

St Dunstan's School

GLASTONBURY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

We have reached the end of another busy week for St Dunstan's School with plenty to celebrate and more good news to share. It is starting to feel like the weeks are passing by in the blink of an eye and before we know it October half term will be upon us!

Firstly, I would like to thank all of the students involved in our Open Events on Thursday. Families from far and wide came and witnessed St Dunstan's School at its very best. Our students acted as fantastic ambassadors, speaking with pride about the school as well as looking very smart. During the main presentation in the hall, our Head students Oliver and Leonora, alongside two Year 7 students Theo and Alfie, prepared and delivered some fantastic speeches. These students absolutely stole the show! Public speaking is a skill and proposition that many adults and professionals find incredibly daunting. All four students took this in their stride, delivering their speeches with poise, confidence and authenticity. Well done!

It also gives me great pleasure to congratulate Ethan Smith in Year 10 who has won a BBC 'Make A Difference Award'. This was in recognition of his hard work, patience and dedication to supporting his younger sibling. The BBC award is intended to say thank you to young people who dedicate their lives, showing kindness and care in their work, to improving the lives of others. The whole community has been thrilled to hear of Ethan's recognition, he is a young person who clearly exemplifies community and kindness. Congratulations Ethan we are all very proud!

There was a real buzz around the school this week, following the announcement of our school production, The Lion King. This will be performed at the end of the Spring term. It was a real pleasure to see St Dunstan's School's first production in several years in the summer.



27.09.24

NEXT WEEK
ASSEMBLY
FOCUS:

Mental Health

Key Dates

Year 11
Information
Evening
10/10/24

Inset days:

Friday 25th
October **and**
Wednesday
27th
November

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

[Click here for
term dates](#)



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COMMUNITY



KINDNESS

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

The cast and crew who took part in Aladin set the standard for future productions. I know that this year's production will be bigger and better. We all look forward to seeing this take shape in the weeks to come.

Before I sign off for another week, I would like to invite anyone who is interested in joining our Governing board to make contact with the school secretary@stdunstansschool.com. We are looking for individuals from a range of backgrounds and expertise to join the board and support the school in its continuous journey of school improvement. The role would involve attending Local governing board meetings six times a year as well as working alongside senior leaders and staff on aspects of school improvement. This role also requires governors to attend additional meetings linked to our statutory policies and procedures. Training and guidance will be provided by our Trust partners for all governors to fulfil their roles and responsibilities. We welcome and look forward to hearing from anyone who is interested in this role.

Thank You for your continued support.

Many thanks

Mr P Balkwill



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Successful Open Evening

It was wonderful to see so many Year 5 and 6 children and their parents in school for our open evening tonight.

We were very proud of all our student helpers - who volunteered to give up their evening to represent our wonderful school and, goodness, what a great job they did!

All the parents and children who came to look around were full of praise for our students, their warmth, humour and charm - well done everyone!

Thank you to all our staff who put so much effort into the evening and making the Year 5 and 6s and their parents feel so welcome.

If you would like the opportunity to visit our school, please contact secretary@stdunstansschool.com for more information. We look forward to seeing you.



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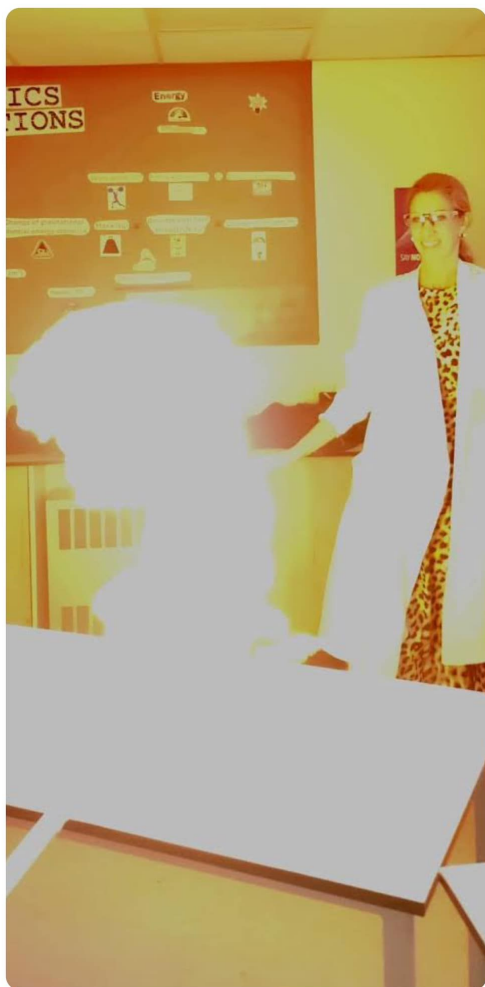
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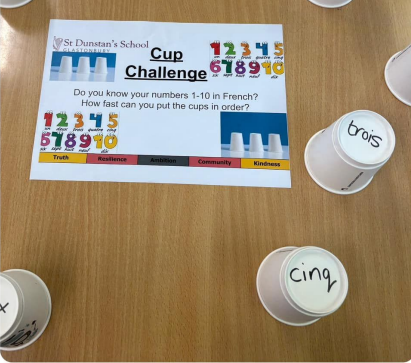
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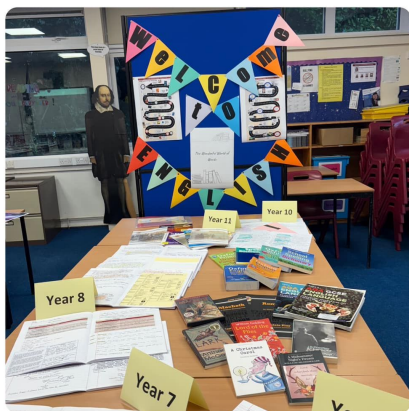
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Student Spotlight

We are EXTREMELY proud of Ethan in Year 10 who recently won an award at the BBC Radio Somerset Make a Difference award ceremony.

Ethan was chosen as the Carer Award winner for how he supports and looks after his younger brother.

Well done Ethan!

[Read more about the awards in this BBC article](#)



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Production news!

We are so excited to reveal our School Production for this year is.....



If you would like to be involved in the production, please come along to the read through and auditions.

Read through: Thursday 3rd October 3:15-4:30pm
Auditions: Thursday 10th October 3:15-5:00pm.

We are very excited to start working on this show which will be performed in April 2025!

Mrs Hopton and Mrs Pulford



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Year 11 Book Club

Mrs Morris and some page-turning Year 11s have started the first book club of this school year. The students chose the book, *Caraval* by Stephanie Garber, and thanks to money from the PTA the library was able to get copies for us to all read. Our first meeting took place at lunchtime today, and we're excited to get stuck into the story, and talk about our progress next week. We're all going to try and *only* read five chapters, however hard it may be to stop! A lovely way to end the week.

We hope this is the first of many book clubs, to come. Here is half of our book club with their new titles, ready to read.



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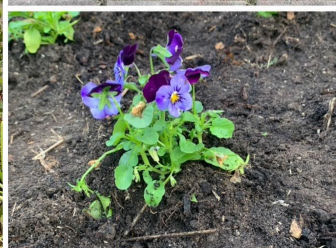
KINDNESS

Amy's Memorial Garden

We've been weeding, tidying and planting in Amy's garden so that it's able to offer some cheer as we head towards cooler days.

Lavender, blue and yellow pansies and some variegated ivy plants will hopefully enjoy the rains we are due.

We think Amy would like our choices and to hear staff, old and new, talking about who she was and why we remember her.



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Charity Bake Sale

Since we had so many delicious and generous donations for our bake sale today, we have lots left over!

So, in order to raise more money and ensure nothing goes to waste, we will be holding another bake sale on Monday break time, until all the cakes have been sold.

On Monday, please bring some change to buy yourself a cake or two and donate to the brilliant cause of fundraising for Macmillan. Each cake is 50p.

Thanks again for all your generous bakes, we're very grateful and proud of how much support our students and families have shown for charity.



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New Clubs in the Library

The library is offering a couple of new after school clubs for students. Every fortnight there will be Just Write, a creative writing club after school on a Thursday. There are spaces available, interested students can sign up in the library. Mrs Morris is a writer so will guide you through your own storytelling adventures to help you create magic!



**A CREATIVE WRITING CLUB FOR
BUDDING NOVELISTS, SHORT STORY
WRITERS AND POETS**

**AFTER SCHOOL IN THE LIBRARY
WEEK A THURSDAYS
3.15 PM - 4.15 PM**



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New Clubs in the Library

We're also hosting our new Quest Club for Dungeons and Dragons adventures. All spaces filled up within a lunchtime so it is already proving very popular. Students are already getting stuck into crafting their characters and we haven't even started yet! We can't wait to get stuck in next week, and we'll update you on how our quests go..



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Mental Health Matters



MHST Parent & carer webinars!

Our Autumn term FREE parent webinars start again this week – with our first being **‘Understanding and Supporting anxiety & low mood’**. Please see below and attached information and links to our Parent/carers webinars. This series runs until Christmas and then we’ll have a new batch of dates and topics for Spring/Summer 2025.

Parents can find out more and register using our flipbook: <https://bit.ly/mhstwebinars2024>

Information to place on your social media:

Calling all Parents & Carers!

The MHST (Mental Health Support Team) are offering a series of free helpful webinars this Autumn.

- Supporting your child's mental health & wellbeing
- Supporting your child's big feelings
- Understanding & supporting anxiety & low mood

[Find out more & register here](#)



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Strode College Open Evening



You are warmly invited to our

Open Evening

Thursday 24 October
5.30pm-8pm



- >> Come and meet our friendly and welcoming students and staff.
- >> Find out what courses, apprenticeships, enrichments and facilities we have on offer.



Register to attend our Open Evening by scanning this QR code.

Register online today!



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Bridgwater and Taunton Open Evening

OPEN EVENTS

www.btc.ac.uk

BRIDGWATER CAMPUS

Tuesday 8 October | 6pm - 8pm

TAUNTON CAMPUS

Wednesday 9 October | 6pm - 8pm

REGISTER
NOW!

BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST



BRIDGWATER
& TAUNTON
COLLEGE

Some other links

[What's On at Millfield](#)

[Millfield Scholarships](#)



MILLFIELD



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B-ELITE

BACK 2 SKOOL

FREE CLUBS & COURSES

After School Clubs (organised with the Avon and Somerset Police)

Secondary School Options

- 4-6 Week Self Defence Course
- 4-6 Week Kickboxing or Boxing Course
- 4-6 Week Lads only and Girls only Courses
- P.E Class, Self defence and Weaponry Awareness and Self Defence

If any of these sound interesting to you, drop office.belite@gmail.com an email and express your interest, and get more information 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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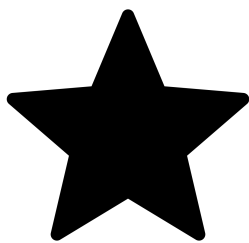


COMMUNITY



KINDNESS

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



100%

Attendance

Be in to win - 100% attendance will be rewarded with TRACK Stars and chance to win Amazon vouchers

82% of students achieve 5 GCSEs grade 5+

95%+

Attendance

77% of students achieve 5 GCSEs grade 5+

92-93%

Attendance

53% of students achieve 5 GCSEs grade 5+

Below

90%

Attendance

43% of students achieve 5 GCSEs grade 5+

96%

Attendance

This is the target equalling at most 8 days off per year

Absences
add up

Missing 2 days per month means you miss 10% of school

