

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

So, here we are at the end of the final week of lessons for this academic year.

It has been a wonderful year overall with our very good Ofsted inspection result, the news that our new intake in September is at our full capacity, a very positive and calm exam season, great parents' evenings, many events throughout the year that have been a great success all rounded off with a successful Sports Day (with beautiful weather!) and our first school production for many a long year - I thoroughly enjoyed watching it..

As we head into Enrichment Week, I have finally had to face the fact that I am not only coming to the end of an academic year but to the end of my last year at St Dunstan's and, indeed, my last year in education.

From the moment I came for interview in March 2014, I knew that St Dunstan's was the school for me. I never imagined that I would end up as Headteacher though! There is something magical about this school - from the camaraderie of all the staff to the wonderful relationships with students and the support of parents. My time here has provided a wealth of positive memories, much hilarity and more than a few extra grey hairs. I am privileged to have so many children so comfortable to come and talk to me, to share their worries and to celebrate their successes. They have made me laugh, have made me cry but above all, have made me so very, very proud to be a part of team St Dunstan's.



12.07.24

NEXT WEEK ASSEMBLY FOCUS:

No assemblies
due to Activities
Week

Coming soon:

- Activities week beginning 15th July
- End of term 19th July at 3.15pm
- Inset day 2nd September
- Term starts 3rd September

[Click here for
Extra-Curricular
Activities](#)

[Click here for term
dates](#)



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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Likewise, the staff here have been so much more than colleagues to me - we are like a family and I truly appreciate the support, good humour, caring nature and flexibility of our staff who always rise to the occasion magnificently. And, of course, our parents and carers - I have come to know so many of you so well over the years and, again, appreciate all your support and kindness to me over the last ten years.

Whilst I am looking forward to retirement, which will involve rather a lot of Stan training (!) I will miss the buzz of working with teenagers - teaching has been a vocation for me and there is nothing I have enjoyed more than being in the classroom teaching English. Lessons have always felt like a shared experience to me - often I learn from students as much as they learn from me. St Dunstan's students are lucky to have a team of such dedicated, knowledgeable and caring teachers to work with - what a team! I know that Mr Balkwill is looking forward to taking the helm and I know he will be made welcome by you all.

I wish all the staff, students, parents and carers in our community the very best for the future. It has been an honour and a privilege to be part of the team and I will hold St Dunstan's in my heart. Have a lovely summer and a future that is on TRACK.

Mrs Bevan



12.07.24

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GOOD BYE MRS BEVAN

We'll really miss you!

Farewell Lynda

As you will all know, our Headteacher Lynda Bevan will be leaving us at the end of the year to start her (much anticipated) retirement.

Lynda joined the school in 2014 as the Head of English, where she immediately set to work in making sure every St Dunstan's child had a deep rooted love for her subject and, in particular, a love of reading for pleasure. She was excited about taking on the challenge of this post and especially about working in a community school where she could get to know every child and make a significant difference to improving individual lives.

Teaching English has always been her passion but her commitment to education and her personal drive for supporting students was soon noticed by the then Headteacher Keith Howard who promoted her quickly to Assistant Headteacher in charge of Teaching and Learning. From there, Lynda worked her way through a range of Senior posts through Deputy Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead to eventually Headteacher in 2021. In that journey, Lynda has maintained a very serious and unwavering ambition that every child in her care is safe, happy and provided with the best educational experience they can have. And it is clear that Lynda has succeeded in every one of these ambitions.

Lynda leaves the school in an extremely strong position going forward. This is perhaps best captured in our recent grading of a strong Good at Ofsted, which commented how well the school 'create[d] pupils who are aware, engaged, active and able to contribute positively to a rapidly changing world'.



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We'll really miss you!

Lynda was very proud of this report but (as is typical of her character) will shy away from any personal credit, insisting that it reflects the hard work, commitment and drive of the community as a whole.

Another mark of her great success is the significantly rising role Lynda leaves the school. When she joined in 2014, the Year 7 intake was just 44 students across two tutor groups and there was a serious concern about the school's long-term viability. In 2024 that number is now 132 across five tutor groups for Year 7, meaning that more parents than ever are deciding that St Dunstan's School is their first choice. This is perhaps Lynda's proudest achievement as it clearly demonstrates she has created a school that is respected, trusted and considered the best educational experience for the children of Glastonbury.

Since she announced her retirement, the school has been inundated with well wishers from students and parents alike, clearly reflecting the huge respect with which she is held amongst the whole community. To staff she has always offered an open door, generously giving her time to listen to problems, concerns and offer sound guidance and meaningful support. In this capacity, she has earned a reputation as something of a problem fixer with a keen eye for spotting imaginative and successful solutions to difficult problems... and there have been a few of those.

To parents and carers she has been a trusted guardian of their children and someone who always listens with understanding and respect. She has also, at times, been called to step beyond her role as Headteacher, helping struggling families in difficult times, and we know that many in our community owe Lynda a personal debt of thanks for helping get their family and lives back on track.



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GOOD BYE MRS BEVAN

We'll really miss you!

And to the students of St Dunstan's she has always been their biggest champion and unwavering advocate. In every decision made, she has always put the needs of the child first, building a school where students are nurtured, protected and ultimately go into the world as successful and happy human beings with very happy memories of their time at school.

So in leaving us, Lynda leaves a huge legacy and, although we are delighted that she is finally taking the retirement she so very much deserves, she will be very much missed by us all.

We know that she is very sad to leave but that she will continue to take a keen interest in the school going forward. She is however very much looking forward to a full retirement being able to spend much more time with her husband and walking her dog - and not necessarily in that order.

I am sure that you will all join us in wishing her every success for her future and thanking her for her tireless efforts and commitment to our school over the past ten years.

Duncan Powell
Executive Headteacher



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GOOD BYE MRS BEVAN

We'll really miss you!



Faculty Farewells

Faculty One

Mrs Bevan is very special to Faculty One because she used to be one of us! She's always been an excellent teacher and is passionate about literature and English skills giving children life chances.

Over the years she has taken lots of trips to the theatre; the Globe in London and also Glastonbury Abbey.

She is hardworking and has the children of St Dunstan's School at the heart of every decision she makes. Having a Head Teacher who is an English teacher has been brilliant for our faculty as she has championed reading, writing and performing which is what we do! Faculty One will miss her but she is written into our story now as a major character and her own sequel must now begin! xx



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GOOD BYE MRS BEVAN

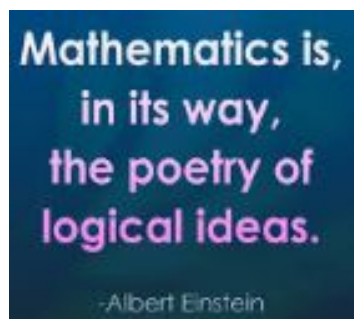
We'll really miss you!

Faculty Farewells

Faculty Two

Mrs Bevan has been a fantastic support to not only her students but her staff as well. Enjoy your well earned rest and walks with Stan!

Love from the maths department x



Faculty Three

Without stories, we wouldn't be human beings at all' - Philip Pullman.

Your St Dunstan's story has been one of progress, kindness, compassion and achievement. Thank you for everything you have done for our community and school family and for letting us be part of your story. Enjoy your retirement and time with Stan! x



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GOOD BYE MRS BEVAN

We'll really miss you!

Faculty Farewells



Faculty Four

As you embark on this new journey, may your days be filled with relaxation, laughter, wine, dogs and the satisfaction of a job extremely well done. Thank you for all your support, we will all miss you.

Remember, retirement is not the end; it's the beginning of a new chapter in the book of your life!

Happy retirement!

Faculty Five

It has been a pleasure working with you over the years.... your drive, determination and passion for us all to succeed will be missed. We have done this journey together and now it's your time to sit back and reap the rewards of your hard work and success. Enjoy this time, your adventure is just beginning!

"Don't cry because it's over – smile because it happened."

Put your feet up xxx



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St Dunstan's Sports Day 2024



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St Dunstan's Sports Day 2024



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St Dunstan's Sports Day 2024

What a beautiful day for a sports day! The sun was shining with hazy clouds drifting by to the sounds of early noughties tunes rippling over the field and the hoots and cheers of competitors.

The competition was fierce with close-run races and incredible throws but they weren't the only activities of the day as staff and students danced the day away to the excellent playlist. Despite the rivalry between houses and tutor groups, the day was full of fun and community, and it was wonderful to see!

The morning ended with Medip in first place, Quantock second, Blackdown third and Exmoor in fourth but it was still all to play for...

The afternoon started with the 400m and tug of war and the atmosphere was electric! All tutor groups crowded around the track, waving homemade banners and cheering until they lost their voices. Sprints came next and students were supportive of their friends, no matter what place they crossed the finish line in! The enthusiasm lasted all afternoon.

As Cole won the 400m he said: "I'm very tired and my legs hurt but I'm feeling very proud" and he won the 100m a little while later and described himself as "fatigued!" Boe won first place in the 400m just after him and said she was 'exhausted!' but had a big smile on her face. Elliot won first place in the 100m but said he ran "too fast" because he slid over the line very dramatically but it scored him the win. Leyton won the 800m and despite being tired he was feeling good and Kele won her Year 10 800m *without shoes on* and felt "excited and really proud of herself". Her new tactic clearly worked as it got her the win!



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The final races of the day were the relays and Mendip took an early lead, winning the Year 7 girls race, but Exmoor weren't letting them win easily, as they won the boys Year 7 relay. Blackdown won the Year 8 girls relay while Quantock won the Year 8 boys relay so the competition was on as everyone had won a relay each going into the Year 9 races. Quantock upped the stakes as they won both of the Year 9 relays but Blackdown decided to round off the day by winning both of the Year 10 relays, the final student races of the day!

And now... for the hotly awaited announcement... the overall scores! It was a very close call but...

1st MENDIP with 558 points
2nd EXMOOR with 536 points
3rd BLACKDOWN with 522 points
4th QUANTOCK with 459 points

Well done all!! It was a wonderful day filled with positivity and support for each other and as a whole school everyone did themselves proud! A big thank you to all the staff involved, the day ran smoothly and without a hitch. Even the weather behaved!

This information has all been gathered by the brilliant news reporters who collected quotes, scores and talked to competitors throughout the day.



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St Dunstan's Sports Day 2024

All photos were taken by the student photographers who brilliantly captured the action and energy of the day!



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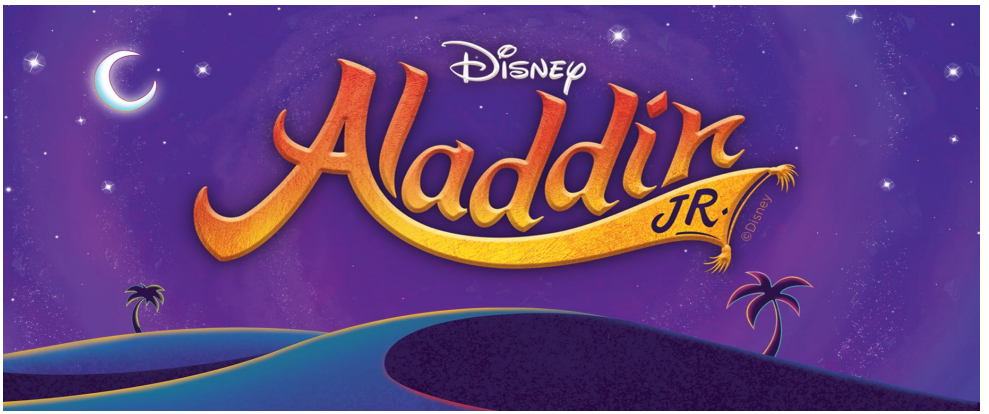
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That's a wrap!

We just wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone involved in our School Production of Aladdin... staff, students, their families and friends and the PTA have just been amazing!

Our students have been brilliant. We have had so many lovely comments and emails about each of the performances they have brought tears to our eyes :)

We are so proud of you all and we are looking forward to creating many future productions together here at St Dunstan's.

Well done, cast and crew. You are the real stars!

Thank you from

Mrs Hopton and Mrs Pulford



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Disney Aladdin JR.



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Disney Aladdin JR.



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Disney Aladdin JR.



Introducing the cast of Aladdin...

I'm enjoying the overall feeling of having fun. I think that together we are making something really great and it's all coming together wonderfully.

I'm looking forward to being able to show what we have made together, showing the audience something memorable, and giving it all I've got. I love being in school productions and being characters. I want to keep going. *Sophie Year 8*

Ensemble



I enjoy all the dance routines and just being in an acting environment.

I am looking forward to being in costume.

I would like to be part of all of the schools productions if possible and hopefully I will get some lines. *Elena Year 7*

I'm enjoying the participation and the friendliness of the other students. *Isabel Year 7*



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MNSP Trust Maths Challenge

The St Dunstan's Year 7 & 8 Maths Challenge Team are celebrating, having come top in the annual MNSP Trust Maths Challenge competition on Friday last week! The team of four: Jaime C, Oren M, August M and Spencer R did battle with eight other secondary schools in our MNSP Trust, armed only with their wits, Maths knowledge, and quick minds.

Leading the competition from start to finish the team of four performed magnificently, pursued closely all the way by the rest of the top five: Hayesfield Girls' School, St Mark's, Somervale, and Norton Hill (in particular). There were four rounds: Head to Head, Relay, Speed, and Fizz Buzz Pop, with the four students working either as a team of four in some rounds, or in pairs, or individually. With only a three point lead going into the final round, the St Dunstan's team just got enough points to keep Norton Hill at bay, finishing just two points ahead (216 points to 214).

Mr Conway (Maths Team coach) will be receiving the competition trophy, engraved with the winning student's initials, to display in the school trophy cabinet at the front of school at the end of term. Well-deserved congratulations go to all four of the St Dunstan's Team!



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St Dunstan's PTA

We are very lucky to have such a fantastic PTA to support us in all aspects of school life. This year they have been busy, as always, and have helped organise and fund so many different things to help make our school extra special. We're so grateful to have them, so thank you PTA from us! Here is a list of some of the things they've been involved in this year:

List of events/fundraising organised:

Quiz night

Fashion show

Car boot sale

Frost Fayre and Extravaganza car parking

Free preloved school uniforms

Tesco blue tokens

Tesco second hand book sale

Wookey Hub Christmas tree sale

List of funded items:

Anemometers, thermometers and compasses for the geography department

Airtags for the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions

Games and weighted soft toys and blankets for the SEND department

Microphones, Aladdin licence and costumes for drama department

A sofa for the library and one for the Learning Hub

130 library books

Look out for future events and fundraisers for the school, and remember, the PTA always welcomes new members!

stdunstanscommunitypta@gmail.com



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Celebration Assembly

We rounded the school year off with a whole school celebration assembly, a wonderful way to shout about how fantastic our students are. From tutor awards, subject awards, musical and literary performances and Sports Day results, we are so proud of our students and were happy to be able to celebrate that together.

In true St Dunstan's fashion we rounded things off with an acapella rendition of Mrs Bevan's favourite song, *Don't Stop Believing* (because the internet decided to not let us have a backing track) but it was a very *us* way to end a wonderful school year, and Mrs Bevan's time as Head Teacher.

Well done everyone, we're very proud of you, and you should be very proud of yourselves!



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*We are looking
for new
players*



*..for our all girls
football team
next season!*



Join our Team Today!

We are currently seeking girls going into Years 9 & 10 this
September to join our team.

If you're interested, please get in touch.

email: somertonycfsecretary@hotmail.com



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Local events...

JULY EVENTS ON THE AVALON MARSHES



Meet the Eels – Eel Tank
Until 31 July 2024, 10 am – 5 pm
Somerset Craft Gallery



Pilates, Meditation and Nature Walk Workshop
Wednesday 3 July, 10 am - 12 pm
Avalon Marshes Centre



Discovery Tour
Friday 5 July, 10 am
Avalon Archaeology (Avalon Marshes Centre)



Ancient Music Day
Saturday 6 July, 10 am - 4 pm
Avalon Archaeology (Avalon Marshes Centre)



'Memory Mud Mind': Walk, Talk and Workshop
Saturday 6 July, 10 am - 4 pm
Avalon Marshes Centre



Discovery Tour
Monday 8 July, 10 am & 2 pm
Avalon Archaeology (Avalon Marshes Centre)



Meet Shaun the Sheep!
13-24 July, 10 am – 5 pm
Avalon Marshes Centre



Festival of Archaeology: Sweet Track Walk
Friday 19 July, 10 am
Avalon Marshes Centre/Shapwick Heath NNR



Festival of Archaeology: Viking Invasion
Saturday 20 July, 10 am - 4 pm
Avalon Archaeology (Avalon Marshes Centre)



Owl Pellet Analysis
Saturday 20 July, 10 am - 12 pm
Shapwick Moor NNR



Butterfly, Dragonfly and Damselfly Walk
Sunday 21 July, 10.30 am - 1 pm
RSPB Ham Wall NNR



Discovery Tour
Monday 22 July, 10 am
Avalon Archaeology (Avalon Marshes Centre)



Well Woman Walk
Monday 29 July, 7 pm - 9 pm
Shapwick Moor NNR



For more information visit
www.avalonmarshes.org/events



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YOUNG WARDENS PROGRAMME

Action-oriented conservation work for ages 12-17 on Somerset's Avalon Marshes

Wildlife at Westhay Moor NNR

Thursday 1 August, 10am – 2pm

Join the Somerset Wildlife Trust for a day of wildlife identification, surveying, and guided walks.

Owls & Raptors at Shapwick Moor NNR

Wednesday 21 August, 10am – 2pm

Join the Hawk & Owl Trust for owl pellet analysis and raptor walks.

Small Mammals at Shapwick Moor NNR

Saturday 7 September, 10am – 2pm

Join the Hawk & Owl Trust for small mammal trapping and learning about local wildlife.

Bio-Blitz at the Avalon Marshes Centre

Saturday 5 October, 10am – 2pm

Join the Recorders of Avalon Marshes group (RoAM) to help identify and record local species.

Scrub Clearance at Shapwick Heath NNR

Saturday 30 October, 10am – 2pm

Join Natural England and help conserve and maintain wildlife habitats.

Email somersetnnrs@naturalengland.org.uk to take part, or visit
www.avalonmarshes.org/events



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Key information for Happy Healthy Holidays Summer!



**Need help with booking?
Watch this video**



**Bookings open on
Monday 1st July at 10am**



LOG IN

**Login to Playwaze
(same login as used at Easter)**



**Enter the code your school
has given you**

12

12 sessions of provision per child only



**Need help? Call or email our
HHH team**

 hhh@sasp.co.uk  07843 816168 / 01823 653992 (Open 9am - 1pm)



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HAPPY HEALTHY HOLIDAYS... IS BACK FOR THE SUMMER!

Exciting activity clubs for children aged 5 - 16, who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals across Somerset

**12 SESSIONS
PER CHILD
ONLY**



**GET A
BOOKING
CODE FROM
YOUR
SCHOOL**

**BOOKINGS
OPEN ON
1ST JULY**



**FOOD
INCLUDED!**



Find and book **FREE** local activities by visiting:
www.sasp.co.uk/happy-healthy-holidays
or scan the QR code!

SCAN ME



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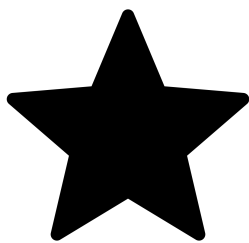


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ATTENDANCE MATTERS



100%

Attendance

Be in to win - 100% attendance will be rewarded with TRACK Stars and chance to win Amazon vouchers

82% of students achieve 5 GCSEs grade 5+

95%+

Attendance

77% of students achieve 5 GCSEs grade 5+

92-93%

Attendance

53% of students achieve 5 GCSEs grade 5+

Below
90%

Attendance

43% of students achieve 5 GCSEs grade 5+

96%

Attendance

This is the target equalling at most 8 days off per year

Absences
add up

Missing 2 days per month means you miss 10% of school

