

Friday Focus

Friday 28th November 2025



Dartmoor
Multi Academy
Trust

...everyone in our Trust.



On Tuesday we took the whole of Year 10 to Exeter University to the Trust Bright Future careers fair. Students have told me they found it very useful and they took full advantage to speak to lots of different companies and organisations about jobs they could consider in the future. I was especially proud to hear from exhibitors, teachers and DMAT leaders about how well our students behaved and interacted with the exhibitors. It does not surprise me as I see it every day, but it is what every Principal wants to hear! One engineering firm commented how fantastic it was that so many of our girls approached them and showed real interest in a potential career in their industry.

Post-16:

Thank you to everyone who has applied to our Post-16 for September 2026. We are still in the consultation period but the numbers who have applied are encouraging. However, we are not able to offer every subject we have listed in our prospectus. Nevertheless please be assured we are looking at a really strong offer of subjects. Everyone who has registered an interest should by now, have received an email asking to confirm which of the subjects they would like to study. We ask that parents reply using the form linked in the email by the 9th December 2025. I will then take this information to the Trustees so we can make a final decision. If you have any questions about the process please contact Dr Kelly via rkelly@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk.

Non-uniform Day - Thursday 18th December Wear something Christmassy!

This month, we will be raising money for the Wellbeing Cafe in Okehampton by holding a non-uniform day, with a Christmassy theme, on Thursday 18th December. As well as having Christmas lunch available on this day, there will also be a pop-up Wellbeing Cafe in the cold canteen at break 2. We would welcome donations of cakes or cookies on the day that can be served while students sit and chat or engage in a wellbeing activity while they enjoy a cake. Families can make a donation on School Gateway.

The Well-being Café is a community hub in Okehampton offering a place of safety, social interaction, access to therapeutic activities and practical support. A key aim is to make Okehampton and district a suicide safer community.

The café is raising money to cover costs of the free meals we give out our Teen Space which is held twice a week. This is a space for 11-17 year olds to enjoy a free homemade meal, therapeutic activities and a chilled, safe environment away from school and home. We are extremely grateful for Okehampton College's support with this.

This time of year is always busy and I am looking forward to two events next week. Our awards evening for last year's Year 11 leavers on Wednesday 3rd December and the

Okehampton Edwardian Evening on Thursday 4th December where many of our students will perform. I look forward to seeing you there!

Principal's Breakfast:

These students have been nominated as students of the week by their house leaders and will have breakfast with the Principal next Friday.

Ash: Barnaby Willis - Year 9 - for being a helpful and polite member of the tutor group. He regularly demonstrates the Oke Way qualities of kindness and resilience.

Beech: Henry Parnell – Year 8 - for being consistently fabulous and hard working.

Oak: Molly Eales - A very successful start to Year 7, consistently exceeding expectations, and representing the college at cross country.

Elm: Kiera Brownless - Year 11- for showing resilience during her mocks.

Meet Miro!

Mrs Watson's coding club had a visit this week from Mrs Jane Taylor who has very kindly donated a MiRo robotic dog to the club. The robot belonged to her late husband, Gilbert Taylor, who was a highly gifted mathematician and theoretical physicist who also had a very keen interest in robotics, and built several robots in his retirement years. Mr Taylor was also a talented computer software engineer - working for 34 Years for Marconi Space and Defence Division (latterly known as BAE Systems), as one of their Senior Software Engineers. Knowing that her husband was such an enthusiastic advocate for STEM education, particularly computing and coding, Mrs Taylor approached the college to offer the MiRo dog to the computer science department.



The MiRo dog is a social robot. In the future social robots will share our personal space, interact with us and each other, providing entertainment and emotional engagement. MiRo has six senses, eight degrees of freedom, and an innovative brain-inspired control system. Sounds fascinating!

The coding club cannot wait for Mrs Watson to get the new robot up and running on our systems so they can try their hand at programming it. They were very enthusiastic in their thanks to Mrs Taylor for such a generous gift and we will share MiRo's progress in future newsletters.



Celebrating Student Voice

R. Corkell - Assistant Principal

At our college, we believe that every student's voice matters. Student feedback isn't just heard—it shapes the way we grow and improve. Through forums, surveys, and collaborative projects, learners are helping us create an environment where everyone can thrive. Their ideas influence teaching strategies, campus facilities, and enrichment opportunities, ensuring that our college reflects the needs and aspirations of its community. By empowering students to share their perspectives, we're building a culture of partnership and progress—because when students lead, school's succeed.

We're proud to share the incredible progress highlighted in our latest Student Voice survey! Your feedback is shaping the future of our school—and the results speak for themselves:

- Recommendation of College: Up by 21%
- Feeling of Belonging ("The Oke Way"): Up by 11%
- College Improving: Up by 15%
- Social Time Behaviour: Up by 9%
- Classroom Behaviour: Up by 11%
- Anti-Bullying Action: Up by 13%

These improvements show that when students speak, we listen and act. Student voice isn't just a part of our process; it's at the heart of our success. Together, we're creating a college where everyone feels valued, respected, and proud to belong.



On Tuesday, 25th November, we hosted an RSE meeting, welcoming parents into school to discuss the Relationships and Sex Education curriculum. This will be delivered during Spring Terms 1 and 2, with Year 9 students receiving an additional term in Summer 1.

The session was highly successful, giving parents a clear understanding of the curriculum and how it holistically supports our young people to thrive.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with all attending parents stating they could clearly see the benefits of this personal development in promoting their child's welfare. For more information on the RSE curriculum, please visit our school [website](#). You can also explore the signposting resources we've put together for families on our [#ThriveHub page](#).



Okehampton College Shines at Careers Fair

A. Skelton Vice Principal

This week, Year 10s and 12s truly demonstrated why Okehampton College is such an exceptional place for our students. The DMAT Bright Futures Fair, held at the University of Exeter, showcased a commitment to preparing young people for bright futures, offering a wealth of information and guidance from employers, Post-16 providers and further education institutes for Year 10s and 12s from Okehampton College.

From engaging conversations about career pathways to practical advice on further education and apprenticeships, exhibitors went above and beyond to ensure every student left feeling informed and supported. Some students were able to also enjoy a guided tour of the university campus. The range of opportunities highlighted reflected the Trust's dedication to nurturing ambition and helping students achieve their full potential.

Trust staff and exhibitors commented on the fantastic behaviour of our students, praising them for their engagement and articulate questions - we are incredibly proud of you all.

Thank you for your Food Donations



The Okehampton Food Bank



The Ockment Centre, 31 North Street, Okehampton, Devon, EX20 1AR.
contact@okehamptonfoodbank.co.uk
Registered Charity Number 1212284

Dear Students, Staff, and Families of Okehampton College,

We would like to extend our deepest thanks for your incredibly generous Harvest Festival donation.

The volume and variety of items collected were truly inspiring, and we are grateful to every member of the college community who contributed.

Your support could not have come at a more important time. As Christmas approaches, many households in the Okehampton area are dealing with significant financial pressure and food insecurity. Your donation will enable us to provide substantial food parcels to those most in need, ensuring that individuals and families can enjoy nourishing meals during what can otherwise be a very difficult season.

Your generosity will help bring relief, stability, and a sense of hope to our neighbours. Thank you for standing with us and supporting the community so wholeheartedly. Your kindness makes a real difference.

With kind regards,
The Trustees of Okehampton Foodbank.

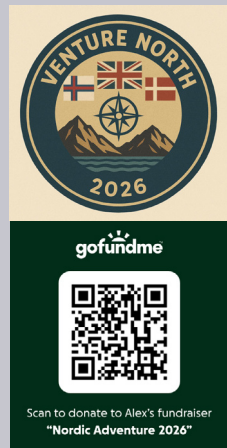
Malcolm Hamilton,
Coordinator for The Okehampton Food Bank
Okehamptonfoodbank.co.uk
contact@okehamptonfoodbank.co.uk



Year 9 Explorer Scout Fund Raising

Year 9 student Alex Angel is fundraising to join an Explorer Scout Trip to Denmark and the Faroe Islands. Alex is very excited to

join the trip and to make the most of the opportunity to gain experience and skills in areas such as teamwork and leadership. Funds raised will be used toward costs of transportation. Alex is holding a Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 29th November in South Zeal if you would like to support the cause. Alternatively please use the QR code below.



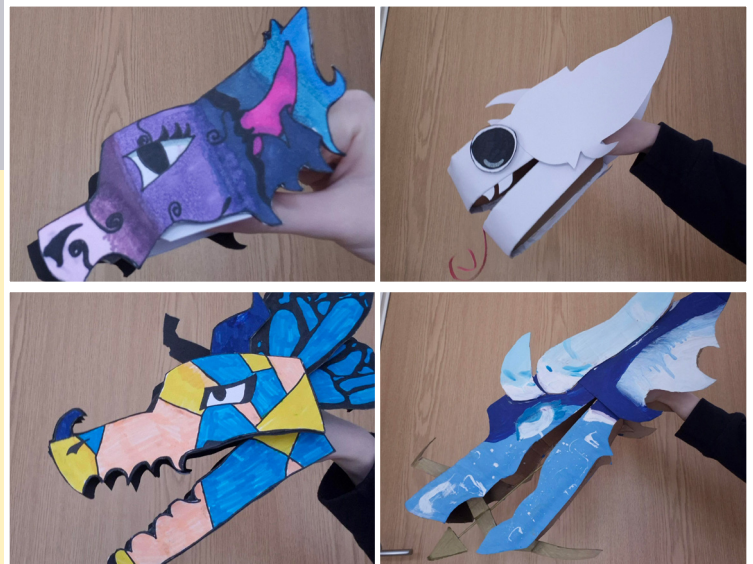
Twilight Dragons!



The students who attend the Twilight sessions on Thursday afterschool enjoyed a master class from Millie Taylor, Year 8, this week on model making.

Millie really struggles to come to school every day, but when at home she is not idle. It turns out that Millie is a master at model making!

Here are just a few of the Dragons that she has designed and made. These magnificent creatures are developing Millie's skills in maths, story telling, art and critical thinking. Millie plans features based on her idea's of where the dragons hail from, what environment they might live in, what they might eat, how they might hunt. I am sure you will agree a bright future awaits our very talented Millie!



Year 10 Hammer Their Project!

Year 10 GCSE Design and Technology students have been working hard developing their practical skills. This term the focus has been on metal working – students have also learnt a range of processes by fabricating pin hammers.



Pictured: Tinovonga Matende, Ben Ford, Cole Marshall, Rowan Grainge, Zac Fletcher, Ethan Faith-Brown, Max Champion, Isabelle Attfield

Interview Panel:

Two Okehampton College students, Eben Battershall Reid and Lucas Bales, have been selected by Youth Participation Team to take part in the formal interviews of the next Head of Children's Services for Devon on Tuesday 2nd December in Exeter. We are so proud of them, we are sure they will ask all the right questions of the candidates.

Parent Workshop 11th December 2025:

You will receive an invitation shortly for our "Let's talk about" workshop - What to do if you are worried about your child's education. 2.10pm (arrive at reception).



NHS **CORNWALL & DEVON**
School Age Immunisation Service
Provided by Kernow Health CIC

School aged vaccinations

Did you know children will be offered these routine vaccinations at school?

- ✓ **FLU** - Reception - Year 11
- ✓ **MMR** - Catch-up
- ✓ **HPV** - Year 8 - Year 11
- ✓ **Meningitis ACWY** - Year 9 - Year 11
- ✓ **Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio (DTP)** - Year 9 - Year 11

Did you miss us?

We also have community clinics across Devon for:

- ✓ Home educated children
- ✓ Anxious children
- ✓ Children who missed the session at school

FLU

MMR

HPV

MENINGITIS ACWY

DIPHTHERIA TETANUS POLIO (DTP)

SCAN HERE

For further information scan the QR code or please speak with a member of the team

Call us on
01392 342678

Kernowhealthcic.schoolimmsdevon@nhs.net

flu: 5 reasons to have the vaccine

1. Protect yourself

The vaccine will help protect you against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia

2. Protect your family and friends

Having the vaccine will help protect more vulnerable friends and family

3. No injection needed

The nasal spray is painless and easy to have

4. It's better than having flu

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions worldwide and has an excellent safety record

5. Avoid lost opportunities

If you get flu, you may be unwell for several days and not be able to do the things you enjoy

For more information visit
www.nhs.uk/child-flu



Most children have the nasal spray vaccine which is the preferred vaccine. A vaccine injection is also available which does not contain gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine).

Flu i mmunisation
Helping to protect you against flu

© Crown copyright 2024. Product code: FLU18524. UK Health Security Agency gateway number: 2024105. If you want to order more copies of this poster, please visit: healthpublications.gov.uk or call 0300 121 1002.

OKEHAMPTON

ESCAPE ROOM

PRIMARY HOLIDAY CLUB

GLUE IN THE DARK SPORTS

CINEMA

CLICK HERE

SCAVENGER HUNT

HAF

ocrasport.org.uk/haf

XMAS

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.

Donations needed for our Christmas Hamper Raffle

Please pass to Mrs Teixeira in her music room.

Takes place at The Edwardian Evening on Thurs Dec 4th

Okehamptoncollegeptfa@yahoo.com

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 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
- **Thursday 8th January 2026** - Year 9 Curriculum Choices Evening

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

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.

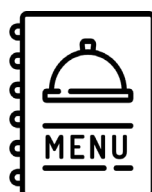


USEFUL LINKS

Term Dates



Letters Home



Enrichment Programme



Okehampton College

