



22nd May 2026

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.

Mobile Phone and Electronic devices

Following new Department for Education (DfE) guidelines, all schools must become entirely mobile phone-free environments by the new academic year. This means our current 'not seen, not heard' policy will be changing. We are currently updating our official procedures with the Trust and will share the new policy soon.

In the meantime, we have recently observed an increase in some students attempting to use their phones on school grounds during the day. Whilst the vast majority of students are adhering to our 'not seen, not heard policy', we would like to reiterate our expectations so that all students establish the correct habits before the new policy is introduced. Phones and electronic devices must be switched off in bags throughout the school day, including at break time and lunch.

It is also important that you are aware that any student found using a mobile phone or earphones will be required to hand the item over to a member of staff, and collect it at the end of the day. Please be advised that if a student is found using their phone persistently or on more than one occasion, the item will be handed over, and parents/guardians will be asked to collect it from reception. We sincerely hope this escalation will not be necessary.

To support the transition to a mobile phone-free environment, we are also making a change to how students pay for food. From mid June onwards, students will no longer be able to purchase food from the canteen using their mobile phones. We ask that students locate the QR code key fobs that were issued at the beginning of the year, as these must be used for payment instead. This change will take effect from Monday 22nd June 2026. We ask that students start to use this payment method in advance of this date to support a smooth transition later in June.

If your child requires assistance with locating, replacing or using their key fob, please ask them to speak with their tutor at the start of the new term.

Thank you for your cooperation as we implement these important changes.

Uniform Reminders

Thank you to all families for your continued support in ensuring your child arrives at school each day well-equipped and dressed in accordance with our uniform policy.

For several years, we have successfully operated a uniform hub to temporarily support students with essential items when their uniform has been lost, damaged, or is awaiting replacement. This has been a highly valuable scheme for our school community

'Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership'



Recently, we have seen a significant increase in the number of students arriving without their school ties and requesting a loan. Crucially, many of these loaned ties are not being returned. As a result, our stock is depleted, compromising our ability to support students who genuinely need it.

Moving forward, the following procedures will be in place:

- Any student who arrives without a tie will be sent to the uniform hub to collect a loan tie, and their name will be recorded. This must be returned at the end of the day.
- Unless there is a genuine, pre-notified reason, the student will be issued a detention, and parents will be notified via email.
- If there is a genuine reason your child is missing their tie, please write a note or email their tutor in advance. In these circumstances, we will gladly support them and no detention will be issued.

If you notice that you have any items of borrowed uniform at home that have now been replaced, we ask that you return our items to the uniform hub or main reception in the new term so that other students can be supported.

As we move into the summer months, we will look to relax aspects of the dress code to ensure students stay cool and comfortable. Until that change is officially announced, students are expected to arrive at school in full uniform, including blazers. Updates regarding the summer dress code will be shared shortly via letter and on our social media channels.

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 or multiple piercings in the ear. New piercings usually take at least 4 weeks to heal. So, we advise students not to get new piercings over the break. When students come back to school, these piercings must be removed. Plasters or clear spacers cannot be used to cover them.

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

Year 11 Half term revision & celebration arrangements

Once again well done to Year 11 on their fantastic efforts during the exam window. As a group of staff we continue to be proud of all their efforts and participation in additional out of hours revision sessions. As we move into the final half of the exam period, we wanted to reiterate a number of messages

- May half term sessions will be taking place from Tuesday 26th May until Friday 29th May. We encourage all students to make the most of these to support with revision
- Students are expected to attend full time until Monday 15th June. To support revision we have a bespoke timetable each day. Details of each week are shared on the designated webpage



- We will write to Year 11 and families in early June outlining arrangements for the final week and customary celebration events that accompany the end of Year 11.

Year 10 Exams

Year 10's End of Year Exams start on Monday 15th June. Students will be given the exam timetable shortly. There will be a special assembly to teach students about exam conduct and key revision techniques. We will also be working with students in lessons and tutor time to support preparations.

Please be advised that this exam window is a compulsory part of our programmes of study. Students who are absent will be asked to sit these and catch up upon their return.

Getting in Touch with the School (Communications)

There are many occasions when you may feel it is necessary to contact the school outside of normal working hours. While we will always endeavour to review these messages and provide a response within a reasonable timeframe, please be aware that it is not always possible or appropriate for staff to respond during their personal time. We politely request that this is taken into account when communicating with colleagues, and we thank you for your understanding.

Enrichment Week

All families were sent an email this week outlining the trips and activities they will be involved in during the final few days of the academic year. Please check your emails carefully to ensure that you have received these safely. Arbor payments are now open and the final deadline for these will be Wednesday 10th June 2026.

Dates of the final term

Just a quick reminder that the new term will start on Monday 1st June and finish on Wednesday 15th of July.

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

Yours Sincerely,

Mr P Balkwill
Headteacher

Ms K Haden
Deputy Head

Mr T Vickers-Armstrong
Assistant Head

Mrs A Richards
Assistant Head

Mrs N Watson
Assistant Head