



Weekly Newsletter 2025-6

Dear Families & Parents,

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

A massive "well done" to the entire cast and crew of *The Addams Family* production! During the final performance, I found myself reflecting on why this is one of my favorite moments of the school year.

It is a rare and wonderful time when the community comes together to witness our talented young students perform, showcasing the culmination of six months of hard work. Seeing the joy on the students' faces, mirrored by the pride of the families in the audience, was truly special.

My sincere thanks go to every student involved, and a special mention must go to Mrs. Pulford and Mrs. Hopton for their tireless dedication in making this production possible.

The next few weeks are packed with important events as we shift our focus toward key academic priorities. This Monday marks the launch of our new after-school revision sessions for Year 11. We believe these sessions will be an absolute game-changer, providing our students with the structure and support they need to achieve their very best this summer.

We are also excited to launch the Year 9 Curriculum Choices programme. This is a pivotal moment where students begin selecting the subjects they are passionate about studying alongside our core offer. We look forward to guiding them through these important decisions.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes

P Balkwill

Headteacher



## Key Information

### Key Dates

**5 February-** Year 9 Parents evening and Options Fayre

Visiting Author Years 8 & 9

**12 February-** Year 10 Parents Evening

**13 February-** Half term

**Wb 2.3** Year 11 Mock exam window opens





## Key Information

Dear Parents & Families

### Subject: Year 11 Revision Sessions 2026

Thank you to all parents who responded to our consultation regarding after school revision sessions in the final run in for the summer exams. Following positive feedback from families, students and staff we intend to commence our remodelled revision programme from **Monday 2nd February**.

As students approach final exams, the transition to independent study often reveals significant hurdles. Many begin their revision too late, struggle with self-motivation, or lack the organisational skills to structure their time effectively at home. These challenges are frequently compounded by the constant distractions of digital devices and the lack of a clear boundary between rest and work.

Our model addresses these pitfalls by providing a structured hour of guided study for three hours per week after school. By removing students from the "hustle and bustle" of daily life, we offer a dedicated, expert-led environment that eliminates procrastination and decision fatigue. This proactive approach ensures that revision is consistent, focused, and free from the interruptions that typically hinder academic performance at home.

After school compulsory revision sessions will be introduced to ensure every student has an equal opportunity to succeed, regardless of access to private tuition or external support.

These sessions will now become a compulsory component of the GCSE examination preparation programme. All students will be required to attend on the designated days until the February half-term break.

#### Schedule (until February half term):

- **Days:** Every Monday and Wednesday
- **Finish time:** All sessions will conclude promptly at 4:15 pm.

Following the February half term, the Period Six revision programme will be expanded to include Thursday after-school sessions. From **Monday 23rd February**, the schedule will be as follows:

#### Schedule (from 23rd February):

- **Days:** Every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday
- **Finish time:** All sessions will conclude promptly at 4:15 pm.



## Key Information

The phased introduction of these revision sessions has been planned to allow Year 11 students to build an effective and manageable revision routine, while also enabling the school to accommodate parents' evening events for other year groups.

We recognise that some students rely on school transport and appreciate that this may present challenges. We are committed to working closely with families where transport issues may arise, and the school will contact you directly to discuss possible arrangements.

### Structure of the sessions

- **Registration:** Students will be escorted to the main hall, registered, and receive key messages from staff.
- **Targeted Sessions:** Students will attend focused, subject-specific sessions led by teachers, tailored to identified areas of need.
- **Independent / Preparatory Study:** Supervised independent study in computer suites or quiet study rooms.
- **Targeted mentoring & support:** some students will be identified to receive specialised support surrounding college applications, wellbeing, revision support or mentoring from key staff. We will share this information with the students concerned in the run up to the sessions.
- **Coursework Completion:** Dedicated time and support for practical coursework requirements (e.g. Art, Design & Technology).

The revised GCSEs demand significantly more content, deeper understanding, and sustained revision over time, and current assessments show that further progress is needed across the year group.

This compulsory model will provide structured, expert teacher-led revision and independent study in a calm, focused environment, free from the distractions and uncertainties often faced at home. This approach supports effective revision of content, reinforces key knowledge, and ensures students are studying the right material in the right way.

Proven in high-performing schools, this model has been shown to raise outcomes by nearly half a grade on average, and with strong parental support, we are confident it will make a meaningful difference to your child's final results. By completing a significant portion of their study in school, this approach will support student wellbeing by reducing the pressure and workload students need to manage at home, helping them achieve a healthy balance.

We will work closely with students to ensure they attend the sessions that are of the highest priority in securing strong outcomes across their subjects and supporting progression to their chosen post-16 pathways and future careers. In addition, we will carefully balance individual session allocations to ensure students benefit from a



## Key Information

purposeful blend of targeted support with staff, independent study, and sessions that promote aspiration, motivation, and personal wellbeing.

Further details of individual student session allocations will be communicated shortly.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working in partnership with you to ensure every Year 11 student is given the best possible opportunity to succeed this summer.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T Armstrong'.

Mr T Armstrong

Assistant Headteacher

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be a stylized 'R' followed by a flourish.

Assistant Headteacher

## Weekly Attendance Update

### Attendance Alert: The Mid-Year Milestone

As we conclude **Week 19**, we have officially reached the halfway point of the school year. This is a critical time to stay vigilant regarding your child's attendance.

At this stage of the year, attendance percentages become more **"fixed."** While figures may have fluctuated early on, the data is now more stable, meaning any drop in attendance is significantly harder to recover.

It is easy to become complacent if your child is sitting at **95%**, but please be warned: occasional absences at this midpoint can cause that figure to plummet quickly, making it a mountain to climb to get back on track by July.

### Key Areas for Focus

- **The Friday Trend:** We are seeing an increase in Friday absences. We urge families to give equal importance to every school day to ensure no learning gaps form.
- **Seasonal Bugs:** With winter illnesses circulating, please reinforce **good hand hygiene** at home.
- **NHS Guidance:** Before keeping your child home, check the official NHS guidance. Many minor conditions do not require an absence, and students are often better off in the classroom environment.

Every day missed is a missed opportunity. Let's work together to finish this half-term with strong, consistent attendance.

## Weekly Attendance Update

What does my attendance look like so far? Term 3 Week 4

| Band | Percentage  | Number of days attended this year to date | Potential Days of Absence across the year if this continues | Potential hours of lost learning | Classification       |
|------|-------------|---|---|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1    | 100%        | 90  | 0   | 0                                | Perfect              |
| 2    | 98% to 100% | 88  | 4   | 20                               | Excellent            |
| 3    | 96% to 98%  | 86  | 8   | 40                               | Good                 |
| 4    | 93% to 96%  | 84  | 14  | 70                               | Requires Improvement |
| 5    | 90% to 93%  | 81  | 38  | 190                              | Concerning           |
| 6    | Below 90%   | 80  | 40  | 200                              | Persistent absence   |



Public Health Agency

## Do I need to keep my child off school?



|   |  |  |   |  |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| <b>Chicken Pox</b><br>At least 5 days from onset of rash and until all spots have crusted over                | <b>Conjunctivitis</b><br>No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed          | <b>Diarrhea &amp;/or Vomiting</b><br>48 hours from last episode                      | <b>Respiratory Illness</b><br>(e.g colds & flu) Can return when no longer have a high temperature and well enough | <b>Glandular Fever</b><br>No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed                                   |
| <b>Hand, foot &amp; mouth</b><br>No need to stay off if well enough, but school or nursery should be informed | <b>Impetigo</b><br>Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 hours after commencing antibiotics | <b>Head Lice</b><br>No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed     | <b>Measles</b><br>4 days from onset of rash   | <b>Mumps</b><br>5 days from onset of swelling  |
| <b>Scarlet Fever</b><br>24 hours after commencing antibiotics   | <b>Scabies</b><br>Until after first treatment  | <b>Slapped Cheek</b><br>No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed | <b>Threadworms</b><br>No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed                                | <b>Tonsillitis</b><br>Can return when no longer have a temperature and well enough, school or nursery should be informed |
|   |  |  |   | <b>German Measles (Rubella)</b><br>5 days from onset of rash   |
|   |  |  |   | <b>Whooping Cough</b><br>48 hours after commencing antibiotics   |

**Truth**

**Resilience**

**Ambition**

**Community**

**Kindness**



On Track Update

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b><u>O</u>rganised</b>     | Equipped, on time, and completing homework   |
| <b><u>N</u>eat</b>          | Smart, well presented books demonstrating your best work.                              |
| <b><u>T</u>ry hard</b>      | Trying your hardest and rising to the challenge.                                       |
| <b><u>R</u>esponsible</b>   | A role model to others in your appearance, actions and words                           |
| <b><u>A</u>ctive</b>        | Listening, responding, and participating in lessons                                    |
| <b><u>C</u>ommunity</b>     | Supporting staff and other students to create a positive learning environment for all. |
| <b><u>K</u>nowledgeable</b> | Knowing key information, concepts and terminology for each subject/unit                |

The logo consists of the word 'ON' in a large, white, outlined font above the word 'TRACK' in a smaller, white, solid font, all contained within a dark blue square.

**Congratulations  
St Dunstan's Students!**

Together you have achieved

**268,072**

**On Track Points this year!**

The bottom of the banner features silhouettes of a large group of students with their arms raised in celebration, set against a bright yellow background with falling confetti. A small harp icon is positioned at the bottom center.



# The Addams Family

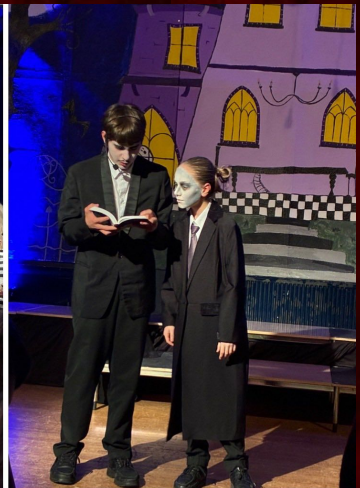


"A triumph!" ★★★★★

"A truly remarkable show!" ★★★★★

Our performances of our school production, The Addams Family, were a tremendous success!

The audience were treated to amazing acting, superb singing and fantastic choreography. Well done cast and crew, and Mrs Hopton and Mrs Pulford for creating such a masterpiece! Thank you to everyone involved, whether on stage or behind the scenes for helping it all come together. We'll have more show pics in the next newsletter but for now, enjoy some shots of the creepy and the kooky!



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# The Addams Family



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# The Addams Family



Some shots from behind the scenes....



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## Year 9 Parents' Evening



We look forward to welcoming Year 9 parents and carers to our upcoming Parents' Evening at St Dunstan's School on **Thursday 5 February**, from 3:50pm to 6:45pm.

This is a great opportunity to meet subject teachers, discuss your child's progress, and ask any questions about their education. Students should attend with you.

Location: Assembly Room

Appointments: 5 minutes each (a bell will sound to help with timekeeping)

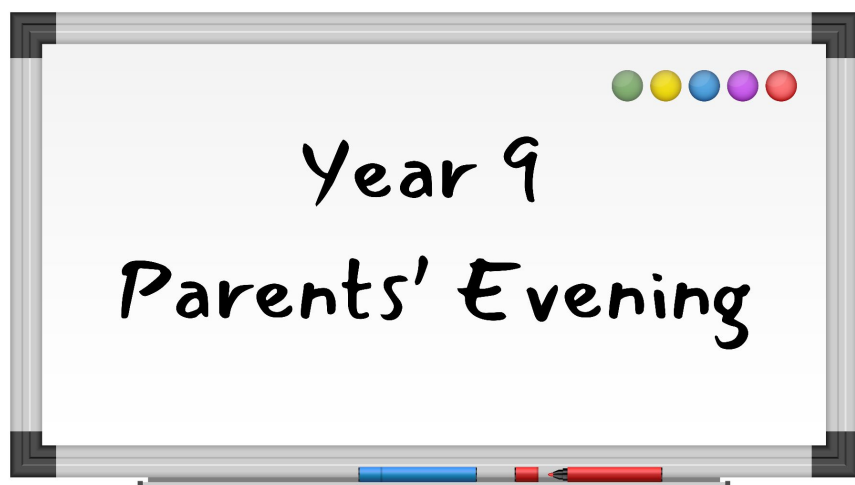
Booking appointments will be done online via SchoolCloud:

Opens: Monday 26 January at 17:00pm

Closes: Wednesday 4 February at 5:00pm

Please note: if a teacher teaches your child in more than one subject, please book one appointment only so all families have the chance to attend.

We look forward to seeing you there!





# Holocaust Memorial Day



A group of our students joined the town council this week, to read poems and light candles, in honour of Holocaust Memorial Day, honouring the Jewish people, and all others who suffered during the Holocaust

It was a very moving moment and we are proud of our students' involvement.





# Year 11 Revision



Our Year 11s are working hard in after school revision sessions. The Maths department ran a higher and foundation session this week. Every extra opportunity helps towards the preparation for the mocks after half term.

Well done Year 11!





# Revision Stars



Here's our first 'Revision Star' in Year 11.

Year 11 have a challenge to motivate and support them to revise and prepare for the exams which lie ahead.

Each week, we will reward the student who engages the most in revision activities and they will win an Amazon voucher to spend on something to treat themselves with!



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# Art Supplies



We want to say a big thank you to the PTA for their tireless work in fundraising, providing extra resources to areas that need it.

These resources are going to make a huge difference to the Art Department!



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St Dunstan's Library presents...



# THE BOOK NOOK



## School's Reading Challenge

We have joined up with lots of other local schools to take part in a school's reading challenge, hosted by Whitstone School.

The aim is to encourage students to read more and there are prizes up for grabs! The challenge runs from now until the end of the summer term and in library lessons we will be keeping track of KS3 reading, and any KS4 who wish to participate can keep Mrs Morris updated at break/lunch with any books they've read.

Students will be entered into different prize brackets with the chance to win in the associated raffles:

- ❖ **Bronze Award: 7 books read**
- ❖ **Silver Award: 14 books read**
- ❖ **Gold Award: 21 books read**
- ❖ **Platinum Award: 40 books read**
- ❖ **Local Library Award: Extra entry if you have read books from local libraries (not the school library!)**

We will also hold our own StD's awards with certificates and prizes such as 'student who has read the most books overall' or 'reader of the chunkiest books' (so don't just read skinny ones to beat the competition!) and 'best overall tutor group of readers'!

We can't wait to see what everyone reads...

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St Dunstan's Library presents...

# THE BOOK NOOK

 **BookTrust**  
Getting children reading

## 2026 book missions

### January

Read a book that makes you laugh! ☐

### February

Tell someone about a book you love ☐

### March

Join the World Book Day celebrations ☐

### April

Read a book because you love its pictures ☐

### May

Read a poetry book or a verse novel ☐

### June

It's a summer of sport! Read a sporty book ☐

### July

7 July: A new Children's Laureate is here! Read one of their books ☐

### August

Read a book outside! What's the most unusual place you can find? ☐

### September

Send a letter or a drawing to your favourite author or illustrator ☐

### October

Read a scary book for Halloween! ☐

### November

Read a non-fiction book and tell a friend a cool fact ☐

### December

Swap your favourite book with your friends ☐

My favourite books of the year are...

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**PTA Announcement**



ST DUNSTAN'S COMMUNITY  
PTA PRESENTS

# QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY 27TH  
FEBRUARY 2026

6.30 pm for a 7pm start

£6 per adult, £3 per child

[children must be accompanied]

Teams of 8 max

1st drink free, RAFFLE, BAR!

RAISING MONEY FOR A GREENHOUSE  
ST DUNSTAN'S SCHOOL,  
WELLS ROAD, GLASTONBURY, BA6 9BY  
///FRIES.REFLECTED.EVIDENTLY  
TICKETS ON ARBOR OR EMAIL  
STDUNSTANSCOMMUNITYPTA@GMAIL.COM

Tickets are on Arbor now. Raffle prize donations would be greatly appreciated and can be left at reception!  
Thank you.

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## PTA Announcement



 **easyfundraising**

**Over £1.7m raised from  
holiday bookings in 2025**

~~~~~

**Get an average £50 donation per family holiday!**

Do you want to help raise money for the PTA without giving up hours of your time?

Doing some online shopping or booking a holiday?

If you sign up (for free) to Easy Fundraising and select our PTA as your chosen donation, the school will receive up to £50 per holiday booking! Without costing you anything extra...

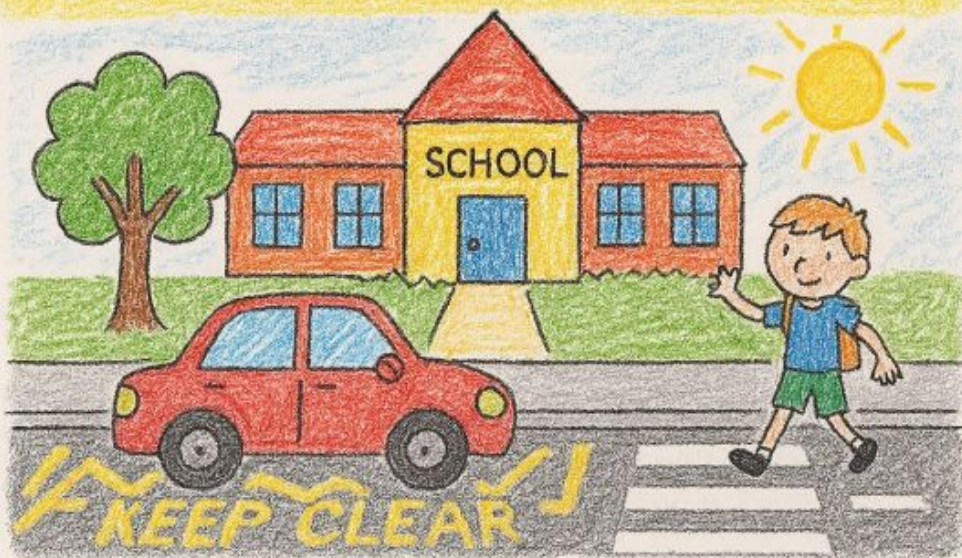
It only takes a few minutes but could make the world of difference to the PTA and therefore to our students! The link to register is below:

[Easy Fundraising St Dunstan's Link](#)

If you have any questions about this for the PTA, or want to get more involved, please email  
[stdunstanscommunitypta@gmail.com](mailto:stdunstanscommunitypta@gmail.com)



# PARK SAFELY OUTSIDE SCHOOLS



## SAFETY REMINDER:

- No parking on single or double yellow lines
- No double parking
- No stopping, dropping or parking on the School Keep Clear yellow zig zags
- No stopping, dropping or parking on the pedestrian crossing white zig zag lines
- No parking on corners or junctions, especially near the school entrance

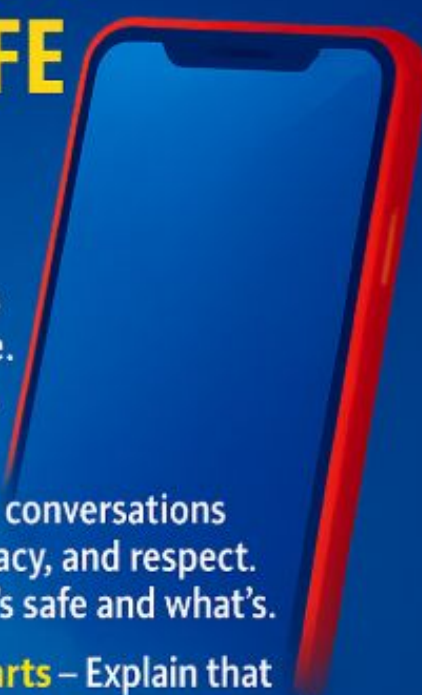




PLEASE DO NOT BLOCK DRIVEWAYS.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!**



# PARENTS, LET'S TALK ABOUT KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE!

Social media is a huge part of our children's lives – but it comes with real dangers we can't ignore. Protecting them starts with YOU. Here's how:

- 
- A stylized illustration of a smartphone with a red frame and a blue screen, positioned vertically on the right side of the poster.
-  **Talk Openly** – Have honest conversations about online behavior, privacy, and respect. Make sure they know what's safe and what's.
  -  **Stop Sexting Before It Starts** – Explain that sharing intimate content can lead to emotional harm, bullying, and even legal trouble. Once it's online, it's out of their control.
  -  **Set Strong Boundaries** – Agree on screen time limits and safe apps. Use parental controls when needed, but build trust through communication.
  -  **Lead by Example** – Show healthy online habits yourself. Kids learn from what they see at home.



**YOUR GUIDANCE IS THEIR PROTECTION.**  
**A CONVERSATION TODAY COULD PREVENT  
A SERIOUS PROBLEM TOMORROW.**



## Local Events Spotlight

**Location.**

## Kindness