

Parent / Carer Bulletin

Care • Inspire • Succeed

Week Commencing Monday 3rd February 2025

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers

I just wanted to give you a reminder that the Year 9 Subject Evening is coming up this week. This is an important event, as it's the time when students will begin to be more informed as they make their GCSE option choices. This is a big moment in their school journey, and it's important that both you and your child are fully involved in making these decisions. We really encourage you to attend, as it's a great opportunity to discuss your child's progress, strengths, and the subjects they're considering for GCSE.

During this time, teachers will be available to chat about each student's progress and to help guide them through the options process. We want to make sure that students are choosing subjects that suit their skills and interests as well as getting a broad curriculum, so please do ask any questions you might have. This is a key moment to help set them up for success in the future.

I also want to take a moment to address something important. We've had to take a firm line with a few students recently who have not been following repeated requests regarding the use of the toilets. Students have been told by tutors, Mrs Overfield and myself and I also wrote to parents about it. As you can imagine, we want to make sure everyone is treating their learning seriously and respecting the school and each other, so we've had to step in to make sure expectations are clear. We'll continue to work with students to help them stay on track, and we'd really appreciate your support in reinforcing these expectations at home.

Thanks for your understanding and I hope you have a good week

Mr Farrer

WEEK B	CALENDAR - TERM 3
Monday 3 rd February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y11 Art & Y12 Photography Trip
Tuesday 4 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y12/13 Atomic Agency Trip• Y12 Holocaust Conference• Y12 Safe Drive Stay Alive Roadshow• Y7 U12 Girls Football County Cup Quarter Final• Y12/13 Glass Art Workshop
Wednesday 5 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y12 Reports issued• Y8 Author Visit
Thursday 6 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 1:30PM• Y9 Subject Consultation Meetings 2:30pm – 7:30pm
Friday 7 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MP Visit

WEEK A	
Monday 10th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Apprentice Week • Y11 Dance Solo GCSE Exam
Tuesday 11th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y10 Graphics Trip • Y11 Drama Performance and Scripted Pieces to Audience
Wednesday 12th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y11 Drama Scripted Exam • 7LG1 Conversation and Craft Trip • 2nd Hand Uniform Sale; 4.00pm - 6.00pm
Thursday 13th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y10 & Y13 Reports issued • Y11 Photography Trip • Y9 Inspirational talk by Junior Saunders • Y8/9/10 Dance Performance • Term 3 ends 3.00pm
Friday 14th February	

In this week's bulletin:

- Liberal Democrat MP Visit
- Auditions for Chance to Dance Open
- Commemorating Holocaust Memorial Day
- Reminder – Changes to Lunchtime Routine
- Online Safety – Is WhatsApp Safe for my Child

.... **And lots more!**

From: Mrs Rhodes - KS3 Director of Learning and Progress

Year 9 Subject Consultation Meetings - Thursday 6th February 2:30pm – 7:30pm

Please make sure you have booked appointments through SchoolCloud for the Year 9 Subject Consultation Meetings on Thursday 6th February.

If you are unable to attend, please contact the Progress Team (progressteam@st-laurence.com), as we do monitor attendance to these events.

If you need assistance in making the appointments, please also email the Progress Team and they can help you with this.

Kind regards, Mrs Rhodes

From: Ms Browne - Teacher of English / Literacy Coordinator

Local MP Visit



Our newly elected Liberal Democrat MP for Melksham and Devizes, Brian Matthew will be visiting the school on Friday 7th February to meet staff and students.

He will meet an audience of 6th Form students to talk about his career in politics and answer questions on local, national and global issues that matter to them. A small number of other students who are part of the Connect team will also attend.

From: Mrs Eyles – Head of Dance

Auditions for Chance to Dance 2025

Auditions will be held on Wednesday 12th February 2025 from 3:00pm until 4:30pm.

A maximum of 15 slots are available - students must add their name to the audition list as soon as possible.

All students are welcome to audition except Year 11 as their choreographed sets are in the Showcase.

If selected, students must be available for the lighting run on Tuesday 25th March (during school hours) and the showcase on Wednesday 26th March from 3:00pm – 10:00 pm. They must also attend rehearsals after half term (Wednesdays or Thursdays (tbc))

All dancers who took part in the Bath Forum will be expected to perform in Chance to Dance which takes place on Wednesday, 26th March 2025, in the Wiltshire Music Centre.

From: Ms Favali - Teacher of Psychology

Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day is commemorated each year on 27th January. This year marked the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Four of our brilliant Year 12 students have planned and delivered Collective Worship and a tutorial activity for students this week to commemorate victims and survivors of the Holocaust and other genocides.

They are also participating in a national project “The Holocaust, Their Family, Me and Us” where they are exploring the family histories and legacies of third generation survivors Natalie and Louisa Clein. As part of this project, they have produced an excellent display board outside of the ILC where students can find out more about the Clein family and Jewish resistance during the Holocaust.



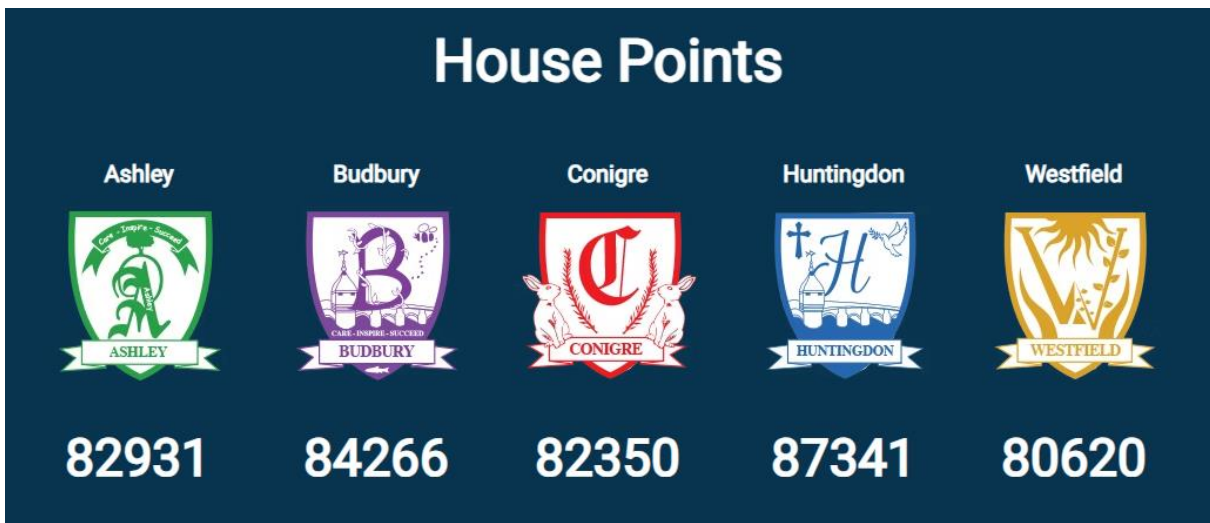
From: Mrs Nash – Head of Drama

Letters will shortly be sent about a trip to see 'The 39 Steps' at the Salisbury Playhouse in the evening of Wednesday 26th February.

The trip is open to GCSE and A level Drama students with spare spaces being allocated to Year 9. Priority for those spaces will be given to students who are considering taking Drama GCSE next year.

Forms should be returned by Friday 7th February - either in the post box outside Reception or by email to Mrs Nash catnas@st-laurence.com

We were very pleased that the heavy rain last week did not prevent our auditions for 'We Will Rock You' to go ahead. Thank you to all the students who took part. Cast lists will be up before half term and everyone involved should collect a script from the Drama department before they go on holiday.



Changes to Lunchtime Routines for Years 7-9

On January 6th 2025, the school implemented several changes to KS3 students lunchtime routines. The purpose of this is to ensure a more orderly queueing system.

New timings:

- Year 7 will continue to have a separate queue and can enter all during lunch break
- Year 9 can enter from 12:30pm – 12:40pm
- Year 8 can enter from 12:40pm – 12:50pm

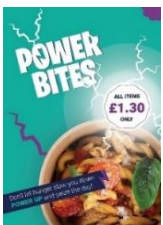
Further support:

- Additional tills operating to reduce queuing times

We hope all of this will improve the experience of all students and staff using the restaurant.

Thanks for your anticipated support of these changes

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/catering)

Dear Parents,

Please Save the SLSA!

Our school's Parent-Teacher Association (the SLSA) is a vital part of supporting our students and enhancing their educational experience. However, without the continued involvement of parents like you, the PTA may not be able to continue its important work. The funds we raise go directly toward resources and programs that benefit our children — from classroom supplies and field trips to special events that enrich their learning.

Getting involved is easier than you think. Whether it's volunteering your time, helping at events, or simply donating, every bit of support makes a huge impact. Even small contributions add up and directly support the programs that make our school a special place for learning.

We need your help to keep the PTA alive and thriving. Together, we can continue to provide our children with the best opportunities. Please consider joining us and making a difference today!

Sadly, if we don't have a full committee at the end of the summer term, we will have to close.

UNIFORM SALE – Can you help?

We have a large amount of second hand uniform, generously donated by our parents and carers, for sale. Most items of uniform are available and in all sizes. 100% of proceeds goes towards a range of resources and activities for the benefit of our students.

A handful of staff have volunteered to run the sale but **more hands are needed** – if you can spare any time to help out during the sale please email admin@st-laurence.com

All are welcome – including well behaved younger children!

Our sale of pre-loved uniform is taking place on:

Wednesday 12th February

4:00pm – 6:00pm

Trinity Hall

DO YOU KNOW...?



There is a parent run Facebook page dedicated to buying, selling or swapping uniform.

Join the group at: **St Laurence Buy Sell Swap School Items / Uniform**

From: PE Department

Sporting Results and Upcoming Fixtures

Results - Congratulations to all students involved

Football

Year 8 Football Tournament at John of Gaunt: Wins: 1 Draws: 1

St Laurence 0 – 3 St Augustine's (Year 7 Girls)

St Laurence 2 – 0 John of Gaunt (Year 9 Boys)

Table Tennis

West Wilts Table Tennis Competition: Team A: 1st Place

Team B: 2nd Place

Upcoming Fixtures

Tuesday 4th February

Year 9 Boys Football Tournament at John of Gaunt. Return approx. 5:45pm
U12 Girls Football County Cup vs Great Western Academy (A). Return approx. 5pm
Year 8 Boys Football vs John of Gaunt (H). Finish approx. 5:00pm

Wednesday 5th February

Year 7 Boys Football vs John of Gaunt (H). Finish approx. 5:00pm
U14 Girls Football vs John of Gaunt (H). Finish approx. 5:00pm
U16 Girls Football Tournament at John of Gaunt. Return approx. 5:45pm

Thursday 6th February

Year 10 Netball Tournament at Devizes School. Return approx. 5:30pm

Uniform Provider Price & Buckland Launch new E-Commerce Website

The new website, which goes “live” on **Tuesday 11th February**, will give parents and carers the following benefits:

- If you have children at different schools, you will be able to order from multiple schools with ease
- The availability to spread payment across 3 months through Klarna
- You will be prompted when you are close to the free delivery threshold
- More payment options with the introduction of Apple Pay and Google Pay

Price & Buckland
SCHOOLWEAR SINCE 1888

NEW SCHOOL UNIFORM WEBSITE LAUNCH

On the **11th** of February we will launch our **NEW** website.
The URL remains:
www.price-buckland.co.uk

Website QR code. This will take you to the homepage to search for your school

If you have ordered from our website before, go to the **Account Section** and **re-set** your password. You can use the same password that you have currently.

You can then see previous orders and manage your account.

Any Questions? Call us on 01159 640827

Online Safety

Is WhatsApp safe for my child?



WhatsApp is one of the most popular instant messaging apps, used by over 2 billion people in 180 countries.

Although rated at 16+, all that is required is a phone number. All it takes is one child in a class to be on WhatsApp, and all the others will wish to join. This can lead to increased vulnerabilities for child users.

The NSPCC has released its own analysis about the dangers of the app. If interested, please follow the link: [Is WhatsApp safe for my child? | NSPCC](#)

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEVELOP EMOTIONAL LITERACY

Emotional literacy refers to the ability to recognise, understand and express our feelings effectively. It plays a crucial role in strengthening a child's wellbeing by enhancing their relationships and resilience. However, emotional literacy is not necessarily an innate talent, and its development may present challenges. This guide gives parents and educators practical tips on supporting children to cultivate this essential skill.

- 1 NAME THE EMOTION**
Encourage children to identify and name their emotions. This helps them understand what they're feeling and why. Use simple language and relatable examples to make it easier for them to share their emotions. This builds a foundation for emotional understanding and open communication.
- 2 MODEL EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION**
Demonstrate healthy emotional expression by sharing your feelings visibly. When children see adults properly displaying how they're doing and what they're thinking, they learn to do the same. Discuss how you handle emotions in different circumstances, providing a real-life framework for young ones to follow.
- 3 MINDFULNESS ACTIVITIES**
Teach children mindfulness practices to help them stay present and manage their emotions during more challenging moments. Activities like deep breathing, meditation or yoga can reduce stress and enhance emotional regulation. Regular practice can improve focus and emotional stability, which can significantly help children both as they're growing up and throughout their adult life.
- 4 USE STORYTELLING**
Incorporate storytelling to help children understand emotions. Stories can offer relevant scenarios illustrating how the characters experience and manage their feelings. Discuss the emotions depicted in stories and ask children how they might feel in similar situations.
- 5 PRACTISE EMPATHY**
Teach children to consider others' views and emotions – and to explore why they might think or feel that way. Role-playing and discussing various scenarios can enhance their ability to empathise. Understanding others' emotions helps children to develop compassion and improves their social interactions.
- 6 ENCOURAGE JOURNALING**
Suggest keeping a journal to make note of thoughts and emotions, as writing can provide an outlet for self-reflection and emotional processing. Encourage children to write about their daily experiences and feelings, helping them gain insight into their emotional world. Do this alongside them, so they can see and experience how to do it effectively.
- 7 TEACH PROBLEM-SOLVING**
Do what you can to help children develop problem-solving skills to assist in managing emotional challenges. Discuss potential solutions to emotional conflicts and encourage them to think critically about what they (and others) can do to process their feelings in a healthy way. This empowers children to handle emotions positively and build resilience.
- 8 CREATE A SAFE SPACE**
Establish an environment where children feel safe to display their emotions without judgement. Encourage open exchanges and reassure them that all feelings are valid. This supportive atmosphere promotes trust and encourages children to express themselves with confidence.
- 9 USE VISUAL AIDS**
Take advantage of visual aids like emotion charts or mood meters to help children identify and express their feelings. Use these tools regularly in your interactions. They provide a visual representation of emotions, making it easier for children to communicate their emotional state.
- 10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL GROWTH**
Acknowledge and celebrate progress in emotional literacy, and praise children for expressing their emotions and handling them effectively. Positive reinforcement is a useful tool that will encourage continued growth and reinforces the importance of emotional literacy – encouraging young people to maintain the good habits and healthy behaviours that you've taught them.

Meet Our Expert
Adam Gillett is Associate Vice-Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School and works on a secondment one day a week for Minds Ahead, an organisation that supports schools in improving their mental health provision.

WakeUp Wednesday
The National College



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

Former Student has Photograph Featured in British Wildlife Photography Awards Book

Joe Dagger, who left St Laurence School last year, has had his photograph “Kissing Hares” accepted into the British Wildlife Photography Awards 2025 competition, due to be judged in March.

Kissing Hares has also been selected to be published in the BWPAs collection 13 book which will showcase the top 250 images from the competition. Joe is proud to have been told his entries are in the top 2% of images entered this year. We all wish you every success in the competition Joe.

