



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Winter weather has finally arrived and, golly, it has been cold! It has been lovely to have a break from the seemingly endless rain though.

Once again, we have had a very busy week at school. I have had the pleasure of joining some Year 7 classes as they prepared for their singing assessment - it was great fun to sing along with them and to see (and hear) how enthusiastic they were! Equally enthusiastic were the students who took part in the Somerstage workshop. It was amazing to see students progress from being rather tentative about the moves to being a slick, choreographed team - what a lot of talent we have in our school.

It was great to see the excitement of the Year 8 students who participated in the Basketball Coaching Day - thank you to Mr Waugh for organising this trip.

Thank you to Mrs Easterbrook who has quietly been working with students on the International Schools' Award. This week we have completed the Foundation Award which is a great achievement - I look forward to the next steps towards the next level of award. Well done to all involved.

This week, sadly, we said goodbye to Mr Maple who has embarked upon his retirement. Mr Maple has been a wonderful, gentle presence in the school for the last six years. He is renowned for his storytelling and his use of props to bring history to life - I will never forget walking into his lessons over the years to find characters such as a medieval monk or an American private investigator presenting to enraptured classes. Thank you Mr Maple for all you have brought to St Dunstan's - we wish you a very happy retirement.

We also bid a fond farewell to Miss Atkinson, our English PGCE student, this week. She has been an absolute joy to work with and we know she will thrive in her next placement. Well done and good luck to her.

Please do take careful note of the upcoming events - next week, we are hosting Youth Speaks; this is always a wonderful evening and well worth attending - I am looking forward to it, particularly as we have three teams participating this year. Many thanks to Mrs Gregory for all her hard work in organising this event and coaching our teams. We also have Year 11 parents' evening next week - a great opportunity to check in with your child's teachers about their progress. I would like to thank all the teachers and tutors of Year 11 for all the hard work and extra support they are putting in place. We have all been impressed by the response of most students and by the participation in revision and intervention sessions. We are rapidly heading towards those final exams so every second really does count. Have a lovely weekend, Mrs Bevan

19.01.24

NEXT WEEK
ASSEMBLY
FOCUS:
Holocaust
Memorial Day

Coming soon...
24th Jan - Youth Speaks Competition
25th Jan - Y11 Parents' Evening
9th Feb - PTA Quiz night
9th Feb - Kindness Day, students off timetable

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

[Click here for term dates](#)



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British Council - International Schools Award - Foundation

We are pleased to announce that we have secured the Foundation level International Schools Award. This shows that we have demonstrated an excellent start in promoting the international dimension across the school and highlighting the benefits of learning in a global context. We are committed to extending and embedding internationalism in our curriculum and it is a valuable aspect of our school ethos. Well done to all the students who worked hard and participated in this and to the staff for facilitating.



International School Award

Certificate

This is to certify that

St Dunstan's School

has achieved

Foundation level
Introducing internationalism

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott McDonald".

Scott McDonald
Chief Executive, British Council



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Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance really does matter! All students should aim to have 100% attendance; the government accepts that sometimes, we get ill and so 96% or above is what is expected. Research shows a direct correlation between attendance and outcomes - if a child is missing lots of school, they are missing lots of learning, opportunities to participate in trips and workshops and the building of stable friendship groups(please see next page for the impact of attendance on outcomes.). We have a dedicated pastoral team who are happy to support if you have any concerns about your child's attendance. The school are also legally required to make contact when attendance is a concern.

A key part of attendance is punctuality. All students should be in school by 8.40 every morning so that they can arrive promptly to morning registration. During morning registration, important notices are given, as well as activities and assemblies taking place. Missing registration means missing out on vital elements of school life. In addition, arriving after the morning register has closed counts as an unauthorised absence which contributes to your child's overall attendance. Please ensure your child is in school by 8.40 - please do contact us if you are struggling with this so that we can support.

Attendance Matters



Every Day Counts....



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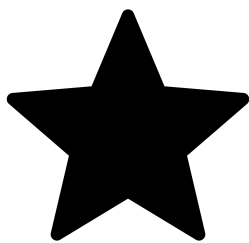


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ATTENDANCE MATTERS



100%
Attendance

95%+
Attendance

92-93%
Attendance

Below
90%
Attendance

96%
Attendance

Absences
add up

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+

77% of students achieve 5 GCSEs grade 5+

53% of students achieve 5 GCSEs grade 5+

43% of students achieve 5 GCSEs grade 5+

This is the target equalling at most 8 days off per year

Missing 2 days per month means you miss 10% of school



Milkshake with the Head - Year 8

Mrs Bevan and Mrs Easterbrook were pleased to reward the following students with a Milkshake and treat at breaktime today. They have been embodying our TRACK values and were nominated by teachers for this reward. Each week a different Year Group will get nominated. Tilly A, Edward B, Freida B, Lily E, Lilu E, Tyler J, Adelaida K, India T, Bethany W, Jamie W
Well done to all!

Year 10/11- Yeovil College Assembly

On Wednesday Yeovil College came in to let our Year 10 and 11 students know about the courses that they offer and routes that they can take post St Dunstan's. We hope that some students were able to attend their Open Event last night - there is an apprenticeship-specific event on the 7th February for any students interested.



Year 11 Parents' Evening

We can't wait to see the parents of our Year 11 students at our parents evening.

The event is on Thursday 25th January: 16.00 - 19.00

Please make your booking on our Talaxy Portal software.

Please contact the office if you need help accessing talaxy: secretary@stdunstanschool.com.

See you on the 25th.



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PTA announcement - Year 11

The PTA has a large donation of new prom dresses that they wish to pass on to the year 11s.

They will be selling the dresses for £20 each. There are prom style or cocktail dresses in sizes 10 to 16 available.

The dresses will be available during the parents' evening on Thursday 25th January.

Please contact the PTA if you require further details at:
stdunstanscommunitypta@gmail.com



Y11 Prom 4 July 2024

We are excited to announce that the Y11 Prom will be held in the Loft in Street.

This has been the venue for the last 2 years and all students have had a wonderful experience and we look forward to repeating this with this years Y11s. Thank you to Mrs Potter for organising.



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PTA Quiz

Following the tremendous success of last year's quiz, the PTA are holding another quiz evening on Friday 9th February .

The tickets are available on Parentpay.

To buy the tickets you will need to enter the total cost of all the tickets you want to buy and write in the comment box the total number of adult and child tickets you are buying. The event includes food and a drink.

The PTA would welcome any raffle donations - these can be left at reception.

Thank you for your continued support.

For further details, please email: stdunstanscommunitypta@gmail.com

QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY, 9TH FEBRUARY 2024
DOORS OPEN 6.30PM,
QUIZ STARTS @7.00PM

ADULT £6, UNDER 16S £3
INCLUDING A PLOUGHMAN'S
AND A DRINK.

ALL
PROCEEDS TO
THE PTA!

RAFFLE

BAR!

AT ST DUNSTAN'S SCHOOL,
WELLS RD, GLASTONBURY BA6 9BY
WHAT 3 WORDS:
///FRIES.REFLECTED.EVIDENTLY

Tickets available on ParentPay,
on the door, or email
stdunstanscommunitypta@gmail.com.
Please email us to notify of any dietary
requirements.



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Tesco Blue Token Appeal

At Tesco you can vote for St Dunstan's Drama and Music departments to receive up to £1,500 in funding. This is part of their blue token scheme.

At the checkout please ask for some blue tokens (or pick them up at the self-checkout) and pop them in the collection box to vote for St Dunstan's!

Thank you for your support.



Cake Sale - Friday 26th Jan

Year 7s are organising a cake sale next Friday in aid of Secret World Wildlife Rescue.

Cakes will be 50 pence each.



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Somerstage Musical Theatre School Workshop

What an amazing afternoon of singing and dancing on Tuesday. We have had the privilege of welcoming Somerstage Musical Theatre School working with GCSE Drama students and some students from KS3 Drama and Singing Clubs.

Students sang Grease songs; expressed themselves through Drama games; learnt some challenging choreography from Broadway 'Grease Lightning' and some phenomenal harmonies.

Each student met every challenge, producing some outstanding performances and showing that when it comes to casting our school production, we will have many excellent performers to choose from. So exciting!

Our students were a credit to St Dunstan's and Lisa and Tim from Somerstage were impressed with their focus, excellent behaviour and hard work in the workshop.



Youth Speaks - Public Speaking Competition

Three teams of Year 7 and 8 students have been working solidly on their debate skills since September and the time to compete is almost upon us! Our topics range from 'Cats or Dogs?', 'Pros and Cons of the Internet' and 'Nurses or Footballers: who should get paid the most?'

The competition will take place from 5pm on Wednesday 24th January at school and parents are warmly invited to attend. Youth Speaks is run by the Rotary Club and we are in competition with other local schools.

ROTARY **YOUTH**
SPEAKS COMPETITION



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Be Kind Awards - Opportunity to nominate

The Be Kind awards is a set of awards to celebrate kindness amongst schools and young people.

There are 7 award categories but categories 2, 4, 6 and 7 are relevant to us as a school

Secondary Star School

This can cover the whole school or a specific year group. Nominations must detail how kindness has been promoted and if possible the impact it has had on the pupils, the outside community and/or the staff

John Caudwell Community Kindness

This is for Individual pupils or groups of students in all year groups. The act of kindness must have been shown to the community, outside of school. Nominations must be able to demonstrate how their kindness has impacted the community

Star Pupil

This is for individual pupils from all year groups. The act of kindness must have been shown within a school environment. Nominations must be able to demonstrate how their kindness has impacted others

Star Teacher

This is to nominate a teacher that has gone above and beyond to demonstrate kindness. The act of kindness must have been carried out at school or for pupils outside of school. Nominations must be able to demonstrate how their kindness has impacted others

Nominations will be open from Monday 3rd July 2023 until Friday 12th April 2024.

The link to the Be Kind Awards website is [here](#) which has more information and how you can submit nominations.



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Students logging on to their Talaxy accounts from home

If any of you are struggling to access your child's Talaxy account at home, please find some instructions below. There are two routes to use:

Route 1 - *useful for all their school work*

- Students must make sure when they log onto the computer, they are signed in on their **school email account**.
- They should then go to the following **link**

<https://sites.google.com/stdunstansschool.com/stdunstansstudentgateway/home>

- Once there, press the **Talaxy link button**.
- Then click '**Log In**' located at the top right
- Then click '**Google**' icon at the bottom right where it asks for login details.
- *You do not have to sign in here if you are logged on with school email already, just click the google button and it will take you straight through*

Route 2 - *Talaxy only*

- Students should go to the following **link** below.

<https://stdunstans.talaxy.app>

- Click '**Log In**' located at the top right.
- The student will need to use their **school email account** to log on if they are not logged on to the computer already on their school account.



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