

May 2023 Newsletter

Headteacher's Address

Dear Parents and Carers.

It is hard to believe that we have now completed the penultimate term of the year and only have one term left before the summer holidays!

I have been very proud to see how well Year 11 are conducting themselves during their exam season – it is a stressful time but they have been good natured, focused and punctual. It is pleasing to see so many have signed up to revision sessions over the holiday – a huge thank you to teachers for being willing to give up their holiday time to support their students. I remember Year 11 coming to us as Year 7 – it only seems the blink of an eye and here they are ready to end their time with us and move on to their next adventure. We are all looking forward to celebrating their time with us at our Leavers' Assembly during the morning of 29th June followed by the Prom that same evening. It is always a lovely event and a fitting way to end our time together.

Looking forwards, Year 10 are in the process of being interviewed for the roles of prefects and Head Students as I write – I look forward to announcing the successful candidates next term.

You will see later in the newsletter that Mr Jones has decided to step down as Head of Key Stage 4; I would like to thank him for all his hard work in this role and the support that he has given to students, parents and carers.

Next term sees the annual Glastonbury Festival take place. As usual, the school will not be open to students on the Friday and Monday of the Festival (23rd and 26th June). However, online work will be provided for students by their class teachers on those days.

As you may be aware, we have launched 'TRACK Packs' this term – the aim of these packs is to allow students to recognise their own strengths and areas for development and to allow staff to recognise when students are exhibiting our core values. It has been a real pleasure to see students so keen to show staff when they have been awarded a star and, even more importantly, being able to explain WHY they were awarded the star for a particular core value. We shall continue to build on this initiative next term and next year building in rewards linked to our core values as we work on our 'Positive Behaviour Schoolwide' initiative. We will be inviting parents and carers in before the end of next

We have had a few changes of role in our leadership team which come fully into effect next term. Mr Atkinson is now leading on Behaviour and Attendance; Mr Oakwood is leading on Personal Development as well as being our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mr Armstrong continues to be Assistant Headteacher and Ms Garland joins us next term as Assistant Headteacher for Teaching and Learning.

We are looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students for their induction day next term – 5th July. We have over 100 new students joining us in September which is wonderful and a testament to the positive reputation the school has in the community and beyond.

It looks like the weather is set fair for the half term break, I hope you all get a chance to have some relaxation and enjoy the sunshine. We will see everyone back by 8.40 on Monday 5th June.

Mrs Bevan



Uniform

As we come towards the end of the school year, we would remind parents that a letter was sent home last term as a reminder that all students should be in the correct uniform every day – the vast majority of students do arrive looking smart and wearing the right uniform but we are noticing that a small minority are not getting it right.

As there seems to be a lot of confusion around which skirts are and are not in line with our uniform policy, we will be changing our school skirt from September to a black Charleston Drop Waist style as shown in the picture below but these can be worn from now if you are purchasing new items over the holidays.



School uniform can be purchased from Southwest Schoolwear in Wells either in their shop or online: <https://www.swschoolwear.co.uk/> Most items can be purchased from other retailers but the blazer, tie, PE hoodie and PE top need to be bought from Southwest Schoolwear. Shoes should be waterproof, have a clearly defined heel and should not have any logos on them. Here are a couple of examples of what is acceptable. Trainers should only be worn for PE lessons



Please get in touch if you are struggling with the cost of any of these items. If your child has been loaned any uniform, please return it so that we can loan it to others. Items can be returned to reception with a note saying who is returning it. Our uniform leaflet can be found [here](#):

<https://www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com/uploads/files/uniform-and-appearance-march-2023.pdf>

The less time we have to spend on uniform issues, the more time we have to devote to the job of teaching and learning. Please contact Mrs Easterbrook or Mr Jones before purchasing items if you are unsure.



Attendance Matters

We are pleased to see that attendance is improving – we now need to keep working on this to ensure that everyone is here to receive their education. Attendance at school every day that it is open is a legal requirement; whilst everyone should be aiming for 100%, it is recognised by the government that there will be some days when people are too ill to attend school, therefore 96% is the target for schools. All students should aim to be in school every day.

Punctuality is as important as attendance; please note that students should be in their tutor rooms at 8.45 – not arriving on site at that time. All students are expected to be on site by 8.40 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.



PTA

The PTA have been very busy this year and have raised significant amounts of extra funding for the school. We would like to publicly thank them for all their efforts and enthusiasm. The PTA are looking for donations for their Uniform Exchange. They would like to encourage parents to donate good quality, clean school uniform that is no longer needed.

If you would like to help out either as a regular member of the PTA or on an 'event by event' basis, please get in touch via email: stdunstanscommunitypta@gmail.com



Former Student Success

We were delighted to hear that former student, Joshua Hutchinson, won the Young Citizen of the year Award from Street Parish Council this month.

Josh did a work placement at Street Library for his computer course at Strode College and since his placement a year ago he has given up his free time once a month to run a Nintendo Switch club and helps children learn how to play the games and makes sure they enjoy themselves.

It was the Library that nominated Josh for all his hard work. We are very proud to hear that Josh has been recognised for such community spirit. Well done Josh!



Maths

Year 7 and 8 top set Maths students took the UK Mathematics Trust Junior Maths Challenge in the last week of April. The two classes did a bit of preparation in class (with their teachers Mrs Kench and Mrs Loud) ahead of the challenge, to sharpen their Maths skills, and it certainly paid off: comfortably the best results we've had in recent years, possibly ever: 4 gold, 13 silver and 18 bronze certificates. Bearing in mind that the UKMT only award certificates to the top 40% that take the challenge (usually only top sets), these 35 certificates are quite a haul from our 58 top set students.

Well done to all those who took part in the challenge, but congratulations to all those who will receive certificates, particularly those who achieved the coveted gold ones: Henry Witcombe, Jaime Chapman, Myles Brice and Alfie Cook. In addition to these great results, two students: Henry and Jaime achieved marks that were high enough to get into the next (international) round, which they will sit in June. What an achievement - we wish them good luck!



Book Rehoming Zone

We are pleased to say that we now have a book exchange in the foyer where students can come and have a rummage on the shelves for a book of their liking. We would love it if students were able to add some of their old favourites to the shelves that they have finished reading as this will allow other students to enjoy them too.



Top Readers in Key Stage 3

1. Oren Meehan - 2, 211, 132 words
2. Luthfia Symmonds - 1,790.881
3. Lydia Da Silva Ferreira - 1,437,445 words

All Word Millionaires are awarded a star badge to wear on their lapel to show their pride in their achievement.



PE

GCSE PE Practical Moderation

On the 10th May our Year 11 cohort of GCSE PE students experienced their practical moderation day, performing across a range of sports to demonstrate their capabilities in their chosen sports. In the morning we were hosted at Millfield School, with students getting the opportunity to use their brilliant Athletics and Basketball facilities and it was brilliant to see them in action in a high-performance environment. They later returned to school and completed a Badminton assessment that featured some highly competitive gameplay. Well done to all students involved, they had a great attitude and definitely showed the full extent of their abilities!



Geography



Earth Day is an annual event held on April 22nd to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First held on April 22, 1970, it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by EarthDay.org including 1 billion people in more than 193 countries.

As part of Earth Day, 7-3 Geographers looked at why Planet Earth is special to them.



Year 7 PB

Linking beautifully to Earth Day, this is the amazing project work that 7-3 students completed following their environment project in PB. They made a model which highlighted an environmental problem. They presented their models and offered solutions on how we could make the World better environmentally.



Music and Drama

Performance Evening

Staff, students and parents were treated to an evening of music performances.

From solo musicians to ensembles, students had worked tirelessly in preparation and showed great resilience, confidence and commitment.

We were all heartened by the support they gave one another and the standard was impressive. Well done musicians!

Drama Club

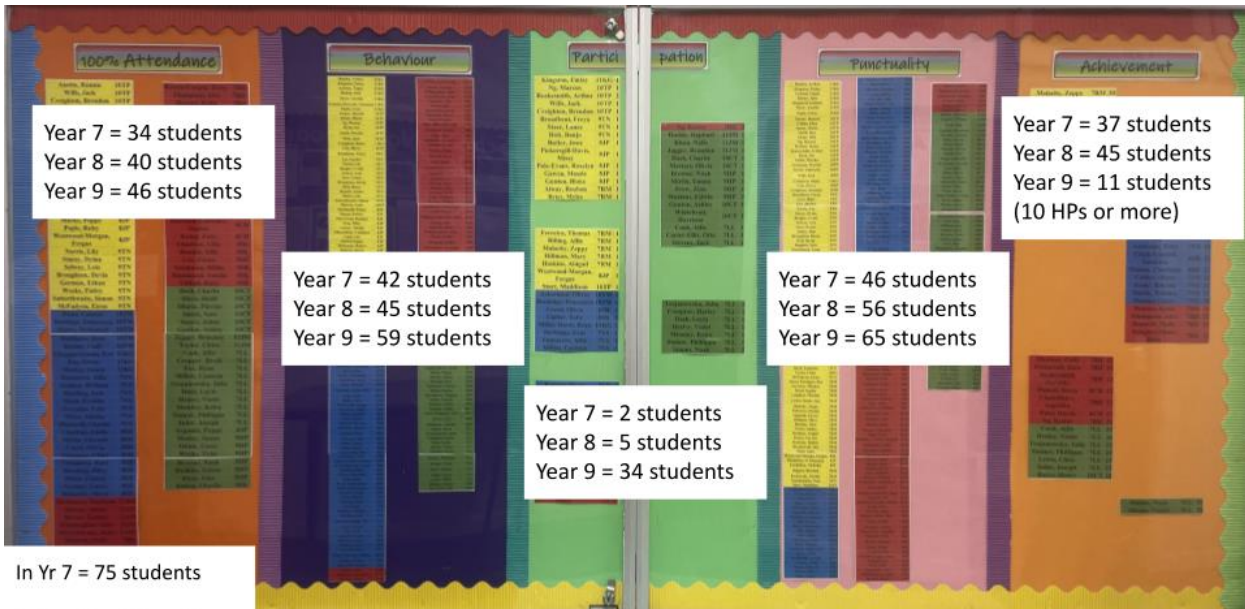
Drama Club takes place on Wednesday afternoons in the Drama Studio finishing 4.15pm until the end of the Summer Term. We are currently collaborating with Music to create a Performance Arts Evening in Term 6 (date to be confirmed) and we are hoping to stage a **Whole School Production** (titled to be confirmed) in the next school year. All ages welcome. Watch this space for more details!

Key Stage 3 Rewards

KS3 Rewards

Our last assembly before the end of term was slightly different due to exams, however it is so rewarding to see the hard work paying off for so many of our students. Students have shown the TRACK values throughout and are gaining star stickers in their TRACK packs. Well done to all! P.S if you would like these rewards next term, remember to be in every day, working hard for house points and embodying our TRACK values and then it WILL be YOU 😊

Mrs Easterbrook



In Yr 7 = 75 students

In Year 8 = 103 students

In Year 9 = 91 students

Top House points = 36

TRACK Values



Tutors have nominated students who have shown the TRACK values this term.

- Truth
- Resilience
- Ambition
- Community
- Kindness

These students will receive a Non-Uniform day on **Wednesday 7th June**

Well done!

#stayontrack

#alwaysontrack



Non-uniform Days



Thursday 8th June - any student with 100% attendance

Year 7 = 34 students Year 8 = 40 students Year 9 = 46 students

Friday 9th June - any student with 0 negative behaviour logs

Year 7 = 42 students Year 8 = 45 students Year 9 = 59 students

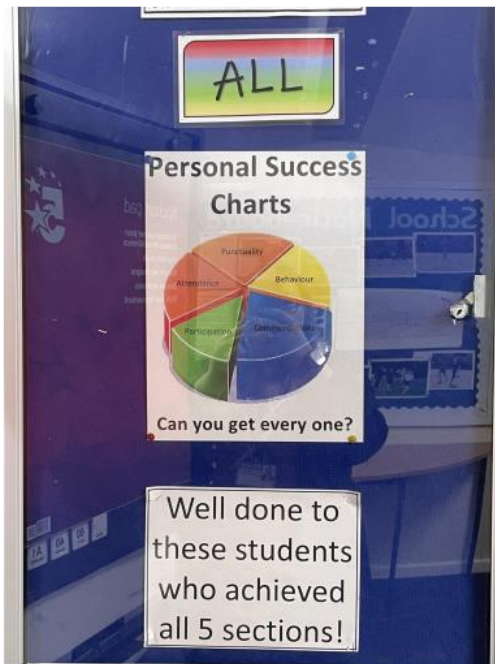


Non-uniform day!



Remember to dress appropriately for the weather!

Hall of Fame for Term 5 - all students will receive a £10 amazon voucher for completing all 5 reward sections:



Wall of fame students for Term 5

Well done to all of you

| | |
|-------------|------|
| Frankie B | 7MWA |
| Imogen L | 7HJE |
| Alfie C | 8LLO |
| Evie-Rose G | 8VSM |
| Amber M | 8VSM |



House Point totals this term: Still a tight race between the houses!!

| St Dunstan's School GLASTONBURY | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| House HP Ranks | |
| 1st | Exmoor |
| 2nd | Mendip |
| 3rd | Blackdown |
| 4th | Quantock |

| Quantock | |
|----------|------|
| 7MWA | 3275 |
| 8LLO | 2822 |

47888 House Points awarded this year!

| Blackdown | |
|-----------|------|
| 7CPE | 3064 |
| 8AKE | 3266 |
| 9JPU | 2677 |

| Exmoor | |
|--------|------|
| 7HJE | 2533 |
| 8VSM | 4628 |
| 9GBR | 2672 |

| Mendip | |
|--------|------|
| 7JWA | 3203 |
| 8ATI | 3764 |
| 9RCO | 2717 |

[Who are you going to be?](#)

Congratulations to all students for getting to the end of a very different term with exams starting. I hope you all have a wonderful break and enjoy spending time with family and friends - fingers crossed for some lovely weather. We will see you back on Monday 5th June.

Mrs Easterbrook

Assistant Curate Kieron Rowley has been running his Thursday lunchtime club this term and it has been fantastic to see so many students taking part.

We are running a knitting, poetry, book club and mindfulness colouring club every Thursday lunchtime in the library. All are welcome.

Mrs Easterbrook

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

33 Year 9 students successfully completed their DofE practice expedition last weekend. They walked over 15 miles over two days carrying their tents, clothing, food, cooking equipment and sleeping bags.

We are EXTREMELY proud of them all.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme is designed to challenge and stretch students, whilst building confidence, resilience and teamwork skills. These were seen in abundance!



Year 10 News

It has been a very busy term for year 10 as they come towards the end of their first GCSE year. They have clearly exhibited track values along the way and are in a great position to move forward as they shortly become Year 11. Many of them will shortly be appointed school prefects, leaders and deputy and head students.

Work Experience

Well done to all those who have secured their placements. There are still a number who need to do so. Please refer to the website to help you search out a placement and ask your tutor for support. The deadline for new placements is the 2nd of June after that date placements may only be selected from the Work experience website.

Year 10 examinations

End of year examinations for Year 10 will be taking place after the half term break and the completion of GCSE examinations. A schedule will be published shortly but it is never too early to start revising! Good luck!

Mr Jones

Year 11 News

We are extremely proud of how the Year 11s have conducted themselves in their exams so far. It is clear that they have been taking their revision seriously and they continue to attend after school sessions. Feedback from the exam invigilators has been very good and they have all been ready to show off what they know. Well done Year 11!

Half term revision

Please see the schedule below for revision sessions being held during the half term holiday.

| | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|----------------------------|--------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Date | 29/5/2023 | 30/5/2023 | 31/5/2023 | 1/6/2023 | 2/6/2023 |
| AM Session (10:00 - 12:00) | BANK HOLIDAY | Maths Foundation (TVI) | Food (HPO) | History - Elizabethan England | English (KGR) |
| PM Session (12:30 - 14:30) | BANK HOLIDAY | Maths Higher (TVI) | Geography (JMA) | History - Cold War | Science (CTH) |

Revision sessions

The revision sessions have continued to be well attended by students. Each week we have rewarded a student who has demonstrated an excellent commitment to their revision, both at home and in

school. Well done to the following students who have been our 'star of the week' since the last newsletter:

- Frankie
- Luka
- Chloe
- Scott
- Flavius
- Charlie



Housepoints

Year 11 students have continued to impress us with the number of house points they have collected. Our top five individuals are:

1. Oliver
2. Macaully
3. Francesca
4. Poppy B
5. Maddison

Hoodies

Leavers' hoodies cost £23.50 for adult sizes. You may wish to order a size above for a more relaxed fit. They can be collected from the school reception once the order has been completed to avoid a postal charge. Please place your order directly online, via the link below where you can view the designs and range of colour choices:-

<https://www.dgprinting.co.uk/product-page/st-dunstans-leavers-hoodies-23>

Please order hoodies asap and by the **23rd June** the latest.



Prom payments

The Prom will be on Thursday 29th June 2023 at The Loft Lounge & Bar in Street. Students will need to have +30 behaviour points by June 8th in order to be eligible to attend. Almost all students have already reached this figure - so will just need to sustain it. Details have now been sent home regarding the prom.

Prom payment has now been opened on ParentPay.



Prom clothing

We are looking forward to seeing our Year 11s all looking fabulous at the prom. However, we understand that money may be an issue for some. Buying a dress/suit for one night can be expensive - and not very environmentally friendly!

Here's a website where you can buy second hand, as new, prom dresses and suits.

<https://www.promally.co.uk>

If you need any help/advice/support, please ask us.

And finally...





Term Dates

Term 6 begins on Monday 5th June

Term 6 ends on Friday 21st July

Online Learning Days

Friday 23rd June
Monday 26th June

We will look forward to seeing everyone back in their classrooms, in correct uniform and with the correct equipment (including a reading book) on 5th June 2023. A reminder that students should be on site by 8.40 at the latest; the gates will be closed at 8.40 to ensure everyone gets to tutor on time. Tutor time begins at 8.45 sharp

