

24 October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

As we prepare for the start of the new term, we would like to share some important updates with all families. These updates are designed to support you and ensure you have the latest information for the upcoming term at St Dunstan's School.

Sugary/Energy/Fizzy Drinks

Moving forward, all sugary drinks, energy drinks and caffeinated drinks are banned from consumption on school grounds.

We ask that students either bring water from home or purchase suitable alternatives from the canteen.

This policy update is designed to directly prioritise student health and optimise the learning environment. By eliminating beverages that cause sugar and caffeine spikes, we aim to improve students' focus and concentration in class. Ultimately, this change helps students establish lifelong healthy habits within a school environment that actively supports their physical and mental well-being.

Uniform and Appearance

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

As the winter months draw in, we would like to clarify our uniform expectations on key items:

- **Blazers are compulsory.** Coats should be worn in addition to a blazer.
- Students should wear a **warm, winter waterproof coat** to protect them from the elements.
- **Hoodies, branded jumpers or oversized shackets/cardigans are not allowed.** We kindly ask that these remain at home.
- Students are allowed to wear a navy blue v neck jumper as an optional additional layer. **Round necked jumpers are not permitted as an optional layer.**
- Over the break there may be a temptation to get a fresh piercing. Please be advised that St Dunstan's School 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 the break. Students will be expected to return to school with facial piercings removed. Plasters or spacers will not be 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.

Year 11

Students in Year 11 will shortly be sitting Mock examinations. These exams are intended to replicate the exams in the summer and provide students and the school with a clear insight into expected outcomes in the summer. It is important that you are aware that since the Covid pandemic, all schools are directed to retain the papers and use these exam results in the event that the exam could not be taken in the summer. It is therefore important that all students approach these with the same level of seriousness as the final exams. We encourage all students to spend time undertaking revision over the break and in the week running up to the exam.

Please see the link below for more information.

<https://www.stdunstansschool.com/information-for-students-and-parentscarers/information-on-exams.htm>

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

Attendance

Our aim for all students is to achieve attendance that is over 96%. We understand that illness can get in the way, but attendance is crucial for academic progress, social development and supporting the mental wellbeing of young people. Over the past few weeks we have seen a gradual improvement in attendance and it is important that this continues.

We know that the winter months often bring seasonal viruses as well as cold/flu season. Medical advice is clear that children with mild illness will often be well enough to attend - for example if they have a cough or cold, without a temperature. The NHS guidance: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/when-to-call-the-doctor/child-when-to-call-the-doctor/) is designed to support parents in their decision making about mild illness. We will always work with families and students to help them, including sending them home if they deteriorate throughout the day. It is important that the contact details we have on our school system are up to date. Please check your contact details on the ARBOR app to check that we have the correct information.

Parent Survey

As part of our ongoing efforts to improve the school and our offer, we ask families to spend a short amount of time responding to a questionnaire. Please follow the link below. This term we would particularly like to find out more about your awareness related to attendance and absence. We are grateful for all responses.

<https://forms.gle/WoF3hyvb2jtBPMyv8>



St Dunstan's School

GLASTONBURY

Headteacher: Mr P L Balkwill, BA Hons, NPQH
Wells Road, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 9BY
T: 01458 832943
E: secretary@stdunstans.mnsp.org.uk
www.stdunstansschool.com

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming back all students in November for another busy and successful term.

Yours faithfully

P Balkwill
Head Teacher

K Haden
Deputy Head

T Armstrong-Vickers
Assistant Head

A Richards
Assistant Head

N Watson
Assistant Head