

St Dunstan's School

GLASTONBURY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Well, here we are at the end of Term 2 and almost at the end of 2023. It has been an action packed year and everyone is looking forward to a good rest over Christmas.

It was a treat to attend the Christmas Showcase on Monday night and to see so many of our students perform songs, poems and sketches. Well done to all involved and thank you to Mrs Hopton, Mrs Pulford, the PTA and all the staff who organised, rehearsed, ran the raffle and provided refreshments. The evening was supposed to take place on December 7th but the weather thwarted those plans - there was something rather magical about having such a wonderful evening right at the end of term.

We have many more events to look forward to next term - I would remind you that term starts for students on January 4th 2024; all students should be in school by 8.40 in the correct uniform and with the correct equipment please - life in school is much more pleasant for everyone if we can just get on with teaching and learning!

It was lovely to finish off the term with a Christmas sing along in the sports hall.

So, all that remains of this year is for me to say thank you to everyone - staff, students, parents and carers for all their hard work and support this year and to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

We look forward to seeing everyone back in January.

Mrs Bevan



19.12.23

FIRST WEEK
BACK
ASSEMBLY:
Welcome Back
and
expectations

Coming soon...
4th Jan - all
students back to
school
10th Jan - Mental
Health Day,
students off
timetable
9th Feb - Save the
date! The next PTA
event will be a quiz
and ploughman'
supper - more details
to follow in the New
Year.

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

[Click here for term
dates](#)



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Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

Congratulations to our first batch of year 10 students who have achieved their DofE bronze award. They worked hard to complete their volunteering, physical and skill sections. These ran alongside the expedition that was completed in July.

We will be running an after school session after Christmas to help anyone else who needs some support to upload their evidence in order to achieve their bronze award. Date TBC.

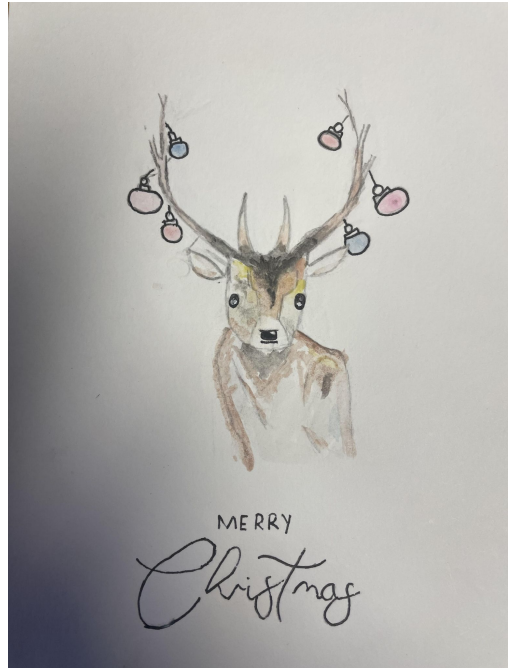
There will also be a letter going out to anyone who has achieved their bronze award that would like to undertake the silver qualification. This will occur in term 3.



Christmas Card Competition Winner

Well done to Erin D who produced this wonderful winning Christmas card entry for our competition.

It was a tough challenge, with so many beautiful entries - well done to everyone who submitted designs. It is great to see what talented students we have in our school!



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Mock Results Day

There were lots of happy, smiling faces when our Year 11s received their mock results last Monday.

The Year 11s showed amazing resilience during their mock exam week and, for many, their hard work has paid off.

All students should now be able to analyse their own performance in relation to their revision and work ethic.

We are so proud of this lovely, hardworking group of young people.



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St John's Church Christmas Tree Festival

Well done to Key Stage 3 Art students who have made decorations for our tree at St John's Church 'Shining Branches' Christmas Tree Festival.

The tree will be there to visit over the festive period with several events you can attend .



Milkshake with the Head - Year 7

Mrs Bevan and Mrs Easterbrook were pleased to reward the following students with a Milkshake and treat at breaktime on Friday. They have been embodying our TRACK values and were nominated by teachers for this reward. Each week a different Year Group will get nominated. ...

Fletcher A, Alex B, Yamaya BL, Ivy C, Lily H, Francesca LV, Lily M, Oz R, Spencer R, William S

Well done to all!



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Poetry on the Buses

Last week our inspirational group of Year 7 and 8 poets spent the afternoon creating content for our community project with First Buses. Under the creative care of poet and author Thommie Gillow, students worked on some free writing and short poems which will feature on local First Buses in the spring.

The aim is to make public transport more enjoyable ☺ and attractive to young people, and we think our poets have just what a traveller needs to brighten up their journey.

Watch this space for further updates as we collaborate with Strode College Art students, who will design the artwork to accompany our poems.



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Family Charter Webinar for parents

Our Local MHST (Mental Health Support Team) are holding a webinar on how to develop a family charter. The webinar will be live but then recorded for training purposes.

If you are interested in attending, click the link below

<https://forms.office.com/e/itq4CRChM3>



Our beautiful tree!

Thank you to our prefects who decorated it so well.



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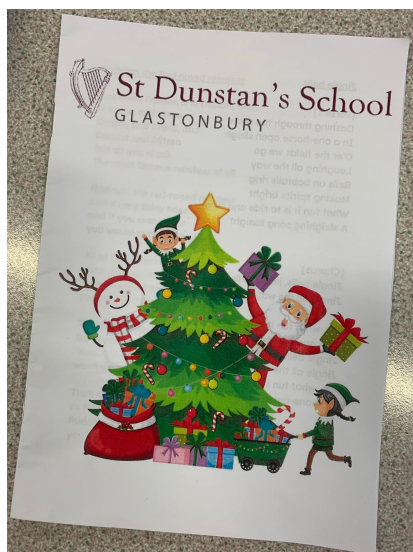
KINDNESS

Carols in the Community

We were extremely proud to take a group of students to sing carols in the High Street on Thursday, demonstrating our TRACK values of Kindness ☺ and Community.

Our wonderful students spread Christmas cheer through the town by singing a selection of Christmas carols and many people stopped to listen and applaud. The Mayor of Glastonbury even stopped by to join in with our singing!

The group was mostly made up of our Singing Club who performed at the Christmas Showcase performance on Monday. Well done all!



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Reverse Advent Calendar - Year 7

Our core value of KINDNESS was shown in abundance on Friday as we gathered together the donations for Happy Landings Animal Shelter. Over the period of advent, instead of taking a treat each day, year 7 tutor groups participated in a 'reverse advent calendar' which involved donating an item each day to a local animal shelter.

We will drop them off tomorrow and feel so happy that we might have brightened an animal's Christmas this year.



Christmas Sing Along

To celebrate the end of term, all students and staff were in the sports hall singing along to our favourite festive songs. The twelve days of Christmas was our favourite, with all the actions!

Merry Christmas everyone!



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Christmas Showcase

Our festive Christmas Showcase was a fantastic celebration of our students and their wonderful talents. From solos, duets, monologues and poetry to pantomime, songwriting and exceptional performances each part of the evening had something to offer the attentive audience. Our students showed resilience in abundance, kindness in spades and community spirit throughout the whole event. We could not be more proud of each and every one of them.

Our thanks go to families, friends, St Dunstons staff and the PTA for all their help in making the evening an event to remember.

We look forward to sharing details of our Whole School Production in the new year!



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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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Information Shared by SDAS, the Somerset Drug and Alcohol service

Your Health This December



Stay Safe and Happy Holidays from the SDAS Team



Welcome to your client newsletter, dedicated to helping you maintain good health during the holiday season. We've included upcoming events, activities and emergency contacts that can help you stay connected to your community and support network.

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter as we will share more events as find them! @sdasdigital



Taunton

- Monday 18th December to Friday 22nd December. Taunton Open Door (1a Mount Street, TA1 3QB) will be offering festive meals every lunch time. They are offering 'sacks of smiles' - emergency/festive rucksack including over trousers, wind up torches, hand warmers, drinks and treats etc.
- Tuesday 19th December @ 12pm to 2pm. SDAS hub Christmas drop-in for food and refreshments
- Monday 25th December Christmas Day Dinner. Wellsprings Community Church, call Tiff on 07896677998 www.wellspringscommunitychurch.org.uk
- Wednesday 27th December @ 11am to 12.30pm. SDAS PSI Online Session
- Thursday 28th December @ 11am to 12.30pm. SDAS Face to face, PSI sessions

Yeovil

SDAS Christmas Safe Space Drop-ins

- Wed 20th @ 11am to 2pm plus Christmas Carols
- Thurs 21st @ 11am to 2pm plus Christmas Carols
- Fri 23rd @ 11am to 2pm plus Christmas Carols
- Wed 27th @ 11am to 2pm
- Thurs 28th @ 11am to 2pm
- Fri 29th @ 11am to 2pm
- Sat 30th @ 11am to 3pm
- Wednesday 27th December, 11am to 12.30pm, Online Teams PSI sessions
- Thursday 28th December, 11am to 12.30pm Face to face, PSI sessions



Chard

- FREE Christmas Dinners available for collection. Please call G on 07899298137 to order and arrange collection/delivery.
- FREE Cookery Courses with free cooking equipment e.g. Air Fryers, Slow cookers etc Please call G on 07899298137 to book onto the next available course.
- Thursday 14th December @ 10am - 4pm. The Chard WATCH Christmas Party. Quiz, free buffet lunch, music, raffle and also a prize for best fancy dress (if you're feeling brave)! Contact us on 01460 12119 or info@watchproject.org.uk if you have any questions or dietary restrictions. <https://watchproject.org.uk/>
- Thursday 14th December, @ 12 - 2pm. Abri Community Christmas Party Chard Youth Club, with Abri housing Association

Frome

- 25th December - Big Christmas Get Together. They will be providing a welcoming space with lunch and entertainment for our guests from our local community on Christmas Day at Trinity Church Hall, The Cricket Club and The Key Centre. Register to attend www.bigchristmasgettogether.org.

0300 303 8788 (24/7 helpline)

SDAS@turning-point.co.uk

www.turning-point.co.uk/somerset



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Information Shared by SDAS, the Somerset Drug and Alcohol service

Your Health this December



Shepton Mallet

- Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10am - 1pm Grace Harris House (24 Town Street, Shepton Mallet) is a warm space and offers signposting support and help with job hunting, UC and Housing Benefit.
- Sat 2nd December, Hot Chocolate and Chat. Join us for a friendly chat, hot chocolate, and light refreshments!
- Thursday 7th December 5.50pm to 8.30pm Holiday Baking. Join us for a friendly atmosphere and try your hand that making mince pies and decorating cookies. Supplies provided.
- Wednesday 13th December, 5.30-8.30pm Wrap & Wrap. Bring your holiday presents to wrap and make a Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP)
- Wednesday 20th December 5.30 - 8.30pm Holiday Party. Wear your most festive holiday outfit and join us for holiday crafts, games, Music and treats!

Wells

- Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10am - 1pm. YMCA Brunel Group - Spencer House in Wells (21 Chamberlain Street) is a warm space and offers signposting support and help with job hunting, UC and Housing Benefit.

Bridgwater

- Wednesday 6th December, 5.30 -9pm, Nelsons Trust Client pamper evening, 14 Kings Square, Bridgwater, TA6 3DG
- Thursday 14th December, 12-3pm, Nelsons Trust, Client Christmas Lunch, 14 Kings Square, Bridgwater, TA6 3DG

Taunton Foodbank

- Fri 22nd Dec, Closes at 12pm
- Mon 25th & Tues 26th Closed during bank holidays.
- Wed 27th, Thurs 28 & Fri 29th Dec Open 10am & 12pm
- Mon 1st Jan, Closed
- Tues 2nd Jan, Open again as normal

Wellington Foodbank

- Thurs 21st Dec at 3pm Closes after their session
- Thurs 28th Dec Open between 1 and 3pm
- Mon 1st Jan Closed
- Thurs 4th Jan 1pm to 3pm Open again as normal

Food boxes will have Christmas items in, in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Emergency Contacts

Crisis Safe Space

If you or someone you know struggles with an out-of-hours mental health crisis this Christmas, book a session with the Crisis Safe Space team. Mindline remains open to offer support every day 24/7.

Somerset Mindline <small>Somerset's 24-hour mental health helpline</small>	0800 138 1692 01823 276 892
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- Fri 22nd Dec, Face-to-face sessions in Glastonbury, Taunton, Yeovil & Bridgwater from 6pm until 11pm
- Sat 23rd Dec to Mon 1st Jan, Remote service available via phone or Zoom - Somerset wide from 6pm until 11pm.
- Tues 2nd Jan, Face-to-face sessions in Glastonbury, Taunton, Yeovil & Bridgwater from 6pm until 11pm

Shout Text: 85258 Website: <https://giveusashout.org/>

is the UK's first 24/7 text service, free on all major mobile networks, for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. It's a place to go if you're struggling to cope and you need immediate help.

If you struggle to pick up and ring to ask for help, you can contact Shout via text on the number below. SHOUT will work with you to find ways to help you access the support you have in place as well as other forms of support available to you. They will also contact emergency services or social services if needed.

Somerset Domestic Abuse Service www.somersetdomesticabuse.org.uk 0800 6949999 (option 2)

Support for male and female victims, perpetrator course, support for children and young people

Our helplines will be open 9am-1pm Christmas day and bank holidays.

Normal opening hours on other days, help lines available 8am-8pm



0300 303 8788 (24/7 helpline)

SDAS@turning-point.co.uk

www.turning-point.co.uk/somerset



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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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Holiday Activity Calendar

The Somerset Council Community, Inclusion and Activity Team have created a Christmas holiday activity calendar for children with a disability or additional needs.

The events start on Monday 18 December, with some offering concessions for students in receipt of free school meals.

All timings and contact details are included in the shared images. If you would like more information, please contact ciateam@somerset.gov.uk



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.

Monday 18 Dec

Purple Elephant
St Carlos, Fernham Lane, Frome, BA11 5AL.
Family Holiday Fun Activities for the whole family plus a healthy meal. Festive crafts and quizzes, magic and balloons, and presents from Santa. 10am-1pm. For all ages. £2 per child suggested donation. Free if in receipt of free school meals.

To book, please email rebecca.harrison@purpleelephant.org.uk or call 07935 242948

Tuesday 19 Dec

Purple Elephant
St Carlos, Fernham Lane, Frome, BA11 5AL.
Family Holiday Fun Activities for the whole family plus a healthy meal. Festive crafts and quizzes, magical entertainment and presents from Santa. 10am-1pm. For all ages. £2 per child suggested donation. Free if in receipt of free school meals.

To book, please email rebecca.harrison@purpleelephant.org.uk or call 07935 242948

Wednesday 20 Dec

Purple Elephant
Frome Cricket Club, Rodden Road, Frome, BA11 2AH.
Family Holiday Fun Activities for the whole family plus a healthy meal. Festive crafts and quizzes, magic and balloons, and presents from Santa's team. For all ages. £2 per child suggested donation. Free if in receipt of free school meals.

To book, please email rebecca.harrison@purpleelephant.org.uk or call 07935 242948

Thursday 21 Dec

Remuda Woodsmans
Young Wood, Staple Fitzpaine, TA3 3AZ.
Seasonal hotpot school and canapue cooking activities. 11am-2pm. For 2-18yrs. £16 per family.

To book, please call **Sarah Hildrey** on 07744 844447 or email sarah@remudawoodsmans.org.uk

Friday 22 Dec

AN
Ank at Egwode, TA10 5QL.
Christmas Activity Day comprising of outdoor activities including, meeting our animals, outdoor games, Christmas themed arts and crafts, canapue and hotpot. 10am-2pm. For 5-10th Birmings. £3 a head for young people. £3 a head for parents and carers to cover lunch and refreshment costs.

To book, please call **Matt Langton** on 07755 645454 or email Matt@ank.org.uk

WHAT'S ON ACROSS THE WEEK?

Monday 18th - Friday 22nd December:
Brookside Academy, Street, BA16 0PE
A variety of indoor and outdoor activities, including arts & crafts, cooking, music and sensory play, sports and games for 4-13 years (must be school aged). 10am-3pm. £2.75p. For 14-16th birthday. 10am-3pm. £3.00p.

To book, please email **Sandra Ciolek** at extendedschools@brooksideacademy.co.uk

COOKING

The Mowle School
Wells Leisure Centre, Charter Way, Wells, BA5 2PB.
An Inclusive Christmas Fun Day for families with a meal and activities provided as well as a small gift and support for families who might need. 10am-2pm. For ages 4-18yrs. £1 per person.

To book, please email enquiries@themowleschool.com

Graceland Ridge
Dorset Wood, Dorset, Langston, TA19 6JZ.
Inclusive Woodland Fun Day for children with parent/carer or option to drop-off. Extended play, natural arts and crafts, nature discovery, games, camp cooking, doughcraft, stories and story friends. 10am-2pm. For ages 4-18yrs. £15 per child. £12.50 per sibling. Under 16s free. Parent carer free.

To book, please call 0774874118 or email gracelandridge@forestschooldorset.com

Community Inclusion Activity Team Family Day
Westcombe Entertainment Venue, Westcombe Close, West, BA26 2DS.
Enjoy the pantomime 'Children in a Noised Theatre environment, adapted for those with an autism spectrum condition, sensory communication disorders, learning difficulties or hearing impairments. 11am-3.30pm. Please arrive by 10.45 at the latest. £12.50 per person.

To book, please call 07757 432199 from 18am on 28th November 2023.

To order, please contact becky@ciateam@somerset.gov.uk on 07757 330734 or email becky@ciateam@somerset.gov.uk

Stephens-G2 group
Activity packs tailored to the young person's interests and abilities. Including puzzles, crafting, song and games. Hand delivered to local St Stephen Market or sent by Royal Mail. £2 per pack.

To order, please contact becky@ciateam@somerset.gov.uk on 07757 330734 or email becky@ciateam@somerset.gov.uk

ACTIVITY PACKS

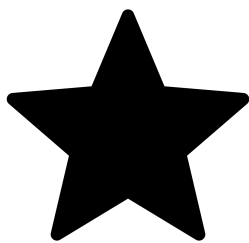
CRAFT

Community Inclusion Activity Team
Winter or Christmas themed activity packs, containing arts & crafts, puzzles, recipes and more! £3 per pack. Payment in cash on delivery please.

To order, please email ciateam@somerset.gov.uk by 4th December with your preference for 'Winter' or 'Christmas' themed packs, your child's name, age, nature of disability, address and phone number. Delivery sat 11th December.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS



100%
Attendance

Be in to win - 100% attendance will be rewarded with TRACK Stars and chance to win Amazon vouchers

95%+
Attendance

82% of students achieve 5 GCSEs grade 5+

92-93%
Attendance

77% of students achieve 5 GCSEs grade 5+

Below 90%
Attendance

53% of students achieve 5 GCSEs grade 5+

96%
Attendance

43% of students achieve 5 GCSEs grade 5+

Absences
add up

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

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

