

Friday Focus

Friday 21st November 2025



Dartmoor
Multi Academy
Trust

...everyone in our Trust.



Possibly one of the biggest events of Year 10 is the week long work experience they undertake in the summer. I am part of the Okehampton BID and know local businesses are extremely keen to work with the College and make places available for students for the week in July. I hope you

found the Work Experience info evening useful. Thank you to Mrs Skelton and Mrs Wiegiersma for their hard work in hosting an evening setting out what it will look like for students. To help prepare students for their future, Year 10 students will also be visiting the DMAT careers fair on Tuesday. It will also be a great opportunity to have a good look at Exeter University.

We have had lots of visitors to our school recently and they have met several of our young people. It was great to receive their comments on how fantastic our students are. I am incredibly proud of all of them and how they conduct themselves around school. They are incredible students and they can achieve anything when they put their mind to it. Okehampton is a special place.

We are opening bookings for our Christmas dinner. It will be on Thursday 18th December. The only food served at lunchtime that day will be Christmas dinner and it will need to be pre-booked. Students will not be able to buy sandwiches, cakes or paninis at lunchtime. However, there will be a regular service for students at break one. Students entitled to free school meals will be able to have a Christmas dinner as part of their allowance. We will also have a non-uniform day where students are invited to 'wear something Christmassy'. We will be raising money for our local [Well-Being Café](#).

We have noticed that some students are bringing hot water bottles to school and asking for them to be filled. For obvious health and safety reasons, students are not allowed to walk around with hot water bottles or to have them in lessons or social times. We ask that students are not allowed to bring hot water bottles to school at all and thank you for your support with this.

Principal's Breakfast:

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

Ash: Matilda Lee - Matilda has had a fantastic start to the term. All positive points, not a single negative. Staff regularly comment about Matilda's brilliant attitude towards learning.

Beech: Ruby Hobbs – for amazing work in her Year 11 mocks

Oak: Tinovonga Matende – truly represents the Oke Way for her support in the library which is simply fantastic – we are so grateful for your help. Thank you!

Elm: Thomas Grey – for a fantastic and engaging speech for English

Silent Disco Raises funds for Comic Relief

The Octagon Theatre was filled with energy and excitement as Key Stage 3 students took part in a special silent disco in support of Children in Need.

Wearing wireless headphones, students danced to a choice of music channels, creating a lively atmosphere while the theatre itself remained quiet. The event offered a unique way for pupils to enjoy music together, with laughter and enthusiasm evident throughout the evening.

Beyond the fun, the disco carried an important purpose. Ticket sales and donations contributed to Children in Need, helping fund projects that tackle poverty and social injustice both locally and nationally. Staff praised the students for their participation and spirit, noting how the event brought the year groups together in a memorable and positive way.

One student was heard saying "That was the most fun I've ever had!" .

Thanks to the staff, Mr Roberts, Mr Parker, Miss Arden-Trew, Miss Daniels, Miss Ward, Miss Grace, Mrs Teixeira and members of the PTFA, Mrs Read and Mrs Bales, the silent disco was a resounding success, combining entertainment with fundraising, and demonstrating how creativity can make a real impact.





An Exciting Learning Opportunity for our Student's Future

Last week, I had the privilege of spending three days visiting some of the UK's most successful educational institutions: **Cambridge University, Ealing Fields High School**, and the **London Academy of Excellence**. This trip was funded by the **Colyton Foundation**, a charity that supports Pupil Premium students and Higher Prior Attainers in accessing top universities and careers—including Oxbridge.

What did I learn?

Meeting Cambridge undergraduates was a real pleasure. They had a range of backgrounds and stories about how they had made it to Cambridge, and it really brought home to me that our own Okehampton College students can thrive there. Success isn't about privilege; it's about **high expectations, critical thinking, and resilience**.

At Ealing Fields and LAE, challenge and ambition are the norm. Lessons are fast-paced, focused, and designed to stretch students. Both schools also prioritize the **whole person**, ensuring wellbeing and character development alongside academic success. It was gratifying to see that outstanding education establishments don't choose between pastoral support and a drive to excellence, they see **they push for high attainment as part of the best way to serve students**.

In all the establishments I visited, high attainment is the standard. However, what they value just as highly is students who seek out opportunities, who are proactive in achieving their dreams. Most of all, it led me to believe that there are no barriers to Okehampton College replicating the success achieved in these fantastic establishments.

Next steps?

Since returning, I have drafted my initial thoughts into an action plan. Part of this relates to how we can support students' critical thinking, offer more opportunities beyond the curriculum and talk to students to find out their hopes and dreams. Whilst we are not saying that we think that every Okehampton College student should necessarily see high tariff university courses as their future, we want to keep every option on the table so that Okehampton College students have as many opportunities as possible open to them when they leave us. The key message?

There's far less difference than you might think between these high-achieving institutions and Okehampton College. With belief, ambition, and opportunity, our students can achieve excellence.

Thank you for your support.

Dr Kelly.



SEND Communications

To help us direct your questions and information to the right people in our SEND team, please use the dedicated SEND administration email:

send@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk

If you are currently going through an autism or ADHD assessment, please ensure all correspondence is sent to: send@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk

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.



A Call for Your Support

The PTFA plays a vital role in supporting our school by meeting funding requests. To continue this work, fundraising is essential.

There are simple ways parents and friends can help, without needing to commit large amounts of time or money. One way is by donating items that can be combined to create festive hampers for our Edwardian Evening Raffle.

Raffle tickets are also available. Students may bring in items for the hampers and money to Mrs Teixeira to purchase tickets, or tickets can be bought directly at the Edwardian Evening in The Charter Hall.

Your contributions, big or small, make a real difference. Thank you for supporting our school community.



Creative Arts Trip to the Theatre Royal

On Wednesday 26th November 2025, the Creative Arts team are taking a coach load of students to see *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe* at the Theatre Royal. Please check your inbox for timings and information about the evening.



**Dartmoor
Multi Academy
Trust**

...everyone in our Trust.



BRIGHT FUTURES FAIR 25 NOVEMBER 2025 THE GREAT HALL, UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

Includes a public session open to all young people from 2.30pm - 5.00pm (under 18s must come with an adult). Come along to experience interactive sessions, over 60 exhibitors and university tours!



Bright Futures Fair Tuesday 25th November 2025 Exeter University

We are taking all Year 10 and 12 students to the careers fair in the morning of Tuesday 25th November. The event is also open later in the day for any parents/carers of years 9-12 who would like to visit with their child.

This event will feature a wide range of stands, representing different industry sectors, allocated to different zones such as the world of work, universities and higher education, apprenticeships, and post-16 options and colleges. We will also offer university tours led by Exeter University student ambassadors and interactive sessions, ensuring a tailored experience for all. All the experiences will stay open until 5.00pm.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Thursday 18th December 2025



Roast Turkey

Pigs in blankets, stuffing
Roast Potatoes, Vegetables & Gravy
or

Vegetarian:

Root Vegetable Wellington (Vegan)

Roast Potatoes, Vegetables & Gravy
and
Chocolate Brownie

£2.61

•Please pre-book via Gateway before Friday 5th December 2025. (Including Free School Meals).

•Please ensure there will be enough money in your student's gateway account to cover the £2.61 to prevent any disappointment on the day.





Online Youth Club

The online Youth Club runs sessions three evenings a week online for young people in Devon from the ages of 13 to 19. It is particularly effective for young people who prefer being at home or struggle with accessing face-to-face provisions. Giving them somewhere safe to go online, offering something to do supported by trained professionals.

Get creative at the

HYPER-FIXATION STATION

Thursdays | 4 - 5 pm
@ The Online Youth Centre

Join in for our new weekly session where you can have fun making and creating in a Neurodiverse friendly environment. Level up your skills, learn new ones, and make friends!

Sign Up Here!

←

The Online Youth Centre from SPACE Youth Services
Hosted on Discord, the Online Youth Centre is for anyone in Devon aged 13 - 19. It's an invite only space to keep everyone safe - you can sign up by using the QR Code or at spaceyouthservices.org

Join in Online

»»»»

Devon's Online Youth Club

Ages 13 - 19 | On Discord
Mon - Fri | 6PM - 9PM

WORKSHOPS
FUN & GAMES
TRY SOMETHING NEW
MAKE FRIENDS

Free On Phone, Tablet or PC
sign up at
spaceyouthservices.org

somewhere to go | something to do | someone to talk to

Food & Catering Update

Year 9

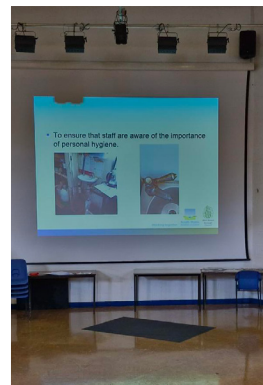
Our Year 9 students have been on a culinary adventure, planning, preparing, and cooking their very own cultural street food dishes over the past few weeks. The creativity and variety has been incredible, with each dish well executed within the time allowed. A fantastic showcase of skill and imagination.

Year 10

This week, we were delighted to welcome two Environmental Health Officers to speak with our Catering and Hospitality students. Their insightful talk about their roles and responsibilities gave students a real-world perspective on food safety and public health. It was both inspiring and informative—thank you to our guests for sharing their expertise.

Year 11

Year 11 are working hard as they prepare for their Non-Examination Assessment, which begins at the end of the month and accounts for 60% of their final grade. Their dedication has been excellent and we're confident they'll shine. We can't wait to see the amazing dishes they'll create during the practical element in January!



Friday Focus

COMPETITION!

Christmas-themed cake decorating house competition

Unleash your festive flair and let your imagination run wild! Whether it's glittering snowflakes, cheeky elves or a gingerbread masterpiece, this is your chance to turn cake into art.

Please make and decorate your cakes at home, then bring them to room 817 on Monday 8th December when you get to school. Judging will take place during break 1 and the winners will be announced during break 2.

 **The most creative design in each house will win points and a prize!**

 Open to all year groups—bring your best bake and your brightest ideas!

 Let your cake tell a Christmas story... and may the most dazzling designs win!



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
- **Thursday 18th December 2025** - Christmas Lunch & Non uniform day - Wear something christmassy!
- **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.

Telephone: (01837) 650910

Email: ash@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk
beech@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk
elm@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk
oak@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk

**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



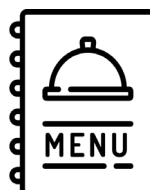
 SWGfL
Safe. Secure. Online.

USEFUL LINKS

Term Dates



Letters Home



Enrichment Programme



Okehampton College