



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Families,

Welcome back to a new academic year! I am delighted to see our students returning to school with such a positive and purposeful start.

A huge welcome to our new Year 7 students and their families! The students have made a brilliant start, and we are proud of how quickly they have started to adapt. We're looking forward to getting to know each of them as they begin their journey with us here at St Dunstan's School.

Last year, our students exceeded all expectations in all aspects of school life. The calm, focused atmosphere in our classrooms and the politeness and pride they take in their uniforms were noticed by many visitors. We also saw remarkable progress with our 'On Track' system. Our students earned an average of over 500 positive points each, a massive increase from the previous year's 84 points. This demonstrates a deep and consistent commitment to their learning and development.

I also want to extend a huge congratulations to our former Year 11 students on their outstanding 2025 GCSE results. This was one of the best years in our school's history, with the proportion of our students achieving a strong pass (grade 5 or above) in English and Mathematics exceeding the national average. Similar outcomes were also achieved in Science with more students than ever before achieving grades 4 above for the double award.





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Strong results were seen across other subjects and for individual students. The results are a testament to the students' hard work and have set them on their paths to college, sixth form, and apprenticeships. We wish them all the best for the future.

This newsletter is intended to provide a weekly update to families and to celebrate all the great things that make this school such a special place. I look forward to sharing fantastic good news stories and student successes, as well as providing you with key information and updates. We are excited to share our journey with you and strengthen the partnership between our school and our families.

Thank you for your continued support. We are looking 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!

Best wishes

P Balkwill

Headteacher





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Dear St Dunstan's School Families,

A new academic year is here, and I'm delighted to welcome you and your children back. I hope you have had a wonderful break and are ready for an exciting year of learning and growth. As we begin, I want to take a moment to highlight the immense importance of **school attendance** and **punctuality**.

Our Partnership with You

This year, our approach to monitoring attendance will focus on the number of days and sessions your child is absent, rather than just on a percentage. This means we will be in touch more frequently as absences build up, even if they are for valid reasons. Our goal is to proactively work with you to address any issues early on, before they can significantly impact your child's learning.

We understand that absences are sometimes unavoidable due to illness or other family emergencies. In such cases, please contact the school office on the morning of each day your child is absent. You can reach us via main reception or by emailing secretary@stdunstans.mnsp.org.uk. This helps us ensure your child's safety and allows us to keep accurate attendance records. We also strongly advise against taking holidays during term time, as this can significantly disrupt your child's education and social development.

To help your child, please arrange any routine appointments (e.g., dentist, doctor) for later in the morning or in the afternoon, whenever possible. If an appointment must take place during the school day, your child should attend school before the appointment or return afterward. Getting even one attendance mark is much better than having a full-day absence.



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The Impact of Attendance

Being in school on time every day is one of the most critical factors for a child's success. Each school day is filled with valuable lessons, discussions, and activities that build on one another. When students miss school, they can miss out on key concepts and fall behind their peers.

Beyond academic study, regular attendance is vital for a child's **social and emotional well-being**. School is a place where friendships are formed, social skills are developed and a sense of belonging is fostered. Being present allows students to feel connected to their classmates and teachers, which significantly contributes to their confidence and mental health. Being a community means we want everyone in our community to be included and involved.

What is good attendance?

In order to support you with your child's attendance, it is important that we are clear with our expectations around attendance. The Department for Education specifies that **good attendance is a minimum of 96%**. This means that your child cannot have good attendance if they are absent from school for more than 8 days in an academic year. Anything below this, requires improvement.

At St Dunstan's, we are committed to providing an inspiring and supportive environment for every student. By working together to ensure excellent attendance, we can help your child achieve their full potential and have a truly successful and memorable year.

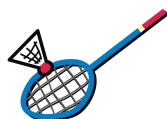
We look forward to partnering with you throughout this school year.

Yours sincerely,

K Haden



PE Information



Below is the new PE timetable for Term 1 (you will need to zoom in / enlarge for the information you need).

Tutors will all be sent a copy of this timetable to share with their tutees and it will also be displayed in the PE corridor as usual.

Just a quick reminder about kit requirements

Badminton (Indoors):

St Dunstan's polo top

Shorts / skort / leggings

White socks

Trainers

St Dunstan's hoodie (optional)

Rugby (Outdoors):

St Dunstan's polo top

Shorts / skort / leggings

Studded boots

Gum shield

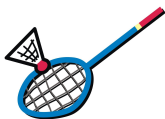
St Dunstan's hoodie or rugby top (optional)

The PE department look forward to welcoming you back!

Please email Miss Pengelly or Mr Waugh if you have any questions.



PE Information



A

	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
Mon A	9X2 - JWA 9X1 - CPE Boys - RUGBY Girls - BADMINTON	8X1 - JWA 8X2 - CPE 8X3 - TNO Boys - RUGBY Girls - RUGBY Mixed - BADMINTON	7X1 - JWA 7X2 - CPE 7X3 - TNO Boys - RUGBY Girls - RUGBY Mixed - BADMINTON		
Tues A	7Y1 - JWA 7Y2 - CPE Boys - RUGBY Girls - BADMINTON	8Y1 - JWA 8Y2 - CPE Boys - RUGBY Girls - BADMINTON	9Y1 - JWA 9Y2 - CPE Boys - RUGBY Girls - BADMINTON		10Z1 - JWA 10Z2 - CPE 10Z3 - SGR Boys - RUGBY Girls - BADMINTON
Wed A	9X2 - JWA 9X1 - CPE Boys - BADMINTON Girls - RUGBY	9Y1 - JWA 9Y2 - CPE Boys - BADMINTON Girls - RUGBY	8X1 - JWA 8X2 - CPE 8X3 - HWA Boys - RUGBY Girls - RUGBY Mixed - BADMINTON	11X1 - JWA 11X2 - CPE Boys - INVASION GAMES Girls - INVASION GAMES	11Y1 - JWA 11Y2 - CPE Boys - INVASION GAMES Girls - INVASION GAMES
Thurs A	7X1 - JWA 7X2 - CPE 7X3 - TNO Boys - RUGBY Girls - RUGBY Mixed - BADMINTON		7Y1 - JWA 7Y2 - SGR Boys - BADMINTON Girls - RUGBY		10Z1 - JWA 10Z2 - CPE 10Z3 - SGR Boys - BADMINTON Girls - RUGBY
Fri A			8Y1 - SGR 8Y2 - CPE Boys - BADMINTON Girls - RUGBY	11X1 - JWA 11X2 - CPE Boys - INDIVIDUAL SPORTS Girls - INDIVIDUAL SPORTS	11Y1 - JWA 11Y2 - CPE Boys - INDIVIDUAL SPORTS Girls - INDIVIDUAL SPORTS

B

	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
Mon B	9X2 - JWA 9X1 - CPE Boys - RUGBY Girls - BADMINTON	7X1 - JWA 7X2 - CPE 7X3 - TNO Boys - RUGBY Girls - BADMINTON Mixed - RUGBY		8X1 - JWA 8X2 - CPE 8X3 - TNO Boys - RUGBY Girls - BADMINTON Mixed - RUGBY	8Y1 - JWA 8Y2 - CPE Boys - RUGBY Girls - BADMINTON
Tues B	9Y1 - JWA 9Y2 - CPE Boys - RUGBY Girls - BADMINTON				10Z1 - JWA 10Z2 - CPE 10Z3 - SGR Boys - RUGBY Girls - BADMINTON
Wed B	9X2 - JWA 9X1 - CPE Boys - BADMINTON Girls - RUGBY	9Y1 - JWA 9Y2 - CPE Boys - BADMINTON Girls - RUGBY	8X1 - JWA 8X2 - CPE 8X3 - TNO Boys - BADMINTON Girls - RUGBY Mixed - RUGBY	11X1 - JWA 11X2 - CPE Boys - INVASION GAMES Girls - INVASION GAMES	11Y1 - JWA 11Y2 - CPE Boys - INVASION GAMES Girls - INVASION GAMES
Thurs B	7Y1 - JWA 7Y2 - CPE Boys - RUGBY Girls - BADMINTON	8Y1 - JWA 8Y2 - CPE Boys - BADMINTON Girls - RUGBY	7X1 - JWA 7X2 - CPE 7X3 - TNO Boys - BADMINTON Girls - RUGBY Mixed - RUGBY		10Z1 - JWA 10Z2 - CPE 10Z3 - SGR Boys - BADMINTON Girls - RUGBY
Frid B	11Y1 - JWA 11Y2 - CPE Boys - INDIVIDUAL SPORTS Girls - INDIVIDUAL SPORTS			11X1 - JWA 11X2 - CPE Boys - INDIVIDUAL SPORTS Girls - INDIVIDUAL SPORTS	7Y1 - JWA 7Y2 - CPE Boys - BADMINTON Girls - RUGBY

Truth

Resilience

Ambition

Community

Kindness



Library Information



St Dunstan's library is a quiet space for reading and doing homework. It is available for all students to use Mon-Thurs at break, lunch and after school, with lots of clubs happening throughout the year! (Club info coming soon).

Every student is allowed to check out a book and take it home for two weeks. The student will need to come back before the due date and return it, or renew it for another two weeks. No book can leave the library without being checked out by the librarian. If a student has an overdue book, they won't be able to check out another book until the overdue is resolved.

We understand that life can be chaotic and water bottles can leak so if you damage or lose a book, don't panic, you can replace it with a second hand copy. At the end of the year, any overdue or lost books will be invoiced through Arbor so we can replace them.

KS3 students have to have a reading book in school for library lessons as part of their equipment. This can be a book from home or from the library. Students have to prepare this in advance of their lessons.

And the most important rule... happy reading!

Library Young Adult KS3 Letter to Parents

St Dunstan's library caters to all secondary school age students and therefore there are books within the library suitable for ages 11-16. Certain books are marked as 'young adult' as these have a suggested age range of around Year 9 upwards. This is because the books contain more mature content and/or themes (such as The Hunger Games, or the Powerless series). The vast majority of the books stocked in the library are children's books, though some classics are 'adult'.

According to children's publishers, the young adult age bracket ranges from 12-18. As this would include almost all of our books, we instead label books that have an interest level around 14+ as YA. For this reason, if you google a book, the online classification of YA might differ from ours. Even this is a very subjective bracket, and the process of labelling our books is constantly in progress. If you would like any further information on how we choose books for our library, we have a collections policy that can be made available to you.

We feel that independent choice is important for students to be able to grow and make their own decisions on their taste and preferences when reading. Often a student will choose a book and return it if they find it is not suitable for their reading or interest level. This is an important part of developing their reading. However, if you would prefer your child not to be allowed to read books marked YA, please email expressing this to secretary@stdunstans.mnsp.org.uk with the subject heading 'FAO Library YA Opt Out' and we will restrict your child's account and won't allow them to take YA books out of the library. If you are happy with your child choosing from the whole range of our library, then you need not do anything, as this will be our default stance.

We look forward to welcoming your child to the library soon for their next reading adventure.

Best wishes

Mrs O Morris, Librarian and Reading Champion

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Thorpe Park Reward Trip



We are SO excited to announce that some of our amazing Year 10 and Year 11 students will soon be receiving their **exclusive invites** to join us on a reward trip to **Thorpe Park!**

This special day out is to celebrate those who have successfully completed our **On TRACK to KS4** initiative and shown incredible resilience, hard work and commitment to our **TRACK values**

Dates for your diary:

Year 11 – Friday **26th September 2025**

Year 10 – Friday **3rd October 2025**

Cost: Around **£25 ticket** + coach travel costs
(more details to follow!)

Keep an eye out for invites and permission slips coming home soon – places must be confirmed to join the trip!

We are SO proud of our students – now it's **time to celebrate** their achievements with a well-deserved, unforgettable day!



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Prom Save the Date



SAVE THE DATE

We're thrilled to announce that **Year 11 Prom 2026** is officially booked!

Thursday 9th July 2026

The Loft, Street – a stunning venue for an unforgettable night!

Get ready for an evening of glamour, laughter and memories that will last a lifetime. More details will follow in the months ahead, but for now...

Mark your calendars...

Spread the word...

Start dreaming about those outfits...

Let's make it the prom of all proms!



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Safeguarding Spotlight



DADS TUNING INTO KIDS™

A FREE SEVEN-SESSION PROGRAMME
FOR FATHERS OF SCHOOL AGED
CHILDREN



Would you like to learn how to help
your child manage feelings such as
worry, frustration & anger?

Dads tuning into kids teaches you how to help
your child understand and manage feelings
(Emotional intelligence).

Children with good emotional intelligence:

- ✓ Have better concentration at school
- ✓ Have greater success with making and keeping friends
- ✓ Are more able to manage conflict with peers
- ✓ Are more able to calm down when upset or angry

Register
here!



WHEN?
November 4th, 11th, 18th
& 25th
December 2nd & 9th
6-8pm
**Via Teams
You will need a device
& good WIFI

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Resilience

Ambition

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