





Mr Alun Williams
CEO and Executive Headteacher

It is a privilege to be the Executive Headteacher and CEO of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership (MNSP). Our aim as a multi-academy trust is to ensure all children have the opportunity to attend a good or better school and believe through close collaboration, our work towards this goal is more effective. Children, staff and all those associated with the schools in the MNSP benefit from a sense of shared responsibility for the welfare and progress of children. As a group of schools we are stronger and have already seen some outstanding improvement as a result of our work together. Children and staff have benefited from increased opportunities and I have no doubt that our partnership will continue to grow, optimising life-chances for all our children.

St Dunstan's School has a great future. I have been very impressed by the positive attitudes of the children and the sense of community at the school. Focussing on improving student outcomes in all year groups is a key priority and with work to achieve this well underway, I am confident that St Dunstan's will once again be the school of choice for those in the local area. There are exciting developments planned for St Dunstan's and I am delighted that we have been able to appoint a new Headteacher – Mr Keith Howard. Under his leadership, I know the school will continue to improve.

Welcome . . .



Mr Keith Howard
Headteacher

Welcome to St Dunstan's School and thank you for taking the time to find out more about us. At St Dunstan's we aim to provide a high quality of education and an environment that supports, nurtures and challenges students to fulfil their potential. We ensure students are prepared with the skills, morals and qualifications to allow them to progress to further education and to become valued members of the community. We are deeply proud that our students have made excellent progress over many years in their GCSE examinations; regularly above that of other local secondary schools.

We look forward to this year particularly with optimism and confidence as the school enters a new era as part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership. This group of schools work together as a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) in North East Somerset and have thrived on this partnership. St Dunstan's School will now also benefit from the sharing of expertise and resources along with other schools in the MAT.

There has already been significant investment in St Dunstan's school buildings, which will continue for several years to come ensuring the school is an inspiring environment, with modern facilities to support high quality learning. Teaching will also be

enhanced through collaborative working to share best practice with students able to access new activities and events across the MAT partnership.

St Dunstan's is a warm and welcoming school where students are happy and enthusiastic. Students show pride in their work and constantly strive to be the best they can.

At St Dunstan's School we have very high expectations of all our students. We expect them to reflect this in their appearance, attitudes and behaviours. We are shaping the citizens of the future, and encourage our students to be honest, fair and understanding of each other and the world around them. We want every student to have a sense of pride in belonging to our school community.

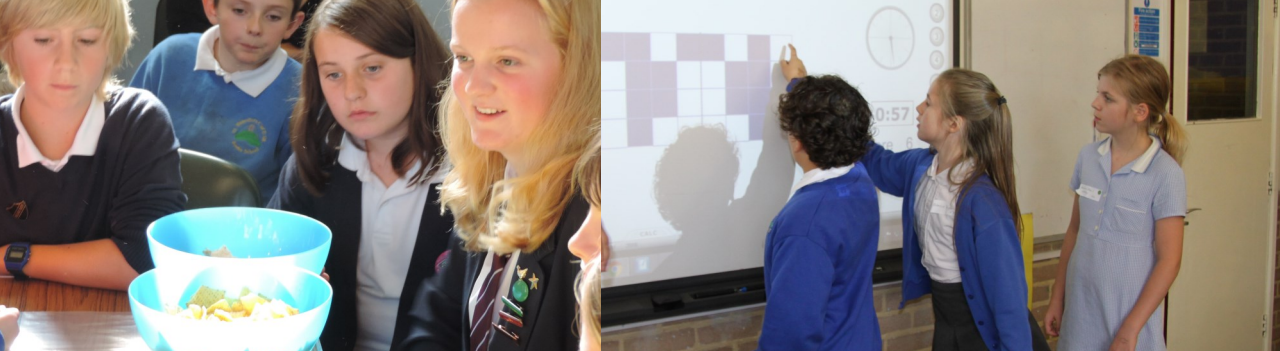
Students at St Dunstan's experience considerable academic success, with St Dunstan's School having the highest 'Value Added' in the area in 2015 (see performance tables from the DfE). We will continue to raise standards and expectations to ensure all students achieve more than they thought possible. As well as being rigorous and demanding, inspiring and challenging, I firmly believe that school should also be fun, with teaching that fosters enthusiasm, enjoyment and strong relationships.

I am very proud to be the Headteacher of St Dunstan's School, especially at this very exciting time of rapid improvement and development. I look forward to sharing our successes with you over the coming months and years and know that St Dunstan's will be the school of choice for students in the Glastonbury area. I know our staff and students share my pride in St Dunstan's School and I am sure when you visit us, you will understand why. I look forward to meeting you.

“There is a clear vision, which is shared by staff, and safeguarding is a crucial part of that vision.”

External Advisor





“The school is a caring community. Teachers know pupils well and there is a positive atmosphere of mutual respect and tolerance.”
Ofsted

Transition Timetable

September/October 2016

Open Evening

September - October 2016

Parental Tours

31 October 2016

Deadline for applications to LA

1 March 2017

Letter from LA offering places

May/June 2017

School liaison team visit all students in their primary schools

July 2017

Induction day & new parents' evening

July 2017

Transition events for Year 6 students

September 2017

New Year 7 intake start full time

Supporting Our Students

Student support is a particular strength of our school. We ensure that all students receive the care, guidance and support needed to fulfil their academic potential.

We are a fully inclusive school and look after all our students well. We understand that every child matters and their future is important to us. We work with primary schools, with parents, other agencies and with the students themselves to ensure that their individual needs are identified and then supported in the best way possible. Our student support centre delivers individual and small group intervention programmes using the expertise of our staff and external professionals to ensure every student is supported to do their very best. We promote learning in a structured, consistent and positive environment, where the focus is on praising and rewarding students for what they have achieved. We encourage students to take responsibility in the school and support each other through a variety of student-centred initiatives: Restorative Justice, Peer Mentoring, Student Leaders and the School Council's work on the Rights Respecting School Award.

We have two pastoral leaders in place to further strengthen our pastoral team. We have a clear rewards structure that values achievement, attitude, attendance and participation which runs alongside a behaviour framework that focuses on respect and care for others in and out of the classroom.

“Pupils are well informed and know how to make good choices. They are aware of whom to go to for help and support and feel confident that any concerns raised will be acted on. They say they feel safe.”

External Advisor



“We could not have asked for more dedication, inspiration and kindness.”

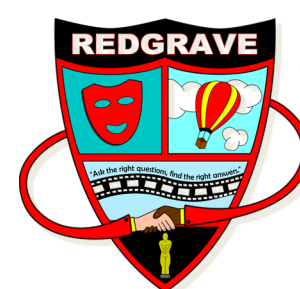
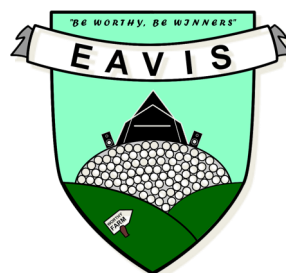
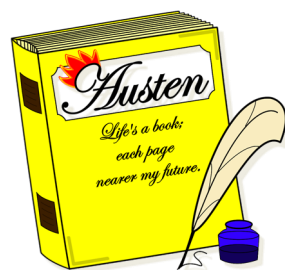
Parent

House System

In order to provide the best possible pastoral care and support for our students, the school is divided into four 'Houses' and students are placed in vertical tutor groups.

The Houses are named after arts personalities who have a particular link to the local area: Austen, Eavis, Piper and Redgrave. We see St Dunstan's School as an extended family, with each House consisting of tutor groups which include students of all ages, who support each other and work together well. There are plenty of opportunities for them to share some good advice during tutor time as well as around the school. We ensure that brothers and sisters are placed in the same Houses as this helps to build good relationships between the House team and families.

Learning Mentors and Pastoral Leads work with the tutors in each House to monitor and support the progress of all their students. They will help to address any concerns that are impeding their learning. We also have a strong student leader programme and it is our student Heads of House that run House assemblies and organise fundraising for House charities.

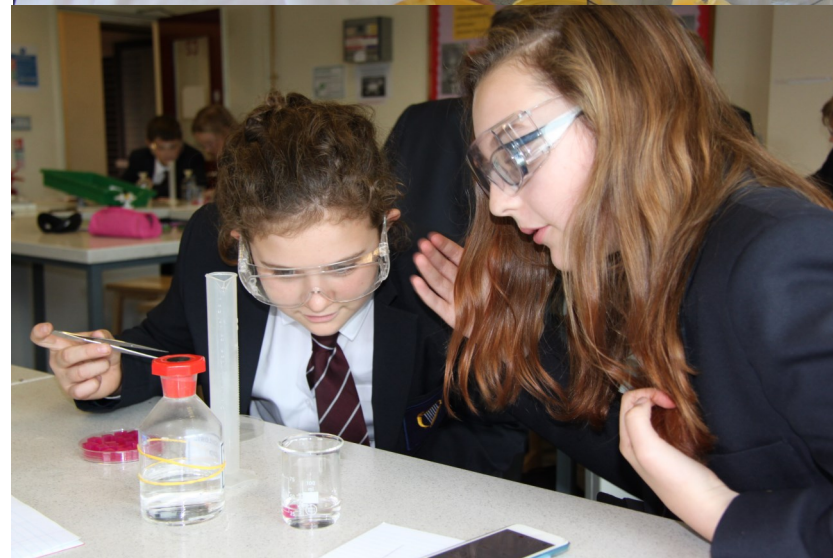


The Curriculum

Learning is at the centre of all we do at St Dunstan's School. Our curriculum is designed to support students to achieve the best that they possibly can in all areas of school life and to provide an excellent grounding for the future, whatever their particular subject interests.

On joining our school every student experiences a variety of learning styles and techniques within the curriculum areas. Students are placed in small class sizes which are, where appropriate, tailored to their ability. Our fervent belief is that all students can make excellent progress regardless of their prior attainment or any additional learning needs. We continually monitor the composition of our teaching groups and make adjustments where appropriate to ensure all students are suitably placed.

An Accelerated Reading Scheme in Years 7, 8 and 9 encourages all students to read a wide range of books with confidence and understanding, developing the literacy skills they need to be successful in their learning. As students move into Key Stage Four they are given ample opportunity to choose a more personalised learning pathway that suits them. Alongside the core subjects, students select from a wide range of options which include GCSEs and we also have some students who do vocational courses.



“Staff show diligence and care for the children, they are happy, behave well and are offered the tools to learn and grow intellectually. What more can a parent want?”

Parent



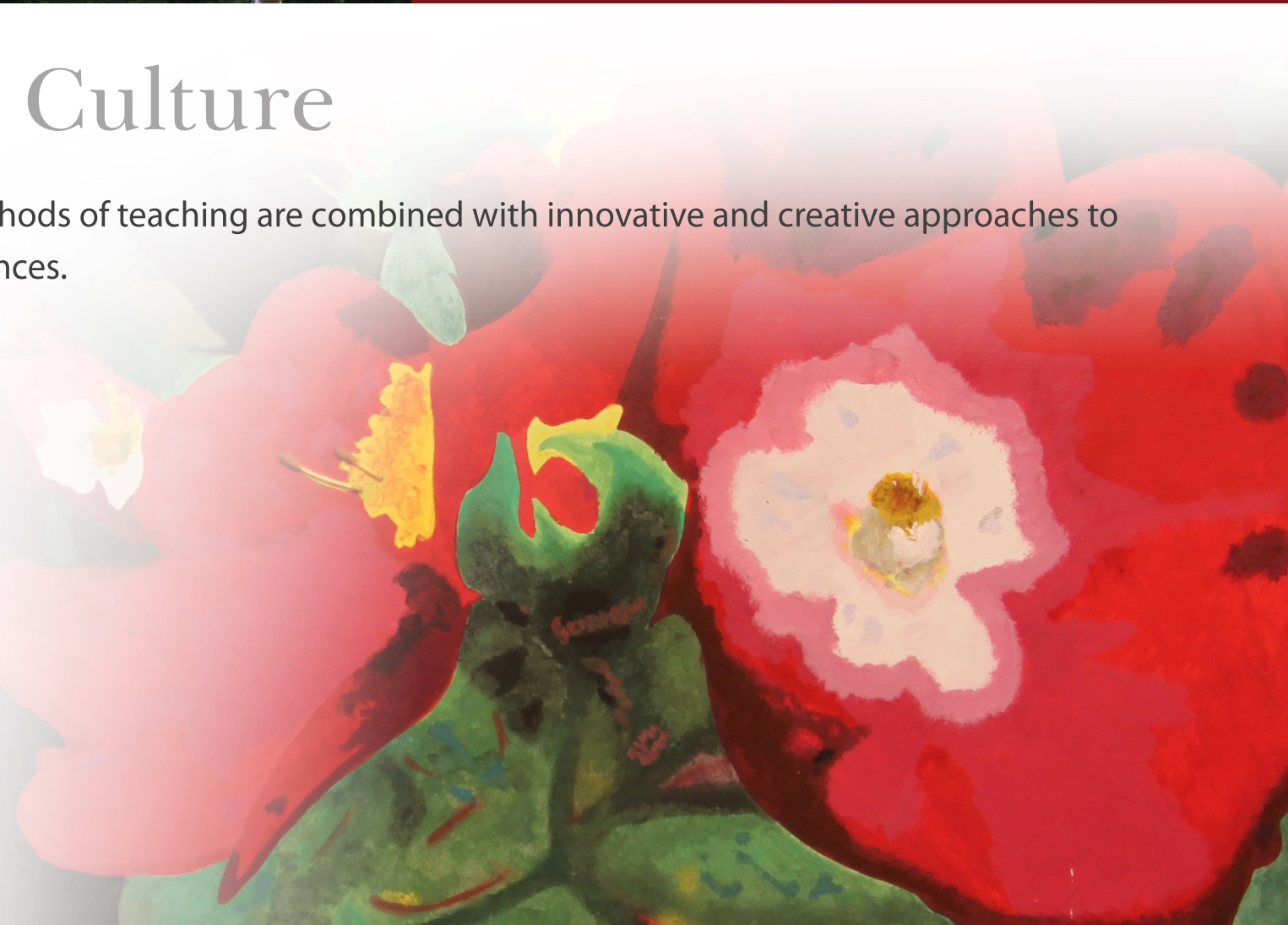
“ We value the Curriculum Enrichment Days and feel we gain a breadth of understanding about a range of issues from these.”

Student

Our Learning Culture

At St Dunstan's School traditional methods of teaching are combined with innovative and creative approaches to produce memorable learning experiences.

We work together to provide high quality learning experiences that develop the talents and skills of all students. We believe that students achieve their full potential if they enjoy their work and find it stimulating and challenging. Lessons are engaging and take place in an orderly and stimulating learning environment. Students at the school develop the skills to be lifelong learners. They are encouraged to work in teams and take account of the contributions of others; to work independently to develop their own ideas; to explore needs and opportunities; to reflect on what they are learning and how to apply this to different situations. The school community is a key component with teachers and students fostering strong, positive working relationships.



“The school offers a full range of extra-curricular activities, as well as regular opportunities to develop pupils’ moral, spiritual, social and cultural education.”

Ofsted



Enrichment Activities

It is a strong feature of the school’s philosophy to provide a range of valuable creative experiences where every student can shine.



We provide a range of enrichment activities to enhance the learning opportunities available to students in and out of the classroom. These range from sessions focused on arts and sports to visits from politicians and biochemists. They take a variety of forms including curriculum enrichment days when students focus on a particular area in depth supported by external contributors; subject based activities in school to stretch the most able or support those who struggle with their learning; and external visits which introduce students to other countries and career possibilities.

In addition, we offer a multitude of opportunities for students to take part in extra-curricular clubs and events including drama productions; school bands; art workshops; participation in UK Maths and Engineering challenges; sports teams and student leadership training. We believe that all students should participate as much as possible in school life, and in the local community, to add value to their learning experiences at St Dunstan’s.

Positive Partnerships

There is clear evidence that students are more successful if parents/carers are actively involved in their education.

We keep parents/carers fully informed of their child's progress through our termly Progress Reports, Parents' Evenings and our Parents' Forums. We monitor absence closely, and contact parents promptly if there are concerns.

We ask that parents/carers:

- ◆ Support and follow the school policies and procedures
- ◆ Demand high standards of attendance, behaviour, uniform and learning
- ◆ Maintain close contact with the school, particularly with information relating to students' well being
- ◆ Attend Parents' Evenings and other events such as our Parents' Forum to keep informed of what is happening

We place great emphasis on ensuring that transition from primary to secondary school happens as smoothly as possible. We have close links with all our local primary schools and their students are invited to Maths, Science, Languages, Arts and Sports enrichment activities at the school as well as taking part in our induction programme. Just as important is transition to further education. We have an excellent Careers Service, which works well with local businesses and Higher Education providers to ensure that every young person gets the best route for them when they leave at the end of Year 11.

“Students recognise the needs of others well and this is reinforced by the systems which develop the meaningful involvement of students in the life of the school and wider community.”

Year 11 Parent



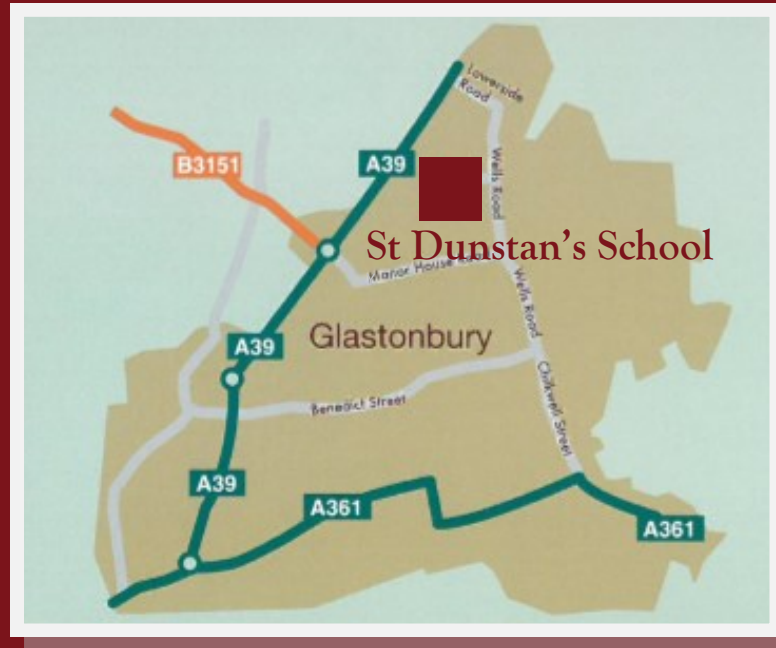
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