

18 July 2025

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.

The First Day of Term

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

Wednesday 3 September

Year 7 students will arrive at 8:40 entering through the sports hall entrance, where they will be greeted by the Head of Key Stage and tutors

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

Students will receive a blend of tutor time and introductory assemblies before starting lessons from Period 3 onwards. Year 11 students all have a PE lesson on their timetable on that Wednesday afternoon, they must bring in their PE kit. Year 7 **do not** have PE on their timetable.

Thursday 4 September

Years 8, 9 and 10 return at 8:40, entering via Lucas gate and going to tutor rooms.

Year 7 and 11 will do the same. Lessons 1-3 for all students will be dedicated to our Launch Pad sessions. These will be a blend of assemblies and tutor lead activities intended to remind students of key information and prepare them for the year ahead. Lessons will take place from period 4 onwards. Year 10 students all have a PE lesson on their timetable on that Thursday afternoon, they will therefore need their PE kit. Year 10 is the only year group where PE lessons will take place on this Thursday afternoon.

From Friday 5 September normal timetable lessons will take place throughout the day.

Attendance

What a fantastic end to the term! We were absolutely thrilled to celebrate the students who met or exceeded our 96% attendance target since September. It was also wonderful to acknowledge the significant improvements in attendance from many students throughout the year.

We know that life happens, and some absences are truly unavoidable. However, we also see first-hand how being in school consistently makes all the difference for a child's progress. While we were pleased to celebrate so many, we recognise that some students did not meet the 96% attendance expectation. For these families, we are committed to working more closely with you next year to help improve attendance.

To better support this, we have been reviewing our processes over the past 12 months for when an individual's attendance starts to drop. Please be aware that we may be in contact more regularly with families when this occurs, and we will also work directly with students to help them secure good attendance.

Attendance at 95% or less is a real concern, directly impacting your child's learning and opportunities. Every day in school builds their future success—academically, socially, and emotionally.

Let's work together next year to ensure your child benefits from every opportunity the school offers by prioritising strong attendance from day one in September!

Schedule for the Day

We have made some updates to the schedule of the day to support the continued growth of the school, ensuring its smooth day-to-day running and helping students to access catering and facilities during breaks and lunches. These arrangements will be explained to students upon their return in September. There are no changes to the start or end times of the school day, so school transport arrangements will continue as usual.



8:40	Students arrive onsite	
8:45-8:55	AM Reg	
8:55-9:55	Period 1	
9:55-10:55	Period 2	
10:55-11:15	Break 1- Years 8 & 11	Tutor Time- Years 7,9 & 10
11:15-11:35	Tutor Time- Years 8 & 11	Break 2- Years 7,9 & 10
11:35-12:35	Period 3	
12:35-12:45	KS4- Lunch Counter Years 10-11	
12:45 -13:10	KS3- Lunch Counter Years 7-9	
13:10-13:15	Changeover	
13:15- 14:15	Period 4	
14:15-15:15	Period 5	

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 and locked 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 lessons will receive a consequence in line with our behaviour expectations and policy.

Uniform 'Looking smart and looking the part!'

Over the past year, we have seen big improvements in student presentation and uniform. Visitors frequently commend how smart our students look, and this is clearly underpinned by our uniform and high standards, fostering a strong sense of community and shared identity.

We have deliberately designed a sensible policy that provides a degree of flexibility whilst ensuring students are smart and well presented. This has included an update to our essential PE Kit guidance for 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-

- All students should have a **sensible school bag. Handbags, shoulder bags, tote style bags are not suitable** for school settings and often do not have enough space to hold books, equipment and kit. 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**. If a student chooses to wear a **necklace** we ask that this is **tucked in** and not worn on top of the shirt. 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. Plasters will not be allowed to conceal piercings while they heal, so it is imperative that any piercings take place within the first weeks of the holiday.

Thank you to everyone who has made donations to support the PTA Uniform scheme. There will be further opportunities for families to come and find items of uniform in advance of the new year. If you still have any items you wish to donate, please drop them off in the main reception.

We will provide further updates on social media over the summer break about the times and dates we will be open for parents to collect items.

Social media

Over many years we have contacted families to share our concerns regarding the use of WhatsApp groups and other social media accounts. As part of our continued



St Dunstan's School

GLASTONBURY

commitment to maintaining a safe and respectful learning environment, we kindly ask that all parents, across all year groups, check their child's phone and social

Headteacher: Mr P L Balkwill, BA Hons, NPQH

Wells Road, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 9BY

T: 01458 832943

E: secretary@stdunstans.mnsp.org.uk

www.stdunstanschool.com

media activity over the summer period. It is important that families remain vigilant in guiding their children on how to use technology responsibly, respectfully, and safely.

Arbor Updates

New Payment system

We will now be transitioning all payments to Arbor. This means you'll soon have one central place to manage student information and make payments for trips, catering, and other school costs.

For your convenience, the following will be automatically transferred to the new Arbor system for the start of the next academic year:

- All current catering balances.
- All trip instalments and future payment schedules for the next academic year.

All new items for the next academic year, including school meals and trips, will be managed through the Arbor Parent Portal and App.

If you haven't yet signed up to the Arbor App, please do so as soon as possible to ensure you can access the new payment system in advance of September. You should have already received a welcome email with instructions on how to set up your Arbor account.

We will send more information over the summer as required to help everyone prepare for payments in the new academic year.

Student Arbor App

We will be launching the student app shortly after the start of the academic year 2025-6. This will be intended to ensure that students as well as families are kept up to date with key information, supporting them to be better organised and prepared for school. It will also help students to follow 'On track' points totals, attendance and important notifications. We will write to you in the new year when this is launched.



KS4 Summer Work

The summer break is a fantastic opportunity for students to relax and step away from their studies, and we wholeheartedly encourage them to do so. However, extensive research highlights the impact that extended breaks can have on a student's ability to recall previously learned information. Without regular opportunities to revisit content, students often forget or struggle to retrieve important details.

Year 11 is a pivotal time for students, and we want to ensure they have the best possible start and every opportunity to succeed. To help with this, our departments have prepared a series of tasks for students transitioning from Year 10 into Year 11. These tasks are designed to revisit key information and keep students "sharp" in anticipation of the new academic year. We'll be posting these resources on the school website shortly to support families in completing them.

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

Yours faithfully



P Balkwill
Head Teacher



K Haden
Deputy Head



T Armstrong-Vickers
Assistant Head



A Richards
Assistant Head



N Watson
Assistant Head