



28th February 2022

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers

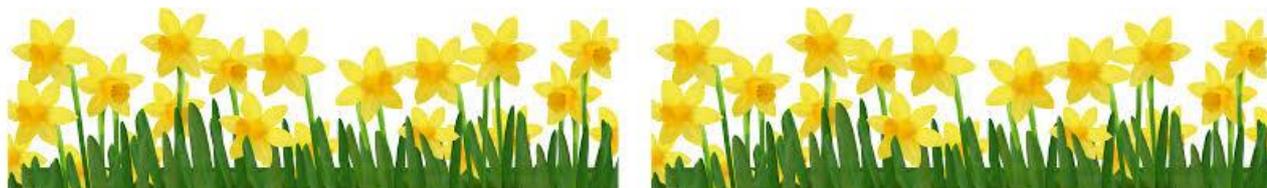
A brief message from me to say have a lovely half term.

For those of you taking advantage of some new freedoms I hope you have a lovely break and for those staying at home, like me, I hope we have a less breezy week!

If you have not yet read through Connect, please do take the opportunity, it is such a positive read and well done to all for putting it together.

Mr Farrer

	Week A – School Calendar
28/02	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Term 4 commences; 08:35am• The I can & I am Bus; 8:35am – 3:00pm
01/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The I can & I am Bus; 8:35am – 3:00pm
02/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The I can & I am Bus; 8:35am – 3:00pm• Y12 & Y13 Uni. Of Worcester Lecture (online, by prior consent); 3:15pm – 4:30pm
03/03	
04/03	



Collective Worship Term 4 Theme: Equality

God, please help us,
whether we have faith
or no faith, to...

Think more deeply about what equality and justice actually means.

May we become more aware of inequalities within our collective society, and guide us to find solutions and new ways to help.

We ask for help as a community in continuing to address inequalities as we see them.

We hope to enable an increasingly fair and just society so please help us in becoming successful advocates for change.

Please equip us with the tools and resources we need to enable a more equal and supportive society.

From: The Careers Team – Mrs Woodley and Mrs Smith

Calling all parents and carers of former students of St Laurence!

We are looking to actively engage with our alumni on a longer-term basis, with a view to supporting our current students, but also to provide a link for former students.

In the short-term, we would be very pleased to hear from any students who would be happy to record a short presentation for us to use in National Careers Week (7-11 March). The details and deadline are below.

The presentation would be about 1-2 mins long (we could edit it) and should mention:

- when you were at school (roughly!)
- what you did here - A Levels/ GCSEs etc
- what you did after school
- what you do now and what it involves
- any anecdotes are very welcome!
- **Deadline: Monday 28th February**

If you are a parent or carer of a former St Laurence student please ask them if they would be prepared to help us in the project.

Thank you in advance for your support

From: Mr Blowers – Director of Sixth Form

Key dates for your calendar:

Year 12: Summer Exams – Tuesday 26th April – Friday 6th May

This will be a combination of written and practical assessments completed in Test conditions to assess Year 12 Progress. More details will follow on this including some Revision guidance and support.

Year 13: Thursday 24th March – Revision support 6:00pm

This will be an online session to support Parents/Carers in supporting students through Revision. It will be run via students' TEAMS accounts. Details to come.

Thursday 31st March: Quiz in Trinity Hall 6:00-8:00pm

This will be a fundraiser for Year 13 Prom and a bit of fun. Details to follow.

Friday 13th May: Year 13 Final Day

In fact, the last teaching day will be Thursday 12th. Students will be invited in for a breakfast and final Assembly on this morning.

Written exams are scheduled to begin the following week

Thursday 30th June: Year 13 Prom at Cumberwell Park

This is booked and details will come out in due course.

Year 11 Interviews for Sixth Form

We have now completed Year 11 interviews for Year 12 next year. Myself and Mrs Chatfield have individually interviewed 170 St Laurence Year 11 students.

This week we interviewed a further 32 external students, this is the most we have completed in my three years here and demonstrates our strong reputation locally.

Hopefully this will support us in further developing our Sixth Form and sustaining our position as a leading Sixth Form Centre in Wiltshire.

If you know of a Year 11 student who has not been in contact, do direct them to our website where they can apply online for September 2022

Thank you, Mr Blowers

From Mrs Howsam – Outdoor Education Organiser/Teacher of Girl's PE

Payment Instalments for DofE

A reminder that the deadline for the first instalment for the various year groups DofE participation was due on Friday 11th February. The 2nd instalment of £50 is due on March 2nd.

Year 9 Black Rock Trip

A reminder that the next instalment for the Black Rock Trip is due by Friday 18th February. Instalment 2 will be due on 22nd April.

Thank you

From: Mr Hainsworth – Asst. Headteacher, Director of Learning & Progress (KS4) and Head of Geography

The remaining **GCSEPod** webinars take place on:

- Wednesday 9th March 5:00pm
- Wednesday 23rd March 5:00pm

For further information, and to sign up for the webinars, follow this link:

<https://www.gcsepod.com/podup-presents-webinars/>

From Mrs Butterworth – Teacher of Psychology and Sociology

Year 11 – 13 Students gain Insight from a Crown Court Expert Witness

A fascinating lecture with Dr Emma Pearce, Consulting Clinical Psychologist, began with her discussing her route into clinical psychology and forensics as part of our Social Science lecture series.

With more than 40 students in attendance, Dr Pearce discussed her current work as an expert witness in crown courts and her role on parole boards in prisons.

Some super questions from the student audience, and a passionate speaker sharing stories from her experiences at Ashworth Hospital – a high security psychiatric unit on Merseyside – as well as various prisons and crown courts, culminated in an enlightening session.

It certainly gave our Year 11, 12 and 13 students a taste of what a career in psychology has to offer.

Dr Pearce ended the lecture by offering tips to enhance our own wellbeing and resilience, talking about the need to plan self-care and exercise. She also recommended mindfulness and using meditation!

Huge thanks to Ethnie in year 12 for helping to organise this.

Social Sciences will be running further guest lectures in Term 4 and 5, so watch this space for more details.

From Miss Wadworth – Teacher of Geography and Humanities

Year 12 - 13 Students Enjoy Lectures from Dr David Storey of the University of Worcester

During the 2 lectures from Dr Storey, Principal Lecturer in Human Geography, he focused on the long-established human phenomenon of migration and how people move from one location to another.

As part of their Year 13 studies students are taught a topic called "Migration, Identity and Sovereignty", which enhances their previous Year 12 learning of Globalisation as a key driver in modern migration. Within this, students learn about the processes that are involved in migration, the reasons for migration and the consequences of different types of migration.

Dr Storey explored the geographical patterns of human migration, examining the processes that encourage it, building on the knowledge students gain during their studies in Year 12. He also highlighted the contradictory attitudes and responses to migration and the impacts it can have on people and place.

There was a particular focus on refugee movements, which will provide students with a wider plethora of case studies and examples to use build on in preparation for exams.

The next lecture in the series, **The Politics and Science of the Climate Crisis**, will take place on Wednesday 2nd March with Dr Sian Evans, Lecturer in Human Geography, and Dr Matt Smith, Lecturer in Geography.

From: Mrs Nash – Head of Drama

For Parents of GCSE Drama students in Year 10 & 11

A letter is due to be emailed home regarding a trip to see:

Blood Brothers at the Bath Theatre Royal on 8th March 2022 at 7.30pm.

This is an excellent opportunity for students to see a performance of their set text prior to writing about it in their written Drama examination.

Students will travel to Bath by coach, leaving school at 6:00pm and returning at approximately 10:30pm. Further information, including details of the cost of the trip will be in the letter.

Sports News and Fixtures

School Football Fixtures

	Tuesday 1st March	Wednesday 2nd March	Thursday 3rd March
Home Game	Y9's v Kingdown		Y7 Football Tournament
Away Game	Y10's v Kingdown	Y11 v Kingdown	

School Netball Fixtures

	Wednesday 2nd March	Thursday 3rd March
Home Game	Y9 v Monkton Coombe School	
Away Game		Y7 & Y8 v Monkton Coombe School

From: Mr Dicker – PE Technician

Clarendon School win 2-1 in Year 9 Schools League Match

Although our team controlled the match for the first 15 minutes, opting for a high pressing 4-3-3 formation and forcing the ball into Clarendon's half, numerous chances to score failed to convert.

When Clarendon were on the ball, they pushed almost all their players forward, putting pressure on our defense. This pressure led to a miscommunication at the back and allowed the ball to be tapped into an open net - putting Clarendon 1-0 up just before the end of the first half. St Laurence responded quickly with an equalising goal being volleyed excellently into the net by our centre midfielder.

Clarendon soon responded with another goal from an excellently placed corner headed home by their striker, ending the game at 2-1 to them. Well played Clarendon!

Year 8 Team score victories in 2 games

On the same day, we took a squad of 16 players to compete at a tournament hosted by Kingdown School. The squad was split into two teams, each playing two games, one against Kingdown, the other against Matravers School.

Both games were won by the first squad with respectable scores of 3-1 and 2-0.

The second squad played different teams from the same schools but were unlucky in their games – losing by the same score the first squad had won by – 3-1 and 2-0.

One Y8 player described the games as

“a cold match day, on a slippery Astro turf but, despite the conditions, both teams put in maximum effort and played with integrity and sportsmanship. The team represented all of the schools valued qualities”

Current Staff Vacancies at St Laurence School

At St Laurence School we regard our staff as our most important resource. Our Investors in People report noted that:

There is a strong belief that St Laurence School is a 'great place to work'. Everyone clearly has a high level of pride in working at the school and in what is being achieved. They feel this way because of the inspirational leadership, strong teamwork, supportive management, pleasant environment and of course, the students.

Since our core business is learning, we are committed to the professional development of each of our staff, whatever their role in the school. If you would like to join a committed, professional and passionate team in our journey to being a school which is outstanding in every way, please consider applying for one of the vacancies shown.

If you would like to visit us informally prior to making an application, you are very welcome to contact Sally Hackett: salhac@st-laurence.com to arrange a suitable time.

EXTERNAL VACANCIES	Closing Date	Interview Date
Cover / Supply Teachers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">flexible hours (between 13-19.5 hours per week over 2-3 days, preferable Weds – Fri)permanent	Ongoing	TBC
Site Supervisor: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Full time (37 hours per week)Alternate weekly shift pattern and 6.5 hours over alternate weekends (paid as overtime)permanentto start ASAP	Ongoing	TBC
Exam Invigilators: <ul style="list-style-type: none">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 \(st-laurence.com\)](http://st-laurence.com)) for further details.