



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 St Dunstan's such a great community and school to be a part of.

This weekly newsletter is your essential guide to supporting your child. It is packed with important dates, event details and news. Please take a few minutes each week to read it so you don't miss a thing.

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



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Resilience

Ambition

Community

Kindness



Key Information

Key Dates

Monday 6th, Wednesday 8th and Friday 10th October- Y7 Vivary Park Trip

Thursday 9th October- Careers Fair Y10

Thursday 16th October- Y7 Information Evening

Thursday 23rd October- Celebration Events

Friday 24th October- School Closed- Inset Day

Important Information

Hot Drinks

We've recently noticed an increase in students bringing hot drinks onto the site in thermos-style cups.

For health and safety reasons, including the risk of serious scalds and burns in busy areas, we must ask that students no longer bring any hot drinks onto the school site.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe environment for everyone.

Student Arbor App

This week we have launched the Arbor app for students. We are aware that some students have struggled to set themselves up on the platform. Students **MUST** log in on a desktop web browser before they are able to login on the app. There is more information available in this newsletter if you need any more support.



Key Information

Coats

As we move into colder and more unpredictable weather, we strongly advise all students to begin wearing a suitable **coat** on a daily basis.

Please be reminded of our uniform policy regarding outer layers:

- **Blazers** must be worn **at all times** while on site.
- **Hoodies are not permitted** and cannot be worn instead of or over a blazer.

Thank you for ensuring students come prepared for the change in temperature.



Weekly Attendance Update



HUGE congratulations to the 282 students who made the "100% Club" for September!

That's exceptional attendance, and we're so proud to see such dedication.

A massive shout-out also goes to the **15 lucky prize draw winners!**

We aim to celebrate attendance in lots of ways, but the 100% Club award is specifically for those who achieve perfect attendance throughout the calendar month. Keep up the great work!

Here is 10 reasons why 100% in the first 5 weeks matters-

1. **First impressions count** – teachers form early views about effort and reliability; being present builds a positive reputation.
2. **Strong subject foundations** – the first half term introduces key concepts in every subject; missing them makes later learning harder.
3. **Better grades later** – DfE research shows students with full attendance in Term 1 are far more likely to achieve strong GCSEs.
4. **Belonging from the start** – you quickly make friends, know routines and feel part of the school community.
5. **Good habits stick** – attendance patterns formed in September/October tend to continue all year.
6. **Teachers notice you** – you can ask questions, get feedback and feel confident joining in.
7. **Catch-up is tough** – work piles up fast in secondary; staying on track avoids stress.
8. **Opportunities open up** – trips, clubs, sports teams and leadership roles often expect strong early attendance.
9. **Boosts wellbeing** – being in school regularly keeps you socially connected and supported by staff.
10. **Sets up exam success** – students with 100% attendance in the autumn term typically outperform peers by up to a whole grade at GCSE.

IMPROVED ATTENDANCE AWARD



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 AWARD

**ON
TRACK**

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

EXCEPTIONAL ATTENDANCE AWARD

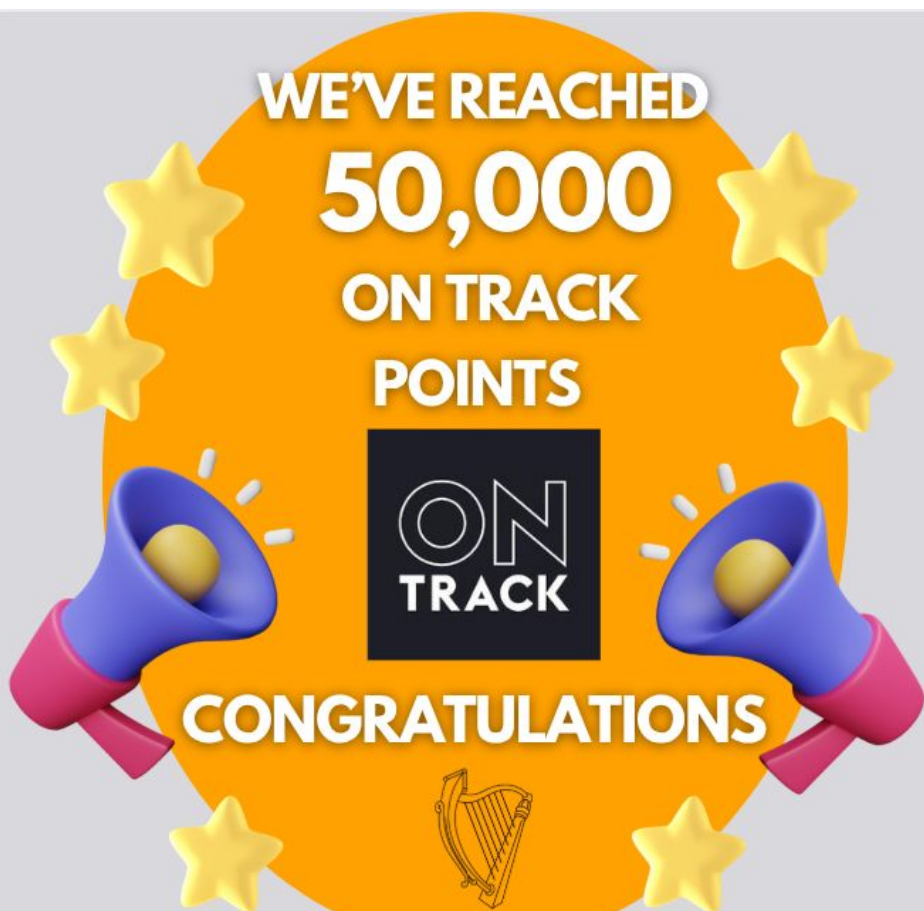
All students who have achieved 98% or above at the end of each term, will receive a letter from the Headteacher, 50 'On Track' Points and be recognised in our celebration assemblies.

**CLUB AWARD**

St Dunstan's School
GLASTONBURY

If a student achieves 100% in a calendar month, they will receive a reward card and 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.





Our 'On Track' Total so far.....

51,130



As you are no doubt aware, we have recently launched the Student Arbor App, and we appreciate your support in encouraging students to be independent in monitoring their calendar, rewards, attendance and home learning through this platform.

Some challenges have been presented by its launch, which we now know is a National picture as it is a relatively new app for the platform, so we would like to thank you for your patience and efforts to overcome any difficulties experienced.

A reminder that the following steps need to be followed for a successful login to the app:

1. Initial Web Login

Students must first log in to Arbor using a web browser (on a laptop or desktop) to activate their account, ensuring their password is current.

2. Students should use their school email address and password to log in (e.g. 3sleigh@stdunstans.mnsp.org.uk).

3. Download the Arbor Student App

The app can be downloaded from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store by searching for "Arbor Student".

4. Log in to the App, using the same login and password they use for the browser.

After logging in, they can enable "Remember Me" to use fingerprint or face recognition for quicker access in the future.

Please be aware that students need to follow all the instructions shared to be successful in utilising the app in full, and whilst we are able to provide this information and can remind students of their school login, the Arbor help centre is the most appropriate source of further assistance should it be required. Arbor is not a platform owned or managed by St Dunstan's School.

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.

Once again, we appreciate your support in helping students become more independent in managing their learning and school responsibilities.

For further guidance, please follow the link below-

<https://youtu.be/QN6j66N6N94>



KS4 Reward Trip to Thorpe Park



Our ON TRACK to KS4 reward trip to Thorpe Park was a Colossus of a day!

Students braved the Swarm, faced their fears on Saw and the Ghost Train, and felt the Stealth rush of excitement. A Tidal Wave of laughter all round — even a calmer moment on the Flying Fish ! The highlight? Conquering Hyperia — the UK's tallest and fastest rollercoaster!

A huge well done to our Year 10 and 11s for earning this adventure. We were so proud to accompany you!

Watch this space for more information about our in-school reward soon.



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KS4 Reward Trip to Thorpe Park



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Year 11 Geography Field Trip



Our Year 11 Geography students had a brilliant day exploring Bristol this week as part of their fieldwork.

They investigated the impact of regeneration on the dockland area, collecting data through surveys and questionnaires.

The students demonstrated impressive maturity and resilience throughout the day.

Well done to everyone – we're incredibly proud of your efforts!



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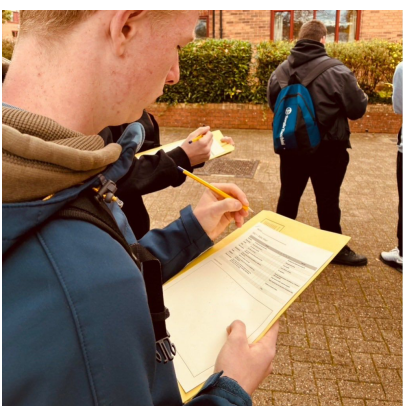
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Year 11 Geography Field Trip



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National Poetry Day



This Thursday was National Poetry Day and this year's theme was 'play'!

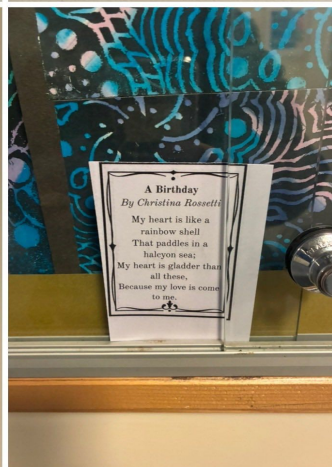
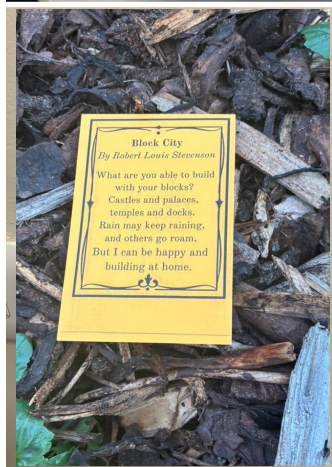
We hid short, uplifting poems around the site for students and staff to find. They fit perfectly into a pocket and will provide joy whenever needed.

We also read some funny poems at break!

Why is poetry important?

66.5% of children and young people agreed that writing poetry made them feel better.

Poetry is an important vehicle to explore individual identity and the identity of others.



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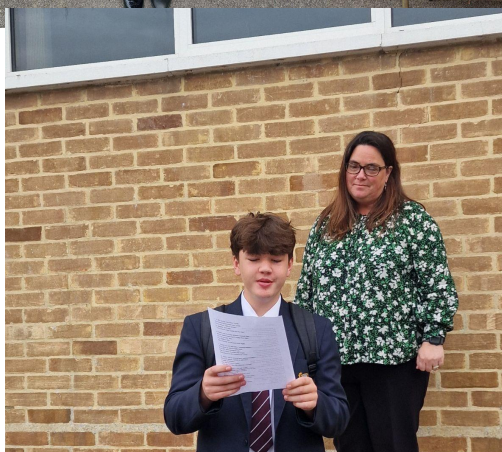
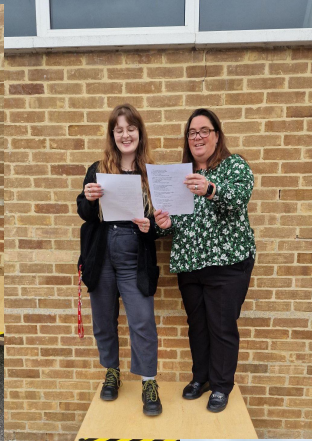
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National Poetry Day



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Macbeth at the Amulet



Year 11 students have had a night of revision and culture this week with our partner school, Ansford Academy.

We enjoyed a screening of Macbeth, courtesy of Buy the Amulet volunteers in Shepton Mallet and it was great to use this community space.

Our thanks go to the volunteers who provided their time for us and lots of praise to the Year 11s from both schools, who spent their Monday evening revising the play.





Year 11 Hospitality and Catering



Year 11 students have been working hard this week to make oven baked churros and chocolate sauce.

This is to develop their technical skills in preparation for the upcoming Controlled Assessment practical exam in term 3.

All of the food looked delicious, keep up the good work. Well done!



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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 we launched applications for our Student Librarians! Year 8, 9 and 10 now have the chance to apply for a role of responsibility in the library. Applications due Wednesday 8th October and interviews will be announced afterwards. Year 7 applications will be available after half term!

Just Write Club has already created some absolutely amazing stories! We have a great turn out of students and Wednesday after school has become a hub of creativity... we'll share snippets of their stories soon.



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Careers - Sixth Form



SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Thursday 16th October 2025, from 5pm
Sexey's School, Bruton

Why join Sexey's Sixth?

- 69% A* - C grades*
- 97% of university places secured*
- 43% progressed to a Russell Group university*
- Expert teaching, career pathways and enrichment programme
- Affordable state boarding - 2 to 4 nights and full boarding available
- Named 'Happiest School in Somerset' – Ofsted 2025

*2024



Register at www.bit.ly/SixthOpenEvening or
scan the QR code

1 WEEK TO GO!



BRIDGWATER COLLEGE

Tuesday 7 October,
6pm - 8pm

TAUNTON COLLEGE

Wednesday 8 October,
6pm - 8pm

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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 be donated.



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