

St Dunstan's School

GLASTONBURY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/ Carers

Welcome to this week's newsletter. Please take the time to read about what we have been doing this week as well as find out more about upcoming events and important dates.

Key Updates for Families

Wednesday 5 February

Poetry Live Trip

BSO Music Trip to Westlands

Thursday 13 February

Year 9 Parents Evening and KS4 Choices Fayre.

Monday 24 February

Year 11 Trial Exams- this will take place over two weeks. Please can all Year 11 parents ensure that any appointments or commitments are rescheduled to avoid clashing with the exams. This will be the final chance students have before the May final examinations.

Thursday 27 February

PTA Quiz night

Thursday 13 March

Year 7 Parents Evening



17.01.25

NEXT WEEK
ASSEMBLY
FOCUS:

**Serendipity in
Science**

Key Dates

Next week:
Year 8 HPV
Vaccinations

Year 9
Choices
Evening
30/01/2025

Week
Beginning
24th February:
Year 11 Mock
Exams

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

[Click here for
term dates](#)



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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Items to Celebrate

Thank you to Miss Kench and Mr Armstrong for the organisation of Year 11 Parents Evening this week. It was great to see so many families on site to discuss the progress of their children at such a crucial time in their lives. We hope that the evening provided families with the guidance and support that is needed for the final run in. If you were unable to attend, but would like to speak to teachers about your child's progress, please contact our reception who will be able to facilitate this.

We are pleased to announce that we have subscribed to a fantastic online package, Seneca learning. All students across the school can access this package via their school google logins. Our Year 11s can also access the Premium Package, designed to support students with revision. If you would like to know more about this package and how you can use it as a parent, please follow the link below-

<https://help.senecalearning.com/en/collections/1434432-parent-faqs>



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I would like to say a big thank you to all members of the community who have kindly donated and purchased wishlist books for the library. It was recently commented to me that the reading culture at St Dunstan's compared to other schools, is something that is very noticeable and positive. Reading for pleasure should never be taken for granted or discouraged. We really appreciate your kindness and generosity, supporting our students to develop a love for reading and literature. Thank you to Mrs Morris-Soper for organising this initiative.

Finally, I would like to offer my best wishes on behalf of all staff and students to Mrs Brown, who begins her maternity leave this week. Mrs Tunbridge, who joined us in the Autumn term will be replacing Mrs Brown, I know everyone will make her feel welcome.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes

P Balkwill



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PARENTS –

**GUIDING OUR CHILDREN THROUGH
THEIR EDUCATION IS ONE OF OUR
GREATEST ROLES.**



**MOMENTS
MATTER,**

**ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Consistent support and motivation from you plays a pivotal role in their success, and this begins with school attendance – that isn't just about adhering to school rules; it's about shaping their future, one day at a time.

If your child is struggling with school attendance, our tips overleaf can help you help them. Or if you have any concerns contact your child's school.



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Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you to all parents for your support to ensure that your child attends school as regularly as possible.

We know that sometimes our pupils cannot come to school because they are really unwell - and that's the right thing to do for them and other students. Medical advice is clear however that children with mild illness will often be well enough to attend - for example if they have a cough, or cold, without a temperature. The NHS guidance [is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk) is designed to support parents in their decision making about mild illness.

We also know that pupils fall behind their friends and classmates when they miss school. At St Dunstan's School we want the amount of missed education to be reduced as much as possible. We believe that our community is stronger together, with all of our pupils in school, on time, every day. We are building life skills, life-long friendships and preparing your child for future success.

The advantages of good attendance are numerous:

- **Improved Academic Performance:** Regular attendance helps children stay up-to-date with their lessons and reduces the likelihood of falling behind.
- **Social Development:** Consistent attendance allows children to form and maintain friendships, enhancing their social skills and sense of belonging.
- **Routine and Structure:** Attending school regularly helps children develop a sense of routine and structure, which is beneficial for their overall development.
- **Increased Opportunities:** Students who attend school regularly are more likely to participate in extracurricular activities and special events, enriching their school experience.
- **Better Mental Health:** Being part of the school community can boost children's confidence and self-esteem, contributing to better mental health.

We also know that parents/carers can have a significant effect on good attendance and we would really appreciate your continued help and support ensuring that your child comes to school every day so that they can get the best possible outcomes.



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We have planned our rewards and recognition for attendance in order to recognise a wide range of student successes and achievements as well as take into account occasions when absence is unavoidable. Our aim is to encourage all students to secure high attendance across the year and in doing so, maximise their chances of success in school. This will include the following-

Improved attendance- students with improved attendance across a term will receive a letter from our Attendance Champion and 10 'On Track' points. The most improved students will also be recognised in our celebration assemblies

Termly attendance target- all students who have met or exceeded our termly attendance target (96%) and 'On Track' points thresholds, will be invited to our end of term celebration events

Exceptional attendance across the year- all students who are 98% or above at the end of each term, will receive a letter from the Headteacher, 50 'On Track Points' and recognised in our celebration assemblies

Monthly 100% attendance - if a student achieves 100% in a calendar month, they will receive a reward card and they will be entered into a prize draw to win Amazon vouchers. Students in the 100 club will also be celebrated on our celebrations board and awarded 50 'On Track Points'

If you have any further questions or queries, please do not hesitate to make contact via main reception. Thank you to all parents/carers for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Ms K Haden

Deputy Headteacher



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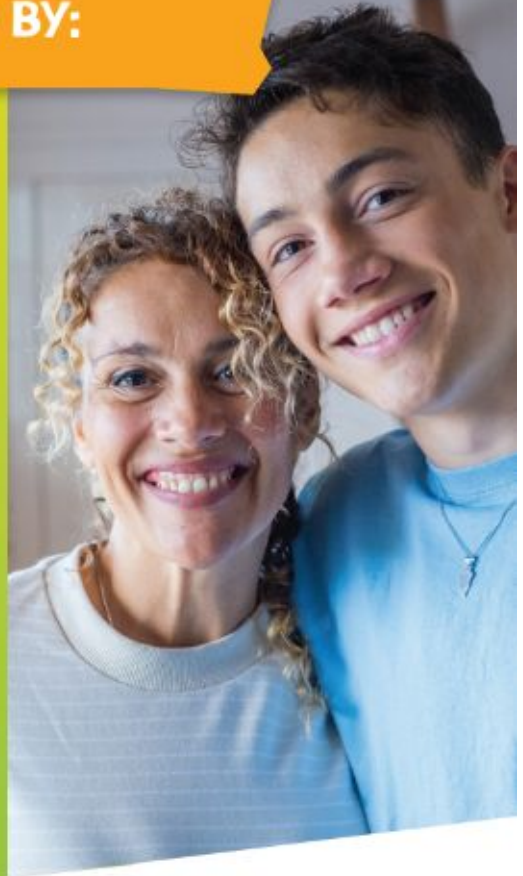


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YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD BY:

- ensuring your child understands the importance of excellent attendance and punctuality.
- asking about school work and encourage them to get involved in school activities.
- discussing any problems they may have and inform their Form Tutor to pass on concerns.
- not allowing them take time off school for minor ailments – particularly those which would not prevent you from going to work.
- arranging appointments after school hours, at weekends or during the holidays, to prevent disruption to your child's education and to the school.
- being open and willing to work with us to improve your child's attendance.



If you are concerned about your child's school attendance, it's best to contact their school first. Our dedicated Attendance Team are on hand to support pupils and families.

For more information about school attendance visit our website: www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com/attendance

We're here to help if you need it.



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Quest Club



Quest Club started again this week and our questers are already hurtling off on new adventures. There have been origami artefacts that tame wild magic, dragon boneyards, a rat captain, a crystal wizard, trolls, royal proclamations and lots of gold being spent.

We're so impressed with the storytelling, imagination and sheer enthusiasm that Quest Club brings, and we'll keep you updated on other dangerous adventures that happen throughout the term!



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St Dunstan's Library presents...

THE BOOK NOOK

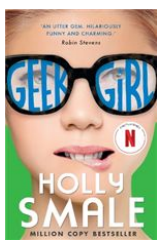
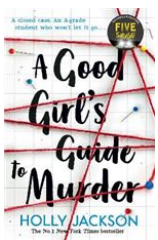
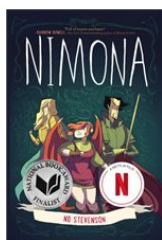


A HUGE thank you to the generous people who bought these books for us from the PTA wishlist! As you can see, they've made the students VERY happy! Thank you to Jane and Trudi! Some of the packages didn't say who they were from, but we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

For all donated books from the wishlist, we'll be popping these little thank you bookplates in the inside, to commemorate the generosity forever..

[Wishlist link](#)

Popular loans this week:



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PTA Quiz Night

Tickets are available on ParentPay now for St Dunstan's PTA's 4th annual quiz! Who will the teacher quiz masters be? There'll be a trophy for the winning team and the best student team! Don't miss out, book your tickets early as it is set to be a fantastic night!

A dark blue poster for a quiz night event. At the top, a pair of hands holds up a string of warm white lights. Below the lights, the text 'ST DUNSTAN'S COMMUNITY PTA PRESENTS' is written in a light yellow, sans-serif font. The words 'QUIZ NIGHT' are written in large, glowing yellow-outlined letters. Below this, the date 'THURSDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2024' is written in a bold, light yellow, sans-serif font. Further down, the event details are listed in a smaller, light yellow font: '6.30 pm - doors open.', '7pm kick off', '£6 per adult, £3 per child [children must be accompanied]', 'Teams of 8 max', and '1st drink free, nibbles on the table, BAR!'. At the bottom, the location 'ST DUNSTAN'S SCHOOL, WELLS ROAD, GLASTONBURY, BA6 9BY' is listed, followed by the website '///FRIES.REFLECTED.EVIDENTLY', and the ticketing information 'TICKETS ON PARENTPAY OR EMAIL STDUNSTANSCOMMUNITYPTA@GMAIL.COM'.

ST DUNSTAN'S COMMUNITY
PTA PRESENTS

QUIZ NIGHT

THURSDAY 27TH
FEBRUARY 2024

6.30 pm - doors open,
7pm kick off

£6 per adult, £3 per child
[children must be accompanied]

Teams of 8 max

1st drink free, nibbles on the table, BAR!

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Staff Spotlight

It is nice to celebrate all members of St Dunstan's School, whether students, teaching staff or site staff. Everyone makes such a difference to the running of the school, all sprinkling their own magic where they work.

Once such person is our lovely cleaner Carol. She keeps the classrooms neat and tidy, but she also crochets the most beautiful blankets! Here is Carol with a couple of her wonderful creations..



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Careers and Events



OPEN DAY

CANNINGTON CAMPUS
Saturday 25 January | 10am - 1pm

REGISTER ONLINE NOW!

BRIDGWATER & TAUNTON COLLEGE

BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST | www.btc.ac.uk | 01278 441234



OPEN EVENTS

BRIDGWATER CAMPUS
Wednesday 15 January | 6pm - 8pm

TAUNTON CAMPUS
Thursday 16 January | 6pm - 8pm

REGISTER NOW!

BRIDGWATER & TAUNTON COLLEGE

BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST | www.btc.ac.uk | 01278 441234



STRODE
College



Apprenticeships

Learn more about Apprenticeship Courses

Interactive Webinar for 15 - 16 year olds

Thursday 23rd January 2025
6:00 - 6:45pm

Register now!



STRODE
College

Join us at our

OPEN EVENING

THU 13 FEB • 5.30-8PM

A Levels • T Levels
Professional & Technical Courses
Apprenticeships
Supported Learning
Higher Education
Adult Courses

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY

Apprenticeship Talk
6.30PM



strode-college.ac.uk



Careers and Events



FREE*
ADULT COURSES

*Free if you are earning under £25K or on Universal Credit

BOOST YOUR CAREER

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- Maths & English
- Short Courses
- SWAPS (Sector Based Academy Programmes)



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01458 844 502

strode-college.ac.uk



Not sure of your next steps... book in with one of our team for advice and guidance.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS @BTC



FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 14-16

BTC invites you to explore a variety of engaging After School Clubs!



BRIDGWATER & TAUNTON COLLEGE

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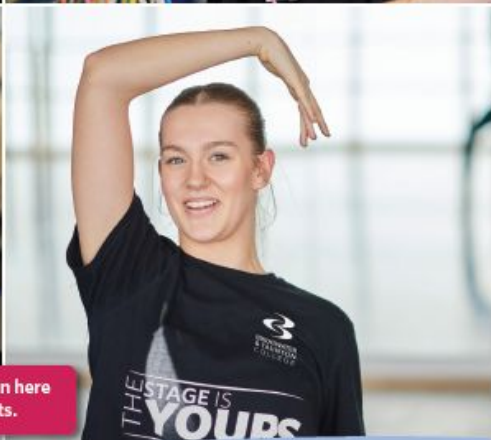


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We're holding workshops in art, music tech, business, fashion and much much more! Come and learn new skills, make new friends, and get a feel for our facilities. Ignite your creativity with BTC - register today by scanning the QR code below, or by visiting www.btc.ac.uk/events.

If you have any questions please call 01278 441262 or email info@btc.ac.uk



To book or find out more, scan here or go to www.btc.ac.uk/events.

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Careers and Events

YMCA
BRUNEL GROUP

BATH | BRISTOL | WILTSHIRE
EAST & SOUTH SOMERSET

GLASTONBURY YOUTH CLUBS

**An exciting opportunity to
meet new friends & join in
fun activities.**

Mondays 7-9pm: Windmill Hill

Fridays 7-9pm: Red Brick

Term-time only | Entry £1



Weekly youth clubs & extra events and trips

Hang out with your friends | Meet new people | Activities & games | Free food

we
welcome all
young
people
aged 10-19



let's all
catch up,
have fun
and support
each other!

To sign up please access the consent form by scanning the QR code or via the link
<https://forms.gle/AvNMEj3MqWZv3rux5> Consent must be provided by a parent/carer

Contact us:

Glastonbury: SiobhanWhite@ymca-bg.org
www.ymca-bg.org

Find us:

St Edmunds Hall, Chinnock Road, Glastonbury, BA6 8EW
Red Brick Building, Moorland Road, Glastonbury, BA1 9FT

YMCA

Here for young people
Here for communities
Here for you



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Safeguarding Spotlight

Dear schools,

We are excited to launch our new series of parent/carer webinars for Spring 2025! Please share the below in your newsletters and on your socials to spread the word. Parents can register via the links in the flipbook below.

Calling all Parents & Carers!

The MHST (Mental Health Support Team) are offering a series of FREE helpful webinars over **Spring 2025**.

- Supporting your neurodivergent child
- Supporting exam and test wellbeing
- Helping your child to thrive: Boosting self-esteem & resilience
- Understanding and supporting anxiety and low mood
- Supporting your child's big feelings

Find out more & register here: [Click Link](#)



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ON TRACK

<p><u>O</u>rganised & Proactive</p>	<p>Bringing the correct equipment, kit and uniform Meeting deadlines Working on tasks independently and completing homework to a high standard</p>
<p><u>N</u>eat & Tidy work</p>	<p>Smart, well presented books demonstrating your best work</p>
<p><u>T</u>enacity</p>	<p>Trying your hardest, rising to challenges, having a 'can do' attitude, working out solutions and taking ownership of your learning</p>
<p><u>R</u>eady, Respectful and Responsible</p>	<p>Being a role model by consistently demonstrating our basic expectations</p>
<p><u>A</u>nswering, reading and listening like an expert</p>	<p>Sophisticated full sentence answers using technical terms Following along, tracking the text and ready to read aloud in class. Reading widely and for pleasure Listening and considering the views of others Taking in turns to respond</p>
<p><u>C</u>ontributing to the class</p>	<p>Playing an active role in every lesson Attention to the speaker, sat up straight, arms still, pens down Teacher focused</p>
<p><u>K</u>indness & Community minded</p>	<p>Caring, polite, looking after one another and the site Speaking with kindness and respect Supporting staff and other students to create a positive learning environment for all</p>



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