



December Newsletter 2020



Headteacher's Address

As this term draws to a close, and we reflect on this most strange start to the school year, I would like to express my admiration and thanks to all the staff, pupils and parents who have worked hard to take on the changes required to come back to school safely. I am proud to say that students have really worked hard and are making excellent progress in all classes. Year 11 have sat their first round of mock exams, and have shown a very mature and sensible approach to their preparations. The results are just coming in and they show that year 11 students have caught up with the work missed due to lock down. We are still waiting for confirmation from the exam boards as to how the exams will be adapted this year to reflect the lack of curriculum time.

At the end of term we will be saying goodbye to Mr Parfitt who is leaving to become Assistant Headteacher at Kings of Wessex School. He has been a key member of the leadership team of the school over the last 5 years and his work has been integral to the progress the school has made in that time. We wish him well in his new post. We will also be saying goodbye to Mrs Hawthorne, our music teacher, who will be taking up a new challenge in her career; we wish her every success and happiness.

In January, we will be welcoming Miss Deters who will be our new Head of Faculty for Science and Mr Saunders who will be our new music teacher. As the school has continued to grow, we will also be having a new timetable from 6th January. We hope to be able to give students their new timetables before the end of term, and they will also be available through the online portal.

We aim to reintroduce some form of face to face tutoring early next term with each class group having a tutor who will register them each morning and monitor their welfare and progress. To enable this to happen **all students must be at their classrooms for 8.45am** (the school's normal start time) and ready for registration at 8.50am. Students should continue to enter via the gates designated for their year group.

I hope that you all have a lovely Christmas break and have time to relax, ready for the New Year. We look forward to seeing everyone back at 8.45 on January 6th 2021.



Careers News

On November 11th both Year 10 and 11 attended virtual careers fairs online. They were introduced to a wide range of potential Further and Higher Education Colleges and up to 100 local and national employers and training facilities. They investigated the full range of A Level courses available in our area along with apprenticeships and the new T level qualifications. Students were able to chat online with providers across the South West - A great opportunity to find out more about their potential next steps. An added bonus was that Becca in Year 11 won the draw and received a £25 amazon voucher from Strode College.



Becca, year 11, receiving her Amazon voucher from Debbie Gardiner of Strode College

HOT JOBS!

PARAMEDIC

Paramedics deal with emergencies, giving people life-saving medical help.

Salary*
£22,000 to £35,250

Subjects
A great job if you love science.

Skills

- excellent driving
- think & act quickly under pressure
- ability to follow procedures
- excellent communication

Jobs
6% more jobs nationally by 2023

View information on 800+ jobs.
Assess your skills using the Skills Map.
Use the Course Search or Start with a Subject.

CAREERPILOT.ORG.UK

* In 2023 the national average salary was £27,000. However, the figure will go up as the industry continues to grow.

EARLY-YEARS TEACHER

Early-years teachers, also known as nursery teachers, are specialists in early childhood development.

Salary*
£18,000 to £30,000

Subjects
A great job if you love psychology or English.

Skills

- sensitive & understanding
- patience & ability to remain calm
- ability to work well with others
- excellent verbal communication

Jobs
4% more jobs nationally by 2023

View information on 800+ jobs.
Assess your skills using the Skills Map.
Use the Course Search or Start with a Subject.

CAREERPILOT.ORG.UK

* In 2023 the national average salary was £22,000. However, the figure will go up as the industry continues to grow.

Mock Exams

From November 18th to November 27th, Year 11 undertook their first round of mock exams. The invigilators have asked us to pass on their praise for how well behaved, focused and hardworking the vast majority of students were. There will be a further round of mock exams in the Spring term; we would like to remind year 11, gently, that results from these exams - coupled with work and assessments completed in class, as well as effort and attitude - will be used as evidence should we have to give Centre Assessed Grades rather than students sitting exams in the summer. Year 11 have had a tough year but this is the time to work hard to give themselves the very best chance of success in spite of circumstances beyond their control. Keep up the great effort Year 11!

Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas Jumper Day 2020 was enjoyed by staff and students this year, raising vital funds for Save the Children. The day, where people don a 'silly festive jumper', is celebrated annually and this year staff and students participated both in school and from home learning or self isolation. It was a good opportunity to dust off the jumper and kick start the count down to the festive period. Well done to those who joined in. A 'rerun' will be held on the last day of term as so many Key Stage 3 students could not be in school on the day.



Speaking of Christmas ...

As many of you will be aware, the staff at St Dunstan's wanted to help families who might struggle a little over Christmas as a result of the dreadful year that was 2020. We put out a message on Facebook at the start of December to offer help. The community rallied and we were overwhelmed by the generosity shown. There are going to be some happy faces on Christmas morning – thank you to everyone who donated, wrapped (particularly Mrs Mitchell, Mrs Gray, Mrs Hawthorne and Ms Smith), sorted presents for the children (Mrs Manning), labelled presents and got them ready for delivery (Mrs Potter, Mrs Gregory, Miss Whittaker, Mrs Pulford, Mr Fletcher, Mrs Purves). Thank you to Mrs Sheppard, Mrs Gerrard, Mrs Tucker and Mrs Cook for processing the requests for presents and to Glastonbury Community Support Group for volunteering to deliver them. A lovely end to a rotten year.



Some of the presents wrapped and ready for delivery – marvellous!

You can see the article about this published by Nub News by following this link:

<https://glastonbury.nub.news/n/staff-at-st-dunstan39s-school-in-glastonbury-co-ordinate-efforts-to-provide-gifts-for-children-in-need>

Pastoral News

Staying on T.R.A.K

In our last newsletter we explained that we have identified the values that we feel best represent our school.

- **Truth**
- **Resilience**
- **Awareness**
- **Kindness**

We believe that St Dunstan's students should:

- seek **Truth**, show a thirst for learning and question what they hear
- grow **Resilience** by working hard, staying positive and embracing challenge
- stay **Aware** of thoughts and feelings, their impact on others and the environment and share hope
- choose **Kindness** by showing gratitude, respecting all and including others

As a result of living these core values, students will stay on TRAK; these values will be central to our school life and will permeate all that we do. Next term, students will notice posters around the school as well as teachers making links to these values in lessons and during social time. Students will also be asked to consider where they have exhibited these values in their work and in their relationships with others.

Tutor Groups

Because of Covid restrictions, we cannot run our vertical tutor groups. We have been running virtual tutor groups and asking Period 1 teachers to take registers and give out notices. However, as the restrictions are going on far longer than expected, we feel that it is vital to have some face-to-face tutor group system in place. Following consultation with staff, it has been agreed that we will have horizontal (year group) tutor groups in place from early January to allow for this face-to-face provision to be put in place.

Therefore, as the Head Teacher's address states, students will need to be in their classrooms from **8:45am** ready for tutor time to start at **8:50am**. This will allow tutors to do a full uniform check to maintain our high standards, carefully complete our legal registers, give out daily notices and ensure students have someone to check in with if they need support.

Additionally, we will be asking tutors to touch base with students if their attendance starts to dip, or they are arriving late consistently. If time allows, we will also have some DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) time in tutor sessions, some work around careers and some reflection on our school values of Truth, Resilience, Awareness & Kindness. Most importantly, tutors will be students' first port of call if they need help with anything school related. We hope this will be another positive step towards further improving our students' educational experience during this challenging time.

Online Safety

We know there is currently a significant rise in negative online incidents and experiences for young people. Our online safety training session went ahead as planned – those who attended found it very informative and helpful in understanding how to keep children safer online. A huge thank you to the NSPCC and all those who attended. As promised 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 later in the 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.

Net Aware: A 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/>

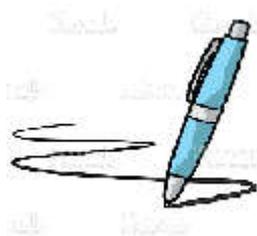
Advice and support for young people, via Childline:

<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/>

Uniform and Equipment



We are very pleased to see the vast majority of students in the correct uniform and with the right equipment. We would be grateful if you could check your child's pencil case over the Christmas holiday and replenish any dwindling supplies of pens (both black/blue and green) pencils, rulers, rubbers etc as we are still not allowed to loan equipment to students under the current restrictions. Calculators and filled pencil cases make great presents!

We have, however, noticed that there is some slipping of standards around uniform for a very small minority of students. Please use the holiday to ensure that your child has the correct uniform. Please note that the only hoodies allowed in school are the official school PE hoodies, and these should only be worn on the days a student has PE. If the weather is cold, a school jumper should be worn on non PE days. Skirts should be knee length and not made of stretch fabric. Trousers should be black and tailored – not skin tight and not jeans. Please note that facial piercings and extreme hair colours or cuts are not allowed. Students with earrings should wear one small stud in each ear only. No rings or bracelets should be worn; make up should be subtle.

We appreciate the support from parents and carers with maintaining our high standards and will continue to work closely with parents to resolve any issues around uniform, particularly at this difficult time. If uniform issues are persistent, despite our best efforts, we will need to follow our behaviour policy which could lead to students being removed from circulation or further sanctions.

Punctuality

We would like to remind parents and students that, while most students have impressed us with their punctuality, it is a concern that a very small number of students are still consistently and persistently arriving late to school. This means that year group bubbles could be compromised, staff have to be pulled from other duties to escort them to lessons and, of course, they are missing significant amounts of education – five minutes a day is half a lesson a week. Please ensure that students know that, from January, we will be back to our normal start time and so every student should be on site by 8.45am. They should go straight to their designated classroom at this time. Any child who is late more than three times, will receive an afterschool detention for every late thereafter to make up the time and learning missed. If a student is not late at all for the equivalent of a half-term, their number will be reset to zero.



Celebration Assembly & Mufti dates

On Friday, our celebration assembly for Term 2 will be held, although sadly this still needs to happen remotely. We are now recognising those students who have achieved exceptional levels of **Attendance, Punctuality, Behaviour** and attained a certain number of **House Points**. As usual, **those on the Attendance and Behaviour lists will receive a mufti-day on Thursday the 7th and Friday the 8th of January**, respectively.

Students' names will not be read out in the assembly, only the total for Houses and year groups, so students will have to wait until next term to check the board and see if they are in any of the winning categories!

As promised, we have also **reinstated Amazon vouchers** for students who are named on all the above lists and **achieve what is now the coveted 'Big Four'**. Again, students will have to wait until next term to check the 'Wall of Fame' to see if they have reached this highest honour and won an Amazon voucher!



Term Dates

Term 2 finishes at 3.15 on Friday 18th December

Term 3 begins on Wednesday 6th January

Term 4 starts on Wednesday 6th January 2021

Have a restful and Happy Christmas - we will look forward to seeing everybody back on 6th January.