



Headteacher's update

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that the half term is a restful one.

This new term will see the start of many of the practical exams for Year 11 and 13 students and we wish them the very best with these. Support is available in school but please do let us know if there is anything further we can do.

We also have the Year 12 Subject Evening in the first week back, on 27th February. Please ensure you have made appointments. At the half-way stage of the academic year, this will be a good opportunity to hear from staff as to the progress that students are making in their A levels

Can I also keep sending out a plea for support with our SLSA (St Laurence School Association). We have benefitted so much over the years and the Wellbeing Week is being almost fully funded by their activities and hard work. In order for us to continue to run these events for students, we need an active SLSA. Even offering two or three hours is helpful. Please, please, please do consider taking part.

Mr Farrer

Key dates for your diary

Monday 24th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Term 4 Begins 8:35am • Drama Workshop (NT Connections)
Tuesday 25th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y10 – Y13 Careers Webinars •
Wednesday 26th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y8 HPV Vaccinations Day • Y9 Options Forms Returns Deadline • 7LG4 Conversation & Craft • "We will Rock You" read through • Drama Trip, Salisbury Playhouse
Thursday 27th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table Tennis Competition • Y10D Graphics Exam • Y12 Subject Evening
Friday 28th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y10B Graphics Exam

Monday 3rd March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Careers Week • Y10 Science Trip
Tuesday 4th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y13 Drama Exam

Wednesday 5th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y8-12 Awards Evening
Thursday 6th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y10 Photography Exam • Y9 Black Rock Information Evening
Friday 7th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y10 Art Exam • Y9 Blunt Truth Talk

General notices

Sent on behalf of the School Aged Immunisation Team

The Remainder of **Year 8 HPV (Human Papillomavirus) vaccination, and ad hoc year catch ups will take place in Trinity Hall on Wednesday 26th February 2025, students that have consent will receive appointment times in their tutor trays on Tuesday morning. Should your child be unwell that day please contact HRCG Group direct to rearrange an appointment in the community.**

The HPV vaccine is offered to all boys and girls in Year 8 (aged 12/13 years) because the evidence is clear that the HPV vaccine helps protect both boys and girls from HPV related cancers. More than 280 million doses of the HPV vaccine have been given worldwide, including 120 million doses in the US and over 10 million in the UK.

The HPV vaccine used in the NHS vaccination schedule is Gardasil 9 and protects against 9 of the types of HPV which can cause cancer and genital warts for most people with just one dose.

Full details of the vaccination product used, including full contents can be accessed at:

<https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/7330/smpc#gref>

If you have any queries, please contact our Immunisation Team for support:

Phone: 0300 247 0082

Email: vcl.immunisations@nhs.net

Thank you, School Aged Immunisation Team

A Huge Thank You

Our second hand uniform sale took place on Wednesday 12th February – and it's thanks to the generosity of our families who donated outgrown uniform items for the sale that made it so successful. Every pound raised will go towards the benefit of our students.

The uniform donations are only a part of it – without several of our parents and students volunteering their time to help staff volunteers with the sale it wouldn't have been possible. Your help was very much appreciated.

Finally, the Reception Team (volunteers) enjoyed meeting each and every one of you – whether it was dropping donations off at school, dropping in to buy uniform or helping out on the night and we are looking forward to meeting you all again for the next one (date to be advised).

From: Drama Department

There are just a few more places on the trip to see 'The 39 Steps' at the Salisbury Playhouse on Wednesday 26th February - please can last replies be emailed to Mrs Nash asap catnas@st-laurence.com

Cast of You 2.0 please also remember to return your slip for the workshop that takes place Monday 24th February, 3:00pm – 5:00pm

From: Mrs Baldwin – Outdoor Education Coordinator

Year 9 Black Rock Meetings

During week beginning 24th February I need to see all Year 9 students going to Black Rock. Please remind your child to attend as below:

- Budbury - Monday 24th February, Lecture Theatre
- Huntingdon - Wednesday 26th February, Lecture Theatre
- Conigre - Thursday 27th February, Lecture Theatre
- Westfield - Friday 28th February, Lecture Theatre
- Ashley - Monday 3rd March, sports gym

A date for your diaries: On **6th March** there is a **parent/carer information briefing**

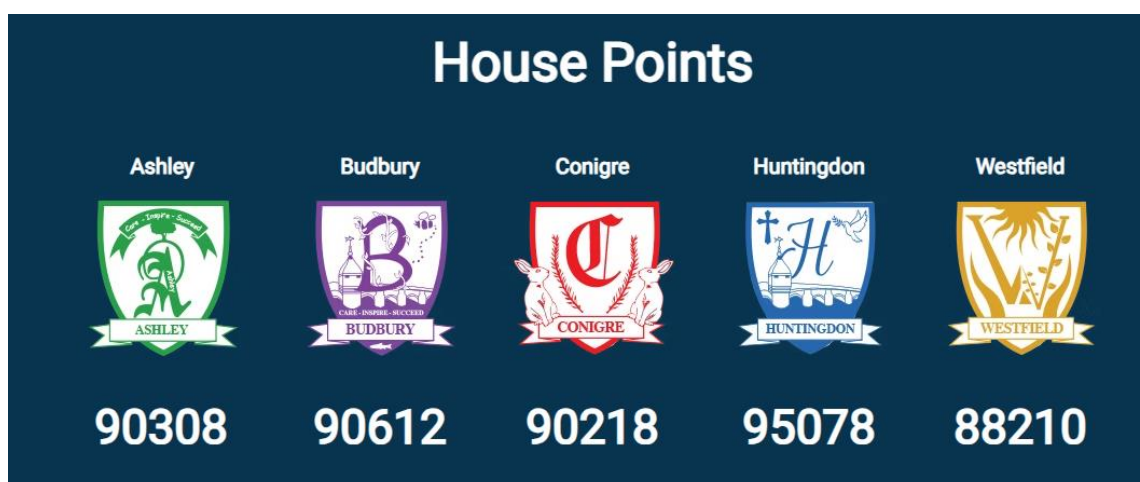
From: Ms Bryer - Head of PSHE

Blunt Truth

We are excited to announce that Wiltshire and Swindon's Police and Crime Commissioner's Office have provided funding for 'Blunt Truth' to be delivered to Year 9 PSHE students throughout the day on Friday 7th March.

'Blunt Truth' is a session which empowers young people to make the right decision in reporting someone they know who carries a weapon. The session also touches on basic First Aid and how to help someone who has been injured. It is an interactive session with a short delivery by the Police, followed by an NHS Doctor or Trauma Nurse and some group work.

Wiltshire Police has successfully delivered Blunt Truth to thirteen schools across Wiltshire during the school year .



From: Ms Favali - Teacher of Psychology



Four of our 6th Form students had the opportunity to attend the 2025 'The Holocaust, their Family, Me and Us' Conference at Royal Wootten Bassett Academy. They spent the day enhancing their understanding of the project through various activities and exploring a number of themes, such as resistance during the Holocaust.

Students also had the great privilege of meeting second and third generation Holocaust survivors Noemie, Bernie, Robert and Angela Rinder, who spent the day at the conference sharing their testimonies and chatting with students.

A truly inspirational day and a reminder of the importance of continuing to commemorate victims of the Holocaust and genocides.



From: PE Department

Sporting Results and Upcoming Fixtures

Results - Congratulations to all students involved

Football

St Laurence 0 – 2 Lavington School (Year 8 Boys)

St Laurence 0 – 1 Lavington School (Year 9 Boys)

St Laurence 5 - 0 Lavington School (Year 7 Boys)

Netball

St Laurence 23 – 26 Clarendon (Year 11 Netball)

St Laurence 3 - 6 Lavington School A (Year 7)

St Laurence 5 - 1 Lavington School B (Year 7)

St Laurence 6 - 10 Dautsey's School (Year 7)

Upcoming Fixtures

Wednesday 26th February

Year 8A Netball vs John of Gaunt (A). Return approx. 5:30pm

Year 9A Netball vs John of Gaunt (A). Return approx. 5:30pm

U14 Girls Football County Cup ¼ Final vs Lydiard Park (H). Finish approx. 5pm

Thursday 27th February

Year 11 Boys Football Tournament at John of Gaunt. Return approx. 5:45pm

KS3 Table Tennis Competition at Royal Wootton Bassett Academy. Return approx. 3:30pm

Year 7A Netball vs John of Gaunt (H). Finish approx. 5:00pm

From: The Careers Team



St Laurence School
Care • Inspire • Succeed

Are you able to help?

Y12: 2nd-6th June 2025 Y10: 9th-13th June 2025

Want to inspire the next generation? Offer a work experience placement to our GCSE and A-Level students! We're looking for businesses passionate about helping young people gain valuable skills.

If you have the time and commitment to support our students please get in touch at:

careers@st-laurence.com



<https://www.st-laurence.com> Ashley Road, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire, BA15 1DZ

From: The Exams Department

Timetable of Y11 March English & Maths Mock Exams <i>w/c 10 March 2025 (in Sports Hall) Week B</i>	
Mon, 10 March	
Lesson 1&2	8.35am - Maths paper 1 1h30m (non-calculator)
Lesson 4&5 early lunch	1.00pm - English Language 1h
Tue, 11 March	
Lesson 4&5 early lunch	1.00pm - Maths paper 2 1h30m (calculator)
Wed, 12 March	
Lesson Tut&1	8.35am - English Literature 45m
Lesson 4&5 early lunch	1.00pm - Maths paper 3 1h30m (calculator)

- All Y11 students will be involved in these exams, and they will be held in the Sports Hall.
- Students should gather under the DT canopy at the times indicated above before making their way to the Sports Hall.
- Students who are in other rooms due to agreed access arrangements will be collected from the canopy by reception.
- All information relating to exams will be displayed on the exams notice board and on Student Portal.
- On exam days students will be free to go home after the last exam of the day or if they need to remain on site to wait for transport, a room will be provided for this.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE RELATIONSHIPS & DATING APPS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Dating apps are used to help people find new relationships – whether casual or more long term – matching users based on age, interests, gender and more. Some may consider dating apps harmless to under-18s because they aren't able to use them, but effective age verification measures are quite scarce, and it's been known for young people to end up on apps of this type.

EASE OF ACCESS

The relatively lax age verification process of many dating apps makes them incredibly accessible to children who really shouldn't be using them. This carries the obvious risk of exposing under-18s to a dating scene populated by adults – who may not even be aware of the young person's true age. This is concerning when we consider the 'hook-up culture' common on these apps – with many people using them to arrange casual sexual encounters.

CONTACT AND CONDUCT RISKS

Once someone is active on a dating app, their social media profiles can be linked to the app and might be accessed by others. This can lead to random users 'sliding into their DM's' (sending a direct message) without consent. Complete strangers could start bombarding a young person's inbox with pictures, messages and sexual comments.

SCAMS AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Some young people may feel they've formed a real bond with someone through online dating, but there's always a risk that it's not genuine. Scammers on these apps often build romantic connections with their victims – then once they feel they have their victim's trust, they begin asking for money under false pretences (such as suggesting they meet in person and requesting a 'loan' to cover a train ticket).

UNVERIFIED ACCOUNTS

As with all online interactions, you may not be talking to whom you think you are. Without paying a subscription, users of dating apps can often only view a certain number of profiles at a time. A TikTok trend has advised young people to set their age limit to 80 years and over – putting them in a sparse and more 'exclusive' category to bypass the usual restrictions. Unfortunately, this can lead to matches with someone much older.

PEER PRESSURE

The pressure to be in a relationship can be huge, and many young people use online dating apps as a cost-effective way to meet others. Some users find it difficult to meet people organically due to their lifestyle, and may not have the time or money to go out and socialise. It's also common for young people to set up accounts for their single friends in the hope of finding a match for someone they know.

SKewed PERSPECTIVES

Dating apps can promote an unrealistic view of what makes someone attractive. With such vast options, some users can become both picky and extremely harsh about others' appearance. Ultimately, all you see on these apps are pictures (with no insight into someone's personality), and some young people struggle with the fear of being judged. Even when someone does start dating, there's a persistent paranoia that their partner is only one swipe away from a potentially better match.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALK ABOUT DATING APPS

Let young people know that they can talk to you about anything, even something as private as their dating life. At school, the relationships, sex and health curriculum can assist with conversations around healthy relationships, consent and online safety. Emphasise the message that you want to help them make healthy, safe and informed choices. If they feel embarrassed talking to you, make sure they have a trusted adult who can help them.

VERIFICATION STAMPS

Explain that someone using a dating app should only communicate with those who have gone through a verification process. Online dating apps use a variety of methods to ascertain a user's identity, including scanning valid documents (such as a driver's licence or passport). Verification can also involve users taking a selfie to ensure that the photos on their profile match it.

ENCOURAGE DATA PROTECTION

Empower young people to protect their data and personal information. Explain why including things like their school, age and surname in their profile could potentially be dangerous. Make sure they know never to give out personal details, and that there's no reason for other users to ask for them. If they feel uneasy about a situation online, they need to speak to someone that they can trust.

REPORT AND BLOCK

Remind young people that they can always report or block (or both) anyone who makes them feel uncomfortable on any platform. Ask if they know how to do this and offer to help them figure it out if they're unsure. Every app should have advice on how to report or block another user, so be sure young people are familiar with the settings.

Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings works at RAISE (www.raiseducation.org.uk) in the field of relationships, sex and health education, providing educational, age-appropriate workshops for pupils around the more sensitive areas of the curriculum – including online safety and healthy relationships.



Source: See full reference list on guide's page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/online-relationships-dating-apps>

Community News

Price & Buckland E-Commerce Website Now Live

Price & Buckland
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

The new website went “live” on **Tuesday 11th February** giving 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

The best way to get fit - set yourself a CHALLENGE!

As an individual or as a team, join our 'Triathlon-4-All' and tailor it to suit your abilities and goals. ALL levels welcome!

I CAN & I AM TRIATHLON-4-ALL

MAY 17, 2025

Choose your distance:

- **Gentle** - 20km cycle; 3km kayak; 3 or 5km run or walk
- **Keen** - 45km cycle; 9km kayak; 5 or 10 km run or walk

The Dundas Aquaduct, Bath BA2 7JD
8am - 5pm followed by an optional informal meal and drinks in Bath

No minimum fundraising requirement
£45 entry pp. U18s/students free.
A suggested donation of £15 pp for evening meal and drinks.

www.icanandiam.com

To find out more contact Bex Burton on:
rebecca@icanandiam.com / 07880 792172



Wiltshire Family and Community Learning

WORKING IN SCHOOLS ONLINE COURSE



Mondays

10:00-12:00 noon

3 March

10 March

17 March

24 March

31 March

**Booking closes
Monday 24 February*

Feel more confident applying for jobs in schools

You will learn about...

- ✓ Roles and responsibilities when supporting learning
- ✓ Behaviour management and Five to Thrive
- ✓ Ways to promote wellbeing and safety
- ✓ Using curriculum guidance

Our courses are free, if you are 19+ years old, resident in the UK/EU for over three years (some immigration status exempt, including resettlement schemes), have a Wiltshire postcode, and meet any of the following criteria: earn less than £25,000pa, in receipt of benefits, military family, foster carer/care leaver/carer, have a disability

Contact: familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk

Call 01225 770478 or scan the qr code

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



**Scan here
to sign up*

Wiltshire Council