



Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers

As we move into the fourth week of the new term, I would like to begin by sharing my gratitude for your continued support. The start of a school year always brings with it a mixture of excitement and adjustment, and it has been wonderful to see how positively our students have responded. Their enthusiasm for learning, combined with the encouragement they receive at home, has helped to create a strong and purposeful beginning to the term.

We recognise that the transition back into routines can be challenging for some children, and I hope that your son or daughter has settled well into their classes and is beginning to feel confident in the year ahead. Our staff have worked hard to ensure a welcoming and structured environment, and we continue to see excellent examples of effort, kindness, and determination across the school.

At the same time, we are looking outward and beginning our marketing campaign for the year. One of the highlights in our calendar is the upcoming Open Evening, which provides an opportunity to share the strengths of our school with prospective families. This event not only allows us to showcase our facilities and teaching but also celebrates the achievements of our current students, whose pride in their school is always a key part of the evening. Letters have gone out asking for tour guides and department supporters and I hope to see as many students as possible helping.

Thank you once again for your partnership and encouragement.

Thank you, Mr Farrer

In this week's bulletin:

- Online Safety – what you need to know about Snapchat
- Invitation to our Careers Fair
- Trips – new process for supplying medical needs information
- Drama request for props and costumes – can you help?
- Community News
 - Save the date – school fundraising Quiz Night coming soon!
 - Family & Community Learners online courses – helping my child with....
 - Concentration and resilience
 - Preparing positively for change
 - Anxiety and worry

And lots more.....

Key dates for your diary - Week B

Monday 22 nd September	•
Tuesday 23 rd September	- Y9 Netball Fixture v St Augustine's (A) - Y11 Netball V St Augustine's (A)
Wednesday 24 th September	•
Thursday 25 th September	• Open Evening (No clubs will be running after school)
Friday 26 th September	• School Closed to all Students

Key dates for your diary - Week A

Monday 29 th September	•
Tuesday 30 th September	• Y10 Netball V St Augustine's (H)
Wednesday 1 st October	- Shakespeare Schools Festival Workshop 1:15am – 4:00pm - Y9 Rugby Tournament (Trowbridge RFC)
Thursday 2 nd October	- Y7 Rugby V Corsham (H) - Y9 Rugby V Corsham (A)
Friday 3 rd October	•



St Laurence School
Care • Inspire • Succeed



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



From: Mr Hainsworth - Assistant Headteacher (KS5) / Director of 6th Form

Y13s study periods

We have been impressed with the overall approach of Y13 over the past several weeks whilst they have remained on site during their study periods. This has enabled them to refocus following the summer break and allow us to reconnect with them. We have been seeing lots of positive learning behaviours from the majority so far this term, with many making good progress with UCAS as well.

From Monday 29th September, Y13 will be allowed to sign out once more. We do reserve the right that following teaching staff submitting learning profiles and predicted grades to us, to ask students to take part in a form of supervised private study. For any Y13 student affected by this the 6th Form team will be in touch with parents and carers to share our concern and inform them of next steps.

For Y12 students, we will continue to monitor the transition to 6th Form life. So far progress has been positive and I envisage that the decision to allow them to sign out may come before the end of Term 1 if the positive attitudes we are currently seeing, continue.

From: Ms Smith – Trips Coordinator

Trips process update

We will no longer be using the pink medical form to gather student's medical information and emergency contact details ahead of a school trip.

Parents and Carers must ensure that their child/children's medical information is up to date on the MCAS app. We also need a minimum of two emergency contacts per child, to add another contact follow these steps:

1. **Log in:** to your MCAS account via the app or website
2. **Navigate:** to your profile by clicking on My Personal Details
3. **Select:** the option to Add Contact or Add New Parent/Guardian
4. **Enter:** the new parent's details
5. **Click:** Submit Changes to save

If you experience any issues doing this, please email Mrs Hudson, Data Manager: pauhud@st-laurence.com

From Careers Team:

Invitation to St Laurence School Careers Fair – Wednesday 15th October 2025

We are excited to announce that our annual Careers Fair will be held on Wednesday 15th October 2025 in the Sports Hall.

This event is a fantastic opportunity for students in Years 9 to 13 to explore a wide range of career pathways and speak directly with representatives from both local and national businesses.

This year, we would like to extend a warm invitation to Parent/Carers to join us. If you are interested in hosting a company stand and sharing insights about your industry or profession, we would be delighted to welcome your support.

To register your interest, please complete the form via the link below:

 <https://forms.office.com/e/x9k1f27THd>

Thank you for helping us inspire the next generation!

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: Mrs Nash – Head of Drama

The Drama Department needs some items for the forthcoming production of The Winter's Tale. If you can loan or donate the following, please ask your child to bring them to the Drama Department asap:

- A wicker mooses basket
- A baby doll
- Embroidered waistcoats (colourful or black/white - as per the image below)
- A 'choker' style necklace - gold coloured costume jewellery. The bigger the better!
- 2 Shepherd crooks
- Black bow ties
- Normal black ties
- Black jackets (child size up to age 15)
- Black 'peasant' style skirts (see image below)
- Black trousers (to fit children ages 11-15)
- Black **or** white or black **and** white shawls



Thank you, Mrs Nash

Sports News

From: PE Department

Upcoming Fixtures

Tuesday 23rd September

Year 9 Netball vs St Augustine's (A). Return approx. 5:00pm

Year 11 Netball vs St Augustine's (A). Return approx. 5:00pm

Tuesday 30th September

Year 10 Netball vs St Augustine's (H). Finish approx. 4:30pm

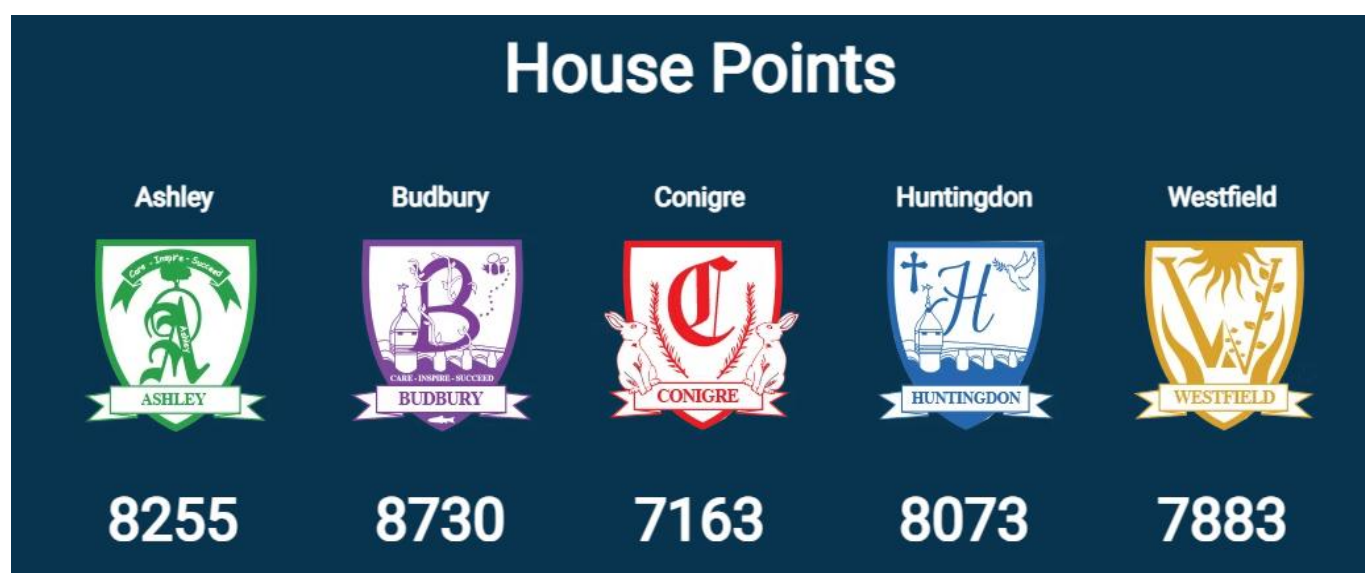
Wednesday 1st October

Year 9 Rugby Tournament at Trowbridge RFC. Return approx. 5:30pm

Thursday 2nd October

Year 7 Rugby vs Corsham (H). Finish approx. 5:15pm.

Year 9 Rugby vs Corsham (A). Return approx. 5:45pm.



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

SNAP STREAK

97

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🌟 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat>



@wake_up_weds



/www.thenationalcollege



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Community News

The PTA is hosting a Quiz night on Friday 17th October!

Please come along and support this event which promises to be fun and memorable! Every penny raised goes to much needed projects and equipment for the school.

Tickets will be on sale next week! There will be a cash bar on the night and the opportunity to pre-order a cheese platter!



Wiltshire Council

Family and Community Learning

Online Course

Helping My Child with Anxiety and Worry

Ideal for parents and carers of primary school-aged children

Thursday 9 October 10:00-12:00



Booking Closes
Thursday 2 October

- Understand how to support emotional wellbeing at home
- Suggestions shared to manage anxiety together
- Positive and realistic help for the family

Contact familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk
Call the FaCL team on 01225 770478
Visit <https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-and-community-learning/>
Scan the QR code



Eligibility Criteria
You must also meet one of the following:

- On a lower income, earning less than £25,750 a year
- In receipt of benefits (other than child benefit)
- Care leaver, foster carer, carer, refugee
- Have a learning difficulty or disability
- Not in work and looking to go into work, now or in the future

Courses are free for learners aged 19+ (as of 31 August), living in Wiltshire, and meet certain residency requirements.

Wiltshire Council

Family and Community Learning

Online Course

Helping My Child with Anxiety and Worry

Ideal for parents and carers of primary school-aged children

Tuesday 4 November 10:00-12:00



Booking Closes
Tuesday 28 October

- Understand how to support emotional wellbeing at home
- Suggestions shared to manage anxiety together
- Positive and realistic help for the family

Contact familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk
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Wiltshire Council

Family and Community Learning

Helping My Child Build Concentration and Resilience

Ideal for parents and carers of primary school-aged children

Online Course

Monday 29 September 10:00-12:00



Booking closes
Monday 22 September

- Explore how the environment affects concentration
- Discover how words can help develop resilience
- Develop ways to support concentration and resilience

Visit <https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-and-community-learning/>
Contact familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk
Call the FaCL team on 01225 770478
or scan the QR code



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- In receipt of benefits (other than child benefit)
- Care leaver, foster carer, carer, refugee
- Have a learning difficulty or disability
- Not in work and looking to go into work, now or in the future

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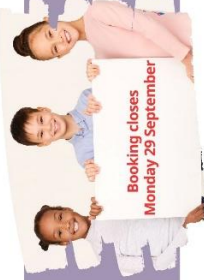
Wiltshire Council

Family and Community Learning

Helping My Child to Prepare Positively for Change

Online Course

Monday 6 October 10:00-12:00



Booking closes
Monday 29 September

Ideal for parents and carers of primary school-aged children

- Explore the reasons why children may find change difficult
- Discover ways to support your children at home in developing their ability to cope with change.
- Develop an understanding of how simple steps at home can help children prepare for change.

Contact familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk
Call the FaCL team on 01225 770478
Visit <https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-and-community-learning/>
Scan the QR code



Eligibility Criteria
You must also meet one of the following:

- On a lower income, earning less than £25,750 a year
- In receipt of benefits (other than child benefit)
- Care leaver, foster carer, carer, refugee
- Military family / armed forces personnel
- Have a learning difficulty or disability
- Not in work and looking to go into work, now or in the future

Courses are free for learners aged 19+ (as of 31 August), living in Wiltshire, and meet certain residency requirements.



BOA
youth
DROP-IN

Discover Christ Church!
COMMUNITY | DISCOVERY | RESTORATION

Christ Church
Bradford-on-Avon

Every Thursday, term-time only
From 3pm – 4pm

- Enjoy hot chocolates, snacks & games
- Activities with a heritage twist
- Safe, warm and welcoming
- Space to relax and chat

All are welcome!

For more info, email becky.strike@discoverchristchurch.org.uk

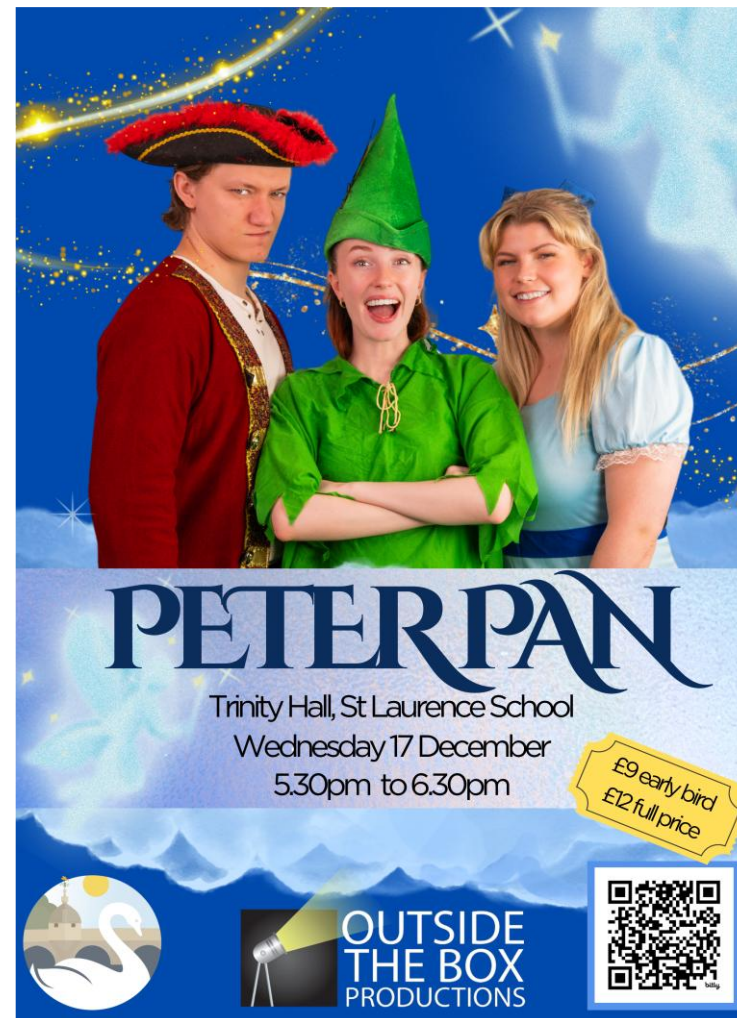


With grateful thanks to our funders

Tea and Toast is available every Thursday, during term time, from 3:15pm at Holy Trinity Church. Drop in and see us! Hot chocolate, cold drinks, toast, and happy conversations.

All are welcome!

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



PETER PAN

Trinity Hall, St Laurence School
Wednesday 17 December
5.30pm to 6.30pm

£9 early bird
£12 full price

OUTSIDE THE BOX PRODUCTIONS

QR code linking to ticket information



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