

13 February 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

In advance of the new term, we wanted to provide all families with some key updates. These are intended to support families and keep you all up to date with information relevant for next term at St Dunstan's School.

Updates to the Calendar

We would like to make all families aware of two additional INSET days, which will be taking place in July 2026. Thursday 16 and Friday 17 July 2026 will now be INSET days, with the school closed to students on these days.

For students involved in the residential from Wednesday 15 to Friday 17 July this will continue as planned. Our Year 10 work experience will take place from Monday 13 until Wednesday 15 July, however some placements may continue until Friday 17 July. For more information regarding work experience please liaise with Mrs Watson or Miss Kench.

Further to our letter in January, we would also like to remind families that the Year 7 Parents' Evening has moved to **Thursday 12 March 2026**.

Attendance

Our goal is for all students to achieve 96% attendance or higher. Thank you for your continued support; most of our students are already meeting or working toward this target.

In line with our Trust Policy, we will contact families if attendance falls below key thresholds:

- **Letter 1 (Initial Concern):** Sent after two or three absences to highlight the dip and offer support.
- **Letter 2 (Meeting Invitation):** An invitation to create a collective plan to improve your child's attendance.
- **Broken Weeks:** Notification regarding weeks where a student misses any amount of time. Addressing these early prevents patterns that could impact engagement and success.

We aim to work collaboratively with families to ensure every student maintains strong attendance.

Year 11

Year 11 mock examinations will begin on Wednesday 25 February. To support their revision, each core subject leader has delivered an assembly focused on effective, subject-specific study strategies. In addition, Mr Armstrong and Mrs Kench have led assemblies offering guidance on how students can best prepare.

Our *Power Hour* revision programme has launched successfully, with students engaging positively in revision sessions held every Monday and Wednesday. Following the half-term break, this will be extended to include Thursdays.

We kindly ask parents and carers to support students by helping them maintain a structured revision timetable during the February half-term and by ensuring they have all the necessary equipment ready for the first day back.

Year 9 Key Stage 4 Choices Update

It was extremely encouraging to see such a high turnout of students and parents at our Choices Evening. Students are approaching this important decision with maturity, and ensuring they make well-informed choices is a vital part of the process.

Mr Armstrong will begin building initial timetable models after the February half-term, so it is essential that students complete the Google Form in advance. The deadline for form completion is **13 February 2026**.

Uniform & Equipment

Students at St Dunstan's are well presented, wearing their uniform proudly everyday. Thank you again to parents who have supported us in making sure that our students are correctly dressed and well equipped for school.

In advance of the half term break, we wanted to remind all families about some key uniform expectations-

- Piercings - St Dunstan's does not allow any facial piercings. Fresh piercings generally take a minimum of 4 weeks to heal. For this reason we advise

against having new piercings over half term. Students will be expected to return to school with facial piercings removed and plasters or spacers will not be permitted.

- Shoes - As the school year progresses it is inevitable that shoes will become tired or in need of repair. Please ensure that your child returns in the correct footwear and arrangements are made for repairs over the break.



- Students are allowed to wear one small hoop or plain stud in the ears and one ring. Necklaces should not be visible.
- Hair - our policy clearly stipulates that no extreme haircuts or colourings are permitted.

If you require our assistance and support regarding items of uniform or equipment, please do not hesitate to make contact. We will always support families where there are barriers or concerns.

Staying in Touch

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.

We understand that on occasion, you feel the need to contact the school to discuss a matter concerning your child. In most cases, this discussion will take place with your child's tutor and families are requested to contact tutors in the first instance. In order to help families to contact the correct person, we have provided guidance on our webpage for families.

<https://www.stdunstansschool.com/information-for-students-and-parentscarers/getting-in-touch-with-the-school-communications.htm>

Feedback

As part of our continual efforts for school improvement, we are keen to receive feedback from families. We kindly ask parents/carers to complete this short questionnaire. Thank you for your support and feedback.

<https://forms.gle/wzvSnTxjSbVxzdX38>

Important Dates

Please be advised of the following important dates for your diaries-

Monday 2 March - Friday 13 March- Year 11 Trial Examinations
Thursday 12 March - Year 7 Parents' Evening
W/B 23 March - French Speaking Exams (final trial)
Thursday 26 March - Year 10 Mock Interview Day
Thursday 26 March - Year 11 Evening
Thursday 2 April - End of Term
W/B 13 April- Year 11 Easter Revision sessions

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

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Balkwill'.

P Balkwill
Head Teacher

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Haden'.

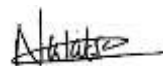
K Haden
Deputy Head

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Armstrong-Vickers'.

T Armstrong-Vickers
Assistant Head

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Richards'.

A Richards
Assistant Head

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Watson'.

N Watson
Assistant Head