



Week beginning Monday 30th June 2025

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers

It was an absolute delight to attend the Year 11 prom last week and I know how much those who went to the Year 13 ball enjoyed themselves. Students looked incredible and the evenings were full of dancing and laughter and a lot of sore feet by the end of the night.

We also had our Year 10s go on their geography field trips, our athletics teams competing and a Careers Fair with about 30 employers visited by every child in the school apart from Year 7. It's a busy time!


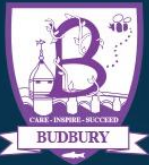



Sports day is coming up so please keep a watchful eye on the weather and we also welcome our new Year 7s when they come up for their first induction day on Thursday.

Have a lovely week, Mr Farrer

In this week's bulletin:

- Key Diary Dates
- We Will Rock You – Tickets on sale now
- Online Safety – Nintendo Switch 2
- A letter from Wiltshire Police

.... And lots more!

House Points				
Ashley	Budbury	Conigre	Huntingdon	Westfield
				
135069	135958	136451	139955	134665

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)

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

Key dates for your diary - Week A

Monday 30 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6th Form Induction (Day 1)
Tuesday 1 st July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6th Form Induction (Day 2) 6th Form Parents Evening 6:30pm – 7:30pm (Trinity Hall)
Wednesday 2 nd July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports Day – students to arrive in PE Kit and will need sunscreen and a water bottle
Thursday 3 rd July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y8 Wellbeing Residential Y6 Induction Day and Parents Evening Second Hand Uniform Sale 4:30pm – 5:30pm
Friday 4 th July	

Week B

Monday 7 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End of Year Art Exhibition 5:30pm – 7:30pm
Tuesday 8 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reserve Sports Day
Wednesday 9 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y12 Sociology Trip Y10 STEM Career Awareness Trip Y7 Careers Activity Y8 Field Events
Thursday 10 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y6 Induction Day 2 Y8 Industrial Cadets Bronze Awards
Friday 11 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole School Rewards Event Y12 Trip to Auschwitz

From: Ms Curtis – Second in English

To parents and carers of Year 10 students

Please note that students are expected to have their own copies of all GCSE English Literature set texts. This is so students can personalise the texts with their own notes and annotations and have a copy from which to complete homework and revision.

English Literature teachers are putting notices on Bromcom to advise Year 10 students that they should ask parents/carers to buy a copy of Macbeth by Shakespeare.

There are many editions of this novel available. Many students prefer to work from a 'dyslexia-friendly' edition, as these have larger text and more white space on the pages (good for notes and annotations). Students may also benefit from having a copy of a commercially produced revision guide for the novel, such as one by York Notes.

Please can we encourage parents and carers to order this text now, so that there are no delays with deliveries that might mean students do not have their own copy when we begin reading and studying the novel in class.

As well as being available from online retailers, a good old-fashioned bookshop, such as Ex Libris in Bradford on Avon, will gladly order you a copy, that will usually be available for collection the next day.

Some students who are in receipt of the Pupil Premium have their copies of the novel and a revision guide bought for them by the school, and these will be ready to distribute to students at the appropriate time. Teachers will advise students who will have these texts provided for them by the school.

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

From: Miss Davies – Teacher of Drama

We Will Rock You - Rehearsal Schedule

As always, please encourage your child to regularly check the drama notice board for any daily updates and the printed schedule.

Tuesday 1 st TH	Dance - EDV	Another one bites the dust.	Khashoggi Killer Queen Ensemble Year 9 Dancers
Tuesday 1 st F7	Drama - CNS	Bohemian Scenes	Bohemians Buddy Brit Oz Galileo Scaramouche
Wednesday 2 nd MC1	Music - RHN	Singing lesson	Khashoggi
Wednesday 2 nd TH	Drama - EDV	Scenes	Scaramouche Galileo
Thursday 3 rd MC1	Music - RHN	Singing lesson- Duets	Khashoggi Killer Queen

Costumes: A gentle reminder that all costumes should be brought into school by 4th July but black t-shirts to be brought in as soon as possible please.

For Year 8 students attending the residential trip, please ensure costumes are brought in before they leave or on their first day back.

Thank you, Miss Davies.



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St Laurence School

End of Year Exhibition

Art, DT, Graphics and Photography work
by GCSE and A-Level Students

Monday 7th July 2025 17:30 – 19:30
Trinity Hall

St Laurence School, Ashley Road, Bradford on Avon BA15 1DZ
01225 309500 admin@st-laurence.com



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

**Wiltshire Police Headquarters**

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Telephone: 101

Date: 23/06/2025

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I recently wrote a letter to all parents and guardians whose children attend our area's secondary schools, regarding knife carrying. It was great to hear how this letter opened conversations in schools and home.

Trends, influences and parental concerns move so quickly nowadays that it can be hard to keep on top of things - we hope these letters will go some way to easing some of that parental pressure by offering support, advice and some knowledge.

This month we are looking at exploitation; you may have heard other terms being used around exploitation such as grooming, trafficking, CSE or County Lines.

What is exploitation?

Exploitation is when an individual or a group, manipulate your child for their own gain. By offering 'friendship', gifts, drugs, alcohol, money or a 'good time', this individual or group will isolate your child and make your child feel indebted to them. Your child is then at risk of being forced to carry drugs, carry out sexual acts, hide or carry weapons or carry out acts of violence to keep themselves safe, or supplied in something they have become dependent on.

What do the common terms used mean?

- Grooming - when somebody builds a relationship with another to manipulate them.
- Trafficking - The recruiting, moving or receiving of people forced to do things they wouldn't usually do under their normal circumstances.
- CSE - Child Sexual Exploitation
- CCE - Child Criminal Exploitation
- County Lines - this is the name given to drug dealing across the country, through phone lines, from cities to counties. Young people are recruited to carry the drugs from one area of the country to another, as they are less likely to be spotted or stopped by police.

What are the facts around exploitation?

- Many young people are at risk of exploitation from within their own peer group.
- There are no age limits with exploitation for the victim or the offender.
- Exploitation and recruitment can happen online, on gaming platforms or in person.
- Offenders can be male or female, as can victims.
- A child can be exploited even if they appear to be willingly involved.
- Most exploited young people will not recognise or accept they are a victim.
- Those who get exploited can find a way out of this.
- Any child can be exploited, no matter what their background is.
- If your child is being exploited, you will feel alone- you are not. There is help.

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

What should parents look out for?

- Your child is in possession of valuable gifts such as phones, jewellery, clothes and cash and they can't explain how they paid for them
- Frequent missing episodes from school, home, clubs they should be attending
- Messages and calls that are kept hidden from you
- Turning trackers off on their phones
- Changes in behaviours - aggression, violence, withdrawing, isolated, fearful, anxious
- Dips in school performance
- Changes in appearance - not looking after themselves, looking ill, not themselves
- Changes in peer group
- May be hanging out with older people
- Using drugs or alcohol
- Self-harming
- Using different language or terminology - for example, communicating in emoji code
- Travelling alone
- In possession of train tickets, bus tickets for trips you do not know about

If your child is showing any of the above, it does not necessarily mean they are being exploited - but it is a good idea to start being more inquisitive with them and have that conversation with them about what is or is not safe for them.

What can the police do?

Within the police we have teams who will focus on safeguarding children vulnerable to exploitation. Neighbourhood Policing teams engage with children on the streets, in school and at home to educate and divert from harm but will also investigate offences committed by the exploiters. This can sometimes be hard when the exploited child doesn't want to engage with us so we will work with families and other partner agencies to support that child either instead, or as well as, seeking to bring offenders to justice.

What can we do to help?

Ultimately, we know our children. If you feel something is off with them or out of the ordinary; if there is that niggly concern that something isn't right, the first thing to do is talk to your child. They may not want to open to you until they are ready but, in the meantime, you can always talk to us or seek advice from some excellent online sources:

- www.childrenssociety.org.uk – Aids parents to support teenagers
- www.catch-22.org.uk – Offers simple advice on how to tackle exploitation in County Lines
- www.fearless.org – Anonymous reporting site for young people and provides clear advice to young people, carers and guardians
- www.nspcc.org.uk – Advice for parents and carers (use the search tool to locate key information)

Children and young people thrive in open, supportive homes- as do parents! By knowing what the threats are in our communities today, we hope you will feel supported with knowledge to have conversations about what safe means to us all.

For more support, advice, signposting or just a chat about how we can safeguard our children, you can contact us at TrowbridgeAreaNPT@wiltshire.police.uk

Yours sincerely
Gemma Rutter
Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant 2315 –
Trowbridge, Melksham & Bradford on Avon
Trowbridge Police Station

Gemma.rutter@wiltshire.police.uk

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about NINTENDO SWITCH 2

Nintendo launched its Switch 2 games console in early June 2025 – its first new console in eight years. While it builds on the original's success by remaining compatible with certain existing games, it also adds powerful hardware and new features like GameChat and a USB-C camera. As more children look to upgrade, it's important to understand how this new console might affect their play and safety.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EASIER TO ACCESS MATURE CONTENT

18 RATED

Despite Nintendo's reputation for family-friendly titles, mature games like Cyberpunk 2077 and Hitman have been released onto the platform. With the Switch 2's improved performance, developers will be able to port even more mature-rated games. There may appear to be children due to their popularity, but they contain content that is highly unsuitable for young audiences.

IN-APP & GAME STORE PURCHASES

The Nintendo eShop enables purchases with just a few taps. If payment details are saved and PIN protection is disabled, children may unknowingly make costly purchases – including game add-ons, cosmetic items or entire new releases – without parental approval.

UNRESTRICTED ONLINE PLAY IN SOME GAMES

While GameChat is one feature, Switch 2 also connects to the broader Nintendo Switch Online service. Many free-to-play titles like Fortnite or Splatoon 4 allow voice or text chat with strangers unless chat settings are adjusted, meaning children could encounter inappropriate language or unwanted contact.

GAMECHAT & REAL-TIME VOICE COMMUNICATION

GameChat enables free chatting with up to 12 people, even across different games, with optional video and screen-sharing. Though children under 16 are restricted to chatting only with approved friends, the sheer interactivity could make friendly debates or heated pressure to remain online longer.

CAMERA COMPATIBILITY & PRIVACY CONCERNS

The optional USB-C camera supports video calling and facial overlays in games; however, this also raises the risk of cyberbullying or the unwanted sharing of personal images. The camera can be disabled, removed or covered, and parental controls are essential to manage how and when it is used.

POWERFUL PULL OF FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

Nintendo's mascot, Mario – along with Yoshi, Donkey Kong and others – remains hugely appealing to younger audiences, especially after the success of the recent film, 'The Super Mario Bros. Movie' (2023). These beloved icons are central to Nintendo's branding and often feature in merchandising, adverts and in-game promotions, creating strong emotional attachments in children and a sense of urgency to keep up with their peers.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHECK RATINGS & USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Every Switch and Switch 2 game comes with a PEGI age rating. Before buying one, ensure the content matches your child's age. Use the Nintendo Parental Controls app to monitor gameplay, set screen-time limits and manage friend requests.

REVIEW FRIEND LISTS AND CHAT PERMISSIONS

Child profiles are restricted to chatting with approved friends only, but it's good practice to regularly check their friend list and communication settings. Use the Parental Controls app to switch off voice or video chat if necessary.

REMOVE OR RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

Avoid accidental spending by unlinking credit cards from the device. Instead, consider adding funds via prepaid eShop cards or requiring a PIN for purchases. Some banking apps can also be set to approve transactions manually.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Teach children how to block, report and capture any behaviour or content that makes them uncomfortable. The console's built-in tools allow them to create screenshots and video clips, which can aid in reporting any issues. Keeping an open dialogue helps children feel supported and safe.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Gormley is the Games Editor at Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published on sites including BBC, TechRadar, and plenty more.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



Registered Charity: 1156329

Join the Youth Advisory Board (YAB)!

Are you aged 14–25 and living in the UK?

Want to share your voice and help shape support for young people?

Why join?

- Make a real difference on issues like mental health, relationships, bullying and identity
- Work with other young people passionate about change
- Gain valuable experience and training
- Help improve Ditch the Label's services and community

Details:

- Voluntary role, starting October 2025, with a one-year term
- Monthly online meetings (1–2 hours)
- Open to young people across the UK

We strongly encourage individuals from **all backgrounds** to apply. We are committed to building a diverse and inclusive YAB team where everyone feels welcome.

Apply by 14th September 2025

Visit: <https://www.ditchthelabel.org/youth-advisory-board>

Questions? Email: yab@ditchthelabel.org



Ditch the Label

Freedom Works, Barts House, Black Lion Street, Brighton, BN1 1JE

www.DitchtheLabel.org

hello@ditchthelabel.org

+44(0)1273 201129

Registered Charity: 1156329

LEAVE ONLY PAWPRINTS COMPETITION



Would you like to see your
artwork across wiltshire?

This summer we are running a competition, in partnership
with idverde, to remind dog owners to pick up after their pets.

The winners will not only see their artwork feature across the county in the future,
they will also receive a £50 Amazon gift voucher (prizes donated by idverde).

Competition information

We have launched a competition for
children to create a picture to help us
to spread the message of encouraging
people to pick up after their dogs.

Free to enter

Age categories are:

- 5-7 years old (Key Stage 1),
- 8-11 years old (Key Stage 2) and
- 12-14 years old (Key Stage 3).

Entrants may only submit an entry for their
age category. Only one entry per entrant is
permitted. There is one prize available per
age category.

Staff at Bath Cats & Dogs Home will pick
their three favourite entries in each age
category, and these will be announced on
the Public Protection Service – Wiltshire
Council Facebook page, the week
commencing 18 August 2025.

The public can then vote for a winner by
"liking"* their favourite artwork. *Only likes
on the original post will count.

The artwork in each age category with the
most likes at 4pm on 22 August 2025 will
be the winner!

In the event of a draw the council will
determine the winner and the council's
decision will be final.

How to enter

To enter the competition, please complete
the entry form below and post with your
artwork to Dog Control Team, Public
Protection, County Hall, Bythesea Road,
Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 8JN.

You can also hand in to one of the main
council offices: County Hall (Trowbridge),
Bourne Hill (Salisbury) or Monkton Park
(Chippenham) for the attention of the
Dog Control Team, County Hall or send a
scanned copy to dogs@wiltshire.gov.uk.

Please avoid folding the entry form.

Entries must be received by midnight on
Friday 1 August 2025.

We would like to invite winners into a
council office to receive their prize and
share their achievement in the press and
online. This will include the first name
and age of the winners. Please indicate by
ticking the section in the below entry form
whether you would be willing to take part in
this. Not giving consent does not affect your
chance of winning.



LEAVE ONLY PAWPRINTS 
Competition entry form

Please clean up after your dog

Please draw your artwork in the box provided above. (please don't write any text in this box)

Name: _____ Age (on 1 August 2025): _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____ Email: _____

- ☐ Yes, I agree to my name and age being used in publications
☐ No, I do not agree to my name and age being used in publications

Terms and conditions

1. The prize winner in each age category will receive a £50 Amazon voucher*.
*There is no cash alternative for prizes.
2. The eligibility of entrants is at the council's sole discretion.
3. The council does not assume any responsibility and cannot accept any liability for lost, damaged or incomplete entries or for any technical fault or failed electronic data transmission. Any such entries will be deemed invalid.
4. To enter the competition, you must provide the name, email address, postal address, phone number and age (on 1 August 2025), of the person submitting the artwork.
5. This competition is only open to residents of Wiltshire (excluding Swindon).
6. Should you decide to withdraw your entry, please email dogs@wiltshire.gov.uk.
7. Winners will be contacted by email after 26 August 2025 and must provide an address to claim their prize. Winners will then be announced on 12 September 2025. Prizes will be sent to the winners by post within 30 days of such announcement.
8. The council will make all reasonable efforts to contact the winner. If the winner cannot be contacted, is not available or does not respond within 14 days, the council is entitled to select another winner in its entire discretion. The decision regarding winners is final and binding and no correspondence or discussion will be entered into about it.
9. A list of winners will be made available upon written request by emailing dogs@wiltshire.gov.uk. You must notify the council in writing if you do not wish your name to be made available if you win.
10. Entries will only be kept until winners are announced and prizes distributed. Details will not be recorded on our systems for any other purposes.