

# Parent / Carer Bulletin



Care • Inspire • Succeed

Week Commencing 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022

## Headteacher's Update

Dear parent/carers

It seems like the summer holiday was a long time ago! It has been an excellent week at school and I am pleased to say that students seem to have settled really well.

To all of our new students – just because we are in week 2, you are still allowed to ask questions! We have new students throughout all year groups and it is important for them to feel welcome so please do encourage them at home to talk to us if they need something.

Clubs are operating as of next week and at the last count we have over 40 different clubs or activities that students can take part in. I have to thank my staff for being so supportive of enrichment and extra-curricular.

I do want to share with you some information regarding energy costs. All of us as individuals or as organisations are going to be affected by **rising energy costs**. As a school, we are required to set annual and forecast budgets which we have to submit to the government. This was done and signed off prior to the summer, as required, and due to excellent financial management showed that the school remained in a strong financial position.

Since that date, the school have been notified that their energy cost will be increasing by 300% (and in actual terms this means an increase to around £450 000).

Whilst we are appreciative of the 6-month freeze, we have to consider long term how this affects us and more importantly, how we will need to redirect funds to pay for this as opposed to investing it in our young people. I will keep you up to date with any changes but if you wanted to share these concerns with your MP, please do so.

**A reminder that Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September is a Bank Holiday.**

Mr Farrer

<b>WEEK A</b>	<b>CALENDAR</b>
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bank Holiday</li> </ul>
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y10 DofE Award Launch; Lecture Theatre – 8:35am – 9:05am</li> </ul>
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y10 DofE Award Launch; Lecture Theatre – 8:35am – 9:05am</li> </ul>
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y10 Parent Information Evening (Online) – 7:00pm</li> </ul>
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y10 DofE Award Launch; Lecture Theatre – 8:35am – 9:05am</li> </ul> <p><b>NB: All Y10 DofE Events are for students only</b></p>

### **Pre-loved Uniform Sale – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October 9:00am – 10:30am**

Due to the generous offers of help from parents and carers the sale can now take place on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October.

**Payment is by card only – no cash taken.**

All proceeds from the sale is used to enhance the experience for our students, as well as keeping costs down for parents and carers, so please think of donating your outgrown uniforms, PE kit, school coats etc. to the school.

If you feel you could spare a couple of hours to help with the sale please email Mrs Wilson [marwil@st-laurence.com](mailto:marwil@st-laurence.com) and I will send you further details.

**A big thank you to all volunteers – without you the sale wouldn't be possible!**

### **From: Mrs Howsam – Outdoor Education Coordinator**

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

I am launching the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award to Year 10 students in briefings during tutorials in the week commencing Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September. There will also be a short presentation about the Duke of Edinburgh's Award for parents at the end of the online Year 10 Parents' Information meeting on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

#### **Year 7 Activity Day**

A reminder for all students to return their reply slips and medical forms to Student Reception by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

This is also the deadline for ParentPay payments for this event.

## **From: Mrs Nash – Head of Drama**

### **Shakespeare School's Festival/National Theatre Connections - Auditions**

Any Year 8/9 students who wish to take part in either the SSF or NT Connections but were not able to attend the workshop on 14<sup>th</sup> September should collect the audition material asap from the Drama department.

The auditions take place 3:15pm – 4:30pm next Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September in F7.

### **Drama Awards Evening**

Our inaugural Drama Awards evening will take place on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October from 6:00pm – 7:30pm in Trinity Hall. This is our St Laurence equivalent of the Oscars!

Any student in Years 8-13 who took part in any Drama activity in any capacity last year is eligible to attend and parents are also welcome. This includes GCSE and A-Level practical assessments, the Year 9 production of A Midsummer Night's Dream for the Shakespeare Schools Festival, the junior production of Matilda and the whole school production of Brainstorm. Anyone who wishes to attend should collect a letter from Mrs Nash. The deadline to book your seats will be strictly 3:00pm on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Year 7 Drama Club**

A reminder that Drama Club for Year 7 will be on Thursdays, starting on 22<sup>nd</sup> September from 3:15pm to 4:15pm in F7

## **St Laurence Extra After School Clubs – Autumn Term 2022**

After school clubs will be starting on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

We ask that Parents / Carers sign up their children to club registers using **SchoolCloud**. This is by way of providing consent for your child to attend after school events.

Bookings will operate on a first come first served basis and they will go live from Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

Details of clubs which are available to your child's Year Group can be found on SchoolCloud.

SchoolCloud login codes have been issued to all parents but if you need a reminder please contact your child's House Team.

Please bear in mind that these codes are also required for Subject Evening bookings and other events.

Please use **Links for Parents and Carers** on our homepage to get started: [St Laurence School | Care • Inspire • Succeed \(st-laurence.com\)](#)

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

# In Careers this week:

## Work Experience



Alongside our work experience programme for Year 10 and Year 12 students there are also opportunities for them to be involved in external work experience programmes, several of which are online.

There are age restrictions for some experiences, and a cost for a few of them, but many are free and open to all ages.

Over the course of the year we will update you with new possibilities that arise. The following two websites are recommended.

## References:

If your child completes an experience please ensure that they let the Careers Team know so that we are able to provide any references when needed.

These programmes are offered by external providers, working with many of the world's top employers and covering work experience in sectors from medicine and law to software engineering and forensic science:

[InvestIN | Ambition Beyond Education – InvestIN Education](#)

[It's time to take control of your future | Springpod](#)

## Parental Involvement

We would very much like to ask you for your support in building our Careers programme within school. Please do get in touch if you might be able to be part of:

### 1. the 'What do I do' programme

We are hoping to launch a new programme to support students and their parents and carers to learn about different types of jobs and what qualifications, skills and experience is needed for each job. This would involve recording a quick explanation of what you currently do (no more than 5 minutes), explaining your role and how you got there.

### 2. Mock Interviews

We are hoping to run a programme for our students which will allow them to experience the process of applying for jobs, being invited to interview and then taking part in an interview.

If you feel you might be able to support us with either of these two opportunities or are looking to find out more about the work experience programmes of Careers in general, please do get in touch at: [careers@st-laurence.com](mailto:careers@st-laurence.com)

## **From: Mr Blowers – Assistant Head Teacher & Director of 6<sup>th</sup> Form**

### **Year 13 Results:**



Congratulations to our amazing Year 13 students who triumphed against all the odds in completing their A levels this Summer and achieving fantastic grades in the first set of exams since 2019.

Once again, they achieved an average grade of “B”, as our students have done for the past five years.

**This makes us one of the highest achieving secondary 6<sup>th</sup> Forms in Wiltshire and is testament to the hard work of both the students and all the staff at St Laurence.**

All of those that signed up to University gained places, with three students taking up places at Oxbridge and Cambridge. Over 90% of students received their first choice and many others are moving on to Apprenticeships and the world of work.

We wish them all the very best in wherever they go and whatever they go.

### **Welcome to Year 12, Year 13 & Afghanaid:**

Finally, a warm welcome to our Year 12s and a return for our Year 13s.

A special welcome is extended to the **27 external Year 12 students** that have decided to join us. This is testament to the legacy of success within our 6<sup>th</sup> Form as students from all over strive to give themselves the very best opportunities moving forward.

We are so pleased to have you with us. We are looking forward to working with you and getting to know you.

One item to put on your agenda is that our fantastic **Student Leadership** team are planning a fund raiser for Afghanaid where they will be putting on a range of fun sports and games for you all  
**on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October at the 6FC after school.**

We really hope you can all get involved to support an important cause and more information will come out to you in due course.

Thanks for all your hard work and support so far 6<sup>th</sup> Form – you are a real credit to our school.

### **From BOA Friends of Palestine**

Judith Hammond’s 282-mile cycle ride raised £10,000 towards equipping a language lab.

She & Penny Welch will be on **their official visit from our town to Tubas 18<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> September.**

They will give a public illustrated talk on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 7:00pm** at The United Church.

**All are welcome.**

## **From: St Laurence English Department**

### **The importance of reading**

When we study subjects at school, we cannot learn effectively without a good understanding of the language of those subjects. When we study Biology, we are not just studying plants and animals: we are studying **language about** plants and animals.

We know that students who **read widely, and read for pleasure**, tend to learn more in their school subjects, and do better in those subjects, than students who do not. Reading widely increases our knowledge about the world, improves our vocabulary, and opens our minds to a great range of ideas about how we live. In short, **reading widely makes you cleverer**.

At St Laurence, we study whole literary texts in English lessons in all years. We also make access to the ILC available in order to choose reading books, and we try to encourage students to have a reading book on the go at all times – whether this is the latest novel in a series that students have been reading, a biography of a sporting hero, or a collection of short stories.

At St Laurence we recognise that not everyone will enjoy every book; but we know that there is “a book for everyone”. As such, we actively encourage students to discover and explore a range of books, and the ILC has lots of books with stories that cover the whole human experience. We want to challenge our students to develop their own reading journeys, and in doing so increase their insight, empathy and understanding of the wider world.

It’s important for students to experiment with what they read – for them not to get stuck in a rut, or read books that are too easy. The staff in the ILC have an exceptional knowledge of all kinds of books that students will enjoy! The ILC runs competitions and events throughout the year, and these are particularly good at suggesting next steps or new challenges for reading.

St Laurence Reads is a tutorial activity once per week, where everyone in the school reads the same book and discusses it; this helps to underline how important we think reading is at St Laurence.

Reading isn’t just something for English lessons: being a good, fluent reader helps students across school – and in **their whole life**. And, aside from this, in a world that can be dominated by the consumption of fleeting and sometimes asinine digital snippets, the feeling of getting immersed in a good book is simply one of the most **calming, rewarding and enjoyable** there is.

We have produced, with help from colleagues in the ILC, the following wider reading lists that complement the schemes of learning that years 7, 8 and 9 are respectively following in terms 1 and 2. We hope your children can enjoy some of these.

### **Key Stage 3 Wider Reading Lists - Terms 1 and 2**

#### **Year 7**

**Difficult Choices:**        Framed – Frank Cottrell Boyce  
                                      Cosmic – Frank Cottrell Boyce  
                                      (Un)arranged Marriage – Bali Rai  
                                      Pig Heart Boy – Malorie Blackman  
                                      Holes – Louis Sachar  
                                      The Diary of Anne Frank  
                                      Wed Wabbit - Lissa Evans

**More of a challenge:** Touching the Void – Joe Simpson  
After the Fire – Will Hill

### Year 8

**Visions:** The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time – Mark Haddon  
I Capture the Castle – Dodie Smith  
My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece - Annabel Pitcher  
Ghost Hawk – Susan Cooper  
The Ghost of Thomas Kempe – Penelope Lively  
A Stitch in Time – Penelope Lively  
Skellig – David Almond  
My Name is Mina – David Almond  
Mondays Are Red – Nicola Morgan  
A Skinful of Shadows – Frances Hardinge

**More of a challenge:** *The Woman in Black* – Susan Hill

### Year 9

**Inequality:** *The Hunger Games* - Suzanne Collins  
*Time Riders* series - Alex Scarrow  
*Refugee Boy* - Benjamin Zephaniah  
*The Wall* - William Sutcliffe  
*Noughts and Crosses* - Malorie Blackman  
*The Perks of being a Wallflower* - Stephen Chobsky  
*Divergent* - Veronica Roth  
*Stone Cold* – Robert Swindells  
*Wonder* – R.J. Palacio  
*Trash* – Andy Mulligan  
*Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn* – Mark Twain  
*To Kill a Mockingbird* – Harper Lee  
*Chains* – Laurie Halse Anderson  
*Of Mice and Men* - John Steinbeck  
*All The Truth That's in Me* – Julie Berry  
*Between Shades of Grey* – Ruta Sepetys  
*Saint Death* by Marcus Sedgwick  
*Things a Bright Girl Can Do* – Sally Nicholls  
*The Poet X* – Elizabeth Agevedo

**More of a challenge:**

*Oliver Twist* - Charles Dickens  
*Hard Times* – Charles Dickens  
*Great Expectations* - Charles Dickens  
*Les Miserables* - Victor Hugo  
*12 Years a Slave* - Solomon Northup  
*The Help* - Kathryn Stockett  
*North and South* – Elizabeth Gaskell

## **ELECTION OF PARENT GOVERNORS: NOMINATIONS**

The Governing Body of St Laurence School are seeking a new Parent Governor.

We are very keen to encourage parents (or people with parental responsibility) of registered students to nominate themselves to fill this place.

Those with a commitment to supporting the school and all its community, as we take our next steps are welcome to apply. Although training is provided, a knowledge of some aspects of education and school operations would be beneficial but not compulsory. It is more important that you share our desire to ensure the best outcomes for all young people.

**Parent governors are elected by parents and from parents and are vital to our governing body. They share equally with other governors the responsibility for carrying out the governing body's wide range of responsibilities. Governors do not run the school day to day, as their role is at the strategic or policy-making level in the school. You do not have to be an expert on education to be a school governor, your role would be as a typical parent bringing a parent's perspective to the running of the governing body and the school. We value the experience that all governors bring to the role.**

If you join our governing body, you will serve for a four-year term and you can continue to the end of the term of office even if your child/children leave the school. Being a governor does take up time. There are six governing body meetings each year (ideally in person), and governors usually also serve on a committee which meets once a term (mostly via Teams). You will need to set aside time to be able to be an effective governor: time to prepare for meetings, for visiting the school, undertaking training and updating.

To find out more about what being a governor at this school is like, you can contact the Chair of Governors who will be very willing to answer any questions. Please email:

[chairofgovernors@st-laurence.com](mailto:chairofgovernors@st-laurence.com)

**If you would like to take the opportunity to put yourself forward as a candidate, you may only do so on an official form.**

**Please email:**

[clerktogovernors@st-laurence.com](mailto:clerktogovernors@st-laurence.com)

**to receive a form. You must send it back by Friday 23 September 2022.**

**If there is more than one nomination, there will be an election and details will follow to nominees and all parents / carers.**

# SPORTS NEWS:

## Fixtures update

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September - Y7 rugby vs Kingdown (away) Y11 rugby v Frome (home)

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September – U18 English Schools FA Cup v Downend School

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September - Y9 rugby v Kingdown (away)

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September - Y10 rugby v Kingdown (home) Y8 rugby v Clarendon (away)

## Extra-curricular PE Clubs

We are excited to announce that all extra-curricular PE clubs will begin from the week commencing Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September and students should sign up via SchoolCloud for the clubs they would like to come along to. The timetable for extra-curricular PE Clubs during Terms 1 and 2 is included in this Bulletin. There are also a range of sporting fixtures arranged during Terms 1 and 2, we will publish weekly updates in this Bulletin.

A hand holding a whistle against a green background. The hand is wearing a blue and white striped sleeve. The whistle is black and is being held in the palm of the hand. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting an outdoor sports field.

EVER WANTED TO EXPERIENCE THE  
ROLE OF A FOOTBALL REFEREE?

**FREE FOOTBALL  
REFEREE COURSE**

TUESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER  
1.00PM – 4.00PM  
ST LAURENCE SCHOOL SPORTS FIELD

OPEN TO ALL YEAR GROUPS, ONLY 30 SPACES AVAILABLE

EMAIL MR CARTER TO BOOK YOURS.  
JASCAR@ST-LAURENCE.COM



## PE Clubs – Terms 1 and 2



	<b>Club</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Monday</b>	Netball – Year 7	Netball courts
<b>Tuesday</b>	Netball – Years 10 and 11 Cross Country – all years Boys' rugby – Years 7, 9, 10 and 11	Sports hall Register in T17 then out onto the field Field
<b>Wednesday</b>	Badminton – Years 10 and 11 Netball – Years 8 and 9 Girls' football – all years	Sports hall Netball courts Astro
<b>Thursday</b>	Hockey – all years St Laurence Leadership Academy – all years Boys' rugby – Year 8 Girls' rugby – all years Basketball – Years 8, 9 and 10	Astro Gym Field Field Sports hall
<b>Friday</b>	Badminton – Years 7, 8 and 9	Sports hall

## Week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> September

# WEEK 3 Menu

**SIDE DISHES:** A seasonal selection of fresh vegetables and potatoes.  
*\*Homemade soup of the day personalised with a selection of toppings.*  
*\*\*Jackets available "naked" or "rubbed" with a choice of chilli oil, garlic oil or Indian spice.*

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

### MAIN COURSE

#### Pasta Bolognese

Savoury Mince Beef Pasta with Garden Salad or Steamed Broccoli

#### Chicken and Leek Pie

Creamy Chicken & Leek Pie Topped with Shortcrust Pastry, Jacket Wedges & Seasonal Vegetables

#### Hand Carved Roast Turkey

with Roast Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables Homemade Gravy

#### Chicken Tikka Masala Curry

A Lightly Spiced Chicken Curry served with Turmeric Infused Rice & Poppadum

#### Crispy Fried Fillet of Fish

Flaky Fish Fillet served with Oven Baked Fries and Baked Beans

### MAIN COURSE (MEAT FREE)

#### Vegetable Pasta Bolognese

Pasta Spirals in a rich Italian Sauce with Garden Salad or Steamed Broccoli

#### Mushroom and Sweetcorn Calzone

A folded pizza filled with Mushroom, Sweetcorn & Mozzarella with Wedges

#### Roasted Quorn Fillet

with Roast Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables Homemade Gravy

#### Vegetable Masala Curry

A Lightly Spiced Vegetable Curry with Turmeric Infused Rice

#### Spicy Veggie Supreme Pizza

With Oven Baked Fries and Peas

### TUBS & BOWLS

#### Jamaican Chicken

Jamaican Spiced Chicken & traditionally served with rice & peas

#### Fiery Pasta Spirals

Pasta Spirals bound in a Spicy Tomato Sauce with Grated Cheese & Garlic Bread

#### Macaroni Cheese Bake

Mixed Vegetables and Pasta bound in a Cheese sauce served with Garlic Bread

#### Singapore Rice Noodles

Stir-Fried Vermicelli, Vegetables & Seasoned with Curry Powder

#### Nacho Beef Chilli

Mexican Spiced Beef with Nachos served with Jalapenos & Sour Cream

### HAND HELD

#### Naan Bread Pizza With Sweetcorn & Mushroom

#### Pulled Pork Bap

Homemade Pulled Pork with Crispy Coleslaw served in a Toasted Bap

#### Southern Style Chicken Bap

Southern Spiced Coated in a Bap with Tossed Salad

#### Jumbo Hotdog

With Cheese and Bacon

#### Cajun Salmon Wrap

Cajun Spiced Flaked Salmon pieces with Mixed Salad & folded in a flour Tortilla

• INSPIRED FOOD •  
  
 • FOR EDUCATION •

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