

February Newsletter 2023

## Headteacher's Address

Dear Parents and Carers,

Unbelievably, half the school year is now behind us. Spring is upon us, flowers are blooming and the days are getting longer. Life is starting to feel a little more back to normal after we have all lived through so many illnesses that have disrupted daily life – not just in school but across the country and, indeed, the world.

I had the pleasure of delivering the last assembly of the term – the theme of my talk was why I love St Dunstan's. It was a great opportunity for me to reflect on what makes this school special. I mentioned how the staff here truly care about the children and, whatever is needed, their first response is always 'how can I help'. I talked about the community that we have built in which I include you as great supporters of your children and the school; it is noticeable how well we all work together. I also mentioned that we had a visitor to the school recently who was having lunch in the canteen with me and a couple of other members of staff; she commented on how she has never seen a school where the students were so comfortable in coming to chat to their teachers and what a positive feel she had observed in the school. I reminded students of our core values and why they are so vital to the life of the school – it is so heartening to see students fulfilling these values on a daily basis. I finished my assembly with these words which are from my heart:

'And really, everyone, you are what makes me so proud of this school. I see you living our core values every day ... So, as we approach our half term holiday, we can be proud of ourselves, proud of our values, proud of our relationships and proud of our hard work... I hope you have a lovely break and that you come back in a week wearing your uniform with pride and being the lovely group that makes this school so special. Thank you for being you St Dunstan's.'

There really is something wonderful about St Dunstan's that makes it different to other schools. As you will see in this newsletter, many things have gone on this term to support students and even more are in the pipeline. It is exciting to see the clubs that are planned as well as those already in place. We had a non uniform day for the victims of the dreadful earthquake in Turkey and Syria and raised £594 – thank you for your contributions.

The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award is thriving and it is wonderful to see the benefits that participation has for students. It is also great to see the efforts being put in to support Year 11 as they prepare for their upcoming GCSE exams and to see how well Year 11 are responding to this support – it is hard to believe that in a few short weeks, they will have finished their five years with us and will be ready for the next steps in their journey. It is vital that we all keep up the hard work in the final furlong to ensure that they have the best possible outcomes in the summer.

I am looking forward to seeing what next term will bring and to seeing our students continuing to build on our TRACK values so that our community keeps getting better. If you would like to be even more involved in supporting the school, we have vacancies for governors; to find out more about what is involved, please contact our Chair of Governors – Kama McKenzie – at [kama.mckenzie@msnpartnership.com](mailto:kama.mckenzie@msnpartnership.com)

*Mrs Bevan*

# Attendance Matters

**As Spring beckons – and hopefully will be a season that is relatively free of viruses - all of us need to aim to be in school every day. We are really focusing on improving attendance for the rest of this academic year – we are aiming to be in line with the pre Covid National Average of 96%. In order to support students and parents to overcome any barriers around attendance, we will be continuing to implement a range of initiatives. Thank you in advance for supporting us in supporting your children to have good attendance in school so that they can make the best possible progress to give them the best possible outcomes and therefore have choices as they move through their academic career. As well as being in school every day, it is equally important to be punctual – we know that this is a life skill and that poor punctuality can have negative consequences at college, university and in employment. As mentioned in the last newsletter, the school has grown so rapidly that we have introduced a staggered lunch break which means we can no longer run late detentions at lunchtimes and so the following system is in place:**

**Anyone who is late to school and/or lessons three times in a week (Wednesday to Wednesday) will serve an after school detention of one hour on that Friday. A letter with full details will be sent to parents at the start of next term.**

**Top Tip – BE PUNCTUAL TO SCHOOL AND LESSONS!**

## PTA

St. Dunstan's PTA is continues to go from strength to strength; it is great to see more members signing up and events being planned.

The PTA has established a Free School Uniform Swap Shop. We have a wide variety of pre-loved St. Dunstan's school uniforms/PE kits on offer free of charge available at school evening events or by contacting the PTA. Donations of unwanted/grown-out-of items can be left at school reception at any time and are much appreciated. The Swap Shop will be on display at Year 8 Parents' Evening in March.

Building on the success of the fundraisers at the Frost fayre and the Carnival, the PTA held a very successful quiz night on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February – almost exactly three years to the day since our first event just before Lockdown One! We were overwhelmed by the support – the event was totally sold out, Mr Atkinson did a great job as quizmaster and the ploughman's supper was delicious! Thank you to everyone who helped out and to everyone who attended. We are busy planning our next event so watch this space!

The PTA is always looking for new members or for volunteers willing to help during events.

The PTA can be contacted at [stdunstanscommunitypta@gmail.com](mailto:stdunstanscommunitypta@gmail.com)

# Gardening Club

The Garden club members have been toiling away in the freezing cold of winter. Some days the ground was frozen solid, making it almost impossible to dig! We are very excited to see our hard work is now starting to pay off. The peas and garlic are shooting, the onions have sprouted and Lancelot is officially a Saint, for performing a small miracle. Our Broad bean seeds were out of date, slightly mouldy and were planted by Lancelot at the wrong time of year, but somehow, they have germinated, hooray for Saint Lancelot.



## Clubs

### Write Night

The students in Write Night have been busy getting creative. They have been given free-writing tasks and are currently working on individual pieces. It is from these works-in-progress that extracts will be selected to share with you in the next newsletter.

Kieron Rowley, assistant curate at St John's came in to see students on during lunchtime Thursday 23rd February as he would like to create a lunchtime club – large numbers of students came to the Library to let him know what they would like; a lot of the clubs will be able to run so watch this space!

In addition, we have a range of sports clubs and a dance club starting up at lunchtimes in the next few weeks – students have been informed and are signing up.

# Equipment

Please ensure that your child has the necessary equipment for all their lessons. Everyone should have a school bag with a filled pencil case – contents should include:

- Black/blue pen
- Purple pen
- Green pen
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Rubber
- Protractor
- Set square
- Scientific calculator
- Highlighter

Students should also have the correct PE kit – if school leggings/jogging bottoms are not worn, alternatives must be plain black with no logo.

Pencil cases filled with the basics can be purchased for £1.50 from the school office. Students eligible for the pupil premium/free school meals can have a filled pencil case free of charge.

## Key Stage 3

### KS3 Rewards

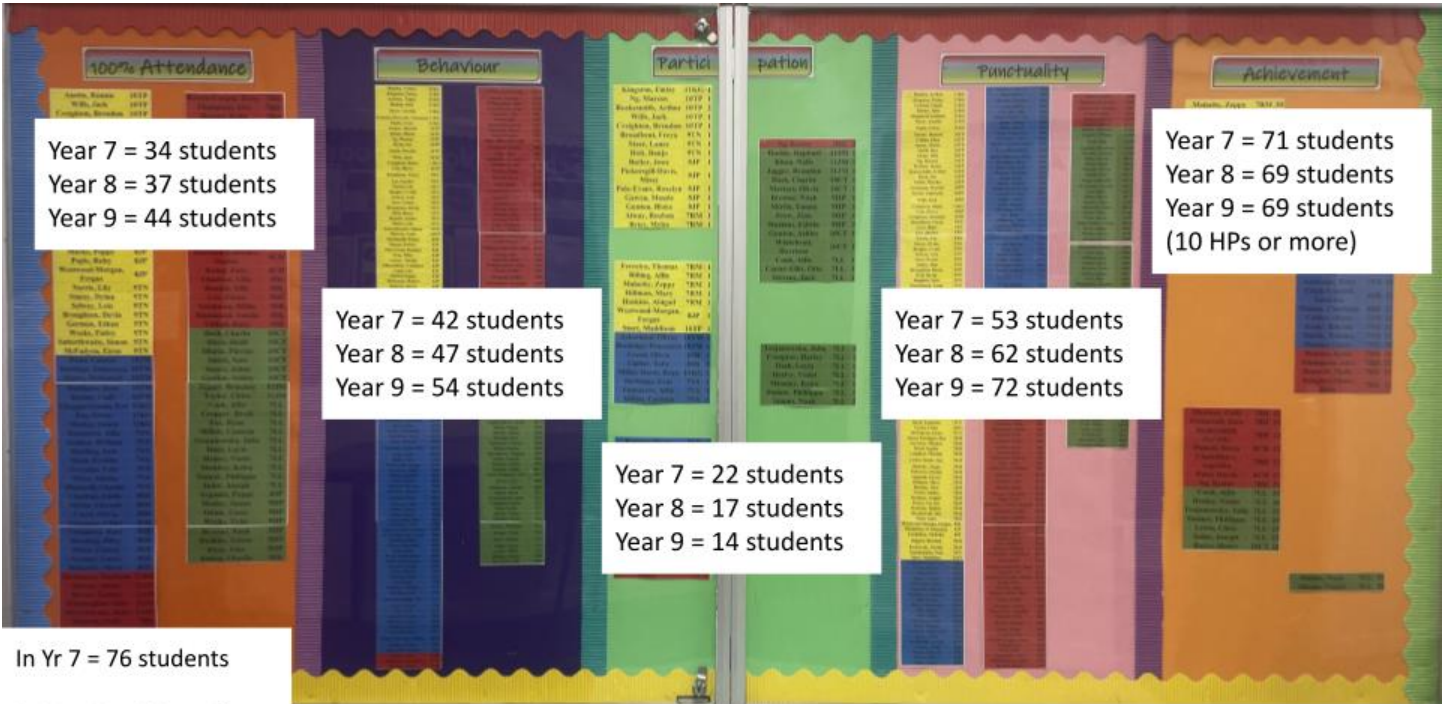
I particularly enjoy our last assembly before the end of term as we get to celebrate all the hard work and efforts students have put in during that term. Students have shown the TRACK values throughout and it was a pleasure to reward them with their non-uniform days and Amazon vouchers! Well done to all!

P.S if you would like these rewards next term, remember to be in every day, working hard for house points and embodying our TRACK values and then it WILL be YOU

**Mrs Easterbrook**







In Yr 7 = 76 students

In Year 8 = 106 students

In Year 9 = 92 students

Top House points = 49

## TRACK Values



Tutors have nominated students who have shown the TRACK values this term.

- Truth
- Resilience
- Ambition
- Community
- Kindness

These students will receive a Non-Uniform day on **Wednesday 22nd February**

Well done!

#stayontrack

#alwaysontrack



# Non-uniform Days



**Thursday 23rd February**- any student with 100% attendance

Year 7 = 34 students    Year 8 = 37 students    Year 9 = 44 students

**Friday 24th February** - any student with 0 negative behaviour logs

Year 7 = 42 students    Year 8 = 47 students    Year 9 = 54 students

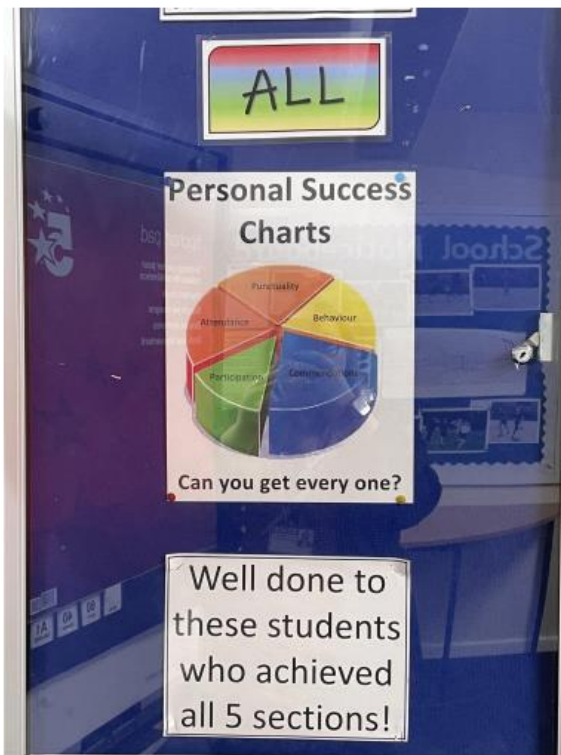


**Non-uniform day!**



**Remember to dress appropriately for the weather!**

Hall of Fame for Term 3 - all students will receive a £10 amazon voucher for completing all 5 reward sections:




## Wall of fame students for Term 3

Well done to all of you

Oilly J	9RCO
James S	9JPU
Finley B	9GBR
Nicholas E	9JPU
Lydia F	7CPE
Katie H	8ATI
Phillippa S	8LLO
Violet H	8LLO
Alfie C	8LLO



## House Point totals for Term 3:

 <b>House HP Ranks</b>	
1st	Exmoor
2nd	Mendip
3rd	Blackdown
4th	Quantock

Quantock	
7MWA	2539
8LLO	2009

Exmoor	
7HJE	2002
8VSM	3134
9GBR	2036

**25416 House Points awarded this year so far!**

Blackdown	
7CPE	2505
8AKE	2352
9JPU	2007

Mendip	
7JWA	2418
8ATI	2406
9RCO	2008

## Key Stage 4

Well done to all across KS4 who were awarded with non uniform days or Amazon vouchers for their efforts last term. The numbers receiving them are increasing and more and more students are keeping on TRACK! One area where I hope everyone can improve next term is participation as more and more activities and clubs are added at lunch and afternoon for you all to do.

Well done

### Year 10 Work experience

Students have started the hunt for their work experience placements in the last week of the school year and parents have been informed of the details through letter and via the tutors google classroom. Mrs Cook and I are here to assist you get the placement you want but do act now!!

### Year 11 Looking ahead

As well as being fully absorbed with exam preparation, revision sessions and more, most students have now secured applications post 16 - well done. If you still need to act - DO IT NOW. Please see me as soon as possible with any issues.

### Leavers' Celebrations!

The Prom will be on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at The Loft Lounge & Bar in Street.

Students will need to have +30 behaviour points in order to be eligible to attend. Well done to those who have achieved this already - make sure you sustain it. There is still time to build up positive behaviour points this term and next!

Mr Jones

**Year 11 will be starting their second round of Mock Exams the week beginning 27th February.**

Please help your son or daughter to plan their revision timetable. They will value your input and might need a helping hand to ensure that regular breaks are in place as well as making sure that all subjects are covered. Here are some links to help you:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zn3497h>

<https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/blog/how-to-create-a-revision-timetable/>

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
	8AM - 10AM REVISE SUBJECT 1	8AM - 11AM REVISE SUBJECT 1	8AM - 10AM REVISE SUBJECT 1	8AM - 11AM REVISE SUBJECT 1	8AM - 10AM REVISE SUBJECT 1	10AM - 12PM REVISE SUBJECT 1	REST
BREAK							
	11:30AM - 1:30PM REVISE SUBJECT 2	11:30AM - 1:30PM REVISE SUBJECT 2	11:30AM - 1:30PM REVISE SUBJECT 2	11:30AM - 1:30PM REVISE SUBJECT 2	11:30AM - 1:30PM REVISE SUBJECT 2	12:30PM - 2:30PM REVISE SUBJECT 2	REST
BREAK							
	2PM - 4PM REVISE SUBJECT 3	2PM - 4PM REVISE SUBJECT 3	2PM - 4PM REVISE SUBJECT 3	2PM - 4PM REVISE SUBJECT 3	2PM - 4PM REVISE SUBJECT 3	2PM - 4PM REVISE SUBJECT 3	REST
BREAK							
	4:30PM - 6:30PM REVISE	4:30PM - 6:30PM REVISE	4:30PM - 6:30PM REVISE	4:30PM - 6:30PM REVISE	4:30PM - 6:30PM REVISE	GO HAVE FUN	REST

## Housepoints

Year 11 students have continued to impress us with the number of house points they have collected. Our current, top 5 individuals are:

1. Oliver A
2. Frankie D
3. Macaully B
4. Poppy B
5. Maddison S

Well done to you all!



## Revision Sessions

Revision sessions are in full swing. Each week we are rewarding a student who has demonstrated an excellent commitment to their revision, both at home and in school. Well done to the following students who have been our 'star of the week' so far:

- Eliza M
- Ben S
- George M
- Jack W
- Poppy E





### GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition - Practical Exam dates

Students have been working hard this term to prepare themselves for their upcoming practical exam. The portfolio and practical work for this NEA is worth 35% of the GCSE. Please see below the exam dates, if there are any questions regarding this please contact Mrs Potter [htourle@stdunstansschool.com](mailto:htourle@stdunstansschool.com).

Monday 20th March	Tuesday 21st March	Wednesday 22nd March	Thursday 23rd March	Friday 24th March
Eliza M	Chloe	Ellie	Ruby	Naya
Hazel	Anna	Naomi	Caitlin	Danielle
Mohamad	Ethan	Maisie	Poppy	Ben B
Abdal-Jalil	Toby	Alan	Aiden	Jack G
Mary	Charlie	Calum	Harry H	Brendon
Seren	Phoebe	Ronnie	Gaby	Nate
Harry C	Macaully	Dylan	Sophie	Oliver

### GCSE Graphic Communication - Exam dates

Students have been working hard this term on their chosen theme to prepare themselves for their upcoming exam. The portfolio and practical work for this NEA is worth 40% of the GCSE. The exam for this is 10 hours and will be completed over two days. Please see below the exam dates, if there are any questions regarding this please contact Mrs Potter [htourle@stdunstansschool.com](mailto:htourle@stdunstansschool.com).

Wednesday 19th April	Thursday 20th April
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Year 11 have done a fantastic job last term in securing their college and further education placements. Well done! We continue to be impressed by Year 11's hard work and resilience and look forward to working with them during the second part of the Spring term, and their last few months at secondary school! We are always at the end of an email if students or parents need to contact us.

All parents should have been receiving a weekly email from their child's tutor over the last few months. Please let us know if you have not been receiving this.

Once again, may we take the opportunity to thank parents/carers for your ongoing support.

**Mrs Manning, Mrs Gregory and Ms Thomason**

# Duke of Edinburgh



To achieve the award, students complete four components; demonstrating a skill that they either have learned before or are taking on for the first time; participating in a sporting activity; completing a project where they volunteer their time to help in a wide range of settings; and the expedition, an extended walk involving camping skills, map reading, leadership and teamwork.

So what have our students got up to last term? Amongst the skills that students took up or took forward were learning to play a musical instrument, getting creative in art and learning to cook. The choice is as wide as students' imagination and the work so far has been excellent. In the same way, volunteering brought opportunities wherever the students could find them - in charity shops, planting trees, coaching football and working with local charities, uniformed organisations and even in school creating display materials.

## Year 9

We currently have 40 Year 9 students enrolled on the scheme. Most of the students have now started having their sections - physical, skills or volunteering - signed off. Well done! Please contact us if you require any additional support with this.

Our monthly DofE sessions have now covered map skills and route planning, ready for the practice expedition in May.

## **Change of date for the next meeting - Wednesday 8th March**

**\*\*The next meeting is on Wednesday 8th March. Students will meet after school to hand in their draft routes for the practice expedition and check the tents. There will then be a parent meeting at 17:00 to go through equipment and information about the expeditions.\*\***

## **Years 10 and 11**

If you haven't received your award, please check your eDofE account to see if you have properly submitted all sections. Students need to be proactive in doing this and should see us if they need support or advice.

**Mrs Potter and Mrs Manning**

# Online Safety

Some useful websites to help understand how to keep children safe online

Net Aware: An easy guide to apps, games and sites:

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

NSPCC Online safety resources:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Advice and support for young people, via Childline:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/>

YoungMinds parent helpline:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/parents-helpline/>

<https://vimeo.com/480839159>

Have a look at this film about who to trust online

<https://vimeo.com/uksic>

Please note that you can find the Trust safeguarding policy (and all other policies) by using this link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B5Z73cTOEMQdTVJCVU0weFZQb2s?resourcekey=0-mC9nM0f-rFEjRkAeis0sAw>

## **Further tips on e-safety for parents from CEOP**

1. Make sure your child knows where to go for support: Remind them they can always speak to you or an adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel worried or upset. For a breakdown of report services, visit: [Supporting your child with reporting unwanted content online](#)
2. Make sure they know about CEOP: Young people can report a concern about grooming or sexual abuse to CEOP at <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/> and get support from a specialist Child Protection Advisor.
3. Have an ongoing conversation: Continue to talk about the apps, games and sites they like to use, and what they like and don't like and any concerns about being online. Discuss with them when to unfollow, block or report. For help starting this conversation, read [having a conversation with your child](#).



# School Nurse

Our School Nurse service is currently operating on a reduced service but still accepting referrals. If students have concerns or need to talk to someone over the holiday season, they can use the text number or QR code in the poster to access help or advice.



The poster features the ChatHealth logo at the top left and the Somerset County Council logo at the top right. A pink speech bubble contains a list of topics: Emotional Health, Relationships, Sexual Health, Drugs, Smoking, and Alcohol. Below this, the text reads 'Got a concern? If you're 11-19 it only takes one text to start making a difference'. At the bottom, it says 'You'll get confidential advice from your School Nursing Team and you don't have to give your name if you don't want to. Just send a text or scan me 07480 635 516'. A QR code is located on the right side, and the 'Improving LIVES' logo is at the bottom right. A small disclaimer is visible at the very bottom.



## Medicines/Medical Conditions



Please remember to update any medical conditions or required medicines with the school office. If your son/daughter suffers from Asthma and uses an inhaler or has an allergy and requires an epipen, please supply the school with a spare to keep for emergencies. Prescribed medicines administered by the school or unprescribed medicines administered by students both require an authorised form to be completed which is available from the school office

## Important Information



Keeping in contact



Please remember to update any changes of your contact details for your son/daughter with the school office.

You can make changes to your details by calling 01458 832943 or emailing:

[secretary@stdunstansschool.com](mailto:secretary@stdunstansschool.com).

We are relying on email communication more than ever to send you updates and notices.

To help you to receive your emails promptly, there are a few things you can do to help

- Inform the school if you change your email address
- Check your email box daily including your SPAM mail
- Regularly sort and delete any unrequired messages to keep space in your inbox