



Week beginning Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025

## Headteacher's update

Dear Parents and Carers

This week has been extremely busy and over what is a short term (only 23 days in total), we have Year 10 exams, Year 12 exams, Year 11 and 13 public exams in full swing as well as the beginning of admissions process with our Year 5 Open Morning taking place.

Exam season is a challenging time for students, and it is natural to feel anxious about them. If there is anything we can offer to support, then please do let us know.

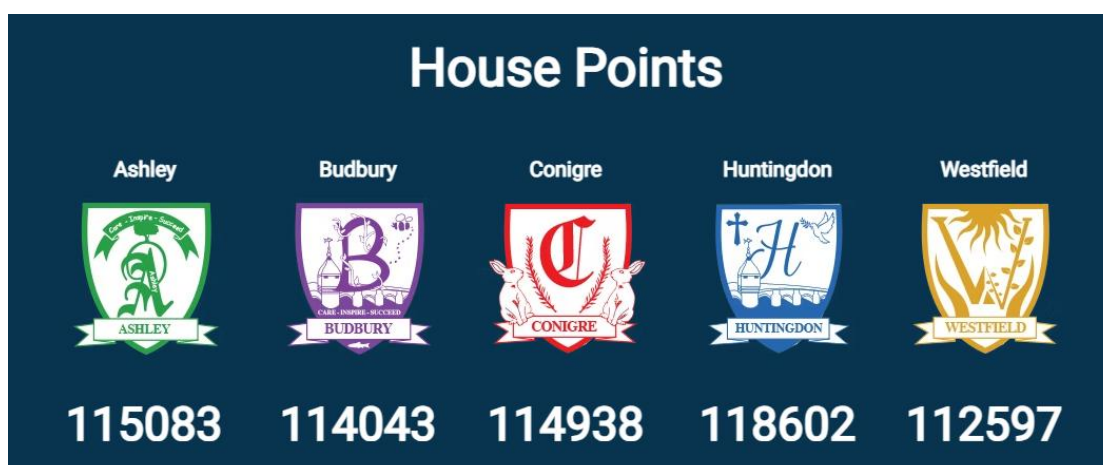
With the advent of exams, I would like to remind you about the rules regarding mobile devices, including smart watches. These are prohibited from exams and in the event that a student is found to have one on them in the exam space, this would have to be reported to the exam board and the student would be disqualified from that exam and awarded zero. This is not a school-based policy but one that is a national expectation on every exam centre. All students will have a briefing about this as a reminder and of course, they experienced this during their mocks. All exam spaces have posters reminding students and the invigilators will also do this prior to the exam so we do try to cover all bases; but your support here would be another layer of safety. Last year, there were no issues at all and it would be excellent to repeat this again in 2025.

Mr Farrer

### In this week's bulletin:

- Vaccinations Catch-up
- Adolescence – Navigating Child Digital Safety
- Online Safety – Making Friends Online
- Community News

.... And lots more!



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

## Key dates for your diary - Week A

Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y9 MenACWY &amp; TdIPV mop up session</li> <li>• Y11 French Speaking Exam</li> <li>• Y11 Graphics Exam</li> <li>• Y13 Art Exam</li> </ul>
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y11 French Speaking Exam</li> <li>• Y11 Graphics Exam</li> <li>• Y12 Summer Exams end</li> <li>• Y13 Art Exam</li> </ul>
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y11 German Speaking Exam</li> <li>• Y11 Photography Exam</li> <li>• Y12 Practical Exams begin</li> <li>• Y13 Art Exam</li> </ul>
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 11 Reports issued</li> <li>• Y11 Graphics Exam</li> <li>• Y13 Photography Exam</li> </ul>
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y11 Graphics Exam</li> <li>• Y13 Photography Exam</li> </ul>

## Week B

Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>BANK HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED</b>
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y10 Music Mock Exam</li> <li>• Y13 Photography Exam</li> <li>• Y10 &amp; Y12 Practical Exams End</li> </ul>
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y11 Photography Exam</li> <li>• Y9 Trip to University of Bath</li> </ul>
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y8 Subject Consultation Meeting 2:30pm – 7:30pm</li> <li>• Y9 Reports Issued</li> <li>• Y13 French Speaking Exam</li> <li>• <b>SCHOOL ENDS AT 1:30PM</b></li> </ul>
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y10 Practice DofE</li> <li>• Y13 Final Day</li> </ul>

### From: Ms Barber – Assistant Headteacher

The Netflix series ***Adolescence*** is igniting important conversations on young people's experience of the digital world and its impact on their mental health and wellbeing.

As a parent, you may be wondering how to navigate these complex topics and trends. Smoothwall has written a synopsis of each episode with the key take aways for parents and collated useful information, advice and guidance relating to each key point.

To see the resources: [Navigating Child Digital Safety | Insights From Netflix's Adolescence](#)

They have also included helpful links to Report: Remove, CEOP and reporting harmful content tools.

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## **Year 9 Td/IPV (DTP) & MenACWY vaccinations**

The second session of Year 9 Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio – (Td/IPV) & Meningitis ACWY (MenACWY) vaccinations will take place on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025. This will be delivered by the School Aged Immunisation Team in Trinity Hall at St Laurence school.

This is **ONLY** for students with previous parental consent who did not receive the vaccines during the first session Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

The Immunisation Team will also offer a catch-up session for students (with consent) who have not yet had the HPV vaccination (Year 8 and above).

Students will receive an appointment time in their tutor trays on Monday morning.

## **From: Mrs Nash – Head of Drama**

Before Easter our cast and crew of 'You 2.0' travelled to the Bristol Old Vic for the final part of their 'National Connections' journey. The day was a busy one - first there was time for a quick line rehearsal followed by a vocal workshop before we headed to the Weston Studios for our tech and dress run throughs.

The staff of the Old Vic were impressed by the St Laurence students and praised their patience and professionalism. The evening performance was well received by the audience who enjoyed the slick ensemble action and creative use of the space. It was a wonderful experience for our young people and we look forward to seeing many of them on the stage again soon in our summer production of 'We Will Rock You'.

## **What's on the Menu?**



Click the link to our Catering page for information on all the different ways our students can enjoy healthy and nutritious meals at school:

**[Catering | St Laurence School \(st-laurence.com\)](https://st-laurence.com)**

## What are the key dates I need to be aware of this term?

	Term 5	Term 6
<b>Year 7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Term 5 commences for all students</li> <li>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May – School closes at 1.30pm for all students for Year 8 subject consultation meetings</li> <li>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May – Term 5 ends at 3pm for all students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Term 6 commences for all students</li> <li>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June – Year 7 report issued</li> <li>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July – Term 6 ends at 1.30pm for all students</li> <li>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July – INSET day; school closed to all students</li> </ul>

	Term 5	Term 6
<b>Year 8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Term 5 commences for all students</li> <li>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May – School closes at 1.30pm for all students for Year 8 online subject consultation meetings. These are held from 2.30pm-7.30pm, more information to follow.</li> <li>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May – Term 5 ends at 3pm for all students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Term 6 commences for all students</li> <li>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July – Year 8 wellbeing residential</li> <li>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July – Term 6 ends at 1.30pm for all students</li> <li>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July – INSET day; school closed to all students</li> </ul>

	Term 5	Term 6
<b>Year 9</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Term 5 commences for all students</li> <li>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May – School closes at 1.30pm for all students for Year 8 subject consultation meetings</li> <li>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May – Year 9 full report issued</li> <li>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May – Term 5 ends at 3pm for all students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Term 6 commences for all students</li> <li>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June – Year 9 Black Rock residential (9LG1-9LG4)</li> <li>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June Year 9 Black Rock residential (9LG5-9LG8)</li> <li>W/c Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June Year 9 core exams commence (tbc)</li> <li>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July – Year 9 report issued</li> <li>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July – Term 6 ends at 1.30pm for all students</li> <li>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July – INSET day; school closed to all students</li> </ul>

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	Term 5	Term 6
<b>Year 10</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Term 5 commences for all students</li> <li>Week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Year 10 written papers start</li> <li>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May – School closes at 1:30pm for all students for Year 8 subject consultation meetings</li> <li>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May – Term 5 ends at 3:00pm for all students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Term 6 commences for all students</li> <li>W/c 9<sup>th</sup> June – Year 10 work experience all week</li> <li>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June – Year 10 report issued</li> <li>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June – Year 10 online subject evening 4:30-7:30pm. More information to follow</li> <li>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July – Term 6 ends at 1:30pm for all students</li> <li>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July – INSET day; school closed to all students</li> </ul>

	Term 5	Term 6
<b>Year 11</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Term 5 commences for all students</li> <li>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May – Year 11 report issued</li> <li>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May – School closes at 1:30pm for all students for Year 8 subject consultation meetings</li> <li>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May – GCSE written exams begin. Exam timetable can be found here <a href="#">GCSE timetable Summer 2025</a></li> <li>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May – Term 5 ends at 3:00pm for all students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Term 6 commences for all students</li> <li>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June – GCSE exams end</li> <li>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June – Year 11 prom</li> <li>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June – Exam contingency day (students must remain available should an awarding body need to invoke its contingency plan)</li> <li>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June – St Laurence 6<sup>th</sup> Form induction day 1</li> <li>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July – St Laurence 6<sup>th</sup> Form induction day 2</li> <li>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July – 6<sup>th</sup> Form introduction parents evening</li> <li>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July – Term 6 end at 1:30pm for all students</li> <li>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July – INSET day; school closed to all students</li> </ul>

### What will my child be learning next term?

Each subject has provided for you a breakdown of what will be studied in each subject next term. This can be found on our website here in the form of a curriculum map: [Curriculum Overview](#) | [St Laurence School](#)

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# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MAKING FRIENDS ONLINE

In today's digital world, it's increasingly common for children to form friendships with people they've never met in person. While online connections can offer children a sense of belonging, they also carry significant risks. Around 15% of children aged 10 to 15 in England and Wales have chatted online with someone they've never met face to face. This guide offers expert advice for parents and educators on helping children navigate online friendships safely.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### ONLINE GROOMING THREATS

Perpetrators can use games, chat apps or social media platforms to build relationships with children and gain their trust. This may quickly develop into grooming or exploitation. Between April 2017 and March 2020, UK police recorded nearly 34,000 online grooming offences – an 82% increase in just five years.

#### EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Children may encounter distressing or explicit material while interacting with online contacts – especially via TikTok, Instagram or Snapchat. This is evidenced in a survey by the Children's Commissioner for England, which found that 43% of children aged 8 to 17 had seen content online that made them feel uncomfortable, worried or upset.

#### PRIVACY AND DATA RISKS

Children and young people often overshare personal details – such as where they live or go to school – without understanding the consequences. In fact, 4.4% of 10 to 15-year-olds in the UK have met up in real life with someone they'd only spoken to online.

### COMPROMISED PERSONAL SAFETY

Meeting an online 'friend' in real life risks placing a child in serious danger. From abduction to coercion, the consequences can be devastating. Reports of children being harmed after such meetings are becoming increasingly common in the UK, highlighting the need for safeguarding intervention.

### PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS

Online harm – such as cyberbullying, grooming or exposure to disturbing content – can lead to long-term emotional issues, including anxiety, depression and PTSD. 'Sexortion' gangs, who threaten to release sexual information about a person unless they pay them money, have repeatedly targeted children as young as 11, leaving them traumatised and ashamed.

### LONG-TERM REPERCUSSIONS

Children exposed to harmful online relationships early on may develop unhealthy beliefs about relationships, consent or self-worth. In a recent case, a 20-year-old passed as a girl on Snapchat to befriend children aged 10 to 11, manipulating them into sexual activity and causing profound emotional distress. One 12-year-old tragically died by suicide, highlighting the long-term psychological harm online friendships with strangers can cause.

**26 FRIENDS ONLINE NOW**

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### TEACH SAFE ONLINE HABITS

Help children understand how to use privacy settings, protect their personal information, spot fake profiles, and report anything suspicious or concerning, like pressure tactics. Encourage them to think critically about what they share – and whom they're talking to.

### ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS

Support children in building friendships through school, clubs, hobbies and activities in the real world. Strong offline relationships help reduce children's reliance on online platforms for social interaction, and can help them develop resilience and social confidence.

### KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Let children know they can talk to you about their online life. Avoid reacting with anger or judgement, as this may prevent them from opening up in the future. A child who feels listened to is more likely to disclose problems before they escalate.

### USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Parental control settings on devices, games and apps can help manage screen time, filter out inappropriate content, and monitor activity. While no system is perfect, they provide a valuable layer of protection as children explore digital spaces.

### Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with over 30 years' experience in supporting children, families, and adults across education, local authority, and mental health settings – both in the UK (including at Parliamentary level) and internationally.



## Community News



Online

Wiltshire Council

### Helping My Child to Prepare Positively for Change

- Explore the reasons why children may find change difficult
- Discover ways to support your children at home in developing their ability to cope with change.
- Develop an understanding of how simple steps at home can help children prepare for change.

Friday 9 May 10:00-12:00



Contact [familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk) or call the FaCL team on 01225 770478  
Visit <https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-and-community-learning/> or scan the QR code

Our courses are free if you are 19+ years old, resident in the UK/EU for over three years (some immigration status exempt), have a Wiltshire postcode, and meet any of the following criteria: earn less than £25,000 pa, in receipt of benefits, military family, foster carer/care leaver/carer, have a disability.



Family and Community Learning

## STARTING SECONDARY

Online Course

Support your child starting secondary school  
2x2hr course

Booking closes Monday 5 May 2025

Session 1: Monday 12 May 10:00-12:00

- Why can changes be tricky?
- Exploring emotional intelligence and resilience
- Developing strategies to support your child starting secondary

Session 2: Monday 19 May 10:00-12:00

- What's the difference between primary and secondary school?
- Understanding your role in the move to secondary
- Managing online safety and recognising stress



Contact [familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk)  
call the FaCL team on 01225 770478, scan the QR code, or visit  
<https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-and-community-learning/>

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Wiltshire Council



Family and Community Learning

Wiltshire Council

Booking closes  
Friday 25 April

### Helping My Child Build Concentration and Resilience

- Explore how the environment affects concentration
- Discover how words can help develop resilience
- Develop ways to support concentration and resilience

Online

Friday 2 May 10:00-12:00



Contact [familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk) or call the FaCL team on 01225 770478  
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## Could you help children with their reading this summer?



We are looking for outgoing and enthusiastic volunteers to support children taking part in the 2025 Story Garden Summer Reading Challenge

### Bradford on Avon Library

**5 July - 6 Sept 2025**

- Gain experience and skills
- Support your local community
- Make a difference to a child's reading
- Have fun!



**Ask staff for details about this rewarding volunteering opportunity**

Deadline for applications: 10 May 2025

For more information contact  
Bradford on Avon Library on 01225 863280  
or email: [libraryenquiries@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:libraryenquiries@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Minimum commitment: 16 hours over the duration of the challenge  
Parent/guardian permission required for under 18s



Story Garden illustrations by Dapo Adesola  
and © The Reading Agency 2025

**Wiltshire Council**



## Self Defence half day workshop

**WEDNESDAY 28TH MAY**

TROWBRIDGE

1.30PM - 4.30PM. AGE 11-18

COST £25

**Mighty Girls & Helen from Systema bring you:**

- Practical self-defence techniques
- A focus on movement, breath work, relaxation, and posture
- Enhance self-awareness & resilience
- Help equip you to handle various situations effectively

[www.mightygirls.co.uk](http://www.mightygirls.co.uk) or QR Code to book



The club is offered at a discounted rate for all & free to some thanks to the support from:

Working in partnership with  
**Wiltshire Council**



Churchfields The Village School  
& St. Peter's Church present



## Monkton Farleigh Scarecrow Trail 3rd - 5th May

**Free Parking • DOG FRIENDLY**

**Saturday 3rd May: 10am - 4pm**

BBQ • Hot & Cold Drinks • BAR • Cakes • RAFFLE  
in Monkton Farleigh Village Hall

Buy maps in advance from the School,  
Monkton Farleigh (Open 9-4pm Weekdays)  
and St Peter's Church (cash only please)  
Buy maps on Sat 3rd May  
from the Village Hall,  
Monkton Farleigh (cash or card)  
On Sunday & bank holiday Monday  
maps available from just outside the main  
school doors (Monkton Farleigh),  
in the Lookout Nursery's Book cupboard

**Children's  
Films Theme**



**Map £3 or x4 family ticket £10**

Each completed map includes free entry into a prize draw!

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