



Week Commencing Monday 29th September 2025

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this bulletin finds you well. I would like to begin by sharing my sincere thanks for the wonderful support around our Open Evening on Thursday. The event was a great success, with many prospective families commenting on the enthusiasm of our students, the dedication of staff, and the welcoming atmosphere across the school. It was a real pleasure to showcase the many opportunities our school provides, and we are proud of how our community came together to make the evening such a positive experience.

Looking ahead, we are excited to see our first group of Duke of Edinburgh participants this year head off on their expedition next week. This marks an important milestone for the students involved and we wish them every success as they take on this challenge, and I know they will gain invaluable experiences and memories from it.

You will shortly receive a letter from me summarising the first four weeks of term. It has been a busy and purposeful start to the year, and I am keen to share some reflections as well as our key priorities moving forward.

Finally, a reminder that the PTA will be hosting their **Quiz Evening on Thursday 17th October**. We are so grateful for the commitment and energy of our PTA team, and for the funds they raise which, this year, will support the vital area of mental health provision in school. Your continued support is hugely appreciated.

Thank you, Mr Farrer

In this week's bulletin:

- Year 11 Parent/Carer Information Evening (online)
- Y10 Option Changes Deadline
- Careers News and Y11 College Application dates to remember
- Which part of the school was officially opened 20 years ago?
- Sports News – Y9 Rugby; Netball Club; Cross Country Competition
- Online Safety – what you need to know about Youth Violence
- Community News
 - School Fundraising Quiz Night tickets now available
 - E-Scooters and electric bikes – do you know the law?
 - Food parcel assistance from The Hub

And lots more.....

Key dates for your diary - Week A

Monday 29 th September	Y11 Parent/Carer Engagement 6:00pm – 6:45pm; (Online, see details below)
Tuesday 30 th September	Y10 Netball V St Augustine's (H)
Wednesday 1 st October	- Shakespeare Schools Festival Workshop 1:15am – 4:00pm - Y9 Rugby Tournament (Trowbridge RFC)
Thursday 2 nd October	- Y7 Rugby V Corsham (H) - Y9 Rugby V Corsham (A)
Friday 3 rd October	

Key dates for your diary - Week B

Monday 6 th October	Y7 Activities Day (LG1-4) 9:00am – 4:00pm
Tuesday 7 th October	Berlin Presentation 6:00pm – 7:00pm
Wednesday 8 th October	
Thursday 9 th October	- Y13 Reports Issued 6th Form UKMT Senior Maths Challenge - GCSE/A Level PE Parent Filming Event 6:00pm – 7:30pm
Friday 10 th October	

From: Ms Pritchard - Director of KS4 Progress & Learning

Year 11 Parent/Carer Information Evening (online)

All parents and carers of year 11 students are invited to attend an online Parents Information Evening. This will take place on Microsoft teams on **Monday 29th September from 6:00pm.**

Key contents will include:

- Important dates for terms 1 and 2
- Mock exams
- Supporting your child with revision, including revision timetables and strategies
- Revision clubs available in school
- How to access revision resources from home
- Attendance

A link to the meeting will be emailed to all Year 11 students school email accounts to enable you to access.

Y10 Option Changes

The deadline for any final requests for Y10 students to change their options is **Friday 3rd October.**

Some classes in certain option blocks are full but if your child does wish to change an option, please email Mr Dutton: chrdut@st-laurence.com by the date above.

From: The Careers Team

Calling All Parent and Carer Professionals! Do you work for a company that could inspire our students?

We're excited to announce our upcoming Careers Fair, and we'd love to invite Parents and Carers who work for a business or organisation to host a stand and share insights into your industry, career path, and opportunities available to young people.

Whether you work in healthcare, engineering, hospitality, finance, creative arts, trades, or any other sector — your experience could make a real difference in helping students explore their future options.

Event Details: 

 Wednesday 15th October 2025

 08:00 - 13:00

If you or your company would be interested in taking part, please get in touch with careers@st-laurence.com.

Let's work together to inspire the next generation!

We will be meeting all our **year 11 students** to talk about the pathways available to them after GCSEs.

Open evenings are beginning to happen across all our local colleges and sixth form providers; and apprenticeships opportunities are beginning to be advertised.

To be able to make the right choice it is important for all students to consider all option to find the path that is right for them. If you have any questions, please feel free to email careers@st-laurence.com.

YOUR NEXT STEPS:

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Are you in Year 11?
Here's what you need to know about applying to college!

1

Apply Early!
Apply for your first-choice college course by **Easter**.
Early applications mean less stress during exam soon!

2

Got a Provisional Offer?
You **MUST** attend your enrolment day to secure your place.
Missing enrolment could mean losing your spot—even if you have an offer!

3

Key Dates – Put These in Your Calendar!
GCSE Results Day: **Thursday 20 August**
Enrolment Days: **Friday 21 August**
Tuesday 25 August
Wednesday 26 August

You must be available on these days to confirm your place and show your GCSE results!

Don't miss out on your first-choice course!
Apply early, attend your enrolment, and get ready for your next adventure.

From: Ms Whitehead - Head of Design Technology

As part of their Design Technology studies, Key Stage 3 & 4 students make a variety of products using Resistant Materials, Textiles and Electronics. Details of projects for the year are summarised on the school website.

An annual voluntary contribution of £5 per student for Key Stage 3, and £7.50 for Key Stage 4, makes it possible to provide a wider variety of materials & experiences. All students are encouraged to value the materials they are working with and should have their practical work to take home at the end of each project.

To make a payment, please use your Parent Pay account.

Thank you in advance for your support.



Art Voluntary contributions

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As part of their Art and Design studies, Key Stage 3 students make a variety of exciting outcomes using both 2D and 3D materials such as clay, ink, plaster, printmaking etc. Year 9 have access to the Adobe Suite on PC. We hope to offer photography experiences for KS3 this year as well.

An annual voluntary contribution of £5 per student makes it possible to provide this wider variety of quality materials & exciting experiences. All students are encouraged to value the materials they are working with and will take all practical work home at the end of each year.

To make a payment, please use your Parent Pay account.

On behalf of the Art and Design Department, we thank you in advance for your support!



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)

It's been 20 years since our purpose built restaurant was officially opened

From: Exams Team

Dates for Criminology NEA have been confirmed.

These assessments will take place in T13 & T14

- **Y13** - Monday 15th December 2025 & Tuesday 16th December 2025
- **Y12** - Monday 12th January 2026 & Tuesday 13th January 2026

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

Sports News

From: Mr Carter – Head of PE

Year 9 Rugby

The year 9 rugby team start their season with a 'pitch up and play' event at Trowbridge rugby club on Wednesday 1st October. The team sheet is available to students on the PE department noticeboard. There are still opportunities to represent the school for years 7-9.

Training takes place after school every Thursday, sign up on the MCAS app to book your spot for next week.

From: Mr Bailey

Netball Club

We can now confirm that Netball Club is live on Bromcom. If your child would like to take part in netball this term, please login in, using the MCAS App, and sign them up.

Apologies for the delay.

From: Mr Burrows - Teacher of PE / KS3 PE Coordinator

KS3 Interhouse Cross Country Competition

All KS3 students will be competing for their house in the first sporting interhouse of the year in the week beginning **Monday 29th September**. Students will be competing in a cross-country competition during their PE lessons.

Interhouse competitions require determination, togetherness and participation, where the house with the most participants often ends up victorious.

Students' first PE lesson of the week will involve a short briefing and opportunity to practice ready for the main race which will take place in their second PE lesson of the week. The race takes place on our school field. Students can wear trainers for this, but it is recommended that football/rugby boots are worn if conditions are wet and muddy.

In combination with our Cross Country after school club, this event will also support the selection of our cross-country team that represents St Laurence at the West Wiltshire Cross Country Championship at Stonar School on Friday 7th November.

Results of this Interhouse competition will go in the final bulletin of the term. We look forward to seeing all our KS3 students competing for their house next week!

Upcoming Fixtures

Tuesday 30th September

Year 10 Netball vs St Augustine's (H). Finish approx. 4:30pm

Wednesday 1st October

Year 9 Rugby Tournament at Trowbridge RFC. Return approx. 5:30pm

Thursday 2nd October

Year 7 Rugby vs Corsham (H). Finish approx. 5:15pm.

Year 9 Rugby vs Corsham (A). Return approx. 5:45pm.

House Points

Ashley



14136

Budbury



14416

Conigre



13147

Huntingdon



13968

Westfield



13951

THE HUB@BA15
BRIDGING THE GAP
OPEN MON - FRI
10am-1pm

WELCOMING & FOR EVERYONE

The Hub
BRADFORD ON AVON

BRADFORD ON AVON
foodbank

THE HUB@BA15
is a voluntary community group offering
advice, information and support

Foodbank • Debt & budgeting advice • Welfare benefits
& tax credit advice • Meeting room for hire • Drop ins /
signposting to organisations & agencies (Julian House,
Selwood, PCSO) • Form filling • CV • Job applications
Internet access • Weekly recovery groups (AA & CA)

Working in partnership with:

BRADFORD-ON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL
BRADFORD-ON-AVON COMMUNITY AREA
Wiltshire Council
the trussell TRUST

SERVING THE
BRADFORD-ON-AVON
COMMUNITY AREA
Bradford on Avon
Winsley • Holt • Limply
Stoke • South Wroxall
Westwood • Staverton
Wingfield

01225 920748 - www.boahub.co.uk - info@boahub.co.uk
Church Street, Bradford on Avon, BA15 1LS Charity Number- 1160907

The Hub in the centre of Bradford-On-Avon is here to Help any family that is struggling financially. We are a registered charity that Can supply essential foods for Free.

Food can be collected from the Hub or from the school or delivered upon request.

We are here to help.
Please do contact us if we can Help in any way.

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 YOUTH VIOLENCE

UNDERSTANDING YOUTH VIOLENCE

Youth violence affects one in four children in the UK, but it doesn't have to. When parents, carers, and educators understand the risks, they're better placed to support young people. The right support, mentoring, therapy, and guidance can help young people affected by violence to feel safe, manage conflict, and make positive choices.

WHY DO YOUNG PEOPLE COMMIT SERIOUS VIOLENCE?

A recent study surveyed over 10,000 young people affected by violence, asking why serious violence occurs among their peers, such as an assault involving a weapon or sexual violence. The most common reasons given were due to a personal characteristic of the victim e.g., race, religion, sexuality, gender, a gang or school rivalry, and being provoked. While not all young people face these issues, many lack the emotional regulation skills needed to manage provocation.

WHAT ARE SIGNS A YOUNG PERSON IS AT RISK?

Children and young people often express that something is wrong through behaviour rather than words. Be alert to signs such as sudden mood changes, secrecy around friendships, excessive phone use, unfamiliar slang, unexplained injuries, fear of school, aggression, going missing, or substance use. They may also be associating with older peers. These behaviours can indicate underlying issues that can lead to violence.

ONLINE INFLUENCES

Social media plays a powerful role in normalising and escalating violence. Platforms like TikTok and Snapchat can expose young people to harmful content, often shaped by algorithms. Many see violent material that distorts reality, leading to fear and desensitisation. A recent study found 70% had seen real-world violence online, and 80% felt less safe in their communities. Alarmingly, 39% said it made them more likely to carry a weapon. Online conflict can often spill into real life, with serious and sometimes tragic consequences.

Opportunity

Community

Wellbeing

Respect

UNCERTAINTY

CONFLICT

FEAR

WHEN IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

For children and young people in England and Wales, the hours between 4 pm and 8 pm – just after school – carry a particularly high risk for serious violence. This can stem from conflicts that escalate during the school day, online arguments, or simply moving through unfamiliar areas on the way home. Understanding this risk helps us support safer travel and routines. Our recent report found that over one in three young people don't feel safe in the area they live in, and 38% don't feel safe walking the streets.

WHY MIGHT A YOUNG PERSON CARRY A WEAPON?

Young people may carry weapons due to fear, threats, peer pressure, or a false sense of protection. Many young people tell us they feel unsafe and carry weapons 'just in case', while others may be influenced by social media, peers, or criminal activity. Some don't realise it's illegal or may believe it earns respect.

WHERE IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

Violence often happens in certain places. Busy areas like transport hubs carry risk simply because lots of people gather there. Other hotspots, like places linked to drug activity, attract those more likely to be involved in violence. Some areas become risky due to poor supervision, such as under-resourced public spaces. Understanding where violence tends to occur helps us guide young people safely through their communities and advocate for better support and safer spaces.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT STAYING SAFE

Choose a safe moment for the conversation, emotionally and physically. If a child is upset or angry, help them settle before discussing serious topics. Listen actively without judgement, even if what they share is difficult. Avoid interrupting and offer advice when the time feels right. If you're worried, you're not alone; support is available.

AVOID CONFLICT & MANAGE ESCALATIONS

Encourage young people to consider the 'Safe T's' – Trust instincts, Take a breath, and Talk to a trusted adult. When triggered or provoked, they may react from their 'survival brain', unable to think clearly about the consequences. Taking a breath helps calm, and helps them access their 'thinking brain'. Remind them that moments pass, and seeking support from trusted adults builds resilience and safer decision-making.

HELP CHILDREN UNDERSTAND CONSEQUENCES

Young people can be searched by police or teachers if suspected of carrying a weapon. If found with a knife, they could face arrest and criminal proceedings. A conviction can result in a criminal record. Even being present during a violent assault, encouraging it, filming, or sharing footage can lead to prosecution. Open and honest conversations can help children understand these risks and make safer choices.

REPORT INFORMATION

We all have a role in preventing violence. If a child shares concerns, you can act. For educators, it's important to follow your school's safeguarding procedures. Other adults can report anonymously through Fearless or Crimestoppers, and speak with other parents, the school, or local police through 101. If someone is in immediate danger, always call 999. These steps help protect children and the wider community.

Meet Our Expert

The Ben Kinsella Trust is a UK anti-knife crime charity educating young people through immersive workshops, awareness campaigns, and community resources. Visit: benkinsella.org.uk



The National College

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



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/www.thenationalcollege



@wake.up.wednesday



@wake.up.weds

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Community News

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

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 and cheese platters are on sale through Eventbrite! There will be a cash bar on the night. Come as a team of 6 or form a team on this night.

Buy your tickets here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-laurence-school-quiz-night-tickets-1680001141639?aff=oddtcreator>



E-scooters & electric bikes - do you know the law?



E-scooters are classed as motor vehicles under the Road Traffic Act 1988.

You therefore need to have:

- **A driving licence**
- **Insurance**
- **MOT and Tax**

It is against the law to ride them on the roads/ pavements or in public spaces. This includes car parks and play parks.

Legal **electrically assisted pedal cycles** can be ridden by people over 14 years old. To be compliant with the law:

- It must have pedals which you need to turn to propel it
- It should have a motor of 250 watts or less
- The electrical assist should cut out at 15.5 mph

If it doesn't meet these criteria, it is classed as a motor vehicle and needs a licence, insurance, MOT and tax to be ridden legally.

If you use an e-scooter or e-bike against the law, you run the risk of it being seized and destroyed. You may also be prosecuted.



Wiltshire and Swindon
pcc