

Friday Focus

Friday 9th October 2026



Dartmoor
Multi Academy
Trust

...everyone in our Trust.



This week we held our first three open mornings for parents and future students to come and see what we have to offer here at Okehampton College. I do feel that being in school during the school day is the best way of getting a feel for the College. Parents and future students can see for themselves our fabulous teachers delivering amazing lessons to our wonderfully polite students. I have thoroughly enjoyed taking visitors on these tours and because we have had such a good response, we have added two more dates for parents and future students to join us on either Monday 19th or Wednesday 21st October at 9:15am. If you would like to book a place on either of these mornings please call our reception team on 01837 650910.

On Wednesday we will be holding our Year 11 Success Evening. This event is for parents and students to learn how to prepare for the examination season. For Year 11 this starts with mock exams immediately after half term. Whilst I appreciate the summer exam season is many months away I want students and parents to be aware that, in line with government guidelines, there will be no study leave in the lead up to the exams next summer. However, the timetable will be revised to allow for revision lessons, taught by subject experts, just before each exam. Students should attend these sessions and make the most of the opportunity to be best prepared for their examinations. I am also excited to announce that we have also booked Prom which will be on Thursday 24th June. I look forward to seeing everyone there!

Careers education is very important, students need to understand what jobs and careers they could do in the future. There will be many that they are unaware exist and even some that don't exist yet! At College we use the Unifrog platform to support students to explore this. Students in Years 8 to 11 have been using it in tutor time and Year 10s will use it to support work experience. Year 7 will receive their passwords soon and we will keep parents informed so that they can have a look at home too.

Principal's Breakfast

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

Ash: Alessia Donovan for an exceptional start to Year 10, consistently showing the qualities required to thrive this year

Beech: Gracie Dennis for an exceptional start to her time at College – working exceptionally well in all of her lessons

Elm: Elijah Dale for being resilient and making a good start to Year 7

Oak: Anya Hill for pushing herself really hard to achieve this week, overcoming obstacles

Sponsored Walk - Update

Thank you to all those who have donated following the Sponsored Walk.

House totals stand at:

- Ash House - Cancer Research - £622.00
- Beech House - Diabetes UK - £403.00
- Elm House - Football Goals - £451.00
- Oak House - Okey Food Bank - £724.00

Donations can still be made via School Gateway.



Calling all Year 7 Parents

Please could you take a few minutes to complete our Year 7 Transition Survey. Thank you to those families who have

already responded at our Meet the Tutor Evening. Your feedback is greatly appreciated and will help us evaluate this year's transition process and plan future support for students and families.

Complete the survey by [clicking here](#) or scan the QR code:



Hockey Success at County Level!



Olive Leslie, Year 11, has been selected to represent Devon in the girls U17s and Jacob Tucker has been selected for the boys U14s hockey squad this season. This is a massive achievement for them and we are very proud of them.





This Week in Personal Development

Year 11 - where could your future take you?

This week in Personal Development, our Year 11 students have been looking to the future!

Students spent time researching what they could do after Year 11, exploring everything from sixth form and college courses to apprenticeships and training opportunities.

They investigated careers across healthcare, engineering, sport, business, education, technology, the creative industries and much more, considering the qualifications they might need and the different routes that could get them there.

It was brilliant to see students thinking about their strengths, interests and aspirations, with lots of exciting conversations about what their futures might look like.

You can also explore careers and post-16 choices together using Skills for Careers, which provides dedicated information and resources for parents and carers.

[Explore Skills for Careers: Parent Advice and Resources](#)

Student's Murder Mystery

In our fortnightly writing lessons, Year 9 were exploring how to write a murder mystery. Tristan Hopkins wrote this amazing piece.

As I walked into the library the familiar smell of the books hit me like a punch in the face I went straight to looking for the one book that I knew my stepfather would grab the second he got in here I ran straight for it "the black family tree" I got the poison out of my jumper pocket and drenched every single page in the poison. The books looked like they were judging me but I didn't care one bit. I could not wait for the mansion to be mine. I sprinted out of the library at top speed hitting a couple of books then having to go pick them up again before he got to the library and saw me in there. I managed to get back to my bedroom in time. When I went to go close my door I heard him open the door to the library and I was ecstatic but I managed to calm down. When I sat back down in my bed I was panting and so tired from running. Then I heard a scream from our maid and I sprinted down pretending to be shocked when I found my stepfather dead. I was putting on the I am so shocked and worried because inside I was jumping for joy because in his will the house was promised to me and only me so I could enjoy the house and all the money he is leaving me.

Year 11 Post-16 Support

Exeter College are visiting during the autumn term to talk to Years 9, 10 and 11 about courses available to them for Post-16. They will discuss T-Levels, apprenticeships and construction courses.

They will also be in school to offer drop-in sessions during break times on: 21st October and 2nd November

Click on the logo to view their parent newsletter.



Year 11 Success Evening Wednesday 14th October 2026

Parents and students are invited to our Year 11 Success Evening on Wednesday 14 October. The session will provide practical advice on effective revision, managing exam stress and understanding the role of mock examinations. Content will be repeated in two sessions (5–6pm and 6–7pm) to allow as many families as possible to attend. Please let us know which session you plan to attend by [clicking here](#) or scan the QR code and complete the form.

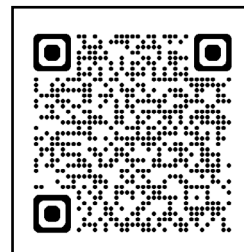


SEND Clinics:



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.



World Mental Health Day

Throughout the week from 12th October, we will be joining schools, communities and organisations around the world in recognising World Mental Health Day. This year's message is simple but important: Everyone Deserves Good Mental Health.

Mental health is something we all have, and just like our physical health, it can change over time. Looking after our wellbeing helps us manage challenges, build positive relationships, enjoy learning, and reach our full potential.

At school, we are committed to creating an environment where everyone feels safe, supported and able to talk about how they are feeling. World Mental Health Day provides an opportunity to raise awareness, reduce stigma and remind ourselves that seeking support is a sign of strength.

We encourage students to:

- Take time to check in with themselves and their friends.
- Talk to a trusted adult if they are worried about anything.
- Get involved in activities that support wellbeing and positive mental health.
- Remember that everyone experiences ups and downs, and support is available when needed.
-

Throughout the day, there will be opportunities to reflect on the importance of mental wellbeing and to explore ways of maintaining a healthy balance in everyday life. Together, let's help create a community where everyone feels valued, heard and supported because everyone deserves good mental health



This World Mental Health Day, we wanted to take a moment to remind families in our local community about Tor Support's Counselling Service.

We're here for children and young people aged 5-25 who might be struggling, feeling overwhelmed, going through a difficult time, or simply need someone to talk to.

Sometimes there isn't one big thing that has happened. Sometimes life just feels a bit too much. And sometimes having someone outside of family and friends to talk to can make a real difference.

That's what we're here for.

If you think your child or young person might benefit from counselling, you can make a referral through our [website](#), speak to their tutor at Okehampton College, or get in touch with us if you have any questions. You don't have to know exactly what they need before getting in touch, that's what we're here to help with.

And we need a little help too.

We are incredibly proud to be able to provide this support to children and young people across our local community. But, like many community services, we need the support of our community to keep our service going and continue doing this important work.

If your child has received support from Tor Support, or if you simply believe in the work we do and are in a position to help, we would be incredibly grateful for your support. Every donation, whatever the size, helps us to continue being there for young people when they need us.

If you would like to support our work, please scan the QR code to visit our JustGiving page.

Thank you for helping us to make sure that no young person has to face things alone.



OPEN EVENTS

Discover Exeter College

exeter college

October 8th	4-8pm	All city centre sites, plus our
November 18th	4-8pm	Construction Centre and Technology Centre
April 20th*	4-7pm	(Engineering, Automotive and Aerospace)
*(Suitable for Year 10s)		

Attend a variety of talks throughout the evening
Speak to our subject specialist lecturers
See our facilities
Find out about the support available
Meet our students

Scan for dates and to register



Okehampton Hockey Club Junior Hockey



Saturday Mornings

STARTING on SEPTEMBER 12th 2026

Okehampton College All Weather Pitch

Years 4 to 7 - 10am to 11am

Years 8 to 10 - 11am to 12pm

Just £3 per session

All standards welcome

Shin pads and mouth guard required

Contact - okejhc@gmail.com

www.okehamptonhockeyclub.co.uk



#THRIVEhive

Visit our THRIVEhive
A signposting hub
for advice
& support



www.okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk/Thrivehive/



KEY DATES

- **Monday 12th October** - Open Morning 9.15am
- **Tuesday 13th October** - Open Morning 10.15am
- **Wednesday 14th October** - Year 11 Success Evening (5-7pm)
- **Wednesday 21st October**- Exeter College Drop in Session (Year 11 Room 677)
- **Friday 23rd October** - Non-Pupil Day
- **Monday 26th - Friday 20th October** - Half Term
- **Monday 2nd November** - Exeter College Drop in session (Year 11 Room 677)
- **Monday 21st December - Friday 1st January** - Christmas Break

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
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USEFUL LINKS—CLICK TO VIEW

Term Dates



Enrichment Programme



Okehampton College



Attendance

How to use

