

# St Dunstan's School

GLASTONBURY



## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Around the world, the British are renowned for their obsession with the weather - after this week, it seems it is a justifiable obsession! Thank you for your patience and understanding while we dealt with all that Mother Nature had to throw at us. Thank you to staff who braved the biblical downpours and floods to make it into school. Here's hoping next week is a little less exciting.

In school, we have had another busy week - the anticipation of the Christmas holidays is building, helped by the fact our Christmas tree is now up and has been decorated by students. Year 11 had their day at Strode in spite of the weather and I was delighted to hear how well they represented the school; they threw themselves into all the activities on offer and behaved impeccably. Year 10 students were treated to a theatre trip on Monday to see A Christmas Carol - one of their set texts for GCSE - again, students were wonderful ambassadors for the school; they tell me the play was very good and helped bring the novel to life. On Thursday, the school was lit up by a huge range of festive colours as students and staff sported their Christmas jumpers in aid of Save the Children.

The PTA are totting up how much they have raised from recent events and will give a full report in next week's newsletter. In a sneak preview, they have told me that the fashion show has raised £500! Thank you to the PTA for all their efforts; it is much appreciated.

We have one more full week of school including celebration assembly - do remember we break up on **Tuesday 19th December** at normal time. Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Bevan

08.12.23

NEXT WEEK  
ASSEMBLY  
FOCUS  
Christmas and  
other festivals

Coming soon...  
13th Dec  
Christmas Lunch  
in canteen.  
Christmas  
Showcase at  
5pm  
14th Dec - Y8  
Parents' Eve  
19th Dec - End  
of Term  
4th Jan - all  
students back to  
school

[Click here for  
Extra-Curricular  
Activities](#)

[Click here for term  
dates](#)



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## Strode College Taster Day

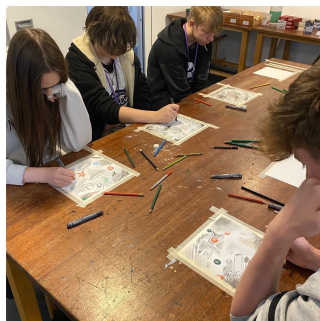
We were brimming with pride yesterday as our Year 11s enjoyed their taster day at Strode College.

Although some were anxious this morning, those nerves soon became smiles as they tried a whole range of different courses available. From vocational courses in Hospitality Travel and Tourism and Childcare; T levels in Healthcare in the swish new hospital wing; A levels in Criminology, Psychology and Sociology, History, Mathematics and many, many other subjects.

There was something for everyone and we know that the spark of excitement has now been lit and we have some very motivated, enthusiastic students eagerly planning the next chapter in their lives.

TRACK values exhibited in abundance today.

Well done Year 11!



## Milkshake with the Head - Year 11

Mrs Bevan and Mrs Easterbrook were pleased to reward the following students with a Milkshake and treat at breaktime today. They have been embodying our TRACK values and were nominated by teachers for this reward. Each week a different Year Group will get nominated. ... Charlie B, Lilly C, Ezra D, Yuliya H, Eiren M, Emma M, Isla P, Nancy P Well done to all!



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## Christmas Jumper Day

Yesterday our classrooms were filled with the extraordinary colour combinations that only a Christmas jumper can bring! Glitter, sparkles, reindeers, puddings and all manner of Santa's adorned these garments. It allowed our students and staff to spread a little kindness in aid of Save the Children, who campaign for children in over a 100 countries around the world.



## A Christmas Carol - Theatre Visit

On Monday, year 10 Drama and English students visited the Brewhouse Theatre in Taunton, to see A Christmas Carol. It was presented in a very modern way, in the mystery play style and we enjoyed the various set changes and costume designs. As always, our students were exemplary in their behaviour and the trip was a great opportunity to extend our study of the text, from outside of the classroom.



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## Year 10 Sports Studies Kayaking Trip

We are delighted to share the success of our Year 10 Sports Studies students who participated in a kayaking trip last week as part of their outdoor and adventurous activities unit. Despite the chilly weather, the students exhibited remarkable resilience by enthusiastically taking on the challenge.

We were particularly impressed with the students' excellent teamwork, attentive listening skills, and their responsible handling of the equipment throughout the trip. We are pleased that all students successfully passed this segment of their coursework unit.

A huge well done for their outstanding efforts and achievements! We appreciate their positive attitude and commend them for their commitment to the activity.



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## Match Report - Year 7 Rugby VS Wells Blue

On Wednesday 6th December, our Year 7 team took to the field to face Wells Blue School in their final rugby match of the season. Despite some tough recent fixtures, squad morale remained high and we didn't have to wait long to find something worth celebrating as, after just 2 minutes Fletcher A cut through the opposition's defensive line to streak away for the opening score. Wells Blue fought back and after a couple of moments of individual brilliance they took a 3 tries to 1 lead. However, some heroic try-line defence from Elliot H and Zac S prevented further scores as we clawed our way back in contention when Fletcher A scored another 2 solo efforts to draw us level again. It was in the second half that Cole C really began to impose himself on the game as his combination of size, speed and strength proved impossible to stop as he scored a brace of tries from mazy runs that started inside our own half. Unfortunately, it wasn't meant to be as Wells Blue scored another 2 tries at the death to win the match 7 - 5. Despite the result, the team should be very proud of how much they have improved since September when some of them picked up a rugby ball for the first time. Always a pleasure to take this side to fixtures, plenty of football in store after the Christmas break!



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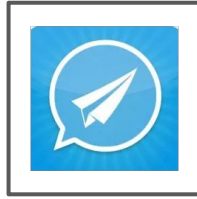
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## Tellmi App - update

Following on from last week and an issue raised about the use of language within some posts on the app, please see below for an additional email from Tellmi about this.



Dear parents and carers,

Tellmi is a multi-award winning, age-banded, peer support app that the NHS deems safe for people as young as 11. The app has been independently evaluated by the Evidence Based Practice Unit at University College London and is evidenced to improve mental health in young people.

If you missed last week's edition, see [Here](#) for a short video to explain how it works. Tellmi can be downloaded from Google Play & Apple App Store.

### Additional Email from Tellmi regarding use of language

*We do allow some swearing within the app as we are aware that it is a way of expressing emotions for people and particularly younger people who may not possess the vocabulary to articulate their emotions in that moment. However, we will never allow any swearing directed at others and this would always be picked up by the moderators before it can go live, and we will also limit any excessive swearing.*

*It is also worth noting that the individual has control of what they see in the app with the sensitivity slider (choosing to see mild, moderate or every post) and they can also filter out any topics that they do not want to see any posts about (e.g. eating disorders, relationships, depression etc).*

To clarify the position of the school on Tellmi, we are not *recommending* anyone use the app, only promoting it as something approved by Somerset county council and the NHS that may be beneficial for the students if they wanted it. If students do not feel this is beneficial to them they should not use it.



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## Year 8 Parents' Evening

We can't wait to meet the parents of our Year 8 students at our parents evening event.

The event is on Thursday 14th December: 16.00 - 19.00

Please make your booking on our Talaxy Portal software.

Please contact the office if you need help accessing talaxy:  
[secretary@stdunstanschool.com](mailto:secretary@stdunstanschool.com).

See you on the 14th.

## Christmas Showcase - New Date

Our Christmas Showcase evening is coming up on Monday 18th December at 5pm-7pm!

If you would like to come along to see our wonderful students act, sing and perform then tickets are available next week from Mrs Hopton in music..

Tickets are priced at £2 for students and £3 for adults, raising money for our school production later in the year.



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## **REMINDER National Poetry Competition - Nature**

Mrs Gregory is looking for entries for a national poetry competition about Nature. The theme of the competition is 'Nature Unbound' and can focus on any aspect of Nature. The word 'unbound' means unrestrained or not tied down so it is about Nature being free and unfettered. Poems must be a maximum of 30 lines and the prize money is £50! There will be a prize for the tutor group with the most entries!

## **Christmas Trees**

Our wonderful PTA continue with their tireless efforts to raise money for the school.

They have joined forces with Wookey Hub Christmas Trees to add a further fundraising opportunity.

The address is:

Wookey Hub, High Street, Wookey, BA5 1JZ

For further details, please email:

[stdunstanscommunitypta@gmail.com](mailto:stdunstanscommunitypta@gmail.com)

Thank you to the PTA for all your hard work.

# Wookey Hub

## Christmas Trees

Returning for our 8th year

On Sale from Friday  
the 24th of November

Once again raising money for our  
Local Schools with Every Sale



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## **Be Kind Awards - Opportunity to nominate**

The Be Kind awards is a set of awards to celebrate kindness amongst schools and young people.

There are 7 award categories but categories 2, 4, 6 and 7 are relevant to us as a school

### **Secondary Star School**

This can cover the whole school or a specific year group. Nominations must detail how kindness has been promoted and if possible the impact it has had on the pupils, the outside community and/or the staff

### **John Caudwell Community Kindness**

This is for Individual pupils or groups of students in all year groups. The act of kindness must have been shown to the community, outside of school. Nominations must be able to demonstrate how their kindness has impacted the community

### **Star Pupil**

This is for individual pupils from all year groups. The act of kindness must have been shown within a school environment. Nominations must be able to demonstrate how their kindness has impacted others

### **Star Teacher**

This is to nominate a teacher that has gone above and beyond to demonstrate kindness. The act of kindness must have been carried out at school or for pupils outside of school. Nominations must be able to demonstrate how their kindness has impacted others

Nominations will be open from Monday 3rd July 2023 until Friday 12th April 2024.

The link to the Be Kind Awards website is [here](#) which has more information and how you can submit nominations.



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## Students logging on to their Talaxy accounts from home

If any of you are struggling to access your child's Talaxy account at home, please find some instructions below. There are two routes to use:

### Route 1 - *useful for all their school work*

- Students must make sure when they log onto the computer, they are signed in on their **school email account**.
- They should then go to the following **link**

<https://sites.google.com/stdunstansschool.com/stdunstansstudentgateway/home>

- Once there, press the **Talaxy link button**.
- Then click '**Log In**' located at the top right
- Then click '**Google**' icon at the bottom right where it asks for login details.
- *You do not have to sign in here if you are logged on with school email already, just click the google button and it will take you straight through*

### Route 2 - *Talaxy only*

- Students should go to the following **link** below.

<https://stdunstans.talaxy.app>

- Click '**Log In**' located at the top right.
- The student will need to use their **school email account** to log on if they are not logged on to the computer already on their school account.



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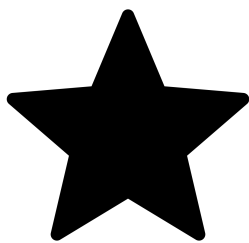


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# ATTENDANCE MATTERS



**100%**  
Attendance

**95%+**  
Attendance

**92-93%**  
Attendance

Below  
**90%**  
Attendance

**96%**  
Attendance

Absences  
**add up**

Be in to win - 100% attendance will be rewarded with TRACK Stars and chance to win Amazon vouchers

82% of students achieve 5 GCSEs grade 5+

77% of students achieve 5 GCSEs grade 5+

53% of students achieve 5 GCSEs grade 5+

43% of students achieve 5 GCSEs grade 5+

This is the target equalling at most 8 days off per year

Missing 2 days per month means you miss 10% of school

