

Friday Focus

Friday 27th February 2026



Dartmoor
Multi Academy
Trust

...everyone in our Trust.



Thank you to everyone in our community who has either reached out to me or to our Trust with well wishes about the Promise School. Like many I could not believe the images on social media last Sunday. It is devastating for the school and the community, but I know that they will come back from this. It is clear that we need a community response to the incident and to support the Promise School.

A huge thank you to our Post-16 students who temporarily moved out of Wardhayes this week. Thankfully they are returning to Wardhayes next week. I want to say a massive thank you to all of them for their understanding, it has been lovely though having them in the library modelling good behaviours to our students. I am delighted about how we will be part of the response to support the Promise School and I will communicate more about this in due course.

Wednesday was a fantastic day in school. We had a theatre company in performing Macbeth to all students in Years 10 and 11 and to some of our Year 8 students. Everyone I spoke to about the performance was buzzing. They found it incredibly exciting. The performers were also glowing about our students. They were full of praise and said our students were amongst the best that they have performed for. I am not surprised to hear this!! Thank you to Mrs Howard for organising.

Our Beliefs and Values Ambassadors organised a Community Iftar for anyone to attend on Tuesday. This is a meal to break the fast during Ramadan. It was attended by many students, parents and community members. I enjoyed how everyone brought some food from their own culture to share amongst everyone. My son and I made some Welsh cakes to share. It was wonderful that so many people in our community felt included in our school. Thank you to Mrs Donnelly and Mr Quick for cooking, Mr Parker and Mrs Osborne for supporting and finally to Mrs Scott for organising alongside the BV Ambassadors.

We have been re-enforcing our mobile phone policy this week. As previously explained, mobile phones are not allowed to be used anywhere in school by students. If students need to contact home then we will allow them to use our landlines. I just want to remind everyone that this ban also goes for smart watches. Students are not

allowed to wear them. This has been in the policy for some time. If a student has a medical condition which requires them to wear a watch or have access to their phone they will of course be allowed to do so.

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: Casper Page for having an excellent attitude to all things school related and for being very polite and considerate to others.

Beech: Maisie Perkins For being kind and supporting others.

Oak: Lacey Tester for trying really hard to come in this week and give everything a go. Great resilience!

Elm: Darragh O'Driscoll – for a great start back and receiving lots of golden tickets and recognition for your efforts

A Few Pictures From Iftar



see over for more details



Community Iftar

On 24th February, we hosted our second Community Iftar for families in Okehampton. It was another wonderful evening, filled with delicious food and warm company. Our Beliefs and Values Ambassadors did an exceptional job hosting the event, preparing their own dishes, and decorating the venue. We are incredibly proud of their hard work, leadership, and the positivity they bring to our school community.

It was a truly special occasion that brought people together, those of all faiths and none, while children played and families enjoyed time together. We look forward to hosting this event again next year.



A Sweet Week in Catering!

During the last week of Half Term, our Year 11 Hospitality and Catering students showcased their skills by producing beautifully crafted whisked sponge gâteaux to mark the completion of their non examination assessments.

To create their gâteaux, students whisked eggs to incorporate air, before carefully folding in flour and cocoa powder to preserve the light texture. They then crumb coated the edges with chocolate and cream, prepared chocolate in a bain marie to make decorative shards, and finished their cakes with piped cream, fresh fruit, and their handmade chocolate pieces. The results were outstanding—and looked absolutely delicious.

Meanwhile, in Key Stage 3, students have been busy baking cookies and banana muffins while also learning about the importance of reducing food waste in the kitchen.

It was a fantastic week of creativity, skill and sustainability across all year groups!





Rugby Festival



On Thursday 26th February we were able to host the 2nd year of our annual Year 7 and 8 seven-a-side rugby festival. We hosted QE and SJS school in an event which was inclusive and supportive of new players to introduce them to competitive rugby and gave our experienced players the chance to shine.

We were able to field two teams in each year group, enabling all students who wanted to be involved a chance to play in some competitive rugby. All our teams were a credit to the College with their determination and resilience. One of our Year 7 teams went on to win the Year 7 competition - all teams played well with the positive attitude we like to see.

As a College we are grateful for the time our local clubs, and adults in those clubs, put in to support our pupils. It was great to have Mark and Ian (coaches from the club) come down to support the players and encourage new players to join the club.

It is with thanks to Okehampton Rugby Club that a number of our year 10 players had recently completed a referee course and were able to put those skills into practice. Our young referees were a credit to the College; they were fair, knowledgeable, confident and most importantly respected by all the players. They received many compliments from the visiting teachers.

It was a great day and highlighted everything that is important in school sport. We had pupils playing who were new to the game and hopefully making the transition into club sport. More experienced players having the chance to represent the college. Year 10 students being coaches for their age group teams and forming those bonds with younger players; sharing their knowledge and experience. And finally year 10 players showing where players can go next with their sporting experience to becoming officials. It was a great day and we are so proud of all the players involved!



Kingsley Football Tournament

Toward the end of last half term Holsworthy U14 Girls entered a grassroots football tournament at Kingsley College Bideford. We played 4 group games, winning them all, before playing the semi final against the Ferdinand Collection, which we also won. Into the final we faced an U15 team, we managed to win that 2-0, and came away victorious. All in all, we won all 6 games and didn't concede a single goal. This was a large part to our own Okehampton College student, Faith Parish who was outstanding last night.

A very good display from all the girls. Well done.



Year 9 & 10 Mixed Indoor Cricket Monday 9th – Friday 13th February

Well done to all the students involved in the East Devon Indoor Cricket Competition. We put on a strong performance to finish 3rd overall in the competition. With ISCA and Tiverton School finishing ahead of us. In our games against those 2 teams we lost by just 9 runs, in both games! Some strong bowling and smashing some 6's kept us in contention with games against ISCA and Tiverton both going down to the last over.

The students showed excellent composure under pressure, and also outstanding sportsmanship. They were a credit to our school and a pleasure to take on a fixture.

Well done to Joseph Woolnough, Morley Anderson, Will Graham, Theo Luxford, Ben Ford, Isla Egford, Jess Fumagall, Daniel King.





College Choir Joins International Stars

In a one-off celebration of Celtic and Westcountry folk, culture, voice and brass, Okehampton College Choir will be joining Dublin Brass, previous Eurovision Vision winner Eimear Quinn and international Devon-based folk artist Jim Causley for their 'Breath Upon The Flame' Concert at St Michael's Church, Chagford on 16th March 2026.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for local students who belong to Okehampton College Choir to perform at a very special candlelit concert in Chagford. It's a rare privilege to share the stage with a renowned brass quintet, an international singer-songwriter and an international folk artist. It's also been an exciting challenge to plan for the event and rehearse from a distance!" says conductor Joanne Teixeira.

The concert takes place at 7.30pm on Monday 16 March in Chagford's beautiful Saint Michael The Archangel Church, which was chosen to set off the broad range of instruments, Eimear's ethereal voice and the harmonious local singers.

Dublin Brass features members of the RTÉ Concert Orchestra and leading freelance musicians from around Ireland. The ensemble is joined for the evening by percussion, harp, violin and viola players, bringing traditional Irish sounds to the programme. Songs include My Lagan Love, The Voice, and music from the Oscar-nominated 'Room'.

Eimear Quinn is well known in Ireland and internationally as a singer and composer. She won the Eurovision Song Contest in 1996, and since then has toured and performed extensively, including before royalty and presidents. "It is a true pleasure for me to sing with the Dublin Brass Ensemble", she says. "Performing these

Jim Causley is a folk singer, award-winning songwriter, musician, proud Devonian and all-round entertainer. H Tickets are available now on Eventbrite – including a short-time special deal of 4 tickets for the price of 3. <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/breath-upon-the-flame-chagford-tickets-1976323919043?aff=oddtcreator>

STOP PRESS!

New York Trip Going Live Tonight!



Alumni Student Inspires Art Students

Today the Art department welcomed Alumni student Aya Labib to talk about her life since leaving Okehampton College. Aya left the College with GCSEs and A levels in Art and Design and textiles and then went onto study fashion at Leeds university.

Aya shared her path in the creative industry with year 10 Art students and talked about her successful business in design which most recently has seen her designing a range of mugs for John Lewis. It was lovely to see the students so engaged and able to take part in some workshops led by Aya.



If you would like to see what Aya has been up to please take a look on Instagram @inthiscolour and website www.inthiscolour.co.uk. Thank you so much Aya we wish you every success, the students loved your insight!

New York Trip Going Live Tonight!

The Creative Arts Trip October 2027 will go live on school gateway at midnight tonight (Fri/Sat). The total of the trip is coming in at approx £1760 and you can secure a place for your child by paying a deposit of £150. There are 44 places available.

This is open to current Year 8 and Year 9 students who will be in Year 10 and Year 11 in the academic year 27/28.



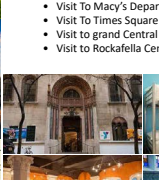
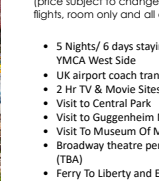
CREATIVE ARTS TOUR

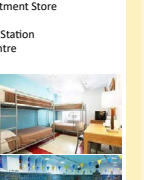
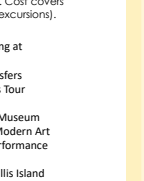
NEW YORK

21-26 OCTOBER 2027

£1,820
(price subject to change. Cost covers flights, room only and all excursions).

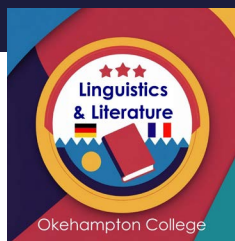
- 5 Nights/ 6 days staying at YMCA West Side
- UK airport coach transfers
- 2 Hr TV & Movie Sites Tour
- Visit to Central Park
- Visit to Guggenheim Museum
- Visit to Museum Of Modern Art
- Broadway theatre performance (TBA)
- Ferry to Liberty and Ellis Island
- Visit to Macy's Department Store
- Visit to Times Square
- Visit to grand Central Station
- Visit to Rockafella Centre





Scan the QR code to find out more about WEST SIDE YMCA





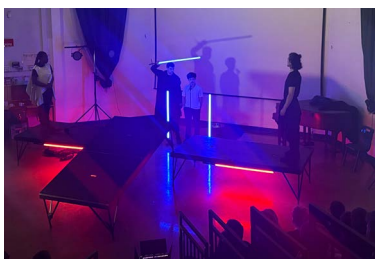
Macbeth Brought to Life

students were treated to a powerful and immersive performance of Macbeth by Box Clever Theatre Company — and it was anything but a traditional staging of Shakespeare.

From the opening moments, the production was strikingly physical and high-energy. The actors used dynamic movement, choreographed combat, and expressive physical theatre to communicate Macbeth's ambition and descent into madness. Rather than relying solely on dialogue, the cast conveyed emotion through posture, pace, and intensity, helping students clearly see the shifts in character and power. The fast-paced staging kept the audience captivated throughout.

One of the most memorable aspects of the performance was the audience involvement. Students were not simply spectators; they became part of the action. Actors performed amongst them, addressed them directly, and even incorporated volunteers into key moments. This broke down the barrier between stage and audience, creating a sense of immediacy and excitement. For many students, this interactive approach made Shakespeare's language feel far more accessible and engaging.

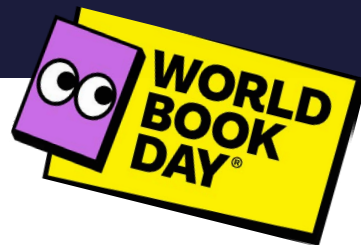
The impact on learning was clear. Students commented on how much easier it was to understand the plot, themes, and character motivations after seeing the play performed live. Macbeth's ambition, Lady Macbeth's manipulation, and the growing atmosphere of guilt and paranoia were made vivid through the actors' powerful physical performances. For GCSE students in particular, the production reinforced key scenes and quotations in a way that reading alone cannot achieve.



Overall, the visit from Box Clever Theatre Company was both educational and inspiring. The performance not only deepened students' understanding of Macbeth, but also demonstrated the power of live theatre to make classic texts relevant, memorable, and exciting.

We look forward to welcoming them back in the future!

World Book Day Thursday 5th March 2026



Events happening next week:

World Book Day Assemblies

An assembly focusing on the importance of reading and our amazing language and literary heritage.

World Book Day Tokens

All students will receive a World Book Day token from their English teacher that can be redeemed in all good book shops again a special World Book Day book or against the value of another book.

Staff Fancy Dress

Students will vote for the best dressed member of staff and the best faculty theme.

Flash Fiction - writing task in lessons

In English lessons. Winners will be displayed in the Library and win a book.

Sparx Book Reviews

Sparx Homework next week for Key Stage 3 will include an optional book review - students will be encouraged to write a book review on Sparx - best will get points/prizes and be displayed.

Book Exchange

We are hoping to set up a book exchange — this will be run in the library and will hopefully be a way for all members of our community to share their love of reading. If you have any books you think would be suitable for our students please drop them off at reception marked for the attention of C Edwards/ J Colton

Literary Treasure Hunt

The treasure hunt will consist of 4 challenges:

1. Collect all the letters displayed on English Classroom doors to make up the title of a famous novel
2. Ask your tutor for the next question and work out the answer
3. Ask an English teacher for the next question and work out the answer
4. Ask a member of the canteen staff for the final question and work out the answer

Students to submit their answers on a piece of paper to their English teacher (make sure they have their name and English teacher on it). Correct answers chosen at random will win an Easter Egg and a book!

House Quiz

Match the member of staff to their favourite children's book and win points for your House.

Friday Focus

SEND

Special Educational Needs
& Disabilities

News: Product Recall

We have been advised recently of a product recall, for a toy which is often popular within SEND. Click on the link to find out more. <https://www.htigroup.co.uk/portfolio-item/recall-information/>

SEND Clinics:

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.



KEY DATES

- **5th March 2026** - World Book Day
- **5th March 2026** - Year 7 Parents' Evening
- **19th March 2026** - Year 8 Parents' Evening
- **23rd March 2026** - Year 12 external Exams start
- **3rd April 2026 - Friday 17th April 2026** - Easter Holidays
- **20th April 2026** - All students return for Summer Term

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/>



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#THRIVEhive

Visit our THRIVEhive
A signposting hub
for advice
& support



www.okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk/Thrivehive/



Please zoom in to
view images in full

USEFUL LINKS

Term Dates



Letters Home



Enrichment Programme



Okehampton College

