



Monday 22nd November 2021

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this finds you well.

Year 11 exams have taken place now and you may have read in the news that the Government have just now confirmed the procedures for next summer. Their intention is that exams will take place with some concessions. All Heads of Department are aware of these. They are not significant concessions, in some cases it is a matter of providing a formula sheet, but they will hopefully support students in some ways. The importance therefore of the mocks is high. Students will need to look closely at the papers they get back so they can identify where they need to focus and staff will be addressing misconceptions in lessons.

In the event that exams have to be cancelled, the importance of the mocks is equally high as these will be used as key evidence for the teacher assessed grade. As they may be needed as evidence next summer, students will not be given their papers to take home.

Thank you to all who have taken part in the mobile phone survey. I have gone through all the results and read the many comments that students, parents and staff made. The final results will be published but we are currently working on the next steps.

Finally, the school, along with all others in Wiltshire, received a letter from public health advising that we must maintain our current position in terms of COVID protocols. We are still therefore requiring students to wear masks in communal areas, still asking that students and families carry out lateral flow testing at home, respect social distancing and all classrooms are ventilated. It stated that large gatherings should not happen which sadly means that the Carol Service will again be a virtual one. The Music team are now busy preparing items with students which will be recorded and then published on the website.

Tim Farrer

Collective Worship – Term 2

Theme: Lenses

Let us see the world, the people around us and ourselves through different lenses.

May we understand that everyone is travelling on a different path in life.

Help us be more understanding of those whose lives we do not know.

Let our minds be more open towards them.

We hope to receive direction and learn how best to perceive the world in the most realistic way possible.

May we understand that human beings are complicated and varied, so let us view everyone in their most positive filter.

Week B	
22/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y7 Jamie's Farm Residential (selected students only) • Practice PE Moderation 9:05am – 3:00pm • Y11 GCSE Mock Practical Exams start
23/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y11 DT/Textiles Mock Practical 8:35am – 11:35am • Y11 DT/Textiles Mock Practical 11:30am - 3:00pm • Y11 Food Mock Practical 9:05am – 3:00pm
24/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y11 Food Mock Practical 9:05am – 3:00pm
25/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y11 Mock Practical Exams – all day • Royal Navy Visit 10:30am – 12:30pm
26/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y11 Mock Practical Exams – all day • Y7 Jamie's Farm Residential returns • Y8 Drama & Creative Writing Workshop (selected students only) -all day • Y11 Mock Practical Exams - ends

From Mrs Barber – Assistant Headteacher/DDSL

TikTok

You may have seen TikTok reported in the news recently, as national trends continue to emerge encouraging young people to take part in challenges and create content in or about their school and its staff.

TikTok is a free short form video app with an age restriction of 13 and parental consent required for users under the age of 18. It is a social media platform for users to create video content and users are able to like, comment and share content with others.

We understand that your children may have your permission to have an account, however we recommend you enable TikTok's *Family Pairing* so that you can support your child as they use the app and protect them from age-inappropriate or harmful content.

Please discuss and emphasise with your child the far-reaching consequences of creating/sharing films of illegal acts, unauthorised films about the school and reputation damaging, hurtful or abusive content about staff or other students. If we were to discover the creation/sharing of such defamatory or illegal content at St Laurence School, the individuals would face serious sanctions and the police may be notified.

Please remind your child that filming and taking photographs on the school premises are not permitted. We encourage students never to share content on any social media platform of them wearing their school uniform so that their daily location is kept private.

WhatsApp

Unlike traditional text messaging, WhatsApp depends solely on Internet connection to send and receive messages. Parents need to be aware that WhatsApp can be downloaded to computers and iPads, not just mobile phones. The app gives messaging capabilities without phone payments.

WhatsApp raised its age restrictions from thirteen years of age to sixteen. This age restriction helps ensure that the app is being used by responsible users. Responsible users are educated and aware of social media and online safety. They understand the risks of sharing personal information, photos or locations. Like iMessage, WhatsApp now allows its users to track one another's location globally. Users must be aware at all times of who they are talking to and how much personal information they're giving, including one's location. This information could create an unsafe situation.

We have received parental concerns that within one WhatsApp group chat, in under one hour, 1000 messages were sent between students. We can only imagine the affect that this is having on our young

people. We are also aware that these WhatsApp Group chats can sometimes contain messages and content of a sexualised, homophobic or racist nature. I realise this is concerning to parents / carers and I am writing to remind parents/ carers of the importance of checking their child's phone regularly.

Please do not feel you are invading their privacy by checking their phones, you are taking an active role in keeping them safe.

WhatsApp does not serve any educational purpose. Students do not need to have WhatsApp to benefit their learning in any way. We would advise all parents to restrict their child's use of the app or to remove it altogether from devices to protect their child.

There is a wealth of information available to support parents/carers to keep children safe online. The following list is not exhaustive but should provide some useful information and guidance:

- [Parent and Carer Toolkit - Childnet](#)
offers a toolkit to support parents and carers of children of any age to start discussions about their online life, to set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use, and to find out where to get more help and support
- [Common Sense Media: Age-Based Media Reviews for Families](#)
provides independent reviews, age ratings, & other information about all types of media for children and their parents
Government advice about protecting children from specific online harms such as child sexual abuse, sexting, cyberbullying, security and privacy settings, blocking unsuitable content, and parental controls [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): support for parents and carers to keep children safe online - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Information, Advice and Support to Keep Children Safe Online \(internetmatters.org\)](#)
provides age-specific online safety checklists, guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices, and a host of practical tips to help children get the most out of their digital world
- [Lets Talk About It - Staying Safe Online \(Itai.info\)](#)
provides advice for parents and carers to keep children safe from online radicalisation
- [Home \(lgfl.net\)](#)
London Grid for Learning provides support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online, including tips to keep primary aged children safe online
- [Stop It Now! UK and Ireland | Preventing child sexual abuse](#)
resource from The Lucy Faithfull Foundation can be used by parents and carers who are concerned about someone's behaviour, including children who may be displaying concerning sexual behaviour (not just about online)
- [Thinkuknow - home](#)
National Crime Agency/CEOP provides support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Net Aware: Your guide to social networks, apps and games \(net-aware.org.uk\)](#)
provides support for parents and carers from the NSPCC and O2, including a guide to social networks, apps and games
- [Home | Parent Zone](#)
provides help for parents and carers on how to keep their children safe online
- [Parent Info | From NCA-CEOP and The Parent Zone](#)
provides support and guidance for parents from leading experts and organisations
- [Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
provides tips, advice, guides and other resources to help keep children safe online

From Mr Blowers – Director of Sixth Form

Deadline for St Laurence Sixth Form Applications 2022

A reminder that following our “Moving Up” Day for Year 11 and **St Laurence Sixth Form Open Evening**, these applications are now live.

We would encourage you to look at all the supporting information on our website which can be found on: St Laurence website – Join Us - Applications to 6th Form:

[Admissions to Sixth Form | St Laurence School \(st-laurence.com\)](https://www.st-laurence.com)

On this page you will find all the information that you need, including:

- A video (we would ask that Year 11 students, Parents & Carers watch this together)
- Options Booklet with information on our full range of A level courses
- A range of other documents (all at the bottom of this webpage)

Applying to St Laurence Sixth Form:

Applications are being completed electronically for the first time this year. The link can be found here:

[St Laurence School Survey \(surveymonkey.co.uk\)](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk)

We would encourage all students to apply before our deadline of:

Friday 26th November 3:00pm

Applications will be accepted after this, but places for courses will be given on a “first come, first served” basis – so early applications are encouraged.

Please do ensure that students are talking to their teachers about their A level choices. If you have any questions at all do not hesitate to get in contact with the relevant member of staff at St Laurence.

Thank you for your anticipated support, Mr Blowers

From Mrs Howsam – Teacher of Girl’s PE/Outdoor Education Coordinator

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Programme Planners – Deadline

A reminder that fully completed Bronze DofE Programme Planners and Enrolment Forms must be handed in to Student Reception by **Wednesday 24th November**.

Late or incomplete forms will **not** be considered for the award.

Extra forms will be available in Student Reception until Tuesday 23rd November.

From Mrs Nash – Head of Drama

Year 7 & 8

Drama Club on a Wednesday is now fully subscribed so we are pleased to announce that we are introducing a second session on Fridays from 3.15 -4.15pm starting on Friday 26th November.

Students who already attend the Wednesday activity can change if they wish but, as the two clubs will do the same activities, there is no need to attend both this term. Please register for the clubs using your SchoolCloud account or we can add pupils when they turn up.

Please note: students who have signed up but who do not attend for two consecutive weeks without contacting a member of the Drama Department will be removed from the register.

On Friday 3rd December there will be auditions for the junior production which will take place in the Spring Term. Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays AND Fridays after Christmas. Watch this space for more details!

Year 13

Year 13 students performed their scripted exam pieces in the Drama Studio on 15th November. The students first entertained the audience with a selection of monologues, including extracts from 'Long Day's Journey Into Night' by Eugene O'Neill and 'A Streetcar Named Desire' by Tennessee Williams. The group then changed into some wonderful costumes, borrowed from Bath Theatrical Hire, before performing a group piece from 'The Importance of Being Earnest' by Oscar Wilde.

The students performed superbly and set a high standard for the Year 11 GCSE Drama students who will be performing their scripted assessments on Tuesday 7th December, starting at 6:00pm. Those taking, or considering taking, GCSE Drama are strongly encouraged to attend. Please email Mrs Nash (catnas@st-laurence.com) to reserve a seat.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Year 13 students this week, we hope to see you back in the studio soon!

Mrs Nash

Remote Learning Plan

For students who are working from home, e.g. due to self-isolation, the Remote Learning Plan has been updated.

Please see the new guidance here:

[Links for Parents and Carers | St Laurence School \(st-laurence.com\)](#)

Annual Christmas Dinner

On Tuesday 14th December, the Catering Team will be preparing and serving the annual Christmas dinner. Details of how to book this are on Parent Pay.



Christmas Jumper Day

On the same day, we are raising money for UNICEF and if students wish to, they are invited to wear a Christmas jumper for a donation via Parent Pay.



Current Staff Vacancies

EXTERNAL VACANCIES	Closing Date	Interview Date
Site Supervisor Full time (37 hours pw, 52 weeks pa). Alternate weekly shift pattern and 6.5 hours over alternate weekends (paid as overtime), Permanent. To start ASAP or by 31 st December 2021.	9am on 25 th November 2021	30 th November 2021
Teaching Assistants Full time and part time hours available, Fixed Term Contracts until 31 st August 2022. To start ASAP.	Ongoing	TBC
Break/Lunchtime Support Assistants Flexible hours and days (10am-11.30am or 12.30pm-2pm). Fixed Term contracts until 31 st August 2022	Ongoing	TBC
Exam Invigilators Casual contracts, 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.	Ongoing	TBC

Please refer to the Website ([Staff Vacancies | St Laurence School \(st-laurence.com\)](https://www.st-laurence.com)) for further details.

A Celebration of Remembrance Sunday

The Reverend Joanna Abecassis led the Festival of Remembrance Service at Westbury Gardens. Mr Farrer, along with Head Students Edie Bessant and Harvey Walton, were proud to lay the wreath on behalf of St Laurence School.



* St Laurence School Association

Christmas Tree Sale

Saturday 4th & 11th December
9am - 3pm

Nordman Fir Christmas Trees
No Drop
5, 6 and 7 foot trees available

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO
ST LAURENCE SCHOOL

Pre-order available now at:
<http://slsa.org.uk/xmas-trees>

Or by email:
slsa@st-Laurence.com

DISCOUNT OFFERED
FOR PRE-ORDERS

Sale will be in Churches car park
(Wiltshire Music Centre side)



Prices:

5ft TREES - £50

6ft TREES - £60

7ft TREES - £70

CLAIM YOUR DISCOUNT OF £5 PER TREE BY PRE-ORDERING NOW

A Children's Pantomime

Dick



Whittington

A full 2 hour show of fun for the whole family to enjoy this Christmas!

THURSDAY 23RD DECEMBER

Showtime
4.30pm to
6.30pm

Adults £11.00
Children £7.00



Tickets available from
www.thecivictrowbridge.co.uk



*merry
& bright*

MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Tuesday 14th December - £3.00

**Roast Turkey served with
Pigs in Blankets,
Sage and Onion Stuffing & Gravy**

**Sweet Potato and Lentil Strudel
Served with a Rich Tomato Sauce or
Gravy (v)**

**Roast Potatoes, Peas & Carrots
Brussel sprouts**

**Iced Festive Biscuits or Chocolate
Brownie
Festive Fruit Punch**

mint

* FOR EDUCATION *

Wiltshire Parent Carer Council

Wellness Information Event



WPCC's Information Events are Back!

Join us on Friday 3rd December 2021
at The Civic Centre Trowbridge, BA14 8AH
9.30am Registration
10.00am Event Start to 2.00pm Event Close

At least 30 information stands from providers of services and support for
children and young people with SEND in Wiltshire

Free taster massage therapies

Free Lunch and Refreshments

Parent carer travel, car parking and childcare expenses paid

Scan this QR code to find out more →



or visit: [https://issuu.com/wpcc1/docs/online_advance_information_booklet -
wellness even](https://issuu.com/wpcc1/docs/online_advance_information_booklet_-_wellness_even)

VISIT: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WPCC-Wellness-2021>

if you want to book straightaway