Friday Focus

Friday 6th November 2026

Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust
...everyone in our Trust.



I hope that everyone had a fantastic half term break. It was lovely to welcome the students back. This week we have held some interviews for staff and it was wonderful to receive feedback from the candidates about how friendly and kind our students are. This week in particular has felt like there are even more "good mornings" and "hellos" from students when we welcome them into school each morning despite the much colder weather we are having. Some of the students are finding this colder weather a bit of a shock to the system so just a little reminder that whilst students are allowed to wear a coat around the school site, they must be removed for lessons. Hoodies are not allowed anywhere in school, so please do not send your child in with one as it will be confiscated.

Well done to the Year 11 students who have hit the ground running this week with their mock examinations. I have been really impressed at how they have applied themselves during the exams and they all seem very prepared. I'm very proud of all of them.

Those who use Simmons Park sports field, may have noticed new signs appear recently. This is to raise awareness around the appropriate use of the field by members of the public. We have worked with the Town Council in order to put these signs in place. Essentially members of the public cannot use the field during the school day, but are welcome to outside of school hours. Mr Bailey (PE Curriculum Lead) has been working with OCRA to start a Crowdfunder in order to raise money to purchase and install permanent goals so both the school and members of the public can use them. More details about and how to donate can be found on page 3 of this newsletter or by clicking on the button to the right. We are also writing to the Okehampton Times about this to spread the news and ensure the local community are aware.

This time of year is where we start planning for Christmas. We have started to learn Christmas songs in our Year 7 choir practice and Mrs Murray is running the House Christmas Card Competition (which closes on Monday). We will be holding our Carol Service on the evening of Monday 14th December and our Christmas Concert on Thursday 17th December, and don't forget about Okehampton's Edwardian Evening on Thursday 3rd December where the PTFA will be selling raffle tickets and our students will be performing in the Charter Hall. I look forward to seeing you there!

Finally, our Lost Property is steadily filling up please ask your son/daughter to call into the Ash & Beech Pastoral Hub to claim any item they may have lost.

Principal's Breakfast

Congratulations to the students listed below. To celebrate they are invited to have breakfast with the Principal next Friday.

Ash: Teddi Gosling - Has made excellent strides in maths, supported by increased engagement in lessons. Keep up the great work!

Beech: Gracie Cann – for a fantastic approach to learning and being such a fabulous member of the school community demonstrating the OKE way everyday

Elm: Jake Billings - For having a positive start to Year 10 and consistently meeting expectations in college

Oak: Mason Parker - Groves - For representing England at the Loule Cup in Portugal for individual trampoline and DMT last week where he won his first international medal (a bronze) in the individual trampolining at an international competition. An incredible achievement.



Crowdfunder.co.uk
Where ideas happen.
CLICK HERE

Friday Focus

Personal Development Updates

RSE Information Days

RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) letters have now been emailed to all parents and carers. Please check your inbox and complete the short response form included in the letter. This helps us plan for the sessions and ensure we have enough information and resources available for everyone attending.

Years 7, 8, 10 & 11 Parents/Carers:
Thursday 12th November 2:10pm - 3:10pm

Year 9 Parents/Carers:
Thursday 26th November 2:10pm - 3:10pm

This week in Personal Development:

Year 8 students have been focusing on what it means to be proud of themselves. Through discussions on self-esteem, happiness, and anger, students have explored how these emotions can affect our lives and considered positive strategies for managing them effectively.

Year 7 students have been developing their understanding of finances by exploring questions such as "What is money?" and "Does money make you happy?" They have also learned about the importance of sleep, including why teenagers need 8-10 hours of sleep each night, the value of a consistent bedtime routine, and how creating the right environment can support healthy sleep habits. In addition, students have been exploring the themes of transition and community, discussing their importance and the role they play in everyday life.

Year 10 students have been studying employability rights and responsibilities, alongside the role of social media in modern society. Lessons have encouraged students to consider both the opportunities and potential impacts that social media can have on individuals and their future prospects.

For more information on money management:
Financial education

For more information on sleep routines, stress:
Home - Teen Sleep Hub

Please zoom in to view images in full



House Competition



To celebrate Interfaith Week students are invited to take part in a House Poetry Competition themed:
"Lighting the Way for a Shared Future"

Students can submit a poem in any style, including:

- Acrostic poems
- Free verse
- Rhyming poems
- Song lyrics

Ideas to inspire your writing:

- Sources of light, hope and guidance in different faiths and beliefs
- Family traditions and community practices
- How people with different worldviews can work together
- Actions that can create a fairer and more connected future

Reflection questions:

- What lights the way for me?
- What do I hope our shared future will look like?
- How can I help others feel hopeful and included?
- What can different communities achieve when they work together?

Important Information
Deadline: Thursday 19th November
For more information, speak to your Beliefs and Values teacher.
This is a great opportunity for students to celebrate diversity, share their ideas, and contribute to Interfaith Week through creative writing.

We Want To Hear From You!

Students - Please complete the Personal Development Student Voice Survey, which is available on your Arbor or click on the link below.
Personal Development Student Voice Survey – Fill in form

Parents/Families - RSE Consultation
If you would like to attend the RSE Consultation in school, please complete the form attached by clicking on the link below.
RSE Consultation – Fill in form

Consultations will be taking place on:

- Years 7, 8, 10 and 11: Wednesday 12th November
- Year 9: Thursday 21st November

Friday Focus

Football Goal Crowdfunder

Following the success of opening the tennis courts in the holiday and installing outdoor table tennis tables and basketball hoops, we are now excited to announce the launch of a collaborative Crowdfunder between Okehampton College and OCRA to develop the football provision here in Okehampton.

Currently there is nowhere in Okehampton for our young people to "have a kick about" free of charge, with their friends just for fun and we want to change this! And by doing so we can also improve the provision for our local clubs and PE lessons. The tennis court opening, table tennis and basketball has shown that when sports facilities are provided, for free use, they are popular and respected by the community and we can build on this with an improved football provision.

The aim of our crowdfunder is to raise nearly £22,000 to place 16 goals on our grass pitches creating 8 permanent pitches. These goals will stay out year round for use by everyone in the community. We also want to replace our astro turf goals with folding goals - these folding goals will enable

- The hockey club to use the pitch more easily
- Our community clubs to use the astro turf more easily
- PE lessons and break times to have easy use of football goals

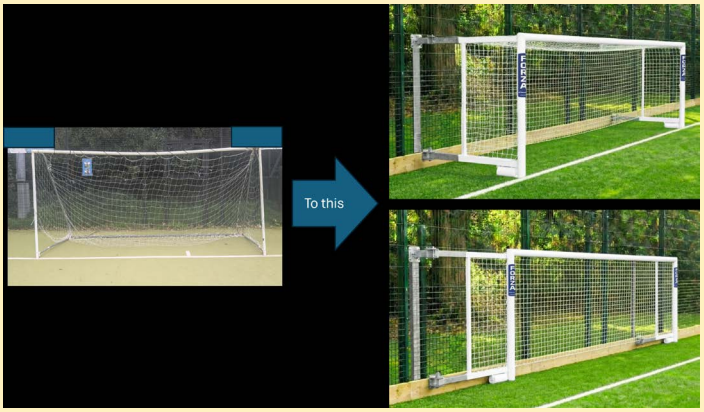
This is a really exciting opportunity to improve our facilities for use of everyone. We do however need your help:

- We would welcome any donation, big and small to help reach our fundraising target. Thank you to Elm house for their donation from the sponsored walk!
- If you own a business, or work for a business who would be interested in funding part or a whole goal please see our crowdfunder rewards opportunity and the publicity opportunity for you
- If you are feeling generous and would like to personally sponsor a goal
- Please spread the word, share this amongst friends, family and any contacts you have in the community

If you have any questions or queries regarding this please feel free to contact Mr Bailey directly at mbailey@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk or Ian Blythe at ian@ocrasport.org.uk

Click on the button to the right to visit the Crowdfunder page.

With your help Okehampton's pitches could look like this!





Please zoom in to view images in full

OCRA
sport • art • x-treme • activity
play • adventure • dance
01837 54546
www.ocrasport.org.uk
CLICK HERE

You can donate here!
Crowdfunder.co.uk
Where ideas happen.
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Lets Talk Safer Families

Keeping children safe is a shared responsibility, and access to trusted information can make a real difference.

Let's Talk Safer Families provides parents and carers with practical advice and guidance on a range of safeguarding issues affecting children and young people today. We encourage families to watch the short introductory video and explore the free webinars available, covering topics such as child criminal exploitation, online harms, healthy relationships and extremism. These resources offer valuable support in helping children stay safe both online and in their daily lives.

Video - click here - https://youtu.be/rfmb9oUh8Aw
This video offers a brief introduction and the impact the resources are having for parents, carers and families.

Alongside our online resources, there continues a programme of free webinars for parents, carers and professionals. Upcoming sessions cover topics including:

- Education Against Hate | 9th November | 7-8pm
- Understanding Child Criminal Exploitation | 12th November | 7-8pm
- Masculinity and exploitation | 19th November | 7-8pm
- Teenage Relationship Abuse | 26th November 2026 | 7-8pm

All sessions are free to attend and can be booked via this link - Events - Let's Talk Safer Families .



SEND Clinics:

SEND
Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

If you would like a conversation with a member of the Okehampton College SEND Team please book an appointment at one of our SEND Clinics. They take place every other Thursday. You can book an appointment, using the same procedure we use for parents' evenings. Please follow this link to book an appointment. SchoolCloud - Okehampton College or use the QR code.

Post-16 Open Days











A Christmas Carol

boxclever THEATRE

Year 10 & 11

24th November 2026



We suggest a voluntary donation of £6 payable on school gateway, if you are able. All year 10 and 11 students will be attending the performance on this date during lesson time.

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Please zoom in to view images in full





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Key Dates

- **Thursday 3rd December -** Okehampton Edwardian Evening
- **Monday 14th December -** Carol Service at Fairplace Church
- **Thursday 17th December -** Christmas Concert at Octagon Theatre
- **Monday 21st December 2026 - Friday 1st January 2027-** Christmas Break
- **Tuesday 5th January 2027** - All pupils return

How to contact us:

Please do get in touch if you have any questions.

Telephone: (01837) 650910

Email: ash@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk
beech@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk
elm@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk
oak@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk

CLICK HERE

Useful Links–Click to view

Term Dates

Enrichment Programme

www.
Okehampton College

Attendance

How to use
Arbor