



25 October 2024

## Dear Parents/Carers

Following on from the headteacher's end of term letter, please read the updates below. These are intended to support families and keep you all up to date with key information relevant for next term at St Dunstan's School.

### Attendance

We have been very pleased by students' attendance this term. Over 190 students have been in school everyday demonstrating their commitment to their studies. We want to celebrate students for their good attendance by offering a new rewards scheme called 100% Club. All students who are 100% over a period of time will be entered into a prize draw to win a range of prizes.

Our aim for all students is to achieve attendance that is over 96%. We understand that illness can get in the way, but attendance is crucial for gaining the education needed for future career plans, including college. Currently, the majority of the school is meeting this target and we will be looking to work with all students over the coming months as we need to move towards all students meeting it in the new term.

As we move forwards, we will be having attendance competitions with prizes, attendance clinics with students and parents and our ongoing tutor supportive phone calls, helping us develop our relationships with you to support your child.

### Punctuality

We have been impressed with the improvements to punctuality seen over the course of this term. Punctuality is a life skill all students will need for personal and professional responsibilities. In order to make sure that all students arrive at morning registration on time, please be advised of the following:

- The school gates close at 8:40am. Any students arriving after this time will be marked down as late.
- Students should enter the school via the Lucas Block gates.
- Students are expected to arrive at their tutor rooms from 8:35am onwards for a prompt start at 8:45am.
- Students who arrive late at the start of the day or to lessons will receive a consequence in line with our behaviour expectations policy.

We understand that there are occasions when a child may be late due to factors outside of their control. If this is the case, we ask that you contact reception to inform the school, so we can update our records. Please also feel free to approach our morning duty team to let them know of your circumstances as you drop your child off.



## Home Learning

Home Learning is an integral part of every school's provision to ensure every child makes the greatest possible progress during the academic year.

At St Dunstan's School Home Learning tasks will be used to reinforce childrens' study of their subjects. For the majority of tasks, Home Learning will review knowledge and skills gained during lessons through a range of activities alongside other tasks that provide students with opportunities for independent learning and developing research skills including flipped learning.

Home Learning, including deadlines and any changes to the timetable, will be recorded on Talaxy and Google Classrooms and students will need to make a note of this in their planners.

## Timetable

Students will follow a timetable according to their year group, ensuring that Home Learning is evenly distributed across a two week period, with sufficient time to complete meaningful tasks for each of their subjects. St Dunstan's Home Learning timetable is available to view on the school website.

The Trust homework policy is available to view on RM unify, however the guidance about the time spent on homework varies between different year groups, as detailed below:

**Year 7: 20 - 30 minutes**

**Year 8: 30 minutes**

**Year 9: 35-40 minutes**

**Year 10 & 11: 45 minutes**

## Support

Students are able to access support with their Home Learning during breaks in the school day, and after school if they are finding a task challenging. In the first instance, students need to ask the teacher who has set the task when they need additional support or guidance. IT rooms and the library are open at lunch time daily, and the library is available after school until 16:15 for access to IT.

## Consequences

In some instances students do not meet expectations for completion of Home Learning, in spite of clear communication and support provided. In these circumstances, where an appropriate period of grace has been provided to submit the task and the Home Learning still is not handed in to an acceptable standard, students will need to attend an after school detention with their classroom teacher to complete the task.

Home Learning detentions will run for 25 minutes from 15:20 to 15:45 and 15:50 to 16:15 to provide an opportunity for those students who have not submitted more than one task. If a student is required to attend an after school detention to complete their Home Learning, notification will be sent via Talaxy communication the day before, and it will be



the responsibility of parents/carers to support attendance and ensure students make their way safely home afterwards.

## Personal Development and Pastoral Updates

This term we have delivered a range of assemblies, lessons and workshops to support our students' character development. Further to this, we have had an increased amount of support from external visitors who have worked with our students to support wellbeing. These include:

**Assemblies** - Welcome back, High Expectations, Academia, Looking like a Professional, Mental Health, Addictive Substances, Youth Club, Celebration Assembly

**British Values** - School Values, British Values, What is a General Election?, LGBTQ+, Black History & the British Army, Celebrating Culture, Healthy Relationships, What do BV mean to you?

**PSHE** - What is PSHE? (Y7), How to keep Safe (Y8), Drugs & Other Stuff (Y9), Health & Wellbeing (Y10), Careers, Money & Finance (Y11)

**Educational Workshops** - Beyond Equality Toxic Masculinity (Y9/Y10), Girls4Girls (Y9/Y10)

**Charity Referrals** - Teachable Moments, Mental Health Support Team (MHST), Stand Up Against Race and Inequality (SARI)

**External Support** - Jessica Lewin from Glastonbury Youth Club visits every Monday lunchtime for KS3 drop ins, and provides 1:1 sessions with KS4 students who would like support outside of lessons.

It is important for young people to receive the right help at the right time to address any risks or situations where they may feel unsafe. Issues can be de-escalated and childrens' welfare promoted in this way. Please contact the school's DSL if you have any concerns about a young person's welfare. Alternatively, if you wish to request any additional pastoral support for your child, please speak with the Head of Key Stage.

## Conduct

Students this term have achieved superb Achievement points. This is a hugely positive start to the year and we hope the next term is just as fantastic.

Congratulations to Year 7 who have made an amazing start to the academic year with such a huge number of points.

Year	7	8	9	10	11
Achievement	11,934	7,854	5265	6003	4645

\*Scores published Friday 18 October

Visitors to the school consistently comment on how quiet and orderly the school is and how well students are focussed in their lessons. Prospective parents are impressed with all the students they meet and the pride they show in the school.





## Uniform

Students at St Dunstan's are well presented, wearing their uniform proudly everyday. A huge thank you to parents who have supported us in making sure that our students are correctly dressed for school and have their equipment for the day ahead. Father Kieron has made some small stationary packs, available if needed from Reception, the Library, Pastoral and the Learning Hub. Let us know if you need any support and we will lend you what you need.

Please continue to label clothing as it can be misplaced around the school. In order to return it, we do need a helping hand from you. So far, we have a limited number of items and they are available to be checked over by the office team.

## Talaxy

The ability to communicate effectively with parents/carers is an essential part of our approach. Through working in partnership with parents, we will ensure every student is successful. We expect all parents/carers to access Talaxy on a regular basis to ensure they are kept informed and updated about their child. Attached to this document are details to guide parents to access and set themselves up on this platform. If you have any issues or would like further support, please do not hesitate to get in contact and we will be more than happy to provide support. [Parent guide to Talaxy](#)

## Celebration and Rewards

Positive recognition and celebration of good behaviour sits at the centre of our approach. We are keen to ensure that all students have the opportunity to be successful and celebrated for making a positive contribution to our community. Teachers are expected to praise and celebrate students on a regular basis.

Over the course of the term students have been recognised in the following ways:

- Teachers reward and recognise students with positive points through Talaxy for being 'On Track'.
- Reward Cards have been given to students who demonstrate exemplary work. These cards are worth 15 positive points and are signed and shared with their parents, tutor and the headteacher.
- We have just completed our half termly Celebration assemblies to acknowledge and celebrate students for their achievements.
- We have celebrated individual and collective achievements in our weekly newsletter.

At the start of November we intend to develop this further, when we will announce the rewards and recognition students will receive for achieving positive points and reaching key points thresholds. This has been led and informed by the feedback provided to us by students across all year groups and we look forward to outlining these to students and families in a few weeks' time.



### **Parking and Drop off**

Thank you to all parents/carers who have supported our local residents in Cox's Close and along the main road by finding alternative places to park during these busy times. We ask that you continue to do this as we move into the winter months to support our neighbours.

If you have any questions or queries regarding any of the information above, please do not hesitate to contact us via main school reception

Thankyou all for your continued support and we look forward to seeing the students return in November.

Yours faithfully

P Balkwill

KHaden

T Armstrong-Vickers

A Richards

N Watson