

Parent / Carer Bulletin



Week Commencing 2nd May 2022

Headteacher's Update

Dear All

I hope that the Easter holiday was good to you and that you enjoyed the beautiful Spring weather. It was great to welcome back the students this week with many of them facing their very last term at St Laurence.

Some practical exams have already taken place but the written papers begin this term and all timetables have been sent out. The main exams timetable can also be found on the website.

I am very proud of the Year 11 and 13 students who are the first-year group in 3 years to sit these papers again but recognise that this will come with a degree of anxiety. Exams are stressful, that is a given, but we are trying as much as possible to provide a safe and supportive space for students to prepare. Revision should be well under way but if you have concerns about particular subjects, please do contact the teachers for support.

As we see some students entering the final stages of their education we have also started welcoming our new students at the Year 6 Evening for those who have been offered a place and it was lovely to meet them.

You will know from communications before Easter that we are re-establishing our uniform expectations and if you have any questions, please do contact the school.

Finally, a reminder that the mobile phone change will be implemented after the May half term

Mr Farrer

Collective Worship: Term 5 Theme - Advocacy

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

Imagine a world where we take responsibility, not
only for our own actions, but the actions of the world.

May we learn to take a stand against the issues we feel
passionate about.

We hope to live in a society where we make attempts to
adapt our behaviour for the better.

We are grateful for the opportunities to fight for social
change.

We hope that people will be willing and able to speak out
against social issues.

WEEK A	CALENDAR
Monday 2 nd May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday 3 rd May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y12 Exams start at 8:35am • Y12 Study Leave begins
Wednesday 4 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y11 French Speaking Exams; 8:35am – 3:00pm • Y13 German Speaking Exams; 08:35am – 2:00pm • U18 Football Final; Stanley Park 12:00 – 4:30pm • A Level Revision Webinars; 3:30pm – 4:30pm
Thursday 5 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y11 French Speaking Exams; 8:35am – 3:00pm (LBR) • Y8 Subject Consultation Meetings; 2:30pm – 7:30pm
Friday 6 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y11 French Speaking Exams; 8:35am – 3:00pm (LBR) • Y12 Exams end • Y12 Study Leave ends • Y10 Written Exams end

For your diary:

When: Thursday 5th May

What: School closes at 1:30pm **to all students**

Why: Y8 Subject Consultation 2:30pm – 7:30pm (Booking opened Tuesday 26th April)

From: Mrs Rhodes - KS3 Director of Learning and Progress

For Year 8 Parents/Carers

A reminder that the Year 8 Subject Consultation Meeting is:

Thursday 5th May from 2.30pm-7.30pm

The booking system is now open on SchoolCloud.

There is an expectation that **ALL** parents/carers attend. If you have an emergency or unavoidable reason why you aren't able to attend, please email:

progressteam@st-laurence.com

Thank you

From: Mrs Howsam – Outdoor Education Organiser

Year 10 Bronze DofE Expedition Training Weekend

On Wednesday 27th April I gave a briefing to Y10 students about the final arrangements for the DofE Expedition Training Weekend, taking place on 7th and 8th May.

For students who were absent or missed this briefing, I have added the PowerPoint shown as an announcement on ClassCharts.

It is also available for parents and carers to view on ClassCharts.

From: Mrs Barber – Assistant Headteacher

Student wellbeing-Coping with Exams

Exam stress can be difficult for young people to cope with. Try to encourage your child to be open with you, or someone they trust, about how they are feeling. Remind your child that exam results do not define who they are and that there are many different routes they can take to achieve their goals. Our young people need to remember these are the first set of exams since the pandemic and they have been through a lot over the past two years!

Top Ten Tips for looking after yourself during exam time:

1. Be realistic about what is possible with the time you have left
2. Create a realistic revision plan (if you don't already have one)
3. Ensure that you are eating the foods you enjoy, are healthy and balanced - make sure that your parent or carer knows and that they are on the shopping list
4. Stay hydrated. Have a bottle of water on your desk and keep filling it up
5. Ensure non-screen time and wind down time before bed, ensure that you are getting enough sleep and are not revising through the night before an exam
6. Tick off exams on the calendar as you complete them, feel a sense of achievement by doing this
7. Don't dwell on the exam, if you feel it didn't go well, don't keep thinking about it, focus on the next exam. Do your best and move on
8. Get out for a bit of fresh air and exercise each day
9. Make some time to keep in touch with your friends (not texting/WhatsApp during the night, keeping you both awake and not able to sleep)
10. Create a self-care plan for this period of time. What do you enjoy doing to relax? It is really important that you reduce your stress level, improve your mood and it will help you to feel refreshed and relaxed

From: Mrs Favali - Teacher of Psychology/RE



The planned virtual workshop with the National Holocaust Centre, postponed from January will be taking place as follows:

Monday 9th May - Learning Groups 1-4

Wednesday 11th May - Learning Groups 5-8

The sessions will run from 9:30am - 1:00pm (break and lunch will be as normal) in the Lecture Theatre.

Students will return to their lesson 4 subjects after lunch.

From: Mr Blowers – Director of Sixth Form

Sixth Form Key Information:

Year 12 Summer Exams: Tuesday 3rd – Friday 6th May

All Year 12 students will be sitting their Summer written exams at this time. **Students will be on study leave for this week and are only required to come in to school for their exams.**

We wish all of our Year 12s luck as they revise and take these exams.

Year 13s Leaving:

- **Year 13s final teaching day in school will be Thursday 12th May**
- Students wishing to say goodbye to key staff should do this before this date please
- All Year 13s should ensure that they have returned all relevant books and equipment before this date

Final Assembly – Friday 13th May

The theme chosen for optional dress up this year by Year 13 is “British Icons & Celebrities” and students are invited to dress up if they wish. Please ensure that this is appropriate. If you are unsure, do ask a member of the Sixth Form Team

- Year 13s will be coming to the Restaurant for a breakfast provided by the school at **9am.**
- **From 9.30-10.30am we will be running a final Assembly in the Wiltshire Music Centre.**
- Any teaching staff that would like to come and watch this are more than welcome.

Students have been briefed that they will leave Site directly at the end of the Assembly.

We would like to take a moment to wish this fantastic Year group all the very best with their forthcoming exams. We know how challenging their time in Sixth Form has been and we wish them all the very best in the coming months and cannot wait to see them at their **Year 13 Prom on Thursday 30th June.**

Finally, to all our Year 13 students, Parents & Carers and St Laurence staff – thank you for all your hard work and support of this fantastic year group over the years. They are a truly exceptional set of students and we shall be very sad to see them go.

Good luck and all the best, Aidan Blowers – Director of Sixth Form

From: Mr Croft – Sustainable Transport Coordinator

We had fun with the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel Challenge this year. Students and staff were clocking their miles and journeys into school over the 2-week period before Easter - and the results are in:

Cycling:

B4 – 10

H1 – 5

W1 – 1

Walking:

C10 – 134

W1 – 97

B4 – 70

There are some tutor groups that are clearly on the case with Sustainable Transport & Active Travel. C10 & B4 are given the prizes for the 2 categories – walking and cycling. C10 is my tutor group and so, to be fair, I did remove my own cycling journeys from the tally – but on the walking front, my promotions are obviously paying off with high engagement. Well done!

There was too little a gap between the Houses and so we will award all 5 Houses the same points for comparable engagement.

The competition may be over but the journeys are not. The sun is shining, we are able to engage with Active Travel more now and are restricted less to private cars. The bike shed is gleaming and available. We should also be getting our new bike pump fitted to the shed area, to help with pesky flat tyres. 'Lucky Lock' will be restarting soon – more info to follow....

If you have any queries about Sustainable Transport or Active Travel at St. Laurence School, then please do email me on matcro@st-laurence.com

Thanks, and happy journeys.



From: Mrs Nash – Head of Drama

The postponed and long anticipated junior production of 'Matilda' finally takes place on Wednesday 11th May at 7.30pm in the WMC.

40 students in Years 7/8 (and 1 year 10!) have been working hard to bring you a fabulous performance suitable for all the family. If you already bought tickets these will be valid but, if you have yet to secure seats, then the last few are available to purchase through ParentPay. No physical tickets will be given out - there will be a list on the door.

Tickets are £8 for adults and £5 for concessions - which includes staff, students, school aged children and OAPS. We look forward to seeing you there!

Cast and crew please note that there will be NO REHEARSAL ON SATURDAY 7TH MAY. We will be rehearsing all day on MONDAY 9TH MAY and WEDNESDAY 11TH MAY in the Music centre.

Summer Production

Anyone in Years 7-13 interested in taking part in the summer production should email Mrs Nash (catnas@st-laurence.com) asap.

A decision about what we do will be made once we know who wants to be involved.

Sports News

Sixth Form Football Boys County Finalists:

Congratulations to the Year 12 and 13 boys who have made it through to the County Cup Final on Wednesday. They overcame opposition from Salisbury 2-0, with goals scored by Ollie Withers and Stuart MacDougall and there was also an inspired substitution where Callum Smith came on and assisted the final goal.

This was a well-deserved victory and this team will have the chance to become County Champions when they play at Stanley Park next week.

What was really pleasing to see is how the Year 12 and 13 students collaborated so well together to create such a strong team.

Thanks to the PE Department for their support and Mr Oaten who has worked with this age group all the way through school.

Good luck next week!

England Boxing Schools Champion wins another Major Competition



During the Easter break, Deacon Killick won the Western Counties Championship for the second time in a row, qualifying him for the National Quarter finals in May.

Deacon is the current England Boxing Schools Champion and will be defending his title in the near future – if he wins he will be the only boxer to have achieved this in his category and will earn the privilege of representing England.

Deacon has very kindly loaned us his gold boxing gloves – won for his achievement and we displayed these in the Trophy Cabinet in Reception.

He faces his next big match in a few days when he competes in the National Quarter Finals and we wish him all the luck in the world in adding to his already impressive boxing record of 9 wins; 1 loss and 0 draws. Good Luck Deacon.

Football Fixtures

	Tuesday 3rd May	Wednesday 4th May
Home Game		
Away Game	Y11 County Cup Semi Final v Swindon Academy	U18 County Cup Final

Other Fixtures

	Wednesday 4th May	Friday 5th May
Away Game	Y10 & Y11 Athletics v John of Gaunt	Y7 Netball v Melksham Oak

Current Staff Vacancies

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

The following event is being run to welcome, and show our support to, several Ukrainian families to Bradford on Avon

UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN APPEAL

COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY, 14 MAY - 10.30AM-12.30PM

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, BRADFORD ON AVON, BA15 1LW

Reporting a Student Absence: 01225 309501 or Email: attendance@st-laurence.com