

Friday Focus

Friday 10th October 2025



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



We are looking forward to welcoming you to our combined Post-16 Open Evening and Year 11 Success Evening, taking place on Thursday 16th October from 4:00pm to 6:30pm. Please arrive at Wardhayes (our Post-16 building) or student entrance from 4pm.

We have chosen to combine the two events as we would like all our Year 11 students and their families to see our Post-16 facilities at Wardhayes, to be able to have the chance to explore the wide range of pathways available after Year 11, and to speak directly with subject leaders and current Post-16 students. We will also be providing information and advice around how to revise for the Year 11 mocks that start after half term.

You do not need to sign up for the Post-16 presentations in the Octagon at 4.30pm and 5.30pm. However, to help us manage numbers for the additional maths and English talks, at 5.00pm and 6.00pm, please sign up for one of the talk sessions [here](#).

The new Post-16 prospectus is now ready for you to look at ahead of the evening. It can be found on our website [click here](#).

Website:

We have upgraded [our website](#) and it is now live! We think you will find the new website is easier to navigate and contains more information about the curriculum students are following. If you go to the [curriculum menu](#) you will find a breakdown of each subject showing what they are studying each lesson. You will also see there is information on what students could do at home if they miss any lessons, are off school for an extended period or just would like more information on a topic.

Detentions:

Recently many parents have been asking about detentions, particularly for teachers to make it clear to students around whether one has been issued or not. The general rule is that students have a 15 minute lunchtime detention if they are removed from a lesson. This will take place at the next available lunchtime. A detention is also issued if students are late to a lesson. Again, this will take place at the next available lunchtime. I have discussed this with teachers and they will now ensure they explicitly tell students whether or not they have a detention when giving a R2.

Principals Breakfast:

I had the pleasure of meeting the following students for the Principal's breakfast this week.

- **Ash:** Arabella Findlay-Legge for being reliable, polite and caring. She is a good friend to others and regularly demonstrates our Oke Way qualities of kindness and resilience.
- **Beech:** Lily Thorne for making an exceptional start to Year 11 and she is already attending revision sessions.
- **Oak:** Connor Delgado for making a great start at Okehampton College
- **Elm:** Dexter Atfield for embracing the challenges that Year 10 brings

Well done to them all.

Devon FA Success!



We are proud to celebrate the fantastic achievement of Faith Parish a talented Goalkeeper, who has been selected for the Devon FA squad this season, as well as onto the England Pathway. This is a well-deserved recognition of Faith's ability, hard work, and dedication to the sport. Representing the county is a tremendous honour, and we look forward to following Faith's journey and cheering her on throughout the season. Well done Faith, the whole school is behind you!

Downing Scholars Programme Cambridge University

The Downing Scholars Programme (DSP) is a 9-month enrichment initiative for UK students in Years 10–12 with a passion for the Arts and Humanities. It's designed to inspire, challenge, and support students from widening participation backgrounds.

What's included:

- Monthly Taster Lectures: Explore topics like History of Art, Latin American Literature, Japanese Culture, Philosophy, and more—delivered by Cambridge academics.
- Study Power-Ups: Creative, low-pressure activities (e.g. poster-making, script-writing) to deepen understanding and build academic skills.
- Academic Support: Access to discussion boards, resource packs, and further materials to encourage independent learning.

Applications are now open!

Deadline: Monday 20 October at 12pm

Apply or learn more [here](#)



Downing Scholars Programme

Launching this October, the Downing Scholars Programme (or DSP) is a 9-month programme designed to inspire and challenge Year 10 through to Year 12 UK home students with interests in the Arts and Humanities. The DSP will introduce students to the breadth and depth offered by the Arts and Humanities, supported by a study programme that reaches widely across the undergraduate subjects offered at the University of Cambridge.

In particular, we seek to encourage those from Widening Participation backgrounds to consider applying.

Scan here to register your interest!



Contact us

Rubie McDermott & Anaïs Pettecrew
School & College Liaison Officers
admissions@dow.cam.ac.uk
01223762903



Music News

This week we have been lucky to welcome back our friends from The Two Moors Festival. On Thursday evening Mrs Teixeira took students to see 'A Night at the Opera'.

Here is a little bit about the programme:

Five performers from National Opera Studio past and present performed arias and ensembles that showcased a wide range of the operatic repertoire from baroque to Broadway, and everything in between. Featured composers included Mozart, Strauss, Handel, Bizet, Verdi, as well as a few hidden gems. It was a truly memorable musical night witnessing the drama and emotion of some of the most famous operas ever written being brought to us live at All Saints Church, Okehampton.

This was followed on Friday with a visiting percussionist 'Owen Gunnell' who workshopped with our GCSE music students. This workshop exposed our musicians to the sound of concert sized tuned percussion instruments such as the Marimba whilst exploring composition techniques. Owen is part of the Colin Currie Quartet an exciting and innovative percussion quartet who will be performing at the Ashburton Arts Centre on Saturday.

Both projects were possible thanks to the strong links and opportunities we are given by The Two Moors Festival and The Devon Music and Education Hub.

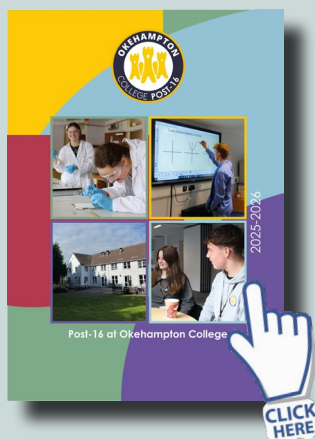


SEND Clinics

If you would like a conversation with one of the 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 Focus



- Come and learn more about our Post-16 on Thursday 16th October at our open evening.
- Click on the image to the left to view the new Post-16 prospectus and course guide.

Each week we will be showcasing some of our amazing Post-16 Alumni and what they have achieved since their time with us.

Ellie Shayler, 2017-2019

Subjects studied: Maths, Physics & History – Also completed EPQ in Yr 12

After sixth form: Cardiff University (2019-2022) – BEng Architectural and Civil Engineering

What I'm doing now: I have just completed my first year as a Graduate Quantity Surveyor with MJ Church. As a QS, I manage the financial side of construction projects, including preparing estimates, negotiating contracts, tracking costs, and ensuring projects are delivered on budget while providing value for clients. My main project is at Devonport Royal Dockyard, working on Europe's largest cofferdam, where I help bridge the gap between technical construction and financial management to support the project's success.

How sixth form helped me: The close relationships I had with staff meant I could have honest conversations about my future career. Their encouragement to explore a STEM career, even in a male-dominated and challenging field, gave me the confidence I needed. School trips to CERN, seminars on women in STEM, and open classroom discussions highlighted the wide range of opportunities available. A-levels were some of the most challenging years of my life, but the belief my teachers and tutor had in me — built over previous years and strengthened throughout sixth form — was crucial to helping me achieve my goals.



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Ben Bowles 2018 - 2020

Subjects studied: Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Geography

After sixth form: I went on to study a Master of Engineering Mechanical with Automotive Engineering at the University of Bath.

What I'm doing now: I am now working for McLaren Racing Formula 1 team as a graduate engineer.

How sixth form helped me: Okehampton Sixth Form supported me to develop both technical skills, as well as career skills primarily through the smaller and more personalised teaching sessions. I was also provided with lots of support during the University application process.



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Friday Focus

FUTURES
A FESTIVAL OF DISCOVERY

11am-3pm
11th-12th October

Explore the extraordinary world of science & culture

This autumn, embrace the extraordinary - right in the heart of Exeter city centre! Immerse yourself in FREE family friendly activities, get hands on with science, and dive into awe-inspiring research.

For information and booking links visit www.tinyurl.com/futurespopup

Fun for all ages and FREE activities that include:

WALKING TOURS 11th October - Explore the local area in a fun and fascinating way on guided walks. (Booking advised)	POP-UP CURIOSITY SHOP 12th October, 11am-3pm - Step into a world of wonder, let imaginations run riot, and discover new things.
OTHER ACTIVITIES 11th - 12th October - * Workshops * Film Screenings * Musical Performance	TREASURE TRAIL Venture out and about in the city centre using a map and clues.

UK Research and Innovation University of Exeter

CLICK HERE

UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH

GIRLS INTO OCEAN SCIENCE!

31 OCT **9AM-4PM**
UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH MARINE STATION

Dive into the world of marine science with our first-ever Girls into Ocean Science event!

Designed for young women, those who identify as female, and non-binary students in **Years 10, 11, and sixth form**. This **FREE** event offers a unique opportunity to discover the world of ocean exploration and marine science through hands-on activities and inspiring talks from leading female scientists in Britain's Ocean City! Activities include building and testing your own Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), learning how we map the deep ocean, and much more!

Enhance your CV with a Certificate of Participation, a valuable addition to your university applications. Hosted at our state-of-the-art Marine Station, a waterfront facility fully equipped with modern laboratories and fleet of research vessels.

Register your interest today and be first to find out how you can book, apply for our **travel bursaries**, and more!

QR Code

Facebook Twitter Instagram YouTube @PlymBioMarSci

CLICK HERE

OKEHAMPTON COLLEGE

Donations needed for our Christmas Hamper Raffle

Please pass to College reception or Mrs Teixeira in her music room.

Takes place at The Edwardian Evening on Thurs Dec 4th

Okehamptoncollegeptfa@yahoo.com

MADE WITH POSTERMYWALL.COM

- ## KEY DATES
- Thursday 16th October 2025 - Post-16 Open Evening & Year 11 Success Evening
 - Friday 24th October 2025 - Non Pupil Day
 - Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October 2025 - Autumn Half Term
 - Monday 3rd November 2025 - All Students return
 - Friday 19th December 2025 - Last day of term
 - Monday 5th January 2026 - Non Pupil Day
 - Tuesday 6th January 2026 - All students return

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

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USEFUL LINKS

