



Weekly Newsletter 2025-6

Dear Families and Parents,

Welcome to this week's newsletter. Each week, we'll be sharing updates to celebrate what makes our school such a great community and school to be a part of.

This newsletter is designed to keep you informed about everything you need to know to support your child, from important events and dates to new initiatives. I encourage you to take a moment each week to read it so you can stay up to date.

We look forward to sharing all the great news with you this academic year. If you have any good news stories or student achievements you'd like to share, please feel free to reach out to us!

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes

P Balkwill

Headteacher



Truth

Resilience

Ambition

Community

Kindness



Key Information

Key Dates

Monday 29th September- Thorpe Park Trip Year 10 & 11

Wednesday 1st October- Geography Field Trip to Bristol Docks

Thursday 2nd October - Year 11 Information Evening 5:30 - 7pm

Thursday 9th October- Key Stage Career's Fair

Important Information

A Quick Note on Community Parking and Safety

We really appreciate the support and cooperation from all parents/guardians regarding parking and safety in the car park during busy pick-up times!

We've received feedback from our local residents about a few instances of vehicles parking in reserved permit-holder spaces on Wells Road. Please remember that these are paid spots and are strictly for permit holders only.

We kindly ask that everyone makes a conscious effort to find legal and safe parking elsewhere.

Student Arbor App

This week we have launched the Arbor app for students. This will be used as the platform to access information about homework, attendance and 'On Track' points. There is further information included in this newsletter about the app and how students can get themselves set up.



Weekly Attendance Update

Why “Just a Few Days Off” Can Add Up to Big Problems

It's easy to think that taking the odd day off school won't matter — maybe for a long weekend, a family trip, or a rest day. But **missing school in short bursts can quietly cause real harm** to a child's learning and confidence.

Every time a child is away, they miss teaching, class discussions, and small but important steps in learning. Even if they catch up later, it's not the same as being there. Lessons build on each other, and when a child keeps dipping in and out, gaps appear that are hard to fill.

The time adds up fast. Missing just one day every two weeks adds up to nearly **a whole month of school lost in a year**. Over five years of secondary school, that's almost **half a year missed** — but spread out in days that might have felt harmless at the time.

Friendships and confidence can suffer too. Children who are often away can feel left out when groups move on without them. Feeling behind or out of touch can make school seem harder and less enjoyable.

Illness is sometimes unavoidable, but if a child can attend, it's nearly always better that they do. **Regular attendance builds good habits, keeps learning on track, and helps children feel connected and confident at school.**

We've noticed that these absences happen most often on Mondays and Fridays. Every school day matters, and the learning that takes place on these days is just as important as on any other day of the week.

In other news, just over 2/3 of the whole school have 100% attendance and the winners of the £10 Amazon Vouchers will be announced on the 30th September. Then the slate is wiped clean and we start to track the 100% attendance in the month of October.

Band	Percentage	Registers & Days Absent	Classification	Impact
1	100%	0	Perfect	No absence
2	98% to <100%	8 / 4	Excellent	Minimal absence
3	96% to <98%	15 / 8	Good	A few justified absences
4	93% to <96%	27 / 14	Requires Improvement	Occasional absence Significant attainment risks
5	90% to <93%	38 / 19	Concerning	At risk of persistent absence Severely affecting outcomes
6	Below 90%		Persistent absence	Requires urgent intervention
7	Below 50%		Severe Absence	Requires extreme intervention



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.....

37,914

Well done to all of our students!



Open Evening Success



A HUGE thank you to all our wonderful students and staff who helped make Open Evening such a success! From friendly and welcoming tour guides, historical roleplayers, experimental scientists, amazing musicians, dungeon and dragons campaigners and stage performers, we had an absolutely excellent evening.

It was fantastic to hear so many lovely comments about the school, the staff and the students from visitors, and we are very proud of everyone's hard work.

Well done all!

Open Evening 2025

Thursday 25th September 6.00pm - 8.00pm



St Dunstan's School
GLASTONBURY



'Come and see what makes our school such a great place to be.'

To register your interest in attending, please email: secretary@stdunstans.mnsp.org.uk
Or visit our website: www.stdunstansschool.com

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Arbor- Student App & Platform

We are now encouraging all students to download and use the Arbor Student App as their primary method for accessing school-related information from home.

Please can we ask that the following steps are followed:

- 1.Initial Web Login- Students must first log in to Arbor using a web browser (on a laptop or desktop) to activate their account and ensure their password is current.
- 2. Download the Arbor Student App- The app can be downloaded from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store by searching for "Arbor Student".

Log in to the App- Students should use their school email address and Arbor password to log in (e.g. 3sleigh@stdunstans.mnsp.org.uk). After logging in, they can enable "Remember Me" to use fingerprint or face recognition for quicker access in the future.

Once logged in, students will be able to:

- View their timetable (labelled as "Calendar")
- Monitor their attendance
- Access home learning assignments (these will continue to be available via Google Classroom as well)
- Track behaviour and achievement points

Please note: The Arbor Student App is intended for use outside of school only. When in school, students should access Arbor via a school computer if needed.

We appreciate your support in helping students become more independent in managing their learning and school responsibilities. If you or your child require assistance with the app or logging in, please use the help icons in the App or links in web browser user domains in the first instance, then contact reception if the issues remain unresolved.

For further guidance, please follow the link below-
<https://youtu.be/QN6j66N6N94>



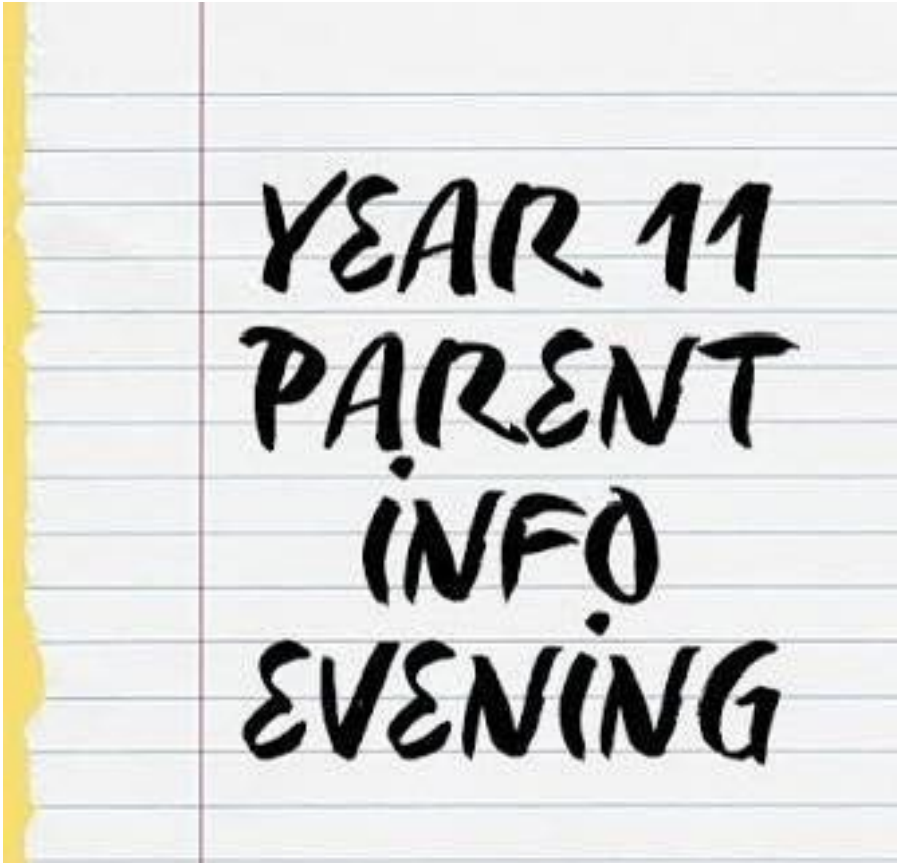
Year 11 Information Evening



Don't miss our Year 11 Information Evening on Thursday 2nd October at 17:30!

This is a fantastic opportunity for students and parents to learn about the key dates and deadlines for exams, post-16 options, and how to best support your child through their final year.

Come and meet our dedicated staff, ask questions, and get all the information you need to help your child succeed. We look forward to seeing you there!



YEAR 11
PARENT
INFO
EVENING

Pastures New - Goodbye Mrs Cook!

This week we said goodbye to Maddy, a friendly face that many of you know very well! Maddy has worked at St Dunstan's for the last seven years, both on Reception and in the Pastoral team, and she has been right at the heart of the school throughout that time. Whether it be a smile in the mornings, a kind voice on the phone, or being a wizard with a spreadsheet, Maddy has always been on hand to help students, parents and guardians and staff.

We wish her the very best of luck in her new role and will miss her very much!

Thank you for everything you've done for us at St Dunstan's Maddy, please don't be a stranger.



GOOD
BYE

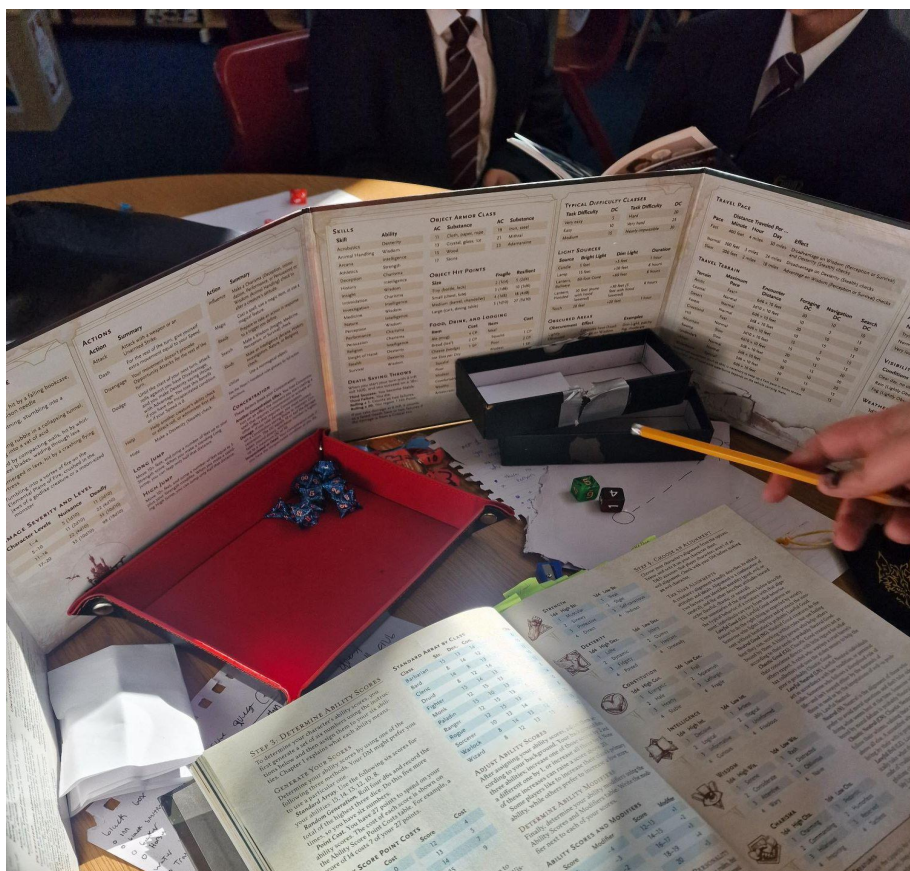


St Dunstan's Library presents...

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 this week.

This week Quest Club started off with a bang, with lots of new adventurers joining new quests to battle ghouls, slay demons and escape dungeons. This club is currently completely full, but there is a waiting list if you missed out on joining. We will keep you updated with our adventures as we go through the term!



LOST PROPERTY

We have lots of lost property from the pastoral block!

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

If left uncollected, it will eventually be donated.



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External Sports



WELLS RUGBY UNDER 15S

RECRUITING NEW PLAYERS!



Rugby is a fantastic sport that builds fitness, teamwork, and resilience. At Wells RFC, our Under 15s team is welcoming, fun, and supportive - everyone gets a chance to play and improve. Whether you're experienced or brand new to the game, you'll find a place here.

Training: Tuesdays 7.30-8.30pm @ Wells Rugby Football Club

Matches: Sunday mornings

First 3 sessions free

📍 Wells RFC, BA5 2FB 📞 01749 672823

Find us on Facebook: Wells RFC

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External Sports



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PTA



Our wonderful PTA are holding their AGM on Thursday, 2nd October at 5pm at the school.

They welcome any new parents, especially any parents of students just starting at St Dunstan's!

Please get in touch if you're interested in joining on using the PTA email:
stdunstanscommunitypta@gmail.com



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Local Community



YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU

Volunteer drivers needed Make a real difference in Mendip!

Do you have some time to spare, a clean driving licence, and access to a car? Mendip Community Transport is urgently looking for volunteer drivers to help local people get to their vital hospital appointments. Last year, their hospital car service supported people on 1,660 essential medical journeys - but more and more isolated people need their help, and they need more drivers to ensure no one is left without transport.

They rely on the generosity of volunteers like you to keep this service running. If they don't have enough drivers, they sometimes have to turn people away, and they don't want that to happen.

- Choose the days you volunteer
- Get paid mileage from your doorstep
- Help people in your local community
- Be part of something that really matters

Interested in helping? Call Mendip Community Transport on 01749 880613 to find out more.

www.mendipcommunitytransport.co.uk