



Weekly Newsletter 2025-6

Dear Parents and Families,

As we reach the conclusion of an incredibly busy and successful term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on and celebrate our collective achievements.

The gloom of January feels like a distant memory when we welcomed Year 11 families for their Parents' Evening. Since then, our Year 11 students have been working tirelessly towards their final exams. With coursework now completed across all subjects and the second mock window behind them, students can now focus on the business of revision and exam preparation. Year 11 have truly embraced our new 'Power Hour' initiative, dedicating three additional hours each week to revision booster sessions. We have frequently spoken about how proud we are of their engagement over the last twelve weeks; the individual and collective progress we are seeing is exceptional and has helped to set students up for what we hope will be a successful exam period.

My primary message as we break up is to 'make Easter count'. It is often said that exam success is won or lost during the Easter break. This is the pivotal time for students to increase the pace of their independent study while still finding a necessary balance for rest and relaxation. I encourage you all to support them in finding this equilibrium, as the dedication shown over the next fortnight will undoubtedly make all the difference come summer.

As Year 11 shifts their focus towards the examination season, this period also marks our traditional 'changing of the guard' as we appoint Year 10 students to Student Leadership posts. I would like to thank every student who applied; putting yourself forward is a brave step, and the high standard of applications made our final decisions very difficult indeed. My congratulations go to Maggie and Jamie, who have been appointed as Head Students, working alongside Ethan and Beth as Deputy Head Students. A further well done goes to our new Student Leaders: Frankie, Lily, Matilda and Imogen.

Our creative and enrichment calendar has been equally vibrant. We celebrated our third school production in three years, and I must offer my congratulations once again to the entire cast and crew. A special mention goes to Aisha in Year 9, who received a Headteacher's Award this week for her outstanding dedication to costume preparation and backstage support.



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Beyond the stage, our enrichment offer has continued to flourish. Highlights this term included the Year 11 trip to *Macbeth* in Bristol, the Cybercon trip, a Year 9 Mental Health Day at Millfield School, and the ongoing progress of our Bronze and Silver DofE cohorts. We have also enjoyed visits from authors, the Young Chef of the Year competition, the Year 10 Mock Interview Day, local band workshops, Eco Council initiatives, and a wealth of sports fixtures.

A particularly poignant moment this term was the school's participation in the International Holocaust Remembrance Day observance in the town centre. Our students recited original poetry with a level of maturity and poise that demonstrated a profound understanding of the gravitas of the occasion. Siena in Year 7 was especially notable, receiving a Headteacher's Award for reciting her poem with exceptional eloquence.

We also continue to champion the importance of high attendance. Over the past few weeks, it has been fantastic to celebrate the mini-milestones of students who have shown consistent or significantly improved attendance. As we move into the final twelve weeks of the academic year, I urge all students to maintain this positive trajectory to ensure their personal attendance figures surpass those of the previous year.

Finally, it is wonderful to see students recognised daily for being 'On Track' in their lessons. It has been a personal highlight of mine to sign so many Blue Cards recently, celebrating individual successes across all year groups. Our whole-school total now stands at an impressive 350,000 On Track points—nearly 70,000 points ahead of last year's grand total. Let's see if we can reach the 500,000 mark before the end of the year!

I wish you all a very happy and restful Easter break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back for the summer term in a few weeks' time.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P Balkwill', located below the 'Best wishes' text.

P Balkwill

Headteacher



Weekly Newsletter 2025-6

Key Dates

Wb 13 April- Year 11 Easter Revision sessions

Monday 20 April- Summer Term Day One

Wb 27 April- GCSE French speaking final exams & Art final exams

Thursday 30 April- Year 8 Parents' Evening

Summer Term Uniform Update

As we approach the summer term, please note the following updates to our uniform policy:

- **Necklaces:** Due to persistent issues with students not keeping necklaces tucked away, **they are no longer permitted.** Any necklaces worn will be asked to be removed immediately.
- **Pin Badges:** Students may wear their official school rewards and roles badges, but are now limited to **one additional personal pin badge** only.
- **Shoes:** Please ensure footwear meets school requirements (as listed on our website). Use the upcoming break to repair or replace any worn-out shoes.
- **Piercings:** Facial piercings are strictly prohibited. If your child plans to get a new piercing over Easter, please remember they must be able to remove it for school. Since healing typically takes at least 4 weeks, we advise scheduling any new piercings at the start of the summer break instead.

St Dunstan's School

GLASTONBURY



On Track Update

CONGRATULATIONS STUDENTS!



352,940 POINTS ACHIEVED

SINCE SEPTEMBER

Well done to all of our students, we have now reached the 350,000 target for the spring term!

**KEEP UP THE
AMAZING WORK IN
THE SUMMER TERM!**



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Year 11 Celebration Assembly



Year 11 had their last ever celebration assembly this week - and it was a brilliant one to end on!

From musical performances by the resident band, KORR, along with some guest musicians, we were also treated to Beethoven on the electric guitar!

So many prizes recognised the achievements of this wonderful year group and it was an hour of pure positivity as Year 11 reflected upon how far they have come - whilst also looking ahead to the exciting challenges which lie ahead for them.

We also formally thanked our student leaders for their contribution to the running of our school. Well done Year 11!



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Celebration Assemblies KS3



In our final KS3 assemblies of Term 4 we proudly celebrated the learning, achievements, and progress of our students.

From individual subject awards to recognising tutor groups with the highest attendance and track points, it was a fantastic opportunity to appreciate the positive spirit of success and enthusiasm across our school.

It is always lovely to have students entertain us with their musical talent too - a real treat. We hope you'll join us in congratulating all of our award winners - they've truly made us proud!





KS3 Celebration Event



We were proud to host our Key Stage 3 Celebration Event on our last day of term. This special event recognised students who have demonstrated: excellent attendance, outstanding achievement points and positive behaviour.

Students had a fantastic time enjoying a game of bingo, with lots of smiles all around!

A huge thank you to Tesco for generously donating many of the prizes.



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Student Leaders



On Friday, Y11 Student Leaders handed over their Student Leader mantles to the newly appointed Y10 Leaders.

This will allow Y11 to prepare for a busy road ahead with GCSEs.

There was much excitement as the Year 10s began to draw up their supervision rotas and make plans for their impact upon the running of our school.

Good luck Year 10 Leaders and thank you Year 11.



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Millfield Wellbeing Day



Year 9 attended the Millfield Wellbeing Day, designed to help them manage their own mental health effectively.

All students completed a number of workshops including relaxing Yoga; creating powerful art sculptures; a Food and Nutrition session where they were able to make nutritious pot noodles which they took home; and a Drama workshop which saw them perform in the gallery.

Millfield, as hosts, were excellent and provided our students with a delicious lunch, which was appreciated. Thank you to the team who looked after us. A really fantastic day!



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Cybercon 2026

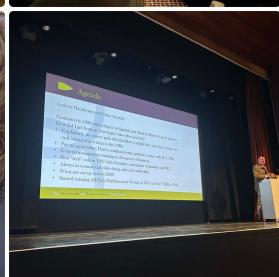
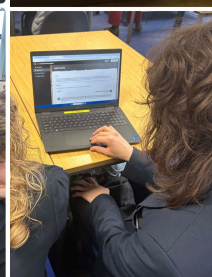
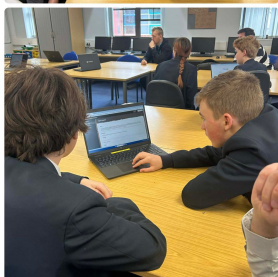
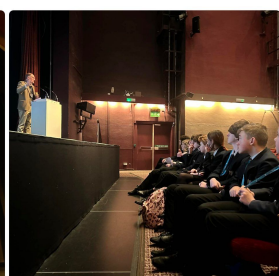


This week, a group of Year 9 and 10 students interested in computer science attended Cybercon at Strode College. This event featured a range of informative lectures and talks exploring the future of AI, cyber security, and computer science as a whole.

Students took part in a variety of activities, including AI-related puzzles, digital forensics investigations, and discussions with experienced professionals who have worked in the computer science sector for many years. The event was organised by students studying Cyber Security at Strode College, making it especially inspiring.

Participants also attended workshops run by several companies. These included an AI catastrophe analysis activity led by Oracle and talks delivered by cyber security experts. Avon and Somerset Police hosted a session on identifying patterns and explained how AI is being used to automate systems in modern policing.

Overall, the workshops focused on cyber security and artificial intelligence, providing valuable insight into the wide range of career pathways available to students in the future



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Bronze DofE Training



The Year 9 DofE students really excelled during their training session this week.

Working in their groups, students successfully put up their tents. They showed great resilience when things got tricky, and were kind and supportive towards one another throughout the tasks.

Well done, everyone!





Visiting Speaker



This week our Year 9 and 10 students had a visiting speaker, with a focus on building insight and sparking important conversations around community cohesion.

Students explored key issues such as hate crime and hate speech, prejudice, discrimination and stereotyping, while also developing their understanding of fake news and the importance of critical thinking.

They also reflected on news stories that have contributed to increased tensions in recent years, encouraging students to ask questions, think deeply and consider different perspectives.

A powerful and thought-provoking session that highlights the importance of respect, empathy, and informed thinking in our communities.



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Revision Star



The final Revision Star of term 4 pipped everyone at the post with their dedication to independent study.

This week's winner has worked hard over the last week to put the work in, knowing that those rewards will be there as evidence, in the summer.

It's not easy committing yourself to revision when the weather is so favourable and we are constantly in awe of those students with excellent work ethic.

Well done Year 11, but especially to our Revision Star this week!





St Dunstan's Library presents...



THE BOOK NOOK



Library round up of the term

We've had a very literary term with national events like World Book Day and Shakespeare Week and we have been very busy in the library. Break and lunchtimes are consistently full of students reading and enjoying the space, which is wonderful to see, and **the student librarians** have been absolutely fantastic at keeping the shelves tidy and giving book recommendations to fellow students! They are very responsible and proactive and come in and get on with their shifts without needing to be asked, and I am very proud of them and grateful for their help!

Just Write Club:

We have had some incredible stories crafted this term and lots of the students are working towards entering the Frome Young Writers' Competition at the moment. We can't wait to share some of their stories, because they're amazing!

Book Club:

We've finished reading, cast our votes and have been preparing our presentation ready for the awards ceremony on the 23rd April! Not long now! The students have created a murder board from the book *Mondays are Murder* by Ravena Guron, and will be performing a little scene rounding up the clues. We can't wait!

Quest Club:

As always, another imaginative, crazy term of wondrous adventures, with excellent storytelling, team work and leadership across the board! Well done questers!

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Safeguarding Spotlight



These sessions have been designed to offer practical support, helpful strategies, and a space to explore ways to strengthen wellbeing—for you and for the young people you care for.

Each webinar is **free to attend**, delivered online, and open to all parents and carers who would like to learn more about supporting wellbeing at home.

Topics this term:

Coping with exams: Supporting your child through test stress and exam success

Supporting your child with change and school transitions

Supporting your child's big feelings: An emotion coaching approach

How to join:

Simply go to [this link to view our webinar booklet](#).

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Safeguarding Spotlight



FREE Parent and Carer Workshops:



Each session will create a safe supportive space where parents and carers can engage in a way that feels comfortable for them, including anonymous contributions and end-of-session questions.

You only need to attend **ONE** workshop - but you are welcome to join two or all three if you wish.

Duration: 1.5 hour workshop + 30 mins Q&A

Online (live only):

Monday 20th April 2026, 7pm-9pm (please login by 6:55pm) - **Parents of Secondary Pupils** - Talking about sex and relationships with your teen: What parents need to know.

Monday 11th May 2026, 7pm-9pm (please login by 6:55pm) - **Parents of SEND Learners** - Supporting your SEND child with Bodies, Boundaries and Relationships.

Monday 8th June 2026, 7pm-9pm (please login in by 6:55pm) - **Parents of children ages 0-11, Early years professionals welcome too** - Starting the Conversation: Bodies, Boundaries and Relationships for the Early Years and Primary aged children.

These sessions will be led by Alice Hoyle, national RSHE expert-educator and co-author of Great Relationships and Sex Education and Becoming a Sensory-Aware School. Alice is a neurodivergent professional and parent of neurodivergent children, offering both expert guidance and lived experience to support truly inclusive, sensory-aware RSHE.

To book please scan the QR code or follow this link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/2AKi48BfN8>



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