Mrs Metcalfe – Head of Art Photography and Graphics

Are you a practising artist/designer and would love to come to talk about your work? Please contact me at: lismet@st-laurence.com

From Mrs Martin – Medical Administration

Medication

If you require medication to be held at school for your child, please allow your child to bring in the medication, in its original box to Student Reception, with a signed Administration of Medication Form.

The form can be found here:

[Administration-of-Medicines.pdf \(st-laurence.com\)](#) vanmar@st-laurence.com

From Mr Benn – Network Manager

Microsoft Education Programme

St Laurence School is participating in the Microsoft Education Program.

Through the program current students can install the latest version of Microsoft Office on up to five PCs, Macs, and tablets for no cost.

Office applications installed through the program remain activated as long as you are at St Laurence.

Please see the help guide:

https://web.st-laurence.com/help/guides/office/office365_education_install.pdf

From Mr Blowers – Assistant Headteacher/Director of 6th Form

Year 13 Results: Congratulations to our amazing Year 13 who triumphed against all the odds in completing their A levels this Summer and achieving fantastic grades.

They achieved an average grade of “B” as they have done for the past five years, making them the **highest** achieving state secondary in Wiltshire once again - testament to their hard work and all the staff at St Laurence.

All those that applied to University gained places, with the overwhelming majority getting their first choice. Many others are moving on to Apprenticeships and the world of employment. We wish them all the very best in wherever they go and whatever they do.

Gold Duke of Edinburgh: Well done to the following Year 13 students who successfully completed their Gold DofE this year. This is an unbelievable achievement and incredible challenge and something to be really proud of:

- Team 1- Matt Neal; Joe Rimmer; Andrew Jolly; Ed Bancroft and Alex Hoad
- Team 2- Lily Cookson; Jess Tait; Ruby Stillman; Lisa Coombes; Kathryn Adlam and Gil Nott

We received this wonderful testimony from one of the leaders on Duke of Edinburgh:

“I don’t give praise where it’s not due, but this was certainly amongst the best groups I have assessed at this level which not only shows how good they are, but also makes it a joy to be out with them.”

Welcome back to the 6th Form Centre & Afghanaid:

Finally, a warm welcome to our Year 12s and a return for our Year 13s. We are so pleased to finally have you back where you belong – in our amazing 6th Form Centre. We are looking forward to working with you and getting to know you.

One item to put on your agenda is that our fantastic Student Leadership team are planning a fund raiser for Afghanaid where they will be putting on a range of fun sports and games for you all one day after school next week. We really hope you can all get involved to support an important cause.

Thanks for all your hard work and support so far 6th Form – you are a real credit to our school.

From Mrs Nash – Head of Drama

I am very excited to be joining St Laurence School as the new Head of Drama and have enjoyed getting to know the young people I have met so far.

The department are looking forward to offering various extra-curricular Drama provision this term and will soon be sharing details of various after school clubs.

In the meantime, please put the following dates in your diaries:

- **Wednesday 22nd September** 6pm in the Drama Studio
Performances of Year 11 devised work (open to families and friends. We recommend Year 10 pupils and those pupils in Year 9 considering GCSE Drama also come along)
- **Tuesday 12th October**
Trip to Bristol Old Vic for GCSE and A Level students to see 'Wuthering Heights' - letters will be coming home soon

ELECTION OF PARENT GOVERNORS: NOMINATIONS

The Governing Body of St Laurence School are seeking a new Parent Governor following the dedicated service of Mr D Casey.

This opportunity to become a Parent Governor is open to parents and carers of students currently at St Laurence School, as well as members of the community, with a commitment to supporting the school and all its community, and share our desire to ensure the best outcomes for all young people.

Training is provided although knowledge of some aspects of education and school operations would be beneficial.

Parent Governors are elected by parents and are vital to our Governing Body. They share equally with other governors the responsibility for carrying out the Governing Body's wide range of responsibilities, with a strategic or policy-making role in the school.

You do not have to be an expert on education to be a school governor, your role would be as a typical parent bringing a parent's perspective to the running of the Governing Body and the school. We value the experience that all governors bring to the role.

The successful candidate will be eligible to serve for a four-year term. There are six Governing Body meetings each year; governors usually also serve on a committee which meets once a term (typically via Teams). You will need to set aside time to be able to be an effective governor: time to prepare for meetings, for visiting the school, undertaking training and updating.

To find out more about what being a governor at this school is like, Mrs Maher-Roberts, the Chair of Governors, will be available to answer any questions. Please email chairofgovernors@st-laurence.com

If you would like to take the opportunity to put yourself forward as a candidate, please email clerktogovernors@st-laurence.com to receive the application form. The deadline for returning completed forms is **Friday 24 September 2021**.

An election will be held where there are multiple nominations and details will follow to nominees and parents/carers.

...And finally

Bradford on Avon Lions Club are holding a Fun Run on Sunday 19th September. Click here for full details and Booking Form: www.entrycentral.com/boa-lions-fun-run

Have fun!!