

# Friday Focus

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026



Dartmoor  
Multi Academy  
Trust

...everyone in our Trust.



There isn't long left until the second round of Year 11 mock examinations. I know the students are all working hard both inside and outside of school as these examinations will give students the best indication of how they will perform in the summer. It is a misconception from some students in the past that if they 'don't revise in the mocks then they will know what they don't know.' This is not the case, and practising revision is just as, or even more, important than practising taking the examinations.

## Quiet Corridors

To support students' learning in school we want to provide a distraction free environment. Having a quiet and calm school during lesson times can help that. When students are walking around the school during lesson times they need to do so in silence. This is to avoid accidental distractions from someone making noise walking down the corridor. I stress that this is an expectation during lesson time only, as during lesson change over we completely understand students wanting to have a quick conversation with a friend.

## Mobile Phones

You may have seen the announcement from the Secretary of State for Education last week around mobile phones and their use in schools. I am considering what this means for our school. In the short term I am considering further restricting their use in College. Currently, whilst in the House Hub we allow students to use their phone to contact home if needed. However, we are exploring not allowing this and if a student needs to call home they can use our landline to contact parents. If you, as parents, need to contact your child whilst in college we ask that you do not call or text their mobiles, but contact the school via the house emails or phone the main switchboard. Thank you for your understanding.

## Principal's Breakfast:

Congratulations to the students listed below who have been nominated to have breakfast with the Principal next Friday.

**Ash:** Raffle Hutchinson for continually exceeding expectations and for being really engaged in his learning.

**Beech:** Elena Battershall-Reid for her enthusiasm and participation in the rocket project.

**Oak:** Juno Grabham for consistently demonstrating exemplary behaviour, showing a real engagement in her learning and being pro-active in her role as an anti-bullying ambassador

**Elm:** Freya Sanders who volunteers as an anti-bullying ambassador and is also the tutor group rep. Freya is helpful and wishes to make the college a more inclusive setting.

The Following students are also invited to a big Principal's Breakfast on 13<sup>th</sup> February for their fantastic work at a recent SEND conference : Barnaby Willis, Lola Adwick, Eben Battershall- Reid, Corin Walker, Kara Rowland, Willow Blackwell, Lucas Bales, Ezekiel Evans.

## Honouring Holocaust Memorial Day at Our College

This week, students across the college have engaged in a series of activities marking Holocaust Memorial Day - a national moment dedicated to remembering the millions of people who were murdered during the Holocaust and in the genocides that have taken place since.

Our Beliefs and Values Ambassadors have led this important week of reflection. They delivered thoughtful speeches in assemblies, created a whole school Tannoy announcement, and supported their peers in understanding the significance of remembrance and the lessons it teaches us about tolerance, humanity, and responsibility.

As part of the commemorations, students explored the powerful words of Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel. One of his poems - reflecting on his first night in a concentration camp, the loss of innocence, and the deep trauma of witnessing unimaginable cruelty - was read aloud over the Tannoy on Tuesday to all students at Okehampton. Wiesel's writing, though painful, continues to serve as a profound reminder of the human cost of hatred and prejudice, and of why remembrance remains essential.

At 8pm on Tuesday, students across the college lit candles and placed them on their windowsills, creating a shared moment of quiet reflection to honour those who were murdered - not only during the Second World War, but in genocides that have occurred since.

By taking part in these acts of remembrance, our students have demonstrated empathy, respect, and a growing awareness of the importance of standing up against intolerance. This commitment reflects the values at the heart of our community: we care, we challenge, we thrive.



The Creative Arts Faculty want to wish our young musicians Ebba, Livvy, Max, Jago and Ted the very best of luck in their Battle of The Bands regional heat next week in Crediton.



SEND SOMEONE A MESSAGE AND A FLOWER - £1.50

# FLOWERS FOR FRIENDSHIP

Let's spread kindness, because the world always needs it

BREAK 1 - OCTAGON FOYER. MON - THURS

Please zoom in to  
view images in full

Next week, we are excited to take part in National Apprenticeship Week, a national event celebrating the impact of apprenticeships and helping students explore the wide range of pathways available to them after school. Throughout the week, using Unifrog- students will have opportunities to:

- Unifrog Apprenticeship Fair – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February  
(Online, 4pm–6pm):**

Students are invited to attend the Unifrog Apprenticeship Fair, taking place online on Wednesday 11th February from 4pm to 6pm. This event features a range of employers and training providers offering insight into available apprenticeship opportunities and entry requirements.

To support students who wish to take part, our Sixth Form students will be available in the cold canteen on Wednesday lunchtime. They will be on hand to:

- Explain what apprenticeships are
- Share their own knowledge and experiences
- Help any student register for the online event

We encourage all students, especially those beginning to think about their next steps, to take advantage of this opportunity.

Further information and links will be shared with students during tutor time.

# APPRENTICESHIP

exeter college

## NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2026

# EXPO 2026

### WHO IS THE EXPO FOR?

- Students wanting to explore apprenticeships.
- Individuals looking for a career change.
- Adults looking for a career with training.
- Parents/NOK wanting to learn more.

### MEET EMPLOYERS

OFFERING 100+ VACANCIES

CONSTRUCTION HEALTH & CARE EDUCATION SPORT HOSPITALITY BUSINESS HAIRDRESSING ENGINEERING DIGITAL & DATA

### DISCOVER CAREER OPPORTUNITIES WITH BUSINESSES AROUND THE SOUTH WEST!

EXETER COLLEGE SPORTS HALL  
THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY  
Victoria Yard, Off Queen Street,  
Exeter, Devon, EX4 3SR  
1 PM - 5 PM

FREE ENTRY  
FREE ENTRY

For more information, contact us:  
01392 400800  
apprentices@exe-coll.ac.uk

Exeter College

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# Friday Focus

## APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR JUNIOR BAKE OFF

Aged between 9-15 and love to bake?  
We'd love to hear from you!

[WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK](http://WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK)



APPLICATIONS CLOSE 15TH MARCH 2026

## KEY DATES

- 16th February - 20th February 2026 - Half Term Holiday
- 23rd February 2026 - Year 11 Mock Exams start
- 25th February 2026 - Macbeth Performance Year 10 & 11
- 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](mailto:ash@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk)

[beech@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto:beech@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk)

[elm@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto:elm@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk)

[oak@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto: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/>



Powered by Whisper



## #THRIVEhive

Visit our THRIVEhive  
A signposting hub  
for advice  
& support



[www.okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk/Thrivehive/](http://www.okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk/Thrivehive/)



Please zoom in to  
view images in full

## USEFUL LINKS

Term Dates



Letters Home



Enrichment Programme



Okehampton College

CLICK HERE