

Friday Focus

Friday 9th January 2026



Happy new year! I hope you all had a wonderful break and enjoyed spending time with family and friends. I would like to start by thanking you for your understanding about our delayed opening on Tuesday. We live in an amazing area, but we do have a particular micro-climate and with some staff and students living in remote areas the health and safety of all parties comes first. For those students who were not able to make it in, we have recorded Tuesday's assembly and extended tutor time content and uploaded them to the website. Even if your child was in school on Tuesday you may wish to watch them and you can do so by [clicking here](#).

Mobile Phones:

Since their return on Tuesday we have noticed more students than before using their mobile phones whilst in College. Mobile phones are a big distraction and they should be switched off and away in bags during the school day. I would ask therefore that you remind your child that if a phone or smartwatch is seen, or heard, in school then it will be confiscated until the end of the school day. Students who refuse to hand over their phones, smartwatch or headphones will receive an R3 sanction which is an internal exclusion. Please be assured we do not want R3s to happen, because it is important that all students are in as many lessons as possible, however, it shows the level of importance we put on students being free of distractions during the school day.

Year 9 Curriculum Choices:

Thank you to the Year 9 parents who attended our Key Stage 4 Curriculum Choices Evening last night. It was wonderful to speak to so many of you. Please remember that option choices need to be in by Friday 23rd January 2026. Our Curriculum Choices booklet can be viewed [by clicking here](#)

Principal's Breakfast:

Congratulations to the students listed below who have been nominated as students of the week by their house leaders. To celebrate they are invited to have breakfast with the Principal next Friday.

Ash: Payton Hooper for adapting well to change and showing resilience.

Beech: Tilly Saunders For always demonstrating outstanding learning behaviours

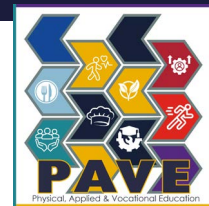
Oak: Edith Wilson for working incredibly hard in all lessons at the moment and making the best use of learning opportunities

Elm: Ian Kennedy for always meeting college expectations and settling into school really well.



Dartmoor
Multi Academy
Trust

...everyone in our Trust.



Year 9 Careers Assembly Inspiring Futures in Technology & Engineering:

On Wednesday our Year 9 students had the fantastic opportunity to attend a Technology and Engineering careers assembly featuring three guest speakers from leading local businesses. The session aimed to broaden students' understanding of career pathways in these dynamic fields and inspire them to think about their future options.

Angela Gordon Lennox, Head of Technology at the Met Office, shared insights into how cutting-edge technology supports weather forecasting and climate research. She highlighted the importance of innovation and problem-solving skills in tackling global challenges.

Next, Martin Hutton, Head of Engineering at Seiche Group, spoke about the exciting world of marine engineering and acoustic technology. Students learned how engineering plays a vital role in environmental monitoring and ocean conservation.

Finally, Graham Hole, Head of HR at Sibelco, discussed the diverse career opportunities within the minerals industry and emphasized the value of transferable skills, teamwork, and lifelong learning.

Thank you to our visitors for giving up their time to inspire our students.



From left to right:
Martin Hutton, Graham Hole
and Angela Gordon Lennox.

Activities for Young People with SEND

The Outdoor Learning Team are running a variety of activities for young people with special educational needs. Please see below for details and the links to book places.

SEND Basecamp Days at pixies holt.

Drop your children to the centre for a Fun, active, supportive days around Pixie Holt Outdoor Learning Centre

February Half Term:

- [SEND Basecamp Taster Day with Dartmoor Outdoor learning team - Age 8 -13 Tickets, Mon, Feb 16, 2026 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)
- [SEND Basecamp Taster Day with Dartmoor Outdoor learning team - Age 11 -17 Tickets, Tue, Feb 17, 2026 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)
- [SEND Basecamp Taster Day with Dartmoor Outdoor learning team - Age 8 -13 Tickets, Wed, Feb 18, 2026 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)
- [SEND Basecamp Taster Day with Dartmoor Outdoor learning team - Age 11 -17 Tickets, Thu, Feb 19, 2026 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Japanese SEND Family Day - Exeter:

[Japanese SEND Family Culture Day click here](#) - Some spaces still remain

Date & Time: Saturday, January 24, 2026, from 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Location: Newcourt Community Centre, Exeter (with lift access and 3 disabled parking spaces)

Activities:

- Japanese crafting stations
- Taiko drumming
- Create your own family marimo moss ball pet
- Taste Japanese sweet treats
- Japanese sports day activities
- And even more

Families can drop in anytime during the event window as long as you have reserved your space.

John Fowler SEND Family day Croyde:

[John Fowler Holiday Park - Croyde - SEND Family Day](#)

Date & Time: Saturday, March 14, 2026, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM GMT

Location: Ruda Holiday Park (Craft Hub, Cascades outdoor area, Showbar) and the beach

Free parking in the main car park and reception car park
This day will have two sets of activities on going throughout the time – And you can arrive any time that works for you and join which ever activities you would like.

John Fowlers entertainment, sports and leisure team will have a range of activities and crafting rolling throughout, this will be confirmed in the coming weeks

Beach Rangers Sessions:

- Beach Clean Hero: 11:15 AM – 12:25 PM
- Beach Creative Explorer: 12:30 PM – 1:15 PM
- Bug Hunt Bingo: 2:00 PM – 2:45 PM

There will be beach all terrain wheelchairs available, please do let us know when booking if required, so we can confirm in advance availability, Also on site is a changing places.

SEND Clinics

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



Year 9 learn about the Holocaust

Today we had a speaker from the Holocaust Educational Trust who spoke to the whole of Year 9 what the Holocaust was and its impact.

The speaker was Kaitlyn Jacob an ex-student, who left in 2024, currently studying at Warwick University. Kate is also a regional ambassador for the Holocaust Educational Trust.



#THRIVEhive

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A signposting hub
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www.okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk/Thrivehive/



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KEY DATES

- 15th January 2026 - Key Stage 5 Parents' Evening
- 23rd January 2026 - Year 9 Curriculum Choices Deadline
- 5th February 2026 - Year 10 Parents' Evening
- 16th February - 20th February 2026 - Half Term Holiday

Please do get in touch if you have any questions.

Telephone: (01837) 650910

Email: ash@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk

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**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/>

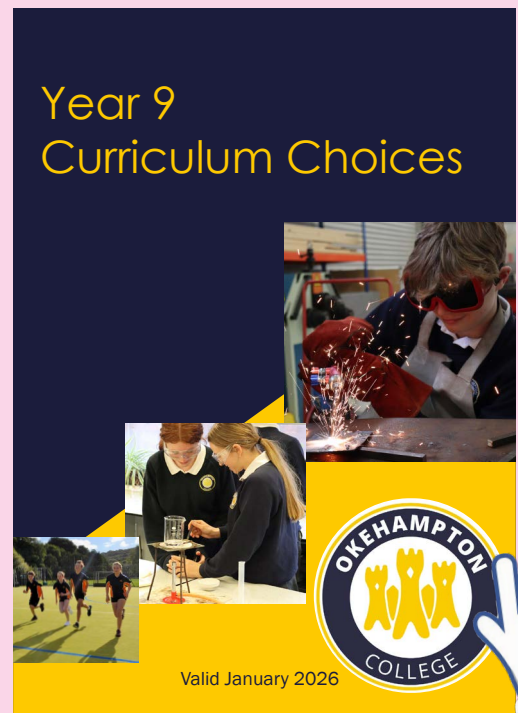
 Powered by Whisper



 SWGfL
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CLICK
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Click here to view our Year 9
Curriculum Choices booklet



Valid January 2026

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USEFUL LINKS

Term Dates



Letters Home



Enrichment Programme



Okehampton College