



Weekly Newsletter 2025-6

Dear Parents & Families,

As we come to the end of a busy, eventful, and successful term, I want to pause a moment to celebrate some of our highlights from this past year.

Firstly, a huge well done goes to our Year 7s who have now completed their first year in secondary school. September probably feels like a lifetime ago when our students and families first arrived at the gates to be greeted on their first day. Since that day, the year group has gone from strength to strength, achieving 112,000 On Track points and averaging nearly 95% attendance for the year.



Last week, it was a real pleasure to participate in the Year 11 celebration events culminating in Prom. Looking back over the past year, this cohort has a lot to be proud of. Their conduct and maturity during the final exam period was brilliant, and their engagement in out-of-hours revision was equally commendable. Often, Year 11 is a time of stress and worry, and I have no doubt that as families you experienced this too. However, the way in which they stepped up and embraced the challenge of the year is something each and every individual should be very proud of. We wish them the very best for the future and look forward to seeing them all again for Results Day in August.

I would also like to congratulate Year Groups 8 to 10 for their achievements this year. Well done to Year 10 for successfully completing the Year 10 trial exams, their first taste of what the GCSE exams will look like. I have also been reflecting on the overwhelmingly positive feedback and praise given by the mock interview panel about the confidence and poise of their responses. It has also been great to hear about the work experience opportunities students have had this week and how they are successfully participating in these workplaces.



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Congratulations also to our Year 9 students for their participation in the DofE (Duke of Edinburgh) Bronze scheme. Well done to both Year 8 and 9 too for their efforts competing in the MNSP sports event alongside other sports fixtures, as well as their continual commitment to studies.

A core theme this year has been around the importance of attendance. Consistent attendance is crucial for every child's academic and social success, and we deeply appreciate your support in promoting this. Each and every week, month, and term, we have celebrated and recognised our students for improved and consistent attendance. Even with the spread of the flu bug in November and the challenges linked to the heat wave, we are pleased to report an overall improvement in school attendance this year.

Last Monday, it was a joy to see the students with staff participate in the second Celebration Carnival. This was intended as a celebration of not only attendance but positive engagement in our 'On Track' points scheme which has gone from strength to strength. Our final total has reached 446,235 points, averaging 858 points per student. This total is over double the total of 2024-5 and over four times the total of 2023-4, demonstrating that day in and day out our students are working hard and are recognised by staff for their efforts. Well done to you all.

Our Performing Arts department continues to put on exceptional shows for the community. This year's Addams Family performance was one of my personal highlights, and the performances of our musicians at events such as the Summer Showcase and Celebration Events demonstrate our students at their very best.

Our enrichment programme is also something to be proud of. This year, our students have had opportunities to participate in Duke of Edinburgh schemes; a Guardian newspaper visit, university trips, theatre and music performances; computational thinking and mathematics competitions, public speaking such as Youth Speaks; numerous sports activities and events; visiting authors and guest speakers; the Cybercon trip, Millfield mental health days, the Young



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Chef of the Year competition; Normandy; the Swanage trip; Youth Parliament and the MNPS book awards. This list does not include the range of activities and opportunities on offer this week and the weekly activities and clubs each term. My thanks as always, go to every single member of staff who has been involved in the organisation or coordination of these trips and opportunities, and without whom, all these events would not have been possible.

At this point of the year, it is very typical for us to say farewell to a number of colleagues who will be leaving. Our best wishes go to Holly Smith (Specialist TA), Shelly Atton (Main Reception), Matt Gunton (EAL Tutor), and Dominic Pridham (DT teacher). I am sure you will join me in thanking each and every one of them for their work and support. We wish them well for the future.

It goes without saying that in a letter of this length, it is impossible to cover everything, and in many ways it is a real credit to our fantastic students and staff - we have so much to celebrate and be proud of. My goal is for St Dunstan's to be a place where thousands of moments of success are created, providing the opportunities our students need to become their best selves. There have definitely been plenty of these moments this year, and every week it is my absolute privilege to share these with you!

I wish everyone a restful and relaxing summer. Thank you for your continued support, and we very much look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for even more moments of individual and collective success in the new academic year.

Best wishes,

P Balkwill



On Track Update



Congratulations St Dunstan's Students!

Together you have achieved

**446,235
points**

On Track Points this year!





Announcement



St Dunstan's School
GLASTONBURY

Open Events 2026

Open Evening- Thursday 17th September 18:00-20:00
Open Mornings- Thursday 17th September 09:00-11:00
Tuesday 22nd September 09:00-11:00
Wednesday 30th September 09:00-11:00



**"Come and meet the exceptional
students who make our school shine."**

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



Farewells

We are very lucky to have an incredible team of staff here at St Dunstan's and this year we said goodbye to some as they headed off to pastures new and onto new adventures. We wanted to say a HUGE thank you for all their hard work, supporting the site, the staff and our students. We'll miss you all!

This year, we've said goodbye and good luck to:

Mr Trevor Jarrett- Site Team

Mrs Maddy Cook - Reception

Ms Sarah Jones - ARC Base Leader

Mrs Paige Richards - ARC TA

Mrs Amy Payne- ELSA

Mr Dominic Pridha- DT Teacher

Ms Helen Warner - PSHE/PB Teacher

Mr Matthew Gunton - Language Support

Mrs Shelly Atton - Reception

Miss Holly Smith - Specialist TA

We wish them all the best in their next steps and want them to know how much of an impact they've had on all of us here, their legacies live on at St Dunstan's!

Goodbye



Celebration Carnival

Our celebration carnival exceeded even our wildest dreams of how much fun it could be!

With bubble football, nerf battles, inflatable mini golf, football darts, glow dodgeball to name but a few activities, we have really had a celebration worthy of all of the hard work our students have put in throughout the year.

As well as having fun, our students were polite to our guests, supportive of each other and superbly behaved.

Desperate not to miss out, our staff even had a go at bubble football after school! It was not as easy as it looked.

Our thanks go to Sporty Stars who were an excellent team, looking after us and keeping us all safe. We can't wait to do it all again next year!





Celebration Carnival





Year 11 Leavers

We said goodbye to our lovely Year 11 students last week! The morning started with an assembly where Year 11 tutors shared messages and photo memories with the students, this was then followed by a buffet and shirt signing.

Our thanks go to Burns the Bread and Tesco in Glastonbury for providing pastries and biscuits. Well done Year 11, we are extremely proud of you and can't wait to see what you go on to do!





Year 11 Prom

Our Year 11 Prom, held at The Loft in Street on Thursday, was an unforgettable evening filled with celebration and joy.

Students enjoyed a fantastic meal, a final set list performed by resident band KORR and lots of wonderful dancing!

Highlights of the evening included awards for both staff and students. Everyone looked amazing, and we couldn't be prouder of how our Year 11s represented themselves.

A huge well done to all involved – a perfect send-off for a fantastic year group!

For more pictures, please check out our facebook page - there were far too many beautiful outfits to fit into one newsletter post, plus you can even watch a video of the fantastic KORR!



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS



Sports Day

Just a few snapshots of our wonderful sports day, held last Friday.

In tutor groups, we battled as a team against each other in a bid to be the best in each year group.

Congratulations to those top scoring tutor groups but as we all know, "it matters not who won or lost, but how you played the game!"

It was a superb day and lovely to work as a whole community for one whole day! Thank you to everyone who organised the day and made it happen.

Final standings!

Year 7

1st place: 7CPE - 1178 points
2nd place: 7GLE - 1128 points
3rd place: 7RBR - 1118 points
4th place: 7SMO - 1078 points
5th place: 7JPU - 1018 points



Year 8

1st place: 8AHA - 1268 points
2nd place: 8HPO - 1168 points
3rd place: 8MAT - 1018 points
4th place: 8TNO - 998 points
5th place: 8JBE - 878 points



Year 9

1st place: 9JMA - 1198 points
2nd place: 9SGR - 1188 points
3rd place: 9HWA - 1138 points
4th place: 9GBR - 1128 points



Year 10

1st place: 10JAN - 1378 points
2nd place: 10JWA - 1268 points
3rd place: 10CSH - 1158 points





Celebration Assemblies

It has been wonderful celebrating our students' talents and achievements in their celebration assemblies.

With track star badges, attendance awards, curriculum prizes and reading challenge awards, they have been truly uplifting events, complete with entertainment by our Year 9 band, Infrared, who are developing into a brilliantly entertaining group!

Well done to all!



TRUTH



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Bronze DofE Expedition

Our Year 9 students have successfully completed their assessed expedition. This is the end result of months of volunteering; practising map reading; camping skills; route planning and much, much more.

Their support for one another and their resilience has been admirable and we have received favourable reports on their behaviour in the countryside both from the assessor and members of the public. Well done teams - you smashed it!





We have had a fantastic final few days to the term! From communing with animals at Longleat and the aquarium, transporting ourselves back in time at Haynes Motor Museum and Bovington Tank Museum, larping and slaying dragons at Glastonbury Abbey and adrenaline seeking at Crealy Theme Park, we've had a wonderful celebration of all the students' hard work this year!

The collage consists of 18 individual photographs arranged in a grid-like fashion. The top row features three larger images: a group of students and a person dressed as Santa Claus posing for a photo; a red sports car; and a blue vintage car with the license plate 'SC 6400'. The middle section contains several smaller images showing students engaged in various activities: a student working on a project, a student in a science class, a student in an art class, a student in a classroom, and a group of students posing with a large pink flower. The bottom row includes three more images: a student riding a horse statue, a group of students in a field, and a group of students in a classroom.









Glastonbury In Bloom

Last week we were visited by the South West in Bloom judge, Melissa Poole, who came to view our gardens.

Able to be looked after by Ms Walker and her team, the gardens were splendid in the sunshine and were a real feast for the eyes! The bees and butterflies enjoy them too.

We now wait in anticipation for the result but we were very pleased to show off our array of flowers, fruits and vegetables. Watch this space!

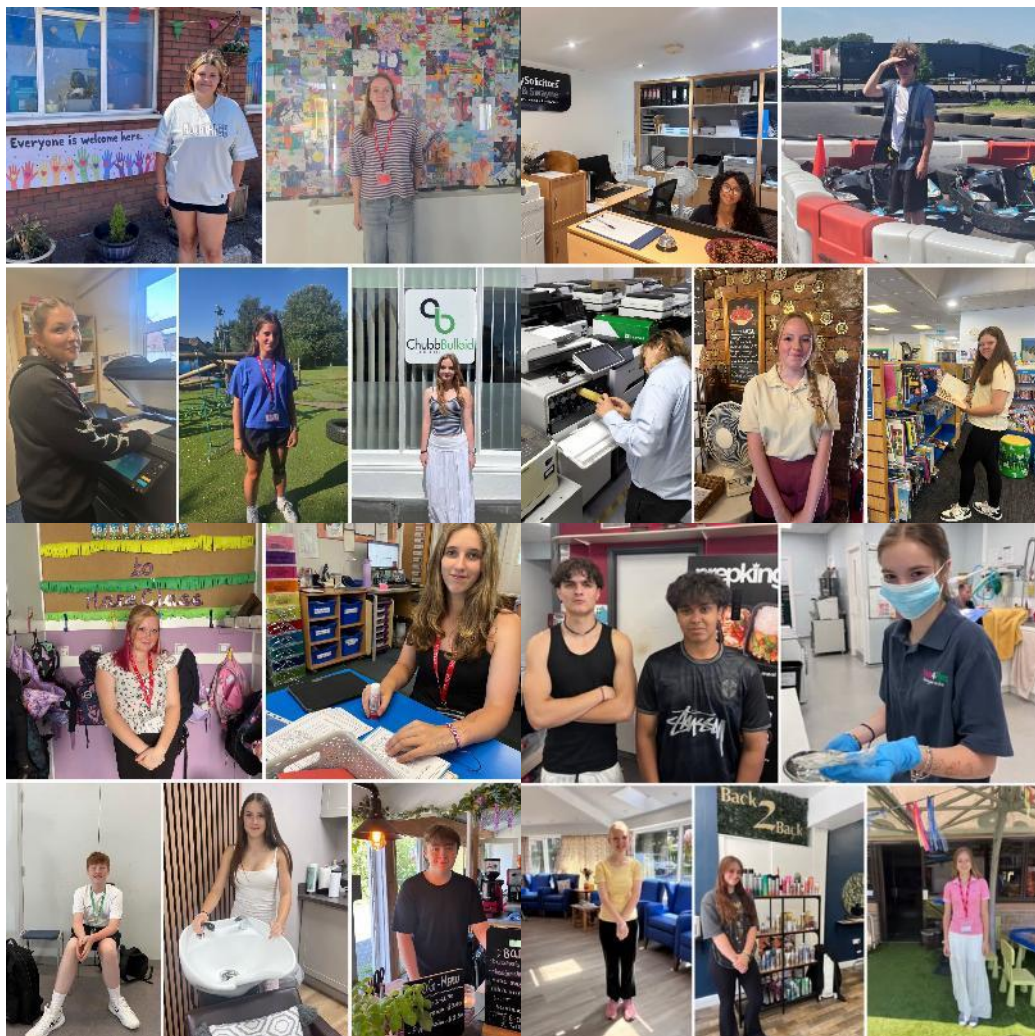


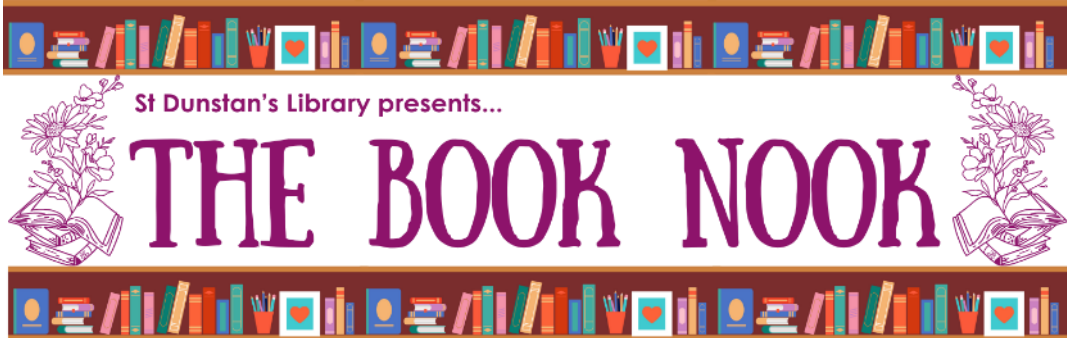


Year 10 Work Experience

Well done to our Year 10 who have been out on Work Experience this week.

We have enjoyed our visits so far and it's been great to hear such positive feedback about our students.





This year we've taken part in Whitstone's Reading Challenge along with lots of other local schools, and it has been fantastic. Since January, we've been recording *all* books read by students. The goal has been to hit specific targets and we've had great success!

BRONZE AWARD (7 books) - 26 students reached

SILVER AWARD (14 books) - 13 students reached

GOLD AWARD (21 books) - 16 students reached

PLATINUM AWARD (40 books) - 9 students reached

Each student has been entered into the Whitstones raffle, and a big thank you to Helen Heaton for hosting. We also hosted our own awards, with students receiving badges, sweets, tote bags and for gold and platinum students, handpicked books chosen for them based on their reading habits!

Well done everyone, and keep reading. We might do this again next year since it was such a success!



St Dunstan's Library presents...

THE BOOK NOOK





Safeguarding Spotlight

YOUTH SAFE SPACE



Youth Safe Space runs out of hours – Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evenings online and at our Taunton or Yeovil Hub– to provide support to young people 13–18 who feel they are struggling with their mental health and are experiencing distress. Appointments will be 1-1 with trained staff in a therapeutic environment where de-escalation techniques and safety planning/healthy coping mechanisms can be introduced.

Scan here
to book



01823 276892

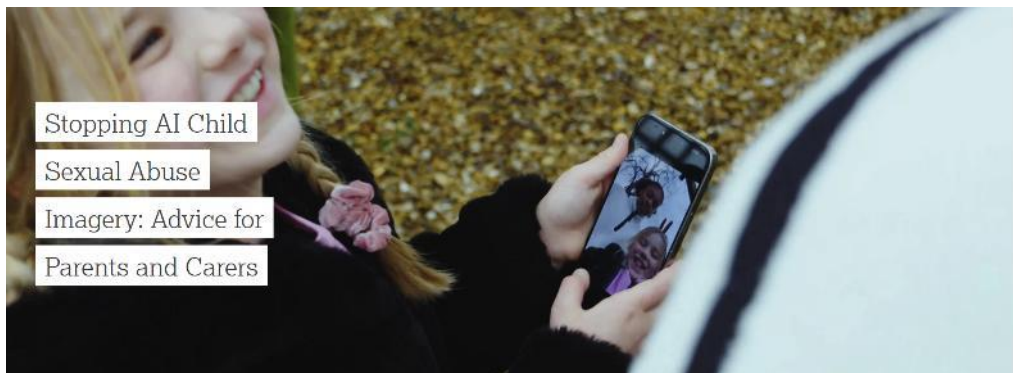


<https://www.mindinsomerset.org.uk/our-services/young-people/youth-safe-space/>





Safeguarding Spotlight



AI is being used to turn ordinary photos of children into sexual abuse material. The National Crime Agency and Internet Watch Foundation have issued new guidance to help parents make informed choices about sharing images of their children online. It covers reviewing privacy settings, revisiting consent with your child as they grow, and what to do if you're worried.

The parent's guidance can be found here:

<https://www.iwf.org.uk/resources/ai-child-abuse-imagery->



One of the most important protective factors in a child's life is an informed parent, carer or trusted adult who knows how to respond calmly, appropriately and confidently when something goes wrong.



Local Spotlight

SUMMER TENNIS CAMPS

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SERVES, SMASHES & SUMMER FUN!

Action-packed tennis camps for players of all abilities. Improve your game, make new friends and enjoy every moment on court!

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WEEK 2 3rd Aug – 7th Aug	NON-MEMBERS £75
WEEK 3 10th Aug – 14th Aug	

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SINGING | ACTING | DANCING

THE GREATEST SHOWMAN **NEWSIES** **Matilda**

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9:00AM – 12:00 PM

Studio Sofia, Unit 1, The Guard House, Guard House Lane, Wells, BA5 1GD

Ages 7-14

A fun, high-energy workshop exploring the 3 key disciplines of Musical Theatre

£20 PER CHILD

for more information email: brunasofia.dancecompany@gmail.com

Activity Calendar

Community Inclusion and Activity Team

Summer Holidays
23 July – 28 August 2026

Somerset Council

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.



www.stdunstansschool.com



secretary@stdunstans.mnsp.org.uk



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