



4 September 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians

We would like to welcome you all to the new academic year at St Dunstan's school. The start to the term has been incredibly positive and we have been impressed by the students' approach to their studies and conduct around the school site.

During the summer months, myself and staff have spent a significant amount of time reviewing our behaviour policy and processes to ensure that our approach and systems secure a positive learning environment for all students.

It is my firm belief that all students deserve to be taught in calm and quiet classrooms by teachers who are experts in their subjects. It is important that the school holds 'sky high expectations' for every student, ensuring that they maximise the time they spend with us, to be successful and ready to put their mark on the world.

Outlined below is a summary of the key updates that parents/carers should be aware of. Over the next few days, we will be going through these with students so that they are familiar with these too.

Talaxy

The ability to communicate effectively with parents/carers is an essential part of our approach. Through working in partnership with parents, we will ensure every student is successful. It is important that parents are kept up to date with information about their child's successes as well as when issues occur. Our online platform, Talaxy, has been set up to give parents/carers live and updated information on a daily basis on their child.

Moving forwards, all communication including after school detentions will be shared with parents via Talaxy. We expect all parents/carers to access Talaxy on a regular basis to ensure they are kept informed and updated about their child. Attached to this document are details to guide parents on how to access and set themselves up on this platform. If you have any issues or would like further support, please do not hesitate to get in contact and we will be more than happy to provide support.

Celebration and Rewards

Positive recognition and celebration of good behaviour sits at the centre of our approach. We are keen to ensure that all students have the opportunity to be successful and celebrated for making a positive contribution to our community. Teachers are expected to praise and celebrate students on a regular basis.



- Teachers will reward and recognise students with positive points through Talaxy for being 'On Track'. Students who are 'On Track' display behaviours that support their learning and make a positive contribution to the community. These will be linked to a range of rewards and celebrations.
- Senior Staff will be working with students and colleagues over the next few weeks to finalise rewards for students and we will update everyone once these are in place.
- Reward Cards will be given to students who demonstrate exemplary work and will be recognised and rewarded with a card worth 15 positive points. The card will be shared with their parents, tutor and the Headteacher.
- We intend to continue to use our half termly Celebration assemblies to acknowledge and celebrate students for their achievements.
- Students with outstanding Dinnie Dollars from last Academic year 2023-24 will have the opportunity to do this in the first weeks of term.

Our recent Ofsted in February, acknowledged and celebrated the rewards system, alongside student involvement in choosing these. It is important to note, that the updates outlined above, build on what is already in place and we are keen to ensure that students continue to guide and contribute to future rewards and celebrations.

Consequences

Students are expected to meet our basic expectations at all times. At St Dunstan's students are expected to be-

Ready- demonstrate their readiness to learn through their appearance, equipment and completion of homework

Respectful- act and speak in a kind and respectful manner, upholding our strong community values

Responsible- act in manner that supports their learning and that of others at all times

It is necessary to have a set of consequences in place for students who fail to meet our basic expectations. These are intended to remind individuals that our expectations must be respected and upheld by all. We have taken great care to ensure that consequences are reasonable, proportionate, support individuals and provide immediacy and certainty. The two key updates to our consequences are as follows-

Detentions-

- Detentions- students will be issued with a 15 detention at the end of the school day. We ask that parents contact the school in advance to inform us if their child cannot attend a detention so this can be rescheduled. Adjustments will be made on a case by case basis to support students with transport or other issues.
- Detentions will take place on a daily basis.
- Students who deliberately fail to attend set detentions, will be issued with a day in Isolation. Isolation is intended as a deterrence and to encourage students to attend detentions to avoid an escalated consequence.



- All detentions will be issued via Talaxy and students will be given suitable notice in advance. It is the student's responsibility to monitor Talaxy and organise themselves to attend. We ask all parents/carers to ensure that they have access to this App too.
- Escalated & Extended Detentions- these will be set by Key Stage coordinators and Senior Leaders in response to persistent or escalated behaviours. Contact will be made with parents to inform them about the issues and details of the detention.
- During detentions, students will be given an opportunity to reflect on the reasons for the consequences and what they intend to do differently in future. This will be facilitated by staff through either a written activity or individual conversations.

In order to support students and parents, we have taken the decision to start this from Monday 9 September. During the first week, teachers will speak to students about our expectations and remind students of the consequences, so that they are prepared and informed in advance of the following week.

Internal Isolation-

- Internal Isolation is intended for serious breaches of the school policy, persistent issues or failing to attend detentions.
- Students issued with an Internal Isolation will complete planned and prepared work supervised by a senior member of staff and will not be in general circulation.
- Internal Isolation will start at 9:10 following tutor time and finish at 3:30. Please note that an isolation includes a 15 minute detention at the end of the day.
- Students will be allowed breaks and lunches, including access to the dining hall. However, these will be at separate times from the rest of the school.
- If it is necessary to issue an isolation, you will receive a phone call followed by a letter in writing.
- Students will be expected to arrive at school on time, wearing the correct uniform and fully equipped.
- During the day, students will be given an opportunity to reflect on the reasons for this consequence and what they intend to do differently in future. This will be facilitated by staff through either a written activity or individual conversations.

We hope that this provides you with some clear guidance and information about some important and necessary updates to our Behaviour procedures and processes.

As the new Headteacher, I will be holding a series of family forums during September and October. Dates and times will be communicated in the next week. This will be an opportunity for families to hear my vision for St Dunstan's School and how we can work together to achieve this.



St Dunstan's School

GLASTONBURY

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Thankyou for your continued support of St Dunstan's School and we look forward to working with you over the next academic year, so that your child is successful and able to make the most of the opportunities we have available.

Yours faithfully

Mr P Balkwill
Headteacher

Ms Haden
Deputy Headteacher/SENDCo

