

Friday Focus

Friday 24th April 2026



Dartmoor
Multi Academy
Trust

...everyone in our Trust.



I hope you all had a wonderful Easter break and you are not too full of chocolate. It has been a great first week of term. Year 11 have hit the ground running with final art and photography examinations. They are 10 hours each and the students put so much hard work in for them. Well done to all of the students who have taken part. I am really proud of the work that you are producing. The Year 10 students have also had their first experience of mock examinations. They have settled into the routine incredibly well and are lining up like pros ready for their exams. They have clearly been revising lots over the Easter break.

Special Mention

Part of my job is going to county meetings with other school leaders in order to look at how we improve systems. I was delighted to hear from a colleague yesterday about how Eben in Year 9 helped to recruit for one of the most senior roles in Devon County Council yesterday. He was part of a three person panel with a Trust CEO and a senior executive of DCC. I was told how well Eben did on the panel and how he was not daunted by the situation.

I would also like to congratulate Zola in Year 11. Zola has won the Under 18s (despite being two years younger) Girls South West 100m and is going to compete at a national level. We are incredibly proud of you Zola and everything that you have achieved.

Notices

In order for students to achieve in their learning, we want students to be as prepared as possible. Students should all have a school bag with them so they can carry books and equipment around. Students should also have a clear pencil case (in preparation for exams) containing a black pen, pencil, eraser/rubber, ruler, protractor, pair of compasses and a scientific calculator. In addition, each student should also have a refillable water bottle with them, to prevent unnecessary waste and to encourage environmental awareness. We do not provide cups for students to use.

I can often be seen walking around on break duty with a litter picker in my hand and students often ask me why. The answer is because I am picking up litter! We want to keep our school and environment as clean as possible. However, I can't do it all on my own so I would ask that you mention to your children about looking after, and caring for, our school and community areas, particularly as we are all spending more time outside as the weather improves.

Enrichment Week

The deadline for the final instalment payments has passed (1st April 2026). Please ensure you have completed all payments as a matter of urgency. Please also take the time to check your contact details on Arbor and ensure we have all up to date medical information, dietary requirements and consents. This information will be required by trip leaders during Enrichment Week.

Principal's Breakfast

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

Ash: Reuben Morgan-Cox 8A/SCA. An outstanding contributor to college life and a truly positive role model for others

Beech: Tavia Tizard for her excellent approach to the Year 10 mock

Oak: Lily Wolley for excellent attendance and attitude

Elm: Ella Rice for a really positive first week back and for an amazing attitude and approach to her mock examinations this week.



Year 11 Catering and Hospitality



For their final practical, Year 11 Catering and Hospitality students planned, prepared, cooked and enjoyed a cooked breakfast. The focus was on considering dietary choices, intolerances and allergies. After the practical, students completed revision comprehension questions, exploring how ingredients could be substituted to meet a range of dietary needs.

Community Links' next neurodiverse family support group is being held on the 14th of May between 10am and 11.30am at the Ockment Centre.

Dr Simon Higley, Specialist Senior Educational Psychologist, will be attending to give an update on the work which has taken place to support schools to meet the needs of pupils experiencing EBSA. He will include information on the ATTEND framework, new EBSA webpages, and guidance for schools.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions, and Community Links staff will also be available if you would like any support on other subjects. As always refreshments will be available.



Charity Concert

At Okehampton College we are proud to be hosting a Charity concert with 'The Mariners Away' to support the work of The Greatfield Hedgehog Rescue. The rescue does some amazing work to rehabilitate injured or ill hogs before releasing them back into their natural habitats. Some of our staff and students are volunteers at the rescue and see first hand what incredible creatures our endangered native species are.

The concert will be held on Friday the 15th May 2026 at 7pm and tickets are available by using this link: [Mariners Away supporting Greatfield Hedgehog Rescue Tickets, Friday 15 May • 19 - 22:30 | Eventbrite](#) Alternatively please contact jteixeira@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk

You can find out more information about how you can help hedgehogs here: [Helping Hedgehogs](#)



Ultimate Rugby 7s Success



Congratulations to Ollie King and Phineas Lewis who have been selected as squad members of the South West UR7s Academy - Ultimate Rugby 7s. It was an intense afternoon in the hot sun with lots of boys trialing from all over the south west, for a chance to get a place on the team. Both of them went in with confidence and put in 100% and after an anxious wait, I'm pleased to say both boys made the team.

The hard work starts now as they will be on a residential week with the squad in August.



Zola is Number 1!

Zola Taylor in Year 11 is an outstanding athlete who is simultaneously coming to the end of her Okehampton College journey whilst at the same time is in an amazing

position to really thrive in her athletics journey. Zola competed at the South West Athletics Championships at the weekend in the 100m and 200m, she is now ranked number 1 in the South West for U18's 100m and number 5 in the UK for under 17! She achieved PB of 12.39 in the 100m on Saturday, winning a gold medal and silver in the 200m.

Zola will be taking part in her last competitions for the school this year and we want to use this opportunity to congratulate her on all her achievements and wish her the best of luck in the future. It has been a pleasure for us to see Zola perform but also seeing her be a role model to younger athletes, guiding them and supporting them at events.

from the PE Department.



Friday Focus



FREE
Family Advice
& Guidance

For Parents/Carers of children aged 0-19 and Young People aged 13 –19 (25 with SEND or Care Leaver)

Single Session Appointments available in person, via phone or online

CALL:
Advice & Guidance Line
0800 5385458
Mon-Fri 10am–4pm

SCAN



Request for Contact

Devon County Council

BEST START IN LIFE

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.

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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

CLICK HERE

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

USEFUL LINKS

