

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/ Carers

Welcome to this week's newsletter. What a week it has been at St Dunstan's! There have been so many positive events and students to celebrate! Well done to everyone who has been mentioned or been involved in everything that has taken place. Thank you to all the staff for your hard work and dedication to make these possible!

Key Updates for Families

Year 11 Bath University Trip- Tuesday 3 December

Year 10 Parents Evening- Thursday 5 December. Please can all parents ensure they have booked in to meet teachers and discuss their child's progress. Appointment booking will close on Tuesday 3 December

Year 10 Hospitality & Catering Bristol Trip- Wednesday 11 December 9-3:30pm

Festive Jumper Day- Thursday 12 December. Students are invited to wear either a festive or favourite jumper and bring in a donation of £2 to Support Save the Children

Christmas Showcase Event- Thursday 12 December. More details to follow



29.11.24

NEXT WEEK
ASSEMBLY
FOCUS:

External visitor:
School Nurse

Key Dates

Tuesday 3rd
December
Year 11 trip to
Bath University

Thursday 5th
December
Year 10
Parents'
Evening

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

[Click here for
term dates](#)



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Christmas Dinners- Wednesday 18 December. In a change to previous years, we will be making arrangements for each year group to have a sitting. More information to follow over the next few weeks

Celebration Events- Thursday 19 December. We will be organising our termly celebration events on Thursday afternoon for students who have reached our attendance and On Track point thresholds for this term

Items to Celebrate

Youth Speaks Competition- Congratulations to the 5 teams who represented the school at the Youth Speaks Competition. We were absolutely blown away by the speeches given. All students spoke with such enthusiasm, confidence and poise. Public speaking is not an easy thing and you should all be very proud of your performances. I would also like to give a big thank you to Mrs Gregory and the English team for your organisation of the event.

Young Chef of the Year- well done to the 3 Year 9 students who competed in the Chef of the Year competition. It was a tight competition with 3 very talented chefs showing off their culinary skills. Congratulations to Elliot Wardle who was voted in first place by our judges. Thank you to Ayesha Kalaji and Michael White our visiting judges for the evening.



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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Student Librarians & Guardians- well done to all the Year 7s who have volunteered and been appointed for these roles.

Silent Disco- my thanks to the PTA and staff for the hugely successful silent disco on Thursday. A good time was had by all!

On Track Points- Our school total now stands at 69554. Let's see if we can hit 100,000 by the end of term.

Wishing you all a great weekend. For all of you who will be going or running stands, I hope that you Enjoy the Frost Fest. Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes

P Balkwill



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Youth Speaks Winners!



St Dunstan's School swept the board this week at the annual Youth Speaks public speaking competition, run by the Rotary Club. Our teams won 1st place, 2nd place and one of our students won the prize for Best Overall Speaker!

Speaking on topics such as electric cars ; animal cruelty; Shakespeare Vs Dickens; free healthcare; and football wagesour teams spoke with confidence, clarity and enthusiasm.

We were so proud of all of our teams and many of our students got honourable mentions from the judges. We now go forward into the next round in Taunton, early next year.

Our thanks go to the Shepton Mallet Rotary Club and to the parents of our wonderful children for all of their support and organisation. Well done teams!



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Youth Speaks Winners!



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Silent Disco



Our wonderful PTA hosted St Dunstan's first ever Silent Disco this week and it was fantastic! It was great to see the students, glow-sticks in hand, dancing the evening away under the disco lights in the drama studio.

Big thank you to the PTA for organising it, and another big thank you to our staff DJs who kept the beats flowing all night and who were a roaring success.

It was a brilliant night, thank you to all who helped out!



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Silent Disco



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International Day to end violence against women and girls



November 25th marked the start of 16 days of international activism to eliminate violence against women and girls.

Some of our Year 8 students have been getting creative by making some white hair scrunchies to sell along with white ribbons to raise awareness in our school.

All donations will be going to the charity White Ribbon UK who are the UK's leading charity engaging men and boys to work together to end violence against women and girls.



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Young Chef of the Year



This week we held our school round of the Midsomer Norton Trust Young Chef of the Year competition.

Three Year 9 students were chosen as finalists in this competition based on their fantastic menu designs. The brief was to create a seasonal dish that demonstrated skill and finesse. All three have worked tirelessly at home perfecting their dishes.

Our chef judge was Ayesha Kalaji. Ayesha is the head chef at the Queen of Cups in Glastonbury and a Masterchef 2023 competitor. Our guest judge was Deputy Mayor of Glastonbury, Michael White and our school judge was Ms Haden, Deputy Headteacher.

The judges had an incredibly hard job deciding the winner as all three competitors were outstanding.

The winning dish was made by Elliot, who served 'tom yum chicken noodle soup, served with pork a cabbage gyoza, tea stained egg and seasonal vegetables.'

Well done to Freya, Inti and Elliot who all created superb dishes and they should all be incredibly proud of themselves. There was nothing but praise and admiration for all three competitors. All three dishes could have been served in any high end restaurant.

Elliot will now go to the grand final at Writhlington School in February to compete against finalists from 12 other schools within the trust.

Thank you to our three judges who gave up their time to support our young chefs and give them invaluable advice, guidance and feedback.



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Young Chef of the Year



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Young Chef of the Year



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Year 7 Librarians



After rigorous applications and interviews, the new Year 7 Librarians and Library Guardians have been appointed! They join the amazing team we already have across our other year groups. This week our new librarians learned the ropes of re-shelving books by genre and author surname, and they got the hang of it really quickly. We are so happy to see their enthusiasm for making the library a tidier, more accessible, more welcoming space and we'll update you with future librarian adventures.



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Glastonbury Christmas Tree



This week our year 7 students joined the Mayor and Deputy Mayor in Glastonbury to decorate the community Christmas tree with wooden stars that the students have painted.

It was wonderful to be part of a community initiative and to join other local schools to provide something uplifting for the people of our town.

We hope you enjoy seeing our artistic creations!



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Sustainable Futures Trip



This week Year 7 students went to the launch of Sustainable Futures - a collective of Somerset students who are interested in our Environment and improving Sustainability.

Lots of local businesses were there to promote what they are currently doing, and planning to do, to help our planet.

We were also given a talk by Youth Parliament member James Lawson, which certainly created a buzz in the room!

Such great discussions and our students were a credit to the school.

We are particularly proud that our students created wind turbines which generated 9 volts of electricity - they were the top group for the day.



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Sustainable Futures Trip



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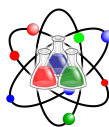
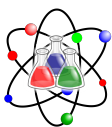
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Year 7s enjoyed sweetie modelling in Science last week.

Students applied their knowledge of animal and plant cell structures and functions using various sweetie treats.

Students were then able to recreate their models using teamwork and chalk to share their skills with the rest of the school.

Meanwhile, Year 9 investigated 'Density' in Science for regular and irregular objects and different liquids.

Students showed skill and dexterity gaining the data to complete each practical as they calculated the density of each colour of our rainbow potion and slowly pipetted each to separate the layers.

Fantastic application of skills - well done KS3



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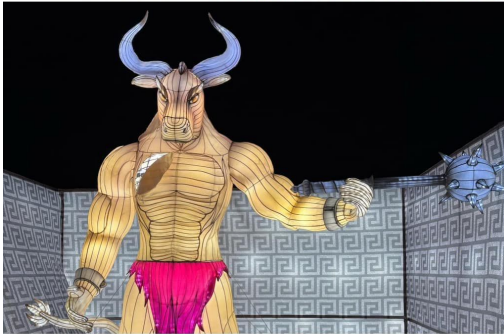
Staff Wellbeing Trip to Longleat

This week a group of staff went to see the magnificent light sculptures at Longleat (because staff need trips too).

Designed as a journey through time, we enjoyed the Ice Age period, Jurassic eras and travelled right through Shakespeare's time and through the reign of many kings and queens.

It was also fascinating to learn the history of Longleat House and to hear of all the famous guests who have been part of its rich history.

The event, planned to support staff well-being in what is a dark and gloomy term, was made extra special by the fact that Mrs Morris guided us around and she is one of the voice actors, responsible for creating and writing much of the content!



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Forest School



This week the students had an absolutely amazing time as always. They learned about safe handling of the massive saw and were able to use it (under supervision!) as they continued with their woodwork projects.

The students also made a fire and then baked delicious bread on it - they enjoyed eating the bread with delicious home made jam!

Student behaviour was exemplary and they are really enjoying the outdoor experience.

Thank you to the forest school leaders for their expertise and for making us all so welcome.



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Frost Fayre Parking this weekend

Our fabulous PTA are opening up the school car park on the day. £5 per car, gates open at 10am. All money raised goes towards supporting the school.

THANK YOU PTA!!



SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER
2024

FROST FAYRE PARKING

AT

ST DUNSTAN'S SCHOOL, WELLS
ROAD, GLASTONBURY BA6 9BY
(/////fries.reflected.evidently)

OPEN FROM
10AM

£5
PER CAR

RAISING FUNDS FOR THE PTA



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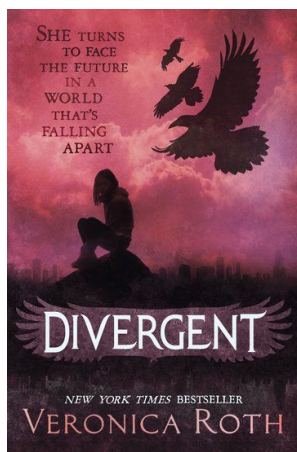
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St Dunstan's Library presents...



THE BOOK NOOK



Book Review by Ena

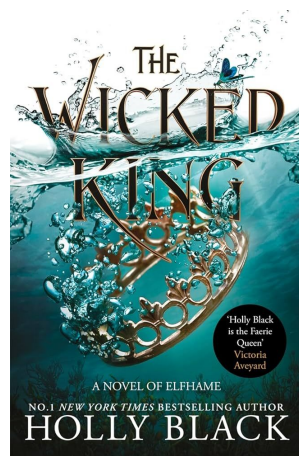


I found this book so captivating and exciting. The way Veronica Roth describes the desolate landscape scenes in the book, really makes you think you are in a dystopian world. Overall, I could not stop reading it until I had finished the book!

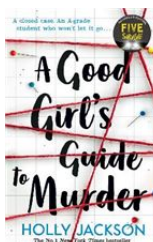
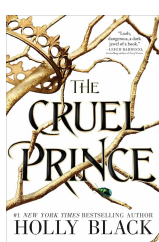
Book Review by Maggie



One of the things that is amazing about this series is that all three books are as good quality as each other... or even better! The diverse range of ideas and the grip Holly Black has on the universe is amazing. Perfect for anyone who wants to obsess over a book!



Popular loans this week:



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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:

High-quality teaching, such as staff professional development.

Targeted academic support, such as tutoring.

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



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Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

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/>

For further information relating to our Pupil Premium Plan and Free School Meals please visit our website-

<https://www.stdunstansschool.com/pastoral-care/supporting-our-students.htm>

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

If you require any further information, or are unable to access the web links above, please do not hesitate to contact the academy for support.



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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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Rewards & Recognition

ON
TRACK

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Bronze Award Badge - 200 points

Silver Award badge - 400 points

Gold Award badge - 600 points



TERMLY ACHIEVEMENTS



Students who achieve the 150 Track points and 96% attendance will participate in a specific activity on the last day of term.

ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

At the end of the school year, students who meet the correct threshold will be united to join in a Celebration Carnival.

Student targets for this activity will include:

- 500 positive points
- 96% attendance
- Maximum 40 behaviour points.



St Dunstan's School
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Rewards & Recognition

ON
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ATTENDANCE

Students who achieve 100% attendance over a set period, are recognised as members of the 100 Club and entered into a prize draw.



ROLL OF HONOUR



Students will be rewarded for consistently outstanding work, behaviour and effort. 20 behaviour points will be awarded and students will be celebrated on the 'On Track' celebration board.

PRAISE CARDS

Teachers will allocate a rewards card to students within their classes that demonstrate:

- An exemplary piece of classwork
- An exemplary piece of written work
- Have an exemplary lesson
- Consistently show their best



CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES



Termly assemblies recognising individual and collective achievements.



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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.**



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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.



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