



Weekly Newsletter 2025-6

Dear Families and Parents,

As the term concludes, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to our students and staff for their tremendous efforts. It's been a successful term that truly underscores the positive spirit of the St Dunstan's School community.

We were delighted to start the year with our largest number of students in many years, a clear sign that more families want to join our vibrant school.

The commitment from our students has been outstanding. They have collectively amassed over 95,000 'On Track' points—double the total from this time last year—showing their focus and hard work. A personal highlight was signing the blue rewards cards, celebrating achievements from excellent classwork to acts of kindness.

Our students were also fantastic ambassadors at our Open Events, and their enthusiasm was key to the evenings' success.

Other areas to celebrate include-

- **Attendance:** Thank you for your support; consistent attendance is vital for building resilience. Congratulations to all students, especially those in the 100% Attendance Club for September and October!
- **Year 7 Success:** Our Year 7 students have made an excellent start to secondary school. Their positive transition was helped by the team-building trip to Vivary Park's High Ropes Course.
- **Reading & Arts:** Our updated Read to Succeed provision is thriving, and the library remains a vibrant hub for reading. Preparations for our exciting school production, *The Addams Family*, are already underway.
- **Sport:** Participation levels remain high across a range of activities, including sessions like gym and badminton, and proudly representing the school in team sports.



Weekly Newsletter 2025-6

Thank you once again for your patience and understanding as we rolled out the new Arbor and Google platforms. We are committed to resolving all remaining technical issues to ensure a smooth and efficient experience next term.

Finally, today's celebration events, including the generous food bank donations from our students and families, truly highlighted that we are a small community with a big heart. Thankyou to everyone for your generous support.

Please read our updates letter for all key information ahead of the new term. Wishing everyone a great break and a well-earned rest!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P Balkwill', written over a horizontal line.

Mr P Balkwill Headteacher

St Dunstan's School, Glastonbury



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Ambition

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Kindness



Key Information

Key Dates

Monday 3 November- School Photos

Tuesday 5 November- Royal Albert Hall Trip

Thursday 6 November- Art Mock Exam

Monday 10 November- Year 11 Trial Exams begin

Tuesday 11 November- Remembrance Events

Wednesday 12 November- Year 11 Strode College Experience Day

Thursday 4 December- PTA Silent Disco- more details to follow in the new term

Important Information

Student Arbor App

Thank you for your continued support and patience around accessing the student app. We know that some students are struggling to access due to passwords issues. If this is the case, should students should

- Go to <https://login.arbor.sc/> via a desktop browser
- Enter school email gmail address. It will not recognise personal emails.
- Click 'forgot my password'. Arbor will then send a reset email to the gmail account
- Open school gmail, open Arbor email and follow instructions to reset.

Year 11

With two weeks now before the start of the mocks, we encourage all Year 11 students to start to revise and prepare. Our website along google classrooms has everything you and your child will need to help prepare.

<https://www.stdunstansschool.com/information-for-students-and-parentscareers/year-11-exams-information-and-support.htm>



Key Information

Jumpers & Coats

As the temperature continues to fall, we are seeing a rise in students wearing the optional jumper in addition to the blazer. A polite reminder to families that these should be **V Neck navy blue jumpers only**. Students **should not wear round neck sweatshirts or branded jumpers**. We kindly ask that you make sure that students wear the correct jumper as we move into the new half term.

We also advise all students to wear a suitable warm and waterproof coat to school. This can be worn in addition to the blazer.

Energy and Sugary Drinks

At the start of the new term, **all energy, sports and sugary drinks will no longer be allowed** to be consumed on school site. We ask that students bring a water bottle to stay hydrated during the day, drinks will also be available in the canteen.

Parent Survey

As part of our ongoing efforts to improve the school and our offer, we ask families to spend a short amount of time responding to a questionnaire. Please follow the link below. This term we would particularly like to find out more about your awareness related to attendance and absence. We are grateful for all responses.

<https://forms.gle/3VQsbTZs2QaZsPDE7>





Weekly Attendance Update

How good is my child's attendance so far?



What does my attendance look like so far? Week 9

Band	Percentage	Number of days attended this year to date out of 32	Potential Days of Absence across the year if this continues	Potential hours of lost learning	Classification
1	100%	37	0	0	Perfect
2	98% to 100%	36	4	20	Excellent
3	96% to 98%	35	8	40	Good
4	93% to 96%	34	14	70	Requires Improvement
5	90% to 93%	33	38	190	Concerning
6	Below 90%	32 or less	40	200	Persistent absence

How can I support my child?

The shift to colder, darker mornings makes it harder to get out the door on time. Punctuality is a key component of good attendance, and a calm start can set a positive tone for the whole day.

Prep Everything: Make it a non-negotiable rule to have all bags packed, clothes laid out, and lunch boxes/snacks prepared the night before. If your child has a homework or important papers, have them in the bag and ready to go.

Enforce Bedtime: November often comes with more screen time indoors. A consistent, early bedtime is critical for immune function and mental alertness. Aim for the recommended 9–12 hours of sleep for school-age children. This is your best defense against morning battles and exhaustion-related absences.

IMPROVED ATTENDANCE AWARD



Students with improved attendance across a term will receive a letter from our Attendance Champion and 10 'On Track' Points. The most improved students will also be recognised in our celebration assemblies.

TERMLY ATTENDANCE AWARD

**ON
TRACK**

All students who have met or exceeded our termly attendance target (96%) and 'On Track' Point thresholds, will be invited to our end of term celebration events.

EXCEPTIONAL ATTENDANCE AWARD

All students who have achieved 98% or above at the end of each term, will receive a letter from the Headteacher, 50 'On Track' Points and be recognised in our celebration assemblies.

**CLUB AWARD**

St Dunstan's School
GLASTONBURY

If a student achieves 100% in a calendar month, they will receive a reward card and be entered into a prize draw to win Amazon vouchers. Students in the 100 Club will also be celebrated on our celebrations board and awarded 50 'On Track' Points.





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.....

95,650

Well done to all of our students!



Celebration Assemblies



This week we held celebration assemblies, a wonderful chance to recognise all the hard work, diligence, kindness and excellent behaviour from our students. From subject awards, key stage prizes, track point awards, attendance prizes, librarian badges, Duke of Edinburgh badges and extra curricular awards, there was so much to celebrate!

Well done to all students for getting through our longest term of the year with so much to celebrate. Half a lovely half term, and here's to making next term even more fantastic.



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Bronze Award Success



Congratulations to our Year 10 students who have gained their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award.

This is an award given for the successful completion of their expedition, volunteering, physical and skills sections.

They have all worked hard outside of the school curriculum and dedicated themselves to this journey.

Well done!



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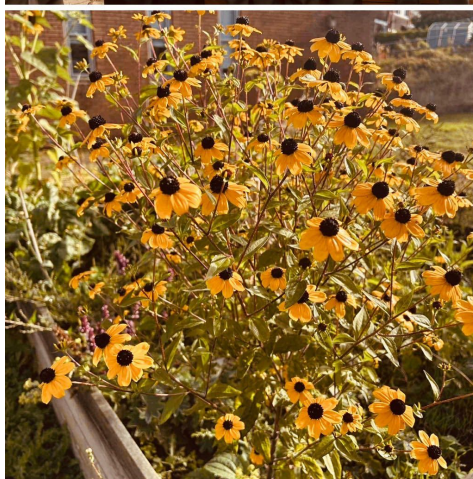
Glastonbury in Bloom Success!



We were delighted to attend the awards evening at Glastonbury Town Hall on Friday, where our gardening group achieved 'Outstanding' for their efforts this year!

Over the course of the year, the dedicated group have transformed spaces within our grounds, grown their own vegetables and looked after Amy's Garden.

We are proud to have been part of the community initiative and look forward to next year when we can do it all over again! We also give our thanks to the organisers for their feedback and advice along the way.



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Mayor's Visit to Year 7



This week Glastonbury's Mayor, Michael White, came to speak to Year 7 about the future of Glastonbury's play parks. The town council is trying to revamp our local play parks and wanted student input to make sure they're the best they can be.

Year 7s brainstormed what they wanted to see in play parks and presented their ideas to the Mayor. These ideas will be considered, alongside input from local schools, to try and make Glastonbury's play parks more fun, engaging and exciting! From pirate ships to covered tunnel slides, skate ramps and zip lines...some incredible ideas came out of the session.

Well done Year 7s, your ideas will truly make a difference to the town and local community!



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Skills Up Somerset



This week, our Year 10s had a visit from Nikki Blackwell from Skills Up Somerset, who came in to talk all about apprenticeships.

The session was really engaging and gave students lots of useful information about the different types of apprenticeships out there — from intermediate and advanced, right up to higher and degree level.

Nikki explained how apprenticeships mix real work experience with study, helping young people earn while they learn and gain valuable skills along the way.

She also talked about local opportunities, the kinds of jobs that are growing in Somerset, and how students can start exploring what's right for them after Year 11.

It was a really informative session that got lots of students thinking about their future options and how what they're doing in school now can link to exciting career paths later on!





Silent Disco

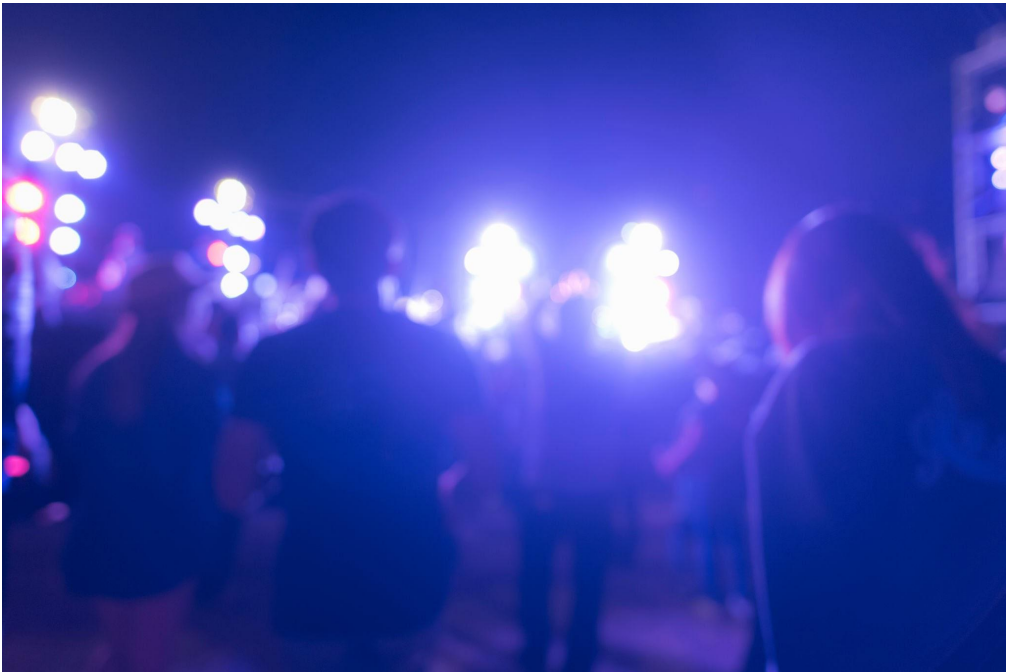


St Dunstan's Silent Disco is back with a bang!

Following the great success of the silent disco last year, the PTA has announced that this year's silent disco will be held on the evening of **Thursday 4th December 2025**.

Which staff will be our DJs? Will the drama studio's floor survive the cha cha slide? And most importantly - will the smoke machine have an off button this year? All will be revealed after half term... put the date in your diary and get excited for what will be a fantastic night.

Ticket sales will be announced soon!





PE Kit Reminder



As we move through the term, a quick reminder about PE kit expectations at St Dunstan's:

Indoor Lessons:

Trainers

White socks

Plain black shorts/skort/tracksuit bottoms

PE top

Outdoor Lessons:

Football boots

Mouthguard

Long socks (St Dunstan's or plain black)

Plain black shorts/skort/tracksuit bottoms

PE top

Blue St Dunstan's hoody or 1/4-zip (both optional)

Forgotten Kit?

Students will be provided with clean spare kit if needed.

Kit Marks:

Each forgotten kit = 1 kit mark

3 kit marks in a term = 15-minute after school detention

Additional kit marks may lead to longer detentions

Kit marks reset each term

Even if injured, students should still bring kit and will take part in lessons in other roles (e.g. peer coach or official).

Thanks for your continued support in helping students come prepared and engaged!

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.

October is Black History Month and we've had a display featuring books written by black authors and books with black main characters. We celebrate diversity and in order to make the world a kinder place, we place huge importance on empathy. The best way to understand communities you may not be a part of is to read!



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LOST PROPERTY



We have lots of lost property from the the pastoral block and the uniform hub.

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

If left uncollected, it will be donated.



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CAMHS

NHS

Somerset

NHS Foundation Trust

Families Learning About Self Harm (FLASH)

WHO IS THE PROGRAMME FOR?

Any adult who has shared responsibility for bringing up a child (11-17 years old) can attend the group including stepparents, grandparents and carers. We welcome parents on their own or with a partner or adult family member. Please note, this group is not intended for families of young people currently under care of Tier 3 CAMHS. For families currently care coordinated by CAMHS East or West teams, please speak to your keyworker who can discuss other FLASH groups with you.



Friday's Nov 7th - 14th - 21st - 28th & Dec 5th (9:30-12:30am)
The Balidon Centre, Yeovil - Booking Essential

WHAT DOES THE PROGRAMME COVER?

This is a 5-week programme which aims to create better communication and personal relationships between parent/carers and young people. FLASH allows parents the opportunity to discuss the self-harm with people who understand and learn how to manage concerns within your home.

It will include:

- Exploring what self-harm is, what the risks are and what is the function of self-harm
- Listening and self-esteem enabling skills
- Managing self-harm within the family environment
- How self-harm impacts on parenting and ways to manage under stressful circumstances
- Coping strategies for parents and carers

FEEDBACK

"I feel more comfortable addressing things with my YP. I am not always fearful of her harming - I recognise triggers more effectively."

"I felt very comfortable opening up with the other parents and not judged"

"It has helped me to understand a bit more, and know how to respond and when to step back and allow her to come to me if she wants/needs."

**Contact us
for more information**



0300 124 5012



camhsspa@somersetft.nhs.uk

IMPORTANT
Due to limited availability and safety your place needs to be booked. We will not be able to accommodate anyone who is not pre-registered.



Safeguarding Spotlight



TWENTY-FOUR APPS PARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT



SNAPCHAT allows users to see your location and can keep photos/videos for up to 24 hours.



OMEGLLE is an anonymous video app that critics believe is a perfect app for unsuspecting predators.



TINDER is a location-based dating app and website.



CALCULATOR% is one of several secret apps that allows used to hide photos, videos, files, and history.



GRINDR is a location-based dating app and website.



MEETME is a location-based dating app encouraging strangers to meet in person.



PERISCOPE allows users to stream audio and video content and share it with other users.



SKOUT is a location-based dating app and website.



BADOO is a location-based dating and social media app with the ability to send photos, videos, and messages.



HOUSEPARTY is a live chatroom for texts and video. Users have reported explicit content, racial slurs, and more.



WHATSAPP is a messaging app that allows users to send photos, videos, and make calls and video chats.



ASK.FM is known for cyberbullying.



BLENDR is a location-based dating app and website.



KIK is a direct messaging app that allows anyone to contact anyone else with unlimited access.



WHISPER is an anonymous social network that promotes sharing secrets with strangers.



LIVEME uses geolocation while livestreaming videos allowing users to see your exact location.



BUMBLE is a dating app that requires a female to make the first contact. Fake accounts are known to be created.



XBOX LIVE is an online service that behaves as a social network and allows for chatting with strangers.



HOLLA is a video chat app. Users have reported explicit content, racial slurs, and more.



HOT OR NOT is a dating app where users to rate the profile of others and to see and chat with people in their area.



TIKTOK is a social app with limited privacy controls known for cyber bullying and explicit content.



WILDCRAFT is a multi-player gaming app that allows group chatting and has been linked to cyberbullying.



INSTAGRAM allows users to see your location and allows private messaging.



TWITTER is increasingly popular with teenagers and has been linked to cyberbullying.

***MONITORING APPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PARENTS. CHECK OUT BARK, NET NANNY, SECURLY AND MORE.**





A reminder that the following steps need to be followed for a successful login to the app:

1. Initial Web Login

Students must first log in to Arbor using a web browser (on a laptop or desktop) to activate their account, ensuring their password is current.

2. Students should use their school email address and password to log in (e.g. 3sleigh@stdunstans.mnsp.org.uk).

3. Download the Arbor Student App

The app can be downloaded from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store by searching for "Arbor Student".

4. Log in to the App, using the same login and password they use for the browser.

After logging in, they can enable "Remember Me" to use fingerprint or face recognition for quicker access in the future.

If your child is struggling to access due to passwords issues. If this is the case, should students should

- Go to <https://login.arbor.sc/> via a desktop browser
- Enter school email address. It will not recognise personal emails.
- Click 'forgot my password'. Arbor will then send a reset email to the gmail account
- Open school gmail, open Arbor email and follow instructions to reset.

Once again, we appreciate your support in helping students become more independent in managing their learning and school responsibilities.

For further guidance, please follow the link below-

<https://youtu.be/QN6j66N6N94>

New Governors Wanted!



MN Midsomer Norton
SP Schools Partnership

Become a School Governor



Are you passionate about education? Do you want to help shape the future of young minds?

Becoming a school governor is an incredible opportunity to use your skills, time, and passion to ensure students receive the best education and support. Whether you're a parent, professional, or community member, your voice can make a real impact in the direction and success of our schools.

Make a Lasting Impact in Five Key Ways:

- Attend termly Governing Body meetings, reviewing data and ensuring the best outcomes for students.
- Get tailored, ongoing training to build your skills and understand your role (induction, safeguarding, and more).
- Act as a link governor, focusing on an area of your interest or expertise, and reporting on school progress.
- Represent the school positively in the community – become a proud ambassador!
- Take part in important panels (interviews, exclusions, and more), shaping the school's future.

Who Can Be a School Governor?

No prior experience is needed! All that's required is a commitment to the role and a willingness to learn. We need governors from all walks of life:

- Parent Governors: Provide insights from the parent community.
- Community Governors: Bring your skills and experience, even without a direct connection to the school.
- Foundation Governors: Preserve the school's religious character.
- Staff Governors: Offer the unique perspective of school staff.

What Do You Get Out of It?

Being a school governor is incredibly rewarding! You'll develop valuable skills, make a positive impact in your community, and help prepare students for success in further education and beyond. It's a role that's challenging but never dull, giving you the chance to contribute to something truly meaningful.



For more information, please contact

secretary@stdunstans.mnsp.org.uk