



Week beginning Monday 21st April 2025

Headteacher's update

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you have had a wonderful Easter break and an opportunity to spend time with family and friends.

This week will see the start of our exam season proper, with Year 10 taking their mocks, Year 12 starting theirs next week and Years 11 and 13 starting some of their practicals. We want to look out for all students at what can be a stressful time so if there is anything we can do to support, please let us know.

Mr Farrer

An Easter message from Revd Jenny - Rector of Bradford on Avon Holy Trinity, Westwood and Wingfield

A Good Easter and a Community of Hope



Photo of St Laurence School Cross

A good Easter resonates with life renewed by God's grace. Through the love of the risen Christ, we are transfigured—healed and restored—as a 'community of the resurrection.'

Easter brings the gift of Jesus' resurrection, offering forgiveness and healing. This transformative experience paves the way for creating new patterns of life together as a community, fully alive and engaged in society.

A good Easter also unveils a fresh understanding of a social God, who empowers us to live as a Spirit-filled community.

Enjoy every precious moment, including the simple joy of sharing an Easter egg!

With blessings and prayers, I look forward to seeing you soon!

In this week's bulletin:

- Key dates for your diary (see amendment to date of Y12 study leave) - page 2
- Key dates for Terms 5 & 6 – page 3 - 4
- Y11 & Y13 Exam Information – page 5
- Online Safety: The Hidden Meanings Behind Emojis & Instagram – page 8
- Community News – “Kissing Hares”; Self Defence workshop; FaCL Courses for parents and carers and a fun day at the Fun Dog Show – pages 11 - 12

.... And lots more!

Key dates for your diary - 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
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

Week A

Monday 28 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y12 Study Leave begins • Y9 MenACWY & TdIPV Mop-up Vaccinations
Tuesday 29 th April	
Wednesday 30 th April	
Thursday 1 st May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y11 Reports Issued
Friday 2 nd May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y12 Study Leave ends

Exams timetables can be found on MCAS, in Parent/Carer Bulletin w/c 21st March: [Newsletters | St Laurence School](#) and the school website: [Exams | St Laurence School](#)



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

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

	Term 5	Term 6
Year 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday 22nd April – Term 5 commences for all students Thursday 8th 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. Friday 23rd May – Term 5 ends at 3pm for all students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 2nd June – Term 6 commences for all students Thursday 3rd – Saturday 5th July – Year 8 wellbeing residential Wednesday 23rd July – Term 6 ends at 1.30pm for all students Thursday 24th July – INSET day; school closed to all students

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

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

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

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](#)

From: Mr Hainsworth - Assistant Headteacher

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

Y11 students were recently 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

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 & 1:15pm for a 1:30pm exam
- Students may leave their belongings in the 6FC or PE Changing Rooms
- Students must ensure they have all the correct equipment
- Students will be required to hand phones in (or ideally don't bring them at all)
- Students 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: ILC Team

This is the final Author Spotlight celebrating World Book day this term. We hope you have enjoyed reading about some of our favourite authors.



Author Spotlight: Laura Wood

Laura Wood is a bestselling author whose first novel won the Montegrappa Scholastic Prize for New Children's Writing in 2014. Her middle-grade novels have been shortlisted for the Sainsbury's Children's Book Awards and the Blue Peter Book Awards, while her YA novels have been shortlisted for the YA Book Awards, the Books are My Bag Awards and the Romantic Novelist's Association Awards.

Laura lives in Warwickshire with her husband, and their dog, Bea. Her favourite things include: Reading romance novels, Fred Astaire films, cups of tea, fancy cocktails, recipe books, poetry, cosy woolen cardigans, crisp autumn leaves, Rufus Sewell's cheekbones, Being near the sea, scented candles, and new stationery.



From: Ms Favali - Teacher of Psychology

Imperial War Museum Holocaust Exhibition Workshop Wednesday 18th of June 2025

Opportunity for Year 12 Psychology, Sociology and History students to attend a Holocaust Exhibition workshop at the Imperial War Museum in London.

The workshop, which is run by experts at the museum, will explore key questions such as why the Holocaust happened and what it means in our world today using a wide range of sources from the exhibition. This is a great chance to learn more about the victims of the Holocaust from the researchers and historians at the Imperial War Museum.

The cost of the trip is **£42.00**. This includes entrance and transport to and from the museum. We will be leaving promptly at **6:30am** and will aim to arrive back to school at **6:30pm**.

Due to limited ticket availability, we can only take 30 students, and we are offering it on a first come first served basis. Priority will be given to students studying Psychology, Sociology and History as it relates to the exam specifications, before it is offered to the rest of Year 12.

For information about how to secure a place on the trip, please see the letter sent out to parents/guardians and put on Bromcom. Alternatively, students can speak to, or email, Ms Favali.

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://www.st-laurence.com/catering)

From: Dan Webb – School Chaplain

End of term reflection

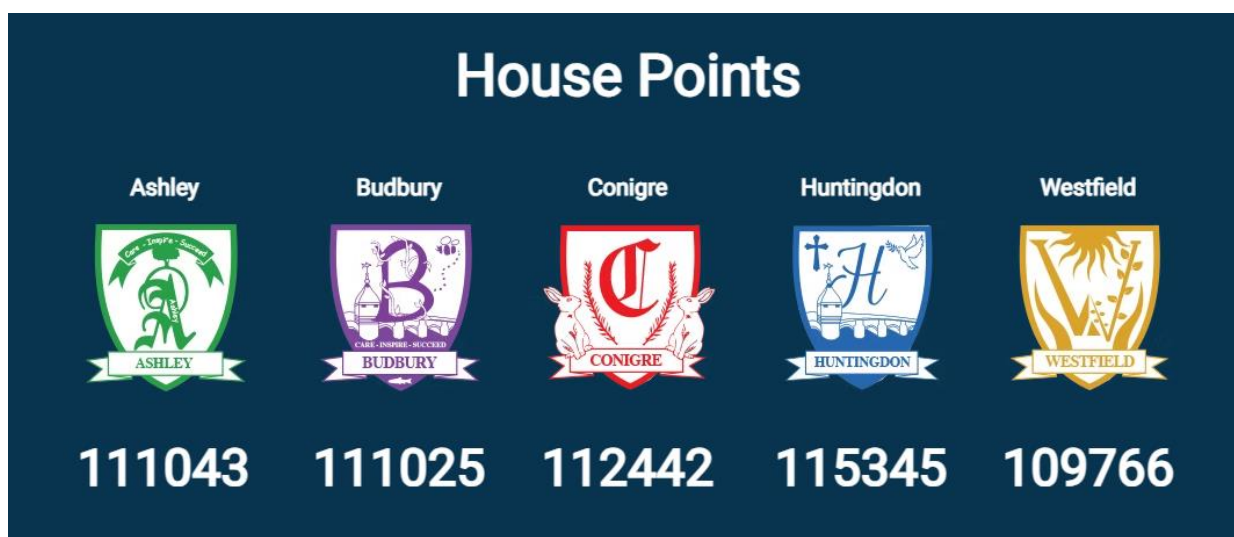
For more than 2000 years, tourists, grave robbers and archaeologists had searched for the burial places of Egypt's Pharaohs. In 1922, with just a few scraps of evidence, British archaeologist Howard Carter's search seemed doomed to failure after years of searching. But Carter and his team pressed through and finally unlocked an ancient Egyptian tomb – an incredible discovery of priceless treasures and historical artefacts alongside the remains of King Tutankhamun. Howard Carter made the world's most exciting archaeological find because he did not give up seeking. He pressed through. He persevered. A river cuts through rock not because of its power but because of its perseverance.

In the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy, Moses tells God's people that they will be scattered among the nations, but he said, *"If from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul."* In other words, if they remain faithful to God despite doubts and challenges and pursue him with perseverance, they will find him.

We live in a world that thinks that the only thing that matters is how we relate to other people. Of course, this is hugely important! After all, five of the ten commandments are all about this. Indeed, if there is no God, these are the only relationships we need to consider in our lives today. However, if a personal God does exist, the quality of our relationship with Him would probably be of primary importance. For me as a Christian, it is out of this relationship that my love for others flows, and I firmly believe that this perspective positively transforms how I view those around me.

If you are maybe struggling to love others around you today, or maybe even yourself, I encourage you consider God's love for you. We can do this in many ways, such as through marvelling at creation, listening to him through prayer or reading about his promises through the gospels...and see what happens! God reveals himself as merciful and compassionate – one who sets us free from all kinds of captivity and brings us deep peace in our innermost being when we pursue him. It is a strong anchor in the storms of life.

Prayer: Father God, thank you that you are interested in a personal connection with me today. Despite my doubts and fears, please help me find you as I search for you with all my heart and soul. Amen



Online Safety

The Hidden Meanings Behind Emojis: A Lesson From Netflix's Adolescence Series

People of all ages use emojis in their digital communications. In addition to adding humour or emphasis to messages, for some communities and peer groups, these symbols can form a language of their own. This is particularly true of young people and teenagers, who sometimes use emojis as a code to disguise their true intentions from adults.

While hidden meanings behind emojis used by young people can be harmless, some may indicate risks including extremism, drugs, sexual interactions and bullying. This was recently brought to life on the Netflix limited series, [Adolescence](#), which depicted the devastating consequences of harmful online interactions, and the warning signs (in the form of emojis) that are easily missed by adults.

To help schools and parents decode potentially harmful messages, Smoothwall compiled a list of emojis commonly used in dangerous contexts. This includes specific emojis used on the show, and others highlighted by the work of Olivia Brown, Associate Professor in Digital Futures at the University of Bath.

To view the full article and see the hidden meanings behind the emojis click the link : [The Hidden Meanings Behind Emojis: A Lesson From Netflix's Adolescence](#)

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about INSTAGRAM

Instagram remains one of the world's most popular social media platforms, especially among teens – with around 70% of 13 to 17-year-olds using it. Owned by Meta, Instagram allows users to share photos and videos, create interactive 'stories', broadcast live, send private messages and follow others. With regular updates and new features, it's essential for parents and educators to stay informed about how children are using the app – and what the risks are.

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME**
Instagram's design encourages prolonged use through endless scrolling of trending content and generating a fear of missing out (FOMO). Children can quickly lose track of time browsing posts from friends, influencers, and strangers which may disrupt their day-to-day activities.
- AI CHATBOT CONCERNS**
Meta's AI, which is available on Instagram, allows users to chat with an in-app chatbot. While often helpful, it can blur boundaries for young users, who may ask for or read content that is inappropriate or see it as a real friend or confidant. Privacy issues also arise, as conversations may not be as secure or private as children assume.
- RISKS OF GOING LIVE**
The Instagram feature allows real-time broadcasting to followers – or anyone, if the account is public. This increases the chance of unwanted contact from strangers and pressure to act in ways that gain attention, including engaging in inappropriate behaviour. Viewers may also post offensive or harmful comments during live sessions.
- THREADS INTEGRATION**
Threads is Instagram's sister app for public, text-based conversations. Posts from Threads appear in users' Instagram feeds and can lead children to view, share, and comment on public conversations with strangers. The content may not always be age-appropriate and can be misleading or false.
- SCHEDULED MESSAGING**
Instagram's newer ability to schedule direct messages means that children could receive messages late at night or early in the morning. This can disrupt their sleep or keep them preoccupied before the school day even begins.
- EXCLUSION AND LOW SELF-WORTH**
Feeling left out online can have a real emotional impact. Being left out of photos, receiving fewer likes, being unfollowed, or being ignored in chats and comments can leave children feeling excluded, which often hurts as much as in real life. There is a risk this can lead to reduced self-esteem and a sense of not belonging.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- USE INSTAGRAM'S SUPERVISION TOOLS**
Instagram's built-in Family Centre lets parents monitor how much time their child spends on the app. Specialised 'teen accounts' are private by default and offer controls on who can message them. Make sure that children use their real age when registering their account to ensure they have these protections.
- OPEN UP THE CONVERSATION**
Talk regularly to the children in your care about what they enjoy on Instagram – and what makes them uncomfortable. Encourage honest chats about filters, body image, and online approval. Reassure them that they don't need to edit their appearance or chase 'likes' to feel valued.
- SET BOUNDARIES FOR THREADS AND AI**
Parental controls on Instagram also apply to Threads. These allow parents to monitor time spent in the app, check follower lists and adjust exposure to sensitive content. Discuss AI features, too, therefore helping children understand that chatbots aren't real people and should be used with care.
- BE MEDIA-SAVVY WITH INFLUENCERS**
Parents should follow a few of the influencers their child watches, so they can better understand the content they're seeing. Use this as a springboard to talk about the difference between genuine recommendations and paid promotions – and how online personalities can shape opinions and behaviour.

Meet Our Expert
Dr Claire Bullerland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and texting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College

Community News

Revd Jenny Nelson, Rector of Bradford on Avon Holy Trinity, Westwood and Wingfield will be offering Confirmation Classes, '**Exploring Confirmation**' for St Laurence School students:

When: Each Thursday at 3:45pm starting on 8th May with an introductory session

Where: Holy Trinity

Refreshments are included

Confirmation can be an important part of a lifetime journey of faith as a follower of Jesus Christ. If you have been baptised at any stage of your life (or even if you'd like to explore that too), this is a good time to begin to think about Confirmation. In six sessions, we will explore our faith together. Holy Trinity offers a safe place to ask questions you may have about God, Jesus and the journey of faith.

Please do get in touch with Revd Jenny, if you want to find out more: revjennynelson@outlook.com

Kissing Hares wins Runner Up for former student



When Joe Dagger entered his photograph “Kissing Hares” into the British Wildlife Photography Awards he had no idea that he would be up against more than 13000 other entries.

Kissing Hares won runner up in the 15 – 17 year old category and it’s definitely worth sharing it with you again.

Congratulations Joe!!

If you want to see the other winning entries click on this link: <https://www.bwpawards.org/2025-winners>

Sent on Behalf of Wiltshire Council

Dear Parent/Carer,

Applying for Transport to and from School through Wiltshire Council

Wiltshire Council Transport has asked us to remind you that it is time to apply for School Transport for the Academic Year 2025/2026 for Under 16 and Post 16 students.

If your child already has transport provided by Wiltshire Council, they are under 16 and there are no changes to your circumstances i.e., change of address, there is no need to reapply. A new bus pass will be sent to you automatically.

Please use this link [Applying for transport - Wiltshire Council](#) for information, forms and to check if your child is eligible.

If you have any queries, please contact Wiltshire Council: educationtransport@wiltshire.gov.uk



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 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



Family and Community Learning



Online Course

Booking closes Tuesday 22 April

Helping My Child To Learn Phonics Online

29 April - 3 June
Tuesdays 10:00am -12:00pm
5 online sessions (no session 27 May)

- Discover how phonics is taught in schools
- Help your children to develop phonic awareness
- Explore activities to support learning phonics at home

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

Wiltshire Council



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 Wiltshire Council



Booking closes Friday 18 April 2025

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/carer, have a disability.

Poulton Park Play Area

RAFFLE

OVER 25 FANTASTIC PRIZES TO BE WON, INCLUDING...

- A day's narrowboat hire
- Round of 18-hole golf for 4
- Theatre tickets
- Activities and days out
- Concert tickets
- Eating out
- Health & beauty prizes
- Gifts & more!



Tickets available online only.
Scan the QR code or visit galabid.com/poultonparkplay to see the full list of prizes and to enter.



Join us at the Poulton Park Fun Dog Show & Spring Fete
1pm to 5pm on Saturday 19 April for the prize draw.



Supported by

CARTER&HARDING
EYECARE



BRADFORD ON AVON
TOWN COUNCIL

POULTON PARK FUN DOG SHOW

& SPRING FETE

Saturday 19 April | 1pm to 5pm
Poulton Park, BA15 1EA

Fundraiser for Poulton Park
play area improvements



Stalls
Games



Tombola
Tea & cake



Raffle prize draw

Welly Wanging

Have-a-go dog agility

...and more!



Dog Show

Registration opens 1pm
£3 per dog, per class | first class starts 2pm

Classes

- Best Pedigree
- Best Crossbreed
- Best Puppy (6 to 12 months)
- Golden Oldie (7 years+)
- Most Handsome Boy
- Most Gorgeous Girl
- Best Junior Handler (7 to 12 years)
- Dog That Looks Most Like Its Owner
- Best Trick
- Best in Show

Rosettes & prizes for all 1st, 2nd
& 3rd place winners



Scan the QR code to enter
our online raffle. Winners
will be announced on the
day.



Supported by:

DOGHOUSE



BRADFORD ON AVON
TOWN COUNCIL