



## Weekly Newsletter 2025-6

### Dear Parents and Families,

Welcome to Term 5! I hope you all enjoyed a restful and refreshing Easter break.

I would like to begin with a massive "well done" to our students. They have returned with an enthusiasm and commitment to learning that has become a hallmark of our school in recent years. Thank you to all our parents and families for your support in ensuring students arrived fully equipped and in the correct uniform; this partnership is greatly appreciated.



As we begin this new term, I would like to remind all families of the continued importance of consistent attendance. Historic data for this time of year often indicates a slight drop on key dates. My message is simple: every day and every week carries equal importance. We want our students in school every day to benefit from the opportunities on offer, build vital social connections, and maintain their academic progress.

The summer term brings with it the inevitable approach of the GCSE exam season. We were delighted with the high engagement during our Easter revision sessions, where every classroom was full. Once again, this year group is rising to the occasion—keep up the hard work and finish strong!

We recognise that the exam period can be a challenging time for parents to navigate. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. We also have a dedicated webpage available for both parents and students. This page will be updated throughout the exam period with pertinent information.

Thank you again for your continued support. Have a wonderful weekend and enjoy the warmer weather—we certainly deserve it after the long winter months!

**Best wishes,**

**P. Balkwill** *Headteacher*



## Weekly Newsletter 2025-6

### Key Dates

28th April- Year 11 GCSE Exam Window Opens

28th-29th- GCSE French Speaking Exams

29th April- UK Maths Challenge Years 7 & 8

30th April & 1st May Art Exam

30th April Year 8 Parents Evening

4th May- Bank Holiday Monday

5th May- Year 7 Mental Health Awareness Day

14th May- Normandy Trip Parents' Meeting

### Important Information

Thank you to all families who supported around the updates to uniform before the break. As we approach the summer months and warmer weather it is important to reiterate that students are expected to continue to wear blazers into school and between lessons. Students are encouraged to remove the V Neck sweater which is an optional aspect of the uniform. We will look to relax aspects of the dress code during warmer spells and will update you when these occur.

### Enrichment Week

Thank you to all families who have responded with requests. We will be look to finalise these over the next few weeks and provide an update. If you have any queries please contact the main office.



## Attendance Update

What does my attendance look like so far? Term 5 Week 2

Band	Percentage	Number of days attended this year to date	Potential Days of Absence across the year if this continues	Potential hours of lost learning	Classification
1	100%	135	0	0	Exceptional
2	98% to 100%	132	4	20	Strong Standard
3	96% to 98%	130	8	40	Expected Standard
4	93% to 96%	127	14	70	Needs Attention
5	90% to 93%	123	38	190	Urgent Improvement
6	Below 90%	122	40	200	Critical Action

As we begin this new term, we want to highlight several key messages regarding the vital role of attendance in your child's success.

**The 96% Target** All students are expected to maintain an attendance rate of 96% or above. We share your child's attendance certificate weekly so you can track their progress and offer support where needed. While winter bugs may have impacted figures earlier in the year, the next 12 weeks provide a fantastic opportunity to make significant gains toward this target.

**The "7-Day Rule"** It only takes seven days of absence across the entire year to tip a student's attendance below 95%. Often, a single day missed here or there creates a "drip effect" that adds up quickly. Please review your child's certificate to see how close they are to this limit and contact us if you need support to avoid absences where possible.

**Bank Holiday Weekend-** Historically, we see a dip in attendance around the May Bank Holidays. We ask for your support in ensuring your child attends on both the Friday before and the Tuesday after this weekend. These days are just as vital as any other; disrupted learning often has a knock-on effect that makes it harder for students to catch up upon their return.



## Attendance Update

**End-of-Year Assessments** Starting in May, every year group will sit end-of-year assessments. The lessons leading up to these and the exams themselves are critical. We use these results to inform future groupings and curriculum choices. Full attendance is the best way to ensure your child feels prepared and successful.

**Identifying Patterns** We encourage you to use the attendance certificates to look for trends. Is there a specific day of the week that is frequently missed? We monitor these patterns closely and will reach out if we become concerned. By working together, we can address any underlying challenges before they become a persistent issue.

**Celebrating Success-** This term, we are excited to continue celebrating consistent and improved attendance. Every student has the chance to be recognised for their efforts. As a final incentive, students who achieve high attendance and earn 500 or more "On Track" points will be invited to our End-of-Year Celebration Carnival. We are planning to make this year's event even bigger and better than the last, and we hope to see as many students as possible there to celebrate their hard work.

The summer term is a defining period in the academic year. It is a time to consolidate learning, demonstrate progress, and finish strong. Consistent attendance is the foundation upon which this success is built, ensuring that no student misses out on the opportunities available to them.

We thank you for your continued partnership.



## Attendance Update



### MAY MOTIVATORS!



To celebrate and award good attendance in weeks 2-4 students with 100% will be entered for the following prizes in a weekly draw:

Friday 2nd May- Cheesy Chip Friday- 20 Winners



Friday 9th May- Cheesy Chip Friday- 20 Winners

Friday 16th May- Donut Day- 30 winners



A prize draw will take place every Friday morning. All students with 100% attendance each week will be included.

Every student with 100% will get 10 On Track Points at the end of the week

Look out for our 'Rewards Raffle Tickets'

### There will also be the following awards-

- The 100 Club Prize Draw for April & May
- Celebration Carnival Invitations for students with 96% attendance or Improved attendance
- Tutor Group attendance league table

# St Dunstan's School

GLASTONBURY



On Track Update

**CONGRATULATIONS  
STUDENTS!**



**373,000  
POINTS ACHIEVED**

SINCE SEPTEMBER

**KEEP UP THE  
AMAZING WORK!**



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Ambition

Community

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St Dunstan's Library presents...



# THE BOOK NOOK



## MNSP Book Awards Trip

Many months of reading culminated in our Book Awards ceremony, hosted at the Merlin Theatre, Frome College, attended by lots of other MNSP schools and shortlisted authors!

We had a fantastic day, visiting the pop-up bookshop, getting to chat with authors and get our books signed, meeting other Trust students who read and loved the same books as us, and getting to perform on the main stage! Our students wrote their own short script based on their favourite book *Mondays are Murder* by Ravena Guron and performed it fantastically, complete with their handmade murder board with all the clues from the book connected with red string.

We got to ask the authors questions in a Q&A panel, hosted by Mrs Morris, and learned a lot about being an author and the process of writing a book.

Finally, we found out the winner! The favourite book across all the Trust schools was...*Mondays are Murder*! It was a fabulous day and we already can't wait to join in again next year.

A big thanks to all the MNSP Trust Librarians who have worked for months to make this happen, and to the authors who attended! And of course, to our students for being so brilliantly behaved, enthusiastic and dedicated.

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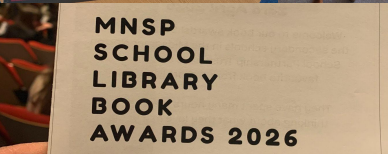
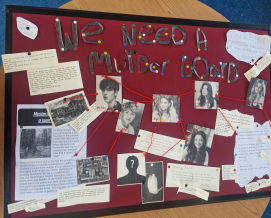
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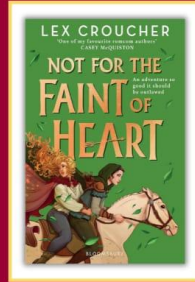
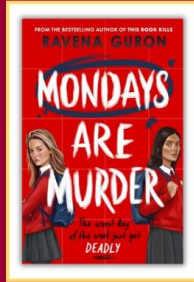
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# THE BOOK NOOK

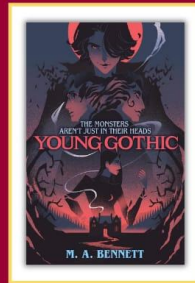
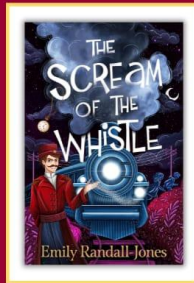
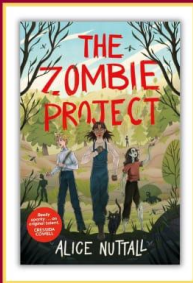


INTRODUCING

*The*  
*School Library*  
*Book Awards 2026*



## THIS YEAR'S SHORTLIST



Sponsorship for this event:  
Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

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# Neurodiversity Week



## Neurodiversity Week Celebration

Congratulations to all the talented students who took part in our Neurodiversity Week poster competition!

### Bronze Winners

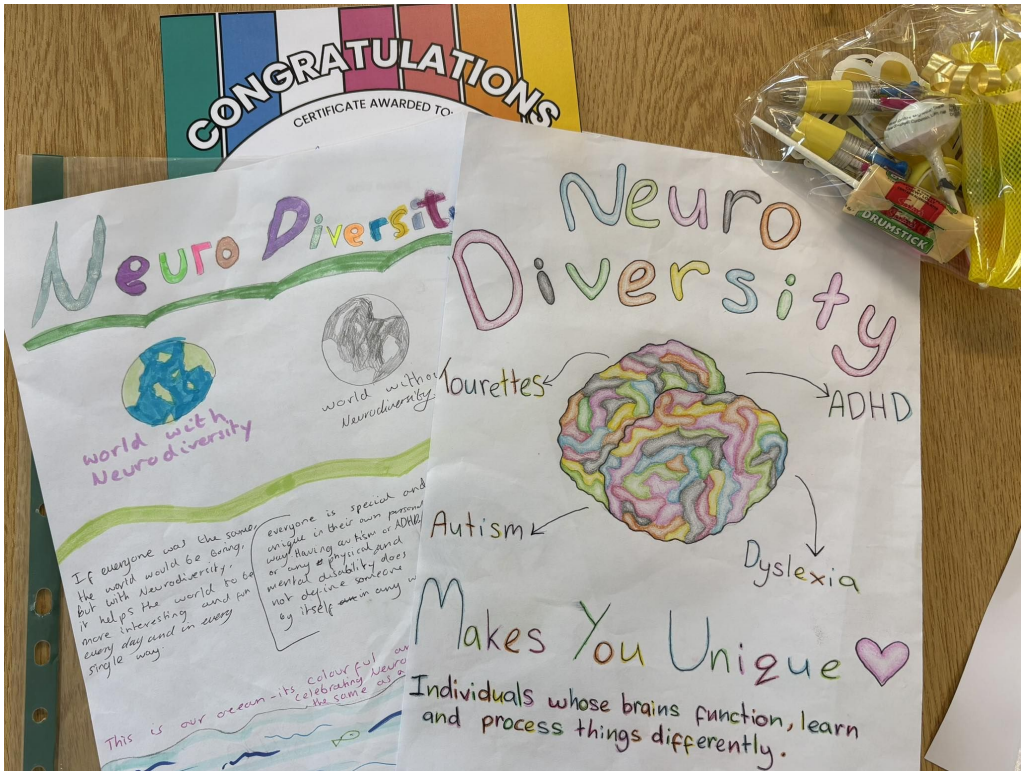
Ethan (8HPO), Leo (7GLE), Benjamin (8HPO), Silver Winners

Aimee (9SGR), Daisy (7GLE), Ezmay (8HPO)

### Gold Winners

Jessica (8HPO), Elena (9HWA), Penny (8HPO)

Well done to each and every one of you for helping raise awareness and celebrate the importance of neurodiversity in our community. We are so proud of your efforts!





# Outdoor Science



Students took their learning outside of the classroom this week for a science lesson on plant structures, taking advantage of the sunshine and spring blooms.

The flowers in Amy's Garden were brilliant examples for students to study and draw and they made some beautiful sketches.

We are lucky to have so many wonderful outdoor spaces which are cared for so well by our gardening team!



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## Vote for our Students!



A few weeks ago, Collaborate Digital came in to work with our students. All Y9-10 students had an assembly on the topic of 'Active Bystander'. A selection of Year 9 students then created **podcasts**. We are proud to say that **Group 2 have been selected as finalists** out of the 50 podcasts created and will therefore go through to the public vote!

Voting will open on **Wednesday 29th April**. The poll will take place on the Collaborate Digital website [www.collaboratedigital.com](http://www.collaboratedigital.com) in the top corner there is a green '**vote**' button.

There are 10 brilliant finalists in total – please listen to as many of them as you can and then cast a vote for your favourite. So that no finalist gains an unfair advantage, the podcasts will appear in a different order each time you visit this page. You will need to provide an email address the first time you cast a vote – in order to comply with GDPR, all email addresses will be deleted from our system within 7 days of the end of the voting period. Please check your junk folder for a confirmation email.

**You can cast one vote every 24 hours.** Voting closes on **Tuesday 5th May** at **5pm**. So please vote every day and from different email addresses if you can!

Fingers crossed for our students and please vote as many times as you can!

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# Safeguarding Spotlight



## May 2026 Timetable

All regular sessions delivered live online via zoom, 90 minutes long

**£24 each or FREE with School Membership**

Book online at [facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

Recordings available for 48 hours

School Anxiety	4 May 10am
Understanding Anger	4 May 7pm
Facing Defiance	5 May 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	5 May 7pm
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	11 May 10am
Anxiety Explained	11 May 7pm
Introduction to OCD	12 May 10am
What is ACT?	12 May 7pm
Decreasing Depression	18 May 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	18 May 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	19 May 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	19 May 7pm
Autism: Improving Communication	25 May 10am
Improving Family Communication	25 May 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	26 May 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	26 May 7pm
<b>FREE Getting a Good Nights Sleep</b>	<b>28 May 7-8pm</b>

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# Events Spotlight



# Mighty Girls Upcoming Events SPRING / SUMMER 2026


**Mighty Girls Club  
BOA**

**THURSDAYS**  
MOUNT PLEASANT  
BRADFORD ON AVON  
4.30-6PM. AGE 8-12

✦ Make friends ✦ Feel empowered ✦ Have fun!

To learn more and book your place visit our website or email [info@mightygirls.co.uk](mailto:info@mightygirls.co.uk)

[www.mightygirls.co.uk](http://www.mightygirls.co.uk)



sponsored by  
Wiltshire Council

**BOA MIGHTY GIRLS CLUB**  
THURSDAYS TERM TIMES  
8-12 YRS 4.30PM-6PM  
MOUNT PLEASANT, BOA

**MAY HALF TERM  
MIGHTY GIRLS CLUB**  
TUESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
8-12 YRS 10-3PM  
SCOUT HUT, BOA






**Mighty Girls Holiday Club**  
TUESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
SCOUT HUT, BRADFORD ON AVON  
10AM - 3PM.  
AGE 8 TO 12 YRS

**MAY HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUB  
JUST £35**

Fun, craft, adventures and empowerment with the Mighty Girls team.

Further details visit [www.mightygirls.co.uk](http://www.mightygirls.co.uk)


**Self Defence  
half day workshop**

**THURSDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY**  
BRADFORD ON AVON  
2PM - 5PM.  
AGE: 10-15 YR 6-YR 10  
COST £25

Mighty Girls & Helen from Systema bring you:

- Practical self-defence techniques
- A focus on movement, breath work, relaxation, and posture
- Enhance self-awareness & resilience
- Help equip you to handle various situations effectively

[www.mightygirls.co.uk](http://www.mightygirls.co.uk) or QR Code to book



**MAY HALF TERM SELF  
DEFENCE WORKSHOP**  
THURSDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
10-15YRS School Years 6 to 10  
SCOUT HUT, BOA

[www.mightygirls.co.uk](http://www.mightygirls.co.uk)  
[info@mightygirls.co.uk](mailto:info@mightygirls.co.uk)



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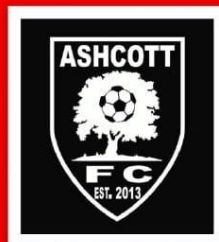
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## Ashcott Thunder U14s



Ashcott Thunder FC's current U14s (moving up to U15s from September – for current Years 8 & 9, progressing to Years 9 & 10) are looking for new players to join us for the 2026-2027 season!

Training is a Tuesday evening, and games are on a Sunday afternoon.

Our team has worked incredibly hard over the past few seasons and continues to grow stronger each year.

We're proud to have not only a great group of players, but also a fantastic, supportive set of adults.

If your child is interested in joining a friendly, committed, and welcoming team, we would love to hear from you!

Get in touch for more details or to come along and meet the team. Call or message Ian Smalldon on 07990991388.





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# Careers Spotlight



# OPEN EVENTS

STRODE COLLEGE | Wed 10 June | 6pm - 8pm

TAUNTON COLLEGE | Tues 23 June | 6pm - 8pm

BRIDGWATER COLLEGE | Thurs 25 June | 6pm - 8pm

REGISTER  
NOW!

BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST



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