



Weekly Newsletter 2025-6

Dear Parents and Families

Welcome to this week's newsletter. As we fast approach the May half-term, there is plenty to celebrate across our school community.

Well done to our Year 11 students on the completion of the first week of their exams. Staff have fed back that students continue to work incredibly hard and are dedicating their time to additional out-of-hours revision.



It has also been really nice to receive the feedback given to our staff from parents in the community, acknowledging the time given to support their children. I am very proud and thankful for how our staff continue to go above and beyond to support the students. On this theme, we have a Saturday session for Media tomorrow, along with May half-term sessions running Tuesday to Friday. Please continue to encourage your child to make the most of these opportunities; they make a significant difference in building confidence and refining exam technique.

This week, forty of our students competed in the MNSP Sports Festival against several trust schools in a range of events. Well done to all the students involved who represented the school so well, continuing to show that although we are a small school, we can still compete with some of the larger schools both within the Trust and more widely on several fronts.

I wish you all a fantastic weekend and look forward to writing to you again next week.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Balkwill'.

P. Balkwill *Headteacher*



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Key Dates

Wb 25th May- We will be running revision sessions for Year 11 GCSEs over the half term break. Please look out for more details in your emails.

Wednesday 17th June & Tuesday 23rd June- Open mornings

Wednesday 10th June- Y10 site study day- History students only

Thursday 18th- Friday 19th June- Bronze DfE expedition

Important Information

Contacting out of Hours

There are many occasions when you may feel it is necessary to contact the school outside of normal working hours. While we will always endeavour to review these messages and provide a response within a reasonable timeframe, please be aware that it is not always possible or appropriate for staff to respond during their personal time. We politely request that this is taken into account when communicating with colleagues, and we thank you for your understanding.

Year 11 Exams

Just a reminder ahead of next week for families and students that we have dedicated webpage to keep everyone updated over the exam period. We advise that you check this regularly for updates.

[St Dunstan's School | Information on Exams](#)

St Dunstan's School

GLASTONBURY



Announcement

Summer Open Mornings



St Dunstan's School

GLASTONBURY

Wednesday 17th & Tuesday 23rd June
9:00-11:00am



'Come and see what makes our school such a great place to be.'

To register your interest in attending, please email:
secretary@stdunstans.mnsp.org.uk
Or visit our website: www.stdunstansschool.com





Attendance Update

What does my attendance look like so far? Term 5 Week 4

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%	145	0	0	Exceptional
2	98% to 100%	142	4	20	Strong Standard
3	96% to 98%	139	8	40	Expected Standard
4	93% to 96%	135	14	70	Needs Attention
5	90% to 93%	131	38	190	Urgent Improvement
6	Below 90%	130	40	200	Critical Action

Attendance Matters – Thank You for Supporting Our School Community

As a school, we monitor attendance carefully - daily, weekly, monthly, termly and yearly - it helps us identify patterns, recognise when students may need additional support, and understand the times of year when attendance can naturally become more challenging. We know there are often high points and low points across an academic year, and since the impact of Covid, schools nationally have seen significant changes in attendance patterns. More than ever, we believe strongly that being in school matters. School is not just about lessons. It is about belonging to a community, sharing values, building friendships, developing confidence and growing into amazing young people.

That is why we are incredibly proud of the progress our students, families and staff have made together this year. We have now completed 32 weeks of the academic year. Across 27 weeks so far — and potentially 28 once this week is added — our attendance has been stronger than at the same point in any of the previous three years.



Attendance Update

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



Discover the benefits of consistent attendance

PERFORMANCE

Consistent attendance leads to improved academic performance and higher grades over time.



TEAMWORK

Regular attendance fosters better teamwork skills, enhancing group dynamics and collaboration among peers.



RELIABILITY

Consistent attendance builds a reputation for reliability, making you a valued member of any team.



BE PRESENT

Commit to showing up for success and growth.



Even more encouragingly, each term this year has shown improvement compared with the last three years.

That improvement does not happen by accident. It comes from parents and carers supporting routines, encouraging attendance on difficult mornings, communicating with school, and working in partnership with us. It comes from students showing resilience, commitment and pride in being part of our school community. It comes from staff creating an environment where young people feel welcomed, valued and supported.

Thank you for helping us create opportunities for our young people to learn, socialize, and belong. With just six school days left this term and one final term before summer, let's aim to finish the academic year with our strongest attendance in four years. Every day matters—together, we can finish strongly.

Your attendance shapes your future!



**CONGRATULATIONS
STUDENTS!**



**392,000
POINTS ACHIEVED**

SINCE SEPTEMBER

**LET'S SEE IF WE CAN GET TO 400,000 BY
THE END OF NEXT WEEK!**



Good Luck Year 11

Wishing the very best of luck to all our Year 11 students who started their written GCSE exams this week! They kicked things off with English Lit, fuelled by some iconic English department 'quonanas' (bananas with literary quotes ready for the exam). Big thank you to Tesco for donating all our fruit!

All the effort and commitment you've put in has led to this moment, and we're confident you'll do brilliantly. Keep your focus, believe in yourselves and give it everything you've got - you're ready for this!



Truth

Resilience

Ambition

Community

Kindness

Good Luck Year 11



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Year 11 Saturday Revision

Media Studies revision will take place ON SITE in school on Saturday, ahead of Monday's exam.

Please arrive at 12.50 to sign in and come along for your final revision session before the exam!

MEDIA STUDIES REVISION

Saturday 16th May 1pm - 3pm

Arrive 10 minutes before to sign in

Quality
Street.

THIS
GIRL
CAN

007[™]

VOGUE

THE
Sun

The
Guardian

FORTNITE

The Archers

GQ

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Uniform Exchange

We are keen to replenish our stocks for our uniform exchange scheme in order to support families with growing costs, as well as our environment.

We are gratefully accepting:

- Blazers, ties, and plain navy V-neck sweaters.
- Trousers, skirts, and school shoes.
- All items of PE kit.
- Revision guides and stationery equipment.

If you have any items, please drop them in to our reception at any time. We will contact you later this term with dates and times for the summer "Exchange Days" where you can source items for the next year. Please note, this is for all families to access.

Thank you for your support.

UNIFORM EXCHANGE SCHEME



St Dunstan's Library presents...

THE BOOK NOOK

HELP US WIN
£1,000
FOR OUR SCHOOL'S LIBRARY

NATIONAL
BOOK
tokens

In association with

Read
for Good



#rebuildthelibrary

National
Year of
Reading
2026

We need your vote!

National Book Tokens are giving away £1000 to a school library, and we need your help to be in the running to win it! Please nominate 'St Dunstan's School' on the link below, and you could personally be in with a chance of winning a £100 book voucher!

Nominate us!

Thank you for your support, it would make a HUGE difference to the library and to our students to win so much money, so fingers crossed!

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Additional Support Courses for Parents

Three new courses offered by FACE, separate from the school membership.

Full access to all three courses for £6.99/month

Complete at your own pace, cancel anytime.



Building Emotional Resilience

Work through six stages of directed exercises to help your child (and yourself) improve emotional resilience.



Facing Defiance

A specific strategy aimed at supporting parents of children aged 5 to 12 with ADHD, ODD or just very challenging behaviour.



You & Your Teen

A skills building course for one parent and one teen (12 years old and above) to learn how they can both improve their communication with each other.

www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Online Courses for Parents page

info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk

