# St Dunstan's School

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/ Carers

This has been an incredibly busy term and there certainly has been a lot to celebrate. First and foremost my congratulations go to the Year 7 students who have been a fantastic addition to the school. Their transition has been almost seamless and it was wonderful to see the students return from Vivary Park, having enjoyed their first full school trip this week.

Year 11 has also made a good start to the year and thank you to the many, many parents who attended the Information Evening a fortnight ago. We wish all students the best for the first series of Year 11 mocks due to start in November. These examinations are always a good litmus test indicating students' potential for the summer, and we strongly urge students to build in time for revision and exam preparation over the next few weeks. Colleges and providers have already met with Miss Kench and Ms Haden to discuss the next steps for our Year 11s and these meetings will be ongoing throughout this important year.

At the end of September we opened our doors to new and returning families for our Open Evening. This event was very successful, with over 500 people attending to come and see the school at its very best. Our students supporting the evening were wonderful ambassadors for the school, acting as tour guides and working in departments showcasing our subjects as well as presenting to the entire hall of parents. We were all very proud of the positive feedback given about our students from parents and families who attended. Thank you to everyone who was involved in making this event successful.



24.10.24

NEXT WEEK ASSEMBLY FOCUS:

HALF TERM!

#### **Key Dates**

First day back after half term: Monday 4th November

Inset day:

Wednesday 27th November 2024

<u>Click here for</u> <u>Extra-Curricular</u> <u>Activities</u>

Click here for term dates

**KINDNESS** 

COMMUNITY







## St Dunstan's School GLASTONBURY

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

In addition to our Year 6 families, we have also seen a steady stream of prospective parents walking around the school as well as new students joining us over the course of the term. This further indicates what we already know to be the case, that St Dunstan's is a welcoming and inclusive school community, where young people from all backgrounds and abilities will be supported to learn and succeed.

St Dunstan's School continues to develop its Personal Development and Enrichment provision. My thanks go to all members of staff who have organised a range of trips and activities in the past 8 weeks. These have included Concert trips; The Ada Lovelace Guardian Newspaper trip; Sports fixtures and tournaments; Beyond Equality & Girls for Girls workshops; Youth Speaks competition preparations; Faraday Science Challenge; Visits and links with Millfield School; Visiting authors; Duke of Edinburgh Silver and Bronze Award schemes; Fundraising and Charity events and many, many more. We were also excited to launch 'The Lion King' as the St Dunstan's School production 2025, with large numbers of students involved in auditions and volunteering to support the event.

Moving back to the start of term, we launched our expectations around uniform and student conduct. This has made a huge difference to the culture of the school. Students arrive looking smart daily and are being recognised by teachers for being 'On Track'. During the first term students have been awarded a total of 35,777 positive points, scoring on average 70 points per student. This score is significantly higher than last year when at this stage, students had been awarded a total of 5365 points.





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# St Dunstan's School

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

This positivity has also been recognised by our Trust partners who frequently report back that our students look smart and that classrooms are calm and focused on the learning taking place.

I would like to say a massive thank you to all the members of staff who come into St Dunstan's School every day and work hard to make this such a wonderful community. Their commitment and effort over the past few weeks have made a genuine difference to the community and the students.

Finally, thank you to all the students for all of their hard work and achievements this term. You all should be very proud of yourselves.

I wish everyone a well earned rest over the half term break and I look forward to seeing everyone in November.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Best wishes

Mr P Balkwill





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## **Celebration Assemblies**

It has been wonderful this week to celebrate our students for all their hard work, achievements and progress. From individual subject awards to celebrating the tutor groups who have the highest attendance and trackpoints, it was a wonderful opportunity to revel in the positive atmosphere of joy and excellence.

We are sure you will join us in congratulating and celebrating all our award winners, they have all made us very proud!















## Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Awards

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.

More students will have their award confirmed soon and we look forward to celebrating their completion as well. Well done to you all!

We held an assembly to introduce the Bronze Award to Year 9 this morning. Please contact Mrs Manning or Mrs Potter if you require further details.





## Year 8 Faraday Challenge

Six Year 8 students today travelled over to Norton Hill school to take part in the prestigious Faraday Challenge. A challenge highlighting the importance of engineering in our world and to inspire innovation.

The students were tasked to draw on their own experiences to design a prototype involving a mystery component to help overcome a currently existing problem either in children's education, supporting a disability or overcoming problems in sport. This was not an easy task due to its broad nature!

The students gave each other roles and worked incredibly well as a team. They put together a wonderful plan to supplement a young person's initial learning of colours and designed a circuit to engage learners by giving them direct feedback in their learning.

The team took on this challenge displaying all TRACK values and importantly with a smile .

Well done Year 8s!



## Year 8 Faraday Challenge



























## Year 11 Achievements

As we come to the end of the first term, it was a pleasure to recognise the remarkable achievements of our wonderful Year 11 students during today's assembly. Awards were bestowed upon students who have exemplified outstanding attitudes towards their learning, attainment and drive.

This hardworking year group are dedicated to their studies and are determined to do well. Staff have huge confidence in them and we work in partnership with parents who are supporting and motivating them at home.

A huge well done to all students who received an award , we are proud of you all!





## Year 8 Tutees of the Week

Congratulations to all our Year 8s who have achieved Tutee of the Week this term. You have shown some brilliant character traits and attitude towards your learning.

They have demonstrated an abundance of Track values and have made us proud each day!

Well done from all the Year 8 tutor team!













## Vivary Park Trip for Year 7s

This week our Year 7s headed off to Vivary Park for some fun high flying adventures! Here are some of their reviews of the day...

"Vivary Park was good! My favourite bit was the platform jump because it was because you got to do it backwards, forwards or do a spin. Five stars, I recommend going."

"It was a very fun experience. The best part was the high ropes and I loved the zip line."

"I LOVED Vivary park! It was so fun and I am so proud of myself for trying everything."

"I loved it \$0000000 much! I rate my experience 10/10... No actually a 10000/10000!!













## "Today was a great day! Don't let fear stop you because you will regret it!"



















## Youth Speaks Club

Our public speaking club met this week to practise for the upcoming Youth Speaks competition which takes place next month.

We have teams, all speaking on a topic which is important to them.

Youth Speaks gives young people a voice and our public speaking club gives them the strategies to make their voices heard effectively. How exciting to be working with such passionate young people!

We will keep you up to date with our progress as the competition gets ever closer...















JOIN US FOR THE INAUGURAL ST DUNSTAN'S

LENT DISCO

**On Thursday 28th** 

November, 6.30 -8.45pm

Tickets are still available for the Silent Disco!

The first mystery DJ has now been revealed...did you guess correctly?

The answer is below....

SII



Now time for round two....











TWO chances to win a free ticket this time! The first student to correctly guess and tell Mr Gunton at Monday breaktime (after half term) wins a free ticket... one ticket per DJ so you have double the chances of winning this time! Get thinking....

### Can you guess which member of staff is Mystery DJ number two?

Here are some facts about them to help you guess...

1. My favourite music genres are indie, house and funk and soul

2. Favourite artist is Fontaines DC

3. One of my favourite songs is Dance Yrself Clean by LCD Soundsystem

4. I've been to Glastonbury Festival once (so far!)

5. Bonus fact: my go-to karaoke song is American Boy by Estelle and Kanye West

### WHO AM I?

### Can you guess which member of staff is Mystery DJ number three?

Here are some facts about them to help you guess...

- My favourite music genres are dance, house, soul, pop, Brit pop and indie (a bit of everything really!)
  Favourite artist is either Fred Again or Olivia Dean
  - 3. One of my favourite songs is Place to Be by Fred + Again
  - 4. I've been to Glastonbury Festival ELEVEN times!

5. Bonus fact: my go-to karaoke song is Keep on Movin' by Five

### WHO AM I?











## Year 11 Strode Experience Day

Strode Experience Day is an exciting opportunity for our Year 11 students to see what college is like. The students will spend the day at Strode and immerse themselves in three courses or A Level subject. They'll get a feel for college life and meet students from other schools who will be studying at Strode next year.

In order to make sure our students get the most out of the day, please can all Year 11s fill in the google form below to choose your subjects/activities.

#### Strode Experience Form

The deadline for booking is 5th November 2024. Sign up soon to ensure you get the most out of this brilliant opportunity! Travel and lunch are provided.



#### College Experience Day Wednesday 13 November 2024

TRUTH





GREAT DAY

#### Enrichment Week 2025 - Student & Parent/Carers Information

Dear Parent/Careers,

Every year at St. Dunstan's School, KS3 students enjoy five days of fun-filled enrichment in which they can choose from a range of trips and school based activities. Enrichment week takes place during the last week of term each year. It is a central part of our Character Education programme, as the week provides all of our students in Years 7-9 with the opportunity to develop and build skills that are underpinned by our five Track values.

We commit to activities that enrich the curriculum and help to make learning relevant. These provide a different perspective and encourage openness to new and often challenging experiences. During this week, our Year 10 students have Work Experience, providing them with the opportunity to gain an invaluable insight into the world of work, an essential part of their character journey.

This year our activities will take place between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> July and we have prioritised areas of enrichment so that all students have the opportunity to develop socially and emotionally by building self-esteem and confidence.

Please view the booklet attached that details the activities on offer and their cost. After reading the booklet, please complete the Google Form by picking which five activities your child would like to participate in. If your child is Y7 and would like to attend Camp, please only select that one activity. The selection needs to be completed by <u>Friday 8th November.</u>

#### Enrichment Week Choices

After the initial selection, payment will open for you to guarantee ticketed events for your child. A further letter will be sent to detail this.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Nikki Watson Assistant Headteacher for Safeguarding and Personal Development









Trip	Information	Costings and Seats
Abbey	Join us for Creative Writing at Glastonbury Abbey as we use sensory language to describe the sights and sounds of this ancient monument.	Free 30 places per group Running twice
Aquarium	Students will learn about ecosystems and wonder at the exotic creatures. The day will start with viewing 'Blue Planet' before a leisurely stroll round the Aquarium.	£22 (£16.50 for pp) 53 places
Art Day	Students have the exciting chance to create artwork of key events, themes and celebrations that mean something to them.	Free 30 places
Bike Maintenance	Need a pre-ride inspection? Join us to secure bolts and lubricate key components on your bike.	Free 30 places
Bovington Tank Museum	Join us to view the world's finest collection of tanks, including the Tiger 131.	£27 (£22.9 for pp) 45 places
Brean Leisure Park	Covering 200 acres, Brean's family amusement park is sure to entertain with over 30 rides and attractions.	£18.50 (£12 for pp) 100 students per trip Two trips
Camp	We are thrilled to offer another year of the residential trip for Y7 and Y8.	£500.80 (£375.60 for pp) 60 places
Cycle with me	New to cycling? Enjoy a leisurely ride? Like going fast? If so, we have the bike ride for you. Pick from the Beginner, Intermediate or Expert Cycling route.	Free. Students must bring a fully working bike and cycle helmet to school. 20 places per group
DI Day	Would you like to manage and maintain workshop tools, machinery and equipment? If so, sign up for DT Day!	Free 30 places
Drama Day	A great fun day playing drama games and working on performance activities!	Free 30 places











Dungeons and Dragons	A fantasy tabletop role-playing game - need we say more?!	Free 30 places
Gardening Club	Join us in laying out and caring for a plot of growing plants.	Free 20 places
Glastonbury Way Walk	Explore our local area from a different angle. The Glastonbury Way is a wonderful walk that takes in local points of interest from all around the Tor.	Free 25 students per group Running every day
Hinkley Point	One of the largest and most complex projects in Europe that will power around 6 million homes with low carbon electricity.	£8 (£6 for PP) 40 places
Horse Riding	Come and make friends with a horse or pony. Have a groom, cuddle or ride.	£50 (£37.50) 15 places
Longleat	The first Safari Park to open outside of Africa in 1966. Home to over 120 species, you will be sure to have a great day out.	£15 (£11.25 for pp) 110 places
Mendip Activity Centre	A whirlwind of adventure, from climbing to kayaking, skiing to caving and frisbee to golf.	£55 (£41.25 for pp) 95 places
Production Trip	A fantastic opportunity to enhance your Drama and Music abilities by attending an amazing workshop at The Egg Theatre. As well as the workshop, you will get an opportunity to explore Bath and picnic in the sunshine too.	£25 (£18.75 for pp) 15 places
Sports Day	Do you love Sports? Do you like playing with and competing against other people? Then this is the activity for you. We will be playing a number of different sports over the course of the week.	Free. 30 students per group Running all week.
Yeovil Air Museum	Take to the skies at the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm Museum. With over ninety aircraft, 2 million records, and 30 thousand artefacts, the Museum is Europe's largest naval aviation museum.	£16.50 (£12.50 for pp) 50 places











**PARENTS –** GUIDING OUR CHILDREN THROUGH THEIR EDUCATION IS ONE OF OUR GREATEST ROLES.



MOMENTSMANENTSMATENDANCEATTENDANCECOUNTS.

Consistent support and motivation from you plays a pivotal role in their success, and this begins with school attendance – that isn't just about adhering to school rules; it's about shaping their future, one day at a time.

If your child is struggling with school attendance, our tips overleaf can help you help them. Or if you have any concerns contact your child's school.











#### www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com

## 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.











## **Fundraising Quiz**



Want to try your hand at a quiz night whilst also raising money for the school? Check out Debbie's Charity Quiz on Sunday 27th October to test your skills, and help us fund new books for the library and art materials for our students!

Big thanks to Debbie for running this, we are very grateful!











### Careers

PILOT CAREERS LIVE LONDON pilotcareerslive.com 2 November 2024 Sofitel Hotel. Terminal 5 - London Heathrow PILOT CAREERS Doors open 09:30 - 16:30 LIVE

## Want to be a professional pilot? Take the first step.

Come and speak to leading Flight Training Organisations, watch live seminars, interviews and ask your questions in person.

🆅 PILOT CAREERS LIVE

pilotcareerslive.com

f Pilot Careers Live @pilotcareerslive

Some of the subjects we will be covering:



1

Combine pilot training with a university degree

Career prospects



((E) Training - costs and options



Training - where and how



Academic requirements and selection process



**SAVE 20%** with code SCHOOL















## Sixth Form Open Evening

## Thursday 7th November 2024

Careers

## 6.00-8.00pm

Families are invited to come and have a look around our sixth form provision from 6.00pm.





### Careers

We look forward to welcoming you to The Blue School's Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 7th November 2024.

We welcome families of current students and those new to the school. There is no requirement to book a place and you can aim to arrive at any time between 6pm and 7.00pm (the evening will run to 8.00pm).

Information for families attending:

- On arrival, please visit the Sixth Form Centre to register.
- Guides will be available. Particularly if you are new to The Blue, please let us know if you would like a guide.
- Staff and Y12 students will be available in classrooms to discuss the courses we offer.
- Additional subject information will be available.
- Our Sixth Form Prospectus for 2025-27 will be available on the school website from 7th November.
- Students will be issued with programmes for the evening so that you can plan your time in advance.

#### The Sixth Form Curriculum

Art	English Literature	Maths in Context
Biology	Extended Project	Music
Business	Qualification	Philosophy, Religion &
Chemistry	French	Ethics
DT Fashion & Textiles	Geography	Physics
DT Graphics & Product	Health & Social Care	Politics
Design	History	Psychology
Drama & Theatre	Maths & Further Maths	Spanish
		Sport











#### YMCA BRUNEL GROUP

BATH / BRISTOL / WILTSHIRE MENDIP / SOUTH SOMERSET

Youth Work at St. Dunstan's with the YMCA Street Youth Team

121 Support Sessions for years 9, 10 & 11 in the Pastoral room

Talk to Miss Easterbrook, Miss Kench, or your tutors if you need some support and they can arrange a 121 session with us.

We are here if you want to talk or need some advice, and we also offer C-card

To find out more, drop in to the Pastoral room at lunchtime on Monday Week B

YMCA BRUNEL GROUP BATH | BRISTOL | WILTSHIRE EAST & SOUTH SOMERSET













YPICR Here for young people Here for communities Here for you

#### YMCR | Here for young people Here for communities Here for you

Youth Work at St Dunstan's with the YMCA Street Youth Team

## Lunch Club: Year 7, 8 & 9 Monday Week B, Pastoral room

Games & activities, hang out with friends, bring your lunch, chat with youth workers



BATH | BRISTOL | WILTSHIRE EAST & SOUTH SOMERSET





### YMCA **BRUNEL GROUP**

## GLASTONBURY **YOUTH CLUBS**

#### An exciting opportunity to meet new friends & join in fun activities.

#### Weekly youth clubs & extra events and trips Hang out with your friends | Meet new people | Activities & games | Free food

welcome all young people aged 10-19



let's all catch up. have fun and support each other!

#### Contact us:

#### Find us:













## Safeguarding Spotlight

#### Respecting you, your privacy and any information you share with us

It is important to understand that your practitioner will share information with Somerset County Council and other agencies that may be able to offer you support. This will help them work together and to improve services for families.

Each agency providing a service to you is responsible for keeping your personal information secure and up to date. Information about you is protected by law and must be treated carefully.

You have the right to ask the agency supporting you, what information they have and what they are using it for. You also have the right to complain to the regulator, <u>https://ico.org.uk/</u>

#### More information

Somerset Direct 0300 123 2224

childrens@somerset.gov.uk

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www.somersetchoices.org.uk

#### The Early Help Assessment (EHA)

## Support for parents, carers and families in Somerset

Early help and SEND support is everyone's responsibility



#### What is an Early Help Assessment (EHA)?

This is how people from different agencies (practitioners) should work with you to support any areas of need that your family may want some help with.

V2 January 2020

Helping you to help your family is the key principle of early help.

It starts with a conversation between you and the person who gave you this leaflet.

The conversation looks at different areas of life for you and your family.

You can talk about how things are going for you with home, housing, work or gaining employment, health, school, college any social or community issues.

The conversation will highlight what you feel is working well and what you feel could work better for you

and your family. It helps to understand what the most important

issues to you are.

After your conversation, you and the worker will be able to agree whether you just need some information or advice, or if you need a bit more support.

#### Things to remember

You may just need some information for a single area of life like housing or money management. Please visit our website: <u>www.somersetchoices.org.uk</u>

You may have a conversation with a worker, who suggests using the Early Help Assessment form to record information, this only happens with your agreement.

Understanding the feelings of everyone in your family is important when trying to improve things. So, don't be surprised if a worker speaks to you about gaining 'the voice of the child' or other people who live



#### Keeping track of how things are going for you and your family

If other agencies are needed to help you to make things better, then regular meetings are held with them. This should happen on days and times to suit you and your family. This is done to help bring down the number of different appointments or phone conversations you might otherwise need to have. The meetings are usually called 'Team around the Family' meetings.

It is important that you know agencies are working with you to make things better. So, the person who has the initial conversation with you, or leads any meetings will look to make sure the following things happen. This will be your 'lead practitioner'.



#### **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:

- 1. High-quality teaching, such as staff professional development.
- 2. Targeted academic support, such as tutoring.

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

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/

Similarly please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions or would like to update us about your child and their eligibility for funding.













## 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.

Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

#### 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.

If you are interested in becoming a Governor at St Dunstan's School, please contact

secretary@stdunstansschool.com



















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









