

Parent / Carer Bulletin

Care • Inspire • Succeed

Week Commencing Monday 27th January 2025

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you found the Year 9 Options Event helpful and informative. It was a pleasure to see so many of you engaging with staff and learning more about the subjects available to your child as they begin to shape their academic future. We hope the evening provided clarity and guidance on the various pathways and that you feel more confident in supporting your child with their decisions.

As we continue through the term, I would like to remind you that reports for both Year 7 and Year 9 students will be issued this week. These reports will provide insight into your child's progress so far and offer an opportunity to reflect on their achievements and areas for improvement. We encourage you to review these reports with your child and discuss their next steps, ensuring they have the support they need to succeed in the coming months.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Mr Farrer

WEEK A	CALENDAR - TERM 3
Monday 27 th January	•
Tuesday 28 th January	•
Wednesday 29 th January	•
Thursday 30 th January	• Y7 & Y9 Reports Issued • Y10 UKMT Challenge
Friday 31 st January	•

WEEK B	
Monday 3 rd February	• Y11 & Y12 Photography Trip
Tuesday 4 th February	• Y12/13 Atomic Agency Trip • Y12 Holocaust Conference • Y12 Safe Drive Roadshow • Y7 U12 Girls Football Quarter Final • Y12/13 Glass Art Workshop
Wednesday 5 th February	• Y12 Reports Issued • Y8 Author Visit
Thursday 6 th February	• School closes at 1.30pm • Y9 Subject Consultation Meetings
Friday 7 th February	•

In this week's bulletin:

- An Invitation from the Drama Team
- Whopping Uniform Sale Day
- Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde for Year 10 Students
- Online Safety – Health and Fitness Apps
- Community News – Pages 7-8

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

Sent on behalf Beeline Coaches

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Re: St Laurence SL1 – Paxcroft/Hilperton to St Laurence School

I'm writing to provide an update on the SL1 Paxcroft to St Laurence School bus and the challenges we're currently facing with overloading due to the bus's seating capacity (maximum of 53 seats).

To ensure all students who rely on this service can travel comfortably and without disruption, we've introduced the following ticketing priorities:

- Weekly tickets purchased on Mondays will guarantee a seat
- 3-day and 4-day tickets, used on consecutive days, will also secure a seat

Unfortunately, due to the current high demand, students purchasing ad-hoc tickets are unlikely to secure a seat. For those needing occasional travel, we recommend exploring public bus or train options.

The service is designed for **regular** daily users, and at this time, we cannot guarantee seats for ad-hoc travel. While we are constantly reviewing the situation, current demand does not justify the addition of a second bus at a ticket price that would remain affordable for families.

We understand this may cause some inconvenience, and we greatly appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to provide the best possible service for our students.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us at 01985 213503 or info@beelinecoaches.co.uk

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Kind regards,
Rob Wickett
General Manager, Beeline Coaches

From: Mrs Nash – Head of Drama

GCSE Practical Exams

Year 11 are busy preparing for their practical scripted examinations. This will take place on Wednesday 12th February when an external examiner watches the pieces and assesses them.

To help ensure that the students are completely prepared there will be an open dress rehearsal on **Tuesday 11th February** in the Drama Studio, **starting at 6:00pm**. We hope that family and friends will come and support and would also recommend that GCSE Drama pupils in Year 10, as well as Year 9 pupils considering taking GCSE Drama attend.

KS3 Drama Clubs

There will be **NO** KS3 Drama Club on Tuesday 28th or Wednesday 29th January due to auditions for the whole school summer production of 'We Will Rock You'. Audition materials are still available to collect from Miss Davies or Dr Barclay and students can find more details of the auditions on posters displayed around the school.

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**

House Points

Ashley	Budbury	Conigre	Huntingdon	Westfield
				
79342	80872	79335	83810	77577

From: Mr Chadwick – Director of English

Parents and carers of Year 10 students

Has your child got their copy of DR Jekyll and Mr Hyde by RL Stevenson?

In terms 4 and 5, Year 10 students will be studying The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by RL Stevenson for the 19th century text part of their GCSE English Literature course.

As usual with GCSE Literature set texts, we are asking parents and carers to buy students their own copy of Jekyll and Hyde. This is so students can make notes in their own copy, have a personal copy for lessons and homework, and also for re-reading as part of their revision in Year 11.

There are various editions of this novel available. Some students like to use the 'annotation-friendly' (sometimes called 'dyslexia-friendly') editions that are published, where there is more space for student notes, and a bigger than usual font is used; however, a Wordsworth Classics or Penguin Classics edition is suitable as well. Individual class teachers might advise students of their 'preferred' edition.

Please order this text as soon as possible. Ex Libris in Bradford on Avon, or Waterstones in The Shires in Trowbridge, will be able to source a copy within 24 hours, if they do not have any in stock. The usual online suppliers should be able to do likewise.

Revision guides are also available; we recommend the York Notes revision guide (link below).

[Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde: York Notes for GCSE - everything you need to study and prepare for the 2025 and 2026 exams : Rooney, Anne, Stevenson, Robert: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#)

The school will buy a copy of the novel and a revision guide for some students who are in receipt of the Pupil Premium; individual class teachers will advise students of this.

Thank you.

SCREENING OF MACBETH, WILTSHIRE MUSIC CENTRE, SATURDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2025, 2:00pm



[Screening: Macbeth - David Tennant & Cush Jumbo - Wiltshire Music Centre](#)
www.wiltshiremusic.org.uk

The Donmar Warehouse production of Macbeth will be screening at the Wiltshire Music centre on the above date. We recommend Year 11 students take advantage of seeing this production of their GCSE English Literature Shakespeare play at a venue so close to home. Booking is open.

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 \(st-laurence.com\)](http://st-laurence.com)

From: PE Department

Sporting Results and Upcoming Fixtures.

Results

Football

Year 7 football tournament at John of Gaunt: Wins 2. Draws 1.
St Laurence 9 – 1 Clarendon (Year 11 Boys)
St Laurence 0 – 2 Clarendon (Year 8 Boys)

Netball

St Laurence 14 – 7 Clarendon (Year 8)
St Laurence 14 – 14 Clarendon (Year 9)
St Laurence 7 – 6 Clarendon (Year 7A)
St Laurence 6 – 11 Clarendon (Year 7B)

Congratulations to all students involved.

Upcoming Fixtures

Tuesday 28th January

Year 8 Boys Football Tournament at John of Gaunt. Return approx. 5:30pm

Wednesday 29th January

West Wilts Table Tennis Competition at Warminster Cricket Club. Return approx. 6:30pm

Thursday 30th January

Year 7 Girls Football vs St Augustine's. Return approx. 5:30pm
Year 9 Boys Football vs John of Gaunt. Finish approx. 4:45pm

Online Safety

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 HEALTH & FITNESS APPS

Physical wellbeing apps are useful tools for monitoring and improving our health. They allow us to balance nutrition, set goals, track our activities and sleep patterns, and motivate us to exercise. Nonetheless, there have been some reported drawbacks; this guide outlines some of these concerns and explains how to use fitness apps safely.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- LACK OF PERSONALISATION**
Many apps take a one-size-fits-all approach, failing to account for the varying ages and abilities of children. A 10-year-old, for example, will have different physical needs to a child of 15. This one-size-fits-all approach may lead to exercises which may be too advanced for younger children or too simple for older ones.
- NOT DEVELOPED BY EXPERTS**
Some fitness and wellbeing apps are developed by experts in the field – but as a concerning number of them aren't, in fact, these platforms may contain inaccurate information. They may present safety concerns by giving incorrect advice regarding physical activities or might include age inappropriate content which would clearly cause more harm than good.
- REDUCED INTERACTION WITH OTHERS**
Physical wellbeing apps can remove the social and interactive elements which physical activities can offer – for instance, meeting people at fitness classes, all the gym or during any other such activities. Research has found that young people generally dislike this aspect of fitness apps, suggesting that they would rather interact with the company of friends or other like-minded individuals.
- DATA AND PRIVACY CONCERNS**
Fitness and wellbeing apps tend to collect a lot of personal information from their users – including names, location, date of birth, details of their physical health and more. It's worth keeping in mind that some of these apps may sell this data to third parties. We'd advise that any apps young people download should have the correct legislation in place to protect their safety and privacy while using the service.
- ADDITIONAL COSTS**
While many fitness apps are free to download, the initial content is quite basic. Users will only receive more content as they progress through the app. However, additional content or personalised plans may require up to 10p a week or more for extra features. This can incentivise users to spend money on the service – a cost which can quickly mount up.
- DEPENDENCY ON THE APP**
While physical wellbeing apps can help motivate young users to change their fitness, there's a possibility that – without being used regularly – users may stop using the app. This could mean that users may stop exercising, which could lead to a decline in their physical health and wellbeing. Research has found that users who stop using fitness apps often experience a decline in their physical health and wellbeing.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- EXERCISE AND SOCIALISE**
Highlight the importance of children enjoying fitness activities with family and friends. Encourage them to exercise with family and friends rather than solely relying on an app to motivate them. Regularly remind them of the importance of staying active, as well as the benefits of doing so with company.
- PROMOTE POSITIVE BODY IMAGE**
While we want children to be active and healthy, we must also ensure they don't become fixated on how they look and begin to take things too far. During childhood and adolescence, the body is still growing and changing. It's a strong reminder for young people's wellbeing that we promote a positive body image and a healthy relationship with food, empowering them to make informed decisions about their diet and lifestyle.
- MEET OUR EXPERT**
Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented online safety and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government concerning internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.
- REVIEW THE APP FIRST**
Before allowing someone under 18 to install a fitness and wellbeing app, check its age rating, read its review and scroll through its data policy, as well as the privacy policy for younger users. You could also try it yourself, to see if it's appropriate for the child's particular needs and decide if you're comfortable with their using it. Ensure that any privacy-compromising features – such as location tracking – are disabled.
- USE PARENTAL CONTROLS**
As with all apps, it's important for parents to familiarise themselves with any controls on the app and to use these as a child's account. The specific settings vary between platforms but – most commonly – there will be a way to toggle the app's location tracking, to see if it's appropriate for the child's particular needs and decide if you're comfortable with their using it. Ensure that any privacy-compromising features – such as location tracking – are disabled.

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/wellbeing-fitness-apps>

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

@wake_up_weds | www.thenationalcollege | @wake.up.wednesday | @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: 22.03.2023



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



V Code

STEM Code & Careers Bootcamp
Saturday 22nd February 2025
 At: University of Bath Campus
 For Girls in Yr 8 to Y 13.
Free Event


In this workshop you'll:

- **Learn Coding Basic:** Join an interactive session on coding skills.
- **Hear from Women in STEM:** Gain insights from professionals about their careers and experiences.
- **Q&A with Students:** Chat with current students to learn about studying and thriving as a woman in STEM.






Learn More & Register: www.mightygirls.co.uk



Art & Photography Body Positive Workshop


TUESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY
 BRADFORD ON AVON
 9.30 - 4. AGE 11+ (SECONDARY)
 £39


An exciting day of art and photography.

Plan and be in your own photoshoot and create a monoprint and collage of your photo. Develop your creative skills, confidence, and challenge stereotypes of body image.

No previous experience necessary. Funded and sibling discount available.

Further details visit www.mightygirls.co.uk

Partially funded by:  **Wiltshire Council**



OUTDOOR MUSIC FESTIVAL AT BRADFORD TOWN FC
28TH JUNE 2025

SOUNDS AT THE GROUND



FEATURING TOP OASIS TRIBUTE BAND

Definitely Mightbe

CONCRETE PRAIRIE **BILLY IN THE LOWGROUND**
THE WORRIED MEN **BUTANE SKIES**
FORTUNATE SONS **FUNKED UP**


 Gates open 12:00, full bar and food available.
 Tickets now on sale at www.ticketsource.co.uk/satg25
 Early bird ticket £17.50 (+booking fee) available until 28th February 2025.
 Limited tickets available, book now to avoid disappointment.
 Trowbridge Road, Bradford on Avon, BA15 1EX

6th Form Student to run the Bath Half Marathon in Aid of Refugee Charity

On Sunday 16th March, Year 13 student Luke Hughes will be joining 15,000 other runners to complete the "BATHHALF".

If you wish to donate and help Luke reach his goal, this is his fund-raising page:

<https://care4calais.enthuse.com/pf/luke-hughes-bath-half>

You can find out more about Luke's chosen charity here: [Care4Calais](#) | [Refugee Charity](#) | [Fundraise Donate Volunteer](#)

The poster features a silhouette of a runner in the background. At the top left is the 'CARE 4 CALAIS' logo in white on a red background. To its right, the text 'Luke Hughes Year 13 St Laurence' is displayed. Further right is the 'BATH HALF' logo in white on a blue background. The main title 'Bath Half Marathon For Care4Calais' is centered in large blue font. Below the title, on the right, is a 'More Info' link with a downward arrow. On the left, a text block describes Care4Calais's work. A large QR code is positioned in the center-right, with an upward arrow pointing to it and the text 'Please Donate!!' below. At the bottom left, the charity's registration number is provided.

CARE 4 CALAIS

Luke Hughes
Year 13
St Laurence

BATH HALF

Bath Half Marathon For Care4Calais

[More Info](#)

Care4Calais:
distribute
essentials (clothes,
sleeping bags,
etc), offer phone
charging and food
packs to refugees
in France +
Belgium

(Care4Calais registered
charity number 1169048)

Please Donate!!