

Welcome to
Okehampton College

NEWSLETTER



I hope that everyone enjoyed the summer holidays. As we now look forward to the start of the new school year, we would like to welcome all the new Year 7, Year 12 and the many new students that have joined us in Year's 8, 9 and 10. The reception area was full of students and parents on the first day back; thank you for your patience while we showed students to their tutor groups. All year groups began the term with a Year Assembly where we talked about new beginnings, respect for one another and setting and maintaining high standards.

You may have read in the Okehampton Times how pleased we were with the results of the GCSE, AS and A Level exams taken in the summer term. The students worked very hard and thoroughly deserved their success. We will not have official comparative data from other colleges until the end of October, however, feedback so far suggests that the students in Year 11 made significant progress against other schools and the proportion that achieved grade 4 and above in both English and Maths was high.

The term has already started in earnest with a group of fourteen Year 12 students spending two days in Cambridge getting inspiration and ideas about university life. They have returned in high spirits having had a very exciting time and enjoyed punting down the Cam!

On Wednesday evening the new Year 7 students were invited to attend a meeting with their parents to talk about settling into school. It was pleasing to meet so many of you and to hear how much students are enjoying life here in College, long may their enthusiasm continue. With that in mind, the next big event in the school calendar is the Year 6 Open Evening which will take place on the

evening of Thursday 27th September and the open Morning on Thursday 28th September. I would encourage as many students as possible to be involved in this thoroughly enjoyable event. Click on the link below for more information.

<http://www.okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk/upcoming-events/open-morning-evening-september-2017>

It is very disappointing that we have had to postpone the Sponsored Walk. We hope the weather on Friday 22nd will be better and allow it to go ahead as planned. The sponsored walk is always a great event and is an opportunity for students to get to know their tutor and the other members of their tutor group. It is also an excellent opportunity to raise money for the charities chosen by the Student Council members. This year the charities we will be supporting are Tor Support, Devon Air Ambulance, Cancer Research UK and Water Aid. We hope that you will support us in encouraging students to get sponsored for this event. *Good luck everyone.*

Derrick Brett
Head Teacher



Facebook

www.facebook.com/okehamptoncollege



Twitter account

www.twitter.com/okehamptoncc

Child Protection and Safeguarding at Okehampton College

The Child Protection Officers, who work within the of Inclusion and Safeguarding team at Okehampton College are:

Mrs C Edwards
(Director of Inclusion and Safeguarding)
Mrs N Stoneman
Mr S Freeman

Reserves:

Mrs K Hoggins
Mrs S Simmons

They can be contacted via the main school switchboard or on the direct line number: **(01837) 650914**

Our governor with special interest for Child Protection is **Mr Gavin Jordan**.

*“Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is **everyone’s** responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families and carers has a role to play in safeguarding children...If children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, **everyone** who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action”. (Keeping Children Safe in Education, statutory guidance)*

We consider the safety and wellbeing of students in our

care to be paramount. We are robust in our screening and checking of new staff, all staff are identified by the BLUE College lanyards and photo id that they wear. **All visitors to the College site (including parents) are required to report to main reception.** They will then be met and accompanied by a member of staff. Non police checked visitors are given a RED lanyard and are accompanied at all times by a member of staff. Police checked visitors are issued with a YELLOW lanyard, member of staff within the Federation (who are police checked) wear a GREEN lanyard and our 6th form students wear a BLACK lanyard.

All students have assemblies and training around keeping themselves safe, both from Child Protection Officers, through their programme of PSHE and online safety from the ICT Faculty.

We have a duty to follow up any concerns raised in regard to the safety and wellbeing of our students. We work within the framework of the Keeping Children Safe in Education statutory guidance and work with Children’s Social Care and liaise with the Police and other agencies where



successful environment for children to thrive.

We will always listen to a child and then take action where appropriate. We believe in confidentiality not secrecy. We also work closely with families to support students consistently as a team. We can also recommend support and information for parents around common teenage issues.

For further information about Safeguarding please see our Safeguarding Policy which is published on our website and is reviewed annually.

If you have any concerns or queries please contact a member of the Child Protection Team.



Okehampton College becomes a 'Best Practice' School

Over the Summer holiday, we received the fantastic news that the College has been given the status of 'Best Practice School' by the British Council for our international work. We are now 1 of just 4 'Best Practice' Secondary Schools in the South West!

Our application was marked as 'Best Practice' by the assessors for: *'demonstrating particularly impressive examples of international activities in the curriculum'*.

We are very pleased to lead in this field, and that the hard work of students and staff towards giving the College a strong international dimension has been recognised. We will continue to provide students with opportunities to think in terms of the bigger picture and the world around them and become global citizens. To develop this international work, we would welcome any ideas from parents/guardians for international projects and links with new schools abroad.

If you would like to contribute, then please get in touch!



Payment of Contributions towards Design & Technology Practical Work

The vast majority of students thoroughly enjoy Design & Technology and wish to take their practical work home once they have made a contribution towards the cost of materials. As the College now operates a cashless administration system, we would politely remind you to make payment via your child's Squid account, as per the schedule below.

KS3 (Years 7,8,9) - Your contribution allows your child to take their practical work home, for the whole academic year, from all areas of Design and Technology that provide materials for students, e.g. Electronics, Resistant Materials, Textiles etc.

Please note, Food Technology students are still expected to provide their own ingredients.

KS4 and 5 (Years 10,11,12) - All KS4 and 5 students are asked to make the contribution as shown below to help cover the costs of materials and sundries.

Please note, Food Technology and Catering students are still expected to provide their own ingredients.

Level 1 / 2 in Hospitality and Catering students can hire chef's whites on receipt of a deposit of £15.00 which is refundable at the end of the course.

Year Group	Contribution per Year (2017/18)
Year 7	£10.00
Year 8	£10.00
Year 9	£10.00
Year 10	£10.00
Year 11	£10.00
Year 12	£15.00



Here at Okehampton College we have a very successful but small PTFA.

The PTFA plays an important part of College life and provides the extra funding different departments in the College need to buy equipment or resources that are not supplied through the normal school budget.

We are desperately looking for new members and would love to meet you at our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 4th October 2017 - 7.30pm at the Pavilion in the Park, Simmons Park, Okehampton.

This is an informative meeting where you can see what the PTFA do and maybe register your name and number to help occasionally. We would love to see some new faces and particularly would love to meet some of the new parents just joining Okehampton College with children starting Year 7.

Unfortunately for such a large College we have a tiny number of teachers and parents on our committee. We only meet maybe 6 times a year. We have two annual events and one biannual event so there is not too much to commit to.

We welcome new ideas and are a very friendly bunch. If you would like to register your interest but can't make the meeting please feel free to email us at - CCHAP@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk

Get involved!
Make a difference!



OCRA activities for Autumn 2017!

Come along and have a go at these fantastic activities.

FREESTYLE GYMNASTICS

Learn parkour, freerunning and tricking skills, including double kongs, reverse vaults, lazy vaults, flips, kick the moons, turn vaults, wall flips, butterfly twists, tornado kicks and more! Mondays, 3.45-4.25pm, 11+ yrs, £3.50 per session, Okehampton College Gym. Contact vicki@ocrasport.org.uk to book a place.

FENCING

Practise the noble art of the sword! Modern-day duelling in a competitive sport. Tuesdays, 3.30-4.15pm (12-18 yrs), 5-6.15pm (6-11 yrs), £4.50 per session or £4 per session if paying in term blocks, College Sports Hall. Contact Robin at westdevonswords@gmail.com for more information.

BASKETBALL

Improve your basketball skills at this fun, social club! Wednesdays, 7.15-9.15pm, 15+ yrs, £3.50 per session, Parklands Leisure Centre.

VOLLEYBALL

Exciting & fast moving game, great fun to play, come along, bring friends or work colleagues to the weekly session. All abilities welcome. Fridays, 8-9pm, 14+ yrs, £3 per session, Parklands Leisure Centre.

ADULT GYM & TRAMPOLINE

Get back into sport, try something new! Have a go at double-mini trampoline, trampolining, sprung track, beam, vault, bar. •Choose to do gym, trampolining or both. Thursdays, 8.30-9.30pm, £4 per session, Okehampton College Gym. Contact vicki@ocrasport.org.uk to book a place.

BADMINTON ADULT/YOUTH CLUB

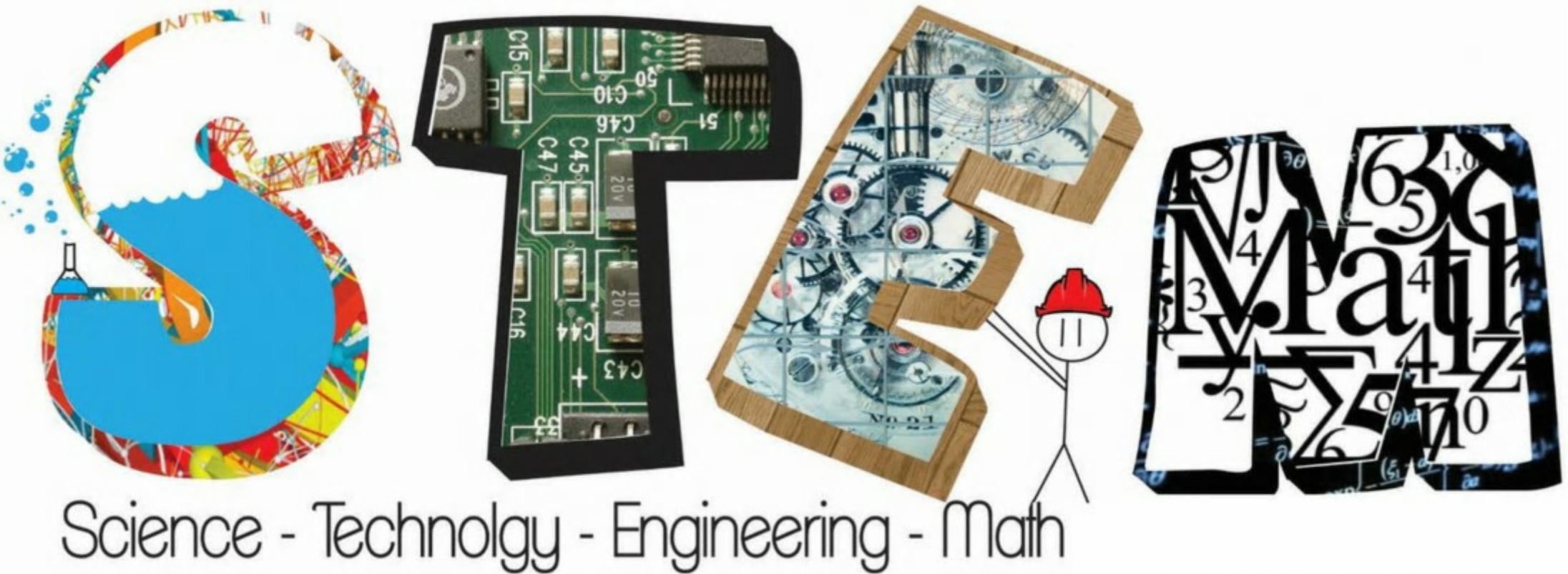
Come and play at this great social club. All equipment provided. Mondays, 7-9pm, £3.50 per session, Parklands Leisure Centre.

Contact OCRA on 01837 318010 for more information or visit our website <https://www.ocrasport.org.uk/get-involved/activities/>.



OCRA
sport • art • x-treme • activity
play • adventure • dance
0 1 8 3 7 5 4 5 4 6
www.ocrasport.org.uk

At STEM club you will have the chance to participate in hands-on science through investigations and enquiry-based learning, solving real-life STEM challenges through practical investigation and discussion.
Solve problems, develop skills, meet friends and have FUN!



Open to all students in KS3 on Wednesdays (week A only)
3:30 – 4:30 in room 412



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

How does it work in Devon?

A session for parent carers

What support is there for children with SEND?
What is 'assess, plan, do, and review'?
What do all these changes mean for me and my family?
What is the SEND Local Offer?

We will help you to understand the system in Devon.

DATE: Thursday 19th October 2017

TIME: 3.30pm – 5.30pm

VENUE: Hatherleigh Primary School, South Street,
Okehampton, EX20 3JB





Charity No: 219279



*Devon County
Royal British Legion*

A Concert for Remembrance

Thursday 2nd November 2017



*The Okehampton Community College Band
Cassy Jane (mezzo-soprano)
Pupils of St Sidwell's School, Exeter*

at

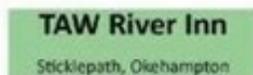
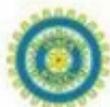
The Mint Methodist Church, Fore Street, Exeter, EX4 3AT

Doors open 6.30pm (Refreshments available)

Concert starts at 7.30pm

Tickets: £7.50

Email/Telephone: rbldevon.events@gmail.com / 07588 129131



FUN PALACES



**A worldwide campaign for culture made
by your community, for your community**

Okehampton Library

Saturday 7th October 09:30-12:30

Here at Okehampton Library we are very excited to be hosting our first ever Fun Palace. We plan to provide a community space for people in the Okehampton area to share their skills or learn a new skill. Have a go at a range of arts, cultural and science activities aimed at anyone of any age or ability. Everyone's an Artist, Everyone's a Scientist. Watch this space for further news.

What would you like to see and what can you offer?

If you are interested in sharing a skill with your community for free, please contact us.

Okehampton Library, 4 North Street, Okehampton, EX20 1AR
01837 52805

facebook.com/OkehamptonLibrary

@OkehamptonLib

devonlibraries.org.uk



funpalaces.co.uk



Preloved Uniform

Donations Needed!

We are now running a
“Preloved” Uniform shop from Tree Tops!

We would welcome any donations of old/spare uniform to the Preloved Shop.

We are happy to wash and dry them ourselves ready for new owners.

Just drop them off to Reception or Tree Tops in a bag marked, “Donation to Preloved shop”.

Thank you

Need new uniform?

We have trousers/sweatshirts & polo shirts in various sizes. Clean and ready to wear.

Items can be purchased with a donation starting from £1.



Spare Boots?

Do you have any football or rugby boots that you don't need any more?

If so the P E Department will take them off your hands.

So go on...

clear out your cupboards!

News from our
Print Workshop

Help to record nature's calendar

What effect has recent weather had on wildlife? Does climate change affect timings in nature? Join Nature's Calendar and help scientists discover answers to these questions. Visit www.woodlandtrust.org for more information.

How Woodland Trust help local communities

The Woodland Trust have provided 11 community groups across the North of England with grants totalling £72,000.

The groups, which all own or manage woods in the region, will use the funding in a variety of ways such as planting more trees, improving access, recruiting new volunteers or working with local schools.

As part of a £1.25m partnership with Nationwide Building Society the Woodland Trust are providing funding for communities across the North of England to either establish new groups or help existing groups undertake greater care and maintenance of their local woods.

Get the spin on 'helicopter seeds'

In the UK you can find native and non-native trees which produce helicopter seeds.

These trees are field maple, ash, sycamore, and Norway maple. The term 'helicopter seeds' was coined based on the way these seeds spiral through the air during dispersal. In botanical terminology these are winged seeds known as samaras. Want to know more about helicopter seeds and how to identify which tree they are from visit www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Big Tree Planting Event Planned for November

Hello and welcome to the August/September issue of our Carbon Capture newsletter.

As sad as it is to see summer come to a close, we look ahead to the fantastic things that the changing seasons herald; the turning of the leaves, longer nights, a crisp chill in the air and of course the annual tree planting event hosted by the Woodland Trust and the Premier Paper Group.



Our commitment to the Carbon Capture scheme supports the Woodland Trust in planting trees throughout the country, throughout the year. However one of the largest tree planting events is held at the Heartwood Forest near St Albans.

Heartwood Forest is one of the largest of the Woodland Trust sites and is comprised of both ancient and new native woodland. This exciting tree planting project is set to finish soon and this is likely to be one of the last tree planting events held at this site.

The date has been set for November; more news will follow soon.

Carbon Capture and how it can help stop the decline in British woodland birds

The British Trust for Ornithology, in partnership with RSPB and Joint Nature Conservation Committee, has been co-ordinating the Breeding Bird Survey since 1994. This year the British Trust for Ornithology Breeding Bird Survey has highlighted some worrying declines in woodland birds.

The BTO suggests drivers for the long-term decline in Spotted Flycatcher, Wood Warbler and Garden Warbler are:

- changes in land use,
- climate in wintering areas,
- issues along migration routes,
- changes in breeding grounds in the UK

Some of the changes to habitat can be caused by heavy deer grazing which reduces nesting and foraging habitat. Predation of nests, in combination with other factors, has also been suggested for some species.

It comes as no surprise that the effects of deforestation, tree disease and pollution can lead to loss of habitat for wildlife; ancient woodland now covers only around 2% of the UK. Much of what remains has been damaged by planting with non-native conifers or colonisation by invasive species.

Our commitment to the Woodland Trust's Carbon Capture scheme supports the creation and development of new native woodland as well as the maintenance of existing and ancient woodland; supporting habitats for all species of the UK's precious wildlife.

Dates for your diary & forthcoming events

Month	Date	Event
Autumn Term 2017		
October 2017	Thurs 19 th October	Parent's Evening Year 7 & Year 12
	Mon 23 rd - Fri 27 th October	Half Term
	Mon 30 th October	All Pupils Return
November 2017	Thursday 9 th November	Parent's Evening Year 10 & Year 13
	Wednesday 22 nd November	Parent's Evening Year 9
	Friday 24 th November	Non-Pupil Day
December 2017	Wednesday 6 th December	Parent's Evening Year 11
	Friday 15 th December	Last Day of Term
Spring Term 2018		
January 2018	Wednesday 3 rd January	All Pupils Return
February 2018	Thursday 8 th February	Parent's Evening Year 8 & Year 12
	Monday 12 th - Friday 16 th February	Half Term
	Monday 19 th February	All Pupils Return
March 2017	Thursday 22 nd March	Parent's Evening Year 11 & Year 13
	Thursday 29 th March	Last Day of Term
	Friday 30 th -Friday 13 th April	Easter Holidays
SummerTerm 2018		
April 2018	Monday 16 th April	All Pupils Return
May 2018	Thursday 10 th May	Parent's Evening Year 7 & Year 10
	Monday 7 th May	May Day Bank Holiday
	Monday 28 th May - Friday 1 st June	Half Term
June 2018	Monday 4 th June	All Pupils Return
July 2018	Tuesday 24 th July	Last Day of Term
	Wednesday 25 th July	Non-Pupil Day
	Thursday 26 th July	Non-Pupil Day



Okehampton College

"Nothing but the best is good enough"



Executive Principal:
Mr Daryll Chapman

Headteacher
Mr Derrick Brett

Assistant Principals:

Ms Joanne Gibson

Mr Andrew Sweeney

Mrs Nichola Offer

Mrs Jo Payne

Mrs Vicky Thornton

Federation Business Manager

Mr Alan King



www.okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk

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