



Week Commencing Monday 10th November 2025

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope if you attended the 6th Form Open Evening that you found it informative and useful. This is one of the biggest decisions to make and if you need any further guidance or support, please get in touch.

We have the Year 7 information evening for parents (online) on Tuesday 11th November and then tutor review evening, face to face, coming up this week on Thursday 13th November. Please make sure you take advantage of these events

Finally, we wish the cast of The Winter's Tale all the very best with their performance on Thursday.

Thank you, Mr Farrer

In this week's bulletin:

- Year 7 online parent/carers information evening
- Update from e-safetyadviser.com
- Key dates for your diary - Term 2 and 3
- Online Safety – What you need to know about Pokémon TCG Pocket
- Community News

And lots more.....

From: Mrs Kendall - Online Safety

Update from e-safetyadviser.com:

Since it first came out a few years ago, Character.AI (and other AI chatbots) have been a significant safeguarding concern for many highly inappropriate chats, advice, and even instrumental in some really tragic outcomes, with some AI companies, including Character.AI facing lawsuits.

In the case of Character.AI, as of 25th November under 18's will no longer be able to use the chat function, they will only be able to generate content such as videos rather than talk to the characters. This is a welcome move, and a guardrail that should have existed from the very start, but it's one of many chatbots that are out there (just look on the Apple App store and Google Play to see how sexualised many of them are). In my personal experience speaking with younger children, I know that children from around the age of 7 are using chatbots for a variety of reasons, one of the main (concerning) ones being loneliness.

For more information and support visit: internetmatters.org [AI chatbots and companions parents guide](#) | [Internet Matters](#)

Key dates for your diary – Week B

Monday 10 th November	• Y7 Glass Workshop 3:00pm – 4:15pm
Tuesday 11 th November	• Remembrance Day Event • Y7 Parent Information Evening (online) 3:30pm – 6:15pm
Wednesday 12 th November	• 6th Form Careers Talk (Tomorrow's Engineers)
Thursday 13 th November	• Y8 Reports Issued • Y10 STEM Engineering talk by Siemens • Y8/9 Shakespeare Schools Festival 1:00pm – 8:00pm • Y11 Netball Fixture 2:30pm – 4:30pm (away) • Y7, 10 & 12 Tutor Review Evening (in-person) 3.30pm – 6.30pm
Friday 14 th November	• Children In Need Day (Non-school uniform)

Key dates for your diary - Week A

Monday 17 th November	• Y7 Glass Workshop 3:00pm – 4:15pm
Tuesday 18 th November	
Wednesday 19 th November	• Y8 Rugby Waterfall Tournament 1:00pm - 5:30pm (away)
Thursday 20 th November	• Y9 Reports Issued • Y13 Subject Evening 4:00pm – 7:30pm
Friday 21 st November	• A Level & GCSE Music Project 1:30pm – 3:15pm

From: Mr Dutton, Deputy Headteacher & Mrs Rhodes, Director of Learning & Progress

Year 7 online parent/carers information evening - Tuesday 11th November 5:30pm

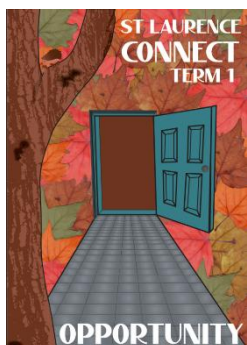
An email has been sent to your child's school email account with a link to the above meeting, this can't be shared with anyone else for safeguarding reasons. As soon as you press on the link, you'll be directed to Teams.

There is a help guide on the school website ([Guide to Microsoft Office 365](#)) on how to download Teams if you don't have this installed on the device you will be using. If your child says they haven't received the email, please ask them to check their deleted items. Your child does not need to attend.

If you require a secondary link, please email Mrs Rhodes karrho@st-laurence.com

Mrs Rhodes and Mr Dutton look forward to speaking to you on Tuesday.

Connect Term 1



Connect of the school's student-led, termly magazine and the first copy is out now! Based on the theme of "Opportunity", you can read their stories here:

[Connect Term 1 Opportunity](#)

From: Drama Department

Important information regarding KS3 Production of 'Alice.'

Audition workshops for our KS3 production of Alice by Laura Wade, will take place on Tuesday 4th, Tuesday 11th, and Tuesday 18th November from 3:00pm -4:15pm in F7, with additional audition opportunities available on Thursday 6th and Wednesday 19th November. Students are welcome to attend as many of these sessions as they wish.



A compulsory full cast read-through will be held on Tuesday 25th November from 3:00pm – 5:30pm, and rehearsals will begin in earnest on Tuesday 2nd December. Please note that not all students will be required at every rehearsal. The full rehearsal schedule is displayed weekly on the Drama noticeboard for anyone wishing to check the commitment involved. While putting on a production is hugely rewarding, it is also demanding, and some roles, such as Alice, will require a particularly high level of dedication. Students are encouraged to consider their availability carefully before auditioning.

All students will be required to purchase their own copy of the script. We are grateful to Mr B's Bookshop, who are offering a 15% discount on scripts ordered online through their website. To place an order, visit Alice – Mr B's Emporium and use the **promotion code stlaurence**. Please note: this offer applies to online orders only and cannot be redeemed in store. Students will need a copy of the script by 25th November for the read through.

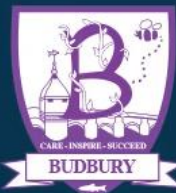
Performances will take place in Trinity Hall on Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th March at 7:00pm. There will be a full-day rehearsal on Monday 8th March, during which students will be off timetable, along with a compulsory rehearsal for the full cast on Saturday 6th March from 10:00am – 4:00pm.

Due to the short rehearsal period, we kindly ask for your support in ensuring students attend all required rehearsals and performances. The department reserves the right to recast any role if three or more rehearsals are missed without valid reason or prior notice. If any issues arise regarding dates, please inform us as soon as possible so we can explore alternatives.

Students were given a permission form in Drama club on Tuesday, and this will be available to pick up in any of the other workshops if they did not attend on Tuesday. If you are happy for your child to take part, please complete and return the permission form by Monday 24th November.

We look forward to getting started!

Kind regards, Miss Davies and Mrs Nash.

House Points				
Ashley	Budbury	Conigre	Huntingdon	Westfield
				
33030	33694	32980	33913	33082

The image displays a collection of 15 book covers arranged in a 3x5 grid. The books are from the 'BookTub Book Club' and cover a variety of genres. The covers include:

- Row 1:** 'The Edge of the Silver Sea' by Sarah J. Maas, 'FALOUT' by John Scalapino, 'HERCULES' by Rick Riordan, 'THE DOG' by Lisa Thompson, 'THE WINDMILL CHATELAIN' by Katherine Arden, 'LUNAR' by Emily Carroll.
- Row 2:** 'REEK' by Sarah J. Maas, 'Sofy's Girls' by Sarah J. Maas, 'SUCKERBORN' by Sarah J. Maas, 'STITCH HEAD' by Sarah J. Maas, 'BOY BEAT GODS' by Sarah J. Maas, 'THE RIVAL' by Sarah J. Maas.
- Row 3:** 'THE UNUSABLE KNOWLEDGE' by Sarah J. Maas, 'THE DOG' by Sarah J. Maas, 'THE NINE NIGHT' by Sarah J. Maas, 'TOXIC' by Sarah J. Maas, and 'THE DOG' by Sarah J. Maas.

The bottom right corner features the 'BookTub Book Club' logo, which consists of a white heart shape on a green background, followed by the text 'BookTub Book Club'.

Make sure to ask them which book they picked and why.

JACKET POTATO ^{or 2} & FREE DESSERT
on PIECE OF FRUIT

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MEAL DEAL

Catering | St Laurence School (st-laurence.com)

JOIN US FOR THE GREATEST

QUIZ

Night

17 Oct | 18:00

SOLD OUT

Entrance free for all players.

Competition starts at 18:30. Doors open at 18:00.

A PTA initiative to raise funds for the school

To report a student absence please ring the Attendance Line by 8:30am on 01225 309501

Key Dates for Term 2 and 3

	Term 2	Term 3
All years	Monday 3rd November – Term 2 commences for all students Friday 19th December – Term 2 ends at 1.30pm for all students	Monday 5th January – Term 3 commences for all students Friday 13th February – Term 3 ends at 3pm for all students
Year 7	Thursday 6th November – Year 7 report issued (learning profile only) Tuesday 11th November – Online parents information evening 5.30-6.15pm. More information to follow. Thursday 13th November – In person tutor review for all Year 7 parents/carers. More information to follow	Thursday 29th January – Year 7 interim report issued
Year 8	Thursday 13th November – Year 8 interim report issued	
Year 9	Thursday 20th November – Year 9 report issued (learning profile only)	Thursday 22nd January – Year 9 options evening. More information to follow Thursday 29th January – Year 9 interim report issued Thursday 5th February – Year 9 online Subject consultation evening 2pm-7.30pm. More information to follow
Year 10	Thursday 6th November – Year 10 report issued (learning profile only) Thursday 13th November – in person tutor review for all Year 10 parents/carers. More information to follow	Thursday 12th February – Year 10 interim report issued
Year 11	W/c Monday 3rd November – moving up week Thursday 6th November – 6th form open evening 5pm start. More information to follow	Monday 5th January – mocks results day and report issued Thursday 15th January – Year 11 online Subject evening 4pm-7.30pm. More information to follow

	• W/c 10th November – Year 11 written mocks begin for 2 weeks • W/c 24th November – Year 11 practical mocks begin	
Year 12	• Thursday 6th November – Year 12 report issued (learning profile only) • Thursday 13th November – in person tutor review for all Year 12 parents/carers. More information to follow	• Thursday 5th February – Year 12 interim report issued
Year 13	• Thursday 20th November – Year 13 online Subject evening 4pm-7.30pm. More information to follow • Thursday 4th December – Y13 non-university mock interviews 10am-1pm	• W/c Monday 5th January – Year 13 written mocks begin and Year 13 study leave all week • Monday 12^h January – Year 13 practical mocks begin • Thursday 12th February – Year 13 full report issued

Online Safety and Wellbeing

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about POKÉMON TCG POCKET

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
3

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ADDICTIVE PACK OPENING

Booster packs rely on probability to provide rare or powerful cards. The excitement of opening them – and the dopamine rush when finding a sought-after card – can become addictive. Unlike purely cosmetic loot boxes, the cards here are integral to competitive gameplay, adding extra pressure for serious gamers to collect more.

QUICK BUT ABSORBING

Card battles last around five to six minutes, making it easy to fit in “just one more game”. This quick format, combined with the drive to win, can lead to prolonged play sessions and increased screen time without noticing. With limited-time Ranked Match seasons constantly being refreshed – an opportunity to accumulate points and earn profile emblems – players may find themselves drawn into this game mechanic repeatedly.

PREMIUM PASS PRESSURE

A monthly subscription gives players access to exclusive missions, rewards, and an extra daily booster pack. Missions and rewards are replaced each month, providing an incentive to stay subscribed. While some premium rewards are exclusive, others are available through free play – making the pass more about faster progression and obtaining cosmetic items than true necessity.

ENDLESS PACK LOOPS

New themed sets of cards are released each month, ranging from around 85 to over 370 cards per expansion. This constant cycle encourages players to keep opening packs in an effort to complete collections or improve their battle decks, potentially promoting unhealthy spending habits. With the introduction of limited-time booster packs, some players may feel increased pressure to collect these cards while they're still available.

COST OF BOOSTER PACKS

Although free to play, with set rewards and two free booster packs given daily, players can exchange Poké Gold if they wish to open more, and a small amount of Poké Gold is rewarded for free as the player levels up. Poké Gold is also sold in bundles that are often just short of what players need to open extra packs, encouraging them to buy additional bundles.

COMPETITIVE ONLINE PLAY

Interactions in Pokémon TCG Pocket are relatively safe – there's no messaging between players, friend requests require player approval, no real names are used, and card trading is restricted to fair trades between friends. On the other hand, the competitive nature of online play can still cause frustration, over-investment, and isolation if children spend too much time focused on the game.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR SPENDING HABITS

Set clear boundaries around in-game purchases. Treat Poké Gold as an occasional rather than routine reward, helping children develop healthier attitudes towards digital spend.

SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Talk about the unpredictable nature of booster packs and prepare children for disappointment when duplicates appear or rare cards don't surface. Understanding probability can help minimise disappointment – use the game's built-in offering rates guides to find out more about it.

PLAY TOGETHER

Card battles can help children learn tactics, problem-solving, and rule-following, as well as numeracy skills. Playing alongside them is a great way to share in their enjoyment, while also modelling balanced play and keeping an eye on how much they're investing in the game.

TEACH FAIRNESS

Losing a battle can be discouraging, especially when money has been spent on collecting the cards to build a deck. Support children in recognising the importance of fairness, learning from both wins and losses, and making considered choices when trading cards.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and children's book author with over 15 years of experience. Specialising in technology and gaming, he has written extensively on how digital platforms affect young people and has been playing games for more than three decades.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 29.10.2025



ST LAURENCE SCHOOL

Job title	SITE SUPERVISOR / HANDY PERSON
Full school address	St Laurence School Ashley Road Bradford on Avon BA15 1DZ
School telephone number	01225 309500
School email address	admin@st-laurence.com
Number on roll	1400 (incl 260+ in Sixth Form)
Salary	£27,254 - £28,598 pa (hourly rate £14.13 - £14.82) Salary @£31,000 pa including shift and weekend allowance NJC Grade F SCP 9 – 11
Hours	Full time 37 hours per week, 52 weeks per year 24 days or 29 days annual leave depending on service (usually taken outside of term time) Shared weekly shift pattern: Week 1 5.30am – 1.30pm Week 2 1.30pm – 9.30pm
Contract Type	Permanent
Commencement date	As soon as possible after appointment
Advertisement closing date	Ongoing Advertisement – please apply as early as possible to avoid disappointment
Interview date	To be confirmed
Other important information	For further details please refer to the Job Description and Person Specification, phone Sally Hackett on (01225) 309506, email jobapp@st-laurence.com , or visit the school website (www.st-laurence.com)
We are looking to recruit a Site Supervisor to work as part of the Site Team to deliver a safe, clean, well maintained, environment for students, staff and visitors to the school. The successful candidate will demonstrate: • An ability to work unsupervised, be adaptable and flexible. • A strong work ethic and ability to carry out minor daily maintenance tasks. • Strong communication skills with the ability to build excellent working relationships. • A sense of humour and a can-do attitude. To apply please refer to the Letter to Candidates, complete an application form and send it with a covering letter to Mr Tim Farrer, Headteacher (via email to jobapp@st-laurence.com). St Laurence School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All applicants will be subject to a full Disclosure And Barring Service check before appointment is confirmed. Email: jobapp@st-laurence.com Phone: 01225 309500 Web: www.st-laurence.com	

