

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to this week's newsletter. As we come to the end of a busy term, our students and staff continue to work incredibly hard and as always, there is a lot to celebrate.

Thank you to all the parents/carers who attended the Meet the Tutor Evening on Thursday evening. An effective home-school partnership is absolutely essential to support the progress and success of every child. I look forward to greeting parents again at our upcoming Year 8 and Year 10 parents evenings.

This week's newsletter details our Extra-Curricular timetable for the next half term. I encourage all students and parents to look at this carefully and consider making the most of some of these opportunities. Education is more than just achieving a set of qualifications, it is about developing as well rounded individuals!

A huge thank you to Mrs Hopton and Mrs Pulford for taking our students to experience an Orchestral concert in Wells on Thursday. This was yet another fantastic opportunity for our students to be inspired by the arts.



18.10.24

NEXT WEEK
ASSEMBLY
FOCUS:

Celebration
Assembly

Key Dates

Last day of
term: Thursday
24th October

Inset days:
Friday 25th
October
AND
Wednesday
27th
November
2024

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

[Click here for
term dates](#)



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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Next week we will be recognising student success in our celebration assemblies. These have been designed to recognise students for being 'On Track' this term. We look forward to marking the end of an incredibly positive first term with some good news and recognition for students' effort and hard work.

An advance notice that there will be a letter coming out at the end of the week detailing important updates for parents. I will follow this with a letter at the end of the term reviewing and celebrating the successes of the academic year to date.

Wishing you all a good weekend.

Regards

P Balkwill



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The Food Bank Challenge

Thank you so much for your generosity in donating to the food bank challenge. It has certainly displayed our core value of kindness and we had so much that we had to transport it in the minibus because it would not all fit into a car!

The food collected has gone to Bridging the Gap, who serve the local area of Glastonbury and Street. Our food banks are currently in crisis and it felt good to help out such an excellent charity, who do such good work in our catchment.



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The Food Bank Challenge



Year 8 and 9 Guardian Trip Update

After last week's fantastic trip to The Guardian for Ada Lovelace day, we have a few new famous faces to reveal! The Guardian have used some of the images of our students from the day for their website...have a look at the links below!

[The Guardian Editorial Teams Workshop](#)

[The Guardian Web Writing Workshops](#)



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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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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.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com/attendance

We're here to help if you need it.



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Thank you from our Food and Nutrition Department

Thank you to [#UKHarvest](#) who have kindly donated a range of food items from [#TescoStrongerStarts](#) and air fryers to our Food and Nutrition department.

The food provided will support our disadvantaged students by helping to provide ingredients.

Our GCSE students will utilise the air fryers during lessons and in their food practical exams. This kind donation is greatly appreciated.



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JOIN US FOR THE INAUGURAL ST DUNSTAN'S

SILENT DISCO

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

Tickets are selling fast for the Silent Disco on 28th November, but there are lots still available to buy!

Can you guess who is the first mystery staff DJ?

The first student to guess correctly by telling Mr Gunton during Monday break gets a free ticket!

Can you guess which member of staff is Mystery DJ number one?

Here are some facts about them to help you guess...

1. My favourite genre of music is acid folk, but I love rock, folk and country
2. If I had to pick a fav artist, it would be Kate Bush
3. One of my favourite songs is Everywhere by Fleetwood Mac
4. I've been to Glastonbury Festival four times and I've performed at it myself, on the Crow's Nest stage
5. Bonus fact: I am a voice actor

WHO AM I?



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Trip to Cedars Hall for Carnival of the Animals

Last night our students made us so proud during the Music trip to Cedars Hall in Wells. The Wells Cathedral School Symphony Orchestra and Choralia performed Learsongs by William Mathias which set music to poems by Edward Lear, Carnival of the Animals by Saint- Saens and Symphony no.5 in B flat by Schubert. The phenomenal musicians, beautiful dancing and excellent conducting made an outstanding evening of entertainment for our exceptionally well behaved students.

Carnival of the Animals was a highlight for us all, especially the costumes and dances which brought the piece of music to life in front of us all, and other theatre goers commented on how much our students enjoyed it.

Overall, a wonderful experience seeing a symphony orchestra live. We are looking forward to taking another trip to Cedars Hall soon.



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ANIMAL MAGIC

Wells Cathedral School Symphony
Orchestra and Choralia



Wed 16th and Thurs 17th October 2024



WELLS
CATHEDRAL SCHOOL



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Year 7 Rugby Tournament

On Wednesday our Year 7 boys had their first opportunity to represent the school in sport as a team of 14. They travelled over to Cheddar Valley RFC for an exciting rugby tournament. They braved the elements and played with lots of energy and enthusiasm in spite of the rain!

A huge well done to all of the boys, they were absolutely brilliant and thoroughly enjoyed the competition!



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Wells RFC Under 14s Needs You



Can you see your face amongst this motley crew? No, well we can change that.....

We are recruiting new players to join our team.

Training at Wells RFC (next to the Leisure Centre) on a Tuesday
7pm-8pm⁷⁵

Training/Matches on Sunday mornings

Come along and get fit, make new friends, learn new skills, get muddy and most of all have A LOT OF FUN.



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Extra Curricular Timetable

We are very lucky to have lots of wonderful extra curricular activities on offer at St Dunstan's. Some clubs require students to sign up while others do not. If you are interested, have a chat to your teachers/staff running the club and they'll be happy to help!

Here is our timetable for Term 2 activities...

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chess Club for all Years Lunchtime (12:40 -13:05/13:15) Room 1	Girls4Girls for all Years Lunchtime in Room 5 (12:30 - 13:00)	Art Catch up for KS4 15:15 - 16:15 in L3	Singing Club for all Years Lunchtime (12:40 - 13:05) in Music	Basketball for all Years 15:15 - 16:15 Sports Hall
Art Club for KS3 15:15 - 16:15 in L3	Quest Club for all Years 15:15 - 16:15 in the Library (all slots filled)	Badminton Club for all Years 15:15 - 16:15 Sports Hall	Art Catch up for KS4 15:15 - 16:15 in L3	History Revision for Y11 15:15 - 16:15 in L3
Aspire Club for Year 11 15:15 - 16:15 Room 8		Geography Revision for Year 11 15:15 - 16:15 in L2	Boys Rugby for Y9 and Y10 15:15 - 16:15 Sports field	Keyboard Club for all Years 15:15 - 16:15 in Music
Boys Rugby for Y7 and Y8 15:15 - 16:15 Sports field		Just Write Club for all Years 15:15 - 16:15 in the Library	DT NEA Support for Y11 15:15 - 16:15 in Room 10	Science Club for all Years 15:15 - 16:15 Room S3
Food NEA catch up Y11 15:15 - 16:15 Food Tech		Duke of Edinburgh for Y9 15:15 - 16:15 in L1	French Revision for Y11 15:15 - 16:15 in Room 10	
Girls Rugby for all Years 15:15 - 16:15 Sports field		Science Revision for Y11 15:15 - 16:15 in S2	Production for all Years 15:15 - 17:00 in the Drama Studio	
Quest Club for all Years 15:15 - 16:15 in the Library (all slots filled)		Sports Studies Coursework for Y11 15:15 - 16:15 in Room 3	Sports4Girls for all Years 15:15 - 16:15 Sports Hall	
Youth Speaks for all Years 15:15 - 16:15 Room E2				
5 a-side for KS4 15:15 - 16:15 Sports field				

Truth	Resilience	Ambition	Community	Kindness
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Volunteers Needed!

Your School Needs You!

Volunteers wanted at:

- Glastonbury Carnival (November 16th afternoon/evening) for collections and the running of the school car park.
- Glastonbury Frost Fayre (November 30th daytime) for the running of the school car park.

If you can help, please contact the PTA at stdunstanscommunitypta@gmail.com

Thank you in advance!



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YMCA Assembly

Jessica Lewin, Youth Work Team Leader from the YMCA visited several of our KS3 and KS4 assemblies recently.

She outlined the exciting opportunities and support available to our students, both inside and outside of school.

Please see the next few pages of fliers for additional information about how to get involved!



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YMCA
BRUNEL GROUP

BATH / BRISTOL / WILTSHIRE
MENDIP / SOUTH SOMERSET



Here for young people
Here for communities
Here for you

Youth Work at St. Dunstan's with the YMCA Street Youth Team

121 Support Sessions
for years 9, 10 & 11
in the Pastoral room



Talk to Miss Easterbrook, Miss Kench, or your tutors if you need some support and they can arrange a 121 session with us.

We are here if you want to talk or need some advice, and we also offer C-card

**To find out more, drop in to the Pastoral room
at lunchtime on Monday Week B**

YMCA
BRUNEL GROUP

BATH | BRISTOL | WILTSHIRE
EAST & SOUTH SOMERSET



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Here for young people
Here for communities
Here for you

Youth Work at St Dunstan's with the YMCA Street Youth Team

Lunch Club: Year 7, 8 & 9
Monday Week B, Pastoral room

**Games & activities, hang out with
friends, bring your lunch, chat with
youth workers**

**YMCA
BRUNEL GROUP**

BATH | BRISTOL | WILTSHIRE
EAST & SOUTH SOMERSET



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YMCA BRUNEL GROUP

BATH | BRISTOL | WILTSHIRE
EAST & SOUTH SOMERSET

GLASTONBURY YOUTH CLUBS

**An exciting opportunity to
meet new friends & join in
fun activities.**

Mondays 7-9pm: Windmill Hill

Fridays 7-9pm: Red Brick

Term-time only | Entry £1



Weekly youth clubs & extra events and trips

Hang out with your friends | Meet new people | Activities & games | Free food

we
welcome all
young
people
aged 10-19



let's all
catch up,
have fun
and support
each other!

To sign up please access the consent form by scanning the QR code or via the link
<https://forms.gle/AvNMEj3MqWZv3rux5> Consent must be provided by a parent/carer

Contact us:

Glastonbury: SiobhanWhite@ymca-bg.org
www.ymca-bg.org

Find us:

St Edmunds Hall, Chinnock Road, Glastonbury, BA6 8EW
Red Brick Building, Moorland Road, Glastonbury, BA1 9FT

YMCA

Here for young people
Here for communities
Here for you



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Fundraising Quiz

Debbie's Charity Quiz Ashcott Village Hall

Doors Open at 7.15pm
Quiz starts at 8pm

Soft drinks and snacks available
Bring your own wine and beer
Teams of upto 8 max

£ 2 p/p Entrance Fee

**Sunday 27th
October**



In Aid Of St Dunstan School Library

Want to try your hand at a quiz night whilst also raising money for the school? Check out Debbie's Charity Quiz on Sunday 27th October to test your skills, and help us fund new books for the library and art materials for our students!

Big thanks to Debbie in advance for running this, we are very grateful!



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Safeguarding Spotlight

Respecting you, your privacy and any information you share with us

It is important to understand that your practitioner will share information with Somerset County Council and other agencies that may be able to offer you support. This will help them work together and to improve services for families.

Each agency providing a service to you is responsible for keeping your personal information secure and up to date. Information about you is protected by law and must be treated carefully.

You have the right to ask the agency supporting you, what information they have and what they are using it for. You also have the right to complain to the regulator, <https://ico.org.uk/>

More information



Somerset Direct 0300 123 2224



childrens@somerset.gov.uk



www.somersetchoices.org.uk

The Early Help Assessment (EHA)

Support for parents, carers and families in Somerset

Early help and SEND support is everyone's responsibility



What is an Early Help Assessment (EHA)?

This is how people from different agencies (practitioners) should work with you to support any areas of need that your family may want some help with.

V2 January 2020

Helping you to help your family is the key principle of early help. It starts with a conversation between you and the person who gave you this leaflet.

The conversation looks at different areas of life for you and your family.

You can talk about how things are going for you with home, housing, work or gaining employment, health, school, college any social or community issues.

The conversation will highlight what you feel is working well and what you feel could work better for you and your family.

It helps to understand what the most important issues to you are.

After your conversation, you and the worker will be able to agree whether you just need some information or advice, or if you need a bit more support.



Keeping track of how things are going for you and your family

If other agencies are needed to help you to make things better, then regular meetings are held with them. This should happen on days and times to suit you and your family. This is done to help bring down the number of different appointments or phone conversations you might otherwise need to have. The meetings are usually called 'Team around the Family' meetings.

It is important that you know agencies are working with you to make things better. So, the person who has the initial conversation with you, or leads any meetings will look to make sure the following things happen. This will be your 'lead practitioner'.

Things to remember

You may just need some information for a single area of life like housing or money management. Please visit our website: www.somersetchoices.org.uk

You may have a conversation with a worker, who suggests using the Early Help Assessment form to record information, this only happens with your agreement.

Understanding the feelings of everyone in your family is important when trying to improve things. So, don't be surprised if a worker speaks to you about gaining 'the voice of the child' or other people who live ...



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Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

Dear Parent/Carer

We are all too aware of how the recent cost-of-living increases may affect our local community, and we want to encourage you to access appropriate mechanisms of support. The Pupil Premium and Free School Meals funding allows schools to creatively support students. This funding is confidential and used to support your child.

If your child is eligible for 'free school meals' and you register them for this, we will receive extra funding called 'pupil premium'. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at the school.

What is Pupil Premium funding?

Pupil premium funding from the government is given to schools to help pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation. It's provided for pupils who:

- Are registered for free school meals
- Have been registered for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years
- Are, or have been, in care
- Have parents in the armed forces

How is the Pupil Premium funding spent?

Schools have the freedom to spend the Premium in a way they think is best to support the raising of attainment. Funding is given to schools and is spent according to a budgeted plan across three areas. These include:

1. High-quality teaching, such as staff professional development.
2. Targeted academic support, such as tutoring.
3. Wider strategies to address non-academic barriers to success in schools, such as attendance, behaviour and social and emotional support.

Parents do not receive this money from schools and there is not a budget to spend per student. Schools are expected to formulate a plan to use the overall funding, this must be based on evidence based research and approved by the Governing body.

How do I register?

To register, please visit the following web page.

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/free-school-meals/>

Similarly please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions or would like to update us about your child and their eligibility for funding.



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Become a School Governor



Are you passionate about education? Do you want to help shape the future of young minds?

Becoming a school governor is an incredible opportunity to use your skills, time, and passion to ensure students receive the best education and support. Whether you're a parent, professional, or community member, your voice can make a real impact in the direction and success of our schools.

Make a Lasting Impact in Five Key Ways:

- Attend termly Governing Body meetings, reviewing data and ensuring the best outcomes for students.
- Get tailored, ongoing training to build your skills and understand your role (induction, safeguarding, and more).
- Act as a link governor, focusing on an area of your interest or expertise, and reporting on school progress.
- Represent the school positively in the community – become a proud ambassador!
- Take part in important panels (interviews, exclusions, and more), shaping the school's future.

Who Can Be a School Governor?

No prior experience is needed! All that's required is a commitment to the role and a willingness to learn. We need governors from all walks of life:

- Parent Governors: Provide insights from the parent community.
- Community Governors: Bring your skills and experience, even without a direct connection to the school.
- Foundation Governors: Preserve the school's religious character.
- Staff Governors: Offer the unique perspective of school staff.

What Do You Get Out of It?

Being a school governor is incredibly rewarding! You'll develop valuable skills, make a positive impact in your community, and help prepare students for success in further education and beyond. It's a role that's challenging but never dull, giving you the chance to contribute to something truly meaningful.



For more information, contact Emily Walker (Governance Professional): ewalker@msnpartnership.com
Find a list of local governing bodies on the MNSP website.

If you are interested in becoming a Governor at St Dunstan's School, please contact secretary@stdunstansschool.com



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Yeovil College Open Evening



STEP INTO YEOVIL COLLEGE

OPEN **23 OCT**
EVENT **5PM-8PM**



REGISTER TO ATTEND



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Strode College Open Evening



You are warmly invited to our

Open Evening

Thursday 24 October
5.30pm-8pm



- >> Come and meet our friendly and welcoming students and staff.
- >> Find out what courses, apprenticeships, enrichments and facilities we have on offer.



Register to attend our Open Evening by scanning this QR code.

Register online today!



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<u>O</u>rganised & Proactive	<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>
<u>N</u>eat & Tidy work	<p>Smart, well presented books demonstrating your best work</p>
<u>T</u>enacity	<p>Trying your hardest, rising to challenges, having a 'can do' attitude, working out solutions and taking ownership of your learning</p>
<u>R</u>eady, Respectful and Responsible	<p>Being a role model by consistently demonstrating our basic expectations</p>
<u>A</u>nswering, reading and listening like an expert	<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>
<u>C</u>ontributing to the class	<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>
<u>K</u>indness & Community minded	<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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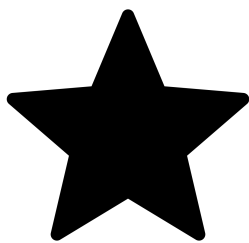


COMMUNITY



KINDNESS

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

