

Friday Focus

Friday 17th October 2025



Dartmoor
Multi Academy
Trust

...everyone in our Trust.



Thank you to everyone who attended our Post-16 Open Evening last night. It was amazing to see so many of you here in support of our school. We really want Post-16 to remain an option for the

community we serve and for that to happen we need students to attend. In turn, we certainly felt supported by our community last night and long may that continue. There is a lot of ambition from our young people and we want to support them to achieve their dreams. When I walked around the school I could see so many wonderful conversations happening between staff and students. Please remember you can view our [prospectus on our website](#) and you are welcome to get in touch if you have any questions. The deadline for applications to Post-16 is the 21st November 2025. Our consultation email address is still open too consultation@dmatschools.org.uk.

After my request in last weeks "Focus" I would like to thank those parents who are supporting us by speaking with their children about using toilets during lesson time. It is important that students are in all lessons wherever possible to get the most out of their education. To support this we ask students to use toilets at social times. The bathrooms are monitored during these times to ensure each year group uses their own allocated bathrooms. Understandably there have been concerns from parents regarding girls needing to use the toilet during their period. To support our female students we are going to trial a new system. To help prevent embarrassment during lessons girls can collect a card from the House Hubs before tutor time, or at either of the two breaktimes, which they can show to a teacher without explanation. Teachers will then allow them to leave lessons discreetly in order to visit the bathrooms. We will, of course, be monitoring this system to check that it is being used appropriately.

Your continuing patience with our new till system in the canteen is very much appreciated. Whilst we are confident we have resolved most queries we are aware there are still some accounts with a negative balance. Please be assured we will not allow students to go hungry at lunchtime. If a student has a negative balance preventing them from buying lunch they can now visit their House Hub to collect a voucher to the value of £2.61 (the cost of a main meal and dessert) to spend at lunchtime. Whilst this will cause the account to go further into a negative balance parents will be alerted so they can update their child's account.

On Thursday 23rd October, we are holding a non-uniform day to raise money for local charity, 'Men in Sheds', Okehampton, who support men's mental health in our local community. We will share details early next week on how you can make a donation towards the running of their wheelchair accessible mini-bus, used for collecting members of the shed who may be vulnerable or unable to drive; the mini bus is also vital for picking up and dropping off furniture that the 'shedders' repair and donate. You can find out more by clicking the link below.

[Okehampton Men in Sheds - aDoddle](#)

Men in Sheds: Who We Help, Why We Help & the Difference It Makes.

This volunteer led group of 'Shedders' has grown rapidly since it was set up in 2016. The aim is to address loneliness and isolation amongst men - supporting their mental health and providing a welcoming social space with worthwhile projects, such as repairs and remaking items. These projects then support our wider Okehampton community! A great win-win for everyone! 'Shedders' join us for many reasons, some have felt isolated due to poor health or bereavement, equally many just want to be part of a meaningful social activity due to retirement or unemployment. Others come to learn/share a skill - or simply just for a cuppa and a chat! All are warmly welcomed - whatever age or ability!

We undertake a wide range of work for the community, supporting numerous other charities, schools, and community groups with requests for items to be made or repaired. We are always keen to welcome new members - and grateful for donations too.

Principals Breakfast:

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

Ash: Josh Hall for being responsible, caring and kind. He is always polite and helpful and regularly demonstrates the Oke Way qualities of kindness and resilience

Beech: Faye Thomas for always being a polite, helpful and hardworking member of our school community

Oak: Ellie- Mae Hibbert for working hard to overcome barriers and being resilient, challenging herself to be in school even when she is finding things tough

Elm: Oscar Waters – for a great start to his time here at Okehampton College and excellent rugby achievements



SEND Students with Livewell

At our recent Neuro diverse group, we were very lucky to receive a visit from an organisation called Livewell. They are a group of people that help and support young people and families. They offer practical support and advice to help in the home along with other areas of a young person's life. They advise on Diagnosis of a neurodiversity as well as offer help with the EHCP process which can be a long and complicated process.



It was a great session which promoted lots of questions from the students with regards to their own diagnosis. How they were diagnosed, and for those still waiting, what to expect during the assessment process. This helped to quell lots of fears and anxieties.

They visitors also signposted the students to where they can find support in order to access different fun attractions along with the use of the Daisy lanyard. The students found the session full of useful information that can be helpful to navigate some difficulties in a Neurotypical world.



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.



Pen Portrait

Hi. My name is Tine Casbolt. I am the Attendance Officer here at Okehampton College. My name is pronounced Tina, for those who don't know me, my mum is from Denmark.

My education was in social care, although I didn't continue in social work training, I travelled and worked in America instead: one of the most amazing experiences!

After having a few years back in Devon, I then spent a few years in London working and enjoying city life before returning to my home and family in Devon. Country life was my preference. I have been fortunate enough to have a lovely extended family with foster siblings all over Europe. There were extra children in our home that needed to have a safe place, and I was brought up really enjoying giving something back to those who needed our help. So, eventually I ended up working for a charity in Exeter called Young Devon. I supported the team and was involved with the early help for mental health and victims of crimes programmes.

I then decided I would like to work in education and became the attendance officer at Oke College from 2018 to 2021. It was an interesting time through Covid, but we all supported each other as best as we could.

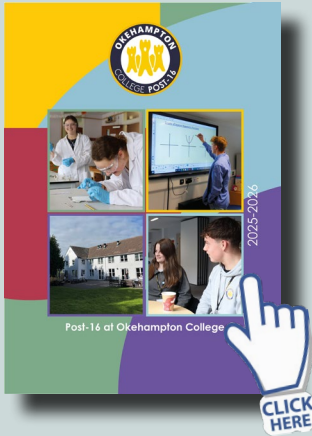
I then took on a new challenge for me that would be working with young people who needed career support. This I have to say was one of the most rewarding jobs to help those who needed advice and support to find the right career path. Unfortunately, with cutbacks in Devon County Council we were all made redundant but in a stroke of luck my old job was available again so I returned to attendance in 2024.

I believe I have gained lots of experience in advice, support and education in many areas. I have a child who is autistic, dyslexic and has DLD. She needed guidance to help her through her time in education. This encouraged me to undertake training in autism and mental health in young people. Knowledge is power as they say, and I love to learn and help.

I have a wonderful family, and I've just become a granny, so life is good and hope to speak to you all soon. I'm sorry I can't reply to all those morning phone messages, texts and emails but if you ever would like a call back to ask for support please do message me and I will get right back to you.

attendance@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk

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.

Lily Ewen (2014 – 2016)

Subjects studied: Biology, Maths, Psychology, Drama

After sixth form: I took two gap years where I worked at Waitrose and saved up to go travelling in South-East Asia. I then went to Plymouth University to complete my undergraduate in Biological Sciences and then Exeter University for my PGCE.

What I'm doing now: I now have the privilege to teach science at the college I once attended!

How sixth form helped me: Oke Sixth Form was the biggest help for me personally. At the time, I struggled with a lot of anxiety and having the option to go to a place where I knew the teachers and my way around meant that I didn't have to sweat the small stuff and could get on with the learning. The teachers were respectful and allowed us to be independent, whilst also wholly supporting us with things like Uni applications and what choices were available to us after sixth form. Nothing ever felt like too much trouble!

Favourite memory: Times in the common room! Too many to write, but all have stuck with me.



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Jessica James (2015 – 2017)

Subjects studied: Biology, Chemistry and English Literature

After sixth form: Studied Medicine at the University of East Anglia and received a BSc in Medical Studies. Then completed my PGCE teacher training at the University of Exeter.

What I'm doing now: I am currently a science teacher at Okehampton College where I attended. I specialise in Biology and Chemistry at GCSE, as well as teaching Biology A level which I love!!

How sixth form helped me: The small class sizes ensured we got more personalised teaching. The pastoral care we received at the 6th form was outstanding; many of the teachers had already known us for 5 years so they knew how best to support us – it also made the transition to A levels much easier as it is a big step up from GCSE. I clearly loved it enough to want to come back and teach! I am also a sixth form tutor myself and it is a privilege to be able to give back to the community that gave me so many life opportunities – I strive to do the same for the students that come through our 6th form.



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Friday Focus

SUNDAY 2ND NOVEMBER FIREWORKS NIGHT

HOT DRINKS SNACKS HOT FOOD

SONIC FIREWORKS
British Champions 2022

OKEHAMPTON FOOTBALL FIELD IN THE PARK

Opens at 4pm - Fireworks at 5.30pm
No sparklers or other fireworks permitted
Parents are responsible for own children

Tickets £6 - Under 4's free

Tickets available from Red Lion Bazaar, PTFA Events and Oke Primay School Playground

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!

@PlymBioMarSci

CLICK HERE

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

- Thursday 23rd October 2025 - Non-uniform day
- 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 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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beech@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk

elm@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk

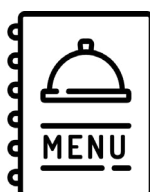
oak@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk

USEFUL LINKS

Term Dates



Letters Home



Enrichment Programme



Okehampton College