



Weekly Newsletter 2025-6

Dear Families and Parents,

Welcome to this week's newsletter. Each week, we'll be sharing updates to celebrate what makes our school such a great community and school.

This newsletter is designed to keep you informed about everything you need to know to support your child, from important events and dates to new initiatives. I encourage you to take a moment each week to read it so you can stay up to date.

We look forward to sharing all the great news with you this academic year. If you have any good news stories or student achievements you'd like to share, please feel free to reach out to us!

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes

P Balkwill

Headteacher





Key Information

Key Dates

Wednesday 24th September- Open Morning 9-11am

Thursday 25th September- Open Morning 9-11am & Evening 6-8pm

Thursday 9th October- Key Stage Career's Fair

Thorpe Park- we are looking to reschedule the date, more information to follow

Important Information

Next week, we're excited to open our gates to new Year 6 and returning families for our Open Evening Days and Mornings. A vital part of these events is our **student tour guides!**

Students who have volunteered for this important role have been given a letter with a **consent form**. Please complete and return it as soon as possible. Unfortunately, we cannot allow any student to remain on-site in the evening without a signed consent form from a parent or guardian.

Open Mornings 2025



Wednesday 24th & Thursday 25th September
9.00am - 11.00am





Key Information

Open Evening 2025



Thursday 25th September
6.00pm - 8.00pm



**'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





Weekly Attendance Update

Attendance Update

It's been an interesting week for attendance across the year groups. Some are leading the way, while others have a bit of catching up to do.

👏 **A big congratulations to Year 7** for smashing their attendance target and exceeding the national average – a fantastic effort!

📉 However, **Years 9 and 11** need to make significant improvements to bring their attendance in line. Every day in school counts, and we know both year groups are capable of much better.

Let's keep pushing for strong attendance across the board – we're aiming high and working together to get there!

We still have 68% of students with 100% attendance - that's 367 students - WELL DONE! 🙌🙌🙌

Band	Percentage	Registers & Days Absent	Classification	Impact
1	100%	0	Perfect	No absence
2	98% to <100%	8 / 4	Excellent	Minimal absence
3	96% to <98%	15 / 8	Good	A few justified absences
4	93% to <96%	27 / 14	Requires Improvement	Occasional absence Significant attainment risks
5	90% to <93%	38 / 19	Concerning	At risk of persistent absence Severely affecting outcomes
6	Below 90%		Persistent absence	Requires urgent intervention
7	Below 50%		Severe Absence	Requires extreme intervention



Weekly Attendance Update

	School attendance	National Attendance
Year 7	98.0%	96.8%
Year 8	93.4%	94.1%
Year 9	88.9%	93.1%
Year 10	92.1%	92.9%
Year 11	89.1%	92.3%

In order to support raising attendance, we suggest downloading the Paediatric HANDi app.

This is a helpful, easy-to-use tool for parents to check if their child is well enough to be in school or needs to stay at home. It gives clear advice on common childhood illnesses, what to look out for, and when to seek medical help. The app can help you feel more confident about what to do when your child is unwell, and avoid keeping them off school longer than needed — helping them get back to learning and routine as soon as it's safe.

When children have to stay home for a long time, they can miss more than just schoolwork. School is also where they learn how to interact, socialise, and work with others. Being with friends, asking questions in class, and learning together all help children grow in important ways. Without this, they might feel lonely or fall behind. As parents, it's hard to see our children miss out on these moments that help them learn and feel like they belong.

Thank you for your support in helping us keep children healthy, happy, and learning together - let's get our attendance up to where it should be for us to support your children.



On Track Update

<u>O</u>rganised	Equipped, on time, and completing homework
<u>N</u>eat	Smart, well presented books demonstrating your best work.
<u>T</u>ry hard	Trying your hardest and rising to the challenge.
<u>R</u>esponsible	A role model to others in your appearance, actions and words
<u>A</u>ctive	Listening, responding, and participating in lessons
<u>C</u>ommunity	Supporting staff and other students to create a positive learning environment for all.
<u>K</u>nowledgeable	Knowing key information, concepts and terminology for each subject/unit

Our 'On Track' Total so far.....

27,569

Well done to all of our students!



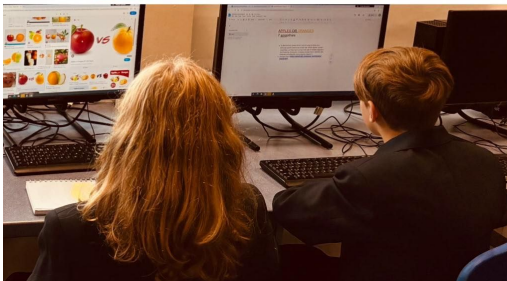
Youth Speaks



We had a great new crop of recruits for our Youth Speaks public speaking club this week. We currently have teams in all year groups from year 7 to year 10, which is brilliant news.

Youth Speaks, run by the Rotary Club, gives young people the opportunity to debate topics that they feel strongly about. Tonight we spent time forming teams of 3 and researching some topics which could be used.

The competition is in late November and if it was judged on enthusiasm alone, we would have no trouble winning! Watch this space for the progress of our superb teams.





Careers - Sixth Form



Richard Huish College is hosting a Huish Sport Open event where they will be discussing all things Sport, Entry requirements, Boarding Options and much more.

There will be opportunities to speak with individual coaches and discuss any questions you may have, as well as next steps for the coming year if you're considering attending for sixth form.

If you would like to attend, please complete the form so they know who is attending,

<https://forms.office.com/e/bfUBKgR06v>

Location - Richard Huish College, Lecture Theatre, TA1 3DZ

Date - Wednesday the 1st of October 2025

Start time 18:30

Estimated finish time 20:00

Refreshments provided.



Open Evening

We will be holding our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 10th October 2024, 5pm-7pm. We look forward to seeing you at the event. Please note that there is no need to book your place.



St Dunstan's Library presents...

THE BOOK NOOK



Welcome to the Book Nook, the section of the newsletter where we update you with what has been happening in the Library this week.

The Library has been incredibly busy since term started, which is lovely to see! So far this term we have already had 180 books loaned to students which is a fantastic statistic. We have a lot of readers in this school and that is something we pride ourselves on.

To make sure we keep the library calm and quiet for everyone, we will be staggering lunchtimes for different year groups and there will be a rota on the library door as a reminder. This will not impact break which will still be open to all students.

Monday and Wednesday lunch: Year 7, 10 and 11

Tuesday and Thursday lunch: Year 8 and 9

Just Write Club: This was the first week of Just Write Club (on a Wednesday after school) and it kicked off with lots of new stories crafted, old stories edited, and enthusiasm for our writing adventures over the next term! Open to any budding writers.

Truth

Resilience

Ambition

Community

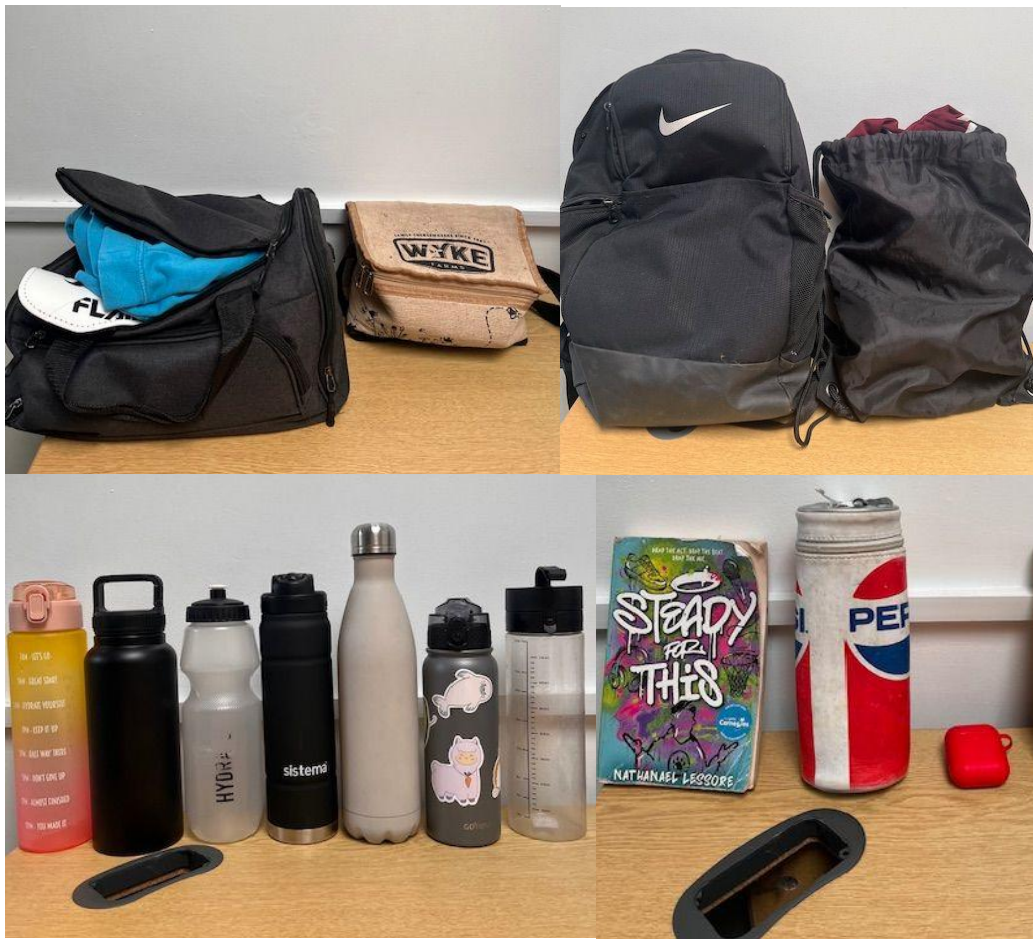
Kindness

LOST PROPERTY

We have lots of lost property from the pastoral block!

Please check if any of this is yours, and go and collect it.

If left uncollected, it will eventually be donated.



Truth

Resilience

Ambition

Community

Kindness



External Sports



WELLS RUGBY UNDER 15S

RECRUITING NEW PLAYERS!



Rugby is a fantastic sport that builds fitness, teamwork, and resilience. At Wells RFC, our Under 15s team is welcoming, fun, and supportive - everyone gets a chance to play and improve. Whether you're experienced or brand new to the game, you'll find a place here.

Training: Tuesdays 7.30-8.30pm @ Wells Rugby Football Club

Matches: Sunday mornings

First 3 sessions free

📍 Wells RFC, BA5 2FB 📞 01749 672823

Find us on Facebook: Wells RFC

Truth

Resilience

Ambition

Community

Kindness



PTA



Our wonderful PTA are holding their AGM on Thursday, 2nd October at 5pm at the school.

They welcome any new parents, especially any parents of students just starting at St Dunstan's!

Please get in touch if you're interested in joining on using the PTA email:
stdunstanscommunitypta@gmail.com



Truth

Resilience

Ambition

Community

Kindness