



Week beginning Monday 12th May 2025

Headteacher's update

Dear Parents and Carers

It was with mixed emotions that we said goodbye to Year 13. They all looked amazing in their outfits and the atmosphere was lovely. It marks, for most, the end of a 7-year era but we are proud of every one of them and we wish them all the very best of luck in the exams.

The written exams have started proper for Year 11 and 13 now so please do remind them of the mobile device policy and make sure they leave home with the correct equipment every day.

Our Year 5 Open Mornings have also started so if you know of anyone currently in Year 5 wanting to have a look at the school, please do direct them to the website where the details are available.

Mr Farrer

Key dates for your diary - Week A

Monday 12 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y5 Open Morning
Tuesday 13 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y11 Dance Mock Exams
Wednesday 14 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y12 Photography Exam Y10 Music Mock Exam Y9 Trip to Uni. Of Bath Y7 Conversation & Craft Y10 DofE Route Planning
Thursday 15 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y10 Battlefields Trip Info. Evening 6:00pm – 7:00pm (Trinity Hall)
Friday 16 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y7-10 Athletics Trials

Week B

Monday 19 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y10 & Y12 Drama Exam
Tuesday 20 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y10 Food Mock Exam
Wednesday 21 st May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y12 Trip to Imperial War Museum
Thursday 22 nd May	
Friday 23 rd May	TERM 5 ENDS AT 3:00PM

In this week's bulletin:

- Key Diary Dates
- Rehearsal information for "We Will Rock You"
- Y12 Chemistry Students compete in the UK Chemistry Olympiad
- Choices for next year's St Laurence Reads
- Online Safety – fostering a sense of belonging

.... And lots more!

From: PE Department

Sporting Results and Upcoming Fixtures

Results - Congratulations to all students involved

Football

- St Laurence 5 – 1 Lydiard Park Academy (Year 9 Boys)

Swimming

- Stephanie Millward Swimming Gala: 2nd Place

Rounders

- St Laurence 9 – 10.5 Clarendon (Year 7/8)
- St Laurence 12.5 – 8 Clarendon (Year 9/10)

Upcoming Fixtures

Friday 16th May - West Wiltshire Area Athletics Trials at Dauntsey's School

27 students in Years 7-10 have been selected to take part in the Wiltshire County Athletics Trials this week. We wish them all good luck in their competitions.

Food Parcels from the Hub



If at any time you are in need of a food parcel from The Hub, you can contact them directly for support with this.

We will be asking if families need parcels for the main school holidays next term and passing these details to The Hub, but should you need one for May half term, or any other time, please contact them directly.

Their details can be found here: [Contact — Bradford on Avon Hub](#)

New Menu Coming soon



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)

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

From: Miss Davies – Drama Teacher

During our recent full cast meeting, students were reminded of the importance of attending ALL 'We Will Rock You' rehearsals where they are called. While we understand that other commitments may arise, we ask that this production now becomes your child's top priority through to the show and that we are informed if they will be absent in advance. Frequent absences have required us to continually adjust the rehearsal schedule, which affects the progress of the entire cast.

Another reminder from me of the compulsory rehearsal on **Saturday 12th July from 10:00am – 4:00pm.**






ALL students involved in the show must be here for this rehearsal, it is non-negotiable.

Please see below for the schedule for the week beginning Monday, 12th May:

Tuesday 13/05 Trinity Hall	Dance Ms Eyles	Killer Queen	Killer Queen Khashoggi Ensemble (Super Yuppies) Electric Voice Dancers
Tuesday 13/05 F7	Drama Miss Davies	Act 1 Scenes	Bohemians (Named Parts) Brit Oz Buddy Scaramouche Galileo
Wednesday 14/05 MC2	Music Dr Barclay	Killer Queen A Kind of Magic Another One Bites the Dust	Killer Queen Electric Voice Khashoggi Ensemble (Super Yuppies)
Thursday 15/05 Trinity Hall	Dance Ms Eyles	Killer Queen	Killer Queen Khashoggi Ensemble (Super Yuppies) Electric Voice Dancers
FRIDAY 16/05 TRINITY HALL	Drama and Music Dr Barclay and Miss Davies	ACT 1 RUN THROUGH	ALL CAST and CREW 3:05pm - 4:15pm

Thank you, Miss Davies.

House Points

Ashley	Budbury	Conigre	Huntingdon	Westfield
				
118581	118001	119979	122633	117218

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From: Ms Shazuli – Science Teacher

St Laurence School students enter UK Chemistry Olympiad Competition

A competition developed by the Royal Society of Chemistry, the UK Chemistry Olympiad allows talented secondary school chemistry students the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in a challenging and rewarding environment.

The competition gives aspiring young chemists a chance to explore chemistry beyond the post-16 curriculum.

Led by Science teacher, Ms Shazuli, the competition took place in January and St Laurence was one of 1502 schools to enter – with an impressive 16,216 students taking part.

The competition is usually entered by Y13 students at the end of their school year. Ms Shazuli entered the Y12 students with just one week's notice – and no time for them to prepare! The students all agreed it was an amazing opportunity for them to take part.

Students were awarded bronze, silver or gold certificates for correctly answering questions on such topics as radioactive decay, carbon nanotubes and Raman spectroscopy.

Ms Shazuli is delighted to share that 9 of our Y12 Chemists entered Round One of the exam with 5 students receiving the Bronze award. The Bronze award was won by 5201 students, 32% of those participating.

Please join us in congratulating the following students:

Bronze Award	Participation Award
James Littlefield Lucy Gunston Isabelle Searle Georgia Kincade Sam Atherton	Oliver Clack Sam Cole Chloe Ellis Ayelén Metcalfe



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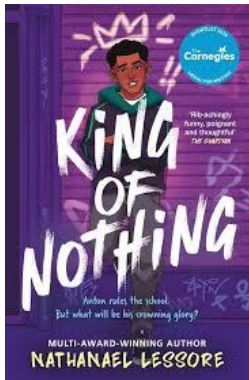
From: Mr Chadwick – Director of English

St Laurence Reads 2025 - 26

It's time for the students to choose a book for the whole school to read for next year's St Laurence Reads.

This year the selection is

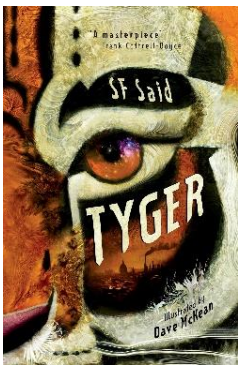
King of Nothing by Nathanael Lessor



Described as “funny and heartwarming”, this often hilarious novel also deals with serious topics, such as gangs and crime; it also asks questions about what it is to be a young person, and the choices we make in our lives.

It is nominated for the prestigious 2025 Carnegie Medal award.

Tyger by SF Said

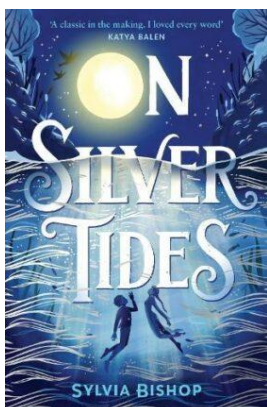


Set in London in a world where the British Empire never collapsed and slavery was never abolished, Adam and his family live and work in the Ghetto in a fenced in area in Soho, only being able to leave the area by showing their “papers” at the border.

It's a hard life but then Adam finds the tyger and she's in danger.

Can Adam help the tyger, and perhaps save their world in the process?

On Silver Tides by Sylvia Bishop



This novel is in the fantasy/adventure genre with an underlying ecological message; it explores the traditions and ancient wisdom by which a marginalised community live their lives and encourages readers to think about whether certain beliefs should be challenged.

When a dreadful betrayal happens, sisters Kelda and Isla must go on the run. The book makes us think about what we would be prepared to do for those we love.

Three exciting books for our students to read and discuss during their tutorial time – which would you choose?

For the KS3, Terms 5 & 6, Recommended Reading Booklist click here:

[78cdf6_387c999fb5854b338d06fce3ed6ba805.pdf](https://www.stlaurence.ac.uk/78cdf6_387c999fb5854b338d06fce3ed6ba805.pdf)

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10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

FOSTERING A SENSE OF BELONGING

Feeling a genuine sense of belonging is essential for the emotional and social development of children and young people. Belonging significantly boosts self-esteem, resilience, and mental wellbeing, reducing feelings of isolation and anxiety. This guide provides practical strategies to help parents and educators cultivate inclusive environments, enhancing both academic outcomes and overall happiness among young people.

- ### 1 CELEBRATE INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Acknowledge and celebrate the uniqueness of every child. Promoting diversity and inclusion creates an environment where differences are valued rather than stigmatised. This acceptance empowers children to confidently express their identities and feel genuinely included, fostering a robust sense of belonging within both school and home settings.
- ### 2 CONSISTENT COMMUNICATION

Regularly communicate and actively listen to children, showing genuine interest in their thoughts and experiences. Creating open communication channels helps young people feel heard and valued. This approach not only builds trust but also reinforces children's perception of themselves as a vital part of their family, school and community.
- ### 3 MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

Give children opportunities to actively participate and contribute, whether in classrooms, at home, or in community activities. Meaningful participation helps children feel their input matters, reinforcing a sense of purpose and value. Including them in decisions and responsibilities enhances their self-worth, promoting a deeper sense of belonging and inclusion.
- ### 4 FOSTER STRONG RELATIONSHIPS

Support and encourage positive relationships between peers, educators, and families. Strong, healthy relationships significantly impact a child's sense of belonging, providing emotional support and reducing feelings of loneliness. Facilitate social interactions through group activities, teamwork, and collaborative learning to strengthen these vital connections.
- ### 5 CREATE INCLUSIVE SPACES

Design environments that reflect diversity and are welcoming for everyone. Inclusive spaces where all children see themselves represented can dramatically improve their feelings of safety and acceptance. Consider classroom displays, books, and resources that celebrate various cultures, abilities, and backgrounds to visibly reinforce inclusivity and belonging.
- ### 6 MODEL POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Adults play a crucial role by demonstrating inclusive, empathetic, and respectful behaviours. Modelling positive interactions and attitudes sets a clear standard for children to follow. Children are likely to replicate inclusive behaviour, creating a supportive community atmosphere where everyone feels accepted and valued for who they are.
- ### 7 BUILD EMOTIONAL LITERACY

Teach and encourage emotional expression and understanding among children. Developing emotional literacy enables young people to articulate their feelings and empathise with others. An emotionally intelligent environment cultivates mutual respect and compassion, fostering a deeper sense of belonging and interpersonal connection within groups.
- ### 8 SUPPORT PEER MENTORSHIP

Encourage peer mentorship or buddy systems within educational settings. Peer support enhances feelings of connectedness and security, reducing feelings of isolation. When children support one another, they naturally build community bonds, nurturing a supportive culture where belonging and friendship thrive.
- ### 9 RECOGNISE EFFORTS REGULARLY

Consistently acknowledge children's contributions and achievements, however small. Recognition reinforces a child's understanding that their presence and efforts are important. Celebrating individual and collective successes helps cultivate a positive environment where children feel acknowledged, motivated, and deeply connected to peers and adults around them.
- ### 10 ADDRESS BULLYING PROMPTLY

Quickly address any incidents of bullying. Promptly intervening demonstrates a clear commitment to an inclusive and safe environment. Creating a culture where incidents are swiftly and effectively addressed reinforces trust, security, and a sense of belonging for everyone involved.

Meet Our Expert

Anna Bateman is Director of Halcyon Education Ltd and Director for Wellbeing and Family Services at Leigh Trust. With extensive experience in systemic mental health in schools, she supports educational leaders across the UK to develop inclusive, resilient, and supportive learning environments. Anna is also the lead expert for mental health at The National College.






Source: See full reference list on guide page at: nationalcollege.com/guides/fostering-a-sense-of-belonging

Are you an adult who is worried about a child or young person's emotional wellbeing or mental health?

These contacts and websites can offer you support and guidance to keep children emotionally well.

Safeguarding concerns?
Refer into Wiltshire's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub 0300 454 0108
Out of Hours 0845 6070 888 or Police 999

Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust
www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/children-and-young-people
Information about local Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). For advice contact:
Melksham 01865 903777
Marlborough 01865 904666
Salisbury 01722 336262

MindEd
www.minded.org.uk
A wealth of resources to give you confidence to help improve a child or young person's emotional wellbeing and mental health.

NHS Choices
www.nhs.uk/Livewell/mentalhealth
For information about mental health conditions and services.

Young Minds Parents' Helpline
0800 802 5544
(Monday to Friday, 9:30am to 4pm)
www.youngminds.org.uk/for_parents
E-mail: parents@youngminds.org.uk

Head Meds
www.headmeds.org.uk
Demystifies medication for mental health.

Royal College of Psychiatrists
www.rcpsych.ac.uk
Information and advice on mental health and links to helpful resources.

Time to change
www.time-to-change.org.uk
Resources and sources of support for a variety of mental health problems.

onyourmind.org.uk Information correct as of June 2016

what's worrying you?

How to cope with your feelings and where to get support

onyourmind.org.uk

what's worrying you?

These websites can give you information about common mental health problems, how to cope with your feelings and where to get support.

Youngminds
www.youngminds.org.uk
Information and signposting to organisations that listen, plus online support.

NHS Choices
www.nhs.uk/Livewell/youth-mental-health/Pages/Youth-mental-health-help
An information hub of advice and links.

The Mix
www.themix.org.uk
Essential support for under 25s.

ChildLine
www.childline.org.uk
0800 1111
You can find out about anything – no problem is too big or too small.

Kooth
www.kooth.com
Real time help with friendly, qualified counsellors.

Epic Friends
www.epicfriends.co.uk
Helping you help your friends who might be struggling to cope emotionally.

Doc Ready
www.docready.org
Helping you get ready for the first time you visit a doctor to discuss your mental health.

Rise Above
www.riseabove.org.uk
Interesting and useful stuff to help you to address anything that life throws at you.

Stonewall Youth
www.youngstonewall.org.uk
Supporting young lesbian, gay, bi and trans people.

Mermaids
www.mermaidsuk.org.uk
Support with gender identity issues.

Winston's Wish
www.winstonswish.org.uk
08452 03 04 05
Talk and ask questions about bereavement.

OCD Youth
www.ocdyouth.org
Things you need to know about Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD).

Papyrus
www.papyrus-uk.org
0800 068 41 41
For those with suicidal thoughts.

Revenge Porn Helpline
www.revengepornhelpline.org.uk
0845 6000 459
Confidential help for victims who have intimate images of them shared and posted online without their consent.

Beat
www.b-eat.co.uk
0345 634 7650
Support for anyone affected by eating disorders or difficulties with food, weight and body shape.

Samaritans
www.samaritans.org
08457 90 90 90
Talk about anything that's troubling you.

Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust
www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/children-and-young-people/young-people/south-west
Information about Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in Wiltshire.

Get a good night's sleep

Try to think the issue through

Walk the dog

Take some exercise

Express yourself

Give someone a hug

Get creative

Find time for yourself

Do something you enjoy

onyourmind.org.uk



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

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