



4th September 2026

Dear Parents & Families,

We are looking forward to welcoming students back next week and hope that everyone has had a fantastic summer break.

In advance of the new academic year, we would like to provide all families with a brief reminder of key arrangements and a reminder about our new Mobile Phone Policy.

Mobile Phones

As you are all now aware, in accordance with government legislation, St Dunstan's School will be a mobile phone free zone commencing from September 2026. Whilst this update represents a change for students, it also presents a number of positive opportunities and benefits which we hope they will embrace.

Over the first few days we will take some time to go through key expectations alongside allocating pouches to each student. Please be advised that in order to support this process we will be making a note of the make, model and condition of each phone. This is intended to support in case of a student losing their pouch/mobile. It will also ensure that we are aware of any damage to phones ahead of the introduction of pouches.

In the first few days, tutors will be speaking to the students about phone pouches, answering questions and addressing any concerns students may have. This will support all students to understand the benefits of the initiative and also provide a clear sense of how they will be able to use pouches to manage the appropriate use of their phone and other devices. For families, we will also be providing an information page on our website, to support any questions.

In the meantime, if you would like to know any more information regarding the implementation of phone pouches, you are encouraged to read the letter sent in July which is linked below.

<https://www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com/uploads/files/school-mobile-phone-pouch-protocol-01.07.2026.pdf>

All students will be provided with a pouch and this will become part of essential equipment which will be checked by tutors each day. We appreciate that some students may choose to leave their phones at home. Please be advised that we will contact families to clarify that this is in case and discuss next steps to support full adherence with the new legislation.

It is also important to reiterate that if students are found in possession of a phone and it is not stored in a pouch, it will be confiscated and parents/guardians will be requested to collect this from reception at the end of the school day. We hope that this will not be



necessary and we ask for students and families to support the smooth transition and implementation over the next few weeks.

Return to school

Day One- Monday 7th September 2026:

Year 7 students will arrive at 8:40 entering through the main reception doors and into the assembly hall where they will be greeted by the Head of Key Stage and tutors. Year 11 students will arrive at 8:40 entering through Lucas gate entrance before going to new tutor rooms for AM registration. Students will begin the day with a mix of tutor time and introductory assemblies before starting regular lessons from period 4 onward. Some of the morning will also be dedicated to distributing phone pouches and familiarising students with the new routines.

Day Two- Tuesday 8th September:

Years 8, 9 and 10 return for 8:40, entering via Lucas gate and going to tutor rooms. Year 7 and 11 will do the same. Lessons 1 to 3 will be dedicated to "Launch Pad" sessions: a mix of assemblies and tutor-led activities designed to remind students of key routines and prepare them for the year ahead. Regular timetabled lessons will begin from period 4 onward. From Wednesday 9th September normal timetabled lessons will take place throughout the day.

Uniform & Equipment Expectations

We encourage all families to review the letter sent at the end of last term which provides key updates ahead of the new academic year.

Families should be aware of the following-

Nails- Students must not have acrylic or gel nail extensions, stick on nails or naturally long nails. Any student arriving in September with these nails will be asked to remove them or cut them before being able to attend lessons due to Health and Safety reasons.

Hair colouring- Unnatural hair colouring and coloured streaks or under dyes are not permitted.

Bags- All students must bring a sensible school bag that would allow them to carry A4+ exercise books, alongside a phone pouch and other essential equipment. For this reason handbags and shoulder bags are not suitable for school. 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. Necklaces are not allowed. 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). All facial piercings, including tongue piercings are not to have jewellery in them during the school day.

PE Kit- We have also provided some key clarifications regarding PE kit. We ask that you check this carefully and make sure that PE kit is correct and labelled ahead of their first lesson. Please see link for more information-

<https://www.midsomernortonschoolpartnership.com/uploads/files/uniform-ampamp-equipment-2026.pdf>

If you have any further questions or queries, which are not answered within the documents provided in this letter, please do not hesitate to get in touch via your child's tutor in the first instance.

We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back for what will be another very successful and busy year at St Dunstan's School.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Balkwill
Headteacher

Ms K Haden
Deputy Head

Mr T Armstrong
Assistant Head

A Richards
Assistant Head

N Watson
Assistant Head