



Weekly Newsletter 2025-6

Dear Families & Parents,

This weekly newsletter is your essential guide to supporting your child. It is packed with important dates, event details and information. 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 would like to share, please feel free to reach out to us!

As we move in to the final five days, I would like to congratulate our students for their hard work and the resilience they have shown so far. In the past few days our students have now reached the 200,000 'On Track' points threshold. This is an incredible total to reach in just 13 weeks. Well done to everyone.

Our final week is jam packed with events, important lessons and feedback from assessments. High attendance in the final five days is absolutely essential for all students to finish the term on a positive note ahead of what should be a well earned break.

I look forward to writing to everyone again next week to celebrate the successes of the term and look ahead to the spring.

Best wishes

P Balkwill

Headteacher



Key Information

Key Dates

16 December- Christmas Jumper day- more information to follow

17 December- Christmas Dinners

18 December- Christmas celebration events for students who have reached key attendance and on track point thresholds

19 December- Celebration assemblies & final day of term

5 January- Inset day. School closed

22 January- Year 11 Parents evening

28 January-29 January- School Production

2 February- Year 9 Parents evening and Options Fayre

12 February- Year 10 Parents Evening





Weekly Attendance Update

What does my attendance look like so far? 12 December

Band	Percentage	Number of days attended this year to date	Potential Days of Absence across the year if this continues	Potential hours of lost learning	Classification
1	100%	67	0	0	Perfect
2	98% to 100%	66	4	20	Excellent
3	96% to 98%	64	8	40	Good
4	93% to 96%	62	14	70	Requires Improvement
5	90% to 93%	60	38	190	Concerning
6	Below 90%	59	40	200	Persistent absence

Celebrating Success: Outstanding Attendance Earns a Day out of School Uniform!

Today, we were delighted to recognise the four tutor groups who achieved outstanding attendance over the last two weeks. As a reward for their commitment, these groups enjoyed a well-deserved non-school uniform day. Students embraced the day with enthusiasm while still demonstrating the maturity and responsibility that earned them the privilege in the first place. Staff were impressed by how brilliantly the groups managed the day, maintaining a positive attitude and continuing to set an excellent example for the rest of the school who were definitely a little jealous!

But the celebrations don't end there. We have our prizes to give out to the 272 students who had 100% attendance for a 3 week streak. On Monday, we will be holding a raffle for these students and 20 of them will get a £10 Amazon Voucher. On top of this, there are the 242 students who had 100% attendance for the whole of November to celebrate and 15 of these students will be getting their Amazon Vouchers too.

Students who have met the school's attendance and behaviour expectations are being invited on Monday to our exclusive End-of-Term Celebration Event, taking place later in the week. This special event is our way of acknowledging students who consistently show dedication, resilience, and commitment—qualities that make our school community stronger.

Weekly Attendance Update

The festive spirit has also been alive and well in tutor time, with our Christmas quizzes and riddles bringing plenty of fun, teamwork, and friendly competition to the mornings. Tutor groups have thrown themselves into the challenges with enthusiasm, showcasing quick thinking, creativity, and a brilliant sense of humour. We are very much looking forward to rewarding tutor groups for their participation next week, as we continue to celebrate the positivity and engagement shown across our school community this term. Five more riddles to go before we break up for the holidays.

Finally, we would like to extend a thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support over the past few weeks. It has been wonderful to see our students back in school and recovering well after the recent flu outbreak. If your child needs help with catching up on their missed learning, please do let us know—we are here to help and can provide support to ensure they feel confident and caught up. Your partnership makes a real difference, and we really appreciate it.

St Dunstan's School
GLASTONBURY

MNSP
MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.

ON
TRACK

Final 5 Days

Monday 15th - 3 Week Streak Prizes & Craft workshop

Tuesday 16th - Christmas/ Favourite Jumper Day

Wednesday 17th - Christmas Dinners

Thursday 18th - Celebration Events

Friday 19th - Celebration Assemblies and extended Tutor Time

Don't miss out!



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.....

201,570

Well done to all of our students!



Christmas Lunches



Secondary Christmas Menu 17th December 2025

Turkey Parcel with Gluten-Free Stuffing Wrapped in Bacon. (GF)

Vegan Quorn Fillet with Gravy (V) GF / DF
Roasted Vegetable Cracker Parcel
with Tomato Sauce (V)

Served with: Carrots, Sprout Gratin in Cheese Sauce Topped with Bacon,
Roast Potatoes, Chipolata Sausage

Chocolate Sponge + Chocolate Sauce
Gluten Free Christmas Pudding

Christmas Lunch Announcement!

The canteen will be serving a special Christmas lunch on Wednesday 17th December!

The cost of the meal is £3.40, and there's no need to pre-book.

To make the occasion extra enjoyable, the lunch period will be staggered so students can sit with their year group, enjoy delicious festive food and listen to Christmas music .

We can't wait to celebrate together!



CyberFirst Digital Futures



We are immensely proud of our students who attended the CyberFirst Conference at Bristol Cathedral this week.

They had the fantastic opportunity to learn about AI in industry and explore how jobs in the IT and cyber sector may change in the future.

An excellent day of learning, inspiration and future-thinking!



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Ambition

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Kindness

Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students visited Zaza Bazaar in Bristol during a busy lunch service this week.

The purpose of the trip was to learn about job roles within the Hospitality and Catering industry.

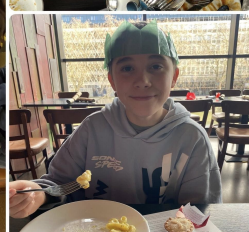
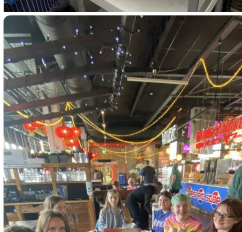
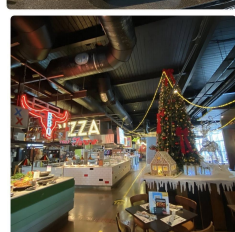
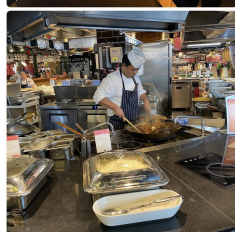
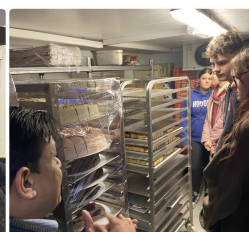
Students observed the chefs preparing food from all around the world, as well as learning about culinary skill and technique.

Students then had the opportunity to enjoy lunch, sampling foods from a range of different cultures and cuisines.

This trip has developed knowledge and understanding about our course and how it is linked to the real world, further education and career choices.

Well done Year 10 and a huge thank you to [#zazabazaar](#) for your wonderful hospitality.







DT NEA Support Sessions



We are now hosting DT NEA Support Sessions!
They will be running every Monday and Thursday
from 15:15-16:15.

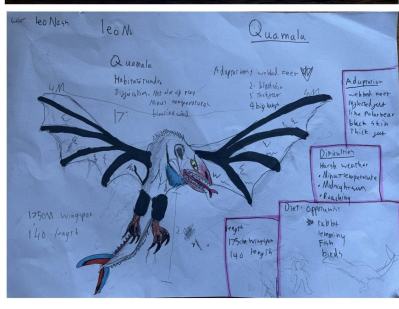
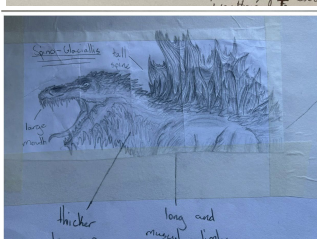
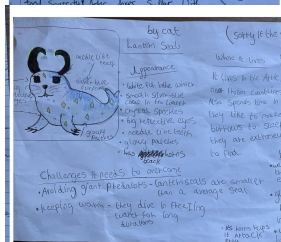
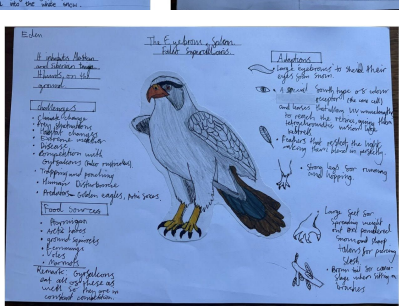
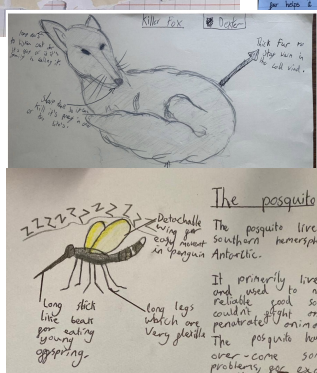
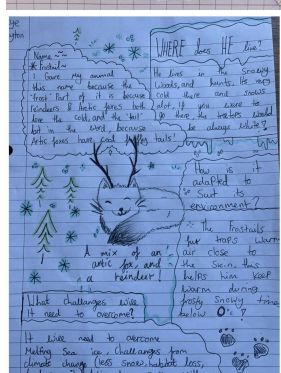
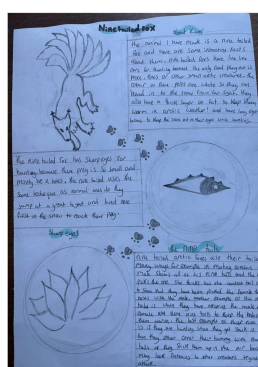
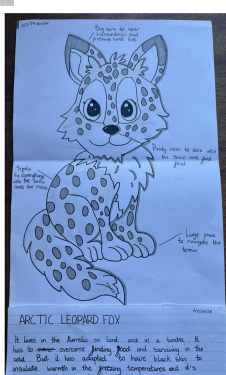
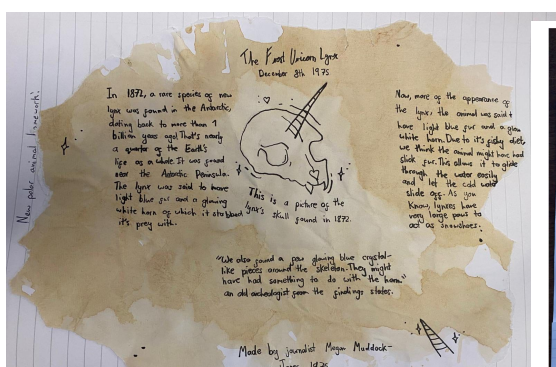
This is a great opportunity to get on top of the
current NEA (worth 50% of the grade). There will
be support to complete portfolio work, modelling
and CAD.

Chocolate biscuits provided!



The Geography team have been busy looking through the Year 7 homework on animal adaptation. Students were asked to design their own adapted animal, showing how it would survive in a specific environment.

We've been so impressed by the creativity and imagination displayed - from ocean-dwelling creatures with special fins, gills and bioluminescent features, to icy-tundra animals with built-in insulation. Fantastic work, Year 7, well done!



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Staff Trip to the Bishop's Palace



Staff enjoyed an evening of festive lights and togetherness this week in order to support wellbeing.

A wander around the beautiful Christmas lights, in the fresh air (without rain) helped get staff into the festive mood and take a well earned break.

We were lucky enough to see the art exhibition which many of our key stage 3 students entered, and were proud to see that we won 'Judge's Choice' too!

It's important that we all find time to take stock and feel revitalised, and opportunities like this are a valuable part of our school culture.



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LOST PROPERTY



We have lots of lost property at the moment including coats, umbrellas and football boots. Someone must be missing them! If you think something in here might be your child's, or they've lost something, please encourage them to visit the Uniform Hub (next to Room 2) to check.

Items left uncollected will eventually be donated.



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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.

As we enter the final week of term, we have lots of overdue library books. While we are very happy for students to read over the Christmas holidays (we encourage it!) we'd like to reiterate the importance of keeping books safe and ensuring they're renewed in advance of the holidays so we can keep track of them.

In the unfortunate instance that a book has been lost or damaged, we ask that you replace it (with a second hand copy!) to ensure all students can access the books they want.

Hoping we can get our overdue book number down a lot before next week, and of course, happy reading over the holidays! May it be a break full of magic for everyone, both real and literary.



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Careers Spotlight



OPEN EVENTS

Visit a UCS College Group Open Event and see why we're Somerset's most ambitious education provider. Explore outstanding state-of-the-art facilities, meet expert tutors and experience the exceptional pastoral support that puts students at the heart of everything we do. Whether you're looking to study A Levels, T Levels, a technical and professional qualification or an Apprenticeship, our colleges and courses will help you shape a future you're proud of. For more information visit www.ucscollegegroup.ac.uk or call 01278 441234.

REGISTER NOW!

Scan to
register!



BRIDGWATER COLLEGE | Wed 14 January | 6pm - 8pm

TAUNTON COLLEGE | Thu 15 January | 6pm - 8pm

STRODE COLLEGE | Tues 20 January | 6pm - 8pm

TRANSFORMING LIVES



UCS
COLLEGE
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Careers Spotlight



Join us at our **open day**



Wessex Water and YTL UK are looking for people to join our 2026 technical apprenticeships programmes.

*Come along to our open day on
Saturday 31 January 9.30am - 2pm*

Operations Centre, Claverton Down Road, Bath, BA2 7WW

What to find at the open day:

- attend our Welcome to Wessex Water YTL UK seminar
- meet our recruiting teams
- hear from our current apprentices
- explore education and training options after age 16
- take part in one or more speed interviews
- visit our advice pod
- watch demonstrations and see our innovative tech
- identify how you can turn your favourite school or college subjects into a career.



Please bring along your family and friends to join us. Refreshments will be available to purchase from our cashless cafe on site. We suggest allowing two hours for your visit.



Book your arrival time [here](#) or scan the QR code.

For more information visit
[careers.ytluk.co.uk/careers-site/
apprenticeship-open-day](https://careers.ytluk.co.uk/careers-site/apprenticeship-open-day)

YTL UK
YTL GROUP



3899



Holiday Activities



Activity Calendar

Community Inclusion
and Activity Team

Christmas Holidays
Sat 20 Dec - Fri 2 Jan 2026



For ALL children and young people in Somerset with a disability or additional needs
*You DO NOT have to be referred to any service to access these activities, unless otherwise stated.

Key for activities:



Family Activity - for all members of the family to attend and enjoy



Child/Young person can attend on their own under group supervision or with parent/carer if additional 1:1 support is required - please call the organisation to have a chat



Child/young person must attend with a parent or carer



Staff provided by the organisation to support the child/young person 1:1 if required - please call the organisation to see what they can provide as this may not include personal care



Some parts of the activity are wheelchair accessible please call the organisation to find out more



Accessible changing facilities are available please call the venue to find out more



Activities aimed at young people/teenagers/young adults

Useful Information

Who are the people offering the activities? Organisations who have experience of working with children and young people with a disability or additional need and their families. Activities can be adapted to suit the children and young people who would like to attend. Please call them to chat about your child / young person's needs.

Activities offered by the Community Inclusion and Activity Team - Dependant on the child / young person needs, we can provide a day out without parent / carer as we offer group supervision. If it is the first time your child / young person has accessed a trip with our team, a parent/ carer will need to attend. We require payment a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the day. Please note, spaces for children and young people with a disability or additional need will be prioritised first, with spaces offered to siblings once bookings have closed if we have room.
Online payment at www.somerset.gov.uk/cwd

Don't forget our Activity Day Passes - Available to ALL families in Somerset with a child or young person with a disability or additional need - Puxton Park, Noah's Ark, The Bristol Zoo Project, Abbotsbury, Ferne Animal Sanctuary, Hestercombe gardens, Court farm. Email ciateam@somerset.gov.uk to find out more or visit www.somerset.gov.uk/activity-passes to view the flyer.

Max Card - A FREE card for all children and young people with a disability or additional need in Somerset aged 0-25 years. This card can be used at many places all over the UK offering discounts and special rates when you show the card. Visit www.somerset.gov.uk/max-card for more information on how to access this card. **Cards can ONLY be issued by Somerset Council to people living in Somerset.**

If you would like help with the calendar and how to access activities, please email ciateam@somerset.gov.uk and someone will be in touch to support you.



Holiday Activities



SATURDAY 20TH DEC

Childrens World
The Pitton Stage, St Mary's Lane, Pitton, BA4 5HX.
Children's World Xmas Family Rave and Interactive DJ Experience in partnership with Big Fam Disco. Fun for all ages and abilities. Experience and learn to DJ yourself with Bass and Rave classics and with a dedicated break out space so you can have some quiet time trying out DJ equipment and creating your own Graffiti Big Fam Logo. 2-4pm. For all ages. £5 per person.

To book, please contact Angela Bolton 01458 883693 or email info@childrensworldcharity.org



SUNDAY 21ST DEC

Wildierwoods
Wildierwoods Forest School, Drayton Woods, Langport TA10 6JZ.
Midwinter Candelit Celebration. Decorations, candles and songs in the woods with refreshments around the campfire afterwards. 3-6pm. For all ages. £8 (1 child/1 adult), £15 per family (max 2 adult, 3 children). Additional children/adults £5 per person.

To book, please call Hannah Attkin on 07970 883264 hannah@wildierwoods.org



MONDAY 22ND DEC

Rainbow Roots
Dove Barn, Manor Farm, Silver St, Barton St David, TA11 6DB.
Mindful Christmas Crafts. Join us at Rainbow Roots for a magical mix of creativity and calm! Each morning, children will make festive crafts and learn simple mindfulness techniques to help them feel relaxed, focused, and joyful through the Christmas season. 10am-12:30pm. For 5-11 yrs. £7.50 per person.

To book, please email Lou Stockley on hello@rainbowroots.uk



TUESDAY 23RD DEC

Rainbow Roots
Dove Barn, Manor Farm, Silver St, Barton St David, TA11 6DB.
Mindful Christmas Crafts. Join us at Rainbow Roots for a magical mix of creativity and calm! Each morning, children will make festive crafts and learn simple mindfulness techniques to help them feel relaxed, focused, and joyful through the Christmas season. 10am-12:30pm. For 5-11 yrs. £7.50 per person.

To book, please email Lou Stockley on hello@rainbowroots.uk



20TH

Purple Elephant
The Assembly Rooms, Christchurch, Street West, Frome, BA11 1EB.
Family Holiday Fun! Christmas party! With festive crafts, Santa, and a hot meal, followed by a silent disco. 10am - 2pm. For all ages. £2 suggested donation. Free to those on free school meals.

To book, please email purpleelephant.org.uk



22ND

Rainbow Roots
Dove Barn, Manor Farm, Silver St, Barton St David, TA11 6DB.
Gifts from the Heart. In our cosy afternoon sessions at Rainbow Roots, children will craft thoughtful handmade gifts to share at Christmas. We'll explore gratitude, kindness, and the joy of giving - celebrating how special it feels to make something with love for someone else. 1:30-3:30pm. For 5-11 yrs. £7.50 per person.

To book, please email Lou Stockley on hello@rainbowroots.uk



23RD

Rainbow Roots
Dove Barn, Manor Farm, Silver St, Barton St David, TA11 6DB.
Gifts from the Heart. In our cosy afternoon sessions at Rainbow Roots, children will craft thoughtful handmade gifts to share at Christmas. We'll explore gratitude, kindness, and the joy of giving - celebrating how special it feels to make something with love for someone else. 1:30-3:30pm. For 5-11 yrs. £7.50 per person.

To book, please email Lou Stockley on hello@rainbowroots.uk



ACTIVITY PACKS

Step4ward-in2-growth

Christmas holiday activity packs tailored to young person's interests with a festive theme. Christmas Eve boxes also available, with small, individualised gifts to be opened the night before Christmas! Hanc delivered if local to Shepton Mallet or sent by Royal Mail. For ages 3-18th birthday. £3 per pack/box.

To order, please contact Becky on 07737 331174, email Step4ward-in2growth@mail.com or facebook: [step4ward-in2growth](https://www.facebook.com/step4ward-in2growth)

Community Inclusion Activity Team

'Winter' or 'Christmas' themed activity packs, containing arts & crafts, puzzles and more! £3 per pack, to be paid prior to delivery. Please ensure payment is made by 12 Dec.

To order, please email clateam@somerset.gov.uk by 8 Dec with your child's name, age, nature of disability, address, phone number and where we can safely leave the pack if you're not in. Delivery w/c 15 Dec.

FRIDAY 2ND JAN

In the Mix

The Hub Centre, Hartswell, South Street, Wiveliscombe TA4 2NE.

Create and Bake! Join us to make your own chocolate bark, mug decorating and creating your own hot chocolate to take home. 10am-12:30pm. For 11-18yrs. £2 per person.

To book, please contact emma.carberry@inthemixproject.org.uk 07494 839782.



TUESDAY 30TH DEC

Community Inclusion Activity Team

Sanders Garden centre, Brent Knoll, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset, TA9 4HJ.
Join us on a family day at the festive Big Top! Prepare to be mesmerised by twirling fairies, cheeky elf Nia, breathtaking aerialists and daring acrobats. Marvel at dazzling lasers, the heart stopping wheel of death and the adrenaline pumping motorbikes in the globe. Even Santa makes a magical appearance!

Venue has a limited number of ear defenders which can be borrowed for the duration of the show, so please bring your own if needed. Show includes flashing lights. Staff will be on site for support. 5-7pm. Please arrive by 4:30pm to allow time to be seated. For all ages. £5pp.

To book, call 07977 412199 from 10am on Tuesday 2nd December.



WEDNESDAY 31ST DEC

Mad Community CIC

The Mad Hub, Unit 14 Orchard Shopping Centre, TA1 3TP.
New Year's Eve inclusive disco with lower-volume music to create a lively but sensory-friendly environment. There will be gentle disco lighting & party decorations to build excitement in a welcoming, festive space. TV-projected countdown with fireworks will give children the full New Year's experience in a way that suits their needs. 12.45-1.45pm. For 4-11yrs. 2:30-3:30pm. For 11-16 yrs. £2.95 per person.

To book, please call Kelly Gauntlett on 07467235607 or email themadhub@outlook.com



2ND

Minehead Eye
Minehead Eye centre, 1A Mart road, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 5BJ.
Enjoy games, music, sensory room, arts and crafts, water and sand tray activity! Café style space available for parent carers. 2 youth workers on hand for support and advice. 2-4pm. For 9-10 yrs. £1 per person.

To book, please email reception@minehead-eye.co.uk



2ND

Escape Support Group

Icescape Clark's Village, Street, BA16 9BB.

Slide into the festive season at Clark's Village magical ice skating rink! Penguin and seal skating aids will be available for help with balance. 1-4:50pm. For all ages. Children 12 and under £5. Adult & children 12+ £6. Carer - Free Wheelchair user £5.

To book, fundraising@escapesupportgroup.com Bookings through the website [escapesupportgroup.com](https://www.escapesupportgroup.com).



For more inclusive activities, groups and organisations in your area, please visit the Local Offer: www.somerset.gov.uk/send-events

where you can search by keyword or location.

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