



Week Commencing Monday 15th September 2025

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers

Two weeks in and it has been great to see everyone settling back into the rhythm of the school week. I've had the chance to meet all students during my collective worships across the week, and I've been really impressed by how well everyone has settled in, their attitude and behaviour. Senior staff have spent a number of hours dropping in to lessons across the week and feedback has been entirely positive which is great to hear.

Students are getting back into their lessons, working hard, and being respectful to each other. The positive attitude around the school has been noticeable, and it's clear that people are ready to make the most of this term.

I also want to thank all the staff for their work in making the start of term run smoothly. Their support helps students feel safe, focused, and ready to learn. This term promises to be a busy and exciting one so my request is that we all keep working together – students, staff, and parents – to make it a successful term for everyone.

Thank you, Mr Farrer

Further news from Mr Farrer:

We have received some concerns from residents of Ashley Road regarding parents driving on the pavement and parking illegally outside the school.

This behaviour poses risks to both pedestrians, students and other road users, and it negatively affects our relationship with the local community. We are committed to working positively with our neighbours, so we must ask that all parents drive and park responsibly, showing full consideration for residents when dropping off or collecting children.

Key dates for your diary - Week A

Monday 15 th September	•
Tuesday 16 th September	•
Wednesday 17 th September	•
Thursday 18 th September	•
Friday 19 th September	•

Key dates for your diary - Week B

Monday 22 nd September	•
Tuesday 23 rd September	•
Wednesday 24 th September	•
Thursday 25 th September	• Open Evening (see flyer below for details)
Friday 26 th September	• School Closed to all Students

In this week's bulletin:

- Meet our new DDSL – Mrs Kendall
- Dates for flu jabs and how to book
- Tempest Photographs – last day for free delivery
- English – wider reading booklist suggestions
- Online safety – what you need to know about conspiracy theories
- **Community News**
 - Save the date – fundraising Quiz Night coming soon!
 - BOA Youth Drop-in Club is now open
 - SENDFEST – a fun day for young people with SEND
 - Family & Community Learners – new courses for parents & carers
 - Team Kit Sponsorship Offer from Stonegate

And lots more.....



St Laurence School

Care • Inspire • Succeed



Open Evening

Year 5 and 6 Children

Thursday 25th September 2025

5:00pm – 7:30pm



**BOOKINGS
OPEN ONLINE**

3rd September

Please visit our
website to book
your place

www.st-laurence.com

**Presentations led by the
Headteacher will be at
5:00pm, 5:45pm and 6:30pm**

Ashley Road, Bradford on Avon
Wiltshire. BA15 1DZ



From: Mrs Kendall – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (Online Safety)

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the new academic year here at St Laurence. I want to introduce myself as the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead with responsibility for online safety. My role is to work collaboratively with you to promote safe online practices both at school and at home. I will be regularly sharing resources, guidance, and updates through the parent/carer bulletin to help keep you informed.

Ensuring young people stay safe online involves a combination of guidance, supervision, and open communication. At St Laurence, this is ensured via our filtering and monitoring systems, PSHE lessons, anti-bullying work, and online safety being addressed across the curriculum, including during the tutorial programme and briefings. At home, your support is required to make sure your child(ren) use digital platforms that are age-appropriate, checking minimum age limits (usually 13+), and regularly reviewing privacy settings and security features. Please always stress the importance of respectful, empathetic, behaviour online and set clear boundaries around screen time and device use.

Finally, regularly encourage open conversations; make sure they know they can come to you or a trusted adult, without judgement, if anything online makes them uncomfortable or worried. There is great help and advice available through organisations such as [childnet](https://www.childnet.co.uk) and the [NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk).

I would also like to thank you in advance for supporting our no mobile device policy during school hours. It is important that children have the opportunity to switch off from mobile technology during the school day so that they can focus fully on their learning, social interactions, and wellbeing. If contact with home during the school day is ever required this can be facilitated by staff, ensuring pupils' wellbeing and safeguarding are prioritised.

Warm regards,
Mrs C Kendall

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (Online Safety)

Ordering School Photographs – Online Orders

If your child's photograph taken was taken by Tempest on Wednesday 3rd September, the deadline for free delivery when ordering online is:

Thursday 18th September 2025

How to order:

- Place your order through the Tempest website using your unique link
or
- Visit www.tempest-orders.co.uk
or
- Call 01736 751555 (option 3) for assistance

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

Sent on behalf of the School Aged Immunisations Team

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child's flu vaccination is now due.

This vaccination is recommended to help protect your child against flu. Flu can be an unpleasant illness and can cause serious complications. Vaccinating your child will also help protect more vulnerable family and friends by preventing the spread of flu.

Please complete the consent form (yes or no) using the following link: www.bswschoolagedimms.co.uk/Forms/Flu
Please use the school code: WT137057

Please ensure you complete your child's consent no later than 48 working hours before your school session to ensure your child receives their vaccination.

We are visiting your child's school St Laurence School on 7th November 2025 & 8th December 2025.
Most children are offered a nasal spray vaccine which is a quick, simple and painless spray up the nose.
The nasal spray vaccine is the preferred vaccine.

A leaflet explaining the vaccination programme for primary aged children can be accessed at:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66730c5864e554df3bd0db99/UKHSA_12922_Protecting_your_child_against_flu_leaflet_03_WEB.pdf

A leaflet explaining the vaccination programme for secondary aged young people can be accessed at:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64a2e2e245b6a2000c3d47de/UKHSA-12388-protect-yourself-against-flu_information-for-those-in-secondary-school.pdf

This includes details about the small number of children for whom the nasal vaccine is not appropriate. The nasal spray vaccine contains a very small amount of gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine) as an essential ingredient to keep it stable and able to work. For those who may not accept medicines or vaccines that contain porcine gelatine, a porcine-free flu vaccine injection is available as an alternative. Consent can be provided using the link above.
Secondary School Age Children: Where consent is given for the flu injection, this will be given to your child when the team visit their school.

Primary School Aged Children requiring injectable flu: Once you have completed the consent form for the flu injection, the Immunisation Team will send you a link to book your child into one of our Community Clinics you will then be directed to book a clinic appointment.

Even if your child had the vaccine last year, the type of flu can vary each winter, so it is recommended to have it again this year or they won't be protected.

Since the programme was introduced, most children offered the vaccine in schools have had the immunisation. If you have any queries, please contact the School Aged Immunisation Team on 0300 247 0082 or email us using vcl.immunisations@nhs.net

Yours sincerely,
Roanna Ellis

Professional Lead for School Aged Immunisation, B&NES, Swindon and Wiltshire, and B&NES School Aged Health

If your child becomes wheezy, has a bad attack of asthma, or has started oral steroids for their asthma after you return this form, please contact the School Aged Immunisation Team on 0300 247 0082.

If you decide you do not want to vaccinate your child against flu, please complete the consent form giving the reason. This will help us plan and improve the service.

For further information see: www.nhs.uk/child-flu

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From: The English Department

English Wider Reading at St Laurence

Year 7
Term 1 and 2
Difficult Choices

Framed – Frank Cottrell Boyce
(Un)arranged marriage – Bali Rai
Pig Heart Boy – Malorie Blackman
Holes – Louis Sachar
The Diary of Anne Frank
No Fixed Address – Susin Nielsen
Our Sister, Again – Sophie Cameron
A Kind of Spark – Elle McNicoll
Show Us Who You Are – Elle McNicoll
I Have No Secrets – Penny Joelson
Bus Stop Baby – Fleur Hitchcock
The Honest Truth – Dan Geiminhart
Needle – Patrice Lawrence

More of a challenge
Touching the Void – Joe Simpson
Long Way Down – Jason Reynolds
We Were Liars – E Lockhart

English Wider Reading at St Laurence

Year 8
Term 1 and 2
Visions

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time – Mark Haddon
I Capture the Castle – Dodie Smith
My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece – Annabel Pitcher
Ghost Hawk – Susan Cooper
The Ghost of Thomas Kempe – Penelope Lively
A Stitch in Time – Penelope Lively
Skellig – David Almond
My Name is Mina – David Almond
Mondays Are Red – Nicola Morgan
There will be Lies – Nick Lake
The Haunting of Aveline Jones – Phil Hickey
Tsunami Girl – Julian Sedgewick and Chie Kutsuwada
Show Us who you are – Elle McNicoll
The Upper World – Femi Fadugba

More of a challenge
The Woman in Black – Susan Cooper
Dracula – Bram Stoker
The Midnight Library – Matt Haig
The Electric Kingdom – David Arnold

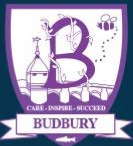
English Wider Reading at St Laurence

Year 9
Term 1 and 2
Inequality

TimeRiders series – Alex Scarrow
Refugee Boy – Benjamin Zephaniah
The Perks of being a Wallflower, Stephen Chobsky
Divergent, Veronica Roth
Stone Cold – Robert Swindells
Wonder – R.J. Palacio
Trash – Andy Mulligan
Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn – Mark Twain
To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee
Chains – Laurie Halse Anderson
All The Truth That's in Me – Julie Berry
Between Shades of Grey – Ruta Sepetys
Ghost – Jason Reynolds
The Crossing – Manjeet Mann
Run, Rebel – Manjeet Mann
Can you see me? – Libby Scott and Rebecca Westcott
Clap When you Land – Elizabeth Acevedo
Cane Warriors – Alex Wheatle
Some places more than others – Renee Watson
Piecing me together – Renee Watson
Fountains of Silence – Ruta Sepetys
Black Brother Black Brother – Jewell Parker Rhodes

More of a challenge
Oliver Twist – Charles Dickens
Hard Times – Charles Dickens
Great Expectations – Charles Dickens
Les Miserables – Victor Hugo
12 Years a Slave – Solomon Northup
The Help – Kathryn Stockett
North and South – Elizabeth Gaskell
Punching the Air – Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam
The Power – Naomi Alderman
The Handmaid's Tale/ The Testaments – Margaret Atwood

House Points

Ashley	Budbury	Conigre	Huntingdon	Westfield
				
5251	5438	4169	4460	4643

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

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNDERMINING TRUST

Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and British Values, teachers, and even their own families and loved ones. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narratives by isolating them from reliable sources of information.

ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS

Social media platforms can often recommend sensationalist content. Once a child engages with one conspiracy-themed video or post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify their beliefs.

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global plots, viruses, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, or hopelessness. For some young people, it can trigger prolonged distress or obsessive thinking.

GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, can groom children in ways that foster hate, bigotry, and radicalisation.

CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree; sometimes, confrontation can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.

ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This risks undermining their academic progress and weakening their ability to think critically, assess risks, or engage in healthy debate.

Advice for Parents & Educators

I WANT TO BELIEVE

CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: Who is telling me this? What evidence is there? What do other trusted sources say? Use real examples from current media to explain your answers and reasoning.

MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or Reddit. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influencers.

REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES

Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age. Build habits of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keeffe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/conspiracy-theories>

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@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: 10.09.2025

Community News

The PTA is hosting a Quiz night on Friday 17th October!

Please come along and support this event which promises to be fun and memorable! Every penny raised goes to much needed projects and equipment for the school.

Tickets will be on sale next week! There will be a cash bar on the night and the opportunity to pre-order a cheese platter!





What's on at SENDFEST?

- Archery
- Face painting and craft zones
- A high-energy silent disco
- Live music and performances
- A dedicated sensory space for regulation and calm
- Refreshments and chill-out areas

There is a limited number of places for the festival, to hold yours please use the sign-up link. Following this we will be sending out information on how to sign up for activities.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sendfest-tickets-1462905562919?aff=oddtcreator>



What's on at the BOA Youth Drop-In?

Pool
Table tennis
Games
Drinks, cake and snacks

All free of charge!



Online Course

Helping My Child with Anxiety and Worry

Ideal for parents and carers of primary school-aged children

Monday 22 September 10:00-12:00



Booking Closes
Monday 15 September

- 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
Call the FaCL team on 01225 770478
Visit <https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-and-community-learning/>
Scan the QR code



Eligibility Criteria

Courses are free for learners aged 19+ (as of 31 August), living in Wiltshire, and meet certain residency requirements.

You must also meet one of the following:

- On a lower income, earning less than £25,750 a year
- Care leaver, foster carer, carer, refugee
- Have a learning difficulty or disability
- Not in work and looking to go into work, now or in the future
- In receipt of benefits (other than child benefit)
- Military family / ex-armed forces personnel
- Have school-aged children who receive means-tested free school meals

Helping My Child Build Concentration and Resilience

Ideal for parents and carers of primary school-aged children

Online Course

Monday 29 September

10:00-12:00



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



Booking closes
Monday 22 September

Visit <https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-and-community-learning/>

Contact familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk
Call the FaCL team on 01225 770478
or scan the QR code



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WE'RE ON YOUR TEAM

At Stonegate, we believe all young people should have access to sport, which is why we're awarding sponsorship to 10 local teams for a team kit up to the value of £800.

The opportunity to apply for sponsorship is open to under-18s teams of any ability, gender and sport, playing at a club within 10 miles of our HQ's in Wiltshire or Lincolnshire, which is affiliated to a local league.

The sponsorship will last for two seasons and all applicants must be willing to display a Stonegate brand logo on their shirt.

For individual players suffering from financial hardship, a club or teacher can also apply for a hardship grant of up to £100 to cover basic equipment on their behalf.

To apply, please let us know why your team would like sponsorship before 30th September. We'll be in touch to let you know if you've been successful by the end of October. Best of luck!



For further details or to apply please contact wellbeing@Stonegate.co.uk



Bathford Church School



Open Days

You are warmly invited on:

Sat 20 September 10.30-11.30am

Tues 14 October 9.30-10.30am

Thurs 6 November 9.15-10.15am

Thurs 13 November 9.30-10.30am

Tues 6 January 9.15-10.15am

to meet our wonderful children and staff and see all that we have to offer.

Every day is an open day so if you can't make either date, you are welcome to contact the office to book a personal tour.

Is your child due to start school in September 2026?

Book our open days or personal tour on office@bathford.bwmat.org or 01225 858776

"Our Education Strategy lays out 'what excellence looks like' ... and Bathford is a shining example of this 'gold standard'."

BWMAT Trust CEO 2025

"All the staff are kind and approachable and clearly want the best for the children."

Parent 2025

"The school's approach to the wider development of pupils is excellent. Pupils benefit from an array of carefully selected rich experiences to develop their interests and knowledge of the curriculum."

Ofsted 2025





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