

Friday Focus

Friday 1st May 2026



Dartmoor
Multi Academy
Trust

...everyone in our Trust.



I think that it is fair to say that Okehampton College does not have a rich history in American football. However, our Year 10 girls qualified for the South West Finals this week in flag football. It was great to hear from Mr Bailey this morning about how the effort, attitude and fairness our girls displayed during the tournament was recognised by officials. They looked out for one another and played the game in the spirit it is intended. These are the attitudes of all students at Okehampton College. They are an amazing group of young people and I am so proud of all of them. I would also like to congratulate Okehampton Rugby Club's under 16 girls team who won the Devon Cup last weekend. They have represented their community so well.

Exams

This week the formal examination series started for Year 13 students. They are working exceptionally hard in preparation for these examinations and I know they will do well. Our Year 11 formal examination series starts next week with the Cambridge National Sport Exams and also the German listening and reading.

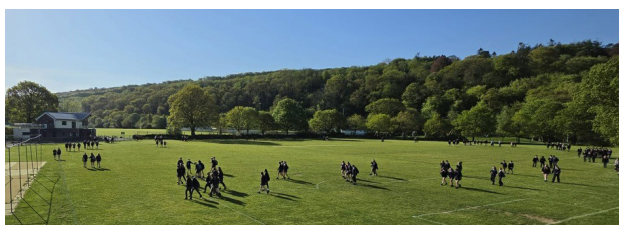
All Year 11 Students have been given their booster session timetables today. These booster sessions are where we adapt the curriculum for the Year 11 students in order to provide a "booster session" before any whole cohort examinations on that subject. These are not to be missed!

Changes to Break times

From Monday 11th May our lunchtime (break 2) will be after period 3, 1235 - 1310. This means that there will be 2 lessons in the afternoon. This is to support the examination season and to fit in with national start and finish times of exams. There are no changes to the start or end of the school day. If you have any examination questions please contact Miss Trainor-Roulstone, ntrainor-roulstone@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk

Oke Walk and Talk 1K

We are taking advantage of the warmer weather in the summer term to run Oke Walk and Talk 1K. Once a week in tutor time, students walk with their own, and other tutor groups, around the field or astro-turf for 15 minutes at the start of the day. We are encouraging students to thrive in their lessons by enjoying some fresh air, exercise and to have a chance to talk while they walk or jog with their tutors and friends, before their learning starts for the day.



Bus Update - North Tawton

Taw and Torridge have informed us that due to a road closure in North Tawton next week students on OKE002 and OKE016 will be picked up and dropped off at the Rugby Club. (from Tuesday the 5th May until Friday the 8th May).

Principal's Breakfast

Congratulations to the students listed below. To celebrate they are they are invited to have breakfast with the Principal next Friday.

Ash: Thea Page. Consistently demonstrates the Oke Way, showing politeness and conscientiousness in everything they do.

Beech: Ebba O'Brien for exceptional hard work during the Year 10 mock exam period.

Oak: James Pester has been very positive in his approach. He has supported students who needed help on several occasions, by moving seats, talking to them, and offering his ideas. He has done all this independently and shown great maturity.

Elm: Kate Abbott for making a new student feel welcome and cared for.



What Ofsted Say...

- Leaders have ... identified and prioritised the right actions for improvement.
- Leaders are taking quick and effective action to bring about the necessary improvements, acting in the best interests of pupils.
- Leaders manage staff workload and provide support for their wellbeing.
- Leaders have established an effective careers information, education, advice and guidance programme.
- Leaders have taken prompt action to raise expectations of pupils' behaviour and to strengthen the school's approach.
- Leaders have stabilised the school following a period of turbulence. Most pupils behave well in lessons, which are generally calm and orderly.
- Leaders deal with poor behaviour and bullying effectively. This helps pupils to feel safe.





Flag Football

One of our aims in the PE department is to give students new sporting experiences in activities that are new and could be their new passion. These new activities can utilise students skills from other sports as well as engaging students who may have been struggling to find their sport.

Following a staff NFL training course we have introduced Flag Football, a non contact version of American Football into our curriculum. This sport is already enormous in America and a real emerging sport with lots of investment in the UK.

As part of this we were able to take an U15 boys and U15 girls team to the Devon championships. Following this our girls team qualified to represent Exeter Schools at the South West championships.

We left early on Tuesday morning to travel to South Gloucestershire and Stoud College in Bristol to compete to be south west champions. As soon as we arrived, it was immediately exciting, arriving at the only dedicated 3G NFL pitch in the country. We were greeted by the NFL coaches and GB NFL players who would be running the competition.



The girls team received playing jerseys, and each school becoming an NFL team for the day - we were the Cleveland Browns.

The competition was a high standard but we started well with a 38-0 victory in our first game. Our 2nd game vs Ivybridge was a close-run affair but we once again took a victory, albeit with a closer scoreline!

Unfortunately, after a break for lunch we lost our next two games to finish in 2nd place and therefore missed out on competing at the National Round in Manchester. However, the girls were fantastic and a credit to themselves and the College. During the day the referees were very complimentary about our team and we could tell they were impressed with how they were playing

and their sportsmanship as a whole. We received some great feedback at the end of the day from the officials who were disappointed they wouldn't see us at the next round.

The winning schools have transport and hotel accommodation paid for, by the NFL, for the national competition with the national champions flying to America to compete - all expenses paid!

It has been great to see students transfer their hockey and rugby skills into a whole new game and to try a sport with a lot of differences to a more traditional invasion game. Flag Football will remain on our curriculum next year and we hope to build on this success by taking U13 and U15 teams to the Devon championships, and maybe beyond.....!

Well done to Poppy Pengelly, Jessie Pearce, Olive Leslie, Zoe Reddaway, Amelia Richardson, Gigi D'Apice and Izzy Smith on their achievements this year with Flag Football.

Please zoom in to
view images in full

Beliefs and Values Visit



This week, we were delighted to welcome Rev Andy Gore into school to speak with students about Easter and its significance within the Christian faith. Rev Andy visited as many Beliefs and Values classes as possible, sharing insights into his ministry, explaining how the Baptist Church celebrates Easter, and comparing these practices with those of other Christian denominations. This proved to be a rich and engaging learning opportunity for our students, who demonstrated excellent care and respect throughout the sessions. We look forward to welcoming Rev Andy back next year for our annual visit.





Students Bring Joy to Local Dementia Café

A group of Year 9 students recently spent the afternoon singing at Okehampton's local Dementia Café and what unfolded was one of those quietly powerful moments that remind us why community matters.



The students performed a mix of familiar songs that sparked smiles, memories, and even a little dancing among the café's regular visitors. What began as a simple musical visit quickly became something much more meaningful: a shared experience that bridged generations.

Staff and volunteers at the café commented on how uplifting it was to see the students interacting so naturally and warmly with the guests. Many of the visitors joined in with the singing, tapping along to rhythms they clearly recognised and enjoyed. For some, the music unlocked stories and memories they were eager to share and the ABBA songs were a big hit!

Our students rose to the occasion with maturity, kindness, and genuine enthusiasm. They listened, chatted, laughed, and connected, showing the very best of what young people can bring to their community.

For the students, the visit was equally impactful. Several described it as inspiring and eye opening, noting how powerful music can be in bringing comfort and joy to the older people and commenting on how touched they felt by the emotions shown by some.

This visit reinforces the partnership between Okehampton College and the Dementia Café. It's a reminder that small acts like a song, a smile, a shared moment can make a big difference.

A huge well done to all the students involved. You made us and your community proud.



Please zoom in to view images in full

Calling Any Potential Vets!

Penbode Vets in Holsworthy have contacted us about an exciting opportunity for anyone interested in a possible career as a Vet. They write:

"We get a lot of enquiries from students wishing to do farm vet work experience with us, however it is difficult for us to accommodate this due to rules and regulations, so in light of this we are delighted to offer a farm vet taster day for those aged between 15 & 18 on Thursday 23rd July 2026.

This will be a one day taster event to be held at our Bradworthy branch and ran by some of our farm vet team. The day will include a mix of practical and theory sessions. It will give those interested in a career as a farm vet an insight as to what it entails.

There will be no charge for this event. However, places are very limited, we are therefore asking all those interested to apply for a space on the taster day by sending a letter of interest to jay.waylen@penbodevets.co.uk. Applications close on Friday 29th May".

Penbode Farm Vets Taster Day

For those aged between 15 and 18

The day will include a mix of practical and theory sessions. It will give those interested in a career as a farm vet an insight as to what it entails.

There will be no charge for this event. However, places are very limited, we are therefore asking all those interested to apply for a space on the taster day by sending a letter of interest to jay.waylen@penbodevets.co.uk. Applications close on Friday 30th May

Thursday 23rd July 2026
10am - 3pm
Bradworthy Branch, EX22 7SZ

SAVE OUR HEDGEHOGS

A SPECIAL CHARITY CONCERT FOR GREATFIELD HEDGEHOG RESCUE

Helping injured & orphaned hedgehogs right here in West Devon

They need us... and time is running out.

WITH **Mariners Away**
AN EVENING OF MUSIC, LAUGHTER & COMMUNITY SPIRIT

AN EVENING OF MUSIC, LAUGHTER & COMMUNITY SPIRIT FOR A CAUSE THAT TRULY MATTERS

THE OCTAGON THEATRE, OKEHAMPTON
Okehampton Community College Creative Arts
152A 150A (Entrance via Simmons Park car park)
/// bombshell.farms.palace

FRIDAY 15TH MAY 2026
FROM 7.00PM
TWO FULL SETS + INTERVAL

TICKETS JUST £10

BOOK NOW - HELP SAVE A HEDGEHOG
TICKETS ARE LIMITED - PLEASE DON'T LEAVE IT TOO LATE!

BOOK ONLINE TODAY:
eventbrite.com/e/1981498152314?aff=oddtcreator

PROUDLY SUPPORTING GREATFIELD HEDGEHOG RESCUE
Caring for hedgehogs. Changing lives.

RAISING FUNDS TO CARE FOR SICK, INJURED & ORPHANED HEDGEHOGS IN WEST DEVON

Thank you for making a difference

EVERY TICKET HELPS SAVE A LIFE

CLICK HERE

[Click here to book a ticket](#)

Friday Focus


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 - Genuine



CLICK HERE

KEY DATES

- **4th May 2026** - May Day Bank Holiday
- **25th May 2026 - 29th May** - Whitsun Half Term
- **1st June 2026** - All students return
- **11th June 2026** - Sports Day
- **24th - 25th June 2026** - College Welcome Days
- **6th - 10th July 2026** - Enrichment Week
- **16th July 2026** - Last day of Summer Term
- **17th July 2026** - Staff inset day
- **27th - 31st July 2026** - Big Step Summer School New, Year 7s

Please do get in touch if you have any questions.

Telephone: (01837) 650910

Email: ash@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk
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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

AFTER SCHOOL

APR-JUN

Tue 3:30pm

Bootcamp
 Gym
 Zumba
 Parklands

 **OCRA**

Thur 3:30pm

Tennis
 Tennis courts
 Football
 All Weather Pitch
 No late bus

 **OCRA**

Fri 4pm

Netball
 All Weather Pitch

 **OCRA**

USEFUL LINKS

Term Dates



Letters Home



MENU



Enrichment Programme



WWW.



Okehampton Colleg

CLICK HERE