



Week beginning Monday 31st March 2025

Headteacher's update

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been quite a week at St Laurence. We had our Year 7 Subject Evening which I hope was informative and useful. Any questions or concerns about it, please do pass them on.

We also had our first full lockdown drill which went well and I would like to thank all of the students for being so well behaved and sensible. It is something which can cause some anxiety but staff and students worked well together. We have produced a feedback form for staff so that their experience can inform our next steps.

The highlight of my week was the Chance to Dance – what an incredible evening! So many talented, confident and creative students and my thanks goes to the Dance team for making this happen.

Following the show, an audience member said :

“I have been coming to watch the Dance show for a few years now and I am always blown away at how professional and talented the students are. A huge well-done to all the staff and students a great event again!!”

Mr Farrer

REMEMBER TO PUT YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD 1 HOUR THIS WEEKEND (30/03/25)

Key dates for your diary - Week A

Monday 31 st March	
Tuesday 1 st April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y11 Dance Exam• Y13 Mock Exam - Criminology
Wednesday 2 nd April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y10 French Exam• Y10 NT Connections Event
Thursday 3 rd April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y10 French Exam• 6th Form Business Studies Trip
Friday 4 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y10 German Speaking Exam• Y13 DofE Route Setting• TERM 4 ENDS AT 1:30PM

Week B

Monday 21 st April	Easter Monday
Tuesday 22 nd April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TERM 5 STARTS AT 8:35AM• Y11 French Speaking Exam 8:35am – 3:00pm• Y10 Written Exams Start• Y12 Study Leave Begins
Wednesday 23 rd April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y12 UCAS/Apprenticeship Fair 7:45am – 3:00pm• Y7 LG6 Conversation & Craft Event 1:15pm – 3:00pm
Thursday 24 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y11 Art Exam 8:35am – 3:00pm• Y6 Parent/Carer Welcome Meeting 5:30pm – 6:30pm
Friday 25 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y11 Art Exam 8:35am – 3:00pm• Y11 German Speaking Exam 8:35am – 3:00pm

In this week's bulletin:

- Key dates for your diary – page 1
- Allergy Season Information – page 2
- Cots for Tots fundraiser – page 4
- Exams timetables and information – pages 6-9
- Online Safety: Bluesky app – page 10

.... And lots more!

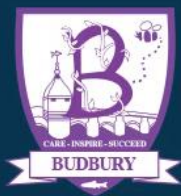
House Points

Ashley



107321

Budbury



107515

Conigre



108044

Huntingdon



111229

Westfield



104937

From: Mrs Martin – Medical Administrator

Allergy Season Information

For parents and carers of students who rely on antihistamines for allergies such as hay fever please ensure their medication has been taken before they come into school.

Information for Students with Asthma/Inhaler Users

Students are now doing outdoor PE lessons, including the use of the Sports Field.

All students who use inhalers **MUST** take them to the Sports Field. They can be given to PE teachers to keep for the duration of the lesson. Please ensure all medical aids are labelled with your child's name so they can be returned if not collected at the end of the lesson. This includes EpiPens and antihistamines.

With a high number of students with severe allergies we ask you to be mindful with food brought into school – especially nuts and products containing nuts. Although we are not a “nut free” school we advise that they are not brought into school or taken or purchased on school trips to minimise the risk of an anaphylactic reaction to our vulnerable students.

Water

Please provide a water bottle (no glass) for your child every day. They can be refilled at water dispensers located around the school and in the restaurant during break & lunch.

Thank you for your attention in these matters, Mrs Martin.

Advance Notice

The next sessions for **MENACWY and DTap** (session 2) vaccinations takes place on Monday 28th April. Further details will be issued after the Easter break.

From: ILC Team



Author Spotlight: V.E. Schwab

V. E. Schwab was born in California, raised in Tennessee, and currently splits her time between Denver, Colorado and Edinburgh, Scotland. She got her undergraduate degree in book design at Washington University in St. Louis, and her masters in depictions of monstrosity in medieval art at the University of Edinburgh.

V.E. is the author of more than 25 books, spanning MG, YA, and Adult, though she's never been keen on labeling stories for a certain audience. Plenty of young readers like Vicious, and plenty of older ones like Cassidy Blake, and she believes the best story is the one that finds you when you need it. Her greatest goal as an author is to make you doubt your reality. Not by convincing you that magic is real, but by planting a seed of doubt that it's not.

Book covers shown: *a darker shade of magic*, *gathering of shadows*, *conjuring of light*, *CITY OF GHOSTS*, *TUNNEL BONES*, *BRIDGE OF SOULS*

From: Mrs Nash – Head of Drama

You 2.0 - The National Theatre Connections Festival

The first performance of 'You 2.0' for the NT Connections festival will take place in Trinity Hall at 7:00pm on Friday 28th March. Tickets are available on ParentPay and will also be available on the door.

Please do come and support our Year 9 and 10 students who have taken on this new play by Alys Metcalf. The performance will also be watched by representatives from the Bristol Old Vic and the National Theatre, so a supportive 'home' audience is always appreciated.

The play will be performed at the Weston Studios, Bristol Old Vic, on Wednesday 2nd April - tickets for this performance are available on the theatre's website.

Year 11 Drama Revision

Now that all the practical assessments are completed, Year 11 can turn their full attention onto the written examination. This year this takes place on Thursday 8th May. To help prepare the students for this I am offering the following after school revision sessions:

- Monday 28th April 3:00pm – 5:45pm – A chance to rewatch the set text 'A Taste of Honey'
- Wednesday 7th May 3:00pm – 5:00pm – general revision session

Regardless of whether your child is able to join the above sessions there is plenty they can be doing to help prepare for the written exam. They have been given a sheet outlining tasks they can do, as well as a revision pack on the set text. They should also be rewatching live productions – details for how to do this freely is on the student shared area. In addition, the set text 'A Taste of Honey' is available, along with other productions, from National Theatre at Home for a small cost. For more details on this and to sign up you can visit <https://www.ntathome.com/>

Further information on revision resources is in the revision curriculum booklet and on the students' shared area accessed via the website. Your child has been shown how to access this on many occasions.

Finally, students are always encouraged to arrange one to one tutorials with me. They can speak to or email me to find a mutually convenient time.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about the forthcoming drama examination – catnas@st-laurence.com

From: Budbury House Staff and Students

Get Ready for the BIG Cots for Tots Fundraiser



Budbury House is running a fundraiser for our amazing house charity Cots for Tots on Tuesday 1st of April!

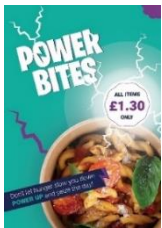
Starting at 3:15pm in the Sports Hall, the event will consist of a sponsored run alongside a bake sale - students can join in the run and buy some delicious cake or buy cake if they don't want to run.

We'd love to see as many students come along as possible, come in groups and have a fun run and a chat!

We are asking for a minimum donation of £3 (via ParentPay) to join in with the run. Cash is required to buy cakes.

Cots for Tots do amazing work helping sick or premature babies get the appropriate care they need at the NICU in St Michael's hospital in Bristol. We want to raise as much money as possible to support them in the amazing work they do.

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 \(st-laurence.com\)](http://st-laurence.com)



From: PE Department

Sporting Results and Upcoming Fixtures

Results - Congratulations to all students involved

Football

St Laurence 2 – 3 Matravers (Year 7 boys)

Netball

Year 8 Tournament at Kingdown: 1st Place

Upcoming Fixtures

Tuesday 1st April

Year 7 Netball Tournament at Kingdown. Return approx. 6:15pm

Wednesday 2nd April

Year 7 Boys Football (Friendly) 2 Teams vs JOG (A). Return approx. 5:45pm

Year 11 Boys Football vs JOG (A). Return approx. 5:45pm

Thursday 3rd April

Year 8 Boys Football vs Matravers (A). Return approx. 5:45pm

Timetable of Y12 Mock Written Exams in Sports Hall (28 April – 2 May 2025)

Timetable of Y12 Mock Written Exams in Sports Hall (28 April – 2 May 2025)			
Mon, 28 April (week A)	Session 1 Exam		Session 2 Exam
Arrive at the sports hall by 8:35am	Y12 English Lang & Lit 2 x 1h Y12 Chemistry 1h30m Y12 Film Studies 2h	Arrive at the sports hall by 1:00pm	Y12 French 2 x 1h30m Y12 Philosophy 3h
Tue, 29 April			
Arrive at the sports hall by 8:35am	Y12 Business 1h30m	Arrive at the sports hall by 1:00pm	Y12 Maths 2 x 1h
Wed, 30 April			
Arrive at the sports hall by 8:35am	Y12 English Lit 2h Y12 PE 2h Y12 Physics 2 x 1h30m	Arrive at the sports hall by 1:00pm	Y12 Biology 2h
Thu, 1 May			
Arrive at the sports hall by 8:35am	Y12 Sociology 2h Y12 History 2h30m	Arrive at the sports hall by 1:00pm	Y12 Further Maths 1h30m Y12 Law 2h Y12 Geography 2 x 1h15m Y12 Drama & Theatre 3h
Fri, 2 May			
Arrive at the sports hall by 8:35am	Y12 German 2 x 1h30m Y12 Psychology 2h	Arrive at the sports hall by 1:00pm	Y12 Catch-Up

- Individual timetables will show resolved session clashes and will be issued via Student Portal
- Extra time can be accommodated for students with approved access arrangements, but please be aware that buses will not wait after school so alternative transport home must be arranged by students/parents/carers
- Study-leave for Year 12 students is Monday, 28 April – Friday, 2 May
- All information relating to exams, including seating plans will be displayed on the exams notice board in the main school quad and on Student Portal

Practical Timetable

Y12 Art – Thu, 15 May

Y12 Drama – Tue, 19 May

Y12 French Speaking – in class

Y12 German Speaking – Fri, 9 May

Y12 Graphics – Fri, 16 May

Y12 Photography – Wed, 14 May

Timetable of Y10 Mock Written Exams in Sports Hall (25 April - 7 May 2025)

Fri, 25 April (week B)		Late Break	Lesson 3	Early Lunch	
Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	Y10 Maths Non-Calculator Paper 1h	11.05 – 11.30	11.30 – 12.30	12.30 – 1.00 Line up under main quad canopy by 1.00	Y10 Biology - Combined Science 1h15m - Separate Science 1h45m
Mon, 28 April (week A)		Late Break	Lesson 3	Early Lunch	
Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	Y10 History 2h	11.05 – 11.30	11.30 – 12.30	12.30 – 1.00 Line up under main quad canopy by 1.00	Y10 Chemistry - Combined Science 1h15m - Separate Science 1h45m
Tue, 29 April		Late Break	Lesson 3	Early Lunch	
Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	Y10 Sociology 1h30m Y10 German Reading 1h15m <i>Y10 French Listening 1h (in Lecture Theatre)</i>	11.05 – 11.30	11.30 – 12.30	12.30 – 1.00 Line up under main quad canopy by 1.00	Y10 English Language 1h15m
Wed, 30 April		Late Break	Lesson 3	Early Lunch	
Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	Y10 Drama 1h Y10 PE 1h15m Y10 Dance 1h30m <i>Y10 Music 1h45m (in Lecture Theatre)</i>	11.05 – 11.30	11.30 – 12.30	12.30 – 1.00 Line up under main quad canopy by 1.00	Y10 Maths Calculator Paper 1h
Thu, 1 May		Late Break	Lesson 3	Early Lunch	
Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	Y10 Business 1h45m	11.05 – 11.30	11.30 – 12.30	12.30 – 1.00 Line up under main	Y10 Philosophy & Ethics 1h30m
Fri, 2 May		Late Break	Lesson 3	Early Lunch	
Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	Y10 Geography Paper 1 - 1h & Paper 2 - 50m	11.05 – 11.30	11.30 – 12.30	12.30 – 1.00 Line up under main quad canopy by 1.00	Y10 French Reading 1h15m <i>Y10 German Listening 1h (in Lecture Theatre)</i>
Mon, 5 May (week B)					
	Bank Holiday				Bank Holiday
Tue, 6 May		Late Break	Lesson 3	Early Lunch	
Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	Y10 English Literature 1h	11.05 – 11.30	11.30 – 12.30	12.30 – 1.00 Line up under main quad canopy by 1.00	Y10 Physics - Combined Science 1h15m - Separate Science 1h45m
Wed, 7 May		Late Break	Lesson 3	Early Lunch	
Line up under main quad canopy by 8:35	Y10 German Writing 1h30m Y10 French Writing 1h30m Y10 Food 1h45m Y10 Design Technology 2h	11.05 – 11.30	11.30 – 12.30	12.30 – 1.00 Line up under main quad canopy by 1.00	Y10 Catch-Up

Please line up under the DT canopy before each exam. Students who are entitled to a word processor, reader, scribe or separate/smaller room access arrangement will be collected from the canopy by reception and taken to their exam room.

- If you are not taking an exam on any of the exam sessions, you must follow your normal Year 10 timetable.
- You will return to your normal timetable after your morning and afternoon exams.
- Extra time can be accommodated if required for students with approved access arrangements, but please be aware that buses will not wait after school therefore alternative transport home must be arranged by students/parents/carers.
- All exams will be held in the Sports Hall unless otherwise indicated on the general timetable
- All information relating to exams, including seating plans will be displayed on the exams notice board in the main school quad and on Student Portal
- You may bring water into the exam hall in a clear, label-free bottle. Do not bring food.
- Please bring equipment in a clear pencil case or plastic bag and do not bring calculator cases into the exam hall.
- You must not bring watches or mobile devices, including air pods & headphones, into the exam hall

A very small number of Y10 students will have an exam clash in the option sessions and will have to catch-up these exams in a later session. Your individual student timetable will show the order which you should sit your exams if you do have a clash.

Practical Timetable

Y10 Art – 7 March

Y10 Dance – 13 May

Y10 Drama – 19 May

Y10 Food – 16/20 May

Y10 French Speaking – 2/3 April

Y10 German Speaking – 2/3 April

Y10 Graphics – 10B 28 February, 10D 27 February

Y10 Music – TBC

Y10 Photography – 6 March

Year 13 Final Day & Exams

For Year 13 students, their final day in school will be **Friday 9th May**. However, teachers, parents/carers and students should be aware that their final teaching day is **Thursday 8th May**.

Can I ask all parties to check the following information please:

Before the final day:

- Students **must** return all relevant resources to staff. If books are needed for revision these must be returned following their exam
- Students should save and download any online resources as their accounts will be cleared over the Summer
- If students wish to say goodbye to staff – this should be done before the end of **Thursday 8th May**

Final day details – Friday 9th May:

- Students have chosen the theme of “Childhood TV and Film” for their last day and are welcome to dress up if they choose
- They should arrive at school for a breakfast laid on in the restaurant **at 8:45am**
- We will have our final Assembly in the Wiltshire Music Centre until **10:30am**
- We will take some photos after that in front of the WMC until **11:00am**
- Students will be asked to leave school – please note that lessons will be going on, exams started – and will not be permitted back into school at that point
- We ask all students to **enjoy the day respectfully**

Exams:

A level examinations start the following week. Students check their own personal timetables carefully and note the following:

- Students must arrive no later than 8:45am for a 9:00am exam & 12:45pm for a 1:00pm exam
- They must ensure they have all the correct equipment
- Students will be required to hand phones in (or ideally don't bring them at all)
- They will not be allowed to wear headphones or watches
- Students should have a clear pencil case, and are only permitted a clear (no labels) water bottle

From: Mr Hainsworth - Assistant Headteacher

Information to support parents with the build-up for GCSE exams

In w/c 17th March, Y11 students were briefed about the build up to exams, expectations and the need to begin revision early.

To support parents with this, the parental support guide, designed to refresh your knowledge on what effective revision should look like, has been added to our website: [Curriculum Overview | St Laurence School](#) under Year 11 Revision Guides. This should complement the information that has been emailed to the students and set on Bromcom.

If there are any questions, please do get in touch either with me tomhai@st-laurence.com or directly with subject teachers.

Revision Guides

Year 11 Easter Revision

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about BLUESKY SOCIAL APP

AGE RESTRICTION

13+

With an App Store rating of 17+ & Google Play rating Mature

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

While Bluesky has been around since 2019, it's suddenly taken off in a big way thanks to a significant exodus from X (formerly Twitter). Indeed, it looks and behaves a lot like Twitter before Elon Musk bought the platform. Bluesky has been touted in recent months as a safer, more open-minded alternative to X – but like any social media site, it still has its share of risks.

NO PRIVATE ACCOUNTS

While most social networks allow accounts to be private, at the time of writing, all Bluesky accounts must be public. The development team has indicated this might change in the future, but the app is built on a public-first protocol. If private accounts are ever introduced, it may only be in a limited way – such as through the implementation of group chats.

INTERACTIONS WITH STRANGERS

Every account being public means that anyone can be contacted by anyone else. While users don't have to respond and can easily block people and move on, it does mean that youngsters are at particular risk of being conned by scammers, messaged by predatory adults or exposed to others with ill intentions. These hazards can be compounded by the fact that Bluesky doesn't require its users to provide their real name.

TROLLING AND BULLYING

While Bluesky currently feels a lot friendlier than X seems to have become, its lack of private accounts means that there's nothing to stop users from trolling and cyberbullying younger people. While accounts can be blocked and reported, a persistent bully could simply create a new profile, potentially making their victims feel unsafe in continuing to use the app.

DANGEROUS MISINFORMATION

Established news organisations have fact-checking and editing processes, but social networks have no such controls and can often serve as breeding grounds for misinformation and disinformation. Bluesky will possibly be no different once it reaches a certain size, and children may not have the critical thinking skills to tell fact from fiction – or to discern an informative, honest user from a malicious one.

ADULT TARGET AUDIENCE

Bluesky isn't designed with children in mind, and there aren't many parental controls on the platform. In an interview with the BBC, Bluesky's CEO originally said that the app would only allow users aged 18 and above to sign up, but a spokesperson later clarified its age restriction as 13+. This could imply the app was originally meant for an adult audience and suggests that making the platform more child-friendly might not currently be a priority.

RAPID GROWTH

At the time of writing, Bluesky seems calm in comparison with other social networks where moderation is lax and the atmosphere toxic – but that's due at least in part to its smaller community. The app has recently been adding as many as a million users per day, and if that continues, there'll be more unpleasant users to handle, and moderators could struggle to maintain the pleasant environment Bluesky is currently known for.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE THE ADULT CONTENT FILTER

Bluesky doesn't have much in the way of parental controls, but there are content filters which can hide sexual and graphic imagery. These are enabled by default for underage accounts but can be manually turned on in the 'Moderation' section of the app's settings. The advanced Bluesky Moderation Service lets you restrict content even further, hiding – for example – self-harm content, extremist rhetoric, and even nude posts.

ENCOURAGE BLOCKING AND REPORTING

Another tool that Bluesky uses to ensure a decent experience is muting and blocking accounts. The former prevents you from seeing a specific user's content, while the latter stops them from seeing yours. If a child is encountering trolls or bullies on the platform, encourage them to use this function, while also reporting the offenders to help make the platform a nicer place for everyone.

LOOK OUT FOR FAKES

Impersonation is a problem on all social networks. While the consequences are usually benign, imposters sometimes attempt to scam or groom children by pretending to be a popular influencer or online personality. Bluesky is unique in that it can be connected to official domains, with users' handles linking to other sites, while this isn't widely used right now, it could be a reliable way to verify celebrities and public figures in future.

KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

As with all social media platforms, moderation and content filters can only do so much; it's highly likely that a child will eventually face something unsavoury. For that reason, it's important to make sure that young people are aware of the risks and know how to handle the technology if anything they see on the app makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



Helping My Child with Anxiety and Worry Online

Friday 25 April 10:00-12:00

- Ideal for parents/carers with children up to Year 7
- Understand how to support emotional wellbeing at home
- Suggestions shared to manage anxiety together
- Positive and realistic help for the family

Contact 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/carers, have a disability.

Beating Exam Stress – a Workshop for Parents & Carers of Students Aged 15-18 Years Old

This 90 minute workshop, delivered by Cally Smart of Country Gate, aims to provide hints and tips to help alleviate any exam stress their children may be experiencing.

The workshop will include activities and Q&A sessions on how to help your child build resilience around exams and dealing with exam anxiety

- Date: Monday 28th April
- Venue: Bath
- Time: 7:00pm – 8:30pm
- Cost: £20 per person

For further information, and to book, click here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1277855132099?aff=oddtcreator>



GIRLS.SKATE.BOA

FRIDAY 11TH APRIL

BOA SKATEPARK

ALL LEVELS

FREE SESSIONS

9.30-10.30 AGE 8-10

11.00-12.00 AGE 11+



A free, informal meet-up for female skaters of all levels—build confidence, connect, and have fun while learning new techniques & skills

What's On?

- ✓ **Skate session & support**
- ✓ **Free skateboard maintenance advice**
- ✓ **Pop Up Stall - Vintage skate clothing swap & sale**



Register for FREE
www.mightygirls.co.uk

Working in partnership with

FUNDED BY: [Wiltshire Council](#)





We're hiring

Are you passionate about working with young people?

We're looking for an energetic leader to take on the role of BOA Youth Deputy Coordinator to support our Tuesday, Thursday and holiday sessions.

BOA Youth offers free, fun sessions for kids 8+ to play, make friends and enjoy activities in a safe space!

Applications close on Monday 31 March 2025



bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk/work-with-us
office@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk
01225 864240

**POULTON PARK
FUN DOG SHOW
&
SPRING FETE**

Volunteers & Donations Needed!

On Saturday 19 April 2025 we're hosting the [Poulton Park Fun Dog Show & Spring Fete](#).

All monies raised will be going to the next phase of improvements at the Poulton Park play area.

We're just £8k short of reaching our match funding target of £25k which will enable us to start the second phase.

This event needs to be a huge success but we can't do it without the support of the community!

If you're able to spare an hour or two to help on the day, or can donate a cake or bake please sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COF4BACAE2FA2FDC43-55560153-poulton#/>

Or, if you have an idea for a stall/activity that you'd like to organise please get in touch.

We're also after small gifts for our tombola and donations for our book and toy stalls.

Donations can be left at the town council offices (see [website](#) for opening hours).

Please make sure all donations are clean and in good condition.

Thank you for your support.

Scan to sign up 

Any questions please contact
George at gtomlinson@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk

