



Week Commencing Monday 3rd June 2024

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers

Depending on when you read this, I hope you have, or had, a great half term break. Students certainly deserve it having worked hard this term. We said farewell to our year 11s and 13s, although their exams continue. Remember, we are still here if they need some support. We have a busy term ahead with work experience, Black Rock and a host of extra-curricular activity so please keep an eye on any updates from the school.

Following on from previous commentary in the bulletin, I have had an update regarding the statistics of young people involved with drug use. There has been a 10% increase in the number of students 'in treatment' for drug use, at over 20,000 people aged 18 or under. This does not include any data relating to those young people using any drug. The type of drug they are using has also been quantified. The top 5 being: Cannabis (87%), Alcohol, Cocaine, Ecstasy and Ketamine. 32% of 15-year-olds have admitted to using a drug in the last year.

As I have said previously, I have a zero-tolerance approach to drugs having seen how they have wrecked lives in the past. As a preventative measure, after half term, we will be using other agencies to support the school in maintaining this stance. As I have shared before, if you have any concerns about your child, or another, please speak with us.

Mr Farrer

WEEK B	CALENDAR - TERM 6
Monday 3 rd June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Black Rock Trip (returns Thursday 6th)• Y12 WEX Week
Tuesday 4 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•
Wednesday 5 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y7/Y8 Shakespeare Festival Launch Day
Thursday 6 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Black Rock Trip Returns
Friday 7 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y10 Trip to Cadbury World 8:00am – 5:00pm

In this week's bulletin:

- Decision on mobile phones in lessons
- Online Safety Tips and Advice
- It's all about the food and it's all in Connect Term 5
- "What's for dinner mum?" – Introducing our new catering partners and their exciting menus

.... And lots more!

From: Mr Farrer - Headteacher

Dear All

Mobile Phones in Lessons

Following a survey of mobile phone usage across each key stage and a review of the online safety policy, in line with new information about smartphones, we have made the decision that mobile phones must not be used in any KS3 lesson from September.

The survey highlighted that the overwhelming majority of teachers do not use them and the few that do, do so very rarely.

Parent and staff feedback has also been in favour of this change due to concerns around mental health and the growing movement to not give a child under 14 a smartphone.

This will be effective from September.

Ms Barber – Assistant Headteacher, Online Safety

Nintendo Switch Parental Controls

The Nintendo Switch, which is a very popular device, has a range of parental controls such as browser access, restricting games based on age, chat settings and more and more.

Internet Matters have a great guide for parents which can found here:

[Nintendo Switch parental controls | Internet Matters](#)

Talking About Online Harassment and Abuse

Sadly, many children and young people believe that online harassment and abuse are just a part of being online, in other words - normalised. This should never be the case, but it can be difficult to strike up a conversation.

Internet Matters have a really good guide for parents which you can use for conversation starters.

[How to talk about harassment and abuse online | Internet Matters](#)

Managing Screen Time

With half-term almost upon us some parents will be looking for guidance about helping their children to develop a healthy relationship with technology.

Internet Matters have a series of tips and guides to help with this including setting up parental controls, finding other activities to do, agreeing on boundaries and more.

[Managing children screen time - Parent advice | Internet Matters](#)

House Points

Ashley



179090

Budbury



183891

Conigre



181778

Huntingdon



182795

Westfield



181642

From: Miss Browne and Mr Bruten

Connect



This term's issue of the student produced school magazine Connect is now available online at <https://indd.adobe.com/view/3165f7c2-88fa-47c3-918f-21c86bfd68f7>

The theme is 'Food for Thought' and inside you will find interviews with the new and old Head Students as they handover duties; Ms Whitehead talks about the importance of learning about food in school, student writers give their view on school dinners, vegan and meat diets go head-to-head and we say goodbye to Y13.

We hope you find something that interests you.

If you have a story for Connect, please contact us heabro@st-laurence.com ricbru@st-laurence.com

From: Mrs Nash – Head of Drama

Shakespeare Schools Festival Autumn 2024

Letters have been emailed home regarding the opportunity for the current year 7/8 to take part in the 2024/2025 season of the Shakespeare Schools Festival. This will take place early in term 2 next academic year, so we are going to start the ball rolling early with a 'launch day' for those interested in taking part on Wednesday 5th June.

Those taking part will perform a short version of a play by Shakespeare at the Tobacco Factory in Bristol. There are very few places left for this event so please email Mrs Nash (catnas@st-laurence.com) asap if your child would like to take part.

Charlie and The Chocolate Factory

Years 7-9 are busy rehearsing for the summer production of 'Charlie and The Chocolate Factory'. Tickets will shortly be available to purchase on ParentPay priced £8 (£10 on the door) and £5 for children and St Laurence students.

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

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ENCOURAGING HEALTHY FRIENDSHIPS

Navigating the complexities of childhood and adolescent friendships can be challenging – but with the right guidance, children and young people can cultivate meaningful, supportive relationships, some of which may last for many years. These top tips provide a comprehensive approach to fostering healthy friendships among children and young people. It's important to remember, however, that each child is different, and will require an individual approach to relationship support.



- 1 GRANT FRIENDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

Encouraging children and young people to join extracurricular activities can foster healthy friendships by providing shared interests and common ground. Engaging in these pastimes offers a platform for interaction, sometimes alleviating the social pressure of knowing what to say, and helps children develop meaningful connections.
- 2 LEAD BY EXAMPLE**

The children and young people in our lives see how we behave, the connections that we've made and the interactions between us and others. When we model healthy friendships, we set an example and help youngsters to understand what healthy friendships looks like and how to navigate them.
- 3 HELP THEM LOVE THEMSELVES**

Healthy friendships aren't just about dynamics with other people. They're about our relationship with ourselves. For overall wellbeing, it's important for a child to have the space to build their self-esteem and a positive self-image, as these factors can have a notable influence on the friendships they form throughout life.
- 4 MONITOR SCREEN TIME**

Too much screen time can affect some children's wellbeing in general, but it can specifically impact friendships if it results in fewer positive social interactions. In some cases, reducing screen time and encouraging children and young people to find ways to interact face-to-face can have positive results. It's also important to remember that young people can make positive friendships online, but they will require support to do this safely.
- 5 TEACH PROBLEM-SOLVING**

Inevitably, friendships can run into problems. However, this is also an opportunity to support children and young people to work through any difficulties that may arise. It can be tempting to intervene and try to fix these issues for those involved, but helping them consider ways of resolving conflict or managing difficult situations for themselves can help them create stronger friendships.
- 6 EMPOWER THE CHILD**

When we give children and young people the confidence to choose their friends, navigate interpersonal boundaries and consider how they want to interact with the different people around them, we empower them to take control of the friendships they have. When young people feel in control of these things, they're more likely to make positive choices and remain aware of the signs of a negative relationship.
- 7 TEACH EMPATHY**

Healthy friendships' doesn't always mean perfect. Sometimes, disagreements can happen. When we teach children and young people to have empathy, we help them to see both sides of a relationship, to be mindful of the challenges a friend might be facing or whatever else might be going on. This can help children and young people to build stronger friendships.
- 8 BE OPEN TO QUESTIONS**

Talking to young people about their friendships, who they spend time with and who they interact with can open the door to questions if they have concerns. Initially, these queries may be straightforward, but if we are receptive to discussion from the outset, young people are more likely to come to us for help when they are older as well.
- 9 UNDERSTAND BOUNDARIES**

One of the keys to a healthy friendship is honouring boundaries. This can include anything from respecting personal space and belongings to acceptable language and behaviour. Understanding the importance of setting these limits and upholding those set by others can help children stay safe. If young people figure out their boundaries and feel comfortable enforcing them, they're more likely to call someone out if they go too far.
- 10 SPOT THE SIGNS**

We can't always supervise young people; sometimes, we need to step back and give them some space. However, it's important to consider any indicators that they may be struggling in their friendships. Are they becoming increasingly irritable? Does their behaviour alter when they've been with their friends? Are they becoming withdrawn or reluctant to take part in certain activities? These could all be signs that they're finding things difficult, and we should remain alert to such changes.

Meet Our Expert
Becky Dawson is an experienced educator who has worked in primary and secondary schools for 20 years. She is a facilitator, consultant and coach working with young people and the adults who work with them, with a focus on developing understanding and skills around mental health, wellbeing and safeguarding.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

From: Miss Hancock – Head of Music

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

Summer Concert - Date for your diary:

Wednesday 19th June, 6:30 pm, Wiltshire Music Centre
Information on ticket sales will be available after Half Term.

St Laurence School



**Summer
Concert**

Wednesday 19th June

2024

6.30 pm

Wiltshire Music Centre

Tickets £5/£3



St Laurence School

has joined the following SOCIAL MEDIA platforms to keep you informed of some of the great work your children are doing at school.

We will post news and photos from school trips, dance and drama performances, STEM events and lots more. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and “like” and “share” our stories.

FOLLOW

LIKE 

& SHARE



facebook.com/StLaurenceSch



instagram.com/stlaurencesch/



twitter.com/stlaurencesch

www.st-laurence.com

Coming to St Laurence School from 3rd June 2024!

We are pleased to announce that after completing a tender process the school have appointed Innovate to provide catering to the school. They will begin their new contract as of the 3rd June 2024.



We are delighted to partner with the students, teachers and staff at St Laurence School.

Our aim, along with the school, is to provide all students with an exceptional catering experience. Our very talented Chef's and the fantastic catering team will be serving exciting menus packed with healthy ingredients, that are full of variety, and with loads of interesting new things to try. It's important that the food tastes as good as it looks, and we're sure you won't be disappointed.

What's on the menu?

Innovate has long been considered the most inventive school caterer and that's because we're very clear about our food. All our dishes are prepared every day using quality, fresh and seasonal ingredients that are responsibly sourced. As well as ensuring the food on the plate is healthy, we want our customers to understand the importance of eating the right foods and help them with their food and nutrition journey. Here's a taste of what's to come:

A huge selection of **'grab and go'** items including baguettes, paninis, burritos and salads to name a few, all now using our barcode system to help speed up the queues.

A variety of **healthy, tasty main meals** prepared fresh every day from carefully selected ingredients. The menu will follow a similar weekly pattern, so you know what to expect, providing over 35 choices each day in addition to the ever-popular chef specials, themed events and loyalty schemes.

Our **Street Vibes** range, global street food that tours the world. It's always changing; from Korean fried chicken, Chinese bao buns, to Greek souvlaki, there's always something new to try!

A salad bar bursting with flavour from traditional garden salads through to composite salads with a wide variety of grains, proteins, and dressings.



From: Bradford on Avon Foodbank at The Hub



It is with thanks to the generosity of our BOA community that the Foodbank are able to support local families with supplies through donations.

Our supplies are running low and if you are able to donate any non-perishable food or personal hygiene items please take them to the collection point located in Sainsbury's.

With grateful thanks, The Hub Team.

WESTWOOD SCARECROW TRAIL PRESENTS:
MUSICALS FROM STAGE AND SCREEN
May Half Term
25th May to 2nd June 2024

P Free Parking at Westwood Social Club, BA15 2AP

Trail Maps £5
Available at Westwood Stores, BA15 2BU

Prizes!
All entries entered into our prize draw

Refreshments
available or bring a picnic and enjoy Westwood Park.

SYSTEMAGIC @westwoodscarecrows @westwoodscarecrowtrail Westwoodscarecrows@yahoo.co.uk **JBC** DESIGN • BUILD • RENOVATE