

Newsletter June 2018

Message from the Head



As you will read below, we have had a busy term with several trips, sporting activities and events. We have also been able to get the newsletter into the new online format. Paper copies are available at reception or by request. We hope to send out news more regularly to keep the school community up to date with events that happen.

You will shortly be receiving a letter about the new Parent Portal. This will allow parents to access details about their child including homework set, timetables, summaries of rewards and sanctions, parents evening bookings and details of your child's purchases from the dining room.

There have been a number of trips, year 10 students went to Berlin and Porlock and Year 7 are about to leave to go to France. We aim to enhance the curriculum with extracurricular events and are looking forward to activities week when students are accessing a number of enrichment activities, many of which

will help them with their future studies.

In the near future there will also be opportunities for our students to join the combined cadet force and there is more planned work with Millfield for enrichment and curriculum opportunities. We will inform you once these ventures are ready for launch.

Next year we will be changing the timetable to include 6 lessons a day, each of 50 minutes. This will not affect the start and end times of the day but will bring a number of benefits. The lunch time will move to a more reasonable 12.40, currently the late lunch affects learning and concentration in period 4. It will also allow for the introduction of PSHE into the timetabled curriculum. The shorter lessons will also increase the pace of lessons, leading to better learning.

As you will be aware we are on a journey of improving standards, which includes uniform and appearance. Mrs Bevan will be writing to you shortly to reiterate our expectations so that students do not start the year contravening any of the uniform and appearance rules.

I would like to praise the behaviour and attitudes of year 10 and 11 in their conduct during the examination period, we are very proud of all the hard work they have put in to preparing for these examinations.

As we come to the end of the year, and start to say goodbye to the year 11s , we wish them all well in their next steps and look forward to seeing them on results day on Thursday 23rd August.

Latest News

Celebrating St Dunstan

On Friday 18th May, in the grounds of Glastonbury Abbey, a group of Year 10 drama students from St Dunstan's School presented a lively and entertaining performance chronicling the life and times of St Dunstan. The performance was to commemorate St Dunstan's Day which falls on 19th May - this year also happens to be the 60th anniversary of the school opening in 1958 so it was good to celebrate our namesake.

The weather was very kind while Year 4 and 5 children from local primary schools watched spellbound as the play unfolded. Dan was a scene stealer as the 'devil in disguise' who was twice foiled by St Dunstan played superbly by Jasmin . The primary school children also joined in with a crowd scene, shouted responses with gusto and sang along with the closing song.

The Year 10 students planned, wrote and staged the performance under the steady guidance of Mrs Pulford, head of Drama at St Dunstan's. Everyone watching was impressed by the confidence and professionalism of the students. Part of their remit was 'Theatre in Education' whereby the audience should learn something from the performance they see; we all learnt a great deal about St Dunstan's life and times.

After the performance, the students helped Abbey staff to run workshops making stained glass windows out of card and tissue paper. Again, our students were an absolute credit to the school - the workshop leaders were full of praise for their patience and kindness with the younger students, not to mention their impeccable manners.

We were very proud to see our students make such a wonderful contribution to the St Dunstan's Day celebrations.



St Dunstan's Student Chosen to Attend Cambridge University STEM Summer Residential

Congratulations to Megan in Year 11 who has been accepted on to a summer residential - Women in STEM - at Cambridge University. Megan was nominated by her maths teacher Mr Armstrong for her outstanding ability and effort in maths. She will spend three days at Cambridge participating in lectures related to STEM subjects.

Year 10 Geography Field Trip to Exmoor

On a warm spring day, 70 Geography students set off from St Dunstan's for a field trip to gather data for use in their Paper 3 exam. Students were tasked with analysing data collected on rock size and shape - the analysis was to determine whether the process of Longshore Drift is occurring along the coastline.

Longshore Drift is the transportation of material along a beach. The prevailing wind causes the wave to break at an angle on the beach. Swash carries material up the beach at an angle; the backwash, in turn, carries the material back down the beach.

Every time a wave breaks, the material is shifted back up the beach in the direction of the prevailing wind. As the material is carried along the beach it is gradually eroded becoming smaller and more rounded in size - a process known as attrition.

Longshore Drift is a key factor in shaping coastlines; understanding the process and its effects are a vital element in the GCSE exam and beyond for Geographers. It was great for students to have the opportunity to witness and analyse its effects for themselves. We are grateful to the staff from Exmoor National Park who ran the session and shared their expertise. As ever, our students were impeccably behaved and made us proud to be representing St Dunstan's.



Rewards and Achievements

Attendance and Behaviour Mufti-Days

At St Dunstan's we understand the importance of attendance in relation to schooling. Research clearly suggests that those students who attend more regularly will achieve greater learning outcomes and therefore have a greater chance of opportunities. As a reward, students who achieve 100% attendance within a half-term are allowed to wear mufti on the first Thursday back after half-term.

In addition to attendance, students are very fortunate at St Dunstan's to be in a learning environment which has excellent levels of behaviour. As an incentive students who have no behaviour points throughout a half term are rewarded with a mufti-day on the first Friday back after half-term.

Proudly, since these rewards have been introduced there has been a significant positive effect in each of these areas.

Boys' Cricket Results

Year 7 vs Crispin

St Dunstan's won by 5 runs. Man of the Match- Nafis

Year 7/8 vs Wells Blue

Wells Blue won by 2 runs. Man of the Match- Henry

Year 9 vs Wells Blue

Wells Blue won by 3 runs. Man of the Match- Nicholas

Boys' Handball

YEAR 8

St Dunstan's 9 - 12 Crispin MVP = Michael

YEAR 10

St Dunstan's 27 - 9 Crispin MVP = Richard

ST DUNSTAN'S STORM TO SUCCESS AT AREA ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS!!!

A truly inspirational experience for over 45 St Dunstan's students as they competed in the 'scorching sun' at The Sedgemoor and Mendip Area Games against 10 other schools for the chance to represent the area at the County Games in July.

The teams that travelled were; year 7 boys, year 8 girls, year 8 boys, year 10 girls and year 10 boys.

Proudly, St Dunstan's will have 3 representative teams at the prestigious County Games as the year 7 boys, year 8 boys and year 10 boys all came 1st and won their competition overall. This is a truly magnificent achievement and

all the extra hours practising after school has clearly paid off. The year 8 girls and year 10 girls both finished a respectable 4th place. In addition to the success, all of the students behaved impeccably and were an absolute credit to St Dunstan's School. Well done to all the students involved.

Dates for the Diary

Friday 8th June- Year 9 Rugby 7s Tournament at Yeovil RFC
Monday 11th June- Sedgemoor and Mendip Athletics at Yeovil AA
Thursday 14th and Friday 15th June- Year 7 Normandy Trip
Friday 22nd June- Year 5 CSI Day
Thursday 28th June- Year 11 Leavers BBQ and BBQ
Tuesday 3rd July- Year 6 Primary Olympics
Thursday 5th July- Somerset Athletics Championships
Tuesday 10th July- Sports Day

Safeguarding and Relationships

Here at St Dunstan's we recognise that the safety and well-being of students, staff, visitors to our school is paramount. Please see below some useful links regarding safeguarding;

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/>

<http://www.st-dunstans.somerset.sch.uk/our-school/safeguarding/>

MailChimp



Investing in the Future of Secondary Education in Glastonbury



