

Friday Focus

Friday 13th March 2026



Dartmoor
Multi Academy
Trust

...everyone in our Trust.



The highlight of my week was having 20 minutes to go out and watch our Year 10 boy's rugby team compete in a 'friendly' game. It was not just the resounding win which impressed me, but their teamwork, comradery and how they all cheered each other on. They are a great example of how we can all work together to achieve a common goal. Thank you to Mr Bailey for organising the game. It was good to see Mr Strawbridge referee the students. I am not saying that he is 'very experienced' but he has even refereed me in my playing days!

I hope you have managed to read our Ofsted report this week. I myself was happy with the report given that it reflected all the areas we have worked so hard to improve. Whilst it reinforced that we are making the right decisions on what to improve within the College, I also accept they were right to highlight the areas they did for improvement. Inclusion is an area that I feel very passionately about. I want all local children to attend and succeed at our school. I appreciate we still have work to do in that area but I am determined to make a difference for all the young people we serve.

I have been so impressed by our Year 11 students over the last two weeks. Not only have they behaved impeccably during their mock examinations they have also worked exceptionally hard with all of the revision they have been doing. Results day is next week and students will experience, for the first time, that feeling of opening an envelope to see their results. Then it's onwards with then lots more revision as they head to the exams in the summer term.

We are also celebrating exceptional academic success of two Post-16 students, Alice Oldland and Andromeda Walker who have secured highly competitive conditional offers from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

Alice Oldland has been offered a conditional place to study Biomedical Science at the University of Oxford, recognising her academic excellence, commitment to scientific study, and strong performance throughout the rigorous application process.



Andromeda Walker has been awarded a conditional offer from the University of Cambridge to read Geography. An outstanding achievement reflecting her passion for the subject, research interests, and impressive interview performance.

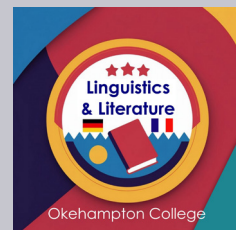
We are incredibly proud of Alice and Andromeda. Receiving conditional offers from Oxford and Cambridge is a remarkable accomplishment and testament to their hard work, determination, and intellectual curiosity. Their success also reflects the dedication of our staff in supporting students to aim high and pursue ambitious pathways.

Both students will take up their places upon achieving the required A-Level grades this summer. Their achievements mark a significant milestone for Okehampton Post-16 Centre and provide inspiration for younger students across the college and wider community.



Flash Fiction Winner!

Congratulations to Year 7 student Molly Eales, our winner from the Flash Fiction competition that took place in the English department on Word Book Day. Molly was nominated by Miss Lang and Miss Spiller as the best piece from their 7x/En1 class. Molly's peice was then chosen as the overall Year 7 winner by the entire English staff!



"The woman in black crept around her mansion. Memories locked behind every cupboard and lurking around every door. Her house was dreary: the wallpaper was peeling. Everything was faded and grey – like a bleak doll house that hadn't been touched in a millennium. She silently stalked around like a beautiful black panther assassin, ready to strike, suddenly shattering the eerie silence. The ancient door creaked open. Someone was here. She stopped almost as if she was paused in time. Her memory flooded back from its locked cell in her mind. Screeching. Sobbing. Fire. She shoved it to the back of her mind".



Students Discuss The Importance Of The BV Curriculum

On Tuesday I, along with four other Beliefs and Values (BV) ambassadors, had the exciting opportunity to meet with Dr Vanessa Ogden to discuss the importance of BV in school for a project set up by the Department of Education. We voiced our opinions on the time that is dedicated to BV in the school and the priority we believe it should be given.

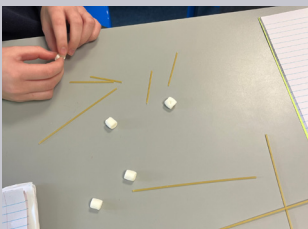
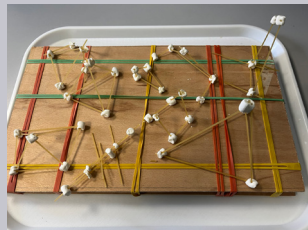
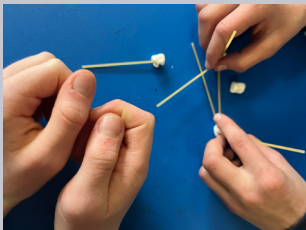
Along with the school that is partnered with us as part of the Beliefs and Values ambassador project, we shared our ideas on how improvements could be made to the national curriculum and why BV is so important in today's society. Diversifying the curriculum was a key topic and we also focused on pushing for more specialised teachers to encourage students to take the subject and encourage it as a GCSE option.

Dr Vanessa Ogden was really enthusiastic about our voices as young people being heard and it was really empowering to know that we could all contribute to this project, especially as our views will be passed onto the Education Secretary.

Lily Thorne Year 11

Year 7 Geography

Mr Parker's Year 7 geographers have been putting geographical theory into practice this week as part of their work looking at tectonics. The students who have been looking at how countries such as Japan and the USA prepare and protect themselves from earthquakes have been building their own earthquake proof structures and then testing them on the "shaker table". There have been some really strong designs from the classes.



Big Win for Year 10 Boys



We were fortunate to be able to host a friendly 12 a side rugby fixture vs Camelford to support our Y10 examination PE assessment. With Mr Strawbridge kindly volunteering to be our referee we knew discipline and standards would be high and our players exemplified this. They were a credit to the College in their respect for the opponents and the quality of their game play.

It was a resounding victory of 45 - 10. We dominated at the scrum with our powerful front row and manage many turnovers at the breakdown. With some superb line breaks we saw many of the team make it on to the score sheet.

Despite the significant lead in the game we maintained our focus throughout. It was a pleasure to host the fixture.

The Team: Oli King, Jacob Dunn, Mouse Chapman, Wilf Herridge, George Belford, George Gosling, Phineas Lewis, Zac Fletcher, Ethan Faith-Brown, Jacob Ashdown, Oscar Waters, Ed Mooney, Charles Perry, Charlie Coles, Jason Edwards, Cole Marshall, Thomas Scott, Rory Squires.



#THRIVEhive

Visit our THRIVEhive
A signposting hub
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& support



www.okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk/THRIVEhive/



Friday Focus



KEY DATES

- 19th March 2026 - Year 8 Parents' Evening
- 23rd March 2026 - Year 12 external Exams start
- 1st April 2026 - Last day of Spring Term
- 2nd April 2026 - Staff inset day
- 3rd April 2026 - Friday 17th April 2026 - Easter Holidays
- 20th April 2026 - All students return for Summer Term
- 4th May 2026 - May Day Bank Holiday
- 25th May 2026 - 29th May - Whitsun Half Term
- 1st June 2026 - All students return
- 16th July 2026 - Last day of Summer Term
- 17th July 2026 - Staff inset day

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



Attendance Matters

It is a Parent's/Carer's responsibility to ensure their child comes to school every day.

Regular school attendance is key in enabling students to maximise the educational opportunities available and to become emotionally resilient, confident and competent adults who can make a positive contribution to their community. To find out more visit our Attendance page on our website by clicking [here](#) or on the chart below.

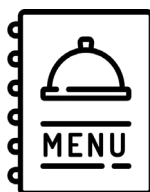
0 Days off School	100%	Perfection
2 Days off School	99%	Excellent
5 Days off School	97%	Good
10 Days off School	95%	Slight Concern
20 Days off School	90%	Concerned
30 Days off School	85%	Very Concerned

USEFUL LINKS

Term Dates



Letters Home



MENU



Enrichment Programme



Okehampton Colleg