

St Dunstan's School

GLASTONBURY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

At the end of a jam packed first fortnight, I am pleased to be able to look back and share our successes so far.

Students in all year groups have made a positive start, continuing to get behind and meet our 'sky high expectations' and ambitious goals for all. At St Dunstan's we show that we care by celebrating and encouraging every student's limitless potential. We do not place a limit or a ceiling on what they can achieve. High expectations are more than just words, they are enacted through all aspects of the day to day school life. I am filled with a great sense of pride every morning as I greet students walking down the drive, looking smart and acting as fantastic ambassadors for our community.

It has also been a pleasure to welcome our new Year 7 students to the community. We have been incredibly impressed with how they have settled in almost effortlessly and I look forward to getting to know them individually over the coming weeks.

This week, Ms Yates (Deputy CEO Midsomer School's Partnership) came to visit the school for the first time this academic year. During the visit, Ms Yates observed and praised the calm and purposeful classrooms that were visited. These observations have also been recognised by senior staff, who have been visiting lessons frequently. In the first few weeks there is a real culture of positivity around the school that I know will continue to grow as we move forward.



13.09.24

NEXT WEEK
ASSEMBLY
FOCUS:

British Values:
Tolerance,
Respect, Liberty,
Rule of Law and
Democracy

Key Dates

- Open Evening
26th
September
- Inset days:
Friday 25th
October
- Half Term
starts on
Monday
28th
October
-

[Click here for
Extra-Curricular
Activities](#)

[Click here for
term dates](#)



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COMMUNITY



KINDNESS

St Dunstan's School

GLASTONBURY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Following our introductory assemblies last week, Ms Hutchinson spoke to the students about how we will recognise and celebrate students for their effort and work in school. Students have been offering some fantastic suggestions on how they would like to be recognised and celebrated for being 'On Track'. Praise and positive recognition is an essential part of supporting and educating our students, building self esteem and a sense of belonging. We will be finalising our rewards and celebrations and hope to share these with you all soon.

Over the next few weeks we will be preparing for our Open Evening which will be taking place on Thursday 26th September. I look forward to welcoming returning and new families to the school and celebrate everything that makes St Dunstan's School such a special community to be a part of.

Finally, thank you again to all the parents/carers who have come and spoken to me individually over the past few weeks to welcome me to the school community and offer some useful feedback. A positive partnership between the school and the parents is essential for the development of the school and supporting every student.

Thank you again for your continued support and I wish you all a restful weekend.

Best wishes
P Balkwill



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Welcome back!



Welcome back to our returning staff, students and families, and welcome to all our new faces! The new term is officially underway, and with the end of our first full week comes the first of our weekly newsletters.

It is fantastic to see the school full with students after the summer break. We hope everyone has had a lovely summer and is well rested for the new term and academic year ahead.

All students have returned with a positive attitude and determination to make this a successful year.

We look forward to working together with our wonderful students, parents, carers and community partners to make 2024-25, an enjoyable, exciting and enriching year for all. Bring it on!



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Come and see us in action....



St Dunstan's School

GLASTONBURY



Open Evening 2024

Thursday 26th September

6.30pm—8.30pm

To register your interest in attending, please email: secretary@stdunstansschool.com

Or check out our website: www.stdunstansschool.com

Truth | Resilience | Ambition | Community | Kindness

Come and see our school

Situated in beautiful grounds in the heart of Glastonbury, St Dunstan's is a thriving school for students aged 11-16.

Why choose St Dunstan's?

- Consistently good progress for students
- High standards and expectations
- High quality teaching from excellent teachers
- Ambition for all students to achieve their very best
- Friendly students with a strong sense of community
- Excellent links with local primary schools allowing for a thorough and supportive transition process
- A caring community where everyone matters
- Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership, meaning we have all the benefits of a small school, with all the advantages of being in a large partnership
- Excellent careers support
- Excellent links with local colleges, allowing for a thorough and supported transition from school to next steps
- Extra curricular programme that includes our partnership with Millfield School



St Dunstan's students get the best of both worlds; a small school with individual care, and a strong sense of community, whilst also offering a broad range of experiences and enrichments. The school offers a new and exciting mix of high standards and opportunities, in a caring community that supports and values every individual.

At St Dunstan's, teachers know students well, and students have strong relationships with their teachers and other staff; they have trust and confidence in them.



Stay on **TRACK**

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KS4 Careers Information for Key Stage 4 students and families

With the transition into both Year 10 and Year 11 for our Key Stage 4 students, I thought it would be handy to summarise some of the useful information and resources available to help inform decisions about further education, training, apprenticeships and careers.

1. Our fantastic **Careers Advisor Mrs Church** will be back in school at the end of September and will continue to meet with KS4 students to discuss their Post-16 options - watch this space.
2. Check out the **Somerset Careers Hub** Facebook page (see poster) for lots of information on Careers, Post 16 opportunities and useful articles such as top tips for writing engaging applications and CVs
3. To get an idea about what the wide range of options available after St Dunstan's, check out the following directory (currently this is the 23.24 one but still packed with useful info) [Click here for Skill Up Somerset website](#)
4. Student and Parent - handy Careers Padlet - simply bursting with info! [Click here for Somerset Careers](#)



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Dates for your diary:

Strode College Open Evening - 24th October 2024

Bridgwater College Open Evening - 8th October 2024

Check out their websites for more information.

Please do not hesitate to contact me,

akench@stdunstansschool.com if you have any questions.

Many thanks

Miss Kench



LLOYDS BANKING GROUP
#ImagineWhatsNext

SkillsFest Bristol

Saturday 28th September
10:00 a.m. and 14:00 p.m.

The poster features a large image of a woman in a light blue top standing on a modern office balcony. Below this are two smaller inset images: one of a woman talking on a mobile phone and another of a man in a blue shirt sitting at a desk. The background is dark with colorful arrow graphics pointing right.



An email about Lloyds Banking SkillsFest has been sent to KS4 students and families with more information!

The Somerset Careers Hub has just launched our Facebook Page!



If you are a parent of children between the age of 11-18, follow us by clicking here

This is an excellent, impartial source of information to help you discover more about the amazing careers and variety of routes students can take to get to a well-thought out and successful career, as well as to showcase fantastic employer activities and employability sessions.

Somerset
CAREERS HUB

THE CAREERS &
ENTERPRISE
COMPANY



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More opportunities...



OPEN EVENTS

www.btc.ac.uk

BRIDGWATER CAMPUS
Tuesday 8 October | 6pm - 8pm

TAUNTON CAMPUS
Wednesday 9 October | 6pm - 8pm

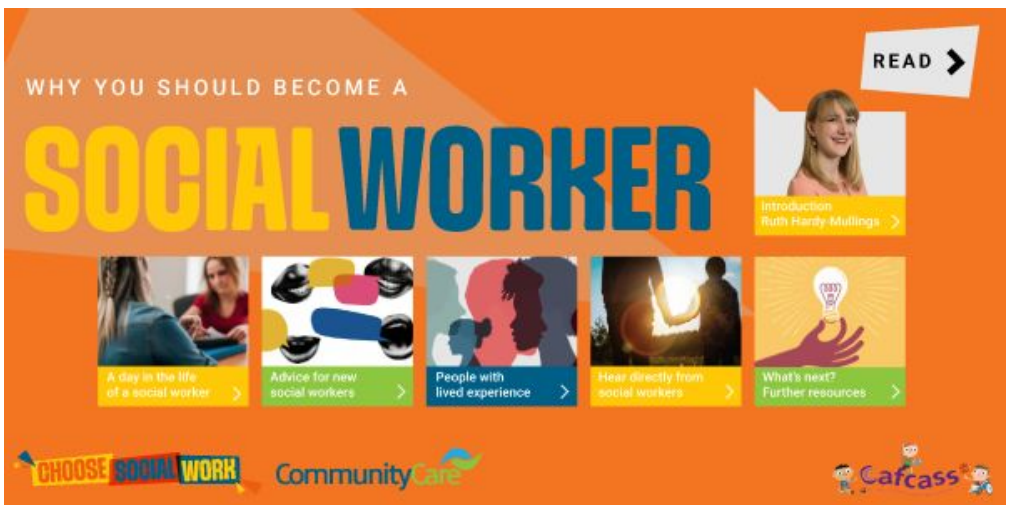
BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST

REGISTER NOW!

BRIDGWATER & TAUNTON COLLEGE

Social work...

If you are considering a career in social work, or just want to know a little bit more about the job, then check out the Community Care website where you can download a free pack of digital resources, specifically aimed at young people interested in joining the profession.



WHY YOU SHOULD BECOME A

SOCIAL WORKER

READ >

Introduction Ruth Harby-Mullings >

A day in the life of a social worker >

Advice for new social workers >

People with lived experience >

Hear directly from social workers >

What's next? Further resources >

CHOOSE SOCIAL WORK CommunityCare Carcass



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Letter to parents

Dear Parent(s)/ Carers

RE: Beyond Equality Workshop

St Dunstan's School is committed to providing a broad and balanced curriculum that supports students to be informed citizens and well rounded young people. Alongside the students normal curriculum, we often offer additional sessions provided by external providers to supplement and support the work that goes on in lessons and tutor time.

Commencing on Monday 16 September, we will be running a series of workshops with Year 9 and 10 boys. These workshops link into our Personal Development curriculum and links to a number of important topics we deliver as part of assembly, tutor and PSHE lessons. The sessions will be run by an organisation called Beyond Equality. This charity works across the UK to promote healthy behaviour and an awareness of gender issues.

The workshops aim to combat the negative stereotypes and attitudes regarding masculinity that can lead to harmful behaviour. It will also tackle issues that directly impact men and boys, as well as others. These include self-esteem, body image, consent, gender-based violence, homophobia, mental health, peer pressure and online issues. These sessions will be run by trained facilitators who are experienced working in a school setting with young people. If you are interested or have any further questions we encourage you to visit www.beyondequality.org, where you can find out more information about the organisation.

The first workshop will involve a 2 hour session Monday 16 September. There will be further workshops taking place over the autumn term. The school will be talking to students about these workshops, the logistics and expectations for the day. However, if you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Kench or Mrs Watson via main reception.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming Beyond Equality into the school to work with our students and share some invaluable lessons and information.

Kind Regards,
Miss Kench



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Music Lessons at St Dunstan's

If you are interested in learning a musical instrument, then we have lots of professional teachers who come into school each week to offer lessons. Prices are detailed below, and if you are a Pupil Premium student, please speak to Mrs Hopton about funding for lessons.

Instrument Lessons

| | |
|---|--|
| Guitar, Bass, Ukulele | £10 for 20 mins, £15 for 30 mins |
| Drums | £11 for 20 mins, £16 for 30 mins |
| Singing | £12 for 20 mins, £17.50 for 30 mins |
| Piano, Violin | £10 for 20 mins, £15 for 30 mins |
| Production Music | £15 for 30 min lesson |
| PP students- see Mrs Hopton about PP funding for lessons | |

**Would you like to learn an instrument?
Speak to Mrs Hopton**

Student Spotlight...

Zahan in Year 7 has just completed his Grade 3 Classical Guitar and not only that, he passed with a Distinction! Congratulations Zahan, keep up the practice, you're on a great path and we can't wait to see you perform some time!



If you have anything you'd like showcased in the student spotlight section of the newsletter, email the details (and a photo!) to secretary@stdunstansschool.com and we'll feature it



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Read to Succeed

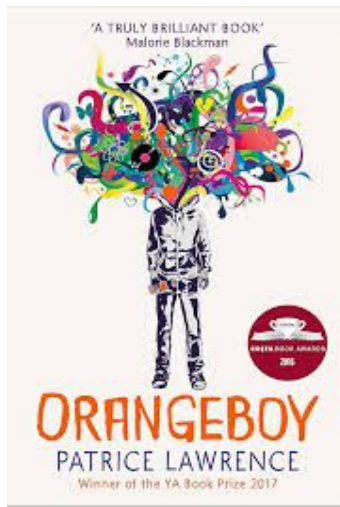
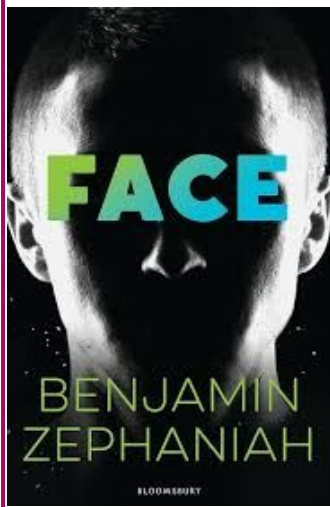


Tutor Reading Programme

Read to Succeed in morning tutor time has got off to a great start, with all tutor groups beginning their journey with their new texts.

The texts chosen for our programme range from classics, to award winning Carnegie shortlisted books and feature a range of inspirational characters. Some tutor groups are working with books written by Benjamin Zephaniah, such as *Face* and *Refugee Boy*, which look at teen issues such as gang violence and puberty as well as promoting diversity in their characterisation. Others are enjoying the popular dystopia 'The Hunger Games' which features a strong female character as well as some interesting 'what if?' talking points. In addition, non fiction texts are being explored as one group works their way through 'I am Malala' by Malala Yousafzai, a text which will inspire its readers as well as encourage resilience strategies as they explore the trials of her young life so far.

Reading is so important to us all and this time in the mornings is an opportunity to finetune reading skills but its aim is to read for pleasure and so we are enjoying getting lost in the world of fiction twice weekly and we recommend it to everyone!



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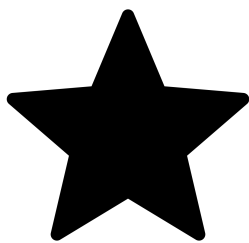


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ATTENDANCE MATTERS



100%
Attendance

95%+
Attendance

92-93%
Attendance

Below
90%
Attendance

96%
Attendance

Absences
add up

Be in to win - 100% attendance will be rewarded with TRACK Stars and chance to win Amazon vouchers

82% of students achieve 5 GCSEs grade 5+

77% of students achieve 5 GCSEs grade 5+

53% of students achieve 5 GCSEs grade 5+

43% of students achieve 5 GCSEs grade 5+

This is the target equalling at most 8 days off per year

Missing 2 days per month means you miss 10% of school

