

Friday Focus

Friday 12th December 2025



Dartmoor
Multi Academy
Trust

...everyone in our Trust.



Thank you to everyone who attended the Year 11 Parents' Evening last night. It was great to see so many of you there. The students and teachers are working exceptionally hard at the moment using the feedback from the mock examinations to fill gaps in knowledge.

Carol Service

I am looking forward to taking all of Year 7 to Fairplace Church on Tuesday 16th December for our Carol Service. It is an opportunity to celebrate Christmas in a more traditional way and perform the songs that they have been practicing this term. Please note consents are automatic for local trips, on Arbor. We are also holding a Community Carol Service in the evening at Fairplace Church, on the 16th December and I would love to see all of you there. It starts at 1830 and there will be refreshments served by our PTFA afterwards. Please reserve your space by [clicking here](#).

Non Uniform Day

We are holding our final non uniform day of 2025 on Thursday 18th December. Students are encouraged to wear something Christmassy so that they can be in the festive mood for our Christmas lunch.

Pop Up

Okehampton Well Being Cafe will be hosting a pop up Café in the cold canteen on Thursday 18th. To support this local good cause there is an option on School Gateway to make a donation to the Well Being Café. Students are also welcome to donate cakes or cookies to be available during the pop up event.

Last day of Term

The finish time on the last day of term, Friday 19th December, will be the regular time of 1510. Normal lessons will be taking place until the end of period 3. Students will then have an early lunch followed by a whole school assembly and then some time in their tutor groups to finish the day.

Uniform Reminder

I would like to take this opportunity to ask that you please make sure your child is wearing the correct school uniform. I have noticed some students wearing black trousers instead of grey. Students should wear the correct items, in line with the uniform policy. [Click here to view it in detail](#). This includes rules around jewellery such as not wearing a nose-ring, only a nose stud, and no 'dangly earrings' or hoops, only studs. If you have any concerns or would like support with school uniform please get in touch with your child's House leader.



#THRIVEhive

Visit our website or click on the image below to our THRIVEhive. This is a portal which signposts to a collection of helpful and informative websites where you can get support with many pastoral issues which affect teenagers, for both parents, and students. Covering areas such as mental health, online safety, examinations, bullying and many others. Please take a look. If you have suggestions for any other links that could be added please contact [Mr Corkell](#).

Principal's Breakfast

The students listed below have been nominated as students of the week by their house leaders and will have breakfast with the Principal next Friday.

Ash: Killian James Castle - for his never ending positivity and resilience and always being polite to others.

Beech: HA - For demonstrating an outstanding resilience and commitment to learning.

Oak: THL- for being kind in helping make a new student feel welcome.

Elm: Jake Loram - for always being polite and helpful around school

Christmas Comes to College

Our Year 7 Enhanced Learning Provision class helped bring the festive cheer to College by decorating our tree this week. Thank you to: William David, Teddi Gosling, Megan Inwood, Esli-May Cockburn, Ostin Shaw, James Trenamen and Lacey tester.





Christmas Cake Competition

On Monday we were excited to see all the entries for our House Decorated Christmas Cake competition. Standards were extremely high, with some students having spent all weekend working on their entries!



The Winners were:

Beech - Michael Vaughan, Year 9, with a gingerbread house on top of his cake

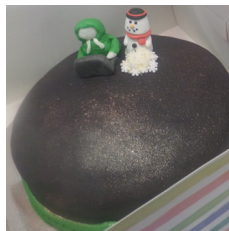
Oak - Toby O'Brien, Year 7, with his interpretation of a global warming Christmas

Ash - Shavaun Eustace, Year 10, with a fabulous Rudolph cake

Elm and our overall winner, with her grinch cake, Emilie-Jayne Banbury, Year 8

The staff entry was won by Mrs Watson who themed hers to promote computer science.

A massive well done to all who entered, you gave the judges a very hard time!



Attendance Counts!



Every Minute Counts!

Let's give every child the best start to their day!

Why being on time matters:

- The first few minutes of the day set the tone for learning. When children arrive before school starts, they feel settled, confident, and ready to take part.
- Morning routines include vital instructions and activities that help your child feel included and prepared. Missing these can leave them feeling rushed or unsettled.

What happens if they're late?

- Arriving late can mean missing key learning and disrupts the flow for your child and the class.
- If your child arrives *after the register* closes, this counts as an *unauthorised absence* for the whole session, which affects their attendance record.

Let's work together to make sure every child gets the best start to their day. Please aim to arrive before the bell so they can begin learning with their friends and feel ready to shine!

Thank you for your support— it really does make a difference.

Let's Make Every Day Count Before Christmas!

Thank you for helping your child shine this festive season!

As we head into the last two weeks before Christmas, we just want to say a big THANK YOU for all your support in helping your child come to school every day. These weeks are still full of exciting learning, and we want every child to finish the term feeling proud of what they've achieved.

Why Every Day Matters

- Keep up with friends and class learning.
- Enjoy all the fun activities and celebrations happening in school.
- Stay connected with teachers and classmates.
- Build great habits that will help in the future.

We're Here to Help

- If you're finding things tricky or have any worries about getting your child to school, please let us know.
- We want to work together to make these last weeks happy and successful for your child.

Thank you again for being such fantastic partners. Together, we can make sure every child enjoys these special weeks before the Christmas break!

Contact us anytime if you need support — we're here for you!



Art & Crafts Showcase

Our SEND Department has been Working with the EBSA (Emotionally Based School Avoidance) students to encourage engagement with college staff. This involves supporting the young people to take a risk, low stakes and fun. This week we have been making 3D Christmas cards which involves so many of the fundamental skills for learning and engagement. In Emotional Logic terms the young people have felt able to *take a risk*, exposing themselves to peer judgement, and self judgement (very triggering). This level of trust cannot be underestimated, the potential losses involved in producing a piece of work for a public critique are huge and the affect on the individual can be extremely powerful.

After six weeks, for some students and just two for others, our young people allowed us to not just support them in an activity that they really didn't want to undertake, but also to enjoy themselves in the space, and the process, at the same time. Growing confidence in not only each other, but also the the process itself along with members of staff meant the students agreed to a final showing of the work and consented to showcase the work in this Friday Focus! We are really blown away with the trust and engagement of our young people and are very proud of you.



We would also like to take this opportunity to showcase some outstanding artwork from Year 11 student, Fiona Hockridge. Fiona has produced these two wonderful pieces of work and has agreed to allow us to showcase her work in this publication. The process of showing pieces of art to strangers is not to be underestimated and can be extremely difficult.

Fiona spends time sourcing the perfect pieces of wood from recycling centres then lovingly transforming the discarded blocks into things of beauty, repurposing and creating pieces of work that bring a smile to the face of all who see them.



It cannot be underestimated the level of vulnerability that is involved in not just sharing pieces of work with friends and family, but with the whole school community.



We are sure you will join us in thanking Fiona for her trust and bravery to *take a risk*, for without her bravery and growing belief in the process we would not of had the privilege of see her beautiful work.



Friday Focus

OKEHAMPTON

PRIMARY HOLIDAY CLUB

ESCAPE ROOM

GUIDE TO THE DARK SPORTS

CINEMA

SCAVENGER HUNT

CLICK HERE

OCRA

HAF

ocrasport.org.uk/haf

DEVON H P

CHRISTMAS

Whisper Report

Anonymous Reporting Form

PROBLEM?

Whisper it!

If you have a problem or concern in school or at home, you can report it to a member of staff anonymously.

To: 07860 021 323

OKE123 [+ your message]

When To Report...

- You or a friend are being bullied
- You are concerned for a student's welfare
- A student, member of staff, or parent has behaved inappropriately
- You need to talk to someone about a problem
- Suggestion for changes or improvements in school

Report via SMS or visit:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/whisper/oke123/>

Powered by Whisper

SWGfL Safe Secure Online

CLICK HERE

Wetsuit Appeal

Do you have any old wetsuits?

If so our Outdoor Education Department would welcome them to use for student water sports.

(Ideally we would prefer full length to fit 11-18 year olds)

Please bring them to reception or to Mr Barnett in room 417

OKEHAMPTON COLLEGE
OUTDOOR EDUCATION

KEY DATES

- Tuesday 16th December 2025** - Carol service Year 7 and Evening Community Carol Service
- Thursday 18th December 2025** - Christmas Lunch & Non uniform day - Wear something christmassy!
- Friday 19th December 2025** - Last day of term
- Monday 22nd December 2025 - Friday 2nd January 2026** - Christmas Holidays
- Monday 5th January 2026** - Non Pupil Day
- Tuesday 6th January 2026** - All students return
- Thursday 8th January 2026** - Year 9 Curriculum Choices Evening

Please do get in touch if you have any questions.

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USEFUL LINKS

