

OKEHAMPTON COLLEGE



Newsletter
Issue 2



Highlights

- SLT News
- Faculty updates
- Visiting Film Crew

Principal's Message; Andrew Sweeney

Welcome to this Half Term's newsletter. I would like to start by congratulating all students for navigating their way through what is always the most challenging term of the school year. It has been an extremely busy term but as we near the Christmas break, there is much to celebrate. This term has seen most students across every year group really step up to the challenges we have presented them with in the classroom. Secondary Education is meant to be challenging as this is when young people learn best on their life journey. We know that challenge needs to go hand in hand with support, to help guide all our students through their school journey, to build resilience and develop themselves as young adults. There is a very serious point here around social development of our young people. We have high expectations of our students for two reasons; one is to support them in making good choices which is a lifelong skill. The second is to ensure learning in classrooms is not disrupted by a small few. I hope everyone can take some time over the Christmas break to reflect on this term and celebrate the successes, whilst also thinking about what could be improved next term.

At the end of this week, we do say goodbye to Mr Cooper who is moving on to pastures new. Mr Cooper joined the college in February 2022 as our Vice Principal and has played a crucial role in our improvement work. We wish Mr Cooper well in his new role.

After a rigorous internal interview process last month, I am delighted to formally announce Mrs Skelton's appointment as our second Vice Principal at the college. As you will know, Mrs Skelton joined the college in September 2022 and has also played a key role in our improvement journey.

Thank you to all our families that have worked with us this term. We are absolutely driven to continue to improve the college and your support and feedback plays such a crucial part of this.

I wish you all a very peaceful Christmas period and a very Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming all students back into college on Wednesday 3rd January 2024.

At  We are

Kind

Tolerant

Respectful

Independent

Committed

Resilient

Hardworking

Responsible

Important Dates

- Tuesday 2nd January 2024 - Staff INSET Day
- Wednesday 3rd January 2024 - Students return to college
- Thursday 4th January 2024 - Year 11 Student and Family Revision Evening
- Thursday 4th-25th January 2024 Careers Appointments for all Year 11s

... News from our Senior Leadership Team ...

S. Banfield, Vice Principal



Parent and Family Information Evenings

Our first Information Evening was well attended and we hope that this first session proved supportive around the main areas we looked at.

The slide decks for all the sessions can be found on our website under the heading "Parent & Family Information Evenings" on our website. (okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk)

Our next two evenings are scheduled for the 8th February and the 16th May 2024. Following feedback from our families the time for the 8th February will be 6-7pm. Areas we will be looking at will be announced nearer the time.

Please [click here](#) to let us know you will be attending the evening on the 8th February. Or use the QR code here:



Year 11 Revision Support Evening

Our second Year 11 Revision Support Evening will take place on Thursday 4th January 2024 5:00pm - 6:30pm. The evening will come before the mock exams for our Year 11's at the end of January.

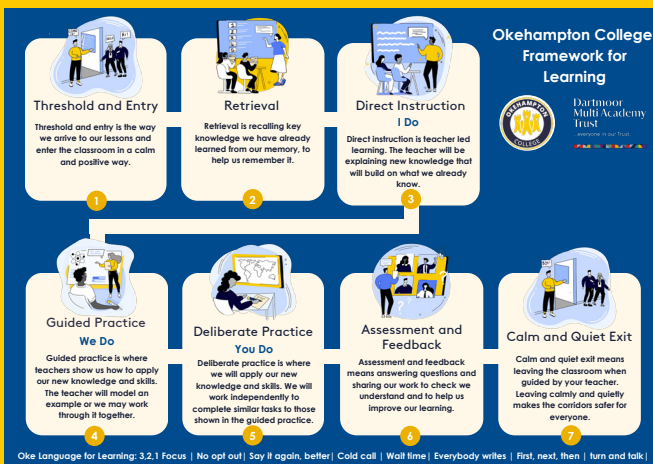
Students and families will be able to attend sessions focussing on:

- Sessions on key revision techniques.
- Specific Faculty Revision sessions.
- Advice on using our new Seneca support platform – this will provide specific help on longer exam questions that will feature immediate AI marking facility.
- Session on how to build a helpful revision timetable.
- Session on counselling support and strategies to help anxiety around exam time.
- [Click Here for more info](#)



Learning Framework

We continue to develop the use of our learning framework across all our faculties. The framework provides a clear structure for learning and uses specific language for learning that supports consistency for all our pupils.



Framework for Learning	What does this mean?	What will I do?	What language will my teacher use?
1 Threshold and Entry	Threshold and entry is the way we arrive to our lessons and enter the classroom in a calm and positive way.	I arrive on time, wearing the correct uniform. I line up outside the classroom, my teacher greets me, and I greet them. I enter the lesson in a positive way, ready to learn.	• Threshold and Entry • 3.2.1 focus
2 Retrieval	Retrieval is recalling key knowledge we have already learned from our memory to help us remember it.	I come silently into the classroom and complete the retrieval task that will be ready for me.	• Retrieval • 3.2.1 focus • No opt out • Say it again, better
3 Direct Instruction	Direct instruction is teacher led learning. The teacher will be explaining new knowledge that will build on what we already know.	I am listening and may be taking notes. I do what I am asked to do. I am ready for any questions.	• I do • 3.2.1 focus • Cold Calling • Wait time
4 Guided Practice	Guided practice is where teachers show us how to apply our new knowledge and skills. The teacher will model how to do something or we may work through an example together.	I am following and watching the teacher show me how to apply my new knowledge and skills. I am ready for any questions. I am now working on the new information.	• We do • 3.2.1 focus • No opt out • Turn and talk • Cold Calling • Wait time
5 Deliberate Practice	Deliberate practice is where we will apply our new knowledge and skills. We will work independently to complete similar tasks to those shown in the guided practice.	I am working on my own to apply what I have learned. I will do this without talking. My teacher will still be able to support me if I need help.	• You do • 3.2.1 focus • Cold Calling • Everybody writes • First, next, then
6 Assessment and Feedback	Assessment and feedback means answering questions and sharing our work to check we understand and to help us improve our learning.	I will be asked questions to check my understanding. I may be asked to share my work to check my learning.	• 3.2.1 focus • No opt out • Say it again, better • Wait time • Turn and talk • First, next, then • Everybody writes
7 Calm and Quiet Exit	Calm and quiet exit means leaving the classroom when guided by your teacher. Leaving calmly and quietly makes the corridors safer for everyone.	I leave the classroom in a calm and quiet way, when directed.	• 3.2.1 focus



... News from our Senior Leadership Team ...

B. Hachipuka, Assistant Principal

Eco Warriors and WOW Project

Eco Warriors are working hard to improve the waste production at school after seeing results produced by the waste audit. Students have been creating bin maps and ensuring bins are in the best place possible to avoid recyclable waste being put into general waste. They are also producing an assembly that will be given to the whole school after the Christmas break to inform them of how and what to recycle at the college. They are really looking forward to seeing if this impacts the college waste production at the end of the year when they carry out another waste audit.



Humanutopia

We had 15 Year 9's training to be our Year 9 Heroes in November and they delivered their first workshop to Year 7 students. This year will see them attend further training to develop their leadership skills, deliver further workshops and develop projects. Our Year 10 Heroes worked with them to share their experiences and expertise.

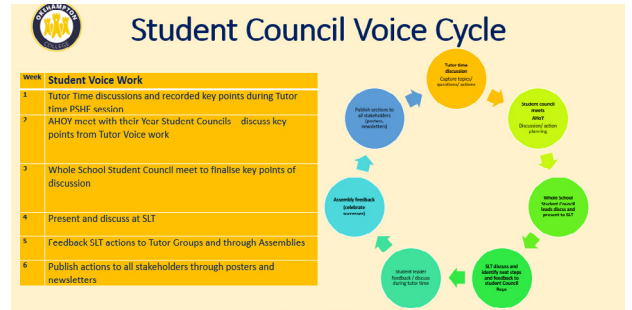
Careers

On the 6th and 7th December our Year 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 students attended the DMAT Career Fair at Ashbury Manor. This was a great opportunity for students to speak to Further Education Colleges, Universities, Private and Public sector employers and independent training providers, in order to make steps towards planning their future. This is an important part of our Careers programme in ensuring that students have access to such information at each step of their career journey, whether it is providing them information on which GCSE options to choose which University or apprenticeship to choose.

In Personal Development lessons, we are introducing students to the free online career resource, Career Pilot. By the end of the year all students will have registered and started to map their career journey. As parents/carers please have a look at the site through the parent zone, so you can support your child in their future career choices: [Careerpilot : Plan your future work & study](#) Please also use this Future smart website for further information : [FutureSmart Careers](#) and our website for up to date information on our careers programme: [Careers and Higher Education](#)

Student Voice

We have completed our second cycle of Student Voice through our Tutor Times and Student Councils. This cycle has focused on:



Why Student Voice is important?

You explained that:

- You want us to listen to and understand your unique perspectives on what it is like to be a student in our College.
- You want to feel your views are heard and that they matter.
- You want to share your experiences, views, ideas and hopes about our College.
- You want your views to be part of decision making in our College.
- You want to feel involved in making our College a great place to be.
- You want your Student Councils to be given time to gather your views.
- You want your views to be discussed at SLT level
- You want feedback about what has happened after giving your views.

Why is your voice important?

- We want to capture the unique perspectives on what it is like to be a student in our school.
- Student voice helps our young people to feel they belong and are included.
- Student voice helps us all to feel involved in decision-making and making our College a great place to be.
- Student voice is our commitment to listening to the views, wishes and experiences of all of our young people.
- Voice work helps our community to check that we are strengthening diversity and inclusion at the College.
- Voice work is part of our democratic responsibility and identity.
- Voice work helps us to monitor the impact of what we say we will do.

Transition

Our Senior Leadership Team have been visiting our feeder Primary Schools to talk to the Year 4, 5 and 6 students about the college and to meet parents and families on the school gates as they arrive or leave from school. This is a great opportunity for us to meet our future students, to introduce ourselves and to answer any questions the students may have about us as a school. It is important for us to build relationships with everyone in our community and for us to make transition as successful as possible for the Year 6 students.

Enrichment

Our Enrichment Week is underway and we are all very excited about our July Key Stage 3 school activities week. All trips are all booked, students allocated, and Trip Leaders are busy organising their week so that everyone has an amazing experience. This is such an important week for us and one where staff and students can build relationships, experience new things and make many friends. It is a fantastic way to end our academic year as a community.

We continue with our extensive extra curricular programme where students can attend clubs at lunch time or after school in the department that they love and have a passion for.



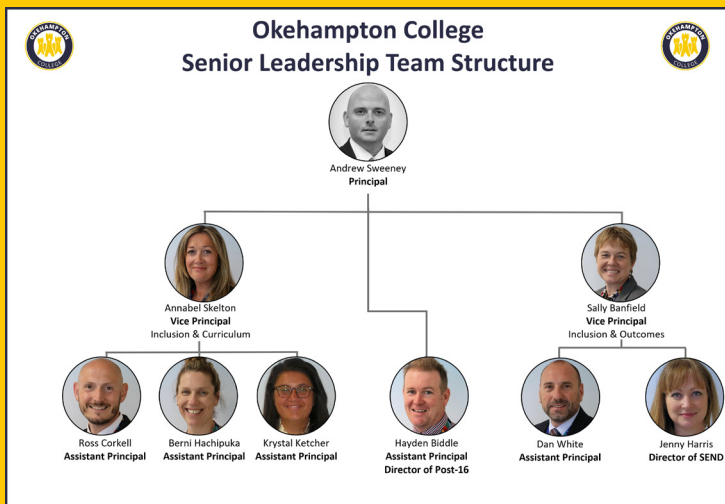
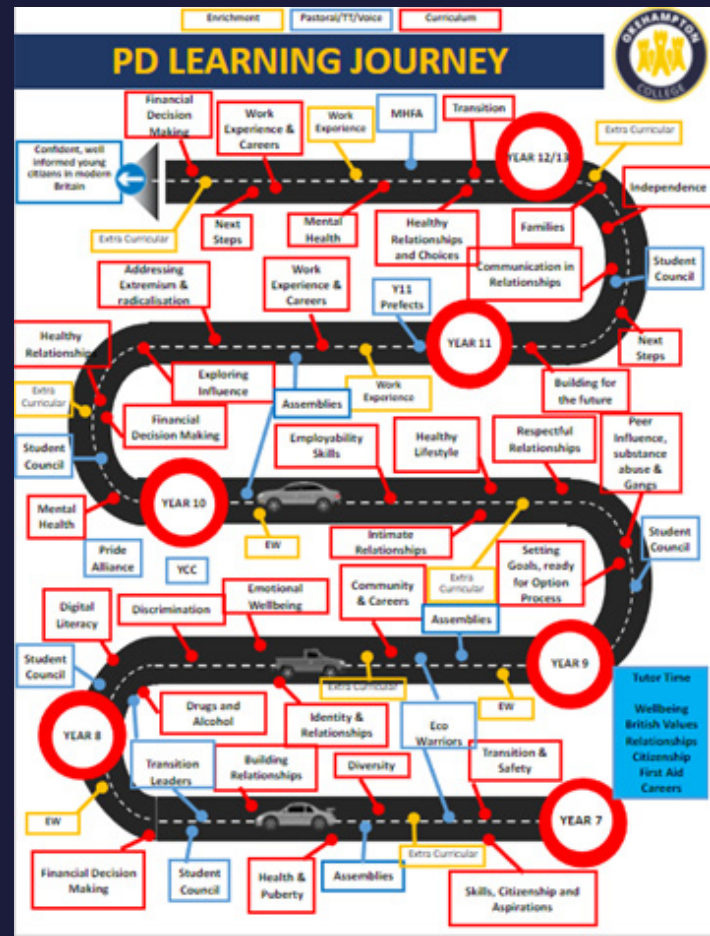
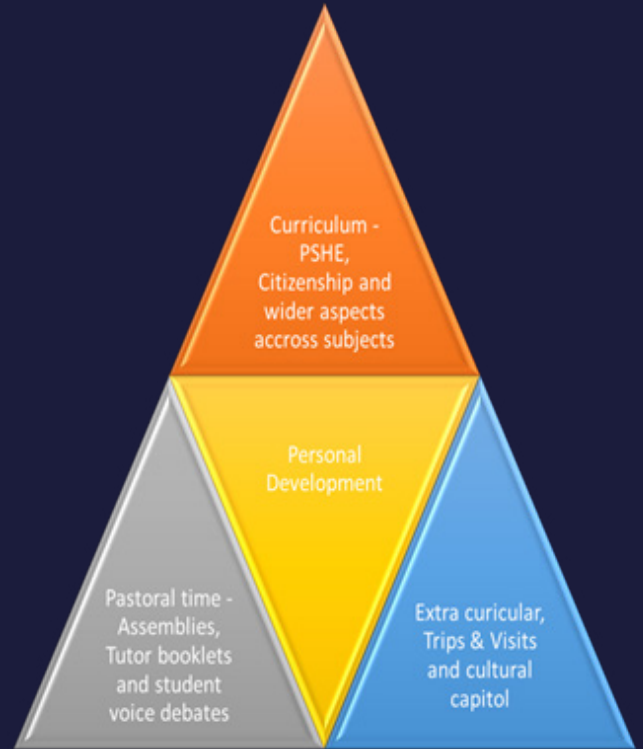
... News from our Senior Leadership Team ...



A. Skelton - Assistant Principal

The personal development of students is at the heart of our curriculum at Okehampton College. We recognise the vital importance of students learning essential life knowledge and skills, while developing a sense of who they are as a unique individual, and fostering a sense of belonging in the community that they live and learn in.

Our Personal Development curriculum is delivered through three strands: in weekly Personal Development lessons, through tutor time and through our enrichment programme. The learning journey here shows the route that students take from Years 7 to 13 as they learn about a wide range of topics such as financial decision making, living a healthy lifestyle and the importance of respectful and healthy relationships. In our recent student voice into this curriculum area, students told us that the Personal Development curriculum helps them 'prepare for the future so you know what to do when you're older'. Students also talked about the ground rules in personal development lessons that ensure they feel safe to talk about personal topics.





... News from our Senior Leadership Team ...

D. White - Assistant Principal

Attendance and Punctuality

Okehampton College is continuing to focus on attendance and punctuality. We will always encourage pupils to strive for 100% attendance; however, we do understand that this is not always possible and therefore we encourage our pupils to maintain their attendance above 96% for the academic year 2023/24. There is a link between attendance and achievement and therefore it is very important that your child attends school every day unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Okehampton College Overall Attendance

Regular attendance to school remains both a regional and national challenge for pupils and their families. Our overall pupil attendance at Okehampton College school is currently 90.35%, this is in comparison to 91.0% average for secondary schools in the South West.

Our College statistics, year to date for Years 7 to 11 are (1155 total pupils):

Pupils with 96%+ attendance

Year 7 – 136 pupils

Year 8 – 101 pupils

Year 9 – 105 pupils

Year 10 – 81 pupils

Year 11 – 108 pupils

Overall 531 pupils

Pupils with 100% attendance

Year 7 – 58 pupils

Year 8 – 36 pupils

Year 9 – 33 pupils

Year 10 – 26 pupils

Year 11 – 41 pupils

Overall, 194 pupils

Good punctuality to both lesson and to school leads to higher levels of achievement. When students arrive late at school, they miss out on essential messages and learning at the beginning of the school day. This can reduce achievement, regardless of a student's academic ability. Your child may also feel awkward arriving to the tutor room where everyone is settled and students arriving late can disrupt the entire class. Being 10 minutes late every day equates to over 30 hours, (approximately 6 days) of learning lost each

year. Registration starts at 8.40am and all students are expected to be in their form rooms at this time. Students arriving after this time will be marked as late with a L code. Students arriving after 9.10am will be recorded as a U, as registers have closed. If students are late, they need to enter the school through main reception to sign in.



...Faculty Updates...



A Sublime Time

Okehampton College was delighted to accommodate a visit from a film production company in November. Hopping Mad Media – its film crew and cast members - were in the area filming a new Science Fiction movie titled 'Sublime' and they needed a couple of school locations including a Science lab. This we happily provided and it gave some of our Year 12 students an opportunity to see professional film makers at work. Two of our students – Dan Tossell and Ruby Chandler even had the chance to appear in the scene as extras (lab scientists).

Furthermore, as a thank you, the camera operator and two of the actors stayed for a Q & A session in the Octagon Theatre with about 70 Media, Drama and Photography students. This was a wonderful session as it gave students an opportunity to ask about acting and film-making careers. One of the actors – Alfie Browne-Sykes – starred in 'Hollyoaks'. The other actor – Teon Kelly – had come from America to star in 'Sublime' and so he was able to offer an American perspective.

Student, Brendan O'Brien particularly enjoyed the chance to quiz the actors and camera operator: *'Studying Media Studies in Year 11 with a passion for how the behind-the-scenes of films and TV shows look has allowed me to enjoy the things I watch in a different light, and the recent visit from Hopping Mad Media helped me to visualise even further what a career in the industry could look like. Having the chance to listen to what they had to say about how they achieved the opportunity to work on their new film 'Sublime' was incredibly interesting, even if there wasn't much they could say about that project in particular (confidentiality clauses). Regardless of that, each of the three lovely actors had plenty of insight to give us on their individual pathways into the world of making movies and how their admiration of creativity blossomed into trying for auditions, securing their first roles and in some cases behind-the-camera jobs, which - after many rejection letters - eventually turned into the chance to be flown halfway across the world to act, direct or shoot a number of projects. It was inspirational to say the least of it, and the ability to ask them questions and receive informative, truthful responses was one of the highlights of my school year so far.'*



Year 12 Student Dan Tossell on location



Q&A session

Dogberry & Finch Books
presents

A Christmas Book Signing with Sir Michael Morpurgo

Saturday 16th December
3pm - 4pm

Fairplace United Church
3 Fairplace Terrace,
Okehampton EX20 1DT



More Info:
www.dogberryandfinch.co.uk



...Faculty Updates...

Key Stage 3 English

In Year 7, students have moved on to studying a play version of Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol', looking in particular at character analysis. In Year 8, students are studying Rhetoric which is the art of persuasion, using Aristotle's three principles of ethos, logos and pathos – you should see them becoming more persuasive at home as a result of their new knowledge! In Year 9, students are looking at how effective short stories are created, looking at a range of well-known authors including Roald Dahl and HG Wells.

In lessons in Years 7-10 we are continuing to build an impressive vocabulary and have had a weekly focus on key topic vocabulary to support the use of Core Knowledge Maps which students have in their exercise books and are encouraged to refer to so that they are really aware of what they are learning, why and how.

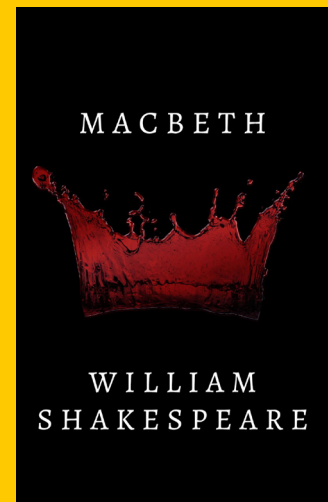
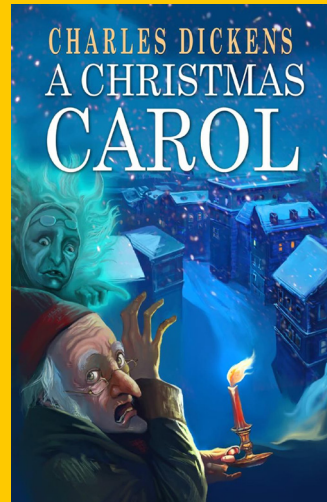
We have been trialling Sparx Reader with a few groups in Year 7 this half term, and after Christmas all students will get weekly reading homework set through this platform.

Key Stage 4

This half term, Year 10 have been working hard on English Language: Paper 2 in which they explore writers' viewpoints and have the opportunity to express their own. We have seen some very convincing pieces of rhetoric on: 'Are parents too overprotective?' and 'What makes a good education?'. We look forward to seeing these skills in use later in the year when they complete their Spoken Language presentations! Year 11 are well on their way to becoming experts in Macbeth following some truly spectacular dramatic performances in lessons - props and all. We have been very impressed with their effort and engagement with such complex text.

Arvon Creative Writing Trip

We were lucky enough to be hosted by Arvon in Tottleigh Barton earlier this half term for a full day of creative writing. Thirty Year 10 students spent the day at a beautiful, remote farmhouse working with poet Laurie Bolger and author Tim Clare to create original poetry, descriptions and plotlines. A big thank you to Arvon for having us!



English Revision Sessions:

- Tuesdays 15.30-16.30 – English Language: Paper 1 – 613
- Tuesdays 15.30-16.30 – English Language: Paper 2 – TBC
- Thursdays 15.30-16.30 – English Literature 6+ – 615
- Thursdays 15.30-16.30 – English Literature 4+ – 611



...Faculty Updates...

On Wednesday 18th October, a theatre performance and workshop, run by the theatre company Splendid Productions was attended by Year 9, 10 and 11 Drama students. They performed the play 'The Government Inspector' in an interactive style. After the performance, students had a Q+A session with the actors and then worked alongside the talented theatre professionals to explore a physical storytelling workshop and techniques to explore characterisation and how these skills can be applied within a performance context.

Isabelle Shingleton: *"As a Year 11 student who took drama as a GCSE subject, having the theatre company 'Splendid Productions' come in and do a workshop with us was truly an amazing experience. I really enjoyed their unique way of performing as they had a small stage and only three actors. They made use of every part of the stage, when they didn't have props, they would mime it or draw it out for us, the audience, to know that it was there. I really appreciated them coming in and performing for us as it allowed us to experience different genres to acting and how to make use of your time on stage. They broke the 4th wall at the beginning of their performance and during the play by speaking out and asking questions to the audience members. I loved how they did that as it drew the audience in, and made us feel involved with the performance, as if we were onstage acting with them. After their performance they did a workshop with us and taught us some new personal ways of acting that can make the performance your own. They also taught us about staging and where we thought it would be most suitable to stand if we were playing a certain character. I enjoyed the workshop they provided us with, and I am using some of the skills they taught us. I would love for them to come in again and teach us more about their style in acting as I found it to be amazing and abstract. I really think that this will help me in my future as I am taking a drama course, and I will be sure to use some of their styles".*

Asta Boore Year 11: *"The performance of 'The Government Inspector' was surprisingly interactive with us, the audience. The actors would question individuals and prompt us to react to certain things by holding signs up to the audience telling us how to react to certain events. This gave the whole play a remarkably interesting and engaging atmosphere that you do not get with non-interactive plays and made for an interesting experience. There were only three actors on stage who were multi-rolling, it was interesting to see how they used different physical and vocal techniques to present themselves differently*

for each character. This is something that will really help me in future to ensure that my characterisation is clear and effective. For me, the most exciting part of the day was participating in a workshop with the actors afterwards, where we were able to personally speak to the actors about the techniques they used and how they found it being the main actors on stage. It was interesting to experience the techniques the actors used within our workshop, experimenting and developing short pieces of our own. It was impressive to see how versatile the actors could be".



Edwardian Evening

Well done to all those who performed at Edwardian Evening last week. The Big Band were amazing, Senior Choir had a run through of the songs they will be singing at the Christmas Concert and our Junior Choir had their first ever performance!



Winter Concert

Thursday 14th December 2023 saw the long-anticipated return of our Winter Concert. We were treated to a showcase of an impressive blend of musical talent, with students across all key stages delivering captivating performances across various genres. From sweet vocals to skillful instrumentals, the diverse range of acts demonstrated the depth of our students' musical prowess. The enthusiastic audience, comprised of proud parents and supportive peers, filled the venue with applause and cheers, creating a lively atmosphere that added to the overall enjoyment of the evening.

The concert not only highlighted the students' musical abilities but also fostered a sense of community through the shared appreciation of their talents. We look forward to hearing them all perform again in our Spring Term.

...Faculty Updates...

Language Leaders Progress

Language Leaders Club has been running again since the beginning of this academic year, offering Year 9 students the chance to develop leadership skills in a foreign language. The students so far have been debating the importance of rules and teamwork, amongst other topics. Most recently, they have put some of those newly acquired skills to good use by planning and delivering a short teaching session. The prospect of teaching in front of their peers was daunting at first but they rose to the challenge and delivered some very creative mini sessions.

Bringing The German Language Alive

We have recently established a new partnership with Oettingen Gymnasium school, to the east of Stuttgart, in Germany. We have many exciting plans to pursue with our new German peers! To begin, our Yr10 German students have started writing to a partner of the same age, which has really brought the language alive for them. Yr10 German student Conrad Stern commented: 'It will be nice to talk to an actual German person and learn more slang German'.

Sign Singing!

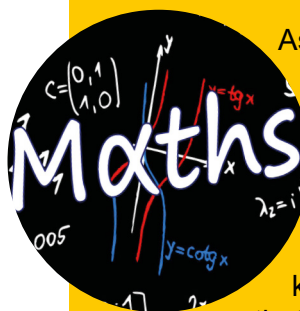
In the last newsletter, we told you about our new British Sign Language club, and what we had been learning. Since then, we have expanded our horizons to include 'sign singing!'. We first discovered, by chance, that we could perform the colours of the rainbow song. We then moved on to learn some Christmas songs such as 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer' and 'Merry Christmas Everyone'. Pictured here are Nephela Efstathiadi (Yr8) and Lacey Adams (Yr8) - can you guess what Christmas song they are signing? (Answer at the end of this article). Everyone in the BSL club has put in a lot of effort to learn the new signs, and this just goes to show what we can all do if we access the knowledge we have in any language, then use it in a different context, or to express ourselves differently. The song was: 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer'.



Ben Kemp with Ms Thomann



Nephela Efstathiadi, Lacey Adams



As we head into the Christmas break, Year 11 are well into their preparations for their second round of mock exams commencing towards the end of January. They are armed with past papers, revision strategies, and resources, all set to showcase their knowledge by tackling any questions that come their way. They are revisiting and reinforcing the knowledge they have learnt over their journey with us and applying this to start to bring everything together.

Students have taken the strategies from the countdown to GCSE evening earlier in the year, and wholeheartedly embraced these to support their revision efforts. Flashcards have proven particularly popular for some students, offering a handy tool to reinforce crucial concepts and swiftly recall facts. They hold bite-sized chunks of information that, when mastered, contribute to a solid foundation of knowledge that students are ready to apply. There are many different ways to use flashcards, try out some of the ideas using the link: <https://thinkstudent.co.uk/creative-ways-to-use-flashcards/>

Another powerful approach is completing past papers, with a number of students making regular appearances at the Past Paper Club every week to give even more papers for them to tackle in addition to the papers that they complete in lessons. It's already starting to pay off, with students increasing in confidence with every paper that they encounter. This approach sharpens their skills but also provides valuable additional practice, ensuring they're well-prepared for the challenges ahead as the best way to revise maths, is to do maths.

...Faculty Updates...



Community Links

We were pleased to donate several bird boxes, built by former VCERT Engineering students for their non-examination assessment, to Northlew Primary School. The primary students decorated the birdboxes and sold them at their Christmas Fayre. It was lovely to be able to help our wider DMAT community.



The Great Okehampton Bake-Off

This terms after school baking club has proved very popular with Year 7! The students have made a different bake each week, with a nominated star baker at the end of each club session. Unfortunately, we don't have Paul Hollywood for them to shake hands with though!



Continued Professional Development

Mrs Donnelly, one of our Food and Nutrition teachers, recently attended a training course with "Healthy Chinese Cuisine Ambassadors" where she learnt about the history of cuisine from different regions of China, five dishes were demonstrated and then she got to prepare and present two of the dishes. Mrs Donnelly commented, "It was an excellent, informative day. Look out for some Chinese recipes to be incorporated into the curriculum in the new year."



Science Club

Science Club this term have covered a range of practical skills and investigations each week. Starting off with some super sleuthing, learning the art of finger print analysis, we moved on to techniques in microscopy and uncovering the microscopic world of bacteria and viruses. Throughout November, taking inspiration from Guy-Fawkes celebrations we have created matchstick rockets, indoor sparklers and grown fire snakes from sugar! As we move into the Christmas season, we have been busy growing our own crystal tree decorations and built our very own Chemist-tree to brighten up the science club lab.

...Head of Year Updates...



A WORD
FROM:

Mr Parker

Head of
Year 7

I would firstly like to congratulate all of Year 7 for completing their first full term at Okehampton College. The transition to secondary school is never an easy one and all of Year 7 have demonstrated our Oke 8 habits during their transition into secondary school. This has been shown with the 159 students who have achieved their bronze achievement badge for over 250 achievement points and the 2 students who have achieved their silver achievement badges for over 500 achievement points. Year 7 as a cohort have achieved nearly seventy thousand points this term! Keep up the hard work everyone.

On the 15th of November we were lucky enough to welcome Humanutopia into college as part of Anti-Bullying Week. They ran a workshop with all of Year 7 along with our Year 9 Hero's looking at the effects that bullying has on young people from the perspective of both the bully and the victim. I would like to congratulate the students that were brave enough to speak about their own personal experiences with bullying.

I would like to wish you all a peaceful Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.



A WORD
FROM:

Mrs Ashelford

Head of
Year 8

As we come to the end of what is frankly the best term of the year, it has been an utter pleasure to be your Head of Year in the run up to the festivities. It has been brilliant to see how well you have adapted to your time as an older and more mature Year 8, and although the challenge has been big you have all stepped up. By far still the best year group in terms of uniform and I have seen some excellent demonstrations of the Oke 8 throughout the cohort.

Please enjoy your time away and spend some of it relaxing and recharging for the term ahead, I hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a sparkly New Year.



...Head of Year Updates...



A WORD
FROM:

Mrs Wheeler

Head of
Year 9

Year 9 have had a busy half term. Many of our young people have taken the opportunity to sign up for the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award and are beginning to find their volunteering opportunities and what their skill will be, along with the much anticipated expedition next year. All of Year 9 took part in a workshop recently with Humanutopia and group of Year 9 students then trained to be Year 9 heroes who then lead workshops with Year 7 students.

All of these opportunities provide students to develop their leadership and independence which are necessary for them as they begin the transition from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4. Next term will see the start of the Options process, culminating with students choosing their GCSE subjects and embarking on the next phase of their time at Okehampton College. As part of this transition, the Year 9 cohort were fortunate to attend the DMAT Careers Fair at Ashbury Manor on Wednesday 6th December. The fair gave our students the chance to meet prospective employers, meet universities and plenty of information to help them contemplate their future paths.

We would like to wish all our Year 9 students a Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing them in 2024.



A WORD
FROM:

Mr White

Assistant
Principal

Year 10

As we come to the end of the first term, I would like to congratulate those pupils within Year 10 that have made an excellent start to their Key Stage Four studies (Year 10 & 11). Starting a new curriculum can be both exciting and daunting, with new subject content, classrooms, teachers, assessments and assignments. Well done, on your hard work and your resilience, two of our Oke 8 habits!

Last week, the Year 10 pupils began their journey on planning for their future. Whilst a few pupils will have a set pathway and ideas for their future career, most Year 10 pupils won't yet have made decisions on what the future will hold for them. The Careers Fair organised by Dartmoor Multi-Academy Trust, invited training providers, employers, protective services and Post-16 educators for the pupils to talk to and ask questions. I know many of our Year 10 pupils were grateful to have the opportunity to visit the Careers fair during the school day and gather information. This linked in well with theme of the week for Year 10 which was Careers and Work Experience 2024.

Work Experience launched for 2024.

We value this as an important part of a young person's development to gain this experience in industry. Next year, work experience will take place during the week of Monday 8th July until Friday 12th July 2024. We encourage pupils, with the help of their families, to find a placement as soon as they can as places can be harder to find if left to the latter of the Spring term. Here are some key points;

- Placements must be checked by CSW (Careers South-West) and they must sign-off the placement as being suitable and safe for a young person to attend. Students cannot go to a placement if this has not happened and been confirmed.
- You will need to submit your work experience placement via the Grofar platform no later than Monday 8th April for any placements outside of the South West and Monday 13th May for all other placements within the South West.

This information was sent home to families of Year 10 last week and posted through Classcharts. If any family didn't receive this then please contact their tutor.

Important dates for your diary:

- Friday 19th January - Year 10 data report shared
- Wednesday 24th January - Subject Teacher and Year 10 pupils and their families Consultation Evening.

Last but not least, a huge well done for all those gaining their Bronze Badges and 100% Attendance Certificates.

...Head of Year Updates...



A WORD
FROM:

Mrs Hodgson

Head of

Year 11

Merry Christmas Year 11. You are smashing this year, and I am so proud of you.

The behaviour during the mock exam period was brilliant and it was lovely to hear all the feedback from the invigilators (best year group in years!). I hope that you are learning from these mocks and assessing the way you have revised to ensure that you are using your time as effectively as possible. Listen to feedback and accept all support that is offered from teachers, also ensure you are taking time out for yourself.

Key events coming up for Year 11:

- January 4th – Parent Information Evening.
- January 29th – second round of mock exams.
- Careers sessions for Year 11 students will be happening in the first few weeks in January – your tutor will have dates and times for your appointment.

Please have a restful break, the next term will be the last full term of Year 11. The team will be there to support you all the way!!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



A WORD
FROM:

Mr Biddle

Head of

Post-16

It has been a very busy term for Post-16. The Year 13's are intensely preparing for next summers exams with a first phase of mock exams. Our Year 12's have had visits to Tavistock College and a trip to Launceston for their Christmas Social and Learning to Live (driving safety awareness) training. We have seen improvements in attendance and it has been great to see the engagement with volunteering continuing and becoming embedded into the culture of Okehampton Post-16. We are currently finalising the preparation for our Christmas party and are very much looking forward to welcoming next year's Year 12 to a taster day in the spring term. In the next installment from Post-16, we will hopefully be able to provide pictures of how Wardhayes is being developed and how the common room provision is improving further. Watch this space!





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Okehampton, Devon, EX20 1PW



Enrichment Programme

Autumn Term 2023



ACTIVITY / CLUB	FOR YEAR GROUP:	DAY	TIME	ROOM	STAFF NAME	FURTHER INFO
Art	Years 10 & 11	Monday	Break 2	302	KD	
GCSE Catch Up	All Years	Monday	Break 2	503	TBC	
Home Learning Club	All Years	Monday	After School	6L4	KS, LRD	Computers available for use
Maths in Art	Year 9	Monday	Break 2	202	MTI	
Big Band	Grade 2/3	Tuesday	After School	503	TBC	
The Great Okehampton Bake off	Year 7	Tuesday	After School	817	ND	Students will need to provide their ingredients, they're told each week what we're cooking in the following weeks.
Eco Club	Year 7 & 8	Tuesday	Break 1	410	LEW	
Girls Football	All Years	Tuesday	After School	Astro	NW, KR, CSC	
Boys Rugby	All Years	Tuesday	After School	Top Fields	MAB, SQ, GC	
Friendship / Computer Club	Year 7	Tuesday	Break 1 & 2	814	LJD	
Manga Club	All Years	Tuesday	After School	304	EAT	
Drama Club: Panto Pandemonium!	Year 7 & 8	Tuesdays	After School	621	MT	
Drama Club: Styles of Drama	Year 9	Tuesdays	After School	617	GN	
Drama Intervention	Year 11	Tuesdays	After School	815	LR	
Maths Practice Paper Club	Year 11	Tuesday	After School	203	KAC	
Maths Practice Paper Club	Year 11	Tuesday	After School	205	SLC	
Home Learning Club	All Years	Tuesday	After School	6L4	KS, LRD	Computers available for use
Jam Band	All Years	Wednesday	Break 2	504	TBC	
Sign Language	All Years	Wednesday	Break 2	407	DW	
German GCSE Tips	Year 11	Wednesday	Break 2	620	GM	
French GCSE Tips	Year 11	Wednesday	Break 2	619	LRB	
Friendship / Computer Club	Year 7	Wednesday	Break 1 & 2	814	LJD	
Textiles & Art	Years 10 & 11	Wednesday	Break 2	303	DM	
GCSE Catch Up	Years 10 & 11	Wednesday	Break 2	425	SRF	
Geography Club	Year 7 & 8	Wednesday	Break 1	818	EL, CE	
Poetry by Heart	All Years	Thursday	Break 2	406	MG, LKJ, CSC	
Pride Alliance	All Years	Thursday	Break 1	503	TBC	
Transition Choir	Year 7	Thursday	Break 2	504	TBC	
Friendship / Computer Club	Year 7	Thursday	Break 1 & 2	814	LJD	
Art & Photography	Years 10 & 11	Thursday	Break 2	303	VH	
GCSE Catch Up	Year 11	Thursday	After School	6L4	LR	
Drama Intervention	Year 10	Thursday	Break 2	202	MTI	
Origami Club	All Years	Thursday	After School	Cym	MAB	
Fitness	All Years	Thursday	After School	Bottom Fields	CSC, NV	
Girls Rugby	All Years	Thursday	After School	423	SKG	Starting on 21st Sept
History Mystery Club	Year 10, 11, 12, 13	Thursday	After School	813	RDH	
Coding Club	Year 7, 8, 9	Thursday	After School	411	EM	
Science Club	All Years	Thursday	After School	Parklands Sports Hall	KMH	
Crest Awards	All Years	Thursday	Break 2	413	SL / RKB	
Cricket	All Years & Abilities	Friday	Break 1	503	TBC	
Folk Group	All Years/Abilities	Friday	Break 2	404	VAT	
Language Leaders	Year 9	Friday	Break 1 & 2	814	LJD	
Friendship / Computer Club	Year 7	Friday	Break 2	304	EAT	
Art & Photography	Years 10 & 11	Friday	Break 1	815	LTU	
GCSE Catch Up	All Years	Every Day	Break 1 & 2	630	SEND Faculty	
Market Watch (Business)	All Years	Every Day	Break 1 & 2	633	SEND Faculty	
Quiet Room	All Years	Every Day	Break 1 & 2	633	SEND Faculty	
Film Club	All Years	Every Day	Break 1 & 2	633	SEND Faculty	

LATE BUSES RUN ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS



Festive Food Support for Families

As we approach what can be an even more financially challenging time of year for families, the following may be of help and support to you...

Foodbanks:

- Okehampton Foodbank www.okehamptonfoodbank.co.uk Baptist Church, Fore Street. Will help anyone in need for 2 weeks but will then need a referral. Pastoral staff in school can complete a referral.
- **Okehampton Community Kitchen** (contactable on Facebook) 3, East Street.
- **Chagford Eco Pantry and Foodbank**, St Michael's Church and the Primary School, Chagford. Confidential phone number: 07444 598279. Food, hampers, Christmas presents.
- **North Tawton Community Fridge and Larder**, Merry Go Round, 6, Market Street, North Tawton.

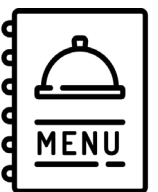
Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF)

For those families in receipt of Free School Meals, there are four days of HAF provision running over the school Christmas break. If eligible, you will have received a booking code from school to book children on to this should you wish. Each session is at least 4 hours of activities and includes a free hot meal. There is a range of activities available to choose from, along with booking links here:

[HAF providers map - Winter 2023 - Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](http://HAF providers map - Winter 2023 - Education and Families (devon.gov.uk))

Please click on these icons to view the 2024 – 2025 Term Dates and also the Okehampton College canteen menus Alternatively visit our website; www.okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk

Term Dates



Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust

...everyone in our Trust.

