# Parent / Carer Bulletin



Care • Inspire • Succeed

Week Commencing Monday 8th September 2025

### Headteacher's Update

#### **Dear Parents and Carers**

I hope you had a wonderful summer

We are delighted to begin this academic year by celebrating the many successes of our pupils over the summer. Our exam results were outstanding, reflecting not only the hard work and resilience of our students but also the dedication of our staff and the support of families. These achievements are a source of great pride for the entire St Laurence community, and we warmly congratulate all those who have now moved on to the next stage of their journeys, whether that be further study, apprenticeships, or the world of work.

At the same time, the start of a new school year has brought fresh energy to our corridors. It has been a real joy to welcome our new Year 7s, who have already begun to settle in with curiosity, confidence, and enthusiasm. Likewise, we are thrilled to see our new Year 12 students joining the 6<sup>th</sup> Form, both from St Laurence but also many other schools, bringing with them ambition and a strong sense of community spirit. We know that transition points can feel both exciting and daunting, and we are deeply impressed with how our students have embraced these new beginnings.

Looking ahead, our priority remains to ensure that every child at St Laurence flourishes academically, socially, and personally. We believe that education works best as a partnership, and we look forward to working closely with you, our parents and carers, to support and guide our young people through the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. With your encouragement and our shared commitment, we are confident that this year will be one of growth, achievement, and joy for every member of our school community.

Together, let us continue to make St Laurence a place where every child can thrive.

Thank you, Mr Farrar

#### **Further news from Mr Farrer:**

I am sorry to inform you that **Mrs Gallally**, one of the Art team, made the decision over the summer to leave teaching. She has done this for family reasons and sends her best wishes to all the students she has taught. The school also wish her the very best for the future.

Mrs Gallally has worked at St Laurence for many years and her service to the school and its students cannot be underestimated or left unmentioned.

## Key dates for your diary - Week B

Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	Normal timetable this week
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	•
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	•
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	•
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> September	•

# Key dates for your diary - Week A

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Normal timetable this week
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	•
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	•
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	•
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	•





# Open Evening Year 5 and 6 Children

**Thursday 25th September 2025** 

5:00pm – 7:30pm



### BOOKINGS OPEN ONLINE 3rd September

Please visit our website to book your place www.st-laurence.com Presentations led by the Headteacher will be at 5:00pm, 5:45pm and 6:30pm

Ashley Road, Bradford on Avon Wiltshire. BA15 1DZ



#### Welcome to Term 1

As we start the new academic year, and welcome new parents and carers of Year 7 students, we've put together a list of responses to the most common FAQ's:

Attendance - If a student is unwell or is going to be absent, please do one of the following:

- email attendance@st-laurence.com
- call the student absence line 01225 309501 by no later than 8:30am or 01225 309575 to report a 6<sup>th</sup> Form student absence

Please state the Students Name, Year, Tutor Group, and the reason for their absence.

**Time off for appointments** – we encourage you to make non-urgent appointments for outside school hours. Where this is not possible, please inform the school at the earliest opportunity.

**Breakfast Club** – open from 7:45am- 8:30am. Using cashless payments through ParentPay only, students can purchase toast, bacon and sausages along with a selection of cold drinks at various prices. Please ensure your ParentPay accounts are updated regularly. Our menus can be found here: <u>Catering | St Laurence School</u>

**Independent Learning Centre (ILC)** and Homework Club – opens at 8:00am and closes at 4:00pm daily.

**Leaving messages for students** – we have a strict policy of no mobile phone use during the school day. If you need to get an urgent message to your child, please call the school and we will pass the message to them on your behalf. This is for **urgent messages** only and we ask that you give us sufficient notice to pass the message on.

**Period Products** - free sanitary products available in the following locations for students to access:

- Student Reception & Medical Room
- PE Department Office
- 6<sup>th</sup> Form Office from Mrs Brown & Mrs Chatfield
- Fitzmaurice Toilets available during break and lunch

#### Parking Rules - Polite Reminder

- Do not park in school spaces whilst dropping students off
- Do not drive to the bottom car park to drop students off unless legitimately using a disabled access space
- Do not exceed 5mph whilst on site
- Roll and drop using the top Ashley Road car park do not sit and park for 15 mins
- Do not park at Wiltshire Music Centre if visiting school
- Supervise your child's exit from the car to ensure they are safe
- Always be mindful of young people around your car
- Follow the one-way system and roundabout direction

Please refer to our website for further information

#### 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)

#### From: Mr Dutton - Deputy Headteacher

If ever you have any concerns about an individual subject, please do contact the relevant Head of Department in the first instance. Their email address can be found here: <a href="https://www.st-laurence.com/staff-contacts">https://www.st-laurence.com/staff-contacts</a>
You will also find a list of tutors and their email addresses should you have more general concerns about your child along with Heads of House contact details.

There have been a few changes to who oversees the different Key Stages and for your convenience, please see below who you should contact if you have any questions about your child's progress:

For Key Stage 3: Mrs Rhodes (Director of Progress and Learning for KS3) or Mr Dutton (Deputy Headteacher)

For Key Stage 4: Mrs Pritchard (Director of Progress and Learning for KS4) or Mr Dutton (Deputy Headteacher)

For Key Stage 5: Mr Hainsworth (Director of 6<sup>th</sup> Form/Assistant Headteacher)

Their relevant email addresses can be found on the website here: https://www.st-laurence.com/curriculum-overview and here: https://www.st-laurence.com/copy-of-6th-form

#### What are the key dates I need to be aware of in Term 1 & Term 2?

	This Term	Next Term
Year 7	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> September – INSET day; school closed to all students	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November – Term 2 commences for all students
	<ul> <li>w/c 6<sup>th</sup> October and 13<sup>th</sup> October –         Year 7 Farm Day trip. More         information to follow</li> <li>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Term 1         ands at 2:00pm for all students</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November – Year 7 report issued</li> <li>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Online parents information evening 5:30-</li> </ul>
	ends at 3:00pm for all students	<ul> <li>6:15pm. More information to follow.</li> <li>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November – In person tutor review for all Year 7 parents.</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>More information to follow</li> <li>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Term 2 ends at 1:30pm for all students</li> </ul>

	This Term	Next Term
Year 8	<ul> <li>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September – INSET day; school closed to all students</li> <li>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October – Year 8 Expectation of Progress report issued</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – Term 2 commences for all students</li> <li>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November – Year 8 report issued</li> <li>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Term 2 ends</li> </ul>
	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October – Term 1 ends at 3:00pm for all students	at 1:30pm for all students
	This Term	Next Term
Year 9	<ul> <li>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September – INSET day; school closed to all students</li> <li>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Term 1 ends at 3:00pm for all students</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – Term 2 commences for all students</li> <li>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November – Year 9 report issued</li> <li>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Term 2 ends at 1:30pm for all students</li> </ul>
	This Term	Next Term
Year 10	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> September – INSET day; school closed to all students	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November – Term 2 commences for all students
	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October – Term 1 ends at 3:00pm for all students	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> November – Year 10 report issued
		Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> November – in person tutor review for all Year 10 parents.  More information to follow
		Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December – Term 2 ends at 1:30pm for all students
	This Term	Next Term
Year 11	<ul> <li>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September – INSET day; school closed to all students</li> </ul>	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November – Term 2 commences for all students
	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October – Year 11 report issued	W/c 10 <sup>th</sup> November – Year 11 mocks begin for 2 weeks TBC
	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October – Term 1 ends at 3:00pm for all students	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December – Term 2 ends at 1:30pm for all students

	This Term	Next Term
Year 12	<ul> <li>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September – INSET day; school closed to all students</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – Term 2 commences for all students</li> </ul>

<ul> <li>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Term 1 ends at 3:00pm for all students</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November – Year 12 reports issued</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Thursday 13<sup>h</sup> November – In person tutor review for all Year 12 parents. More information to follow</li> <li>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Term 2 ends at 1:30pm for all students</li> </ul>

	This Term	Next Term
Year 13	<ul> <li>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September – INSET day; school closed to all students</li> </ul>	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November – Term 2 commences for all students
	Thursday 9th <sup>h</sup> October – Year 13 reports issued	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> November – Year 8 report issued
	<ul> <li>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Term 1 ends at 3:00pm for all students</li> <li>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October/24<sup>th-</sup> -</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November Year -13</li> <li>Subject Evening online 4:00pm-</li> <li>7:30pm</li> </ul>
	October Berlin Trip	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> December-Internal deadline for UCAS applications.
		Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December Year 13 Non- University mock interviews10.00am- 1:00pm
		Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December – Term 2 ends at 1:30pm for all students

#### Mrs Nash - Head of Drama

#### **Shakespeare Schools Festival - The Winters Tale**

For those pupils in Years 8 & 9 cast in this production last term, letters were sent home in July with important dates - including the in-school workshop and the performance at the Merlin Theatre in Frome.

#### Please do return the reply slip if you haven't done so already.

Rehearsals start this Wednesday 10th and Friday 12th September for the whole cast in F7 from 3:15pm to 4:15pm. After these initial two rehearsals, the cast should check the weekly rehearsal schedule on the drama notice board to see when they are required. any questions or problems please speak to or email Mrs Nash (<a href="mailto:catnas@st-laurence.com">catnas@st-laurence.com</a>).

KS3 Drama club will start on a Tuesday from the 16<sup>th</sup> September. Students should sign up on Bromcom as places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis.

#### From: The Lord Fitzmaurice Education Foundation

The Lord Fitzmaurice Education Foundation is a local charity that provides grants to local schools, groups and individuals in and around Bradford on Avon, with the objective of promoting and supporting education, in its broadest sense, to children and young adults aged 25 years and under.

The Foundation is administered by eight trustees who meet formally once a year.

The Foundation was set up when the assets of Fitzmaurice Grammar School, which was in Junction Road, were sold after the amalgamation with Trinity Secondary Modern school in 1980 to form St Laurence Comprehensive. The Foundation is a joint founder of the school together with the Church of England.

The trustees of the foundation play an active role at St Laurence, two of whom serve as School Governors and one who sits on the Academy Board.

The trustees, historically, have had an association with the grammar school either being an ex-pupil or member of staff, however, going forward, the Lord Fitzmaurice Education Foundation want to increase the number of trustees and appoint a representative(s) of the wider community to ensure the educational ethos of the foundation continues in the future.

If you have an interest in the education and support of young people in the town and would like to become a trustee of the foundation please contact, via email, Lloyd Stephens: lordfitzmaurice1980@gmail.com for further information.

#### From: Mr Carter - Head PE

#### From the parents of Sam Dowding, Y11 A1

We wanted to write to you to let you know that Sam took part in the Swim England GoCardless National Swimming meet in July. The top 24 ranked swimmers in England in each event were invited to attend, and Sam competed in both the 50m & 100m backstroke in the 15 year Open/Male age group.

It was a fantastic experience for Sam - he trains for 14 hours per week in the pool and gym, so it was great to see his hard work and dedication pay off. He had a super season, competing at county, regionals and nationals and he also broke four Team Bath AS club records, one of which had stood since 2011!

The event was streamed on YouTube and we have attached some photos that we thought you might like to see.





#### **Online Safety and Wellbeing**



#### **Community News**

Click here for all the information about the first ever Car Park Fiesta at Wiltshire Music Centre: <a href="https://www.wiltshiremusic.org.uk/event/car-park-fiesta/">https://www.wiltshiremusic.org.uk/event/car-park-fiesta/</a>





#### What's on at SENDFEST?

- Archery
- Face painting and craft zones
- A high-energy silent disco
- Live music and performances
- A dedicated sensory space for regulation and calm
- Refreshments and chill-out areas

There is a limited number of places for the festival, to hold yours please use the sign-up link. Following this we will be sending out information on how to sign up for activities.

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sendfest-tickets-1462905562919?aff=oddtdtcreator



# PLAYERS WANTED

Walcats are looking for new players for the coming season. Whether you're an experienced player or brand new to the game, we welcome all skill levels. Join a team where girls build confidence, strength, and lifelong friendships - on and off the field.





# Scholar season ticket

## The smart way to do term-time travel

This handy ticket gives students unlimited travel between two stations, with up to 1/3 off fares and potential annual savings of up to £200. Simple, flexible and great value, it's a smart move for stress-free school travel.



For children aged 5-15



Up to 33% off train fares



Enjoy unlimited travel between two chosen stations



Valid weekdays, evenings and weekends



Available termly or annually



Child Photocard required (request when ordering or available from ticket offices - just add a passport-sized photo)

#### Sample scholar pass prices

From	To	Annual	Term
Bradford- on-Avon	Westbury	£440.90	£147.00
	Trowbridge	£357.00	£119.00

To purchase your scholar season ticket, call 0345 766 0228





# 16 to 17 Saver Railcard

## Simple, student-friendly travel

Designed just for 16- and 17-year-olds, this Railcard unlocks up to 50% off a wide range of train tickets – making travel to school, college, friends or weekend adventures easier, cheaper and more exciting. It's their route to freedom, fun and unbeatable value all year round.



For 16 and 17 year olds



Valid for one year or until their 18th birthday (whichever comes first)

Great for leisure study and

everyday travel



50% off standard Anytime, Off-Peak, Advance and Season tickets



Can be downloaded to your phone via the Railcard app or used as a physical card







www.st-laurence.com