

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Dear Families and Parents

As we come to the end of week three, please read our newsletter to keep you abreast of key updates and news.

Important Updates

Year 11 Exams

Good luck to our students who will begin their GCSE exams next week. I would like to take this opportunity to thank families for your support and congratulate our students for their hard work and efforts so far. Taking your GCSEs can be a stressful time and requires a lot of dedication and commitment. We have already spoken to the students about making 'themselves proud', the school and staff are already very proud of them, now is the time for them to show just how good they can be and believe in themselves and their abilities!

To support everyone in this period, we will be continuing to update the website. This week we have uploaded important resources for English and Mathematics. We have also published our Exit timetable. This timetable sets out a blend of normal classroom lessons alongside time for revision of specific subjects before their exams.



09.05.25

NEXT WEEK
ASSEMBLY
FOCUS:

Mental Health
Awareness

Key Dates

GCSE exams
have now
begun. Good
luck Year 11.

Last day of
term 23rd May

Half term
week begins
Monday 26th
May

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

[Click here for
term dates](#)



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You will also receive a letter shortly for May Half term revision sessions that will be taking place Tuesday to Friday. We encourage all students to make the most of these opportunities.

Arbor Update

The school has now officially moved over to Arbor. Thankyou to everyone who has set themselves up on the Arbor App and Parent Portal. All primary guardians have been sent an email, detailing how to log in and set up the Portal and App. If you haven't received it, we advise you to check your emails carefully, including the Junk mail box. For any other questions and queries regarding Arbor or the Parent Platform, please do not hesitate to contact main reception via secretary@stdunstans.mnsp.org.uk

Important Dates

12 May- GCSE Final Examinations

May Half term- we will be running revision sessions to support students ahead of the exams after the break. More information to follow

Items to celebrate

On Thursday, the school joined the nation in its commemoration of VE day by observing a 2 minute silence. All students and staff gathered on the courts, coming together as a community for the observance. This was observed impeccably by all students. It was a very poignant moment and fitting way to honour the sacrifice and service of the men and women from the Glastonbury community who were involved in this conflict.



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We've done it! This week I am incredibly proud to announce the school have now smashed the 200,000 points total for 'On Track' points since September. St Dunstan's students have now collectively been awarded 203,691 'On Track' points, nearly five times the total of the previous academic year. Well done to you all, for your hard work and dedication. We will be speaking to students and staff over the next week to discuss how we intend to mark and celebrate this landmark and update you accordingly.

Have a good weekend.

Best wishes

P Balkwill

Congratulations to the fantastic students of St Dunstan's School



We've reached 200,000 On Track Points!



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Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you to all parents for your support to ensure that your child attends school as regularly as possible.

We know that sometimes our pupils cannot come to school because they are really unwell - and that's the right thing to do for them and other students. Medical advice is clear however that children with mild illness will often be well enough to attend - for example if they have a cough, or cold, without a temperature. The NHS guidance [is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/health/a-z/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/) is designed to support parents in their decision making about mild illness.

We also know that pupils fall behind their friends and classmates when they miss school. At St Dunstan's School we want the amount of missed education to be reduced as much as possible. We believe that our community is stronger together, with all of our pupils in school, on time, every day. We are building life skills, life-long friendships and preparing your child for future success.

The target for every student at the school is to achieve 96% attendance or above. There is often a misconception that if a child has 90-94% this is acceptable. However, attendance at this level can still have significant implications. A child on 90-94% attendance would have missed approximately 8 days of school so far this year. This equates to approximately 16 absent registration marks and 40 lessons missed. If this level of attendance continues at a similar percentage for the rest of the year, a student could be at risk of missing 12 school days, which equates to 60 hours of lost learning.

Good attendance has lots of benefits for your child.

- **Social Development:** Consistent attendance allows children to form and maintain friendships, enhancing their social skills and sense of belonging.
- **Routine and Structure:** Attending school regularly helps children develop a sense of routine and structure, which is beneficial for their overall development.
- **Increased Opportunities:** Students who attend school regularly are more likely to participate in extracurricular activities and special events, enriching their school experience.
- **Better Mental Health:** Being part of the school community can boost children's confidence and self-esteem



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We have planned our rewards and recognition for attendance in order to recognise a wide range of student successes and achievements as well as take into account occasions when absence is unavoidable. Our aim is to encourage all students to secure high attendance across the year and in doing so, maximise their chances of success in school. This will include the following-

Improved attendance- students with improved attendance across a term will receive a letter from our Attendance Champion and 10 'On Track' points. The most improved students will also be recognised in our celebration assemblies

Termly attendance target- all students who have met or exceeded our termly attendance target (96%) and 'On Track' points thresholds, will be invited to our end of term celebration events

Exceptional attendance across the year- all students who are 98% or above at the end of each term, will receive a letter from the Headteacher, 50 'On Track Points' and recognised in our celebration assemblies

Monthly 100% attendance - if a student achieves 100% in a calendar month, they will receive a reward card and they will be entered into a prize draw to win Amazon vouchers. Students in the 100 club will also be celebrated on our celebrations board and awarded 50 'On Track Points'

If you have any further questions or queries, please do not hesitate to make contact via main reception. Thank you to all parents/carers for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Ms K Haden

Deputy Headteacher



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YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD BY:

- ensuring your child understands the importance of excellent attendance and punctuality.
- asking about school work and encourage them to get involved in school activities.
- discussing any problems they may have and inform their Form Tutor to pass on concerns.
- not allowing them take time off school for minor ailments – particularly those which would not prevent you from going to work.
- arranging appointments after school hours, at weekends or during the holidays, to prevent disruption to your child's education and to the school.
- being open and willing to work with us to improve your child's attendance.



If you are concerned about your child's school attendance, it's best to contact their school first. Our dedicated Attendance Team are on hand to support pupils and families.

For more information about school attendance visit our website: www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com/attendance

We're here to help if you need it.



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New Arbor App (replacing Talaxy)



We have now switched to Arbor and our new app is live! Please check your emails carefully for details on how to log in and set yourself up.

Please contact the school office if you require any assistance.



We're using Arbor's free Parent Portal and Parent App

We've chosen Arbor to help us manage our school.

Arbor is a simple, smart and cloud-based MIS (Management Information System), which helps us work faster, smarter and more collaboratively as a school. The Parent App and Parent Portal mean we can keep you informed about your child's life at school in a much more accessible way. Log into Arbor to see and update your child's information, get live updates and make payments or bookings on the go!

The Parent Portal works on Google Chrome (computer or laptop) and you can download the Parent App from the App Store or Google Play Store on your phone (Android 5.0; iOS 10.0 and upwards).

How to get started

1. Wait for your welcome email from us telling you Arbor is ready - you won't be able to log in before
2. Click the link in your welcome email to set up your password
3. Go to the App or Google Play Store on your phone and search 'Arbor'
4. Click 'Install' on Android or 'Get' on iPhone then open the App
5. Enter your email, select the school, then enter your password
6. Accept the Terms & Conditions and enter your child's birthday

The Sunnyville School of Magic
W10 5BN, London, GBR

Enter your password

Log in

Forgotten password?

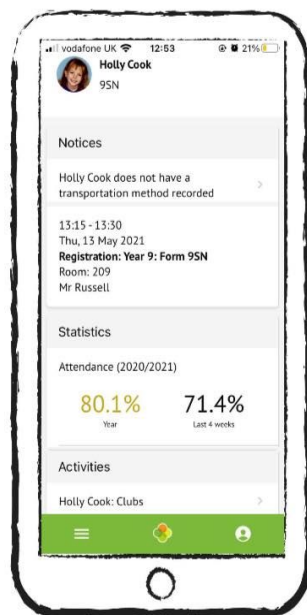
Need help using Arbor?

Contact the school office if you have questions about Arbor, the App or Parent Portal. Tell us the type and model of your phone, e.g. an iPhone SE, and include screenshots or screen recordings.

To safeguard student data in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Arbor only works directly with schools.

Some tips to try:

1. Ensure your username is the email address you use for Arbor. Ask us to **check the email address** linked to your account.
2. **Reset your password** from the login page, or ask us to do this.
3. If the login email was sent to you more than 96 hours ago, the **password link will have expired**. Ask us to send it again.
4. Ask the school office to check that your email address has not been used twice - e.g. on another guardian or child's profile.
5. **Enter the birthday** of one of your children to log in.
6. Only relatives who are **Primary Guardians** of a child can access the Arbor App. Ask us to check you can access Arbor.



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GCSE Exams

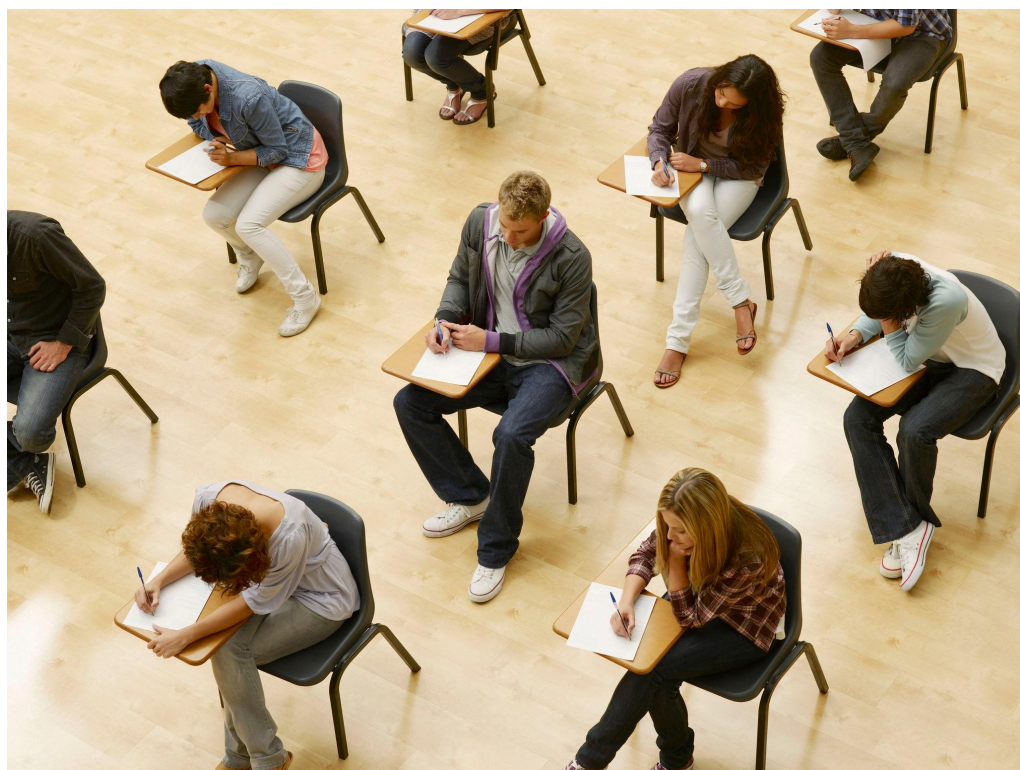


As we approach the GCSE exams window, we want to make sure that our students and families have as much information as possible for the exams and how to manage this period of time.

We will be updating our website frequently with key information.

This week we have uploaded useful links for English and Mathematics revision. There is also information about Seneca Premium, which is an online revision aid for our students packed with last minute revision tools.

[School Website Link](#)



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Good Luck Year 11!

As the 2025 Summer exam season kicks off, we wish all our Year 11 students the very best of luck as you begin your exams.

Your hard work, dedication and resilience has brought you this far—now it's your time to shine.

You've got this... You can do this, we're all behind you!



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Prom Dress Sale



St Dunstan's
**YEAR 11 PROM
DRESS SALE**

WE HAVE A RANGE OF NEW
PROM DRESSES AVAILABLE, IN
LOTS OF SIZES AND SHADES,
KINDLY DONATED BY THE PTA

PLEASE SEE MISS KENCH TO
ARRANGE A TIME TO HAVE A
BROWSE (IN ROOM 8)

PRICE: A DONATION! IT WILL
GO TOWARDS HELPING OTHER
YEAR 11 STUDENTS TOWARDS
THE COST OF THEIR PROM
TICKETS

TIME TO SHOP!



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On Track Rewards



Well done to our fantastic students who have received all three On Track Awards this year!

Students are awarded different awards for reaching key point thresholds.

Bronze= 200 Points

Silver= 400 Points

Gold= 600 Points

Congratulations to our amazing students on your success and keep up the good work!



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Young Carers Trip



Last week we took a group of our Young carers to Crealy. We had the most fantastic day in the sunshine.

We would like to say a massive thank you to 'Young Carers in Schools', for funding this trip and making it possible to take our well deserved Young carers out for a day of fun.

It was an absolute pleasure to treat our young carers and for them to get some acknowledgement for their daily pressures and challenges for caring for family members and friends.



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Pen Pals Trip



This week our pen pals group visited the residents of Glastonbury Care Home for the second time. It was lovely to return to see our pen pals, amongst lots of other residents and spend some time with them.

As May is National Walking Month, we decided to get active with some fun activities including playing catch and bowls before having a good chat. We spoke to many residents about their experiences of VE day as a few of them were children at the time. It was really enlightening and great to share stories about such an important time in history.

We had a delightful time with lots of laughs and some healthy competition. We're already looking forward to our visit next month (we will be having a bit of a sing along) and the residents told us they can't wait to see us again!



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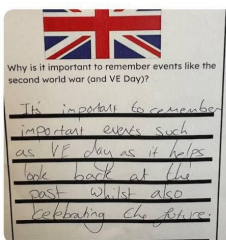
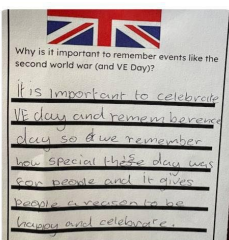
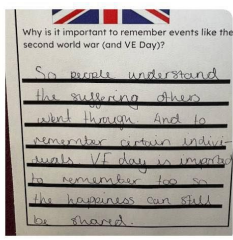
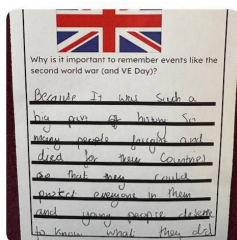


VE Day Celebrations

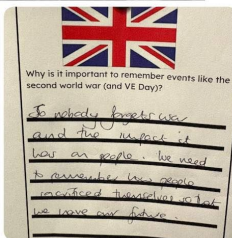
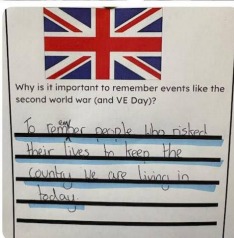
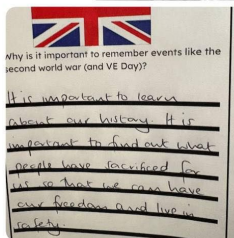
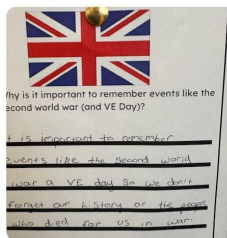


This week we joined the rest of the nation, remembering the sacrifices made in the Second World War, in the 2 minutes silence.

Year 8 have been learning about VE Day in their tutor groups and discussing why it is important to remember VE Day. They were shocked at some of the hardships civilians faced during the 5 and a half years of war, such as rationing. They were in awe of the resilience and commitment of those who fought for our freedom



VE Day 80th anniversary - 8th May 2025



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Careers events



We were lucky enough to have two companies in school this week for a careers fair. Thank you to Numatic and Royal Navy Submariners for taking the time to come and speak with our students.

The students were engaged in discussions from putting a Henry vacuum back together to learning about how to train as a Submariner.



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St Dunstan's Library presents...



THE BOOK NOOK



Our new system has been great at showing us, with the help of the planets, an easy way to keep track of our loans.

Last week:



This week:



That means we have had 17 of our overdue books returned, or renewed, 58 new loans (or renewals) in one week alone, and an increase with 15 students with books on loan who didn't have them last week.

We would love to decrease our overdue book amount, particularly coming up to half term, so please dig around (and check your emails) in case there are a few hidden away at home. Thank you.



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Careers Events



**REGISTER
ONLINE
TODAY!**



 **STRODE**
College

Join us at our
**OPEN
EVENING**
Thu 12 June
5.30-8pm

**Discover our courses for
School Leavers & Adults**

A Level • T Levels
Professional & Technical Courses
Apprenticeships
Supported Learning
Higher Education • Adult Courses

strode-college.ac.uk



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<u>O</u>rganised & Proactive	<p>Bringing the correct equipment, kit and uniform</p> <p>Meeting deadlines</p> <p>Working on tasks independently and completing homework to a high standard</p>
<u>N</u>eat & Tidy work	<p>Smart, well presented books demonstrating your best work</p>
<u>T</u>enacity	<p>Trying your hardest, rising to challenges, having a 'can do' attitude, working out solutions and taking ownership of your learning</p>
<u>R</u>eady, Respectful and Responsible	<p>Being a role model by consistently demonstrating our basic expectations</p>
<u>A</u>nswering, reading and listening like an expert	<p>Sophisticated full sentence answers using technical terms</p> <p>Following along, tracking the text and ready to read aloud in class.</p> <p>Reading widely and for pleasure</p> <p>Listening and considering the views of others</p> <p>Taking in turns to respond</p>
<u>C</u>ontributing to the class	<p>Playing an active role in every lesson</p> <p>Attention to the speaker, sat up straight, arms still, pens down</p> <p>Teacher focused</p>
<u>K</u>indness & Community minded	<p>Caring, polite, looking after one another and the site</p> <p>Speaking with kindness and respect</p> <p>Supporting staff and other students to create a positive learning environment for all</p>



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