

# Parent / Carer Bulletin



Care • Inspire • Succeed

Week Commencing 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022

## Headteacher's Update

Dear all

I took the opportunity of visiting Black Rock this week and arrived bright and early on Wednesday morning. Aside from the fact that the weather was glorious, I thoroughly enjoyed myself. Staff and students seemed to be not only really well organised (washing up, preparing lunches, sorting clothes) but having an excellent time. I know some of you emailed in last week to say how much fun your child had had but I must add my own thanks to the team of people who have organised it, run it and given up their time to be a part of it.

Work experience also took place last week and the number of compliments the students have received has made us very proud here in school. I managed to visit quite a few and all the feedback was positive.

It is much warmer this week and although I don't want to jinx any weather next week, please ensure students are bringing in sun cream and water bottles.

Mr Farrer

WEEK A	CALENDAR
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Y9 Exams Begin</b></li><li>• Y7 – Y9 Chalke Valley History Festival, Broadchalke</li><li>• Y10 Urban Fieldwork Day, Bath</li></ul>
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Y10 Urban Fieldwork Day, Bath</li></ul>
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Y7-Y10 Area Sports Athletics Competition Uni of Bath; 9:00am – 4:30pm</li><li>• Y7-Y9 Big Bang Fair Birmingham; 8:00am – 4:00pm</li></ul>
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>GCSE Exams End</b></li><li>• Y10 Subject Evening; 4:00pm</li><li>• Summer Production Rehearsal; Trinity Hall 3:15pm – 4:15pm</li></ul>
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Y9 Exams End</b></li><li>• Y12 NEA Fieldwork Trip (various destinations) 7:30am – 4:30pm</li><li>• Summer Production Rehearsal; Trinity Hall 3:15pm – 4:15pm</li></ul>

### **Collective Worship: Term 6 Theme - Sustainability**

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

Gain the wisdom to care for the earth.  
Help us to act now for the good of future generations.  
Help us to become instruments of a new sustainable  
way of living.  
May we see sustainability as a realistic goal within our community.  
We hope that all the acts of kindness continue into the future.  
Let us create real and long-lasting change for all our community.

### **TRAFFIC CONTROL - Polite reminder**

Dear Parent / Carer,

Please can we ask that you remain vigilant and adhere to traffic signs when coming to the school site. We have 1400 young people and almost 200 staff attend the site every day. This will of course cause some traffic congestion in and around the school. Recently outside of the school a parent drove through a red light crossing whilst students were on the crossing, this would obviously be reported to the police. Please remember the following rules whilst on the school site:

- Do not park in school spaces whilst dropping students off
- Do not drive to the bottom car park to drop students off unless legitimately using a disabled access space
- Do not exceed 5mph whilst on site
- Roll and drop using the top Ashley Road car park – do not sit and park for 15 mins
- Do not park at Wiltshire Music Centre if visiting school
- Supervise your child's exit from the car to ensure they are safe
- Always be mindful of young people around your car
- Follow the one-way system and roundabout direction

Thank you for your support.

Ms Lumb, Director of Finance and Operations

### **Warmer weather advice:**

With warmer weather being forecast please provide your child with a suitable water bottle to ensure they stay hydrated.

**Please do not provide a glass vessel**

Bottles can be refilled at the water fountains around school.

**Reporting a Student Absence: 01225 309501 or Email: [attendance@st-laurence.com](mailto:attendance@st-laurence.com)**

## **From: Mr Mainwaring – 2<sup>nd</sup> in English/KS4 Coordinator**

### **Year 10 English Language – Giving a talk**

We have been really pleased to see how students have responded to this task so far this term. Many students have selected interesting and engaging topics, some of which are personal to them, and have made a good start on preparing their talks.

To be best prepared for this task, which is a compulsory part of the English Language GCSE, students will need to practice beforehand. Some lesson time will be devoted to this, but for best results, practising at home is crucial too, especially for students who might be finding this task daunting.

We would be hugely appreciative if parents/carers could support students at home with their preparation. A manageable, step-by-step approach to practice is the best way to manage nerves around the final performance. A guide for students is below:

Once you have written your speech, follow these simple steps to build your confidence and overcome any initial nerves.

1. Read your talk aloud (or the first section of it) sat down, on your own
2. Read your talk to an audience of one or two, sat down. Stand up if you feel confident
3. Stand in front of a small audience (friend/parent/carer) and read out the opening section
4. Hopefully, you will feel confident to continue on and read the whole thing
5. Repeat step 3 until you can deliver your talk without reading it off word for word
6. Create cue cards or notes to support you remembering the talk
7. **OPTIONAL:** Come to after school drop-ins to deliver in front of a small audience (Thursdays in F24)

### **School Nurse**

Hi, my name is Louise Ainsborough and I'm the School Nurse for St Laurence School. I provide information and support on a wide range of health and wellbeing issues.

**A confidential drop-in clinic is held every Tuesday in school from 12:30pm – 2:00pm.**

This is for all year groups and students can attend during their lunch break without appointment.

#### **CHAT Health School Nurse text number:**

Students can call 07480 635513 for free, quick and confidential health advice straight to their phone.

Parents and carers can contact the School Nursing Service by using the Single Point of Access (**SPA**) on 0300 247 0090

Louise Ainsborough, School Staff Nurse

Working days: Tuesday – Friday

## From Mrs Barber – Assistant Headteacher/DDSL

### Online Safety – YouTube Restrictions



YouTube (Google) have been updating some of their features over the last year and these changes are very positive.

To help parents understand more about these features and how to use them, Alan Mackenzie, an expert in online safety, has compiled 5 short videos (from YouTube) onto one page covering:

#### YouTube Kids:

- Parent Allowlisting (this is a fantastic new feature)
- Selecting content based on the age of the child
- How to approve what your children can watch
- Limiting screen time

Main YouTube (app/website)

- Supervised experience (the ability to set a filtering level based on the age of the child).

Please use [THIS](#) link to access the videos.

### Twitch – What should parents know?

Many people have never even heard of it – but for gamers, **Twitch** is *big*. On 15 June 2020, for example, 2.3 million users (a record for the platform) were using it to watch someone *else* play Fortnite. Quite staggering, when you consider it. Perhaps less surprising if we provide the context that Twitch is owned by Amazon and sits among the top 30 most-visited sites on the internet.

Twitch is a livestreaming service which tends to focus on gaming. Users can publicly broadcast their gameplay and commentary online for other users to watch. It's a community-driven platform where viewers can support their favourite streamers' channels through PayPal donations, "Bits" and more. Each streamer or group creates their own community for fans to interact with each other.

Twitch has more than 15 million daily active users and includes non-gaming topics such as music, cooking and art. Anyone can create a channel to livestream or watch videos.

Within an online community of roughly 15 million people, however, one will invariably find a proportion of bad apples. Twitch, unfortunately, is no exception – with potential bullying and the chance of unsolicited contact from strangers among the hazards to young people.

The following poster has further useful information and advice:

## INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most people are already aware that some video games feature adult content such as violence, sexual content, profanity and so on. Twitch does prevent certain games from being streamed on the platform, but most are still allowed. It is relatively simple, then, for a child to find livestreams of games that aren't suitable for them – including horror games.

## HIDDEN COSTS

Twitch is free to use because it's supported by advertisers. Removing the ads requires a subscription to Twitch Turbo – or the Twitch Prime package (free for anyone with an Amazon Prime account), which blocks the ads and offers additional goodies such as bonus games. Streamers earn most of their income by asking users for direct donations or gifts of the virtual currency Twitch Bits.

## WEBCAM SHARING

It's common for streamers to use their live webcam footage. This allows better interaction with their viewers, but also adds risk; the stream might include sponsored content or product placement that isn't child friendly. Using a webcam in livestreams increases the chance of malicious viewers finding out where the streamer lives and provides bullies with visual reactions to their hurtful behaviour.

## PRIVATE CHAT ROOMS

Twitch encourages streamers to create their own communities, which extend beyond its platform. Many create a public Discord group, for example, for viewers to join and communicate with each other. Discord is a completely separate entity to Twitch and offers a higher risk of predators, grooming and cyberbullying if your child gets involved in the voice or video chat with strangers.

# Advice for Parents & Carers

## EXPLORE IT YOURSELF

Twitch doesn't have any parental controls, but it is possible to block troublesome users if it becomes necessary. The best solution is to watch some Twitch channels by yourself or with your child to find some that are suitable. Watching some streams by yourself is also a good route to understanding the sort of content that your child would be consuming regularly on Twitch.



## WATCH WHAT THEY WATCH

Twitch does have a lot of child-friendly content; some streamers use a 'family friendly' tag to highlight material that's suitable for children. However, anyone can use this tag – including users who (accidentally or otherwise) stream games with less appropriate adult themes. The best way to counter this is to view different streams and follow suitable channels for your child to watch.



## LEARN HOW TO BLOCK

'Security and Privacy' in Twitch's settings lets your child block messages from specific users. Teaching your child how this works will help them avoid online abuse. If they livestream, knowing how to block people in the chat also helps to prevent cyberbullying or harassment. Evading online interaction is impossible, of course, so talk to them in advance about boundaries and safe online communication.



## LIMIT PAYMENT OPTIONS

Reduce the chance of accidental purchases by ensuring your bank card isn't saved on Twitch or the Amazon account that Twitch Prime could be linked to. Restricting access to your PayPal account is also wise if your child watches Twitch on the device you use to make purchases. Explain to your child that they don't need to subscribe to channels to watch them and that donating or gifting 'Bits' is optional.



## Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



 **National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 15.08.2022

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

### **Year 11 students applying for Sixth Form – New Year 12 Induction Days: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July**

We are really excited to invite our new Year 12 (current 11's) for our New Year 12 Induction Days.

Students will:

- Take part in a range of team building and development activities and attend lessons in their chosen subjects
- Receive their Summer Work - designed to prepare them further for A Level study
- Finally, learn more about Sixth Form life and our expectations

Students are asked to confirm their attendance via the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/f1w3BawBUV>

#### **Key points:**

**Equipment:** Students should come ready to learn. They will need all the usual resources that they would have on a typical school day.

**Dress Code:** Students should be dressed appropriately in line with our current Dress Code which can be found here: [6.-Sixth-Form-Dress-Code.pdf \(st-laurence.com\)](#)

**Lunch:** Students may bring their own lunch and drink for the day or choose to purchase lunch from our **cashless** school restaurant – students will need card/phone to pay.

#### **Parents/Carers - New Year 12 Presentation – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 6.30pm Trinity Hall**

We extend a warm welcome to all parents/carers for this event. It is our expectation that we have full attendance in order to communicate a range of key information about St Laurence Sixth Form.

We ask that, where possible, just one parent/carers attends to maximise space and ventilation.

The presentation is a chance for me to clarify our entry requirements to Sixth Form and how this will work in the summer.

I will outline our expectations of the school-home partnership which is vital to student success in the Sixth Form.

Following COVid and the impact this has had on the A Level curriculum, new pressures that the students face and the fresh start to a new key stage, it is vital that I take this chance to discuss assessment, our simple expectations and to share key points about the two-year journey ahead of both parents/carers and students.

I look forward to meeting you at this event.

If you have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact me: [aidblo@st-laurence.com](mailto:aidblo@st-laurence.com)

Thank you, Mr Blowers



# Mighty Girls

## Summer camp

- 25th -27th July
- Age 7-14
- In Bradford On Avon.
- 10-3 pm (Breakfast club from 8.30am)
- Only £75 for 3 days or £90 inc Breakfast club.
- Fully qualified & experienced youth workers
- For further info visit [www.mightygirls.co.uk](http://www.mightygirls.co.uk)



Scan to book

# BENEFICE ADMINISTRATOR

*An interesting and rewarding opportunity to serve the Church of England Benefice of Bradford on Avon Holy Trinity, Westwood and Wingfield.*

- Flexible working as between home and the Holy Trinity Parish Office in Bradford on Avon
- 15 hours per week (also flexible as to timing) @ £11 per hour
- Serving all the administrative and organisational needs of the benefice with the opportunity to develop the role
- Experience as a PA or role with similar responsibilities, together with a high level of IT, word processing and organisational skills – and plenty of enthusiasm – are essential

## **For more information, Job Description and Person Specification:**

please see [www.htboa.org](http://www.htboa.org) or contact the Rector, the Revd Canon Joanna Abecassis: [Joanna.abecassis@cantab.net](mailto:Joanna.abecassis@cantab.net) or email: [beneficeoffice@htboa.org](mailto:beneficeoffice@htboa.org)

**Applications:** please send a CV and letter addressed to the Rector to [Joanna.abecassis@cantab.net](mailto:Joanna.abecassis@cantab.net) explaining what interests you about this post and why you feel suited for it; and giving the names of two referees, one of whom should be someone who knows your work, and they may not include someone who is related to you. (We would not contact them until after shortlisting, and without checking with you first).

**Closing date: Friday, 24 June, 2022 at 6pm**

**Interviews (in person): Friday, 8 July, 2022**



# PARISH BOOKKEEPER

*An interesting opportunity to serve and support the Church of England Parish of Holy Trinity, Bradford on Avon.*

Flexible working as between home and the Holy Trinity Parish Office in Woolley Street

- 3 hours per week (also flexible as to timing) @ £11 per hour
- Administration of the parish accounts, Gift Aid and payroll
- Experience as a bookkeeper or similar accounting role, together with a high level of IT skills are essential

## **For more information, Job Description and Person Specification:**

please see [www.htboa.org](http://www.htboa.org) or contact the Rector, the Revd Canon Joanna Abecassis: [Joanna.abecassis@cantab.net](mailto:Joanna.abecassis@cantab.net) or email: [beneficeoffice@htboa.org](mailto:beneficeoffice@htboa.org)

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