



4 September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new academic year! I am delighted to see our students returning to school with such a positive and purposeful start.

A huge welcome to our new Year 7 students and their families! The students have made a brilliant start, and we are proud of how quickly they have started to adapt. We are looking forward to getting to know each of them as they begin their journey with us here at St Dunstan's School.

Last year, our students exceeded all expectations in all aspects of school life. The calm, focused atmosphere in our classrooms and the politeness and pride they take in their uniforms were noticed by many visitors. We also saw remarkable progress with our 'On Track' system. Our students earned an average of over 500 positive points each, a massive increase from the previous year's 84 points. This demonstrates a deep and consistent commitment to their learning and development.

I also want to extend a huge congratulations to our former Year 11 students on their outstanding 2025 GCSE results. This was one of the best years in our school's history, with the proportion of our students achieving a strong pass (grade 5 or above) in English and Mathematics exceeding the national average. Similar outcomes were also achieved in Science with more students than ever before achieving grades 4 or above for the double award. Strong results were also seen across other subjects and for individual students. The results are a testament to the students' hard work and have set them on their paths to college, sixth form, and apprenticeships. We wish them all the best for the future.

Throughout the past year, we have made significant improvements to our school facilities to create a more modern, warm, and inspiring learning environment. These updates include:

- A brand-new, fully equipped assembly hall.
- Updated perimeter fencing around the school site.
- Refurbished PE corridor, changing spaces, and the main reception area.
- Updates to the Lucas block and other learning spaces around the school.
- Purchase of additional equipment for sports and recreational time.
- Installation of a new service counter and updates to the canteen.

We also introduced a number of key initiatives to support student learning and development:

- A consistent Learning Cycle to provide structure and support for all students across all subjects.

*'Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership'*

- A new rewards and recognition programme to celebrate success, no matter how big or small.
- Continued development of our personal development programme, ensuring our students are well-informed, global citizens.
- Implementation of a new Pastoral structure and introduction of specialist staff to work with students and families.

Looking ahead to this year, our commitment remains simple: to provide the best possible education for every child. We want all students to be academically successful, contribute positively to the community, and grow into well-rounded, confident young people.

We will continue to hold high expectations for all students. This is not about perfectionism or holding students to unrealistic standards; it is a message of hope. We believe every child has the potential to achieve and even exceed their goals, and we are here to support them on that journey. We will also maintain our focus on attendance, a consistent presence in the classroom is essential for both academic success and wellbeing. Finally, we will continue to invest in our school facilities and work closely with our Trust partners to ensure that our curriculum and teaching remain of the highest standard.

Working together with you as partners is an essential priority. Your insights into your child's learning, individual needs, and life outside of school are invaluable to us. When we listen and respond to your feedback, it helps us create a more complete picture of your child, allowing us to better support them in the classroom. We see you not just as a supporter of your child, but as a vital co-educator. By collaborating, we can create a powerful and unified support system that helps your child thrive both in and out of school.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to working with you to make this year even more successful than the last!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Balkwill', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mr P Balkwill  
Headteacher