

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/ Carers

At the end of this autumn term, I wanted to take the opportunity to share with you all some of the highlights of the year to date. It has been a very busy and successful start to the academic year at St Dunstan's with a lot to celebrate and good news to share.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate all the students for the positive engagement they have shown in our new behaviour and rewards system. At the end of the term, students have amassed over 96,000 points since September. This is more than double the amount reached by the end of last academic year.

In the past two weeks, I have spoken to a number of students who have proudly shared and asked me to sign their reward cards where they have been recognised for exemplary work or sustained effort. This positivity has also been reflected in the number of students invited to our new celebration events. Over 200 students in both key stages have been invited for meeting the 150 points threshold and 96% attendance across the term.

We have received a number of visits from our trust partners, including the CEO Alun Williams, since September. Visitors have consistently commented on the calm and quiet atmosphere in classrooms and the mutual cooperation between staff and students. We hope to continue to build on this positive start so that the school is a positive and productive environment for all learners and staff, both in and out of the classroom.



20.12.24

NEXT WEEK  
ASSEMBLY  
FOCUS:

Christmas  
Holidays!

### Key Dates

Inset Day:  
Monday 6th  
January (staff  
only)

Term restarts  
for all students  
on: Tuesday  
7th January

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

[Click here for  
term dates](#)



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## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

The school continues to offer a broad range of enrichment opportunities. My thanks goes to the staff who have organised and made these opportunities happen over the past 15 weeks. These have included Concert trips; A Christmas Carol Theatre trip; Sports fixtures and tournaments; University Visit; Computational Thinking Tournament; Youth Speaks competition; The Christmas Showcase; Visits and links with Millfield School; Duke of Edinburgh Silver and Bronze Award schemes; Fundraising and Charity events and many, many more.

In November our Year 11 students sat their first set of mock exams. This is often the time of year when the reality of GCSEs sets in. On Monday, we shared with Year 11 their results in a Mock Results day and it was pleasing to see the look of relief and joy on so many faces when students realised that their hard work had paid off. Congratulations to everyone in Year 11 who went above and beyond to prepare for these exams as well as the results you have achieved. For those of you who were disappointed, don't be disheartened, keep plugging away and ask for help and support whenever you need it.

A fortnight ago the Department of Education released the performance data for secondary schools across the country in GCSEs and equivalent qualifications for 2024. St Dunstan's School achieved an overall Progress 8 score of +0.08, placing it in the top 10 schools in the county, significantly above the national average and one of the highest performing schools in the Mendip area. Congratulations to both students and staff on this achievement and we look forward to building on this improvement in 2025.



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## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

At this point, I would like to thank our wonderful team of volunteers who make such a valuable contribution to the school community. Our PTA have worked tirelessly this term to raise much needed funds to support our students. This work has included our first ever Silent Disco, which was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by our students. Thank you to all members of the committee for all of your time and support. The funds raised make such a difference to the students in the school and we are very lucky to have you.

At the end of a term it is usual to welcome new staff and say goodbye to current members of the team. Our best wishes go to Mrs Loud, who will be moving to Ansford School in January. We wish her all the very best for the future and thank her for her hard work and dedication over the past five years. In January, we will welcome Mr Andrews and Mrs Moulton. Mr Andrews will be joining the Mathematics department. Mrs Moulton will become a new addition to the Pastoral team, taking on the role of KS4 Pastoral manager.

On a final note, I would like to say thank you and well done to all the amazing students that attend St Dunstan's School. Your hard work, enthusiasm and kindness make this such a fantastic place to work and I am proud to be part of this wonderful community. I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2025.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Balkwill



20.12.24

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## Celebration Assemblies



It was our great pleasure to spend our final few hours of 2024 celebrating our fantastic students! From subject awards, to key stage prizes, musical performances and poems, and a bit of a sing-a-long, we had a lovely afternoon of celebration.

Thank you to all the students at St Dunstan's for their hard work and kindness this year. Bring on 2025 and all the adventures yet to come... we can't wait. Well done to all our students!



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# Celebration Assemblies



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## Christmas Dinners



Staff and students were led by their noses today in the direction of the canteen as the wonderful aroma of Christmas dinner filled the air! Adapting the day slightly, all students were given the chance to eat with their year group and the canteen was abuzz with festive cheer!

Huge thank you to the canteen staff for their hard work- it was a triumph! Also thanks to our Year 11 leaders for helping out and ensuring everything ran smoothly!



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# Christmas Dinners



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## Reverse Advent Calendars



8JMA and 8KGR have spent Advent focussing on one of our core values - KINDNESS. Instead of using a traditional calendar to countdown to Christmas, they have all contributed to a 'Reverse Advent Calendar' which involved donating a sweet treat to the food bank rather than taking a chocolate!

The charity supported was Bridging the Gap, who prepare food parcels for people in our local area of Glastonbury and Street. We are very impressed and touched by the generosity of all students and their families who contributed. Thank you!



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## Year 10 Theatre Trip



This week Year 10 students visited the Theatre Royal and the beautiful city of Bath, to see A Christmas Carol.

It was presented in a very unusual way, with all parts being played by one actor, Guy Masterton. Students were in awe of the actor's talent and ability to remember all of his lines and create so many interesting personas.

As always, our students were exemplary in their behaviour and the trip was a great opportunity to reward our students for a really positive start to their KS4 studies. Members of the public commented on their excellent manners and behaviour. Well done year 10, your teachers were super proud of you!



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## Christmas Showcase



We had the pleasure of celebrating many of our talented students at the Christmas Showcase on Thursday 12th December in the Drama Studio.

There was such a wide variety of performances this year from delightful dances; beautiful duets; superb solos ; dynamic gymnastics ; live music from our phenomenal musicians and a beautiful poem written by two year 11 students and one all about how yummy chocolate is!

It felt great when everyone joined in singing 'We Wish You A Merry Christmas' at the end - what a brilliant audience!

We would like to thank all those who took part, helped to organise the event in advance and those who helped out on the night. Truly a team effort.



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## Year 11 Mock Results



### Mock Results Day

Well done to all the Year 11 students who were involved in the mock results day this week!

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

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

Keep up the good work ready for your exams next year, we believe in you!



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# Media Studies



## Media Studies Practical Production Practice

Our year 10 Media Studies groups have been learning about the film industry this term.

This has included studying the conventions of film posters; issues of regulation and the role of the BBFC; learning about conglomerates and evaluating the difference between horizontal and vertical integration in the film industry.

Students were tasked with creating a film poster for an audience of their choice and the standards were ambitious and exceptional!



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## Duke of Edinburgh



This week the Year 9 Bronze DofE students met to discuss their expedition meals . We considered how students could be more resilient during their expedition by eating the correct foods.

Students then tried out our Trangia stoves, and were rewarded with some warming cups of hot chocolate!



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## Forest School



This week saw our final Forest School of the term. Students made their own pizzas cooked in an open pizza oven; had delicious s'mores; toasted marshmallows on an awesome fire and had an all round, amazing forest school Christmas party. All of our wilderness wanderers were brilliant!



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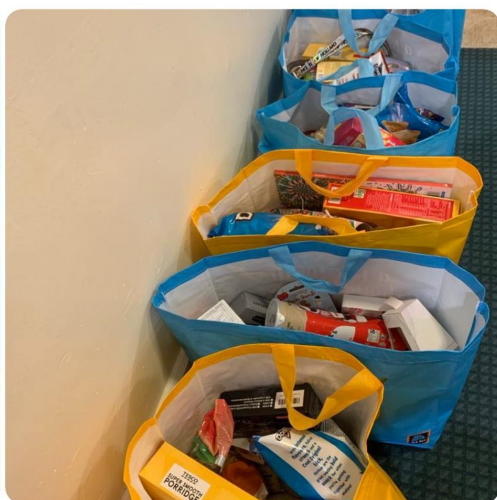


## Love Glastonbury



Thank you to Love Glastonbury who have gathered amazing contributions from our local area, to provide Festive Hampers to many families of St Dunstan's School.

It has been amazing to give an early present of cupboard fillers, little gifts and a sprinkling of early Yuletide joy to so many, thanks to the generosity and kindness of Love Glastonbury and the townspeople!



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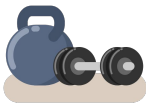
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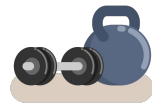
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## Gym Updates



Thanks to a grant awarded to the school in order to help maximise the opportunities for our students to participate in physical activity outside of lessons, the PE department have invested into creating our very own school gym.

We have everything from barbells to a rowing machine and our students are already enjoying this new facility and the opportunity to be active.

This space is being used in fitness and wellbeing lessons where our students are learning all about the importance of maintaining an active lifestyle and are being put through their paces with a variety of fun and challenging workouts that involve lots of the new equipment.

Students can also come for a workout after-school 4 times a week.

After-school fitness and gym sessions are available for Years 9 to 11 from 3:15pm to 4:15pm on the following days:

Monday

Wednesday - girls only session

Thursday

Friday

Students need to bring appropriate sports kit for the gym, though this does not need to be their PE kit.



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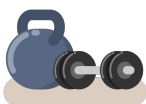


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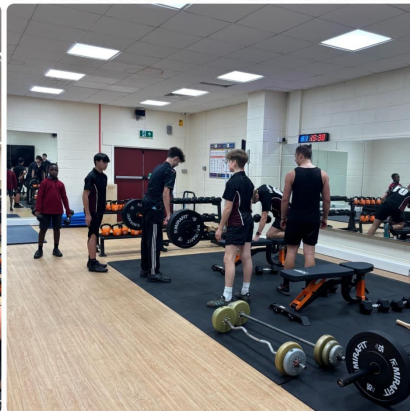


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# Gym Updates



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## Production Update



Students in the Lion King have been working hard all this term to learn new choreography, stage placements and their lines ready for the performances.

We have been practicing movements like animals and have been really impressed with Penny in Year 7 who has perfected the movements of a leopard perfectly. This is a really tricky skill which we will continue to work on with everyone in the coming months ready for April.

It has been brilliant to see new people joining the Production this year, especially lots of Year 7 students and lots of students who were in Aladdin last year continuing to take part.

Next term, rehearsals are going to step up a gear with 2 rehearsals a week and we would like to be 'scripts down' after Christmas. New rehearsal schedules are available to collect from the Music classroom door.

First rehearsals next term

Thursday 9th January 3:15-5:00pm

Monday 13th January 3:15-5:00pm

Thursday 16th January 3:15-4:30pm



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St Dunstan's Library presents...



# THE BOOK NOOK



## The Story is Told by Honey

A small door of  
wonder  
Entering a room of  
imagination  
A fairytale for all  
Is your destination

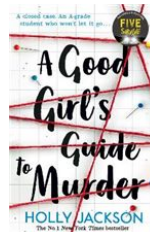
Open a book  
An adventure begins  
A secret tale  
That never finishes

Magical creatures  
Excited to read  
The library in our  
school is awesome  
The BEST place to be!

Thank you to everyone who  
bought a crochet flower  
bookmark over the last  
fortnight! It is lovely to see so  
many tucked into library  
books, and others wrapped  
and waiting under trees...

In total we raised £133 for the  
library! This will go such a long  
way, helping us buy new  
books and graphic novels  
that the students can enjoy!

Popular loans this week:



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# Local Sports Camps booking now



**WELLS**  
CATHEDRAL SCHOOL  
ENTERPRISES

**EAT. SLEEP. BREATHE.**  
**PERFORMANCE**  
**NETBALL CAMP**  
**2025**

26 - 29 AUG, WELLS CATHEDRAL SCHOOL  
[wcsenterprises.co.uk/netballcamp2025](https://wcsenterprises.co.uk/netballcamp2025)

## Performance Netball Camp 26th - 29th August 2025

Our 4-day intensive residential and day performance netball camp helps players really understand what it's like to be a pro netball player.

Elite coaches have curated a fully rounded programme that highlights what it takes to elevate your game to the next level. We are delighted that England Netball is supporting us once again this year. Past coaches include the Head Coach of France, the British Army and Team Bath.

The camp is for netballers aged 12 – 17, those looking to grow their game and those keen to get on a professional pathway. Residential: £400 + VAT, day: £325 + VAT. Book before 31st January 2025 for 10% off.

<https://wcsenterprises.co.uk/netballcamp2025/>



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# Local Sports Camps booking now



**EAT. SLEEP. BREATHE.**  
**PERFORMANCE**  
**CRICKET CAMP**  
**2025**



26 - 28 AUG, WELLS CATHEDRAL SCHOOL  
[wcsenterprises.co.uk/performance-cricket-camp/](https://wcsenterprises.co.uk/performance-cricket-camp/)

## **Performance Cricket Camp** **26th - 28th August 2025**

Our NEW three-day intensive residential/day performance cricket camp helps boys really understand what it's like to be a pro cricketer. Elite coaches have curated a fully rounded programme that highlights what it takes to elevate your game to the next level. The summer coaches include retired pros and county affiliated coaches.

The camp is for cricketers aged 12 – 17, those looking to grow their game and those keen to get on a professional pathway. Residential: £350 + VAT, day: £290 + VAT. Book before 31st January 2025 for 10% off.

<https://wcsenterprises.co.uk/performance-cricket-camp/>



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Local Sports Camps booking now



**EAT. SLEEP. BREATHE.**  
**PERFORMANCE**  
**HOCKEY CAMP**  
**2025**



26 - 28 AUG, WELLS CATHEDRAL SCHOOL  
[wcsenterprises.co.uk/performance-cricket-camp/](https://wcsenterprises.co.uk/performance-cricket-camp/)

## Performance Hockey Camp 26th - 28th August 2025

Check out the website for details of our new Performance Hockey Camp which will be announced soon.

Residential: £350 + VAT, day: £290 + VAT. Book before 31st January 2025 for 10% off.

Booking opens soon

<https://wcsenterprises.co.uk/>



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## Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

Dear Parent/Carer

We are all too aware of how the recent cost-of-living increases may affect our local community, and we want to encourage you to access appropriate mechanisms of support. The Pupil Premium and Free School Meals funding allows schools to creatively support students. This funding is confidential and used to support your child.

If your child is eligible for 'free school meals' and you register them for this, we will receive extra funding called 'pupil premium'. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at the school.

### What is pupil premium funding?

Pupil premium funding from the government is given to schools to help pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation. It's provided for pupils who:

- Are registered for free school meals
- Have been registered for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years
- Are, or have been, in care
- Have parents in the armed forces

### How is the Pupil Premium funding spent?

Schools have the freedom to spend the Premium in a way they think is best to support the raising of attainment. Funding is given to schools and is spent according to a budgeted plan across three areas. These include:

High-quality teaching, such as staff professional development.

Targeted academic support, such as tutoring.

Wider strategies to address non-academic barriers to success in schools, such as attendance, behaviour and social and emotional support.



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## Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

Parents do not receive this money from schools and there is not a budget to spend per student. Schools are expected to formulate a plan to use the overall funding, this must be based on evidence based research and approved by the Governing body.

### How do I register?

To register, please visit the following web page.

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/free-school-meals/>

For further information relating to our Pupil Premium Plan and Free School Meals please visit our website-

<https://www.stdunstansschool.com/pastoral-care/supporting-our-students.htm>

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

If you require any further information, or are unable to access the web links above, please do not hesitate to contact the academy for support.



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<b><u>O</u>rganised &amp; Proactive</b>	<p>Bringing the correct equipment, kit and uniform</p> <p>Meeting deadlines</p> <p>Working on tasks independently and completing homework to a high standard</p>
<b><u>N</u>eat &amp; Tidy work</b>	<p>Smart, well presented books demonstrating your best work</p>
<b><u>T</u>enacity</b>	<p>Trying your hardest, rising to challenges, having a 'can do' attitude, working out solutions and taking ownership of your learning</p>
<b><u>R</u>eady, Respectful and Responsible</b>	<p>Being a role model by consistently demonstrating our basic expectations</p>
<b><u>A</u>nswering, reading and listening like an expert</b>	<p>Sophisticated full sentence answers using technical terms</p> <p>Following along, tracking the text and ready to read aloud in class.</p> <p>Reading widely and for pleasure</p> <p>Listening and considering the views of others</p> <p>Taking in turns to respond</p>
<b><u>C</u>ontributing to the class</b>	<p>Playing an active role in every lesson</p> <p>Attention to the speaker, sat up straight, arms still, pens down</p> <p>Teacher focused</p>
<b><u>K</u>indness &amp; Community minded</b>	<p>Caring, polite, looking after one another and the site</p> <p>Speaking with kindness and respect</p> <p>Supporting staff and other students to create a positive learning environment for all</p>



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