

Friday Focus

Friday 7th November 2025



Dartmoor
Multi Academy
Trust

...everyone in our Trust.



I hope everyone had a good half term break. Thank you to the teachers who came in to school and put on revision sessions for the Year 11 students. They were well attended and I know students worked hard revising over half term. They have had a good week sitting their mock examinations and they have taken to the routine well.

Anti-Bullying Week:

Next week is Anti-Bullying Week. There will be special assemblies led by Mr Corkell who will be talking through the importance of treating everyone with care and respect. The words we say matter and students must be kind to one another. As a result of recent student feedback Mr Corkell will also talk through how to report any concerns students may have. We ask that they speak immediately to their teacher or staff in their house hubs during break times. Concerns can also be reported anonymously online via [Whisper](#). I look forward to all students standing with us on Monday and to seeing a everyone's odd socks!

Remembrance Month:

Thank you to all the artists who have made our poppy display by the pond. It looks sensational and it represents such an important cause. Mr Rodgers will be representing the school at Okehampton's commemorations on Sunday. In school, we will be remembering our veterans on Tuesday 11th November with a two minute silence. Any students who are cadets are invited to wear their uniforms to school for this day should they wish.



Policy Consultation:

We are consulting on our admissions policy between November 2025 and 16 January 2026. If you have any comments regarding the policy we propose, you can contact us at the school or email schoolsadmissionpolicy-mailbox@devon.gov.uk.

After the consultation, we will determine the policy at a meeting of the admissions authority held before the end of February 2026. Once determined, the policy will be updated online by 15 March 2026.

Objections can be made up to 15 May 2026 to the Office of the Schools' Adjudicator. You can view our admissions policies on our [website](#).

Free School Meals in the canteen:

As part of our commitment to supporting families in receipt of Pupil Premium funding, we want to ensure your child is making the most of their Free School Meal (FSM) entitlement.

Students entitled to Free School Meals receive a daily allowance of £2.61, which covers one of our value meal deals available in the canteen. These include:

- A main meal plus fruit or traybake
- A pasta pot plus fruit or traybake
- A sandwich plus fruit or traybake

These options are carefully priced to ensure students get the best value for their allowance.

Please note:

- If a student chooses to spend part of their allowance at first break (e.g., on crisps or other items), they may not have enough left to purchase a full meal deal at second break.
- Any overspend beyond the daily allowance will be covered by a voucher and charged to the student's Gateway account.
- Unspent allowance does not roll over to the next day.
- We encourage students to make the most of the meal deals to ensure they receive a nutritious and filling lunch.

Brass Band Success:

Huge congratulations to Rosa! Rosa was awarded 'best instrumentalist' at last weekend's SWW Brass Band Championship Contest in Torquay. Rosa was up against some of the best players in the region at this very prestigious and highly competitive competition where brass bands, and their players from across the SW hope to bring home prizes. Well done Rosa, we are all very proud of you.



Principal's Breakfast:

Today I had the pleasure of hosting breakfast for this week's students of the week:

Ash: Otilie Bauer for being helpful, kind, encouraging of others both in school and with her volunteering outside of school also.

Beech: Charlie Bedford for raising lots of money for a charity by walking over 50 miles during the summer holidays. Well done Charlie.

Oak: Yasmin Leach for working hard and being amazing despite some challenges.

Elm: Finley Chapman for having a fantastic start to Year 9.



Cyber Security Advice

Having received reports recently of students' social media accounts being cloned, a cyber security consultant shared the following useful information with us.

Protecting Accounts

- Keep profiles private and only allow people you personally know to follow or connect. Check when posting locations and photos to ensure they are posted privately.
- Check profiles carefully before accepting requests — look at how long the account has existed, how many followers or friends it has, and whether it shows genuine activity or photos.
- Use strong, unique passwords for each account and turn on Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) wherever possible.
- Log out of accounts on shared devices and never share passwords with friends.

Think Before You Click or Share

- Be cautious of links or messages, even from people you know, cloned or hacked accounts often share malicious links.
- Avoid sharing personal information such as addresses, locations, phone numbers, or details about daily routines.
- Consider what you post, once something is online, it can easily be copied or shared beyond your control.

Spotting Fake or Cloned Accounts

- Duplicate accounts can look convincing; if you spot one, confirm with the person offline and report it to the platform immediately.
- Don't engage with suspicious messages or requests for personal details.

If Something Feels Wrong

- Encourage students to speak up early, whether to a parent, teacher, or safeguarding lead.
- Take screenshots of anything concerning and don't reply to unusual or threatening messages.

Creative Arts Students Shine in New York City!

We are thrilled to share highlights from our recent Creative Arts trip to New York City, a journey filled with inspiration, creativity, and unforgettable experiences!

Over the course of five days, our talented students immersed themselves in the vibrant world of art, theatre, and culture. From exploring iconic museums like The Guggenheim and MoMA to attending Broadway performances that left us speechless, every moment was a masterclass in artistic expression. Students also had the unique opportunity to participate in workshops led by industry professionals, gaining insights that will fuel their creative journeys for years to come.

Huge congratulations to our students for representing our school with such enthusiasm, curiosity, and professionalism. Your passion and creativity were truly inspiring.

We also extend heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff, whose tireless planning and support made this trip possible, and to our wonderful families for their encouragement and trust.

This adventure was more than a trip, it was a celebration of the arts and a testament to the power of creative education. Here's to many more inspiring journeys ahead!



A Day With Adventure Okehampton

As a thank you for contributing to the Send Conference run by Devon County Council, The Neurodiverse Focus group was gifted £400.00 by Devon County Council.

The students chose to spend the money on a day out to Okehampton Adventure, where they took part in archery, axe throwing, team building activities and the climbing wall. All the students had a great time and some took the opportunity to really push their own boundaries. They showed great resilience by choosing to try new things even when it may have been a bit scary.

It was a lovely day albeit a little wet and cold, but the students had a wonderful time. A big thank you to Adventure Okehampton for having us and Devon County Council for the generous contribution.



SEND Clinics

If you would like a conversation with a member of the 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.



A Friendly Reminder:

Medical and Dental Appointments

We know medical and dental appointments can't always be avoided - but where possible please try and book them outside school hours.

If your child does need to leave during the school day, no problem - just let the school know in advance, and please send them back as soon as the appointment's over so they don't miss too much learning.

Don't forget to send them in with an appointment card or letter so we can update our records properly.

Thanks so much for your support - it really helps us keep things running smoothly!

Anti-Bullying Week Awareness 10-14th November

Next week marks Anti-Bullying Week, and we're kicking things off with Odd Socks Day! On Monday 10th November, students and staff are encouraged to wear odd socks as a fun way to celebrate individuality and promote kindness.

Throughout the week, House assemblies will focus on the theme of anti-bullying, reinforcing our commitment to creating a safe and respectful environment for everyone. We're excited to also announce that our college is joining the Anti-Bullying Ambassador Scheme—more details coming soon!

Plus, keep an eye out for the launch in tutor time on Monday of our Anti-Bullying Poetry Competition. Students will have the chance to submit original poems on the theme of anti-bullying, with prizes awarded for the most creative entries.

Let's stand together against bullying and celebrate what makes each of us unique!



Accessing Foodbanks:

information provided by our local
Citizens Advice Bureau

Heating or eating; it is a stark choice faced by increasing numbers of people as the costs of both continue to rise. Citizens Advice Torridge, North, Mid & West Devon (CA TNMWD) is working with Trussell in North Devon and we have an adviser available at Foodbanks in Bideford, Ilfracombe, South Molton, Braunton and Holsworthy. We also have a presence in the Tavistock food bank on Friday mornings.

Foodbanks are community organisations that can help if you can't afford food or if you need emergency food, but a referral is usually needed before you can use one. You can get a referral for yourself and any family members you live with including your partner.

You can be referred to a food bank by CA TNMWD or from your GP, local council, housing association or social worker. Whichever organisation refers you will give you a voucher – but be careful to check if it is only valid on a particular day. CA TNMWD has advisers in attendance at food banks to make people aware of any benefit that they are eligible to claim, advise on other help that is available such as referring to our Energy Team for advice on energy savings or getting fuel vouchers if you qualify. Very often people have no idea what help is available to them and that is where we come in; if we cannot help you directly, we can usually signpost you to other organisations that can. The aim is to give people alternative solutions to relying on a food bank.

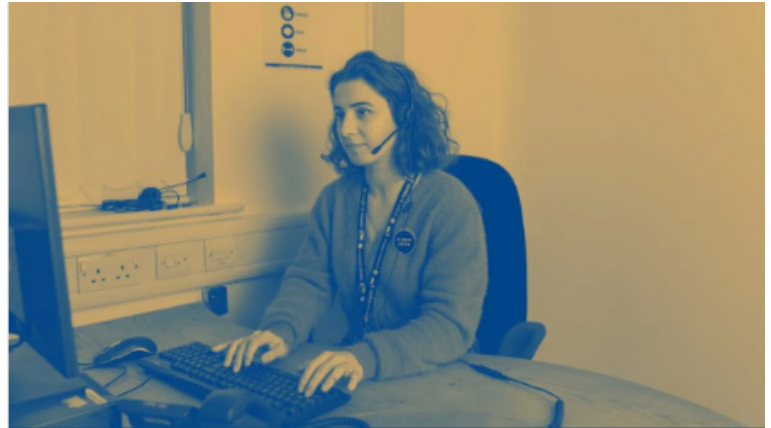
When you visit a food bank you will need to let them know about any allergies or dietary requirements. A food parcel usually contains enough food for three days and you may also be able to get essential toiletries like toothpaste or deodorant.

Some food banks have a limit on the number of times you can visit but a chat with our Adviser will hopefully have opened up other avenues to help.

People are coming to CA TNMWD in greater numbers with problems that are increasingly complex. As ever, our plea is that if you could volunteer for maybe one day a week to please get in touch. There is information on our website www.citizensadvicetnmwd.org.uk or you can contact recruitment@citizensadvicetnmwd.org.uk Volunteers get full training and ongoing support, they make new friends and know that they are making a valuable contribution to their local community. Why not join the team?

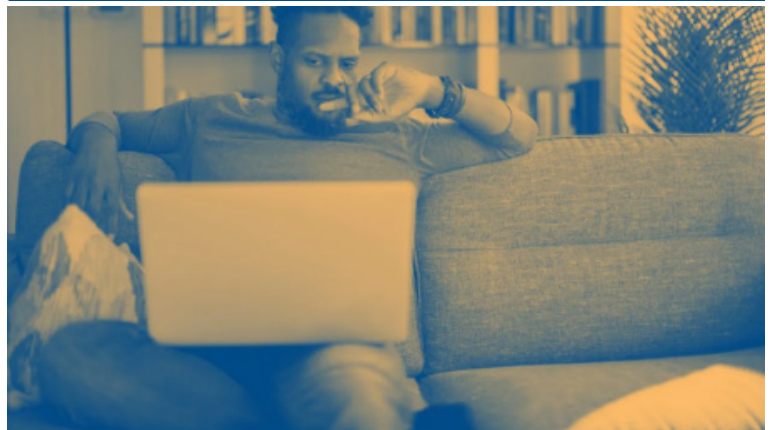
**citizens
advice**

**Citizens Advice Torridge, North,
Mid & West Devon**



Ring Our Free Adviceline

Call 08082 787999



Email Advice

Get Advice By Email



Our office opening times are changing

Barnstaple - Wednesdays and Fridays
10am-12.30pm, 1.30pm-3.30pm

Bideford - Tuesdays and Wednesdays
10am-1pm, 2pm-3pm

Okehampton - Tuesdays, Wednesdays
and Thursdays
10am-12pm, 1pm-3pm

Tavistock - Mondays and Fridays
10am-1pm, 2pm-3pm

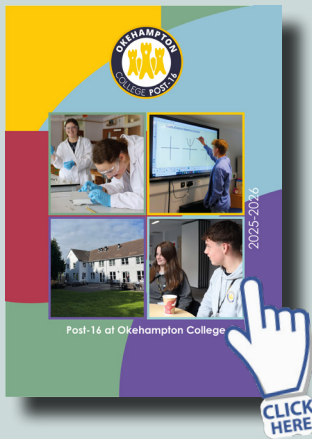
Tiverton - Wednesdays and Thursdays
10am-1pm, 2pm-3pm



**citizens
advice**

**Torridge, North,
Mid & West Devon**

Post-16 Focus



Click on the image to the left to view the new Post-16 prospectus and course guide.

Each week we will be showcasing some of our amazing Post-16 Alumni and what they have achieved since their time with us.

Mollie Rickwood (2015 – 2017)

Subjects studied: Maths, Chemistry and Biology

After sixth form: Studied Biochemistry at the University of Bath and then a Masters at the University of Exeter at their Falmouth campus.

What I'm doing now: A PhD in Marine Biology/Biochemistry at Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of New Zealand where I am now currently living.

How sixth form helped me: We received a fantastic educational experience at Okehampton College 6th form that I am confident opened up many opportunities for students. There was a real sense of community fostered within the 6th form owing to its small size and the wonderful staff. This created an atmosphere in which every student felt supported to achieve their best, including me.

Favourite Memory: The 6th form encouraged students to participate in extra - curricular activities and a favourite memory of mine was taking part in the colleges musical production of West Side Story which brought together students from across the school.



1

Amelia Townsend (2018 – 2020)

Subjects studied: Maths, Further Maths, Biology and Chemistry

After sixth form: I went to medical school (Uni)

What I'm doing now: Foundation Year 1 Doctor

How sixth form helped me: The support I received at Oke Sixth Form shaped both my studies and, more importantly, my personal development. The pastoral care from Mrs Little in particular but all the staff was genuinely life-changing, and I wouldn't be where I am without it. The freedom to explore my interests, combined with close guidance of staff who genuinely cared, gave me lessons that proved more valuable than those I later found at University. Those foundations still underpin my career today.



2

Friday Focus



CALLING YEARS 7, 8 & 9

We're supporting **Children in Need**

SILENT DISCO

IN THE OCTAGON

Year 7...3.15-4pm
Year 8...4.15-5pm
Year 9...5.00-6pm

FRIDAY 14TH NOV

£2 ENTRY



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



Donations needed for our Christmas Hamper Raffle

Please pass to College reception or Mrs Teixeira in her music room.

Takes place at The Edwardian Evening on Thurs Dec 4th

okehamptoncollegeptfa@yahoo.com



KEY DATES

- Tuesday 25th November 2025** - DMAT Careers Fair at Exeter University - Year 10 and Year 12
- Thursday 27th November 2025** - Year 9 Parents' Evening
- Thursday 11th December 2025** - Year 11 Parents' Evening
- 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

Please do get in touch if you have any questions.
Telephone: (01837) 650910

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

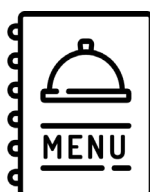


USEFUL LINKS

Term Dates



Letters Home



Enrichment Programme



Okehampton College