



Weekly Newsletter 2025-6

Dear Families and Parents,

Welcome to this week's newsletter. Each week, we'll be sharing updates to celebrate what makes St Dunstan's such a great community and school to be a part of.

This weekly newsletter is your essential guide to supporting your child. It is packed with important dates, event details and news. Please take a few minutes each week to read it so you don't miss a thing.

We look forward to sharing all the great news with you this academic year. If you have any good news stories or student achievements you'd like to share, please feel free to reach out to us!

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes

P Balkwill

Headteacher



Truth

Resilience

Ambition

Community

Kindness



Key Information

Key Dates

Thursday 16th October- Y7 Information Evening

Thursday 23rd October- Celebration Events

Friday 24th October- School Closed- Inset Day

Important Information

Attendance

Thank you to families for your continued support around attendance. Over the past few weeks, we have seen a steady improvement, and we truly appreciate the hard work you have put in. That being said, attendance for certain year groups and individuals is still not where it needs to be.

The next nine school days are absolutely crucial for many reasons. We know this can be a tiring time for both students and staff, and there may be a temptation to stay home. We ask everyone to resist this where absolutely possible. Continuing to see improvements in attendance will ensure all students continue to reap the full benefits brought about by being in school each and every day of the term.

Please read the full attendance article later in this newsletter for more information on the critical importance of attending every one of these next nine days.

Student Arbor App

In response to parental feedback we have continued to investigate and fix some of the issues linked to accessing the app. We are pleased to inform everyone that these are now resolved and students should be able to access the platform. Please make sure that they follow the guidance to do this correctly. There is an article later in the newsletter for more information.



Key Information

Coats

As we move into colder and more unpredictable weather, we strongly advise all students to begin wearing a suitable **coat** on a daily basis.

Please be reminded of our uniform policy regarding outer layers:

- **Blazers** must be worn **at all times** while on site.
- **Hoodies are not permitted** and cannot be worn instead of or over a blazer.

Thank you for ensuring students come prepared for the change in temperature.

Year 11

We will be sharing the Year 11 mock exam timetable with families shortly. We encourage all families to use our designated webpage to help families navigate Year 11, Revision and examination periods. Please follow the link below-

<https://www.stdunstansschool.com/information-for-students-and-parents/year-11-exams-information-and-support.htm>



Weekly Attendance Update

☀️ **Finish Line Focus: 9 Reasons 100% Attendance is Vital in the Final 9 Days** ☀️

With only **nine school days left** in the term, every single moment counts! Letting attendance slip now jeopardises not only academic grades but also well-being and life habits.

Here are **9 essential reasons** to ensure your child is in school, on time, every day for the remainder of the term:

1. **Address Learning Gaps:** The last few days are often dedicated to final review and consolidation of the topics taught this term. Missing this means your child leaves with an incomplete picture.
2. **Crucial Final Assessments:** Many subjects also complete assessments or provide assessment feedback in the last week. Absence almost guarantees a lower mark or missed opportunities to learn from mistakes and misconceptions from marked assessments. .
3. **Preserve Momentum (The 3-Day Rule):** It takes around 30 days to build a strong learning habit, but often just 3 days to break one. Missing school now undoes the hard-won routines of focus, discipline, and engagement, making the return next term much harder.
4. **Get the Next Term Head Start:** Being present means your child starts ahead, not behind next term playing catch-up.
5. **Sustain Social Connection:** School is a vital source of daily social interaction and support. For students who may be isolated or not see friends over the break, further absence can exacerbate feelings of **social isolation**, negatively impacting their mental health.
6. **Positive interactions** The final days provide time for students and teachers to recognise and celebrate student achievement and success over the last 7 weeks. This sense of belonging is key to emotional well-being.

Weekly Attendance Update

☀️ **Finish Line Focus: 9 Reasons 100% Attendance is Vital in the Final 9 Days**

7. Access to Support: Being in school ensures your child remains connected to trusted adults who can notice and address any emerging mental health concerns before the long break begins

8. Don't Miss out on our Celebration assemblies and events. Your child deserves to be present to celebrate the academic, character, and attendance awards of themselves and their peers in our whole school events.

9. Earn Celebration Events for Great Attendance: We are hosting special reward events for all students with 96% attendance or above. Every day of perfect attendance in these final nine days is crucial to maintaining or reaching that benchmark and earning this fun reward!

We are urging every family to prioritise 100% attendance for these final nine days. Let's finish the term strong, connected, and ready for a well earned break at the end of October !



Weekly Attendance Update

How good is my child's attendance so far?



Band	Percentage	Number of days attended this year to date out of 27	Potential Days of Absence across the year if this continues	Potential hours of lost learning	Classification
1	100%	27	0	0	Perfect
2	98% to 100%	26.5	4	20	Excellent
3	96% to 98%	26	8	40	Good
4	93% to 96%	25	14	70	Requires Improvement
5	90% to 93%	24	38	190	Concerning
6	Below 90%	24 or less	40	200	Persistent absence

*Please be advised that we will contact families when attendance falls into amber sections or below so that we can work with you to secure good attendance

How can I support my child?

Establish a consistent routine: Set regular bedtimes and morning schedules to ensure your child is well-rested and ready to leave for school **on time**.

Prioritise school above all: Emphasise that attending school daily is important for their future and **avoid scheduling holidays** or non-essential trips during term time.

Don't keep them home for minor illness: Only an illness with a fever or vomiting should warrant an absence. If a pattern of complaints emerges, talk to the school.

Schedule appointments strategically: Book medical, dental, and other non-urgent appointments for after school or during holidays to minimize lost class time.

IMPROVED ATTENDANCE AWARD



Students with improved attendance across a term will receive a letter from our Attendance Champion and 10 'On Track' Points. The most improved students will also be recognised in our celebration assemblies.

TERMLY ATTENDANCE AWARD

**ON
TRACK**

All students who have met or exceeded our termly attendance target (96%) and 'On Track' Point thresholds, will be invited to our end of term celebration events.

EXCEPTIONAL ATTENDANCE AWARD

All students who have achieved 98% or above at the end of each term, will receive a letter from the Headteacher, 50 'On Track' Points and be recognised in our celebration assemblies.

**CLUB AWARD**

St Dunstan's School
GLASTONBURY

If a student achieves 100% in a calendar month, they will receive a reward card and be entered into a prize draw to win Amazon vouchers. Students in the 100 Club will also be celebrated on our celebrations board and awarded 50 'On Track' Points.





On Track Update

<u>O</u>rganised	Equipped, on time, and completing homework
<u>N</u>eat	Smart, well presented books demonstrating your best work.
<u>T</u>ry hard	Trying your hardest and rising to the challenge.
<u>R</u>esponsible	A role model to others in your appearance, actions and words
<u>A</u>ctive	Listening, responding, and participating in lessons
<u>C</u>ommunity	Supporting staff and other students to create a positive learning environment for all.
<u>K</u>nowledgeable	Knowing key information, concepts and terminology for each subject/unit

Our 'On Track' Total so far.....

73,120

Well done to all of our students!



A reminder that the following steps need to be followed for a successful login to the app:

1. Initial Web Login

Students must first log in to Arbor using a web browser (on a laptop or desktop) to activate their account, ensuring their password is current.

2. Students should use their school email address and password to log in (e.g. 3sleigh@stdunstans.mnsp.org.uk).

3. Download the Arbor Student App

The app can be downloaded from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store by searching for "Arbor Student".

4. Log in to the App, using the same login and password they use for the browser.

After logging in, they can enable "Remember Me" to use fingerprint or face recognition for quicker access in the future.

Please be aware that students need to follow all the instructions shared to be successful in utilising the app in full, and whilst we are able to provide this information and can remind students of their school login, the Arbor help centre is the most appropriate source of further assistance should it be required. Arbor is not a platform owned or managed by St Dunstan's School.

The Arbor Student App is intended for use outside of school only. When in school, students should access Arbor via a school computer if needed.

Once again, we appreciate your support in helping students become more independent in managing their learning and school responsibilities.

For further guidance, please follow the link below-

<https://youtu.be/QN6j66N6N94>

Safeguarding Concern - Spy Dogs Books

We want to make you aware of a recent issue affecting some popular children's books by Andrew Cope, including the Spy Dogs, Spy Cats, and Spy Pups series.

Some editions of these books include a printed web address at the back. This link used to go to the author's website, but the domain is no longer under his control. It has since been taken over by another party and now leads to inappropriate adult content.

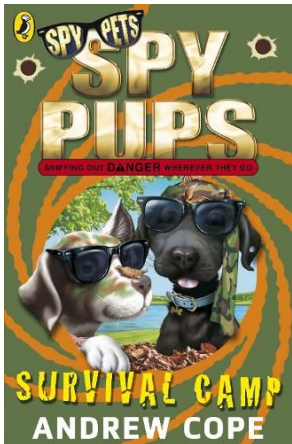
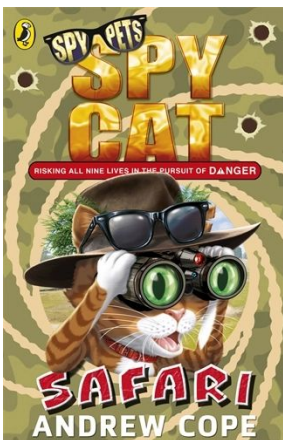
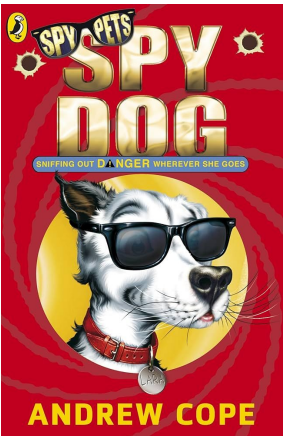
The publisher, Puffin, has paused sales and distribution of the books and is working with schools, libraries, and retailers to remove copies from circulation. They have stressed that the website has no connection to the author or publisher. We do not have these books in St Dunstan's Library.

What this means for you:

If your child has any Spy Dog, Spy Cat or Spy Pups books at home, please check the back for website links and make sure they do not try to visit the site.

It is safe for children to continue reading the stories themselves — the concern is only with the outdated link.

We recommend talking with your child about the importance of not following web addresses in books without checking with an adult first.





Girls' Gym Session



Join us every Wednesday after school for a fun and supportive girls-only gym session! This is for girls in Years 9 to 11.

Time: 3:15pm – 4:15pm

Location: Meet at the PE corridor

No sign-up needed – just show up!

Enjoy a fun workout in a relaxed, friendly environment.

If you have any questions, please speak to Miss Pengelly or Mr Waugh.



Truth

Resilience

Ambition

Community

Kindness



Year 11 Revision Guides

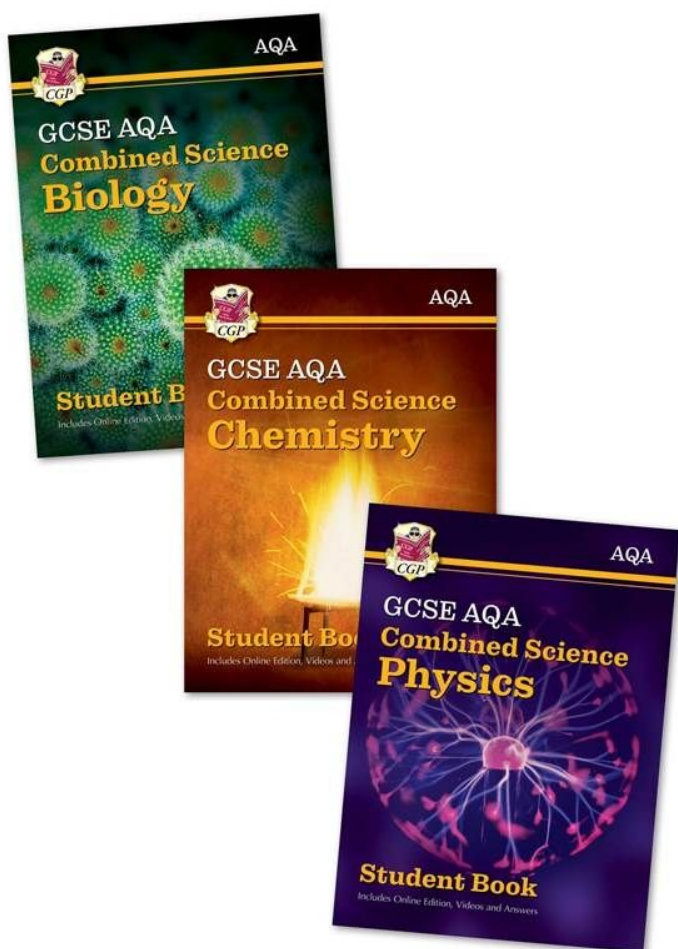


Discounted revision guides for GCSE subjects are now available for Year 11 students.

Parents can place their orders through the 'Parent Shop' on the Arbor app.

Deadline: Friday 17th October

These resources can be a great way to support your child's exam preparation!





Bronze Duke of Edinburgh



Year 9 students had an assembly this week about the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme. Interested students have brought home a form and letter to complete.

Payment on Arbor won't open until after our Parent Information Evening on 22nd October at 5pm.

Mrs Manning has spare letters in her room if students need one.

Information about Silver DofE will be shared soon – stay tuned!





Forest School Donations



Donations Needed!

We are getting ready to start our forest school sessions and would appreciate any of the following which you may have at home:

Hand Drills

Rope

Tarp

Wood splitter

Wood of any variety

Old usable tools (no knives thanks)

Buckets

Wellies

Waterproof clothes

Sharpening stone

Old canvas or cloth

If you are able to donate any items, please drop them off in reception. Thank you!



Truth

Resilience

Ambition

Community

Kindness



St Dunstan's Library presents...



THE BOOK NOOK



Welcome to the Book Nook, the section of the newsletter where we update you with what has been happening in the Library.

This week we will begin a mini-series where we will share some stories the Just Write clubbers have written after school! First up we have **Fia, in Year 8** who has written a wonderful tale of assassins and princesses...

Silk and Steel

Sunlight poured over the white-stone courtyards of Elowen Castle, making the marble paths shimmer and the golden parasol above Ravina glow like a halo. Beneath it, the princess sat with her legs elegantly crossed, sipping sparkling cider from a crystal flute. Her wide-brimmed hat tilted just so, and a pair of dark sunglasses obscured her eyes—though the amused curl of her lips said plenty.

"It's criminally hot," she drawled, her voice clipped and musical, like she'd stepped off a silver screen. "Why is it criminally hot, darling?" Seraphine, seated beside her on the picnic blanket with the posture of someone who *never* let her guard down, didn't flinch. "It's the end of summer," she replied, her voice velvet over iron. "The sun tends to be enthusiastic." Ravina scoffed and leaned over, resting her chin on Seraphine's shoulder with all the grace of a cat claiming a perch. "Mm. I suppose we can forgive it then." Seraphine allowed herself a small smile.

Truth

Resilience

Ambition

Community

Kindness



Local Events/Clubs



Come on in, the water's lovely

Your local BSAC branch, **Street Sub Aqua Club**, is holding another try dive event

Try SCUBA diving at **Strode Swimming Pool**
from 2.30pm Saturday 18th October for just £15

Open to all aged 8 and over

Book your place here



www.streetdivers.co.uk

streetdivers@googlemail.com

Truth

Resilience

Ambition

Community

Kindness