

Friday Focus

Friday 14th November 2025



Dartmoor
Multi Academy
Trust

...everyone in our Trust.



Tuesday's Remembrance Service was very poignant. Thank you to the Art Department for their wonderful display and to Sam and Rosa for playing the Last Post beautifully. It is very difficult to play such a complex piece in front of 1200 but they managed it so well. Thank you too to Mr Rodgers for reading the Role of Honour and a poem just before our silence.

There is one week left to sign up to our Post-16. Dr Kelly has sent out details on how to sign up for September 2026, if you have not received this please get in touch so we can rectify this. The Post-16 prospectus can be viewed on our [website](#). Remember registering is part of our consultation looking at the future of our Post-16 provision. We need students to commit to being part of our school in September 2026.

Well done to the Year 11 students for completing their mock examinations. They have worked exceptionally hard and I have been really impressed by the way they have conducted themselves during the examination season. Everyone is making excellent progress on their passport to prom.

PTFA Disco: We have an amazing PTFA who spend a lot of time fundraising for school. I really hope the students have an amazing time at the silent disco tonight. Thank you to the PTFA for organising it and thank you to teachers who are staying tonight to support it.

Enrichment Week: Thank you for your patience around Enrichment Week. We hope to get the booklet out next week.

Principal's Breakfast:

Today I had the pleasure of hosting breakfast for this week's students of the week:

Ash: Ben Knight has been really resilient this term. He has attended school even when he wasn't fully back to full health. His positive attitude has been noticed and should be duly celebrated!

Beech: Rosa Floyd-Walker

Oak: Sam Kawalek

Both Sam and Rosa did extremely well to play the Last Post and Reveille during our Remembrance assembly. It's a high-pressure gig! They have also spent most of the weekend playing at community carnivals and parades in Hatherleigh Brass Band and Okehampton Excelsior Silver Band.

Elm: Ella Rice for a fantastic start to Year 10 – you should be very proud of yourself

Remembrance Day

On Tuesday we shared in a moving act of Remembrance. We honoured those who served and sacrificed with a heartfelt reading, read by Mr Rodgers before Sam Kawalek (Yr10) and Rosa Floyd-Walker (Yr8) played The Last Post flawlessly, creating a moment of reflection that resonated across our community.

In the lead up to this, students from every year group contributed by designing poppies, which were proudly displayed around our pond alongside a newly constructed soldier sculpture, crafted by our talented technology team. The Year 1's and 5's at Okehampton Primary school sent us some poems which were proudly displayed around the pond. These symbols and words remind us of the importance of peace and gratitude in an ever turbulent world.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this occasion meaningful.





Careers at the Heart of Education (PAVE)

Learning in PAVE (Physical, Applied and Vocational Education) is all about discovering how classroom skills connect to the real world. Through our subjects of PE, Food, Technology and Engineering students learn by doing, which builds confidence, creativity and practical knowledge that can lead to exciting future careers.

This year, we've been shining a light on how learning in PAVE links to the world of work:

- KS3 Food lessons now include Career Spotlight slides, showing students the wide range of roles in hospitality, nutrition, and food science.
- Year 9 PE Careers Assembly explored pathways in sport, health, and fitness — from personal training and coaching to sports science and physiotherapy.
- New Careers in Technology and Engineering displays highlight how innovation, design, and problem-solving skills lead to modern careers in engineering, manufacturing, and beyond.

PAVE lessons help students see that the skills they're building today; teamwork, creativity, resilience, and practical knowledge are the same skills that employers value.

Food and Catering Career Spotlight

Nutritionist

Role:

- complete research to learn more about a certain area of nutrition
- recruit volunteers to take part in your research
- process and analyse biological samples
- provide scientific advice on healthy eating
- work with hospital patients, supported by doctors, dieticians and nurses

Qualifications:

You'll usually need a degree or postgraduate qualification approved by the Association for Nutrition. Approved courses include: food and nutrition, biochemistry, physiology, public health and health promotion

Hours:

38-40 hours a week

Salary: = £30,000 to £53,000



Year 8 BIG questions

Which methods of cooking are healthy and why?

What does the term "energy balance" mean and how dietary choices can affect it.

What are the dietary needs of teenagers?

Okehampton Excelsior Silver Band



Congratulations to Sam Kawalek who, as the youngest member of Okehampton Excelsior Silver Band, recently played with them in their return to competitive playing in the South West. As you can see from the picture they were successful and were rewarded for their achievements!

Exeter Cross Country Trials



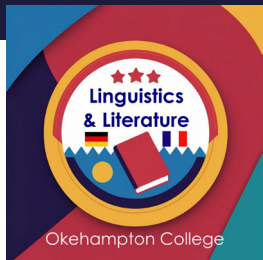
Congratulations to all of our runners who were selected to represent Okehampton College in the Exeter Cross Country Trials. To qualify all students competed in our interhouse cross country championships and the fastest students in each age group were selected to represent the College at this event.

The competition took place in wet, windy and challenging conditions at Blundells school Tiverton. Despite the weather our students showed great effort and great camaraderie supporting each other across the age groups. Students who finish in the top 14 for their age category will go on to represent the Exeter Schools against East Devon, and can then go on to compete at the Devon Championships.

Well done to all who attended, a special mention to Seth Davis and Year 7, Gigi D'Apice, Joe Woolnough and Oli King Year 10 who have qualified to represent the Exeter Schools in the next round on Wednesday 26th November.

Anyone interested in being involved in running can join the OCRA running club, every Thursday after school, free of charge. Students meet on our bottom field at 3.10pm.





Box Clever Theatre Visit

We are delighted to share with you that we have the 'Box Theatre Company' coming into school to perform Macbeth for years 10 and 11, which is the Shakespeare text we study for GCSE English Literature.

It will be a fantastic opportunity for our students to see Macbeth as it was intended and performed on stage. There will also be a workshop after the performance where students will get further insight into Macbeth and give them some valuable insights into how they can develop their understanding of the play.

This is taking place on Wednesday 25th February 2026. There is a voluntary donation of £6 set up on school gateway, if you are able. All year 10 and 11 students will be attending the performance on this date during lesson time.

A Polite Reminder...

Could all students take a few minutes to complete the first whole college survey using this link: [Student voice on college improvement - November 2025 – Fill in form](#)

As a result of the last survey, action has already been taken to improve the students' lived experiences, based on your suggestions, as well as celebrating what is improving for students.

Please now take 5 minutes to complete this short survey to let your voice be heard.

Thank you in advance results will be looked at next Thursday and feedback to you in assemblies as part of 'You said, We did.'

Anti Bullying Week



This week has been truly inspiring as our students embraced the spirit of Anti-Bullying Week! We kicked things off with Odd Socks Day on Monday, a fun and meaningful way to celebrate individuality. Throughout the week, students showcased their creativity by designing anti-bullying poems and wearing student-designed badges to spread positive messages.

To reinforce the theme of kindness, we were delighted to host Kooth, who delivered powerful assemblies encouraging kindness and respect. It's been fantastic to see our school community come together to promote kindness and stand united against bullying. Thank you to everyone who participated and made this week such a success!

*You act all tough, like you don't care,
but that fake smile? it's easy to wear,
you tease and joke to get a laugh,
but deep down it's just your mask.*

*Kindness isn't "weak" it's strong,
hurting people is always wrong,
so drop the act, don't play that part.
Being kind? That's really smart.*

By Jessica Clarke 8B/NDO

Wetsuit Appeal



Do you have any old wetsuits?

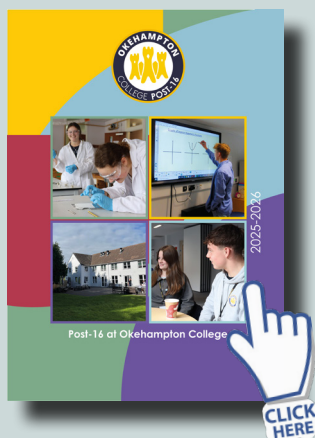
If so our Outdoor Education Department would welcome them to use for student water sports.

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

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



Post-16 Focus



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.

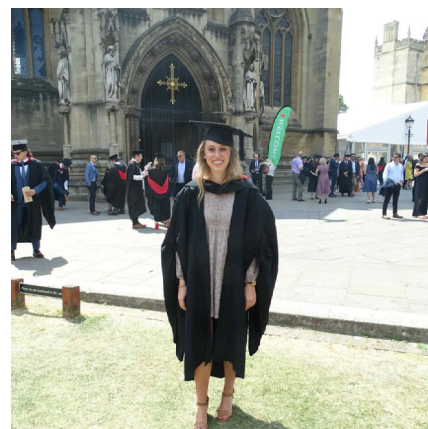
Phoebe Dawe (2014 – 2016)

Subjects studied: Biology, Maths, Psychology, AS Chemistry

After sixth form: I did an undergraduate degree in biomedical science straight after 6th form and then I did an MSc in biomedical science after that.

What I'm doing now: I'm now a clinical trial data specialist and work in a clinical trials unit. I work on a variety of different trials covering medicine, mental health and surgical trials. I setup the trial databases and then perform data management tasks throughout the lifecycle of the trials.

How sixth form helped me: Okehampton 6th Form helped me immensely. All of my classes were sized so that you could often get 1 on 1 support with the teachers. It always felt as though the teachers respected us. They gave us independence whilst helping set us up for university or jobs, helping us with various applications and inspiration of what to do next. Oke 6th Form was incredibly personal, with respect to the teachers and other students, it was a really positive experience.



1

Sam Stratton (2014 – 2016)

Subjects studied: Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Chemistry

After sixth form: Studied Electronic and Information Engineering at Imperial College London

What I'm doing now: Analyst for a commodities trading desk at a hedge fund

How sixth form helped me: Oke helped me build confidence in my abilities while also strengthening them. The teachers recognised our potential and knew how to bring it out.

Favourite memory: Every lunchtime we sat in the café with the same people I still spend my time with today. Every day at Oke Sixth Form felt like a good day.



2

SEND Clinics

If you would like a conversation with a member 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.

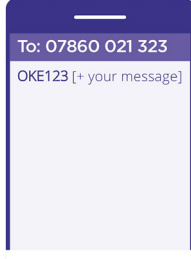


Special Educational Needs
& Disabilities

**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





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



KEY DATES

- Tuesday 25th November 2025** - DMAT Careers Fair at Exeter University - Year 10 and Year 12
- Thursday 27th November 2025** - Year 9 Parents' Evening
- Tuesday 9th December 2025** - Year 12 Learn to Live event
- Thursday 11th December 2025** - Year 11 Parents' Evening
- 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

Please do get in touch if you have any questions.

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USEFUL LINKS

