

Dear Families of St Dunstan's School

As we get ready for the last part of the school year, we wanted to share some important news to keep you all in the loop.

## Coming to School (Attendance)

We want all students to be at school more than 96% of the time. We know sometimes students get sick, but coming to school regularly helps them learn, make friends, and feel good. Most students are doing great with this, and we're proud of them for their continued efforts.

Unfortunately we continue to be worried about some students and year groups who aren't coming to school as much as they should. We've also noticed that fewer students come on Fridays, and at certain times of the year.

Some people think that coming 90-94% of the time is okay, but it's not! If you miss 90-94% of school, it means you've missed about **12 school days**. That's like missing 60 hours of learning – almost half a term of school. Missing that much school can make it harder to learn and might lead to feelings of social isolation.

Sometimes students really can't come to school because they're ill. But other times, this can be avoided. We ask students to try their best to come as often as possible. St Dunstan's staff will always help students and families so don't be afraid to ask for help. We might also call you sometimes to talk about attendance and offer support.

In the next term, we'll have special meetings with students who are missing more than 10% of school to see how we can help them to improve in the final weeks.

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## School Messages (Arbor)

Some of our emails might be going into your junk or spam folders. Our IT team is working with Arbor to fix this. Please check all your email folders carefully so you don't miss important messages.

You can also find all our messages on the **Parent Portal and App**. Our recommendation is for all families to use this platform as the main way to access school updates, rather than via email.

If you have questions about Arbor or the Parent Portal, just email the main office at **[secretary@stdunstans.mnsp.org.uk](mailto:secretary@stdunstans.mnsp.org.uk)**.

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## Getting in Touch with the School (Communications)

We've been making changes to how we talk to families and answer your questions quickly.

From now on, please send all your emails to **secretary@stdunstans.mnsp.org.uk**. This will make sure your message goes to the right person. When you email, please put a clear subject line like this:

- **Academic:** For questions about timetables, homework, tests, how well your child is doing, or what they're learning.
- **[Name of Subject]:** For questions about a specific subject (e.g., "Maths").
- **[Name of Tutor]:** For messages for your child's tutor.
- **Pastoral:** For questions about your child's feelings, friendships, or overall well-being.
- **Attendance:** For anything about coming to school or being on time.
- **SEND:** For questions about your child's special educational needs.

When we get your email, we'll send you a quick message to let you know we got it, then send it to the best person to help you.

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## News for Year 11 and Year 10

**Year 11:** Students in Year 11 can come to extra study sessions during the half-term break. These sessions are planned to help students to revise with the support of their teachers.

Half term can be tricky. It's good to rest, but it's also important to keep studying so you don't lose your study habits before exams. We suggest you make a good study plan that includes coming to school revision, studying at home, and also taking time to relax. Most students will have a long break after their exams to make up for studying hard in April and May.

**Please note:** The Statistics Session on Friday 30 May will now be in the morning, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

**Year 10:** Year 10's End of Year Exams start on **Monday 9 June**. Students have all been given the exam timetable. On Tuesday 3 June there will be a special assembly to teach students about how to act in exams and good ways to study. We recommend you use the half-term break to study the materials your teachers put on Google Classroom.

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## School Uniform and What to Bring

Students at St Dunstan's continue to look great in their uniforms every day. Thank you to parents who help make sure students are dressed correctly and have what they need for school.

When the weather gets hotter in the summer, we'll make some small changes to the uniform rules. Students will still need to wear their full uniform, including their blazer, when they arrive. But on hot afternoons, students will be allowed to take their blazer off. Remember, jumpers are optional, so it's a good idea for students to take those off first if they are hot.

If students are thinking about getting a new piercing over the break, please remember that St Dunstan's School does **not allow any piercings on your face**. New piercings usually take at least 4 weeks to heal. So, we advise students not to get new piercings over the break. When you come back to school, any facial piercings must be removed. You can't wear plasters or clear spacers over them.

If you need any help with uniform or equipment, please ask us. We will always help families if there are difficulties.

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## Glastonbury Festival

The school will be **closed** for students on **Friday 27 June**, because of the Glastonbury festival. We'll be open as usual on Monday, June 30th.

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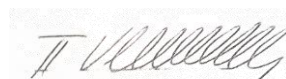
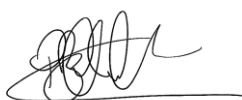
## Tell Us What You Think (Feedback)

We're always trying to make the school better, and we want to hear what you think. Please fill out this quick survey:

### [Parent/Family survey](#)

Thank you for all your support, and we look forward to seeing the students back after the half-term break.

Yours Sincerely,



P Balkwill, K Haden, T Armstrong-Vickers, A Richards, N Watson

