

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/ Carers

Welcome to this week's newsletter. The key themes this week have been around Remembrance and Recognition.

On Monday the whole school gathered in an act of Remembrance on Armistice Day. In a change to arrangements from previous years, we decided to bring the school together on the courts to share and participate in the 2 minute silence. Students from across the school were also invited to wear their Cadets, St John's Ambulance or Scouts Uniforms. This poignant moment of silence was observed impeccably by all, and the community reflected and considered the destruction, devastation and sacrifice brought about by war.

This has also been a week of recognition and celebration for our students too. At the start of the week, students were challenged to hit the 50,000 positive points threshold by the end of the week in order to receive a Non-Uniform day. We have all been very impressed with the amount of positive points students have received this term, which stands as one of the highest in the MNSP Trust. By the end of the week our students managed to achieve 55,000 positive points, exceeding our expectations. The Non-Uniform day was well received, expectations were observed and students also raised considerable sums of money for Children in Need.



15.11.24

NEXT WEEK  
ASSEMBLY  
FOCUS:

**Children in  
Need**

### Key Dates

Year 11 Mock  
Exams  
continue this  
week

Wednesday  
20th  
Celebration of  
Success event

Inset day:  
Wednesday  
27th  
November

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

[Click here for  
term dates](#)



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## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

During the week, we have also announced our long awaited Rewards and Recognition scheme. This is intended to encourage and recognise students who consistently work hard, make a positive contribution to the community and attend school regularly. Further details about this scheme are outlined in this newsletter.

We have also launched our Attendance drive with students. Good attendance is an absolute cornerstone to strong academic outcomes and supports students to be well integrated in school. Research shows that students with less than 95% attendance, perform considerably lower than peers with higher attendance. Similarly, periods of absence can impact on a child's wellbeing and relationships in school.

As part of this drive we have launched a set of rewards and recognition for student attendance. We intend to recognise students for improved attendance and for consistently high attendance. These are outlined in our Rewards and Recognition scheme detailed in this newsletter.



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## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

It is important to note that we are aware that there are occasions when absence is unavoidable. For this reason, our Rewards and Recognition scheme is intended to acknowledge and celebrate students for improved and good attendance as well as achieving 100% attendance each month. Essentially, students who attend regularly or improve their attendance will be celebrated in lots of different ways. Ms Haden will be sharing further details about our attendance strategy in the coming weeks with parents and students.

Finally, well done to our Year 11s who are currently sitting their Mock Examinations. This can be a tiring and stressful period of time. We are really impressed with their hard work and application so far. Keep going, just one more week to go.

I wish you all a restful weekend and I hope those of you who are attending the carnival on Saturday have a wonderful time.

Best Wishes

Mr P Balkwill



15.11.24

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# Remembrance Day

At 11am on Monday, all our students and staff gathered to pay our respects with a two minute's silence.

Students who belong to branches of the cadets, scouts and guides wore their uniforms to mark the occasion.

As always, we were impressed by the sensitivity and empathy shown by our students.



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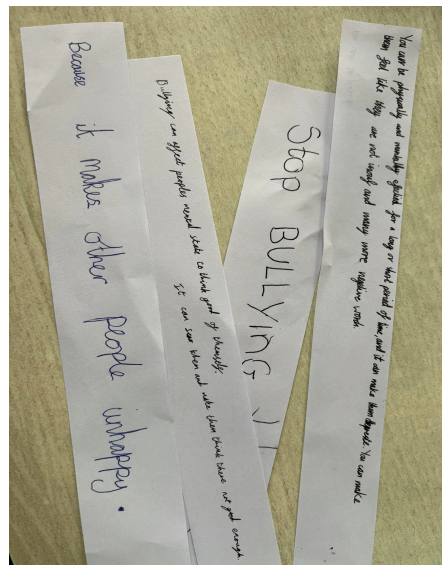
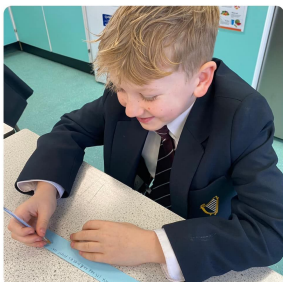
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# Anti-Bullying Week

As it is Anti-Bullying week this week, our wonderful Year 7 and 8 students have been discussing what bullying is and what we would do if we saw any unkind behaviour.

Leading on from this, we created an anti-bullying pledge paper chain where the students recorded their ideas on strips of paper which we joined together to make a huge chain.



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# Strode College Experience Day

It was our pleasure to accompany our awesome Year 11s on their Strode College Experience Day.

Students sampled lessons ranging from Criminology to Engineering and Barbering to Further Maths.

As always, we were impressed by their resilience, enthusiasm and conduct.

Well done Year 11, we are proud of you all!



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# Strode College Experience Day



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# Strode College Experience Day



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<b><u>O</u>rganised &amp; Proactive</b>	<p>Bringing the correct equipment, kit and uniform</p> <p>Meeting deadlines</p> <p>Working on tasks independently and completing homework to a high standard</p>
<b><u>N</u>eat &amp; Tidy work</b>	<p>Smart, well presented books demonstrating your best work</p>
<b><u>T</u>enacity</b>	<p>Trying your hardest, rising to challenges, having a 'can do' attitude, working out solutions and taking ownership of your learning</p>
<b><u>R</u>eady, Respectful and Responsible</b>	<p>Being a role model by consistently demonstrating our basic expectations</p>
<b><u>A</u>nswering, reading and listening like an expert</b>	<p>Sophisticated full sentence answers using technical terms</p> <p>Following along, tracking the text and ready to read aloud in class.</p> <p>Reading widely and for pleasure</p> <p>Listening and considering the views of others</p> <p>Taking in turns to respond</p>
<b><u>C</u>ontributing to the class</b>	<p>Playing an active role in every lesson</p> <p>Attention to the speaker, sat up straight, arms still, pens down</p> <p>Teacher focused</p>
<b><u>K</u>indness &amp; Community minded</b>	<p>Caring, polite, looking after one another and the site</p> <p>Speaking with kindness and respect</p> <p>Supporting staff and other students to create a positive learning environment for all</p>



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## Rewards & Recognition

ON  
TRACK

### INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Bronze Award Badge - 200 points

Silver Award badge - 400 points

Gold Award badge - 600 points



### TERMLY ACHIEVEMENTS



Students who achieve the 150 Track points and 96% attendance will participate in a specific activity on the last day of term.

### ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

At the end of the school year, students who meet the correct threshold will be united to join in a Celebration Carnival.

Student targets for this activity will include:

- 500 positive points
- 96% attendance
- Maximum 40 behaviour points.



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# Rewards & Recognition

ON  
TRACK

## ATTENDANCE

Students who achieve 100% attendance over a set period, are recognised as members of the 100 Club and entered into a prize draw.



## ROLL OF HONOUR



Students will be rewarded for consistently outstanding work, behaviour and effort. 20 behaviour points will be awarded and students will be celebrated on the 'On Track' celebration board.

## PRAISE CARDS

Teachers will allocate a rewards card to students within their classes that demonstrate:

- An exemplary piece of classwork
- An exemplary piece of written work
- Have an exemplary lesson
- Consistently show their best



## CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES



Termly assemblies recognising individual and collective achievements.



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# **BBC** **CHILDREN** **IN NEED**

This week our fantastic Year 11 student leaders held a cake sale in aid of Children in Need!

We were inundated with delicious treats and cakes and a huge number of hungry students!

Thank you so much for all your kind donations! We had so many cakes we held a second cake sale which went down equally as well with students and staff alike.



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## Non-Uniform Day

We have been so impressed with our students. This autumn term we have already given out 50,000 TRACK points which surpasses any annual total we've had in the past! This is because our students have been working hard and embodying our TRACK values and we are incredibly proud of them. We treated them to a non-uniform day, while raising money for Children in Need in the process.



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**PARENTS –**

**GUIDING OUR CHILDREN THROUGH  
THEIR EDUCATION IS ONE OF OUR  
GREATEST ROLES.**



# **MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.**

**Consistent support and motivation from you plays a pivotal role in their success, and this begins with school attendance – that isn't just about adhering to school rules; it's about shaping their future, one day at a time.**

**If your child is struggling with school attendance, our tips overleaf can help you help them.  
Or if you have any concerns contact your child's school.**



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# Attendance Achievement

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**



Throughout the term we will be celebrating student attendance. This will include-

- a) Improved attendance
- b) Events to recognise students who are 96% or higher for a term
- c) Rewards and recognition for students who are 98% each term
- d) Rewards and recognition for students who achieve 100% attendance each month

Good attendance is essential for student progress and wellbeing and we will be looking to celebrate students for good, improved and exemplary attendance on a regular basis.

This week we have celebrated students who were in our 100 Club for September and the beginning of October. We look forward to announcing November's 100 Club in a two weeks time and sharing other attendance achievements too.



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## YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD BY:

- ensuring your child understands the importance of excellent attendance and punctuality.
- asking about school work and encourage them to get involved in school activities.
- discussing any problems they may have and inform their Form Tutor to pass on concerns.
- not allowing them take time off school for minor ailments – particularly those which would not prevent you from going to work.
- arranging appointments after school hours, at weekends or during the holidays, to prevent disruption to your child's education and to the school.
- being open and willing to work with us to improve your child's attendance.



If you are concerned about your child's school attendance, it's best to contact their school first. Our dedicated Attendance Team are on hand to support pupils and families.

For more information about school attendance visit our website:  
[www.midsomernortonschoolpartnership.com/attendance](http://www.midsomernortonschoolpartnership.com/attendance)

**We're here to help if you need it.**



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# Year 10 Parents' Evening

Dear Parent(s) and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to our Year 10 Parents' Evening on **Thursday 5th December 2024**. The event will take place at St Dunstons School between **16.00 & 19.00**.

The evening will give you the opportunity to speak to subject teachers about the progress your child is making and to ask any questions you have about their education at St Dunstan's. Please bring your child along to the event, they do not need to wear their school uniform.

We will run the event in the Sportshall and the appointments with your child's teachers will last for 5 minutes. To assist parents and teachers with time keeping a bell will ring every 5 minutes as a prompt to bring conversations to a close.

This year you will be able to book appointments on your Talaxy portal homepage. Please find instructions on how to book attached to this email.

Bookings will open on **Thursday 21st November** at 08:00.

Please note, if a teacher teaches your child for 2 subjects you should only book one appointment with this member of staff, this is so that our teachers can meet as many student parents as possible.

We look forward to seeing you on **5th December**.

Yours faithfully

Miss A Kench

Head of Key Stage 4

[akench@stdunstansschool.com](mailto:akench@stdunstansschool.com)



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JOIN US FOR THE INAUGURAL ST DUNSTAN'S

# SILENT DISCO

**On Thursday 28th  
November, 6.30 -8.45pm**

The fourth and fifth mystery DJs have been revealed...did you guess correctly? Two students did and they won a free ticket each!

## Mystery DJ Number 4: The Reveal

Our fourth mystery DJ is the fantastic...

**MR GREEN**

## Mystery DJ Number 5: The Reveal

Our fifth mystery DJ is the legend that is....

**MR NORRIS**

It is time to reveal our final bonus Mystery DJ too, he's well-loved for his Thursday crafting sessions and for always being there to listen.... its Kieron!

All our DJs have now been revealed and it is looking to be a fantastic line up. Tickets are still on sale for the Silent Disco so grab one while they last!

Tickets are available from reception at break and lunch! Don't miss out, grab one while they last, it will be a brilliant night!



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# SILENT DISCO

On Thursday 28th  
November, 6.30 -8.45pm

## Silent Disco

28<sup>th</sup> Nov @ 6.30 - 8.45 pm  
Thursday

### DJ Lineup

DJ 1 Mr Norris

DJ 2 Mrs Morris

DJ 3 Miss Pengelly

DJ 4 Mr Waugh

DJ 5 Kieron

DJ 6 Mr Green

!! Buy Tickets £3 from Reception!



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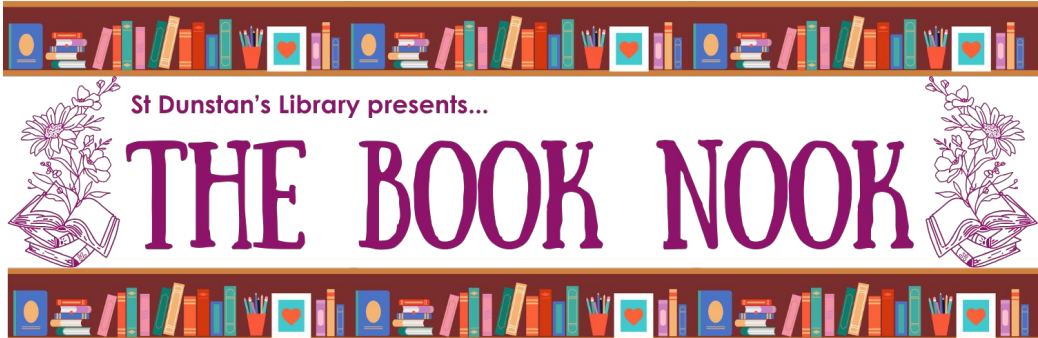


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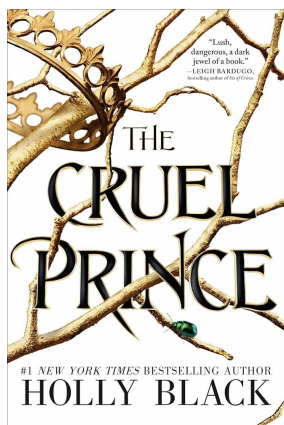
St Dunstan's Library presents...

# THE BOOK NOOK

## Book Review by Maggie (Year 9)



This book grabbed me from the start, with its unique fantasy world, and endless action and drama, this book sustained my reading thirst! Jude and her sisters make you feel connected and sympathetic towards them, in this beautifully harsh faerie land they live in. I am in love with this book!!!



**It's Non-Fiction November! We promote reading for pleasure a lot in school but that doesn't mean *only* fiction! Reading about real things can be really fun and interesting so why not give it a try this month? You might find a new favourite subject or hobby as a result!**



## Popular loans this week:



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# Christmas Showcase

Our annual Christmas Showcase evening is coming up on Thursday 12th December and we hope you will be able to join us for this special event.

We are looking for student performers for this evening by holding auditions on Monday 18th November 3:15-3:30pm in the Drama/Music area. If you would like to perform some music, drama, poetry, dance or speech, then please come along to auditions as we would love to see you!



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