

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Dear Families and Parents

What an incredible start to the summer term it's been at St. Dunstan's School.

A monumental round of applause goes to our **Year 11 students!** Their dedication and unwavering commitment to their GCSE exams have been truly inspiring. We've all been so impressed by their maturity and the sheer effort they've poured in. A huge thankyou to our incredible staff who have gone above and beyond, offering invaluable out-of-hours revision and study support. Their passion truly makes a difference,

Prepare to be amazed! Our students have absolutely smashed their "On Track Points" goal, skyrocketing past the 200,000 mark to a phenomenal **210,524 points!** This is more than five times higher than last year's total – a testament to their hard work and determination. We look forward to celebrating more achievements with everyone next term!

We're proud to announce that **150 students are currently boasting an outstanding 98% attendance!** Beyond that, countless others have made huge strides in their attendance over the past few months. These students are truly embodying the values of reliability and consistency that are so important for success, both in school and in life.



23. 05. 25

NEXT WEEK
ASSEMBLY
FOCUS:

HALF TERM

Key Dates

Half term next week: from Monday 26th May- Sunday 1st June

First day back after half term: Monday 2nd June

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

[Click here for term dates](#)



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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

The vibrant spirit of St. Dunstan's truly shines through our diverse array of **enrichment opportunities**. Our weekly newsletter is practically bursting with exciting updates on trips and activities, bringing learning to life beyond the classroom. A heartfelt thank you goes to our dedicated staff who, even during the busy exam season, have organised these experiences for our students.

While we celebrate our successes, we also bid fond farewells to some cherished members of our community. We wish Mrs. Matterface, our Science Technician, all the very best as she embarks on new adventures in April. And after an astonishing 40 years of dedicated service as a cleaner, we wish our longest-serving staff member, Carole Salter, a long and joyful retirement. She will truly be missed by staff and students alike.

Finally, I would like to thank every single member of staff and every student at St. Dunstan's for their hard work and efforts over the past five weeks.

Wishing everyone a restful and well-deserved break – we look forward to welcoming you all back, refreshed and ready for an exciting summer term.

Yours sincerely

P Balkwill



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May Half-Term Revision Sessions



May Half-Term Revision Sessions 2025 – Sign Up Now!

Calling all Year 11 students! Get ahead in your GCSE preparation with our May Half-Term Revision Sessions at St. Dunstan's School. These sessions are designed to boost confidence, focus on key exam topics, and give you the best chance of success!

Dates: The week beginning 26th May

Location: St. Dunstan's School

Morning & Afternoon sessions available

Sign up in advance-

<https://forms.gle/YhnH17MTr1oPoP2f9>



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MNSP Book Awards Ceremony



This week our book club went to the first MNSP Book Awards Ceremony in the Merlin Theatre, Frome College. We were one of many Trust schools in attendance, as this event was created by Trust librarians to bring students together through reading. We were lucky enough to also have the incredible authors of the shortlisted books in attendance, as well as MNSP Trust CEO, Alun Williams.

It was a really exciting afternoon, with a pop up book stall from Hunting Raven Books in Frome, indulging our book shopping needs. Then the awards ceremony began. Mrs Morris hosted a Q&A panel with the authors with questions from the students, and there were short presentations from some of the other schools on their favourite book of the shortlist.

Then came the prize giving! We all submitted our votes for our top three books and when all schools' votes had been counted up, the overall winner was author Catherine Bruton for her book, Bird Boy. We placed Bird Boy as our second favourite book so were very happy with the result.

We will definitely be running this event next year, with new books and new readers.



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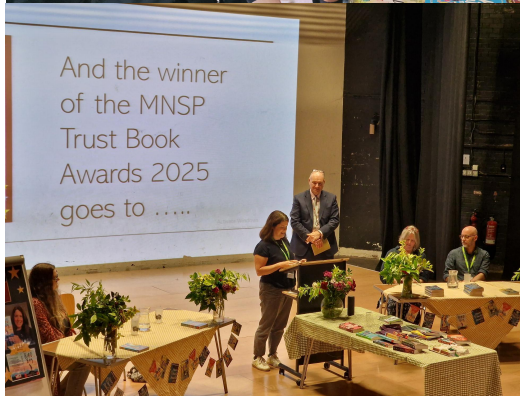
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MNSP Book Awards Ceremony



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Year 5 Transition Afternoon



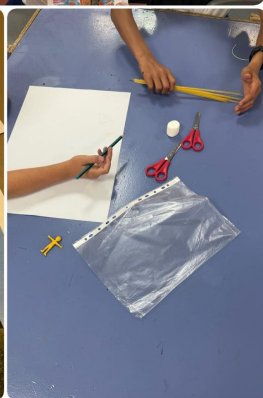
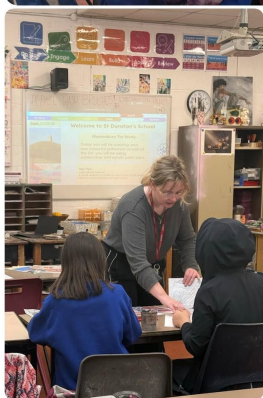
This week we were joined by Year 5 students from some of our local primary schools.

Students spent a packed afternoon with us and experienced a taste of Secondary School in two brilliant workshops for Art and Technology. They designed their own abstract Tor picture as well as a modelling challenge.

Year 5 threw themselves into the afternoon with gusto and were a credit to their schools.

We hope they enjoyed their experience - we certainly enjoyed spending the day with them.

Well done Year 5 and thank you to their teachers and ours for making the afternoon so successful.



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School Garden



We are undertaking a gardening project with a group of KS3 students. To help us with this, we need a bit of help from you! We are looking for donations of the following items:

- Compost
- Netting
- Canes
- Plants

If you have any of these items that you no longer need, please drop them in to reception. Thank you in advance.

Plants & Things



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Mental Health Week



Last week we celebrated Mental Health week and the theme was Community.

There were encouraging quotes from members of staff shared with pupils each morning and an assembly involving a competition about our school community.

There was also a positive comments box where students and staff could post their encouraging quotes or notes to encourage others.

It was a lovely week and it was amazing to see how many clubs and activities members of our school community involved with here.



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St Dunstan's Library presents...



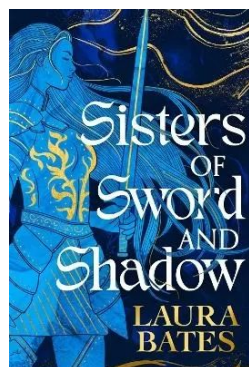
THE BOOK NOOK



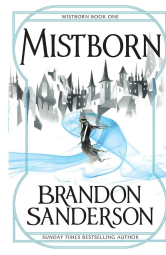
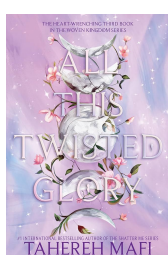
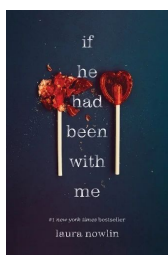
**Review by Bess
in Year 7**



This book was really powerful and I absolutely loved the dense amount of feminism in it. The character Cass was relatable and all of the characters were so well described that I knew exactly what they all looked like. The ceremonies were fascinating and I really enjoyed reading this book. The only reason I have given this book a 3.5 is because some of the chapters were very fast-paced, which can be good. Also, the author occasionally used overly-complex words unnecessarily. When this is used often, it makes the book harder to understand. Overall, I enjoyed this book. I would recommend it to older readers who enjoy fantasy.



New books in the library:



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PTA Fundraising



An easy and **free** way to support the PTA and the school by raising money for the PTA every time you shop online.

Please use the link below to join Easyfundraising and the PTA will receive a donation whenever you shop online at over 7,000 online shops including Amazon, Argos, Tesco, Ocado, Tui...

Either download the app or visit the Easyfundraising website before continuing to the online store you are shopping at. Easyfundraising will receive a donation from the retailer for the PTA at no cost to you.

Please support this help raise money for our school!

[Easy Fundraising PTA St Dunstan's](#)

The PTA has also very kindly set up a wishlist for the library with books the students have specifically requested. If you would like to support the library, the link is below. Any donated books will get a named insert inside, so please leave your name in the notes so we know who to thank.

[Library Wishlist](#)

Thank you for your support, it really helps the PTA, which in turn helps the students have a better school experience.



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Prom Dress Sale



St Dunstan's
**YEAR 11 PROM
DRESS SALE**

WE HAVE A RANGE OF NEW
PROM DRESSES AVAILABLE, IN
LOTS OF SIZES AND SHADES,
KINDLY DONATED BY THE PTA

PLEASE SEE MISS KENCH TO
ARRANGE A TIME TO HAVE A
BROWSE (IN ROOM 8)

PRICE: A DONATION! IT WILL
GO TOWARDS HELPING OTHER
YEAR 11 STUDENTS TOWARDS
THE COST OF THEIR PROM
TICKETS

TIME TO SHOP!



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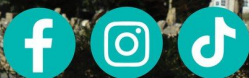
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Careers Events



Join us at our
**OPEN
EVENING**
Thu 12 June
5.30-8pm

**REGISTER
ONLINE
TODAY!**

**Discover our courses for
School Leavers & Adults**

A Level • T Levels
Professional & Technical Courses
Apprenticeships
Supported Learning
Higher Education • Adult Courses

strode-college.ac.uk



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New Arbor App (replacing Talaxy)



We have now switched to Arbor and our new app is live! Please check your emails carefully for details on how to log in and set yourself up.

Please contact the school office if you require any assistance.



We're using Arbor's free Parent Portal and Parent App

We've chosen Arbor to help us manage our school.

Arbor is a simple, smart and cloud-based MIS (Management Information System), which helps us work faster, smarter and more collaboratively as a school. The Parent App and Parent Portal mean we can keep you informed about your child's life at school in a much more accessible way. Log into Arbor to see and update your child's information, get live updates and make payments or bookings on the go!

The Parent Portal works on Google Chrome (computer or laptop) and you can download the Parent App from the App Store or Google Play Store on your phone (Android 5.0; iOS 10.0 and upwards).

How to get started

1. Wait for your welcome email from us telling you Arbor is ready - you won't be able to log in before
2. Click the link in your welcome email to set up your password
3. Go to the App or Google Play Store on your phone and search 'Arbor'
4. Click 'Install' on Android or 'Get' on iPhone then open the App
5. Enter your email, select the school, then enter your password
6. Accept the Terms & Conditions and enter your child's birthday

The Sunnyville School of Magic
W10 5BN, London, GBR

Enter your password

Log in

Forgotten password?

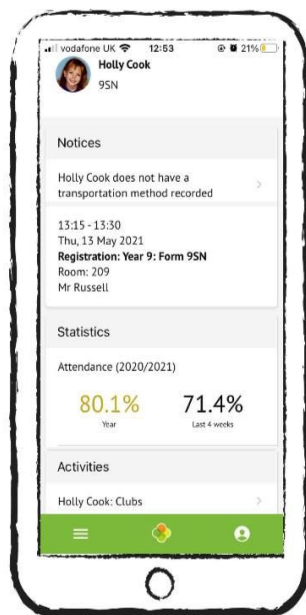
Need help using Arbor?

Contact the school office if you have questions about Arbor, the App or Parent Portal. Tell us the type and model of your phone, e.g. an iPhone SE, and include screenshots or screen recordings.

To safeguard student data in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Arbor only works directly with schools.

Some tips to try:

1. Ensure your username is the email address you use for Arbor. Ask us to **check the email address** linked to your account.
2. **Reset your password** from the login page, or ask us to do this.
3. If the login email was sent to you more than 96 hours ago, the **password link will have expired**. Ask us to send it again.
4. Ask the school office to check that your email address has not been used twice - e.g. on another guardian or child's profile.
5. **Enter the birthday** of one of your children to log in.
6. Only relatives who are **Primary Guardians** of a child can access the Arbor App. Ask us to check you can access Arbor.



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YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD BY:

- ensuring your child understands the importance of excellent attendance and punctuality.
- asking about school work and encourage them to get involved in school activities.
- discussing any problems they may have and inform their Form Tutor to pass on concerns.
- not allowing them take time off school for minor ailments – particularly those which would not prevent you from going to work.
- arranging appointments after school hours, at weekends or during the holidays, to prevent disruption to your child's education and to the school.
- being open and willing to work with us to improve your child's attendance.



If you are concerned about your child's school attendance, it's best to contact their school first. Our dedicated Attendance Team are on hand to support pupils and families.

For more information about school attendance visit our website:
www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com/attendance

We're here to help if you need it.



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<u>O</u>rganised & Proactive	<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>
<u>N</u>eat & Tidy work	<p>Smart, well presented books demonstrating your best work</p>
<u>T</u>enacity	<p>Trying your hardest, rising to challenges, having a 'can do' attitude, working out solutions and taking ownership of your learning</p>
<u>R</u>eady, Respectful and Responsible	<p>Being a role model by consistently demonstrating our basic expectations</p>
<u>A</u>nswering, reading and listening like an expert	<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>
<u>C</u>ontributing to the class	<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>
<u>K</u>indness & Community minded	<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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