



15<sup>th</sup> July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We wanted to write you an extended letter to draw to a close the academic year and ensure you are fully aware of key updates in advance of the new school year. You will receive a separate letter shortly, intended to celebrate and reflect upon a successful year at St Dunstan's school.

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## The First Day of Term

This year we will be slightly changing arrangements for the beginning of term to support key year groups, allowing student's time with tutors and receive key messages and information. We will have a staggered start over two days.

### **Day One- Monday 7th September 2026:**

**Year 7 students** will arrive at 8:40 entering through the main reception doors and into the assembly hall where they will be greeted by the Head of Key Stage and tutors.

**Year 11 students** will arrive at 8:40 entering through Lucas gate entrance before going to new tutor rooms for AM registration.

Students will begin the day with a mix of tutor time and introductory assemblies before starting regular lessons from period 4 onward. Some of the morning will also be dedicated to distributing phone pouches and familiarising students with the new routines.

### **Day Two- Tuesday 8th September:**

**Years 8, 9 and 10 return for 8:40**, entering via Lucas gate and going to tutor rooms. Year 7 and 11 will do the same. Lessons 1 to 3 will be dedicated to "Launch Pad" sessions: a mix of assemblies and tutor-led activities designed to remind students of key routines and prepare them for the year ahead. Regular timetabled lessons will begin from period 4 onward.

From Wednesday 9th September normal timetabled lessons will take place throughout the day.

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## Uniform expectations

Over the past two years we have seen significant improvements in students' all round presentation. Visitors frequently comment how smart our students look and how well they represent the school community. We want this to continue next year.



Attached to this letter is our [uniform and equipment guidance](#). We ask that all families read this carefully and contact the school if they require any support, guidance or clarification.

We would like all families to be aware of the following-

- **Nails**- students must not have acrylic or gel nail extensions, stick on nails or naturally long nails. Any student arriving in September with these nails will be asked to remove them or cut them before being able to attend lessons due to Health and Safety reasons.
- **Hair colouring**- unnatural hair colouring and coloured streaks or under dyes are not permitted.
- **Bags**- All students must bring a sensible school bag that would allow them to carry A4 exercise books, alongside a phone pouch and other essential equipment. For this reason **handbags and shoulder bags are not suitable** for school. We ask all families to make sure that their child is equipped with a suitable bag in advance of the new academic year.
- **Jewellery** - students are allowed to wear one plain band or bracelet only. Necklaces are not allowed. The school also advises that valuable items of jewellery are not worn in school.
- **Piercings** - Students can wear one plain simple stud or small hoop earring which touches the bottom of the earlobe (no larger than 6mm in diameter). **We advise that students wishing to have piercings, have these done at the start of the summer break** to allow enough time for them to heal before September in order that they can be removed during the school day. Plasters will not be allowed to conceal piercings. All facial piercings, including tongue piercings are not to have jewellery in them during the school day.

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## PE Kit

We have deliberately designed a sensible policy that provides a degree of flexibility whilst ensuring students are smart and well presented. Over the past few weeks it has become apparent that students and families require some greater clarity regarding certain aspects of PE kit to ensure they purchase the correct items moving forward.

**PE Shorts** - these must be plain black. Length should be to the knee and no higher than the mid-thigh. Small lycra 'pant' style shorts, or similar style items without seams are not part of our PE Kit. Students will not be allowed to wear these items moving forwards.

**PE Polo Shirt** - all students should wear the St Dunstan's Logo polo t-shirt. Plain black t-shirts or sports branded t-shirts will not be allowed moving forwards.

**Hoodies** - should your child wish to wear a hoodie for PE, there are branded St Dunstan's hoodies available to purchase. These are not compulsory items of kit. We kindly ask that



all other plain and/or branded hoodies are kept at home and not to be worn either in lessons or for PE.

**Leggings/Tracksuit bottoms** - if students wish to wear these items, they should be plain and black. We ask that insignia and branding are minimal. Items should not have stripes, lines, mesh panels, patterns or different colours.

It is the school's expectation that all students arrive to PE lessons with a full kit. Whilst the school has some items to loan, it cannot sustain the high levels of requests for items of kit that have existed at points this year. Moving forwards, students who persistently arrive without a kit or the correct kit will be removed from the lesson to be supervised in an alternative space. There will also be a consequence in line with our behaviour policy. We hope that neither action will be necessary.

We ask that you ensure that your child is fully kitted and has a suitable bag, to store kit and keep it safe throughout the year.

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## Equipped to Learn

We expect students to arrive ready to learn for each day, including with the correct equipment for each lesson, which will be checked during tutor time every morning.

To support your child, please ensure that they bring a labelled backpack and pencil case to school every day containing the following items:

- 2 black pens
- 1 purple pen
- 1 pencil
- 1 ruler
- 1 mini whiteboard
- 1 mini whiteboard pen
- 1 scientific calculator (our maths team can advise specific brands & models)

Please be aware that all of these items are available from all major supermarkets and online at a range of prices to suit all budgets.

Students are welcome to bring other stationery in addition to this and we can recommend highlighters, an eraser, and a safe pencil sharpener as basic additional extras.

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## Phone Pouches and Electronic Devices

On the first few days back, students will be given their pouches. From this moment onwards, phone pouches will become essential equipment. Students will be expected to bring these in each day and store phones, smart watches and other electronic devices throughout the day.



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## Schedule for the Day

To support the smooth day to day running of the school alongside supporting each year group, we made some small alterations to the order of break times.

|               |                                                                     |                              |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 8.30 - 8:40   | Students arrive onsite. Students arriving after this time are late. |                              |
| 8:45 - 8:55   | AM Registration                                                     |                              |
| 8:55 - 9:55   | Period 1                                                            |                              |
| 9:55 - 10:55  | Period 2                                                            |                              |
| 10:55 - 11:15 | Break 1- Years 7 & 9                                                | Tutor Time- Years 8, 10 & 11 |
| 11:15 - 11:35 | Tutor Time- Years 7 & 9                                             | Break 2- Years 8, 10 & 11    |
| 11:35 - 12:35 | Period 3                                                            |                              |
| 12:35 - 12:45 | KS4- Lunch Counter Years 10-11                                      |                              |
| 12:45 Onwards | KS3- Lunch Counter Years 7-9                                        |                              |
| 13:10 - 13:15 | Changeover                                                          |                              |
| 13:15 - 14:15 | Period 4                                                            |                              |
| 14:15 - 15:15 | Period 5                                                            |                              |

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## Timetables and Curriculum updates

Students will receive their timetables on the very first day back at school. Please note that student timetables will be subject to adjustments, including group changes on occasions. Fine-tuning our group lists allows us to optimise class sizes, make the best use of our specialised subject resources, and ensure every student receives the highest quality of instruction from day one.

To ensure fairness and maintain balanced learning environments across all subjects, we are unfortunately unable to accommodate requests for group or class changes based on friendships. We appreciate your support and flexibility as we create the best possible setting for your child to thrive, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for a successful term ahead.

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## Punctuality

This year we have been pleased with the improvements to punctuality at the beginning of the school day and we really appreciate the support you have given, making sure that your children get to school on time. We know that on occasions this can be challenging.

In order to make sure that excellent punctuality continues next year and all students arrive at morning registration on time, please be advised of the following.

- The school gates will continue to be closed at 8:40am. Any students arriving after this time will be marked down as late.
- Students should enter the school via the Lucas Block gates.
- Students are expected to arrive at their tutor rooms for a prompt start at 8:45am.
- Students who arrive late at the start of the day or to their lessons will receive a consequence in line with our behaviour expectations and policy.

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## Attendance and Procedures

Attendance remains a key priority for St Dunstan's. Whilst we have seen significant improvements to individual and collective attendance percentages across the year, it is still not at the level it should be.

During the first two terms we will monitor days of absence very carefully. Days or instances of absence in the first two terms is often an indicator of overall attendance for the year. If a child has several different days or periods of absence in the first 2 terms, we will look to intervene quickly, working with students and their families to address absence patterns before they accumulate across the year.

For your reference, we have outlined the trigger points that will inform certain actions by the school. We ask that families are proactive and open to working with the school to ensure that every student makes the most of the opportunities available to them when in school. We would like to reassure you all that if we get in contact it is always with the intention to be supportive and work with families.

**1-2 Days absence-** you may receive a welfare call from our pastoral team. Students with historic absences will be prioritised to support continued improved attendance.

**2-3 instances of absence or 6 consecutive days-** families will receive an attendance letter and your child will be invited to an attendance clinic meeting with Ms Haden to provide support.

**4-5 Days/instances of absences** you will receive a second attendance letter and a meeting will be held with the Head of Key Stage to offer support and explore how to improve attendance.



**6 or more instances of absence** in the first term will be considered as persistent absence. This may result in referral to the EWO service for enhanced and further request for meetings.

Of course, we understand that absence on occasions is unavoidable and in these instances we request that you make contact with us via the absence line to report your child's absences. We also request that where it is possible to do so, medical and dental appointments are booked outside of school hours. If it is not possible, please try to set times so that your child can arrive at school in the morning and then return to school later in the day following appointments. A useful window of time is often between 10:00 - 12:30.

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## Personal Development

As part of our commitment to supporting pupils' personal development, our school delivers Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) in line with statutory guidance.

We would like to inform you that the sex education component of the RSE curriculum will be delivered for Y7 - Y10 in Term 5 (May 2027) and for Y11 in Term 4 (April 2027).

While Relationships Education is compulsory for all pupils, parents/carers have the right to request that their child is withdrawn from some or all of the sex education elements delivered as part of RSE in secondary school (excluding content covered in the science curriculum).

If you are considering withdrawing your child, we encourage you to contact the school to discuss the curriculum in more detail so that we can address any questions or concerns you may have. Requests for withdrawal should be made in writing to the Headteacher.

Please note that a child cannot be withdrawn from sex education in the three terms before they turn 16, after which they can choose to opt in if they wish.

If you would like further information about our RSE programme, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Please note an Overview of all taught modules on the PSHE Curriculum can be found on the school website.

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## Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns over the summer holidays, please email our Safeguarding team at [safeguarding@stdunstans.mnsp.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stdunstans.mnsp.org.uk), which will be monitored regularly throughout the holidays.

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## Calendar

The term dates are outlined below, including planned inset days. As usual, we will review the calendar on a regular basis and update events and key dates based on emerging needs and priorities. These changes may affect events that take place within the school term, it is very unlikely to impact on the start and end of term dates. For more details on our calendar and dates please use the designated page on the website along with weekly newsletters.

### Term 1

Monday 7th September 2026 - Wednesday 21st October 2026

### Term 2

Monday 2nd November 2026 - Friday 18th December 2026

### Term 3

Tuesday 5th January 2027 - Friday 12th February 2027

### Term 4

Monday 22nd February 2027 - Thursday 25th March 2027

### Term 5

Monday 12th April 2027 - Friday 28th May 2027

### Term 6

Monday 7th June 2027 - Friday 23rd July 2027

## Inset Days

**Inset day 1** - Thursday 3rd September 2026

**Inset day 2** - Friday 4th September 2026

**Inset day 3** - Thursday 22nd October 2026

**Inset day 4** - Friday 23rd October 2026

**Inset day 5** - Wednesday 25th November 2026

**Inset day 6** - Monday 4th January 2027

## KS4 Summer Work

Year 10 parents and families have now been contacted regarding the Summer Booster work, which has been designed to help students make a confident and positive start when they return in September.



# St Dunstan's School

## GLASTONBURY

**Headteacher: Mr P L Balkwill, BA Hons, NPQH**  
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For your convenience, full details and resources for the booster work can be accessed at any time on our website under the **"Information for Students & Parents/Carers"** section.

<https://www.stdunstansschool.com/information-for-students-and-parentscarers/year-10-summer-work-2026.htm>

Thank you all for your continued support and we look forward to seeing the students return after the summer break.

Yours sincerely

P Balkwill

K Haden

T Vickers-Armstrong

A Richards

N Watson

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