

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

As we bring week three to a close, I would like to say a massive well done to all of the students at St Dunstan's school. Students continue to look incredibly smart and are working hard in all lessons. As part of our updates to the rewards structure we have moved to awarding Track points on Galaxy. There have been over 7,000 points awarded in the first three weeks, with students achieving on average 15 points each. It has also been great to see the number of positive reward cards given to recognise students' endeavours so far.

Over the past few days I have been working hard to develop our links and partnerships with schools in the area. We were pleased to welcome Millfield staff to St Dunstan's school last Friday, when we discussed opportunities to work in closer partnership. Opportunities included access to facilities, staff collaboration and joint projects. We look forward to getting these off the ground over the next 6 months.

We have also been pleased to welcome Mr Ranger, Headteacher from St Benedict's Primary School, as we continue to build a close working partnership. During his visit, Mr Ranger was able to visit classrooms and say hello to former students. It was fantastic to show off the school and see our calm and focused lessons.

On Tuesday we welcomed our PTA committee for its annual AGM. It was great to meet the committed team of parents, who were so passionate about raising money to support the students in the school. Not many secondary schools have a PTA and it is an absolute credit to the community ethos of this school and its parents that this committee provides such a valuable contribution.



20.09.24

NEXT WEEK
ASSEMBLY
FOCUS:

Looking like a
professional

Key Dates

Open Evening
26th
September

School Photos
and Bake Sale
Friday 27th
September

Inset day
Friday 25th
October

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

[Click here for
term dates](#)



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St Dunstan's School

GLASTONBURY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

If you are interested in joining the PTA or would like to contribute to their work in any way, I strongly urge you to contact via secretary@stdunstansschool.com to express your interest.

Strong community ties and working in partnership is incredibly important. Students will always benefit and succeed, when the community pulls together and acts for the benefit of its young people. I hope that we will develop these links in the years to come.

We will be holding our Open Evening on Thursday 26 September. I look forward to welcoming returning and new families to the school and celebrate everything that makes St Dunstan's School such a special community to be a part of.

If parents are unable to attend the evening, there are additional open mornings between 9:10-11:10 on Thursday 26 September and Wednesday 2 October.

Thank you for your continued support and I wish you all a restful weekend.

Mr P Balkwill



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Come and see us in action....



St Dunstan's School

GLASTONBURY



Open Evening 2024

Thursday 26th September

6.30pm—8.30pm

To register your interest in attending, please email: secretary@stdunstansschool.com

Or check out our website: www.stdunstansschool.com

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Come and see our school

Situated in beautiful grounds in the heart of Glastonbury, St Dunstan's is a thriving school for students aged 11-16.

Why choose St Dunstan's?

- Consistently good progress for students
- High standards and expectations
- High quality teaching from excellent teachers
- Ambition for all students to achieve their very best
- Friendly students with a strong sense of community
- Excellent links with local primary schools allowing for a thorough and supportive transition process
- A caring community where everyone matters
- Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership, meaning we have all the benefits of a small school, with all the advantages of being in a large partnership
- Excellent careers support
- Excellent links with local colleges, allowing for a thorough and supported transition from school to next steps
- Extra curricular programme that includes our partnership with Millfield School



St Dunstan's students get the best of both worlds; a small school with individual care, and a strong sense of community, whilst also offering a broad range of experiences and enrichments. The school offers a new and exciting mix of high standards and opportunities, in a caring community that supports and values every individual.

At St Dunstan's, teachers know students well, and students have strong relationships with their teachers and other staff; they have trust and confidence in them.



Stay on **TRACK**

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[Click to book a place](#)



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Charity Bake Sale

Year 7 and 8 will be holding a bake sale next Friday (the 27th) in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

If you'd like to get involved, we would be very grateful for any cake donations. Please send them in, the more the merrier!

Students can bring in change to buy a cake as it will be taking place during Friday's breaktime.

Thank you in advance for your support with this. Let's hope we can raise lots of money for a brilliant charity, and eat lots of delicious cake in the process.



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Youth Speaks



Our public speaking club started this week and we have begun preparing for the Rotary Club's Youth Speaks competition.

The competition aims to give young people a voice, whilst practising the art of oracy and rhetoric.

We are pleased to have four teams for the competition, working hard researching and speechwriting in preparation for the competition in November.

ROTARY YOUTH SPEAKS

PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION



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Care Home Pen Pals



Some of our Year 9s and 10s have joined our new pen pal scheme with Glastonbury Care Home. We'll write letters to some of the residents of the care home and become pen pals, using names inspired by literature. We'll then receive letters from them and begin a lovely correspondence.

It is a really wonderful way to connect with the local community, connecting with residents via letter to resurrect the dying art of pen pals, whilst also practicing and improving transactional writing skills, important for GCSE English, as this is a key part of the exam.

Today was our first meeting as a group and we discussed what kind of topics we'd like to write about and we began drafting our letters.

We're very excited to begin our letter writing adventures and will update you all later into the process!



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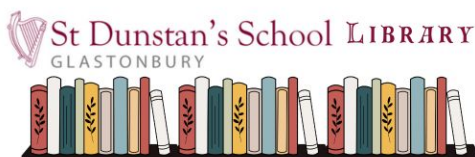
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Library letter to KS3 parents and guardians

It is wonderful to see how many of our new Year 7s are using the library and really getting involved in our reading for pleasure culture here at St Dunstan's. What a great start to the term. Lovely to see all our returning faces.

St Dunstan's library caters to all secondary school age students and therefore there are books within the library suitable for ages 11-16. Certain books are marked as 'young adult' as these have a suggested age range of around Year 9 upwards. This is because the books contain more mature content and/or themes. According to children's publishers, the young adult age bracket ranges from 12-18. As this would include almost all of our books, we instead label books that have an interest level around 14+ as YA. For this reason, if you google a book, the online classification of YA might differ from ours. Even this is a very subjective bracket, and the process of labelling our books is in progress, so please bear with us while we go through all our books to label them appropriately. If you would like any further information on how we choose books for our library, we have a collections policy that can be made available to you.

(cont.)



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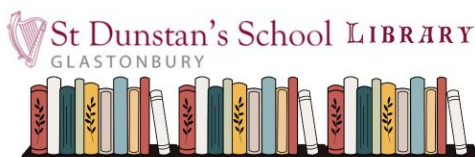
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We feel that independent choice is important for students to be able to grow and make their own decisions on their taste and preferences when reading. Often a student will choose a book and return it if they find it is not suitable for their reading or interest level. This is an important part of developing their reading.

However, if you would prefer your child not to be allowed to read books marked YA, please email expressing this to secretary@stdunstansschool.com with the subject heading 'FAO Library YA Opt Out' and we will restrict your child's account and won't allow them to take YA books out of the library. This will be subject to review and change when your child moves into Year 8 (or at any earlier time, if you'd prefer). If you are happy with your child choosing from the whole range of our library, then you need not do anything, as this will be our default stance.

We're always willing to engage with parents and if you want any more information on our library collection or want to come and see us, we'd be happy to give you a tour.

Mrs Morris

Librarian and Reading Champion



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Enrichment Week

We might have only just started our new academic year, but it is already time to look ahead.

As part of St Dunstan's Professional Development curriculum, we offer an Enrichment Week for the final week of the academic year, week commencing 14/07/25.

Enrichment week is one week off timetable where students can sign up to a range of trips and activities.

Previous trips have included Longleat, Y7 camp, Brean Leisure Park, Bristol Aquarium, Bovington Tank Museum and Yeovil Air Museum. Trips require a payment upfront, initially starting with a deposit. We also offer free in-school activities. Previous in-school activities have included cycling, the Glastonbury Way Walk, Art Club and Sports Day.

The programme for this year is currently being designed, and a booklet of activities will follow.



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Music Lessons at St Dunstan's

If you are interested in learning a musical instrument, then we have lots of professional teachers who come into school each week to offer lessons. Prices are detailed below, and if you are a Pupil Premium student, please speak to Mrs Hopton about funding for lessons.

Instrument Lessons

Guitar, Bass, Ukulele	£10 for 20 mins, £15 for 30 mins
Drums	£11 for 20 mins, £16 for 30 mins
Singing	£12 for 20 mins, £17.50 for 30 mins
Piano, Violin	£10 for 20 mins, £15 for 30 mins
Production Music	£15 for 30 min lesson

PP students- see Mrs Hopton about PP funding for lessons

**Would you like to learn an instrument?
Speak to Mrs Hopton**



Student Spotlight

Congratulations to Bella in Year 8 who has just completed her Grade 3 Piano exam! Very well done Bella, onwards and upwards and we can't wait to hear you perform some time!

If you have anything you'd like showcased in the student spotlight section of the newsletter, email the details (and a photo!) to secretary@stdunstansschool.com and we'll feature it



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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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Bridgwater and Taunton Open Evening

OPEN EVENTS

www.btc.ac.uk

BRIDGWATER CAMPUS

Tuesday 8 October | 6pm - 8pm

TAUNTON CAMPUS

Wednesday 9 October | 6pm - 8pm

REGISTER
NOW!

BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST



BRIDGWATER
& TAUNTON
COLLEGE

Some other links

[What's On at Millfield](#)

[Millfield Scholarships](#)



MILLFIELD



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B-ELITE

BACK 2 SKOOL

FREE CLUBS & COURSES

After School Clubs (organised with the Avon and Somerset Police)

Secondary School Options

- 4-6 Week Self Defence Course
- 4-6 Week Kickboxing or Boxing Course
- 4-6 Week Lads only and Girls only Courses
- P.E Class, Self defence and Weaponry Awareness and Self Defence

If any of these sound interesting to you, drop office.belite@gmail.com an email and express your interest, and get more information if you need it!



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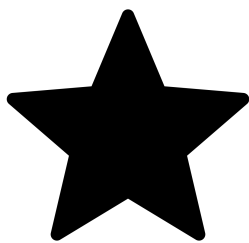


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ATTENDANCE MATTERS



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

