



Weekly Newsletter 2025-6

Dear Families & Parents,

Welcome to the end of Week 5. This term often feels like a sprint, with a wealth of events and key dates packed into every single week, and this week has certainly been no exception!

Firstly, on behalf of all the staff, I would like to congratulate our Year 11 students who have successfully completed the first week of our new revision programme, the 'Power Hour.' These compulsory weekly sessions are designed to provide targeted support in key subjects, helping students maximize their potential and improve their chances of securing strong outcomes this summer. We have been very proud of how the year group has engaged with this initiative; their maturity, focus, and determination have been exemplary.

To mark the launch, every student received their 'Passport to Prom' booklet. This isn't just a ticket to a celebration—it is a way for students to track and recognise their hard work, effort, and high attendance during this final run-in to the exams. Well done, Year 11, on such a positive start. We look forward to seeing that same energy in Week Two!

On another note, a huge thank you to the parents and families who joined us for the Options Fayre and Year 9 Parents' Evening this week.

The event was exceptionally well attended, and it was a pleasure to see so many families engaged in these important conversations. We hope you found the evening informative and helpful as you navigate the curriculum choices process.

Please see the dedicated section further down in this newsletter for details on how to access our webpage, which contains all the resources and guidance needed to support your child's choices.

Finally, as we approach the final week of the term, I want to thank you all for your continued support regarding attendance. January is notoriously difficult; seasonal bugs are rife, and the dark, damp mornings aren't particularly motivating for anyone! Despite this, our students have shown incredible resilience. We have seen a fantastic increase in the number of students achieving 100% attendance in January, as well as a rise in those maintaining a steady 95% or above.

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It has also been brilliant to see so many students rising to the '1% Challenge' over these final three weeks, pushing their overall attendance figures into the 90% or 95% brackets.

As we move into the final week and tiredness begins to creep in, it would be easy to let this momentum slip. I urge all students to finish strong and stay on this positive trajectory by being present every single day next week.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and support.

Best regards,

P Balkwill

Key Dates

12 February- Year 10 Parents Evening

13 February- Half term

Wb 2.3 Year 11 Mock exam window opens



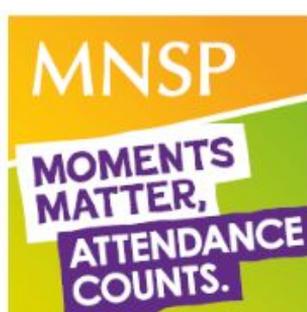
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Resilience

Ambition

Community

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Weekly Attendance Update

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%	95	0	0	Perfect
2	98% to 100%	93	4	20	Excellent
3	96% to 98%	91	8	40	Good
4	93% to 96%	88	14	70	Requires Improvement
5	90% to 93%	85	38	190	Concerning
6	Below 90%	84	40	200	Persistent absence

Final Week- Every Day Counts!

As we approach the end of term, there are several exciting activities and celebrations planned for our students, alongside a continued focus on attendance and personal achievement.

Next week in assembly, we will be announcing our **100% January Attendance winners** — a fantastic achievement that reflects commitment and consistency. We will also be celebrating students with the **most improved attendance**, measured from the end of last year to the end of **Term 3**. We are proud of the students who are working to **raise their attendance by 1%**. This is a brilliant personal challenge, and the winners will be announced at the **start of Term 4**.

We also want to recognise that for some students, improving attendance comes alongside personal challenges. **Mr Balkwill will be writing to a number of students** to acknowledge the effort, resilience, and determination they have shown in improving their attendance despite these challenges.

The final week of term will include a number of additional activities for students to enjoy. While we are not holding a Valentine's event, we do want to take time to **show appreciation for one another**. On **Tuesday**, students will be able to write thank-you cards to anyone in the school community — students or staff — to recognise something positive. This might be a meaningful conversation, a friendship that continues to flourish, or support with a tricky homework task. It's a simple gesture that helps strengthen our sense of community and kindness.

Weekly Attendance Update

Final Week- Every Day Counts!

On **Wednesday**, Mrs Watson will be handing out some lunchtime freebies. To help manage this fairly and avoid disappointment on the day, students who would like to receive a freebie must **collect a token on Tuesday from Ms Haden**. No token, no freebie!

On **Thursday lunchtime**, we will be welcoming representatives from the **Army**, who will be visiting school and bringing along a few items to give away to students.

To round off the week, **Friday will be a non-uniform day**, and we will also be **extending breaktime** for the tutor group in each year group that achieves the **best attendance during the week**.

It promises to be a positive and busy final week of term, celebrating attendance, effort, resilience, and the strong sense of community within our school.



100 CLUB AWARD

St Dunstan's School
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264

**STUDENTS
WITH 100% IN
JANUARY**

WELL DONE!

MNSP
MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.

Weekly Attendance Update

Final Week of Term Don't miss out on.....



Monday 9th– 100 Club Raffle and Prizes for January

Tuesday 10th– Valentine's 'Show your Appreciation' Day

Wednesday 11th – Mrs Watson's Lunchtime Freebies

Thursday 12th– Army Representatives– come and discover about careers and opportunities in the armed services

Friday 13th– Non- Uniform day in aid of the Prom Fundraising Committee

–Extended Break for Tutor group winners of the attendance competition



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On Track Update

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



Congratulations St Dunstan's Students!

Together you have achieved

276,114

On Track Points this year!



Key Stage Four Choices 2026



This week marked the formal launch of the Curriculum Choices Process for our Year 9 students. Over the next few weeks students will finalise their decisions on preferred choices. To support this, we have organised taster sessions, assemblies and an information evening.

To support families to help their child make informed choices we have also launched our designated webpage. This has everything you need to know including subject presentation videos as well as our choices booklet and many more features.

Please use the link below to access the page-

<https://www.stdunstansschool.com/curriculum/key-stage-four-choices-2026.htm>

If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



Visiting Author



This week, as it is National Storytelling Week, we had visiting author, Matt Dickinson, spend the day with us. Matt, author of lots of fantastic books including *The Everest Files* visited KS3 on Thursday. We started the day off with an assembly where Matt talked about his adventures (and misadventures!) climbing Everest and how this inspired his writing. Then, throughout the rest of the day, Matt hosted four different workshops across KS3 to get students writing their own letters to apply to join an expedition to Everest, applying for one of the many roles needed on an expedition, from climbers, musicians, bakers, yak wranglers and helicopter pilots.

It was an absolutely fantastic day! The students were thoroughly engaged and inspired and behaved wonderfully. Thank you to Matt for coming in and a huge thank you to Wells Festival of Literature Education Team for funding the visit for us. We're very grateful for your support and for giving our students this opportunity.



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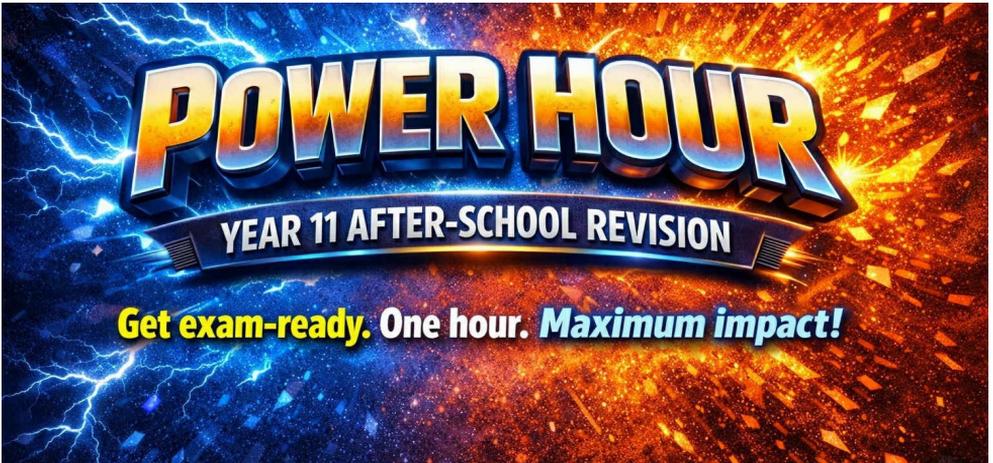
Year 11 Revision



The Power Hour has begun and our Year 11s made an excellent start to these extra studies.

The Power Hour takes place 3 times a week: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3.25-4.15. Staff will work with targeted groups of Year 11, delivering revision and intervention exactly where it's needed.

All students were given a sweet treat to galvanise them and give them some extra energy. Well done Year 11 and staff!





Year 11 Revision



All Year 11s took home a copy of '12 Hours to Change Your Grade' this week, which supports revision of English Language.

The first 6 hours of content is excellent revision for the Language Paper 1 exam which students will sit on the 25th February, as part of the mocks.

Good luck Year 11, you've got this!



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Revision Stars



Here is our 2nd Revision Star who has engaged the most in revision activities over the last week.

She wins a £10 Amazon voucher to treat herself with - what a nice reward!

Well done Year 11. Great work this week.



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Parents' Evening - Lost Property/Coats

Lost Property

If you recognise any items, they can be claimed from the Uniform Hub on the main corridor.

All lost property will be displayed at the upcoming Year 9 and Year 10 Parents' Evenings.



Preloved Coats available, for free!

All of our preloved coats will be available at the Parents' Evenings on the 5th and 12th February. They are free to anyone who needs them.



St Dunstan's Library presents...

THE BOOK NOOK

This week was National Storytelling Week and we celebrated in lots of ways!

Alongside having a visiting author to tell us about his adventures climbing Everest, we celebrated throughout the week. Staff told stories in the library at break time, Mrs Morris gave a sneak preview of her book that is in the process of being published, and Just Write club students shared their stories with each other... It was a fantastic week championing stories!

Why not celebrate National Storytelling Week at home by reading books together, or sharing funny stories from your childhood, or school memories... you never know what stories might unfold as a result!



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St Dunstan's Library presents...

THE BOOK NOOK

Kindle Recommendations:

We have had a big increase in students using kindles and e-readers we get lots of requests for kindle recommendations! So, to be thrifty....

99p sale in February:



Borrowbox:

This is a FREE app if you have a library card! Loan ebooks and audiobooks for free! They act the same as library loans; you may have to reserve a title if someone already has it on loan (including audiobooks) and you only have it for a set amount of time.

Audiobooks available now (no reserves):



Ebooks available now (no reserves):



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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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Safeguarding Spotlight



YOUTH SAFE SPACE



Youth Safe Space runs out of hours – Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evenings online and at our Taunton or Yeovil Hub– to provide support to young people 13–18 who feel they are struggling with their mental health and are experiencing distress. Appointments will be 1–1 with trained staff in a therapeutic environment where de-escalation techniques and safety planning/healthy coping mechanisms can be introduced.

Scan here
to book

01823 276892



<https://www.mindinsomerset.org.uk/our-services/young-people/youth-safe-space/>





Safeguarding Spotlight



FREE WEBINAR FOR PARENTS & CARERS



HELPING YOUR CHILD & TEEN SLEEP TOOLS, TIPS & TECHNIQUES



IN THIS 1 HOUR VIRTUAL WORKSHOP HOSTED BY SOMERSET'S MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM, WE WILL EXPLORE...

- Why do we need to sleep?
- Teen sleep struggles
- How to support young people to get a better night's sleep so they can meet their full potential
- Evidence based sleep information to improve sleep patterns



WHEN?

12TH FEBRUARY 2026

12-1PM

SCAN HERE



REGISTER HERE!

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/MHSTSLEEP12THFEB26](https://bit.ly/mhstsleep12thfeb26)



Safeguarding Spotlight



WISE sessions are run with a variety of different presenters, all with extensive knowledge on Neurodiversity. These sessions are **free for people living in Somerset**. To attend, participants simply need to:

Sign up to our database, and register for each workshop you would like to attend.

[Somerset Parent Carer Forum](https://www.somersetparentcarerforum.org.uk)

WISE UP WORKSHOPS
Empowering Parent Carers to succeed

HOW TO REGISTER FOR WISE UP WORKSHOPS

Step 1:

- Visit the Somerset Parent Carer Forum Website
- Go to our homepage and scroll down
- Near the bottom of the page, you'll find a tab labeled "Wise Up Workshops"
- Click "Read More"

Step 2: Choose Your Registration Path
There are two ways to register, depending on whether you're already on our database:

✓ If You Are Already Signed Up
(You receive newsletters or have attended events like previous workshops, the circus or pantomime)

- Simply tick "Register" for each workshop you'd like to attend.
- Scroll to the bottom of the page fill out your email address and click the blue "Register" button

✗ If You Are NOT Signed Up

- On the Wise Up page, halfway down, you'll see a paragraph titled "How to Register."
- Look for the sentence: "Individuals not on our database will need to register first by clicking here."
- Click the link and complete the sign-up form. Please note that when filling out the postcode part of the form it requires capital letters and a space in between postcode.
- Once you've signed up, return to the workshops page and follow the steps above to register for your chosen sessions.

Book now:
www.somersetparentcarerforum.org.uk/home/wise-up-workshops/

These sessions are open to all parent carers in Somerset who have a child with additional needs and/or a disability.

WISE UP WORKSHOPS
Empowering Parent Carers to succeed

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February Wise Workshops

- 2nd- Understanding sensory processing.**
Presented by Bibic @ 12.30 Cheddar & Online
- 4th- Autism, ADHD & Physical health**
Presented by Neurodiverse training @ 18.30 Online
- 5th- Sleep differences in Neurodivergent young people**
Presented by CYPNP Team @ 10am Shepton Mallet & Online
- 9th- Intro into SEND**
Presented by SPCF @ 12.30 Wincanton & Online
- 11th- Autism masking-**
Presented by Platypus @ 10am Langport & Online

Book now:
www.somersetparentcarerforum.org.uk/home/wise-up-workshops/

These sessions are open to all parent carers in Somerset who have a child with additional needs and/or a disability.

March Wise Workshops

- 17th- How to talk to your young person about Neurodiversity.**
Presented by CYPNP Team @ 10am Online
- 19th- Low demand parenting.**
Presented by NeuroConnect @ 12pm Online
- 23rd- AuDHD: Understanding those with co-occurring ADHD & Autism.**
Presented by Platypus @ 10am Taunton & Online
- 25th- Introduction into SEND.**
Presented by SPCF @ 12.30 Minehead & Online

Book now:
www.somersetparentcarerforum.org.uk/home/wise-up-workshops/

These sessions are open to all parent carers in Somerset who have a child with additional needs and/or a disability.

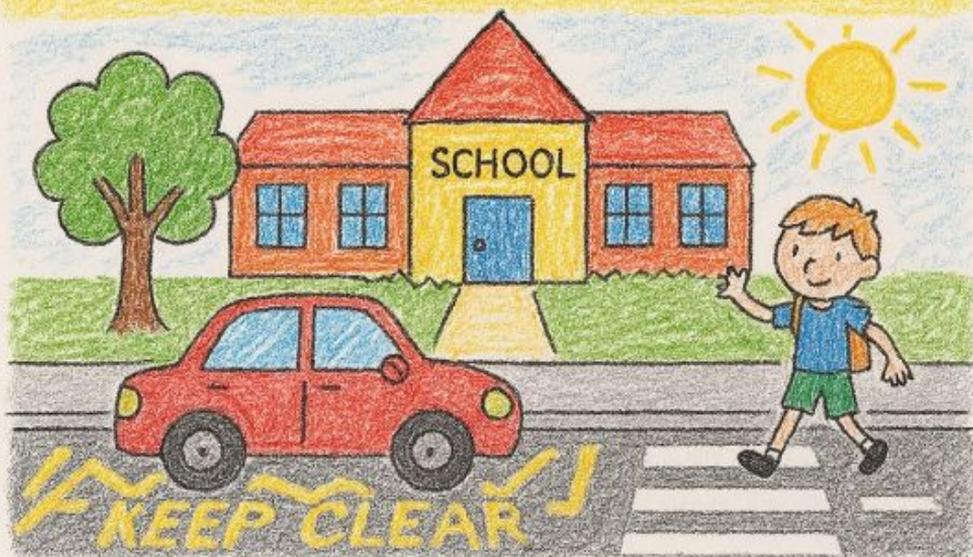
Members of



National Network of Parent Carer Forums
'Our Strength is our Shared Experience'
www.nnpfc.org.uk



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:

-  **Talk Openly** – Have honest conversations about online behavior, privacy, and respect. Make sure they know what's safe and what's not.
-  **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.