



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.

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





Key Information

Key Dates

Monday 10 November- Year 11 Trial Exams begin

Year 10 Cyber Event

Tuesday 11 November- Remembrance Events

Wednesday 12 November- Year 11 Strobe College Experience Day

Thursday 20 November- Youth Speaks KS3

Friday 27 November- Youth Speaks Area competition

Friday 21 November- Children in Need- more information to follow in next week's newsletter

Monday 1 December- Youth Speaks KS4 Area competition

Thursday 4 December- PTA Silent Disco- more details to follow in the new term

KS4 Bath University & Christmas Markets

Important Information

THANKYOU

Thankyou you to everyone for your support to ensure students arrive to school suitably dressed for this time of year. Its been great to welcome the students back fo school, ready to learn and continuing to look so smart!

Parent Survey

Thank you to everyone who has responded to the survey so far. We really appreciate all feedback. Please take 2-3 minutes to follow the link and complete.

<https://forms.gle/3VQSbTZs2QqZsPDE7>



St Dunstan's School

GLASTONBURY

Dear Parents & Families

The St Dunstan's School community was deeply shocked and saddened to hear the news of the untimely death of our former colleague Cath Grey.

During her time with us, Cath was a highly regarded member of staff who contributed so much to St Dunstan's and, of course, the wider Glastonbury community. Even after leaving, she continued to be well thought of and talked about with fondness by students and colleagues alike.

Over the coming weeks, we will be looking at a way for the school community to express its sadness and cherish her memory. We will share the details of this with you all at a later date.

Cath will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Our deepest thoughts and condolences are with her family and loved ones at this very sad and difficult time.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Balkwill
Headteacher



Weekly Attendance Update



What does my attendance look like so far? Week 10

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%	42	0	0	Perfect
2	98% to 100%	41	4	20	Excellent
3	96% to 98%	40	8	40	Good
4	93% to 96%	39	14	70	Requires Improvement
5	90% to 93%	38	38	190	Concerning
6	Below 90%	37	40	200	Persistent absence

Don't Let Winter Bugs Affect Learning:

The Importance of Attendance

October and November bring more than just changing leaves; they usher in the dreaded cold and flu season. Let's be candid: it is almost inevitable that you or your child will get a cough, snuffle, or cold over the next few months. That's just part of life at this time of year!

Why Attendance Still Matters

Just like in the world of work, where adults are expected to manage minor illnesses and still attend unless genuinely unwell, we expect students to come to school. When attendance dips—especially when combined with prior absences—it becomes a significant concern for the school, much like an employer raising an issue about employee absence.

Even one or two days of absence can have a surprisingly large impact, particularly if your child has missed school before. They miss key lessons, fall behind on class discussions, and can struggle to catch up, which impacts their overall progress and well-being. Consistency is crucial for effective learning.

Weekly Attendance Update

Your Cold and Flu Toolkit: Staying Healthy and In Class

While we can't stop all germs, we can significantly reduce their spread and impact. Please reinforce the following simple, yet effective, habits at home:

- **Good Hand Hygiene:** Teach and remind your children to wash their hands frequently with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds, especially before eating and after coughing, sneezing, or using the toilet.
- **"Catch It, Bin It, Kill It":** This is a critical message!
 - **Catch it:** Always sneeze or cough into a tissue.
 - **Bin it:** Put the used tissue straight into a bin.
 - **Kill it:** Wash your hands immediately afterwards.
- **Sleep and Diet are Crucial:** A well-rested child with a good diet is much better equipped to fight off minor infections and remain focused in class. Prioritise a regular sleep schedule and ensure they are eating plenty of fruits and vegetables.

When Is It Too Unwell to Attend?

We understand the challenge of deciding when a sniffle means staying home. If your child has a high temperature (fever) or is genuinely too unwell to participate in learning, they must stay home. However, a mild cold or cough, without a fever, often doesn't warrant an absence.

If you are unsure about your child's symptoms and need reliable health advice, we strongly encourage you to download and use the 'HANDi' App. It provides quick, clear guidance on common childhood illnesses, helping you make an informed decision about seeking help and school attendance.

Let's work together to ensure your child has the best possible chance to learn and thrive this autumn by prioritising their health and their attendance!



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

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

121,460

Well done to all of our students!



Music Makers - Royal Albert Hall



ROYAL
ALBERT
HALL

Students and staff had a wonderful day this week at The Royal Albert Hall on our trip to the Future Music Makers live final.

Firstly, we had a tour of The Royal Albert Hall, hearing about the history of the building, the events that happen at the venue and seeing some of the best seats in the house for performances. Some students were lucky enough to sit in the Royal Box!

We then had lunch in Kensington Gardens, overlooking The Royal Albert Hall and admiring the impressive Albert Memorial statue.

We then returned to see the live final concert of Future Music Makers 2025 featuring performances from 9 musicians and groups. We heard music from rappers, classical pianist, punk rock bands, singer songwriters and beautiful vocalists. Students were inspired by the varied genres of music created by other young musicians and listening to their stories, backgrounds and how they create their music.

As always, students were a credit to the school and we were complimented on their manners and behaviour.

Truth

Resilience

Ambition

Community

Kindness



Music Makers - Royal Albert Hall



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Good Luck Year 11!

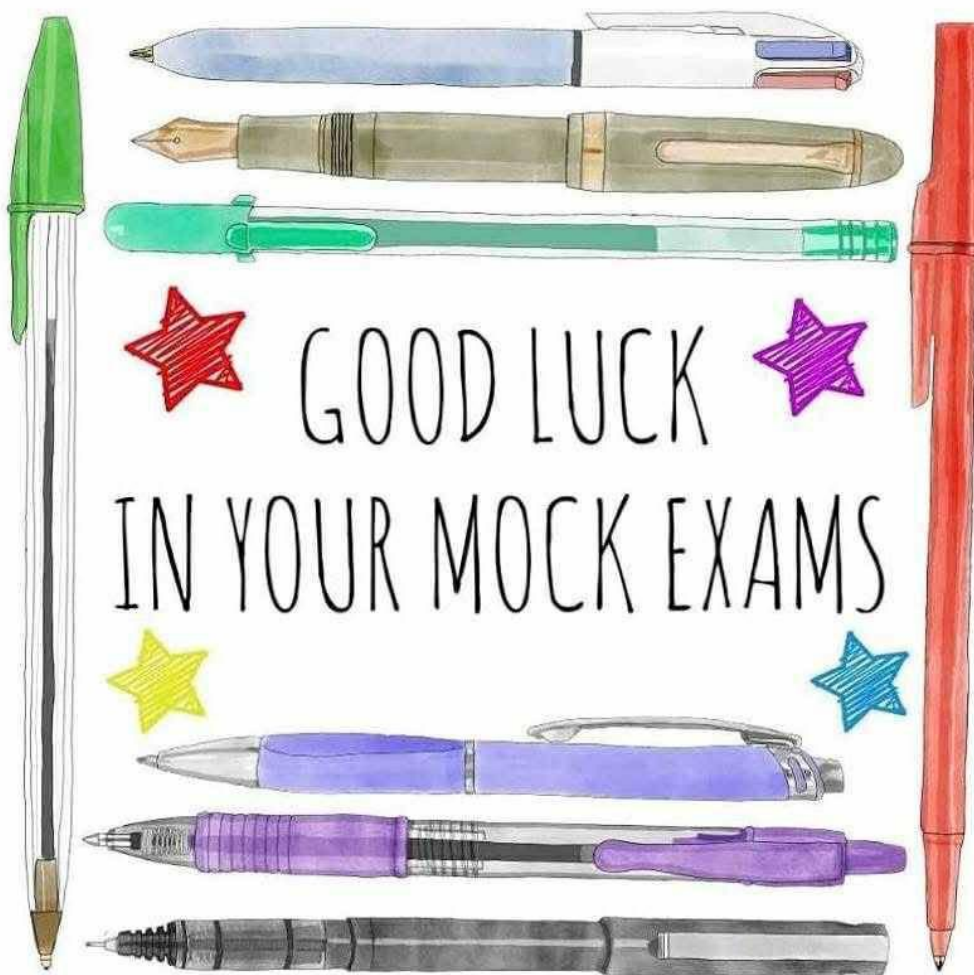


Good luck to all of our Year 11's who have just started their mock exams.

Remember to bring the correct equipment every day.

More importantly, consistent attendance and focused effort over the coming weeks are absolutely essential for exam success.

Good luck Year 11, you've got this — go show everyone what you can do!



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Chess Club



Lunchtime Chess Club is back!

Come join us every Wednesday lunchtime in Room 1.

All year groups welcome

Bring your packed lunch – you can eat while you play.

Runs during Terms 2 and 3 only.

Come along, make some new friends, and challenge your mind.



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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.

The MNSP Librarians are excited to announce the shortlist for the 2026 School Library Book Awards.

This year's shortlist includes a zombie story with an environmental twist, a murder mystery, a historical romance inspired by Robin Hood's legacy, a YA gothic novel inspired by Mary Shelley and a time travelling ghost story.

Fourteen students will be reading each of the six books before we vote on our favourite. Then we'll see how that ranks with the rest of the schools involved, and crown a winner in April, at a ceremony in the Merlin Theatre, Frome. We'll keep you posted on our progress as we read!



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Breakfast Club



Thank you to our brilliant PTA who have donated some lovely colourful cutlery and crockery to our breakfast club; they really brighten these darker mornings!

We are always looking for donations of food items for our breakfast club, which runs every morning , is free of charge, and open to anyone.

The following items are always appreciated:

- ❖ Jams / spreads
- ❖ Cereals
- ❖ Breakfast bars and biscuits
- ❖ Bread
- ❖ Long life juices





Careers Spotlight

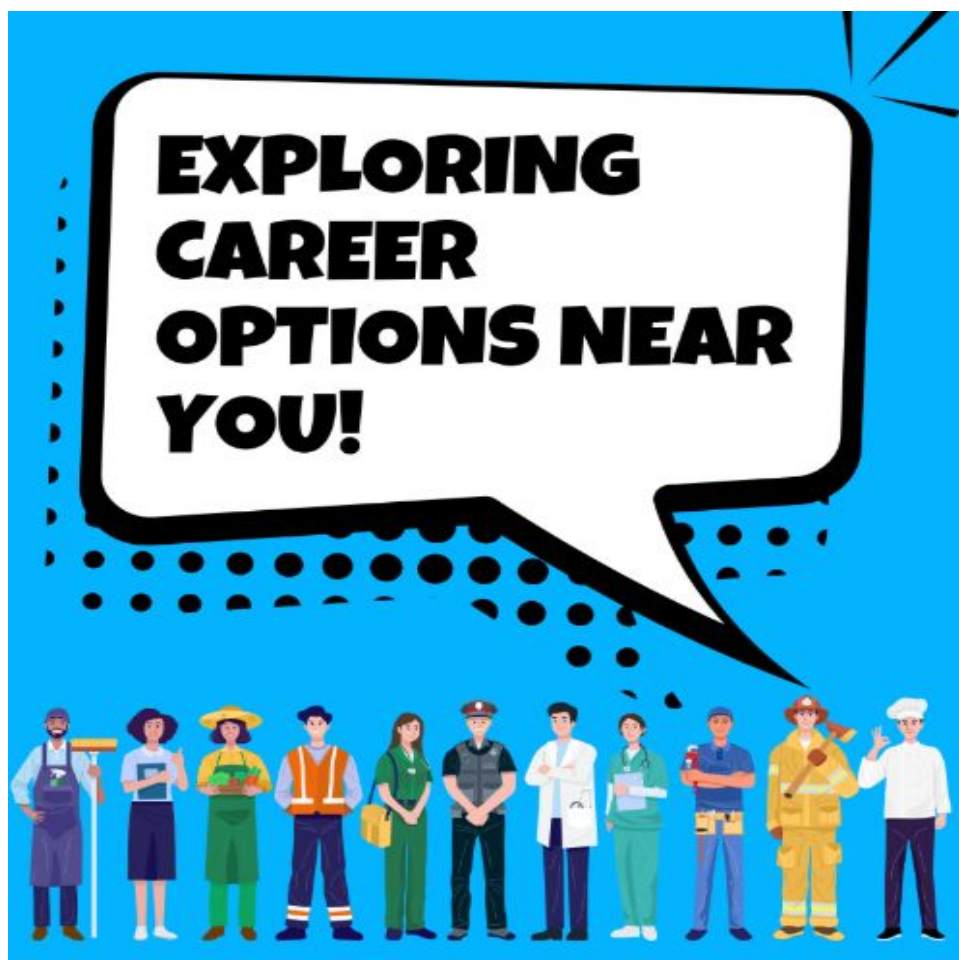


Explore Your Future! A brand-new **Careers & Labour Market Information Flipbook** is now live.

Discover some of our **key local sectors and employers**, from healthcare to construction, digital to creative industries.

A great way for our young people to start exploring what's out there locally and get inspired about their **future career pathways**.

Click here to flick through the interactive **Flipbook**
[Interactive PDF](#)



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PTA Carnival Parking



**Saturday 15th
November 2025**

GLASTONBURY CARNIVAL PARKING

**AT ST DUNSTAN'S SCHOOL
WELLS RD, GLASTONBURY BA6
9BY**

///fries.reflected.evidently

£5

**OPEN FROM 3PM
GATES CLOSE 11PM**

*Raising funds
for the PTA*

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LOST PROPERTY



We have lots of lost property from the school that is now being kept in the uniform hub.

Please check if any of this is yours and collect it!

If left uncollected, it will be donated.



New Governors Wanted!



MN Midsomer Norton
SP Schools Partnership

Become a School Governor



Are you passionate about education? Do you want to help shape the future of young minds?

Becoming a school governor is an incredible opportunity to use your skills, time, and passion to ensure students receive the best education and support. Whether you're a parent, professional, or community member, your voice can make a real impact in the direction and success of our schools.

Make a Lasting Impact in Five Key Ways:

- Attend termly Governing Body meetings, reviewing data and ensuring the best outcomes for students.
- Get tailored, ongoing training to build your skills and understand your role (induction, safeguarding, and more).
- Act as a link governor, focusing on an area of your interest or expertise, and reporting on school progress.
- Represent the school positively in the community – become a proud ambassador!
- Take part in important panels (interviews, exclusions, and more), shaping the school's future.

Who Can Be a School Governor?

No prior experience is needed! All that's required is a commitment to the role and a willingness to learn. We need governors from all walks of life:

- Parent Governors: Provide insights from the parent community.
- Community Governors: Bring your skills and experience, even without a direct connection to the school.
- Foundation Governors: Preserve the school's religious character.
- Staff Governors: Offer the unique perspective of school staff.

What Do You Get Out of It?

Being a school governor is incredibly rewarding! You'll develop valuable skills, make a positive impact in your community, and help prepare students for success in further education and beyond. It's a role that's challenging but never dull, giving you the chance to contribute to something truly meaningful.



For more information, please contact

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