

Friday Focus

Friday 6th March 2026



Dartmoor
Multi Academy
Trust

...everyone in our Trust.



I would like to say a huge thank you for your understanding as we have moved our reception this week. It now means that we can get our 'old reception' area ready for students from the Promise School to attend. I appreciate that for some students the change has been difficult, but do speak to your child's key adult if there are any issues and we will look to rectify them.

We have fully embraced World Book Day 2026 in college today, from the mysterious haunting of the Year 8 assembly by the Woman in Black to children's classics like Winnie the Pooh and characters from fairy tales wandering the halls (and a horse called Boxer)! It was great to see so many staff dressed up as literary characters. Sadly I was not in school to take part but I have seen the pictures and it is great to see. Thank you to Mrs Edwards for organising the day's events.

Students have been given their World Book Day tokens by their English teachers – they can exchange these at any bookshop for a special World Book Day book or put towards a book of their choice. We are also launching our Book Exchange today. Students can bring a book they no longer need and exchange it for another one.

Please keep encouraging your child to read at home for pleasure – the benefits do not just impact their learning and GCSEs, but also their long-term mental health and wellbeing, social skills and communication skills, imagination and empathy. I hope as busy parents you also get time this week to enjoy a good book!

Next week we are going to be reminding students of our uniform policy. Lots of detail about uniform can be found on our [website here](#). A key point for students is regarding jewellery. Students are allowed to have stud ear piercings and one stud nose piercing. Facial piercings are not allowed, and neither are any hoops or 'dangly' ear rings. Please support us by asking your child to follow this policy which will mean that there are no disagreements at school. Students should also be wearing a school skirt or grey school tailored trousers. Black trousers are not allowed.

This week we said goodbye to Mrs Duffy. She has worked as a TA at our school for 14 years and in recent years been an integral part of the Base. She will be missed and I wish her luck in her next venture.

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: Elsie Peyton - For continually working hard to improve her focus and attitude towards school. An outstanding level of commitment shown towards positive behaviour - a great role model for others.

Beech: Ayla Warrington - for her hard work, commitment to learning and for showing kindness to other students.

Elm: Harry Monnox for showing amazing resilience whilst recovering from an arm injury. You've handled it brilliantly and taken it in your stride. Well done!!

Oak: Aiden Spinney - Aiden is approaching his studies with great determination and has worked really hard for his mocks. He is a great role model to other students.

Speaking Competition Success

We would like to say a huge WELL DONE to all our candidates who entered the MFL Speaking Competition this week. They were: Hajar Afghan (Yr7), Reuben Morgan-Cox (Yr8), Emily Szwanc (Yr8), Olive Leslie (Yr10) and Sofiia Nikolaenko (Yr11).

To take part, our students had to create a presentation in a foreign language, and then perform it in front of an audience and a judging panel! This was quite some task, and required a lot of skill, time and determination to succeed. All of our students completed their performances and sounded really good. Of the 8 prizes on offer, Sofiia Nikolaenko in Yr11 won one of them, for her speech in her home language of Ukrainian! Sofiia spoke about politics, racism and discrimination, tackling a confronting topic, and showing great skill and confidence in her approach. This was recognised by all the judges, and a judge from the Ukrain. We are so proud of Sofiia for her effort, determination and the way that she relentlessly pursues her goals in life- a well-deserved win!

All our students gained so much from this experience, learning about public speaking skills and performance under pressure, which we hope will help them later in their exams.

Thank you to Mr Tyler for driving the minibus and encouraging our students, and to Miss Quested for her enthusiasm and practising with students!



Jay's Aim CPR Training

South West-based registered charity Jay's Aim delivered some vital life skill training to Year 8 students yesterday. Students learnt how to perform CPR and to use defibrillators. Jay's Aim was established in 2018 in memory of Jay Osborne, who tragically passed away from a sudden cardiac arrest while out running in Exeter at just 28 years old. Since then, they have:

- Provided over 265 public access defibrillators to communities across the region
- Funded 360 cardiac screenings for young people
- Delivered free CPR and defibrillator training to over 25,000 individuals in schools, sports clubs, and community groups

Designed by teachers, the sessions are fun, interactive, and inclusive with each student using their own CPR manikin. Our own students were certainly invested in the sessions and went home with new skills. To find out more about the charity please click on the logo below.



Vacancies

We currently have the following vacancies in our school for:

- Assistant Principal - Behaviour
- Examinations Officer
- Teaching Assistant
- Catering Assistant

For more information please see our jobs page [Okehampton College, Okehampton, Devon | Teaching Jobs & Education Jobs | MyNewTerm](#)



Shooting Success

Congratulations to student Shannon Griffiths who is competing at the Scottish Air Rifle Championships in Scotland. Shannon started shooting at 12yrs old, the first competition was at the school championships when she came 4th in sporter rifle shooting. She then progressed to 10m precession air rifle shooting, she has just been to Burgas, Bulgaria representing Great Britain in the U16 European Championships. Shannon came 17th out of 50 U16 junior shooters from 36 country's and came 3rd in the British Open Air Championship 2026. And will be competing in Scotland in March 2026. Shannon has also competed in Luxembourg in 2025.

Well done on your achievements Shannon!



Attendance Matters

At Okehampton College we strive to ensure all children receive the best possible education and each child reaches their full potential.

To achieve this it is vital your child attends school every day on time.

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. [Click here for more information](#)



World Book Day 2026



Friday Focus

COLOUR ME CRICKET
GIRLS' CRICKET FUN DAY

OPEN TO ALL! *REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED*
Existing players and new who want to try!
Sign on at 10:30 matches from 11

Girls' colour me cricket festival
celebrating the women's 2026
world cup!

PRE-SEASON PARTY

Mixed aged softball teams with a focus of
enjoyment for all! Come along and give it a go!

MONDAY 6TH APRIL
AT TAVISTOCK CRICKET CLUB

To sign up:
<https://tinyurl.com/yckxu7st>

ICC WOMEN'S T20
WORLD CUP
ENGLAND & WALES 2026



KEY DATES

- 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.

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Email: ash@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk
beech@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk
elm@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk
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THURSDAY 12 MARCH

PARENT AND CARER PEER SUPPORT GROUP FOR NEURODIVERSE CHILDREN

Join us for a chat and a cup of tea or coffee in our established group. Connect with other parents.

We look forward to seeing you!

10 - 11:30
THE OCKMENT CENTRE
OKEHAMPTON

07808 523111
info@communitylinks-sw.co.uk

Community Links SW



FAMILY Horizons

Supporting Parents and Carers of Children Experiencing School Attendance Difficulties

What is Family Horizons?
A free online course for parents and carers whose children are finding school attendance challenging. Whether your child is starting to show signs of anxiety about school, or hasn't been able to attend for some time, this course offers understanding, practical support, and hope.

What does it offer families?

- Understanding of your child's experience with school
- Practical strategies and tools to support wellbeing
- Ways to work effectively with schools
- Stories from families who understand
- Resources you can use with your child

How does it work?

- Access 5 chapters with video content online anytime
- Watch short, focused videos
- Download practical resources
- Revisit materials when needed

Every child's journey is unique. Whether you're just noticing difficulties or have been supporting your child for some time, Family Horizons provides gentle, practical support for your family's specific situation.

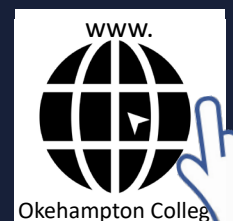
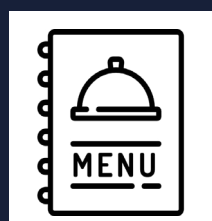
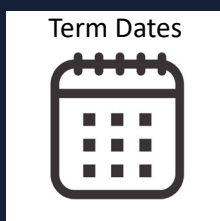
Supporting families, understanding attendance

Join for FREE by emailing your child's teacher for the registration link



Please zoom in to view images in full

USEFUL LINKS



CLICK HERE