

Parent / Carer Bulletin



Friday 1st October 2021

Headteacher's Update

	Week A
04/10	Y11 GCSE Mock Briefing - Tutorial
05/10	Y11 GCSE Mock Briefing - Tutorial
06/10	Y11 GCSE Mock Briefing – Tutorial Y9/12 Paperbirds Theatre Company - 9.30-3.00pm
07/10	Y9/12 Paperbirds theatre company - 9.30- 3.00pm
08/10	

Collective Worship Term 1 Theme: Curiosity

Help us to be curious in our everyday lives.

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.

Dear Parent

It has been a hugely busy week in school and the highlight was the Open Evening held here on Wednesday evening.

Student tour guides led small groups of visitors around the school and the feedback we received was just lovely. Confident, articulate and knowledgeable were three common words.

It was great to have the opportunity of once again physically welcoming people into the school, showing them the facilities and allowing them to meet and talk with staff. Due to numbers we had to put on an extra talk in the Wiltshire Music Centre which the student speakers took within their stride.

My thanks go to everyone that made it such a success. There are a few places left in the Open Mornings for parents of years 5 and 6 so please do spread the word if you know of any.

You will have read that GCSE and A level exams will be taking place next year and there have been very limited concessions for this cohort of student. This is a concern to us but we will continue to teach the curriculum, offer intervention and are planning to run some specific year 11 sessions using our own staff in lessons after school. The details of the exam specifics will be released no later than February 7th so we have some way to go before we know more. Clearly, it will be a challenging year for the exam groups so I ask that you stay in touch with us and ask for support if needed.

Kind regards

Tim Farrer

**From Sally Hackett –
Headteacher’s PA**

The Chair of Governor’s Annual Report 2020-21 has been published and can be found here:

<https://st-laurence.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Chair-of-Governors-Annual-Report-2020-21.pdf>

From Mrs Nash – Head of Drama

We are looking forward to welcoming The Paper Birds Theatre Company into school next week. They are coming in to run some devising workshops during normal lesson time for our A Level students. They will also be working with two of our Year 9 classes - 9LG4 and 9LG5 - who are just fortunate enough to have their Drama lesson at the right time to be able to benefit!

We hope to be able to run other workshops during the year which we will open up to other interested students.

From Mr Blowers – Assistant Headteacher & Director of Sixth Form

6th Form Open Evening – Thursday 4th November 4.30-7.30

Come and see why we are the largest and most successful local 6th Form.

As part of “Year 11 Moving Up” week we will be showcasing our wonderful 6th Form and we really hope you can join us to find out how you can join us in 2022

We are so proud of what we do:

- We were the **highest attaining State 6th Form in Wiltshire** in the last exam series
- Our students have attained a stunning **“Grade B”** average for the last 5 years
- We are rated in the **top 15% of 6th Forms nationally** (ALPS)
- **Over 25 different courses** to choose from including: Biology; Law; Criminology; Film Studies; Drama; Business Studies - you name it, we have it!
- **A modern bespoke 6th Form Centre** with IT study spaces for 6th Form
- **Thriving Gold Duke of Edinburgh** (The largest cohort locally)
- **A community service programme** where all students give back to the local community

There will be lots more information coming your way – but please note the date and we can’t wait to see you on this evening.

From Robert Beesley – Clerk to the Governors

St Laurence School Governing Body - Parent Governor Elections

The following candidates have applied to be a Parent Governor at the school.:

- Catherine Giachritsis
- Emily Higson
- David Roberts

Please read their personal statements, complete the poll using the link to vote for your chosen Parent Governor (one vote only please): <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BRVW67G>

Catherine Giachritsis

As both a parent and a forensic-clinical psychologist who teaches in higher education, I am keen to offer my support to the school in what has been a difficult time for pupils, staff and families. During the pandemic, I have also had to teach via live online platforms and support University students who have struggled to engage in that online environment – plus, often, with their mental health. My field of research is online child abuse and exploitation, and I hope that this knowledge would also be of benefit to the school to support their existing programme of raising awareness of safe use of online spaces.

Emily Higson

I am:

- Current parent and former pupil of St Laurence
- Passionate about education's role in social mobility
- Experienced in equality, inclusion, policy, strategy, fundraising
- Keen to learn

I have:

- Time and energy to commit
- The desire to give back to my community
- Extensive knowledge of the town and surrounding areas

David Roberts

I have two children at St Laurence and two starting soon and am keen to get involved and represent parents. A priority would be to encourage support to students to foster existing talents and discover new strengths, and develop links between business/enterprise and school. Experience in strategic school estates.

The poll will close on Wednesday 6th October at 11.00 and the result will be announced in the Parent /Carer Bulletin on Friday 8th October.

If you have any questions about or concerns with the conduct of the poll, please address them to clerktogovernors@st-laurence.com

1st October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you well and that the start of term has been positive.

I am writing to you as we have decided to make some changes to our operation based on the rising cases of COVID in the community and nationally. We know that you may find this concerning, but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Wiltshire Council and the national Public Health team.

This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. The reported cases in school do not meet any of the thresholds identified by the Government and our risk level has not changed but we want to be as proactive as possible and ask for your support.

The school remains open, and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well and are not displaying Covid 19 symptoms. We are encouraging and asking household members that are aged 11 and over to continue with twice weekly LFD testing to help identify cases promptly as this is one way we can reduce transmission. We have extra test kits should you need them.

To note, the immunisation programme is also being carried out today and you will have received the consent email from the NHS.

From Monday 4th October we have taken the decision to host collective worship and assembly online as opposed to using Trinity Hall or Wiltshire Music Centre. Much as this is regrettable, these are large group gatherings and at this time, we think it prudent to revert back to online and will be doing the same with staff meetings.

Breaks and lunches are split in three still and this was the case during the previous lockdowns. We have kept this in place as it resolves any crowding issue in the restaurant and reduces numbers moving around the school at the same time but, we are now having allocated areas for year groups in the restaurant and these will be clearly signposted. Students should also wear a mask (unless exempt) when queueing in the restaurant and in corridors between lessons.

Ventilation remains in place in all classrooms and we are still promoting the use of hand sanitiser. Students may wear a mask if they wish but we do not require these in the classroom at this moment in time. We retained the extra cleaners that the school employed so enhanced cleaning is already taking place and will continue to be so.

Below is the guidance given by Public Health on what to do if your child develops symptoms and current instructions on what to do next.

I hope that you will continue to support us with our joint efforts to find the balance between providing the best education possible whilst doing everything we can to keep children as safe as possible.

Yours sincerely,
Tim Farrer
Headteacher

What to do if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or tests positive for COVID-19

If your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they should get a PCR test and remain at home at least until the result is known. If negative, the child can end self-isolation; if positive, the child should isolate for 10 days after their symptoms appeared. Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) remain a new, continuous cough, or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). If the child has a positive test result but does not have symptoms, they should stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days from the date the positive test was taken. This isolation period will be extended if they go on to develop symptoms by counting 10 full days from the day of their symptom onset. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for a PCR test.

Instructions for people who live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 (tested positive or symptomatic awaiting a test result)

From 16 August 2021, you will not be required to self-isolate if you are a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and any of the following apply:

- you are fully vaccinated
- you are below the age of 18 years 6 months
- you have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Fully vaccinated means that you have been vaccinated with an MHRA approved COVID-19 vaccine in the UK, and at least 14 days have passed since you received the recommended doses of that vaccine.

Any member of the household who is aged 18 years and 6 months or over and has only received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine or has not received any dose of the COVID-19 vaccination will still be required to self-isolate as household contact of a someone with COVID-19 symptoms awaiting testing and someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Please read the stay at home guidance which provides information on this.

Instructions for household contacts who are not required to self-isolate from 16 August

Even if you are vaccinated, you can still be infected with COVID-19 and pass it on to others. If you are identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 but you are not required to self-isolate, you can help protect others by following the guidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread. Student/child close contacts not required to self-isolate should continue to attend the educational setting as normal.

Further Information

Further information is available at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

From the English Department

The Benefits of Wider Reading

We know that students who read widely, and read for pleasure, tend to learn better and more in their school subjects than students who do not. Reading widely increases our knowledge about the world, improves our vocabulary, and opens our minds to a great range of ideas about how we live. In short, reading widely makes you more clever, creative and interesting.

At St Laurence we recognise that not everyone will enjoy every book; but we know that there is “a book for everyone”. As such, we actively encourage students to discover and explore a range of books, and the ILC has lots of books with stories and non-fiction that cover the whole human experience. We want to challenge our students to develop their own reading journeys, increase their insight, empathy and understanding of the wider world.

It’s important for students to experiment with what they read, not to get stuck in a rut, or read books that are too easy for them. Every term, the English department publishes wider reading lists for Key Stage 3 that complement the schemes of learning we study in lessons (see the lists for terms 1 and 2 below). The staff in the ILC also have an exceptional knowledge of all kinds of books that students will enjoy.

Reading isn’t just something for English lessons: being a good, fluent reader helps students across school – and in their whole lives. And, aside from this, the feeling of getting immersed in a good book is simply one of the most rewarding and enjoyable there is.

In a time when video games and mobile phones often dominate the leisure time of our young people, we ask that you encourage reading for pleasure with your children – 20 minutes per day can make all the difference, providing them with valuable time with their own imaginations.



KS3 Wider Reading Lists

Wider reading is a fundamental part of a child’s all-round education, and we try to encourage this at school as part of the key stage 3 English curriculum. In short, reading opens so many doors for students both in school and beyond. Amongst other things, it improves literacy and vocabulary, knowledge of the world, and empathy.

The following lists have been produced by English faculty and ILC staff in order to complement the reading that takes place in lessons. The themes under which the books are listed correspond to the titles of the current key stage 3 schemes of learning in English.

We hope that students and parents will enjoy selecting and reading some of these suggestions. We appreciate any support that parents can give in encouraging wider reading at home.

Year 7

Difficult Choices

Framed – Frank Cottrell Boyce

Cosmic – Frank Cottrell Boyce

Sputnik’s Guide to Life on Earth – Frank Cottrell Boyce

(Un)arranged Marriage – Bali Rai

Pig Heart Boy – Malorie Blackman

Holes – Louis Sachar

The Diary of Anne Frank

More of a challenge

Touching the Void – Joe Simpson

One – Sarah Crossan

Year 8

Visions

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time – Mark Haddon

I Capture the Castle – Dodie Smith

My Sister Lives on the Mantlepiece - Annabel Pitcher

Ghost Hawk – Susan Cooper

The Ghost of Thomas Kempe – Penelope Lively

A Stitch in Time – Penelope Lively

Skellig – David Almond

My Name is Mina – David Almond

Mondays Are Red – Nicola Morgan

There will be Lies – Nick Lake

Tinder – Sally Gardner

The Ocean at the end of the Lane – Neil Gaiman

The year of the Rat – Clare Furniss

The Snow Child – Eowyn Ivey

The Lie Tree – Frances Hardinge

More of a challenge

The Woman in Black – Susan Hill

Year 9

Inequality

The Hunger Games - Suzanne Collins

TimeRiders series - Alex Scarrow

Refugee Boy - Benjamin Zephaniah

The Wall - William Sutcliffe

Noughts and Crosses - Malorie Blackman

The Perks of being a Wallflower - Stephen Chobsky

Divergent - Veronica Roth

Stone Cold – Robert Swindells

Wonder – R.J. Palacio

Trash – Andy Mulligan

Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn – Mark Twain

To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee

Chains – Laurie Halse Anderson

Of Mice and Men - John Steinbeck

All The Truth That's in Me – Julie Berry

Between Shades of Grey – Ruta Sepetys

The Green Bicycle – Haifaa Al Mansour

More of a challenge

Oliver Twist - Charles Dickens

Hard Times – Charles Dickens

Great Expectations - Charles Dickens

Les Miserables - Victor Hugo

12 Years a Slave - Solomon Northup

The Help - Kathryn Stockett

North and South – Elizabeth Gaskell

For the attention of all parents

Will your child be transferring
to a secondary school in
September 2022?

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 2021

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.



Name of school: ST LAURENCE SCHOOL
Position: EXAM INVIGILATORS

Job title	EXAM INVIGILATOR
Full school address	St Laurence School Ashley Road Bradford on Avon BA15 1DZ
School telephone number	01225 309500
School email address	admin@st-laurence.com
Number on roll	1424
Salary	NJC Grade B1 (£9.25 per hour)
Hours	Hours and days will vary according to need, but availability between 08.00am/08.30am – 3.30pm up to 5 days per week in May and June is desirable
Commencement date	ASAP after appointment
Advertisement closing date.	12:00 Thursday 14th October 2021 Shortlisted candidates will be contacted within 1 week
Interview date	Wednesday 20th October 2021
Other important information	For further details, please phone Jenny Brown or Carole Jones on (01225) 309529 or email exams@st-laurence.com

We are seeking to appoint flexible, reliable people to join our invigilation team. No experience is needed as full training will be given but experience in working with young people would be an advantage.

The main examination season is in May and June 2022. However, we also require invigilator assistance for short periods throughout the year during mock examinations – including November 2021 and January 2022.

This role is for a casual contract. We aim to give everyone in the pool the opportunity to gain practical experience and to develop their skills and knowledge in the role. However, there will be no guaranteed minimum hours of work due to the nature of the role.

To apply please complete an application form and send it with a covering letter to Mrs Jenny Brown, Assistant Examination Officer (or email to exams@st-laurence.com).

St Laurence School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

All applicants will be subject to a full Disclosure And Barring Service check before appointment is confirmed.