

Friday Focus



Dartmoor
Multi Academy
Trust
...everyone in our Trust.



Friday 5th December 2025



Next week I am meeting with Trustees to make a final decision around our Post-16 provision. What will have the biggest impact on the future will be the number of students who have signed up to our sixth form in September. We have written home to all parents of students who applied to the Post-16 with an offer. Please ensure you return the completed form by the end of Tuesday 9th December. This is a hard deadline due to timescales, so please make sure that we have your reply by then.

I would like to say a huge thank you to our PTFA for their hard work at Edwardian Evening. They sold 1000 raffle tickets and ran stalls on the night to raise money to support our school. I am always blown away by what they do as they commit so much time and energy.

Now we are in December we cannot escape Christmas! We have a few events coming up over the next 2 weeks:

Year 7 Carol Service: This will be all Year 7 students attending the service at Fairplace Church, during period 5 on Tuesday 16th December.

Community Carol Service: 6:30pm on Tuesday 16th December. It is open to all students, parents, grandparents and anyone else in our community. You can sign up for seats by clicking [here](#).

'Wear something Christmassy Day': Thursday 18th December. This will raise money for Okehampton Well-Being Café.

Christmas Dinner: Thursday 18th December. Please pre-order (including students entitled to free-school meals) via school gateway .

Christmas Concert: Thursday 18th December

Last day of term: including a whole school assembly, will be on Friday 19th December. Please note that we will be finishing at our regular time of 3:10pm.

We always strive to get things right but sometimes both the school and students get things wrong. When we communicate with each other, it is really important that everyone is polite, courteous and we treat each other with respect. I have seen some communication from families recently that could have been worded more politely. We have an incredible staff team at school, and I want them to always feel valued by our community. If we get something wrong at school, we will work together to resolve the issue, but this has to happen under mutual respect and consideration for one another.

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: Lily Hutton for excellent positivity, supporting the tutor group and partaking in many school activities.

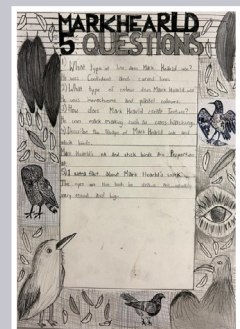
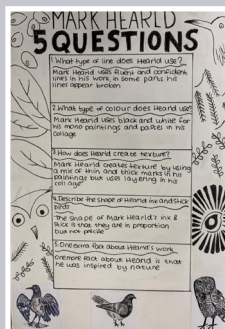
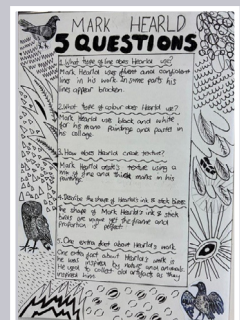
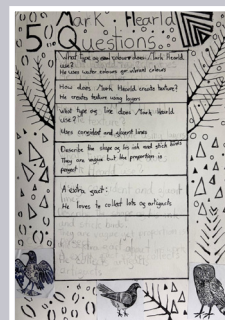
Beech: Grace Bradford for demonstrating kindness and understanding at all times

Oak: Phoebe Marten who works hard and always fully engage in tutor activities

Elm: Ameera Ali – for the student voice work on antibullying

Year 8 Art

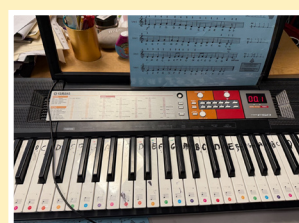
Year 8 have been creating some excellent contextual work based on an artist they have been studying, Mark Hearld, this has involved analysing work and displayed responses based on the artist's work. It has been wonderful to see students understanding the formal elements and applying them to their work.



Can You Help The Music Department?

Our keyboards seem to have decided that enough is enough! If you have a keyboard at home that you would like to rehome, the students here would be very grateful.

Here a photos of the keyboards that we currently use.





Celebrating Student Voice

R. Corkell - Assistant Principal

I welcome you to participate in the Autumn term family voice survey. Click on the link below. Completion is asked for by Wednesday 10th December when the results will be reviewed and compared with previous similar surveys.

[Family Voice Survey on College Improvement - Dec 2025 – Fill in form](#)

We would really appreciate your feedback on the key areas of our college improvement journey. An increasing amount has been achieved in college but we need to know this improvement is being understood and felt by all our students and their families. Your feedback on the questions below will further inform and shape our work throughout the academic year alongside similar feedback gained by students and staff.

Many thanks in advance for providing this feedback and for your ongoing support.



I'm PCSO Rebecca Watts and I've recently joined the Neighbourhood Team at Okehampton Police Station. At the moment, our team includes two Neighbourhood Beat Managers and myself, and we cover Okehampton, Hatherleigh, North Tawton, Chagford, Bridestowe and all the places in between.

PCSOs are here to be a visible and approachable link between the community and the police. We carry out patrols, help with anti-social behaviour issues, gather information, and support local residents with any concerns they may have. We also work closely with local authorities, schools, businesses, and Neighbourhood Watch to help keep our communities safe.

Although I'm new to this role, I've come from another position within the police. I grew up in the local area and now live just outside Okehampton, so I'm really looking forward to meeting and getting to know the community. If you see me out and about, please feel free to stop me for a chat — I'm always happy to say hello.



A Support Platform For Young People

Kooth is the UK's largest and longest established digital mental health service. We partner with NHS and local authority organisations to deliver game-changing mental health support to young people from age 10 and up.

A safe space for everyone

Kooth is for all young people - whatever background, whatever situation:

- Free - Kooth is funded in a local services partnership, so users never have to pay
- Private and confidential - Everyone can find help in absolute confidence
- Safe space - all content on our platform is checked by our safety team
- Flexible - available 365 days a year, with no waiting lists

Christmas and New Year opening hours

You can access Kooth any time you need; we're always open. If you're looking for a one-to-one chat with our team, check below to see when they're available over Christmas and New Year:

Christmas Week	New Year Week
6 – 10PM Saturday 20th December	6 – 10PM Saturday 27th December
6 – 10PM Sunday 21st December	6 – 10PM Sunday 28th December
12 – 10PM Monday 22nd December	12 – 10PM Monday 29th December
12 – 10PM Tuesday 23rd December	12 – 10PM Tuesday 30th December
12 – 8PM Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th December	12 – 8PM New Years Eve Wednesday 31st December
4 – 8PM Christmas Day Thursday 25th December	4 – 8PM New Years Day Thursday 1st January
12 – 8PM Boxing Day Friday 26th December	12 – 10PM Friday 2nd January

From 3rd January 2026, our team will be available as usual: 12 – 10pm Monday to Friday and 6pm – 10pm at weekends.

kooth



Devon Schools Badminton

Congratulations to all the students who were selected to represent the college at the Devon Schools Badminton Competition.

Our Key Stage 3 teams: Elin Burder, Isla Egford, Jess Fumagall, Paige Raines, Harry Devaney, Jacob Butt, Henry Venton and Casper Page, who have been working hard in our OCRA after school badminton club led by Alan Berry a Devon Badminton Coach. In some super tough competition amongst other schools in Devon our Key Stage 3 Girls have been victorious in qualifying for the next round of competition.



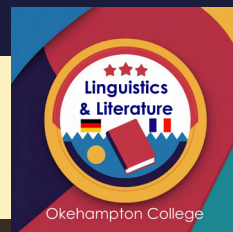
Our Key stage 4 teams have been working on Badminton as part of their GCSE PE course had a chance for some high level competition to support their assessment: Poppy Pengelly, Connie James, Ella Godfrey, Phoebe Chammings, Spencer Natad, Joseph Woolnough, Morley Anderson, and Harrison Pitts.

Our Key stage 4 boys and girls teams have also been successful in qualifying for the next round. With 16 badminton courts in action through the day the students needed to demonstrate high levels of organisation and maturity to allow the competition to run smoothly. Our students were a credit to the College, always on time for competitions and even organising and helping other schools where there was confusion or misunderstanding. Some outstanding badminton and outstanding conduct from our students and a pleasure to see them perform well and have a great day! We wish them the best of luck in the next round.

Lost Property - Missing Watch

Please could you check your student's bag for a Sekonda Watch with a red crown and a black and grey strap. This was lost recently. It has huge sentimental value to someone who would be very grateful to have it returned. If found, please could you email jstevens@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk to arrange the return.

Cosy Reading Sessions



In English, Year 11 have started reading their last set text of the course: *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. It is a Victorian gothic novel so to set the scene, we shut the blinds, light the fire and read by candlelight! Nothing cosier on these cold December days.

Save Your Tubs



It is the time of year when you may have various empty plastic tubs around your home. We are always very grateful for them in the food department, as they help students who forget their tubs. Please bring them to Mrs. Donnelly in Room 817.

If you have borrowed any tubs or dishes, please return them so they can be reused. Thank you.

Don't Forget Our Christmas Cake Competition Closes Monday!

Christmas-themed cake decorating house competition

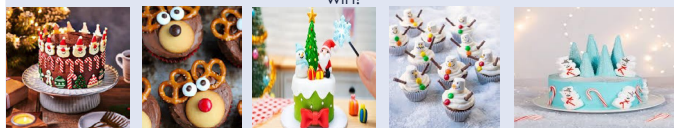
Unleash your festive flair and let your imagination run wild! Whether it's glittering snowflakes, cheeky elves or a gingerbread masterpiece, this is your chance to turn cake into art.

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!



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

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.uk

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

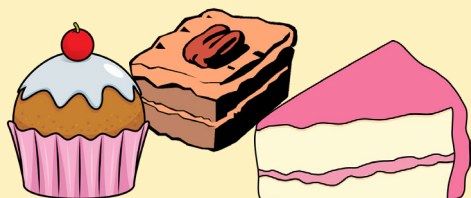
If you get flu, you may be unwell for several days and not be able to do the things you enjoy

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: FLU18K24. 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.



BAKE SALE

Year 11 students will be holding a bake sale on Friday 12th December. (After school, on the Drive). This is to raise money for Prom decorations. Please have some pennies at the ready.

If you would like to help with this good cause or to donate some cakes please contact Sam Cleave on scleave@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk

YEAR 11 FUNDRAISER!

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

06.12.25
8:30-12AM

COME VISIT SANTA IN HIS GROTTO FOR £3 INCLUDING A PRESENT

THERE WILL BE A CHRISTMAS RAFFLE STRIPS £1

Victory Hall in South Zeal

Refreshments and cakes, mince pies and scones

A FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR A EXPLORERS TRIP TO THE FAROE ISLANDS AND DENMARK

AIMEE TEIXERA AND EDIE FARRIMOND ARE RAISING £2400 BETWEEN THEM FOR THIS TRIP

SEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS THE TRIP

AIMEE AND EDIE



Wetsuit Appeal



Do you have any old wetsuits?
If so our Outdoor Education Department would welcome them to use for student water sports.
(Ideally we would prefer full length to fit 11-18 year olds)
Please bring them to reception or to Mr Barnett in room 417

Attendance Matters

Let's Make Every Day Count Before Christmas!

Thank you for helping your child shine this festive season!

As we head into the last two weeks before Christmas, we just want to say a big THANK YOU for all your support in helping your child come to school every day. These weeks are still full of exciting learning, and we want every child to finish the term feeling proud of what they've achieved.

Why Every Day Matters

- Keep up with friends and class learning.
- Enjoy all the fun activities and celebrations happening in school.
- Stay connected with teachers and classmates.
- Build great habits that will help in the future.

We're Here to Help

- If you're finding things tricky or have any worries about getting your child to school, please let us know.
- We want to work together to make these last weeks happy and successful for your child.

Thank you again for being such fantastic partners. Together, we can make sure every child enjoys these special weeks before the Christmas break!

Contact us anytime if you need support — we're here for you!

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

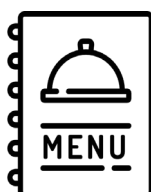
Email: ash@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk
beech@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk
elm@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk
oak@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk

USEFUL LINKS

Term Dates



Letters Home



Okehampton College

