

# Parent / Carer Bulletin



Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021

## Headteacher's Update

	Week A
18/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bronze DofE Launch</li><li>• School Council Meeting</li><li>• AQA Dance Set Solo – All day</li><li>• Girl's Football Cup Match, Brandon Forest School; 1.30-5.30pm</li></ul>
19/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bronze DofE</li><li>• Y13 Subject Evening; 4.30-7.30pm</li></ul>
20/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bronze DofE Launch</li><li>• <b>Term 1 ends, 3.00pm</b></li></ul>

### 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.

Dear All,

I hope this finds you well. It has been another busy week and one in which we have heard more information about the procedures for examinations next year. Once all of the detail has been finalised we will let you know but it is important to say that exams will be going back to how they operated in 2019 and students will need to prepare for this. I recognise only too well that the current Year 13 have not had a formal exam in their time here at St Laurence so this will be a significant shift.

We had the Year 11 subject evening on Thursday which I hope was a good opportunity to discuss progress and how to prepare for the mock examinations after the half term.

We also have the Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November and are looking forward to seeing you there. If you know of Year 11 students at other schools who are considering their options please let them know

Kind regards

Tim Farrer

### Flu & Covid Vaccinations

Please be aware that we are still awaiting confirmation of the dates of the catch-up sessions for the vaccinations from Virgin Care.

You **will** be informed, via **email** and the **website**, as soon as we have received the details from Virgin Care.

We cannot provide any further information until this time.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Admin Team

## **From Mr Beesley – Clerk to the Governors**

### **IMPORTANT Re-running of Parent Governor Election**

Due to an error in the setting up of the Survey Monkey vote, I need to re-run this election. The candidates have kindly agreed to this process.

As previously, there is one vacancy for a Parent Governor and you have one vote.

The poll will close on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 11:00** and the result announced in the next issue of the Bulletin

### **Nominees and statements (following the withdrawal of one candidate)**

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.

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.

Please cast your vote by clicking on the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TFVFX7L>

With grateful thanks for your support with this survey.

Robert Beesley, Clerk to the Governors

## **From Mr Blowers – Director of Sixth Form**

### **Sixth Form Open Evening – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November 4.30-7.30**

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

As part of “Year 11 Moving Up” week we will be showcasing our wonderful Sixth Form and we really hope you are able join us to find out how you can become a Sixth Form Student in 2022.

We are so proud of what we do:

- We were the **highest attaining State 6<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> Form Centre** with IT study spaces for 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

# 6th Form Open Evening

Thursday 4th November 2021

5.00pm – 7.30pm



Presentations led by our Headteacher & Director of 6th Form in Trinity Hall at 5pm and 6pm

This will be followed by an opportunity to meet the staff of all subjects to discuss options in our amazing 6th Form

## **Year 13 Subject Evening and Term 1 Report:**

A reminder that we have our Year 13 Subject Evening on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October, from 4.30-7.30pm.

This will take place virtually over SchoolCloud and Parents/Carers will need to login via the school website using the instructions that have been sent.

If you need your code login to SchoolCloud, please email Mrs Brown at [joabro@st-laurence.com](mailto:joabro@st-laurence.com) and she will be able to send you this. Spaces are at a premium, if they are full please email the relevant teacher and they will be able to give you feedback that way.

This follows the Year 13 Term 1 Report which is due out this week. This will have a Predicted Grade stating what they may achieve in the Summer of 2022 working at this level, and a Learning Profile showing their learning characteristics in lessons.

Thanks as ever for your great support of our students and staff

Mr Blowers

### **From Mrs Nash – Head of Drama**

A Level Drama students, as well, as those in two of our Year 9 learning groups, recently enjoyed a workshop delivered by theatre company **The Paper Birds** this week.

The company specialise in using physical and verbatim theatre techniques and it was impressive to see the excellent work created in the short workshop time by those students who took part.

**The Paper Birds** are a set practitioner for A Level Drama and this was an excellent opportunity for students to refine their devising skills and pick up some useful tools for creating their own original work.

GCSE and A Level Drama students travelled to the Bristol Old Vic to see Wise Children's 'Wuthering Heights'.

The students were excellent ambassadors for the school and great company. On our return we discussed the show with a view to writing about it for the written examination and I have been very impressed by the mature and insightful comments that have been made.

The students also picked up lots of usable ideas for their own practical work.

Apologies to those of you who were inconvenienced by our later than anticipated return to school - this was due to a longer than advertised running time. This was my first trip with St Laurence and I look forward to many more!

### **Recruitment Opportunities at St Laurence School**

**St Laurence currently has the following staff vacancies:**

- Science Technician
- Staff Cover & CPD Administrator
- Inclusion & Intervention Coordinator
- Exams Invigilators

Please click her for further information:

[Staff Vacancies | St Laurence School \(st-laurence.com\)](http://st-laurence.com)

## **From Mrs Howsam – Teacher of Girls' PE/Outdoor Education Officer**

### **Black Rock 2022 - Year 9 students**

I am pleased to announce that on **Tuesday 2nd November** I will hold a special assembly for Year 9 students in order to launch Black Rock, our annual 4 day residential trip taking place in June 2022.

During the assembly students will collect a letter which will include information about the residential trip and how to sign up.

### **The Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award - Year 12 students**

I am pleased to announce that on **Wednesday 3rd November** I will hold an information meeting to launch the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award to Year 12 students.

During the meeting students will collect a letter which will include more information about the Award and how to sign up.

### **Year 10 Students - Completing the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award**

I am pleased to announce that we will be launching the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award to Year 10 students at the end of this term.

In order to give students more information, there will be briefings in Trinity Hall during tutorials on the 18th October (Budbury and Huntingdon), 19th October (Conigre and Ashley) and 20th October (Westfield).

We will also hold an information meeting for parents, remotely using Microsoft Teams, on Tuesday 2nd November at 6.30pm. More details about this will follow soon.

### **Y11 Students - Completing the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award**

Each student has a personalised Assessment Report, uploaded onto their eDofE account, for the expedition. In order to finish off their award, and receive the certificate, students need to upload Assessors Reports for the other 3 sections of the award.

The Assessors Report needs to include the start and end dates that they undertook that section (this should match with what is written in their programme planner on eDofE). Please also see the following useful links:

- What should be included in an Assessors Reports:

[Writing-Assessor Reports -GENERIC.pdf \(dofe.org\)](#)

- Different ways to submit an Assessors Report:

[help.dofe.org-different-ways-to-submit-an-assessor's-report](http://help.dofe.org-different-ways-to-submit-an-assessor's-report)

- eDofE log-in page:

<https://www.edofe.org/login>

If students have forgotten their eDofE login details their username is their school email address and if they click the 'forgotten password' link a reset email will be sent to their school email address.

After half term I will be organising drop in sessions for students who would like further support to complete the Award.

Mrs Howsam

From Mr Chadwick – Director of English



**ADAPTATIONS TO GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE  
EXAMS SUMMER 2022**

There are adaptations to the GCSE English Literature specification for examinations in summer 2022 that will be taken by current year 11. Some parts of some components have been made optional by our exam board, Eduqas, but the Shakespeare text and the post-1914 texts are still mandatory.

As a Centre, we have decided that students will NOT answer the question on the poetry anthology; this is because we have not yet covered all of the poems in the anthology, whereas we have covered all the other set texts (Macbeth is being studied currently).

We realise that students have invested substantial time in studying part of the poetry anthology, but as there is an unseen poetry comparison element in the exam, this will have helped students learn how to read, understand and interpret poetry at GCSE level – as well as, we hope, being interesting and enriching.

Students have worked in component 1 and component 2 English Literature exercise books thus far, but due to the adaptations for summer 2022, these components have been altered by Eduqas.

**The GCSE English Literature exams for St Laurence students will therefore be as follows:**

**NEW COMPONENT 1**

**Shakespeare** text (Macbeth) and **post-1914 text** (The Woman in Black or An Inspector Calls)  
Written examination: 2 hours (split into two papers of 1 hour each; candidates will sit both papers)  
50% of the qualification

**NEW COMPONENT 2**

**19<sup>th</sup> century text** (The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde) and **unseen poetry comparison**  
Written examination: 2 hours (split into two papers of 1 hour each on the candidates' two chosen areas of study)  
50% of the qualification

At this point, we want the focus of students to be on the Shakespeare text, Macbeth, and students will answer two questions about Macbeth only in their November mock exam.

## From the Admin Team

We continuously seek to improve the methods of communicating with parents and carers used within our school.

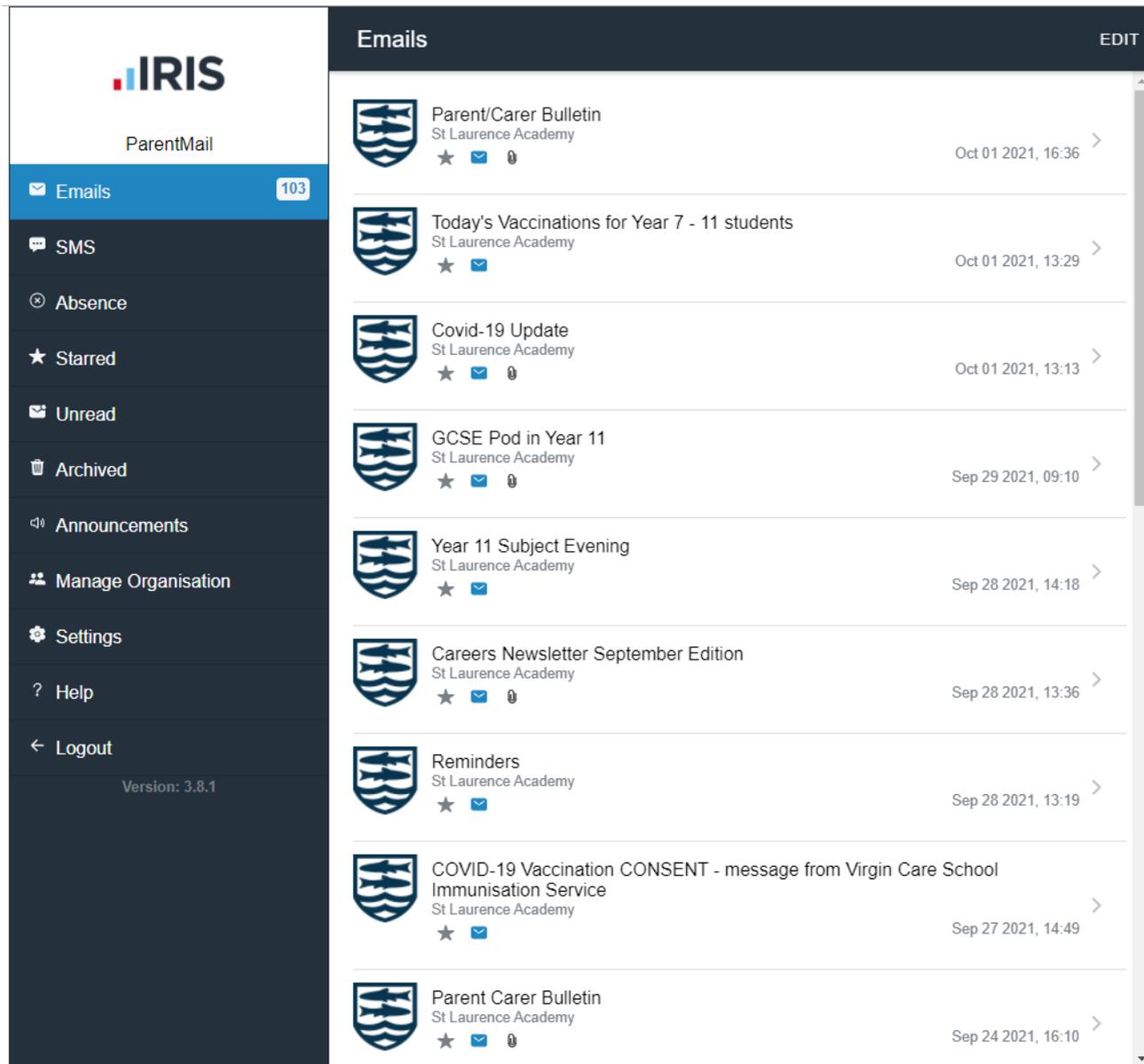
Since the start of the year we have been receiving an increasing number of queries regarding emails sent from school and hope you find the following information helpful:

- To ensure the delivery and receipt of school emails ParentMail (our communication platform) advise that Parent/Carers must first add [info@parentmail.co.uk](mailto:info@parentmail.co.uk) to their contacts list
- Another option available to Parents/Carers is to install the ParentMail App, available to download on both Android and Apple devices

All communications, either via email or by SMS text messages, can then be viewed in the App. Please click on the following

link to download: [Benefits of the App | ParentMail Help](#)

Your emails will look like this:



The screenshot displays the ParentMail application interface. On the left is a dark sidebar with the IRIS logo and 'ParentMail' text. Below this is a menu with options: Emails (103), SMS, Absence, Starred, Unread, Archived, Announcements, Manage Organisation, Settings, Help, and Logout. At the bottom of the sidebar, it says 'Version: 3.8.1'. The main area is titled 'Emails' and has an 'EDIT' button in the top right. It shows a list of ten emails, each with a St Laurence Academy crest icon, a star icon, a blue envelope icon, and a lock icon. The emails are:

- Parent/Carer Bulletin (St Laurence Academy) - Oct 01 2021, 16:36
- Today's Vaccinations for Year 7 - 11 students (St Laurence Academy) - Oct 01 2021, 13:29
- Covid-19 Update (St Laurence Academy) - Oct 01 2021, 13:13
- GCSE Pod in Year 11 (St Laurence Academy) - Sep 29 2021, 09:10
- Year 11 Subject Evening (St Laurence Academy) - Sep 28 2021, 14:18
- Careers Newsletter September Edition (St Laurence Academy) - Sep 28 2021, 13:36
- Reminders (St Laurence Academy) - Sep 28 2021, 13:19
- COVID-19 Vaccination CONSENT - message from Virgin Care School Immunisation Service (St Laurence Academy) - Sep 27 2021, 14:49
- Parent Carer Bulletin (St Laurence Academy) - Sep 24 2021, 16:10

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# 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.

**Wiltshire Council**

## Timetable of Y11 Mock Written Examinations in Sports Hall (8-18 November 2021)

Day	Session 1 Exam	Late Break	Lesson 3	Lunch	Session 2 Exam
<b>Mon, 8 Nov week A</b>					
Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	<b>Geography Global Paper 1 - 1h</b>	11.05 – 11.30	Normal lesson	12.30 – 1.00 Line up under main quad canopy by 1.00	<b>English Language – 1h45m</b>
<b>Tue, 9 Nov</b>					
Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	<b>History 2h</b>	11.05 – 11.30	Normal lesson	12.30 – 1.00 Line up under main quad canopy by 1.00	<b>Double Science Biology - 1h15m</b> <b>Triple Science Biology - 1h45m</b>
<b>Wed, 10 Nov</b>					
Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	<b>RE Ethics - 2h</b>	11.05 – 11.30	Normal lesson	12.30 – 1.00 Line up under main quad canopy by 1.00	<b>Maths Paper 1 (non-calculator) - 1h</b>
<b>Thu, 11 Nov</b>					
Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	<b>English Literature - 1h</b>	11.05 – 11.30	Normal lesson	12.30 – 1.00 Line up under main quad canopy by 1.00	<b>German Listening – 1h05m (Lecture Theatre)</b> <b>French Reading - 1h30m</b>
<b>Fri, 12 Nov</b>					
Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	<b>Business Studies - 1h30m</b> <b>Design Technology - 2h</b> <b>Food - 1h45m</b>	11.05 – 11.30	Normal lesson	12.30 – 1.00 Line up under main quad canopy by 1.00	<b>Double Science Chemistry - 1h15m</b> <b>Triple Science Chemistry – 1h45m</b>
<b>Mon, 15 Nov week B</b>					
Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	<b>Maths Paper 2 (calculator) - 1h</b>	11.05 – 11.30	Normal lesson	12.30 – 1.00 Line up under main quad canopy by 1.00	<b>Geography UK Paper 2 - 1h30m</b>
<b>Tue, 16 Nov</b>					
Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	<b>French Listening – 1h05m (Lecture Theatre)</b> <b>German Reading - 1h30m</b> <b>PE Paper 1 - 1h15m</b> <b>Computer Science Paper 1 - 1h30m</b>	11.05 – 11.30	Normal lesson	12.30 – 1.00 Line up under main quad canopy by 1.00	<b>Double Science Physics - 1h15m</b> <b>Triple Science Physics– 1h45m</b>
<b>Wed, 17 Nov</b>					
Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	<b>Dance - 1h30m</b> <b>Drama - 1h</b> <b>PE Paper 2 - 1h15m</b> <b>Computer Science Paper 2 - 1h</b> <b>Music - 1h45m (Lecture Theatre)</b>	11.05 – 11.30	Normal lesson	12.30 – 1.00 Line up under main quad canopy by 1.00	<b>German Writing – 1h40m</b> <b>French Writing - 1h40m</b>
<b>Thu, 18 Nov</b>					
Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	<b>RE World Religions - 1h</b>	11.05 – 11.25	Normal lesson	12.30 – 1.00 Line up under main quad canopy by 1.00	<b>Maths Paper 3 (calculator) - 1h</b>
<b>Fri, 19 Nov</b>					
Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	<b>Catch Up Session (Lecture Theatre)</b>				

If you are entitled to exam access arrangements, this is detailed below:

Candidates who are entitled to a word processor, reader, scribe or separate room access arrangement will be collected from the main quad canopy and taken to their exam room.

- If you do not have an exam timetabled for any of the sessions then you must follow your normal Year 11 timetable.
- You will need to return to normal timetable after your morning exams, but in the afternoon you will be free to go home when your exam is complete. If you need to remain on site to wait for transport there will be space provided.
- All exams will be held in the Sports Hall unless otherwise indicated on your exam timetable.
- All information relating to exams, including seating plans will be displayed on the exams notice board in the main school quad and on class charts each day.
- You may bring water into the exam hall in a clear, label-free bottle. Do not bring food.
- Please bring equipment in a clear pencil case or plastic bag and do not bring calculator cases into the exam hall.
- You must not bring into the exam room notes, mobile phones, **watches**, MP3/4 player or similar digital devices
- Extra time will be accommodated for students with approved access arrangements, but please be aware that buses will not wait after school so alternative transport home may need to be arranged by students/parents/carers.

*If you have a clash of subjects within an exam session, your individual timetable will show when you will sit your clash exams.*

## Y11 Mock GCSE Practical Exam Timetable

<b>Art</b>	Wed, 1 December (both groups)
<b>Dance</b>	Wed, 24 November
<b>Design Technology</b>	Tue, 23 November
<b>Food</b>	Tue, 23 & Wed, 24 November (half groups)
<b>French</b>	Thu, 25 November (11B/Fr1 Mrs Woodley) Fri, 26 November (11D/Fr1 Mrs Barber)
<b>German</b>	Thu, 25 November (11A/Dh1 Mrs Heyes) Fri, 26 November (11B/Dh1 Miss Reinfelder) Fri, 26 November (11C/Dh1 Mr Dutton)
<b>Graphics</b>	Mon, 29 November (11B/Gr1) Tue, 30 November (11D/Gr1)
<b>Music</b>	Tue, 23 November
<b>PE</b>	Mon, 22 November