

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Dear Families and Parents

Welcome back to the summer term. I hope that you all had a restful Easter break.

As we embark on a very busy period in the school year, I encourage everyone to read the information in this update carefully, alongside any further correspondence we will send out over the next few days and weeks.

Thank you to families for your response to the end of term letter and your continued support to make sure that students arrive at school on time, looking smart and fully equipped. These little things make a big difference to the smooth running of the day and reducing lost learning time. Over the course of the week, I have been holding assemblies and it has been very impressive to see how smart students look as they enter the hall as well as at the start of the school day.

My assemblies this week have considered the theme of consistency. This is a key quality that is essential for successful individuals and communities. It also plays an important role in creating psychological safety, a common sense of identity and builds cohesion and unity. Whilst consistency is not always glamorous or revered by many, for me, it is a quality that is absolutely integral to the culture and ethos of the school.



25.04.25

NEXT WEEK
ASSEMBLY
FOCUS:

Summer Term:
How to do well

Key Dates

29th-30th
April: GCSE
French
Speaking
Exams

29th April:
Drama Exam

Bank Holiday
Monday 5th
May

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

[Click here for
term dates](#)



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Our message this week has been to “finish the academic year strong”, continuing to be punctual, looking smart, being ready to learn, working hard and acting respectfully and responsibly throughout the school day.

Well done to our Year 11 students who have made a positive start to the term. This week, our Art students have completed their final exam and we have been very impressed with their preparation and maturity over the two days. We will be looking to exhibit and celebrate the students' artwork later on in the term. In addition, well done to all the Year 11s who attended the Easter revision sessions. On average there were 24 students per session over the course of the week and it was fantastic to see the students positively engaged and working hard to prepare for the final exams. Thankyou to all the staff who made time during their easter breaks to make these sessions possible. Good luck to Year 11s involved in exams over the next week.

Important Updates

Year 11 Exams and Information

Over the next few weeks we will be updating our Year 11 Exam information page, for students and families. Please visit this site on a regular basis for updates regarding the exams, revision, revision resources and wellbeing advice and support.

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

Arbor Update

Following on from my update a fortnight ago, we are now in a position where we will be launching the Arbor App in the next week. We will send you an email shortly with further details regarding how to get set up and access the platform. Please be advised that from Friday 2 May 2025 , all future communications from the school will be sent via Arbor and Talaxy will be discontinued.



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Google Migration

As part of ongoing work to improve the efficiency of our network and IT infrastructure, we will begin the process of moving our Google tenancy this term into a central MNSP platform.

The migration will have very minimal impact on the students at this stage and they will continue to use their google user areas for the majority of this term. However, it is important that you are aware that we will be updating and changing email systems, and protocols moving forwards. Please can we ask that all communications with the school that require an email are sent to secretary@stdunstansschool.com in order to make sure that they are received by the appropriate member of staff.

We will be updating all families shortly, with further details about how to make contact with key members of staff to respond to enquiries or queries.

Parental Feedback

Thankyou to all families and parents who have been in touch over the course of the academic year to discuss concerns or provide useful feedback. It has also been very helpful to receive feedback from the parental questionnaires sent out last term.

We are constantly looking to evaluate our provision and look for ways to improve our students' experience of day to day school life. Constructive feedback is always welcome from students and families for us to achieve this. In addition, we will always look to work with families who have genuine concerns and will take necessary steps to provide the support, advice or clarifications needed. Whilst social media can be a useful tool on occasions, we ask that if individuals have a concern or specific query relating to their child, to raise this with the school through the appropriate channels.



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Attendance

Thank you to all families for your support to make sure that your child attends school on a regular basis. A whole school priority this term will be on working with students and families to secure good attendance across years. We have included a more detailed letter in this newsletter for your reference. Please read this carefully.

Important Dates

29th and 30th April- Final French Speaking exams

29th April- Final Drama Exam

May Half term- we will be running revision sessions to support students ahead of the exams after the break. More information to follow

Thank you for your continued support and look forward to updating you again next week.

Best wishes

P Balkwill



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS



<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>



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS

PARENTS –

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



MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

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.**



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you to all parents for your support to ensure that your child attends school as regularly as possible.

We know that sometimes our pupils cannot come to school because they are really unwell - and that's the right thing to do for them and other students. Medical advice is clear however that children with mild illness will often be well enough to attend - for example if they have a cough, or cold, without a temperature. The NHS guidance [is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/health/a-z/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/) is designed to support parents in their decision making about mild illness.

We also know that pupils fall behind their friends and classmates when they miss school. At St Dunstan's School we want the amount of missed education to be reduced as much as possible. We believe that our community is stronger together, with all of our pupils in school, on time, every day. We are building life skills, life-long friendships and preparing your child for future success.

The target for every student at the school is to achieve 96% attendance or above. There is often a misconception that if a child has 90-94% this is acceptable. However, attendance at this level can still have significant implications. A child on 90-94% attendance would have missed approximately 8 days of school so far this year. This equates to approximately 16 absent registration marks and 40 lessons missed. If this level of attendance continues at a similar percentage for the rest of the year, a student could be at risk of missing 12 school days, which equates to 60 hours of lost learning.

Good attendance has lots of benefits for your child.

- **Social Development:** Consistent attendance allows children to form and maintain friendships, enhancing their social skills and sense of belonging.
- **Routine and Structure:** Attending school regularly helps children develop a sense of routine and structure, which is beneficial for their overall development.
- **Increased Opportunities:** Students who attend school regularly are more likely to participate in extracurricular activities and special events, enriching their school experience.
- **Better Mental Health:** Being part of the school community can boost children's confidence and self-esteem



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS

We have planned our rewards and recognition for attendance in order to recognise a wide range of student successes and achievements as well as take into account occasions when absence is unavoidable. Our aim is to encourage all students to secure high attendance across the year and in doing so, maximise their chances of success in school. This will include the following-

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

Exceptional attendance across the year- all students who are 98% or above at the end of each term, will receive a letter from the Headteacher, 50 'On Track Points' and recognised in our celebration assemblies

Monthly 100% attendance - if a student achieves 100% in a calendar month, they will receive a reward card and they will 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'

If you have any further questions or queries, please do not hesitate to make contact via main reception. Thank you to all parents/carers for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Ms K Haden

Deputy Headteacher



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS



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.



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS



Term 5 PE Timetable



Core PE lesson timetable - Term 5 - 2024/25

	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
Mon A	10A1 10A2 Girls - ATHLETICS - Miss Pengelly Boys - CRICKET - Mr Waugh		8A1 8A2 Girls - CRICKET - Miss Stead Boys - ATHLETICS - Mr Waugh		
Tues A		9A3 9A4 Girls - ATHLETICS - Miss Pengelly Boys - CRICKET - Mr Waugh	7Y1 7Y2 Girls - CRICKET - Miss Pengelly Boys - ATHLETICS - Mr Waugh	9A2 9A1 Girls - ATHLETICS - Miss Pengelly Boys - CRICKET - Mr Norris	8B1 8B2 Girls - CRICKET - Miss Pengelly Boys - ATHLETICS - Mr Norris
Wed A	7X1 7X2 7X3 Girls - CRICKET - Miss Pengelly Boys - ATHLETICS - Mr Waugh Mixed - ATHLETICS - Mr Norris	7Y1 7Y2 Girls - ATHLETICS - Miss Pengelly Boys - CRICKET - Mr Waugh	10B2 10B1 Girls - ATHLETICS - Miss Pengelly Boys - CRICKET - Mr Waugh	11A 11A Girls - GAMES - Miss Pengelly Boys - GAMES - Mr Waugh	11B 11B Girls - GAMES - Miss Pengelly Boys - GAMES - Mr Waugh
Thurs A	9AB2 9AB1 9AB3 Girls - CRICKET - Miss Pengelly Boys - ATHLETICS - Mr Waugh Mixed - CRICKET - Mr Norris	8A1 8A2 Girls - ATHLETICS - Miss Pengelly Boys - CRICKET - Mr Waugh		10A1 10A2 Girls - CRICKET - Miss Pengelly Boys - ATHLETICS - Mr Waugh	8B1 8B2 Girls - CRICKET - Miss Pengelly Boys - ATHLETICS - Mr Waugh
Fri A			7X1 7X2 7X3 Girls - ATHLETICS - Miss Pengelly Boys - CRICKET - Mr Waugh Mixed - CRICKET - Mr Norris	11A 11A Girls - GAMES - Miss Pengelly Boys - GAMES - Mr Waugh	11B 11B Girls - GAMES - Miss Pengelly Boys - GAMES - Mr Waugh

	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
Mon B	7Y1 7Y2 Girls - CRICKET - Miss Pengelly Boys - ATHLETICS - Mr Waugh	10A1 10A2 Girls - ATHLETICS - Miss Pengelly Boys - CRICKET - Mr Waugh	9A2 9A1 Girls - ATHLETICS - Miss Pengelly Boys - CRICKET - Mr Norris		
Tues B	10B2 10B1 Girls - CRICKET - Miss Pengelly Boys - ATHLETICS - Mr Waugh	7Y1 7Y2 Girls - ATHLETICS - Miss Pengelly Boys - CRICKET - Mr Waugh	10A1 10A2 Girls - CRICKET - Miss Pengelly Boys - ATHLETICS - Mr Waugh	7X1 7X2 7X3 Girls - CRICKET - Miss Pengelly Boys - ATHLETICS - Mr Waugh Mixed - ATHLETICS - Mr Norris	
Wed B	9A4 9A3 Girls - CRICKET - Miss Pengelly Boys - ATHLETICS - Mr Waugh	8A1 8A2 Girls - CRICKET - Miss Stead Boys - ATHLETICS - Mr Waugh	8B1 8B2 Girls - ATHLETICS - Miss Pengelly Boys - CRICKET - Mr Norris	11A 11A Girls - GAMES - Miss Pengelly Boys - GAMES - Mr Waugh	11B 11B Girls - GAMES - Miss Pengelly Boys - GAMES - Mr Waugh
Thurs B		7X1 7X2 7X3 Girls - ATHLETICS - Miss Pengelly Boys - CRICKET - Mr Norris Mixed - CRICKET - Miss Stead	9AB2 9AB1 9AB3 Girls - CRICKET - Miss Pengelly Boys - ATHLETICS - Mr Waugh Mixed - CRICKET - Mr Norris	8B1 8B2 Girls - CRICKET - Miss Pengelly Boys - ATHLETICS - Mr Norris	10B2 10B1 Girls - ATHLETICS - Miss Pengelly Boys - CRICKET - Mr Waugh
Frid B		10B2 10B1 Girls - CRICKET - Miss Pengelly Boys - ATHLETICS - Mr Waugh	8A1 8A2 Girls - ATHLETICS - Miss Stead Boys - CRICKET - Mr Waugh	11A 11A Girls - GAMES - Miss Pengelly Boys - GAMES - Mr Waugh	11B 11B Girls - GAMES - Miss Pengelly Boys - GAMES - Mr Waugh



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS



Term 5 After School Sports



The sports clubs for term 5 are as follows:

After-school Sports Clubs - 3:15pm to 4:15pm -

Arrive at changing rooms with kit

All clubs are open to both Boys and Girls unless otherwise stated

Monday - Athletics (all years) ; Yr 9-11 Gym

Wednesday - Badminton (all years) ; Yr 9-11 Gym
(girls only)

Thursday - Cricket (all years) ; Yr 9-11 Gym

Friday - Basketball (all years) ; Yr 9-11 Gym



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS

St Dunstan's Library presents...

THE BOOK NOOK

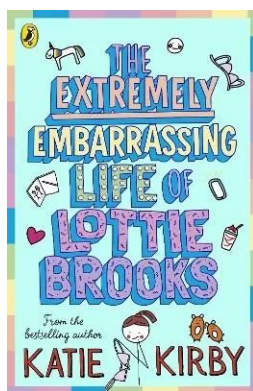


Thanks to St Dunstan's Lodge, we have been able to purchase some new books! Some still on their way, but we couldn't wait to get these out to the students. Thank you so much St Dunstan's Lodge! Your generosity has already made such a difference!

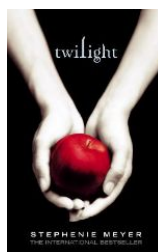
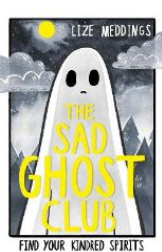
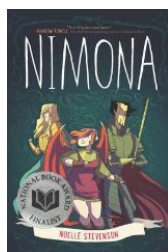
Review by Bess
in Year 7



I really like this book because it is very funny and relatable. The characters are like regular people which makes it funny, interesting and unputdownable. It is a funny drama book and it was so good I read it only in a few days. There are lots of hilarious stick-people illustrations that make the book a lot better. It made me laugh a lot. Kirby is very good at writing in the style of a teenager.



Popular loans this week:



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS



Out of School Coaching



Boys & Girls
CRICKET
COACHING

ALL STARS – 5 to 8 year olds
Colts – 8 to 16 year olds

Compton Dundon Cricket Club
Fridays from 9th May 2025
www.comptondundon-play-cricket.com
Colts is ideal for children with previous cricket experience
Tel: 07752 688895



TRUTH



RESILIENCE



AMBITION



COMMUNITY



KINDNESS