



St Dunstan's School  
GLASTONBURY



# November Newsletter 2018



After a fantastic first term it is great to look back at all the exciting events that have taken place. The year 7s and new students who started only 8 weeks ago have made an excellent start and have settled in to life at St Dunstan's with enthusiasm. Shortly after the start of term we received the inspection report from Ofsted grading us as a strong 'Good' in all categories. This was a very pleasing result that reflects the hard work and support of pupils, staff, parents and governors as well as marking a key point in the schools journey to excellence.

Over last term I have been really pleased to see hard work, creative teaching and deep learning taking place across the school, with students really enjoying their learning and really getting involved in all aspects of the school.

We have also launched the long awaited parent portal last term. The portal allows pupils and parents to access their timetables, behaviour, attendance, rewards and homework. We will also be using this system for booking parents evenings this year and will be writing to you to inform you prior to parents evening. We are aware that some parents have had issues with logging on to the portal, and we are working to rectify any problems as soon as we are made aware. Thank you for your patience as we resolve these problems, please do let us know if you have had any problems logging on and we will resolve the issue as quickly as possible.

A group of students have been busy preparing for the Christmas production in partnership with Millfield School and Elmhurst school, whilst we have also linked up with Millfield on a Friday afternoon for 'Super Friday' extra-curricular activities.

I look forward to the events we have planned for this term.

Keith Howard  
Headteacher

## **Anti-Bullying Week**

We will be participating in the anti-bullying campaign during the week of November 12 - 16. Obviously, every week is anti-bullying week but for this particular week, we will be focusing on being kind to others. The theme for this year is "Choose Respect" and we will be holding a number of events to promote this - watch this space!

## **Safeguarding evening**

We are holding a Safeguarding Information Evening for parents on 7th November 2018 starting at 6pm. The police will be here to give a presentation about various aspects of safeguarding, warning signs and how parents, school and police can work together to safeguard children in the community. There will also be information about online safety and more general aspects of safeguarding in everyday life from road safety to physical and mental health. We hope to see you there, please contact the school office if you would like to attend.

Please note, this evening is for parents only.

## **Website**

We are currently having a new website produced that will make finding the information you need about the school much easier and also hold more recent and up to date information, letters and a school calendar. This will hopefully be fully functional before Christmas.

## **Attendance**

Our target is to be in line with the National Average for attendance (96%) or even better. 90% attendance is the equivalent to half a day off every week - it also means that 4 weeks of school are missed over the course of the year. Good attendance at school is a key factor in making good progress and, ultimately, achieving the best results possible. Please encourage your child to be in school every day so we can all work together to ensure the best progress possible

## **Faraday Challenge**

On Wednesday 19th September, 12 of our Year 8 students travelled to Millfield School to compete in the IET Faraday Challenge. St Dunstan's entered two teams of 6 who would be competing against 4 other teams - two each from Wells Cathedral School and Crispin. Each of the teams had to design and engineer a potential solution to the scenario posed. Due to the challenge taking place nationally for the remainder of the year, the details of the challenge need to be kept under wraps, however, it can be said that each of the teams acquitted themselves



superbly and were able to present their designs clearly to the audience and field questions from the professional engineer in attendance. Although we were unsuccessful in bringing home the silverware, each of the teams got a special mention for their work and conduct throughout the day. Each of the students involved received a goody bag and a certificate for taking part and we look forward to doing the same next year with our next batch of budding engineers.

## **Successful First Curriculum Enrichment Day of the Year**

Friday September 28<sup>th</sup> saw the first of this year's Curriculum Enrichment Days at St Dunstan's.

Year 7 examined issues of Health and Wellbeing, Year 8 discussed Relationships, Year 9 focused on Positive Body Image, Year 10 explored First Aid, Road Safety and Caring for their Mental and Emotional Wellbeing and Year 11 had their first sessions of this year about their post-16 career options and booked places for the upcoming College Taster Days.

Every year group will study issues of Wellbeing, Relationships, Living in the wider world and Careers in PSHE lessons and the remaining Curriculum Enrichment Days.

December 5<sup>th</sup> sees Year 11 attend a Taster Day at Strode College and Year 10 offered the opportunity to visit London and the Houses of Parliament! Students keep your eyes open for upcoming details.

Finally, a huge thank you to all those who came to help for the day and to the students who did themselves proud once again with their maturity and engagement.



As part of their CE day, Year 7 were taught the important skill of basic CPR. The school have signed up to the British Heart Foundation's "Save a Life Campaign" which aims to train as many people as possible in basic CPR. The BHF have provided the school with 30 resuscitation mannequins and a step by step DVD on how to perform CPR.



Year 7 learnt how to check if someone actually needs CPR, how to clear the airways, how to administer the "push" and how to give mouth to mouth resuscitation. They also learnt the procedure for calling for help and how to call for an ambulance.

They took the session very seriously and we all feel comfortable in either administering CPR or telling someone else how to do it. We will continue to deliver this training to all year groups over the course of the year

### **Super Fridays at Millfield**

On Friday 12th October, 34 students from St Dunstan's boarded a bus to attend their first Super Friday session at Millfield.

Activities ranged from athletics, through film making and using a green screen to board games and contemporary music! The falconry group learnt all about different types of hunting birds and were able to hold several different breeds of falcon - very exciting! In other groups, students learnt about the technicalities of theatre production, relaxation techniques and the skills required for high level table tennis to name but a few.

The Millfield students were very welcoming and, as ever, our students represented the school beautifully and made us proud to be St Dunstan's teachers.

All students had a fantastic time and are looking forward to their next Super Friday

### **Year 8 Rugby**

On 11th October St Dunstan's Year 8 rugby team went down to Glastonbury Tor Rugby Club for a 'Rugby Club Experience' evening which included some club training, a full match against local rivals Crispin and most importantly some food! All the St Dunstan's boys were outstanding and showed great sportsmanship throughout they included George D, Omar, Oliver C, Ryan C, Ronnie, James M, Jack R, Nafis K, Albert K, Tony M, Arthur B, Owen F, Ben and Billy. A special mention should go out to Harvey G who despite being the only year 7 showed brilliant potential and has been selected, along with others, to attend Tors Training session this Sunday.



### **Year 7 Vivary park Trip (12<sup>th</sup> October 2018)**



Despite 50mph winds and rain that meant we got drenched just running 10 metres from the coach to the leisure centre, the year 7s had a fantastic team building day at Vivary Park. Students had to work together to accomplish a range of tasks set by the Vivary park instructors. The day was successful because no challenge could be done alone. They had to communicate, instruct and praise one another to achieve the same outcome! At times, students were cheering one another with excitement of almost accomplishing the task and were super eager to try again and again, not allowing anyone to give up until they had succeeded! It was a shame the weather wasn't on our side to do the high ropes, but the alternative was just as good! Well done year 7.

## My Work Experience - Pupz 'n' Pawz

When Year 10 were brought together and asked to find a work experience placement my heart dropped. Where was I going to go for work experience? I definitely didn't want to go to an office or supermarket. I wanted to do something more interesting and fun - somewhere I would look forward to going every day.

After about 2 months of sending letters, emails and phone calls to what felt like every veterinary service that Somerset had to offer...nothing. I had almost given up, I had tried everything I could think of.



My dearest mother had given me one last place to email, a small day care centre in Meare, named Pupz 'n' Pawz. I had at first ignored it because I wanted a veterinary placement but I sent an email and had a reply exactly 3 hours later from Sam, the day care manager saying, "Sure, are you free on ... to come and see the day care?". My reply was instant!

During my work experience I did several things:

For most of the time I was in day care, playing with the dogs and acting as a referee. I was also acting 'lavatory' monitor as few of the dogs have learnt basic manners yet.

I spent time walking dogs with Mel for an hour or so. I walked Gizmo the live wired spaniel and Zach and Toby, both Yorkshire terriers. (Toby did this weird thing where his tongue sticks out constantly even when he is asleep).

I helped Kat out in the grooming studio as she was grooming a 4 month old hazelnut cockapoo called Alfie, he did not like the drier and kept trying to jump off the grooming table.

My favourite part of work experience was when me, Darren and two of his dogs undertook protection training. Kyle is a Belgian Malinois, they are incredibly strong and intelligent dogs used by the police. They have an average bite force of 195 pounds which is the 10th strongest of any dog and are trained to takedown escaping or dangerous criminals. I will never forget the moment Darren stood at one end of a field, me and Kyle at the other, Darren put on a bite sleeve and told me to let go of Kyle's lead when he fired a blank from his training pistol. He did so and Kyle sprinted full pelt at Darren, a fully grown man who was fully prepared for Kyle dashing towards him. Kyle pounced at Darren and hit the bite sleeve at such speed and force that Darren was pulled straight off his feet and did a whole 180 degrees before he hit the ground. And all he had to say was "out" and Kyle let go and sat down. I've never seen a dog so smug before.

I had so much fun on my work experience. I could not have asked for a friendlier atmosphere and more welcoming feel, I am so grateful. Best of all... Sam offered me a summer job which I have been doing throughout the 6 week break; I had a blast.

If I had some advice for anyone looking for work experience. Don't overlook any place you are considering and send letters and emails early. Placements go fast and many employers can be quite unforgiving, so give yourself a good repertoire of places to contact and try not to leave it to the last minute.



Extra Curricular Clubs 2018

Clubs start week commencing: 15th November 2018

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime 12:45 - 1:15	<p><b>Week A - Art Club</b> (WL - Room L3)</p>	<p>Drama Club - all years (JP - Drama studio)</p> <p>Chess/board games club - all years (HT - room 14)</p> <p><b>Week B - Art Club</b> (WL - Room L3)</p>	<p>KS3 Football (Sport Leaders - Sports hall)</p>	<p>KS3 Handball (Sport Leaders - Sports hall)</p>	
Afterschool 3:15 - 4:15	<p>All years Girls Hockey (TW - Field)</p> <p>Year 7, 8 and 9 Boys Rugby (Paul - Field)</p> <p>Year 9, 10 and 11 Table Tennis (TP - Girls and Boys)</p> <p>Homework Club (MP - Library)</p>	<p>Homework Club (MP - Library)</p> <p>Year 10 and 11 Girls Netball (JD - Sports hall)</p>	<p>Year 10 and 11 Handball (TW)</p> <p>Homework Club (MP - Library)</p>	<p>Year 11 GCSE Dance (TW - Drama Studio)</p> <p>Year 10 and 11 Football (TP - Field)</p> <p>Year 7 - 9 Cooking club (HT - Room 14)</p> <p>Homework Club (MP - Library)</p> <p>Art Club (WL - Room L3)</p> <p>Gardening Club (L Block)</p>	<p>Year 11 GCSE PE Revision (TW/TP - Room 10)</p> <p>Homework Club (MP - Library)</p> <p>Milfield extra-curricular opportunities (Must sign up to take part.)</p>

## INTERHOUSE 2018/2019

House competitions take place throughout the year; all competitions give the students the opportunity to win house points. House points are added together and the house with the most points at the end of the year wins the overall house competition trophy. Students quickly form an allegiance to their house and a sense of fun and friendly competition pervades all the house events.



<b>Piper House</b>	<b>Eavis House</b>	<b>Austen House</b>	<b>Redgrave House</b>
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<b>Term</b> (Last week of half term)	<b>Inter-house</b>	<b>Inter-house sport</b>
<b>1 - September - October 2018</b>		<i>24th - 26th Oct</i> <i>Girls – Hockey</i> <i>Boys – Rugby</i> <i>Year 11 – Badminton</i> (TW, TP and Sport leaders)
<b>2 - November - December 2018</b>	<i>5th - 9th Nov</i> <i>Remembrance day - Poppy making competition (WL)</i>  <i>20th Dec</i> <i>St Dunstan's bake off (HT)</i>	<i>18th - 20th Dec</i> <i>Girls – Handball</i> <i>Boys – Handball</i> (TW, TP and Sport leaders)
<b>3 - January - February 2019</b>	<i>28th Jan - 1st Feb</i> <i>Boggle week (JM)</i>	<i>13th - 15th Feb</i> <i>Girls – Netball</i> <i>Boys – Football</i> (TW, TP and Sport leaders)
<b>4 - March - April 2019</b>	<i>18th March - Maths Challenge (TVA)</i>	<i>2nd - 4th April</i> <i>Girls – Table Tennis</i> <i>Boys – Table Tennis</i> (TW, TP and Sport leaders)
<b>5 - April - May 2019</b>		<i>22nd - 24th May</i> <i>Girls – Rounders</i> <i>Boys – Cricket</i> (TW, TP and Sport leaders)
<b>6 - June - July 2019</b>		<i>Sports Day</i> <i>(Staff tug of war!)</i> (TW, TP and Sport leaders)