

# Friday Focus

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026



Dartmoor  
Multi Academy  
Trust

...everyone in our Trust.



I have seen many Year 11 students this week struggling in with ingredients ready for their hospitality and catering practical examinations. I've even managed to sample some of the incredible items our students have made. I'm really proud of how hard the students in Year 11 are working at the moment. They are applying themselves well in lessons and studying hard for their second round of mock examinations. I know that they will do incredibly well in these exams.

Thank you for your messages after my letter on Monday regarding the future of our sixth form. It was not an easy decision as I know how much it means to our community. We are holding an evening on 28th January where local sixth form providers will be in attendance to speak with parents and students regarding the courses that they offer. Tavistock College, Queen Elizabeth School, Exeter College and Duchy College will be in attendance. You can sign up to attend using this [link](#).

It was great to speak to so many students last week at our KS4 Choices Evening. Remember that the deadline for option choices is Friday 23rd January. Information about the options process, including a recording of the presentation by Dr Kelly, can be found on our [website](#). If you have any questions or would like some advice, please contact Dr Kelly on email on [rkelly@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto:rkelly@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk).

There was a buzz of excitement in the Octagon on Tuesday as our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors undertook their training. They are looking forward to supporting young people and being a strong voice in our school to stamp out bullying. Thank you to everyone who took part in the event and I look forward to seeing your hard work.

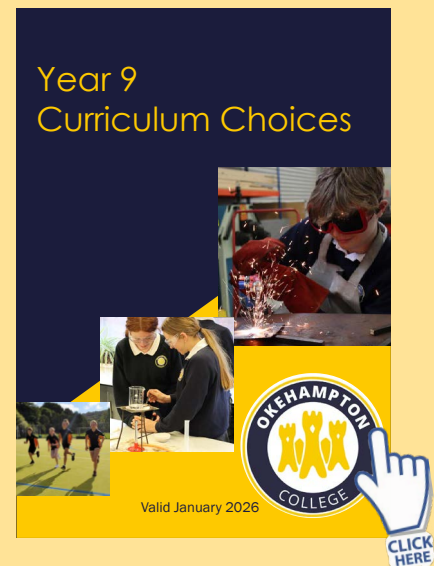
## Principal's Breakfast:

Congratulations to the students listed below. To celebrate they are invited to have breakfast with the Principal next Friday. These students are our fantastic Beliefs and Values Ambassadors who have delivered assemblies this week for Holocaust Memorial Day. We are so proud of their confident and articulate delivery in assembly, sharing the importance of remembering the holocaust and all its victims: you all truly embody the Oke Way and we have loved seeing you thrive in assembly this week and in everything you do.

Matthew Tyler - Beech  
Harry Hutchins - Ash  
Annalise Marrison - Beech  
Belle Fear - Oak  
Lily Thorne - Beech

Sylvie Hutchinson - Elm  
Nephele Efstathiadi - Ash  
Matilda Lee - Ash  
Elizabeth Whiteman - Ash  
Ophelia Evans - Beech  
Florrie Taylor - Ash  
Millie Cudmore - Elm

## Click here to view our Year 9 Curriculum Choices booklet



## 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.



## Students Become Anti-Bullying Ambassadors After Specialist Training



We are delighted to share that a group of our students have completed Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) training and have now taken on the important role of Anti-Bullying Ambassadors. This marks a significant step in strengthening our whole school commitment to fostering kindness, respect, and safety for every member of our community.

### What the Students Learned

During the training, students explored key topics that underpin ABA's approach, including:

- The definition and nature of bullying, informed by ABA's extensive research and guidance on different types of bullying and their impact.
- Understanding vulnerable groups, with insights drawn from ABA's specialist materials on supporting disabled students, young carers, care-experienced young people, and those more at risk of bullying.
- Online bullying and digital safety, using ABA's evidence-based information and practical strategies to identify and respond to bullying in digital spaces.
- This training equipped our young ambassadors with strategies to recognise bullying, support peers who may be experiencing it, and promote a more respectful and inclusive school culture.

### A Whole-School Commitment

The ABA emphasises the importance of whole-school approaches to preventing bullying—embedding policies, culture, and practice that actively challenge harmful behaviour and celebrate difference.

Our new ambassadors will now play a central role in this, helping to:

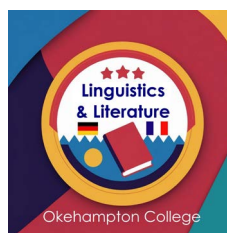
- Lead student driven anti-bullying projects throughout the year
- Promote positive relationships and model inclusive behaviour
- Raise awareness during national campaigns such as Anti-Bullying Week
- Work alongside staff to ensure our school is a safe space for all

Their leadership supports our wider safeguarding work and strengthens our community's collective ability to respond effectively to bullying concerns.

### Looking Ahead

We are incredibly proud of our newly trained Anti-Bullying Ambassadors and the commitment they have shown to creating a safer, more inclusive environment for everyone. Their training marks not just a personal achievement but a positive step forward for our whole community.

We look forward to seeing the impact of their work in the months ahead and to continuing our partnership with the Anti-Bullying Alliance as we strengthen our school's culture of kindness and respect.



## 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.

## Recommended Reads

Over Christmas the Linguistics and Literature's department created their own take on the Advent calendar through recommending a different book each day of advent to share their love of reading! It proved so popular we have decided to share these suggestions with you each week. Whilst some might have a festive theme they still make a good read whenever you are able to!



**Day 1:** Per Jacobsen - 25 Days - A thriller split into 25 chapters - one to read each day of Advent. 25 days, 25 chapters. This December, the countdown to Christmas will chill you to the bone.

Hoping to bring his family closer together, Adam Gray arranges a vacation in a remote cabin on a snowy mountain. Things take a dark turn, however, when someone starts leaving gifts in the Christmas stocking mounted on the barn door..

## #THRIVEhive

Visit our THRIVEhive  
A signposting hub  
for advice  
& support



[www.okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk/THRIVEhive/](http://www.okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk/THRIVEhive/)



## KEY DATES

- 23rd January 2026 - Year 9 Curriculum Choices Deadline
- 5th February 2026 - Year 10 Parents' Evening
- 16th February - 20th February 2026 - Half Term Holiday

*Please do get in touch if you have any questions.*

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**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



## Macbeth

boxclever  
THEATRE



Year 10 & 11



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.

## USEFUL LINKS

Term Dates



Letters Home



Enrichment Programme



Okehampton College