



#### October Newsletter 2022

#### Headteacher's Address

Dear Parents and Carers.

The end of Term 1 and Autumn is in full flow!

We have had a packed term as you will see from the items detailed in this newsletter. Thank you to staff who work so hard to provide so much in terms of enrichment and support as well as teaching their subjects to students.

We were thrilled to see so many people at our Open Evening in September and then a significant number of further Year 6 students and their parents on the Open Mornings we ran. One of the highlights of our Open Evening presentation was the speeches delivered by two of our team of Head Students – Arthur and Frankie – and four of our current Year 7 students - Reggie, Lydia, Olloie and Layla – who were all magnificent; as I said to parents afterwards, I really wasn't needed – the students could have done it all!

I would like to thank you all for your support around uniform – there has been a marked improvement in the standard across the school and it is wonderful to see our students looking so smart and wearing their uniform with pride. Reducing the amount of time we are spending on incorrect uniform allows us to focus on the job of providing high quality teaching and learning to support children in making good progress and having the best possible outcomes.

Speaking of progress, we were delighted by our exam results this summer; our Progress 8 score is positive at +0.11 and is above average. Quite an achievement after the last couple of years!

I am very proud that, out of 52 schools in the area, our maths team were the best performing maths department across all those schools for our disadvantaged young people; a real testament to the hard work of staff and a tangible example of how the work they are doing is helping to tackle inequality in our society.

It was lovely to see so many Year 11 parents here for our parents' conference on supporting students with their GCSEs. All resources will be shared with parents in the next couple of weeks. As the school continues to grow, we would like to invite applications for parent governors. If you would like to know more, please contact Kama in the first instance for an informal chat about the application process and more detailed information about the role of a parent governor. Kama can be contacted via kama.mckenzie@mnspartnership.com

I would like to thank you all for your support over the last term and wish you all a relaxing half term. We will look forward to seeing everybody back in school, in the correct uniform and with the correct equipment by 8.40 on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October

Mrs Bevan

## Goodbye ... (sort of)

Our much beloved caretaker Mr Bartlett has officially retired at the end of this term. Mr Bartlett has been a wonderful asset to the school – nothing is ever too much trouble and no job too big or small. He is always ready with a kind word and a smile be that to staff or students and has a great talent for cheering everyone up as well as being a great caretaker for the building. We have said 'sort of' because Mr B has agreed to stay on for a little while until we find his replacement – no easy feat!

So, we wish you every happiness for your retirement when it comes Mr Bartlett; you go with our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for everything you have done for the school, the staff and the students; it won't be the same without you.

### **Attendance Matters**

Attendance in school is very important – if students aren't here, we can't teach them! It is even more important following the pandemic as we need to ensure that students catch up on their missed learning. We are really focusing on improving attendance this 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 undertaking a range of initiatives over the course of this year. 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 the school has grown so rapidly, we have introduced a staggered lunch break which means we can no longer run late detentions at lunchtimes and so we will be implementing the following system as of next term:

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 would like to call for volunteers to join the PTA in an exciting new journey to work in collaboration with St Dunstan's.

We are asking for volunteers to take part in the collecting of loose change during the carnival on Saturday 19 November in Glastonbury. Money collected will help fund important initiatives in school and your community . We are also setting up a free uniform shop . Our first giveaway will be on Thursday 17 November during the Y7 Parents' Evening . If you have any pre loved or new items of uniform you can donate, they would be greatly received . Items we are looking for are as follows:

**Blazers** 

**Trousers** 

**Skirts** 

Ties

Jumpers

PE Kit

School shoes

Football boots

If you are able to donate, please send items in by Friday 11th November so that they can be washed and ironed. To get in contact with the PTA, please email stdunstanscommunitypta@gmail.com

## **English**



A group comprised of Year 8 and 9 students as well as some Year 11 Drama students visited the Northcott Theatre in Exeter for the performance of Noughts & Crosses. After our trip was disrupted on the evening it was planned for, by a broken down coach, we showed our TRACK value of resilience and we were able to visit on the following evening! Thank you to the theatre for being so flexible in moving our tickets. The performance was outstanding and told the story that revolves around Callum (a Nought) and Sephy (a Cross). In their world of prejudice and distrust, highlighted by violent terrorist activity by Noughts, they don't fit. But a childhood friendship has grown into an intense love which descends to its fatal conclusion. We were all impressed by the acting, staging and it was delightful to be watching live theatre again after so long. Our students thoroughly enjoyed this thought provoking production and were a credit to the school and it was an incredibly late night but we all agreed that it was well worth it and we had Saturday to catch up on our sleep!

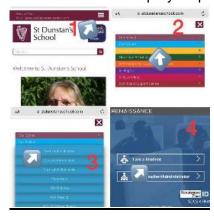
#### Reading Information Evening

We held our first reading information evening this term for parents of key stage 3 students who would like to support their children with reading progression. Parents were shown all of the things that we as a school do to support children's reading, including interventions for those who are behind their chronological age. In addition, Mrs Gregory and Mrs Lewis shared ideas for how parents can support their children at home and these are listed below:

- Role model
- Read together (cooking, flatpacks, newspaper stories etc)
- Reward reading (screen time etc)
- Buy books as gifts (charity shops)
- Visit the library
- Talk about books you are reading / have enjoyed
- Listen to them reading / share a book
- Museums / galleries / restaurants etc
- Subtitles on TV / film
- Read with siblings / younger cousins / grandparents etc
- Book swaps

Don't forget that your child can now log on to Accelerated Reader from home using this link: <a href="https://ukhosted2.renlearn.co.uk/1896822/">https://ukhosted2.renlearn.co.uk/1896822/</a>

Or you can go through the school website and follow the step by step route as detailed in the image.



#### **BookBuzz**

We are excited to be participating in BookBuzz this year. Book Buzz is a national programme where participating schools give their students the opportunity to choose their own book to take home and keep from a list of 17 titles. They are all carefully selected by a panel of experts to ensure quality, suitability and to encourage reading for pleasure.

All fo EYar 7 and 8 have selected their titles and now await delivery of their very own, special book.



### PE and SEND

#### **DIScover Ability Day, Somerset County Cricket Ground**

St Dunstan's students were thrilled and excited to be invited to participate in a sporting event hosted by Somerset County Cricket Ground. The day was aimed at both schools and community groups who support young people with additional needs and disabilities, this gave students an insight into the facilities which are available for use by the local community.

Students were fortunate enough to be involved in a number of cricket activities along with football, tennis, rugby, wheelchair rugby and a range of sensory activities. These activities were delivered by Somerset FA, Bridgwater United Community Sports Trust, Bristol Bears, Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership and Taunton Tennis Centre. The video of the day can be found at <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4E9f4QIM5As">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4E9f4QIM5As</a>

Miss Pengelly is extremely proud of our students and had a great experience on her first St Dunstan's school trip.





## **Duke of Edinburgh Award**

Congratulations to our Year 10 and 11 students who have gained their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award.

This is an award given for the successful completion of their expedition, volunteering, physical and skills sections. They have all worked hard outside of the school curriculum and dedicated themselves to this journey.

More students will have their award confirmed soon and we look forward to celebrating their completion as well. Well done to you all!

Our new cohort of forty Year 9s has recently started their DofE experience. They were issued with login details and passwords for eDofE during their first sessions with us.

Mrs Potter and Mrs Manning



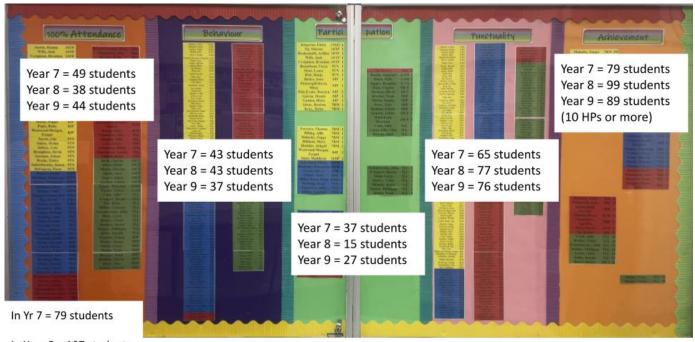


## Key Stage 3 news

Well done to all students for remaining focussed until the end of our first term. It was great to be able to reward so many of you on Tuesday in our Celebration Assembly. The highlights are shown below. Students who were nominated for TRACK values will receive a Mufti day on Wednesday 2nd November. Students who had 100% attendance for the term will receive a Mufti day on Thursday 3rd November. Students who had 0 negative behaviour logs will receive a Mufti day on Friday 4th November. We would like to remind students that they will need to dress appropriately for the weather! Tutors have all the details of who has earned these rewards and can let anyone know if they are unsure. Well done to all and I hope you have a wonderful half term break. See you on 31st October!

**Mrs Easterbrook** 

#### Term 1 Rewards:



In Year 8 = 107 students

In Year 9 = 94 students

Top House points = 82

#### **All 5 Achievers:**



### Wall of fame students for Term 1

### Well done to all of you

Lily E	7CPE
Lydia F	7CPE
Oren M (top HP in school!)	7CPE
Dorothy R	8ATI
Zara C	8ATI
Evie-Rose G	8VSM
Eva C	9RCO
2	

#### **Term 1 House and Tutor group Totals:**



Quantock		
7MWA	1170	
8LLO	775	

Exmoor		
7HJE	932	
8VSM	1148	
9GBR	813	

10654 House Points awarded this term!

Blackdown		
7CPE	1272	
8AKE	1126	
9JPU	776	

Mendip	
7JWA	997
8ATI	880
9RCO	765

Who are you going to be?

#### Year 7

**Miss Pengelly** has thoroughly enjoyed her first half term at St Dunstan's and is looking forward to many more! 7CPE have all made a fantastic start to the year and each and every one of them should be super proud of themselves! It was a tough decision to make when choosing a student for The Tutor Award however it was awarded to Corey Power this half term! Corey consistently models the school's TRACK values and is a kind, caring and all round wonderful student. Congratulations to the whole of 7CPE for an amazing half term and we look forward to another great one next!

**Mr Waugh** has enjoyed an amazing first term alongside 7JWA as they have made a brilliant start to their time at St Dunstans'. The Tutor Award was presented to Freida B for always being on TRACK, in particular her *kindness* to others, as well as being an all-round superstar!

**Mr Waterhouse** I am thoroughly enjoying being tutor to 7MWA; they are a lovely bunch who have worked hard in their first term at St Dunstan's. It is a pleasure to see them every day!

**Miss Jeans** awarded Winifred the Tutor Award for showing wonderful resilience in the first term as well as kindness to others even when not being 'seen' doing it. Her modelling of TRACK values was noticed and appreciated.

#### Year 8

**Miss Kench** has enjoyed her first, very busy, term at St Dunstan's and would like to thank the fab students of 8AKE for making her feel welcome! It was difficult to choose an overall winner for our tutor award, but it went to Abigail H for always being kind, polite and caring! Abigail is a superstar and always demonstrates TRACK values! Well done! Hope you all have a super half term!

**Mrs Smith** is very proud of the effort that 8VSM have put in this term! The tutor award went to Eva J for being a fabulous example of a St Dunstan's student; always on TRACK, always willing to help and always supporting those around her - well done Eva! Another big well done goes to Evie-Rose G for getting all five sections of the success chart and earning the Amazon voucher!

**Mrs Loud** is very proud of all her tutees for making such a tremendous start to year 8 but the tutor award this month went to Julia! Julia is a fantastic role model for St Dunstans, she is always smartly dressed and ready to learn with all the correct equipment. Julia is also **ambitious** for herself and Mrs Loud was particularly impressed when Julia asked for some more maths work to do at home. Well done Julia!

**Mr Timm** is extremely proud of the strides forward 8ATI is making moving into this new school year! Two of the wall of fame students from our tutor group! Spend your Amazon Vouchers on something fun Zara and Dorothy! I've been extremely pleased with the participation in both curricular and extracurricular activities. My tutor award this term went to Angelika. She exemplified the kindness and community Track values that we value so highly here at St Dunstan's. I'm really looking forward to our next term together:)

#### Year 9

**Mrs Pulford** is very pleased. Yet another term where 9JPU gained significant house points and praise from all members of staff across all subjects. I cannot count the number of kind gestures, comments and smiley faces I have seen in tutor time and around school from my tutees this term. Such a pleasure to be their tutor.

**Mr Brown** is really proud of how you have started Year 9. You look out for each other, always help me out and work so hard on form activities. A special shout out to Oliver Richards for receiving the form award for these values, but it was really hard to pick just one of you! Working with you on the Enrichment challenge has been a privilege and I can't wait to see the booklets each of you will produce by the end of next term. Have an amazing week off - you have earned it!

**Mr Conway** is pleased with how Year 9 has started generally for this group. The tutor term award went to Elysia J for great work in her subjects, lots of house points, and being part of Eco club. Congratulations to Eva C for getting all wedges in her pie chart, and receiving an Amazon voucher as her reward.

#### Year 7 Vivary Park Thursday 20th October - photography by Ena C-S

It was a pleasure to take Year 7 students to Vivary Park during the last day of term.

Students showed real resilience by participating in high ropes and wall climbing activities even when they were nervous about doing so! It was amazing to see students jump off the tower and fly to the ground with grace! There was a great sense of community as students supported each other (and their tutors) to step out of their comfort zone and be ambitious about what they could achieve. The rain tried to put a damper on their spirits but they did not give up! I hope they all enjoyed the opportunity to get to know each other outside of school; I know that they will become an even stronger year group as a result of spending this time together.

#### Mrs Easterbrook

This was an amazing place!

We had so much fun with our friends on the ropes, the power fan and the climbing wall. The climbing pole was great fun to jump off with our friends!

#### **Erin and Bethany**



## **Environment Group**



Students in the Environment group have been meeting weekly on Mondays after school with Sophie Cooper from the Wildlife trust. They are coming up with ideas of things to do to improve our carbon footprint as well as lists of plants they would like. If you are able to assist or offer any equipment or plants, we would be very grateful.

Engie is assisting with a new revamped area to the right of the Lucas Block which we are excited about, so please watch this space!

**Mrs Easterbrook** 

## **Key Stage 4 News**

#### Y10 and 11 celebration Assemblies

It was fantastic to celebrate our achievements at Key Stage 4 this term. We celebrated so many students across Y10 and 11 who have clearly stayed on TRACK, have had excellent attendance behaviour and have earned themselves significant numbers of house points.

Well done to **Sam Hopkins Y10 and Oliver Ackerman Y11** for having the highest house points totals for the term with 54 each

In addition our Amazon voucher winners for achieving all sections of our achievement chart are:

Eliza Mc Keever	11 CTH
Hazel Moon	11 CTH
Olivia Masters	11 CTH
Chloe Ackerman	11CTH

Well done everyone!

#### Year 11

#### **Macmillan Cancer Support Charity Fundraiser**

A huge well done and thank you to the team of Year 11 students who gave up their own time to bake so many delicious cakes and help raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Our students worked so hard and raised over £120 for the charity. Thank you to every student and member or staff that support our students, we really appreciate it.

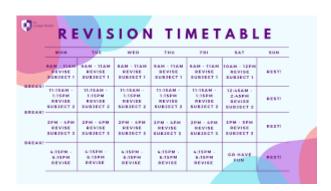


#### **Mock Exams**

Mock exams will take place during the week beginning November 14th for one week. Please make a head start in preparing for these.

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/



#### Interventions

Interventions have started in English, Science, History and Maths. These continue to target specific areas for development. Students should audit their own skills so that they know which areas they need to work on.

#### **Revision Sessions**

Revision sessions for English and Science will start after half term on Mondays (Science) and Thursdays (English). These will take place between 3.20- 4.15.

#### Year 11 parents' conference

Thank you to everyone who attended the evening, it was great to see so many of you there. We hope you found it useful. By working together, we can ensure that students are revising effectively and that they are fully prepared for their exams.

If you were unable to attend, resources will be shared with you in due course.

#### **Strode College**

Our Year 11s enjoyed a talk from Strode College about the courses available and the application process. Students will be attending a taster day at Strode on Wednesday, 9th November.

#### **Media Studies Filming Course**

After half term, a team of Year 10 and 11 Media Studies students are set to start a filming course in conjunction with Millfield Media Studies department. The collaboration will see students plan, shoot, present and edit a documentary for the whole community. This will involve a photo shoot at Crispin Community Centre where elderly residents will be enjoying a Tea Dance and the documentary will be available for general viewing once it is polished to perfection. We are very excited to be developing our practical skills and using the facilities that Millfield have offered us which includes the use of green screens and autocues. This production is coming soon to a screen near you!





#### Year 11 Geography

Year 11 students enjoyed a fantastic day out on their Geography field trip to Bristol last week.

Students were investigating whether regeneration has improved the dockland area.

Students showed great maturity and resilience when completing their fieldwork and conducting surveys and questionnaires. Well done everyone, we are proud of you all!

#### Prefects and head students

We have been proud to see our Tutees taking up their responsibilities in their leadership roles around the school. It is great to see the maturity and the commitment that they have shown by undertaking these important roles. Well done!

#### Housepoints

Year 11 have made a great start earning house points. Our current, top 5 individuals are:

- Oliver A
- Francesca D
- Maddison S
- Macaully B
- Poppy B

Congratulations to them all!

We continue to be impressed by our Year 11's hard work and resilience. We are always on the end of an email if students or parents need to contact us.

Once again, may we take the opportunity to thank parents/carers for your ongoing support. Mrs Manning, Mrs Gregory and Mrs Thomason

### **Pastoral News**

Unfortunately, a tiny minority of our students have been caught up in the current national trend for vaping. As you know, it is illegal for people under 18 to buy vapes or to bring them on to the school site. Likewise, as a public building, the school is a non smoking, non vaping site by law.

It is alarming to learn how many young people are becoming addicted to vaping across the country – particularly when the long term effects on health are still relatively unknown. Whilst we will support students to give up vaping by referring them to the appropriate service, we simply cannot have students vaping in school; we have already had an occasion where a younger student has witnessed an older student with a vape which is, obviously, completely unacceptable and thus we have had to introduce robust sanctions around vaping. A letter has been sent home at the end of last term to explain this.

<u>R:pple'</u> - The internet can be a force for tremendous good or harm. Here is one tool that attempts to tip the scales in favour of the positive.

It it is a sad fact that over the last two years internet searches for suicidal thoughts have increased by 23%, searches for suicide methods have increased by 50% and searches for suicide hotlines have increased by 125% (Semrush: 2021).

We have seen this increase within our own student body too, and whilst this is still a tiny minority, 1 student feeling this way is too many. What is sadder still, is that - often when young people search these key phrases online - they often come across any number of websites that are actually harmful, and in some cases explore how these thoughts can be acted on.

'R;pple' is an online interceptive tool designed to ensure more help and support is provided to individuals who are conducting searches relating to self-injury or suicide.

If a young person searches for something related to self-injury or suicide, R;pple intercepts the search, provides an immediate, vibrant display on a user's device, consisting of a message of hope as well as a selection of mental health resources in a range of different communicative options from free, established and 24/7 charity services.

Through R;pple, an individual feeling despair and researching harmful content will be urged to instead seek the mental health support they deserve and need in a way that works best for them.



If you are interested in finding out more and downloading the software onto your devices at home, please click the following link:

Somerset Health & Wellbeing: R;pple

## **Online Safety**



We know there has been a significant rise in negative online incidents and experiences for young people. A huge thank you to the NSPCC for running a webinar about online safety for us. A reminder that this webinar was recorded and we have uploaded it for parents / carers who were not able to attend. Please find the link below.

#### St Dunstan's Online Safety Webinar

We are hoping to run another such session next year, for people that would like to receive the training whilst having the opportunity to ask questions, and we will keep you informed about this. The NSPCC also provided us with additional resources to help parents / carers keep their children safe online and these can be found below.

#### **Avon and Somerset Police Webinars!**

As you know, there have also been webinars run by Avon and Somerset Police but places were taken up so quickly that it was difficult for a lot of parents to attend. We are delighted that the police have set up a youtube channel so that you can see three recorded sessions covering topics including:

- · Exploitation of children online
- Technical protective and safety measures available
- Tips on starting a conversation with children about the internet and how to use it safely.

Here is the link – we highly recommend viewing the videos:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCf41oqLODZCDKOmdj6ulSDq

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:

 $\underline{https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B5Z73cTOEMQdTVJCVU0weFZQb2s?resourcekey=0-mC9nM0f-rFEjRkAeis0sAw}$ 

#### 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 <a href="https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/">https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/</a> 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 summer, they can use the text number or QR code in the poster to access help or advice.





#### **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.

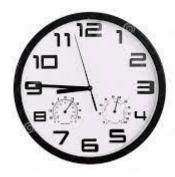
You can make changes to your details by calling 01458 832943 or emailing: secretary@stdunstansschool.com.

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

We will look forward to seeing everyone back in their classrooms, in correct uniform and with the correct equipment (including a reading book) on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022. A reminder that students should be in their tutor room at 8.45 and so should arrive on site by 8.40; the gates will be closed at 8.40 to ensure everyone gets to tutor on time.





# **Term Dates**

Term 2 begins on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022
Term 2 ends on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022
INSET Day on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023
Term 3 begins on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023

All students should be on site by 8.40 for a prompt start to registration at 8.45. Students must be in the correct uniform and have the correct equipment with them including a reading book.

Have a GREAT half term!