



April Newsletter 2022

Headteacher's Address

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, here we are in April and about to embark on the Easter holidays. Spring is in the air, the warmer weather is showing its face (occasionally!) and there are only two terms left in the school year. Whilst the dreaded Covid is officially over, it has still been having a significant impact on schools; I would like to thank you all for your support and understanding during the last term. I would also like to publicly thank all of our staff for the commitment and dedication they have shown in keeping the school open and running as normally as possible. I do hope that next term brings a reduction in the disruption to all our lives.

Once again, I have enjoyed celebrating success with students through 'milkshake at break' – it is great to see students being nominated for living our TRAK values and for being generally lovely human beings! I have also enjoyed seeing Year 10 drama students perform their first live piece to an audience – more of that later in the newsletter. I have been delighted by the positive attitude to sporting events and I was very proud of the students who took part in the International Maths Challenge at Millfield. Well done to all of you.

We say goodbye to Ms Stead and Ms Howell at the end of this term. Thank you to both of them for their hard work and contribution to the school. I wish them every success and happiness for the future.

I was very pleased that we were able to host assemblies and workshops on the campaign to end violence towards women and girls; this is such an important campaign for society and it makes me proud that our students will be at the forefront of ensuring the message is clear in our school and beyond. Thank you to Mr Oakwood for all his work in organising such a powerful day for our students. I am looking forward to seeing the media piece created by the students.

We are now approaching the 'last leg' of Year 11's time with us. It was wonderful to see parents and students for an information evening in the final week of this term; the feedback was that the session was very useful in terms of how to support your child in revising as well as in providing strategies for managing any stress around the exams. Mr Atkinson will be making a recording of the main presentation which will be sent to parents who could not attend. As you will see later in this newsletter, there are a range of revision courses running in the holidays and I would urge Year 11 students to attend as many as possible as well as those being run after school during term time. Mr Atkinson has created a revision website which includes all the strategies discussed on the information evening as well as resources for each subject. The website can be found here: <https://sites.google.com/stdunstansschool.com/trainsontrak/home>

Moving into next term, I am pleased to say that we will be removing some of the plastic drinks bottles from the canteen as we try to reduce our single use plastic around the school. There will be cartons of juice available from the canteen and we will still have bottles of water while we research the best options for more environmentally friendly containers. All students should have a reusable drinks bottle so that they can fill it at the water cooler.

As we look forward to the rest of the school year and, hopefully, a return to more normality, we need to ensure that students are in the correct uniform and that attendance is as good as possible; we do appreciate it has been incredibly difficult over the last couple of years – and we have made adjustments to our attendance procedures as a result - but considering how much vital learning has been lost already as a result of the pandemic, we now need to ensure that students are in school as much as possible so that they can catch up on any missed work. The new guidance around Covid and children attending school has been shared in a letter from our CEO, Mr Williams.

In a nutshell:

- Regular asymptomatic testing is **no longer** recommended in any education or childcare setting, including in SEND and alternative provision. Therefore, our schools will no longer be able to order test kits and we are no longer able to hand out any test kits to staff or pupils, unless advised otherwise by our local health protection team, local authority or director of public health.
- Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.
- If your child has a positive COVID-19 test result, they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.

In essence, these changes enable you to now send your child to school when they are well enough to attend and our school's attendance team will work with parents accordingly.

Please ensure that your child is in the correct uniform next term so that we can all enjoy the positives of being a part of the St Dunstan's community.

Punctuality is as important as attendance; please note that students should be in their tutor rooms at 8.50 – not arriving on site at that time. All students are expected to be on site by 8.45 at the very latest. We have seen a real improvement in punctuality to school; please continue to support your child to be here promptly so that they have a positive start to the day.

School uniform can be purchased from Southwest Schoolwear in Wells either in their shop or online: <https://www.swschoolwear.co.uk/>

On behalf of all of us at St Dunstan's, I wish you a very happy and restful Easter holiday; we look forward to seeing Year 11 for revision sessions and to seeing all students back on site, in the correct uniform and with the correct equipment by 8.45 at the latest on Monday 25th April.

Mrs Bevan

Goodbye and Thank You

At the end of this term, we say goodbye to Ms Howell who has been offered a new opportunity; we thank her for all her hard work and wish her every success in her new venture.

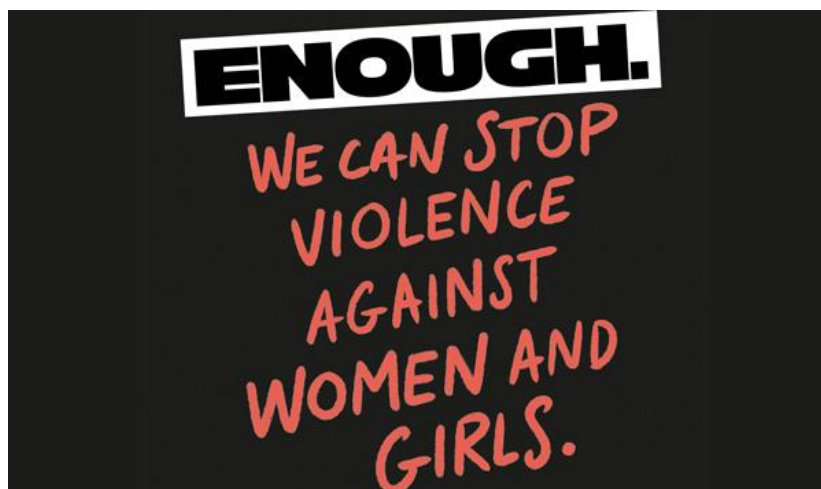
We also say goodbye to Ms Stead who has been a member of staff at St Dunstan's for 8 years. She is moving on to work with TLE coaching and so will be a regular visitor to local primary schools as well as possibly helping to run holiday clubs here.

Over the years, Ms Stead has been an integral part of the school taking on a number of roles, She is always willing to help students and staff and is a lively, vibrant and (very) funny member of the school community. Ms Stead has worked tirelessly on organising work experience for students and has also been the main driver in organising the year 11 prom. We wish her every success and happiness in her new role. We thank her for all her contributions to our school community – we will miss her very much.

Campaign to End Violence Towards Women and Girls

On Wednesday 6th April, we were lucky to have Collaborative Digital come in for the day and work with students about how we as a society can end violence towards women and girls.

Whole year group assemblies were delivered to years 9, 10 and 11, and 18 selected students took part in an intensive three hour workshop. This involved learning and exploring about the issues and evidence regarding this campaign, working with the Collaborative Digital workers to brainstorm ideas and engage in creative writing to prepare podcasts. These podcasts were then recorded with a professional producer and will be edited and sent back to the school to inspire future generations of students.



The students that worked on the project were an absolute credit to the school, as were all the students present in the thought provoking assemblies. By working together, and tackling this issue head on, St Dunstan's students hope to have a positive influence in eradicating violence towards women and girls from society for good. All students in years 9, 10 and 11 were issued with bookmarks containing contact details of support services, and charity wristbands to show their support for the campaign.

Mr Oakwood

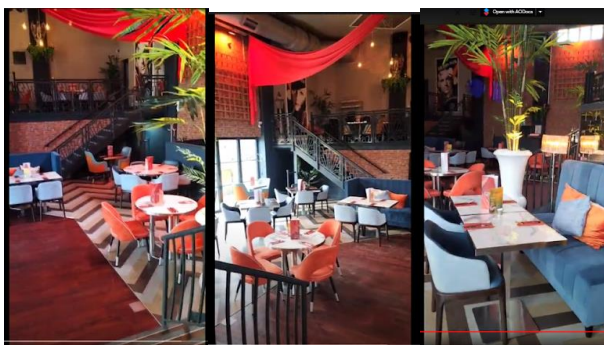
Year 11 News

Firstly, we would like to say a huge well done to all the Year 11s for the way they conducted themselves during the recent mock exams. The students' behaviour, maturity and determination were excellent throughout. Students have now received their mock exam results and should know the areas that they need to work on in each subject area.

Over the next few weeks we have lots of intervention sessions going on during and after school and **it is** vital that students attend as many sessions as they can. We also advise students to attend all relevant revision sessions during the Easter holidays. All students also have access to a school revision website that will support their learning whilst at home. The link to this is on their Google Classroom.

Prom

Thankfully, we will be able to have a prom this year and what an evening it will be! Prom is an evening where we celebrate completing five years at St. Dunstan's School as well as an opportunity for the students and staff to say goodbye before the students embark on the next part of their journey. Arrangements for prom are well underway and we will update you as soon as dates are finalised.



Hoodies

Details for ordering School leavers Hoodies for 2022 will soon be released. They will be available online in a range of colours. Ordering is easy!

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. Sarah T
2. Lily H-C
3. Tony M
4. Ellie B
5. Aaron S

College Places

We are proud that the vast majority of students have now successfully applied for their college place for next year. Following their application form, students have had an informal telephone interview. Strode and Bridgwater Colleges have both been impressed with our students' maturity and commitment during these interviews. Well done!

Important dates from Strode College

Wednesday 15th June - OPEN EVENING

Having doubts? Want to have a look at other courses? Then book a slot for June open evening.

Tuesday, 5th July - PRE-INDUCTION DAY for new students

New students will receive an invitation to attend this Welcome Day at the college and meet with their personal teacher, sample their course(s) and meet other students.

Thursday, 25th August - GCSE results day - Strode enrolment opens!

Attend your enrolment appointment to speak with teachers and confirm your choices. They can talk you through any changes you may want to make.

Bridgwater College Open Days

Wednesday 27 April 2022, 5:30pm - 7:00pm - Cannington Campus

Wednesday 8 June 2022, 6:00pm - 8:00pm - Taunton Campus

Thursday 9 June 2022, 6:00pm - 8:00pm - Bridgwater Campus

Having doubts? Want to have a look at other courses? Then book a slot on one of the available open evenings.

Year 11 are coming towards the end of this stage of their school career; the finishing line is in sight. Students have a final few weeks of school to work towards the grades required to take them forward into the next stage of their life. So work hard, keep focused, put in the preparation for the GCSEs. Make sure that come August there are no regrets!

Easter Revision timetable:

Year 11 Easter Revision					
	Monday (11th)	Tuesday (12th)	Wednesday (13th)	Thursday (14th)	Friday (15th)
AM	French (LT) 10:00 - 12:00	English (KAG) 09:00 - 11:30	Science (BWH) Foundation only (09:00 - 11:30)	Maths (TVA) Foundation only (09:30 - 11:30)	School Closed for the Bank Holiday
PM	French (LT) 12:30 - 14:30	History (GBR) 12:30 - 14:30	Science (BWH) Higher only (12:00 - 14:30)	Maths (TVA) Higher only (12:30 - 14:30)	
	Monday (18th)	Tuesday (19th)	Wednesday (20th)	Thursday (21st)	Friday (22nd)
AM	School Closed for the Bank Holiday	Computer Science (TN) 09:00 - 11:30	Geography (JM) 10:00 - 12:30		
		Sport (TW) 10:00 - 12:00			
PM	School Closed for the Bank Holiday	iMedia (TN) 12:00 - 14:30			

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 and Mrs Gregory

Year 10 News

Work experience

Students are busily organising work experience placements for Monday 18th until Thursday 21st July 2022. Many placements have been secured but it is essential if this event is to be successful that all students secure a placement in good time. Please see tutors or Mr Jones for further help and support.

Careers Interviews

If you would like to receive a careers interview in advance of Y11 please speak to Mr Jones.

Year 10 Drama

Year 10 Drama students gave their first performance to a live audience this term. Isaac in Year 7 has written this review of their work:

Review On a year 10 Production:

DNA

It kicks off with the friends having fun and chatting, but fear strikes when their friend that they accidentally killed might be found and they could be imprisoned!

In a state of panic they think of a way to hide/cover up the body, but throughout the play conflict turns to war between the group as they start to go into a fight or flight state, one of the friends hides in a bush until found, they suspect they should get rid of him and this causes conflict between two characters.

The thing I liked about these few scenes is how they had people off for rehearsal and had to play multiple characters and even though they didn't know that characters lines their acting blew me out of the water and completely shocked me on how talented these people were.

I started wondering at one part if they were acting or if depth and real emotion was dedicated to this piece of true wonders, one of the best 1 and a half hours of my life I've ever had in a theatrical experience (I have been doing stuff like this for 8 years, I grew up doing plays) and out of the hundreds of plays I've watched, I was gobsmacked

They completely blasted this rehearsal even though it was their first time with a crowd. I loved it and completely recommended to any theatre schools to take a look at these kids and their true potential and skill. I give this rehearsal a 7.5/10, and I know the real thing is going to be even better! I really do admire their courage.

That's my take though, see for yourself.



Key Stage 3

Well done to all students for working so hard this term despite some tricky circumstances. It has been fantastic to see students embodying the TRAK values day-to-day and taking part in the events that St Dunstan's has to offer. I hope that all students have a wonderful Easter break and look forward to

welcoming them back on Monday 25th April at 8.45am. 😊😊😊
Mrs Easterbrook

Calling all Key stage 3 students

Mrs Lewis, the SENDCo needs your HELP!

From July 2022 the SEN department will be moving down to the Inclusion room so we can all be together as a team. We will be renaming the room – it will be called “The Hub”

Most of the support services for students will be in the Hub and we want to celebrate by creating a logo which represents all the aspects of SEN and student support. This could include our neurodiversity, the inclusive nature of our school, valuing our unique characteristics and what makes us the people that we are, celebrating our strengths and working together to overcome our challenges and difficulties

Design a Logo or Image on an A4 page (in colour) which represents SEN in our School. The winners in each Year group will win a £10 voucher and one will be chosen to be used within the school.

Good Luck!



Year 7 Tutor messages

Mrs Smith

Well done for another great term 7VS! You have continued to demonstrate the TRAK values and I am very proud to lead such a lovely, kind group of people. We have welcomed four new students this term and you have all done a wonderful job of making them feel included and part of things. We are also currently leading the charge for house points and I have no doubt that you will continue to build on this next term. Enjoy the break and I'll see you bright and early on 25th April!

Mrs Loud

What another fantastic term 7LL! You should all feel incredibly proud of yourselves because I certainly am. Some highlights for me have been to see how many of you in the tutor group are taking part in the wider school life at St Dunstan's and it's been great to share in your success. From netball, football and badminton to chess and drama club, it's amazing how many of you are taking part in these, showing what fantastic TRAK role models you are. I have been so pleased to see that the vast majority of you are coming to school in the correct uniform and with the correct equipment every single day and I cannot believe we got our equipment check down to under a minute! Do you think we can beat this next term?! I hope you have a wonderful Easter break and some well-deserved rest. The Easter bunny may be making an early visit on Friday...

Mr Harris

Well done for a great term from 7BH! I have enjoyed seeing you all settle in to life at St Dunstan's School and I have heard so many great things about you all from other teachers in the school which has made me feel very proud to be your tutor. You have been particularly good at showing kindness towards each other by looking out for each other around the school and including each other in different tutor activities. I am also very pleased to see that many of you are involved in extracurricular activities such as after school sports clubs. Keep up all the great progress you are making and have a great Easter break!

Mr Maple

Well done to everyone in the form as we get used to life post-covid restrictions. It has certainly been good to have nearly everyone back to good health in the last couple of weeks. It has also been a privilege and a pleasure to hear about the fine achievements students from the form have made over the term. Indeed, it is always good to share in your celebrations, whether it is playing football, badminton or netball for the school or your wonderful success in activities out of school. For many of you, it is just the taking part that matters as we adjust to life again. TRAK values are helping to make you the wonderful people you are! Don't forget to check your equipment each day and get your 'brain in gear' as we embark on our learning together, have a good Easter -you deserve a rest!

Top 5 Year 7 students for House Points:

1. Erin D
2. Zeppy M
3. Alfie C
4. Phillippa S
5. William G



Year 8 Tutor messages

Mrs Pulford

8JP are brilliant. I have been surprised, and so pleased, with the amount of times I see your names on so many positive praise lists. Many of you are in this newsletter too. You have taken part in so many things, this term from Drama Club to Sporting events. You regularly gain massive amounts of house points in all areas relating to TRAK values. I couldn't be more proud of you all. My hope is that Easter brings you rest, relaxation, joy and chocolate! Have a good one lovely peeps!

Mr Conway

Well done 8CH, you've increasingly had the right equipment with you in Term 4, and behaviour has been good in the closing weeks of the term. I feel things are going in the right direction again, and I know we can keep this going!

Mr Brown

Thank you for being such a superb form and being an absolute privilege to work with this term. I have been amazed by the TRAK values you each show everyday and I can't wait to see what you do in the Summer term!

Have a relaxing break - you really deserve it!

Top 5 Year 8 students for House points:

1. Leonora C-C
2. Lexi C
3. Rosalyn P-E
4. Charlotte M
5. Ammathyst O'S



Year 9 Tutor messages

Mrs Potter

Well done 9HP, it has been a great term. You have all worked really hard to achieve your best and stay on TRAK. You have been very smart and ready to learn with equipment and reading books every morning. Well done to Felicity E who went to Millfield to participate in the Maths Challenge, I am very proud of you. So many of you have been working hard on your Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award, getting your route plans done for the practice expedition in May, as well as completing your physical, skill and volunteering sections, keep up the good work. Well done to the two new CCF members from the tutor group, this is a great opportunity that you are embracing. It has been a busy term choosing options and making decisions in what subjects you want to proceed with at KS4. I look forward to seeing you all progress further in the summer term. Well done and have a wonderful Easter break.

Mr Norris

Fantastic term 9TN! I have been impressed with how you have worked hard and stayed on TRAK this term. Many of you have been getting involved with extra curricular activities such as the Maths challenge, sports clubs (including matches against other schools) and drama club just to name a few. The Duke of Edinburgh award has been popular this year with a number of you taking part in it and planning your practice expedition. You have all made big decisions by choosing your option subjects which will influence your future. Well done for your efforts and I look forward to seeing you continue to progress and work together and make St Dunstan's school a great place to be!

Mrs Purves

It has been a privilege to work with 9IR this term and get to know some of you again and some for the first time. I have been pleased to see the positive praise so many of you are receiving on a regular basis and the extra-curricular activities that you are involved in. I am particularly happy to see so many of you taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award and planning for your practice expedition - good luck in May! Well done for all your efforts this term, have a great Easter break

Top 5 Year 9 students for House points:

1. Antonia Q
2. Emma M
3. Edwin H
4. Simon S
5. Poppy H



Whole school House points:

All students should be proud of their efforts, and for this term the house points stand as follows:

- 4th place: Blackdown
- 3rd place: Quantock
- 2nd place: Mendip
- 1st place: Exmoor

Environment Group

The Year 8 students in the Environment Group have been meeting regularly with Sophie Cooper from the Wildlife Trust and are almost ready to start work on the garden area of the school. We have a grant to help us with the work we want to do and cannot wait for everyone to see the results.

If students have any ideas, or want to get involved, please contact Mrs Easterbrook.

Similarly if parents/carers would like to get involved, we would love the help!



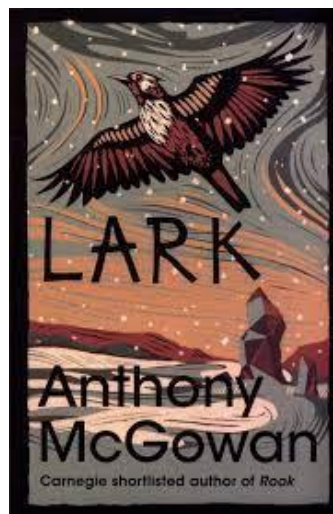
English

Reciprocal Reading

We are delighted to announce that we have started a new reading intervention called Reciprocal Reading. Over 30 students in Year 7 are working together in small groups to improve their literacy skills. Thank you to Mrs Hale for putting all of the information together and all the TAs who have been working with the Year 7s this term. At the end of the intervention we will reassess their reading age and celebrate the progress they have made.

I am really proud of the Year 7 students who have been willing to learn and challenge themselves showing their TRAK values.

A New Year 7 Text: Lark

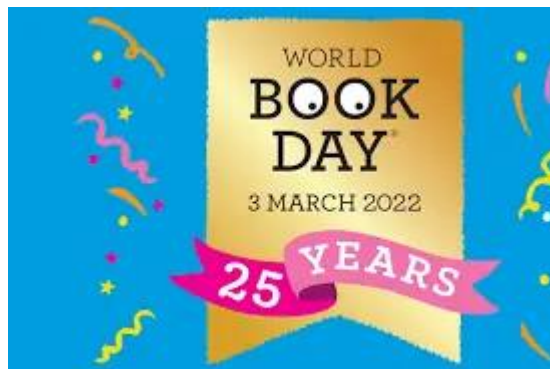


This year, as part of our KS3 curriculum overhaul, we decided to include *Lark* by Anthony McGowan as part of the Year 7 scheme of learning and we are pleased to say that the response has been very positive across the year group.

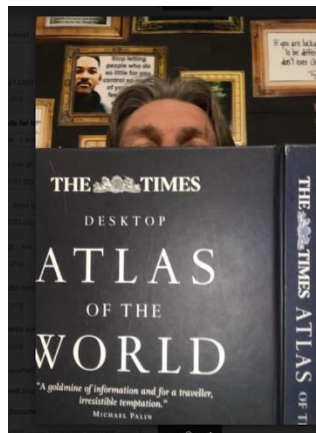
The story follows brothers Nicky and Kenny as they set off for a walk across the Yorkshire moors with their Jack Russell terrier, Tina. But, what starts out as a 'lark', soon begins to go wrong as both snow and darkness descend. When things really take a turn for the worse, the brothers have to work together to make sure they can make it safely home...

As well as being an exciting adventure story, *Lark* also includes themes of family and caring, storytelling and nature, which links in with last term's unit of work on Nature Poetry. There have been a wide range of interesting discussions provoked by the book and maybe even a tear or two!

Lark is also the last book in a quartet and it's been wonderful to see several students picking up the other books in the series to read in their own time - well done Year 7!



March 2nd saw the whole school engage in a range of events to do with books and their impact on our lives. In a world where things are changing so quickly, books have remained constant and comforting. This year's theme was 'You Are a Reader' and students were invited to dress as their **favourite** character and engage in a number of activities such as designing a bookmark and 'Who's that Behind the Book?' quiz where staff were hiding behind their favourite text.



Music

In the Music department students have covered a range of topics. In Year 7 students have been developing their keyboard skills, Year 8 looking at World Music: with a focus on African drumming, Indian and Gamelan Music, and Year 9 have been using Logic Pro to write their own pieces of music.

On Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes the practice rooms are available to book for students to practice playing their instrument or continue working on their classwork. Please book using the booking sheets on the doors.

The St Dunstan's Singing Group (ideas for a catchy name welcome!) has started on a Friday after school, we are a small group of singers at the moment, but would welcome students who would like to join.

An exciting opportunity for young musicians who are interested in folk music is also available during the Easter holidays. A fun residential programme for musicians and singers guided by folk and music professionals. Students can take part in intensive and enjoyable workshops to explore folk music, musicianship, personal style and leadership skills in the fabulous setting of Halsway Manor. Tilo in Year 8 has signed up to take part, and we look forward to hearing all about this excellent project.



Maths

On 30 March, a team of St Dunstan's students took part in the Millfield maths challenge.

Competitors were Emmelia H, Felicity E, Olivia M and Charlie D. They did our school proud and beat local rivals from Bucklers Mead and Shaftesbury. Wells Cathedral won the competition, but St Dunstan's ate the most cake, with a mean average of 6.3 cakes eaten! Thank you to Millfield for hosting this prestigious event. Well done to everyone!

Mr Armstrong

A diagram illustrating the components of the equation $x + 5 = 10$. The variable x is labeled 'variable' with a green arrow. The plus sign $+$ is labeled 'addition' with a black arrow. The number 5 is labeled 'value' with a red arrow. The equals sign $=$ is labeled 'what "x + 5" is equal to' with a blue arrow. The number 10 is the result. The diagram is credited to @Study.com.

Sport

Year 7 Netball vs Wells Blue School 10/3/22

Our year 7 netball team travelled over to Wells to play one of our local rivalries.

The 1st quarter started a bit manic, with the ball going up and down the court and everyone chasing it like hunters after their prey. Quarter ended 2-2.

2nd quarter: we utilised what we have recently learnt; moving into space and asking for the ball as opposed to standing like a tree with our arms waving like branches in the wind! Half time and we are 4-2 up.

3rd quarter: we really started to work the court, jumping for the ball and snatching it in to keep possession. On top of this, our defence made some magnificent interceptions. The quarter ended 6-4 to us.

Final quarter and we started to get tired, however the girls continued to work hard to stop Wells' quick passing streak. Adrenaline was high at this point because our students knew they were winning and this made us panic on the ball at times.

Final score = St Dunstan's 8 - 7 Wells Blue

Players' player x 2 = Phillippa and Ania 🙌

Fantastic effort girls, well done. You have all made so much progress!

#dunniessport #netballteam #runningtheTRAK #alwaysonTRAK



Year 8 Netball Festival 15.3.22

Fairlands hosted a Year 8 Netball festival; each match was 10 minutes one way. The schools involved were; Oakfield; Selwood; Fairlands; Sexeys; Wells Blue and St Dunstan's.

The girls played brilliantly together and most importantly enjoyed themselves.

RESULT... we came 4th 🎉

A massive WELL DONE to Hannah for getting picked as players' player by all the schools!!! Great job Maude for being year 8s Captain for the season, well done. Thank you Phillippa and Keira for stepping up to play for year 8s tonight. Enormous thank you to Leonora's mum for her support and delicious cupcakes! So kind of you and it was lovely of Leonora to give some to the Kings of Wessex students who umpired the matches



#dunniessport #runningtheTRAK #alwaysonTrak



Year 8/9 Rugby Development Day 25.3.22

This was a great opportunity and experience for our year 8 and 9 boys, where they were able to pop across the road to Tor Rugby Club to be coached by Alex Randall from Bath Rugby Federation. The day consisted of coaching a variety of skills and finished with playing touch rugby against the other schools. Andrew Pearce, coach and volunteer at Tor Rugby Club, was also available to have a chat with the boys about what Tor has to offer.



St Dunstan's Primary Sports Festival 25.3.22

St Dunstan's welcomed 100 wonderful year 5 and 6 students from St Benedict's Primary School for an afternoon of fun in the sun.

Our year 11 sport leaders planned and delivered a range of sports and what a fantastic job they did! They really stepped out of their comfort zone and proved they are incredible role models. Year 8s also contributed to the successful afternoon by leading a group each around the sporting activities. They supported students and tried to get to know each one individually.

All our students were a credit to our school and made us very proud! We look forward to running more primary festivals in the future. We would like to say a HUGE thank you to Jon Davis who helped plan the day.

#dunniessport #primaryfestival #TLEcoaching





Well done to the Year 7 Football team who played both Fairlands and Millfield this term. Some outstanding displays on show and great sportsmanship was shown throughout.



An opportunity for Netball players next term:

Turn up and play

fun • friends • feeling good



SASP
Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership

FREE Netball - fun sessions

When: Starts Wednesday 4th May

Time: 3.30 - 5pm

Where: St Dunstan's School
Netball Courts

Who: Girls aged 12+



- Wear comfortable clothes you can move in
- Your comfy trainers
- Bring a water bottle

REGISTER HERE!



Please let us know you're coming along
by scanning the QR code or email hbullock@sasp.co.uk

<https://www.sasp.co.uk/forms/view/st-dunstans-netball>



Pastoral News

R;pple' - 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.

While Christmas is a cheerful time for many of us, 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](#)


TRUTH

Speaks Truth

TRUTH

Thirst for Learning

Questions things



RESILIENCE

Works Hard

Embraces Challenge

Stays Positive



STAY ON TRAK

AWARENESS

Thoughts and Feelings

Shares Hope

Impact on Others & Environment




KINDNESS

Respects All

Shows Gratitude

Includes Others



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/UCf41oqLODZCDKOmdj6ulSDg>

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-mC9nMOF-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 running very successfully. 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.



ChatHealth

Emotional Health
Relationships
Sexual Health
Drugs
Smoking
Alcohol

Got a concern?
If you're 11-19
it only takes one text to
start making a difference

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

Disclaimer: This is not an emergency service; it operates Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm and is only available by using a 16 mobile number. Your messages are stored on our secure system and can be seen by the School Nursing Team who run our ChatHealth Service. Although this is a confidential service, in the event of an safeguarding issue the School Nurse has a duty of care to act on this and may escalate the concern.

Improving LIVES



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 25th April 2022. A reminder that students should be in their classroom at 8.50 and so should arrive on site by 8.45; the gates will be closed at 8.45 to ensure everyone gets to tutor on time.





Term Dates

Term 5 begins on Monday 25 April 2022

Term 4 ends on Friday 27 May 2022

Term 6 begins on 6 June 2022

Term 6 ends on 21 July 2022

Bank Holidays for the rest of this year are:

Early May Day Bank Holiday 02 May 2022

Spring Bank Holiday 02 June 2022

Platinum Jubilee 03 June 2022

Summer Bank Holiday 29 August 2022

