

19 December 2025

Dear Parents/Families,

As the autumn term concludes, I wanted to share some of the highlights from what has been a busy and successful start to the year.

I would like to start by congratulating all students on their hard work and engagement. Their positive efforts are clearly reflected in our recognition data. Students have amassed over 200,000 reward points since September—more than double the figure achieved by this time last year. This positivity has also been reflected in our new celebration events, where over 250 students across both key stages were invited for meeting the threshold of 150 points and 96% attendance.

This term, we also launched the Headteacher's Award intended to celebrate individuals who have been nominated for something exceptional and exemplifying our values within the school or community. My congratulations goes to Margot (Year 7), Frankie (Year 10) and Ena (Year 10) who received this award today.

Our Year 11 students sat their first mock exams in November. Congratulations to those who achieved great results through thorough preparation. For those who were disappointed, please remember you have 15 school weeks until your exams to refocus, seek support, and put things in place to be successful.

In November the Department of Education's provisional publication for 2025 outcomes confirms that St Dunstan's achieved some of its strongest results ever, positioning us as one of the highest achieving schools in Somerset as well as the Mendip area and above the national average in several key measures.

Consistent attendance remains crucial for every child's academic and social success, and we deeply appreciate your support in promoting this positive attendance culture. We actively celebrate students who achieve 100% attendance each month and those who show significant improvement. Even with the spread of the flu bug in November, we are pleased to report an overall improvement in school attendance this year.

My thanks go to our dedicated staff for organising a wealth of extra-curricular opportunities, which are vital for building cultural capital and future aspirations. These highlights include: the Bath Theatre trip, the Thorpe Park Rewards trip, various Sports fixtures and tournaments, a University visit, the Computational Thinking trip, the Youth Speaks competition, a Geography field trip, the Royal Albert Hall concert, The

*'Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership'*

Guardian visit, and the Duke of Edinburgh Silver and Bronze Award schemes, among many others.

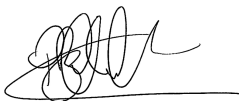
This year, we invested significantly in creating a more modern and inspiring learning environment. Major highlights include our modernised, fully equipped assembly hall and a redesigned main reception that provides a warm, professional welcome. Refurbishment has also taken place in our PE corridor and changing facilities. Beyond aesthetics, we enhanced campus safety with updated perimeter fencing and improved daily student life through a new canteen service counter and upgraded sports and recreational equipment.

Our wonderful PTA has worked tirelessly, raising much-needed funds. Thank you to the committee for their time and support, particularly for the success of our second Silent Disco.

Regarding staff updates, we send our best wishes to Ms Greuter from the SEND team who left in November. We warmly welcome Ms Linden, Miss C Smith, and Miss H Smith who have joined us over the past few months.

Thank you all for your continued commitment and support. I wish you a very Happy Christmas and all the best for 2026.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P Balkwill', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mr P Balkwill  
Headteacher