

19th October 2023

OKEHAMPTON COLLEGE



Newsletter
Issue 1

Highlights

- News from SLT
- Faculty Updates
- Head of Year Updates

At  We are

Kind

Tolerant

Respectful

Independent

Committed

Resilient

Hardworking

Responsible

Principal's Message; Andrew Sweeney



Thank you to everyone, students, families, staff and wider friends of Okehampton College who have worked with us over this half term to continue our journey of improvement across the college. It is amazing how quickly this half term has gone by but excellent to see what has been achieved across the college.

Student Learning

From September this year we introduced our Learning Framework. The core purpose of this was to develop our students' abilities to learn well in every lesson, while breaking down barriers to learning. Leaders across the college have visited a significant number of lessons over this half term and have been impressed with what they have seen. A special mention has to go to our Year 11 students who have already undertaken their first round of Year 11 practice exams. You would also have seen our recent launch of a full uniform consultation. If you have not completed the questionnaire, you can do so by following the link on page 2 of this newsletter.

Student and Family Engagement

It has been a busy term with many engagement events having already taken place. During the first seven weeks of the school year so far, we have already welcomed Year 11 students and families to an evening of important exam information and revision workshops. We have welcomed Year 12 and Year 13 students and families into the college for more information around how we are supporting Post-16 students this year. All families to meet their child's tutor, a Curriculum Evening for Year 11 students to start planning for next year and this week we held an event for all families to come into college and attend short presentations on key aspects of our school provision.

As you all know, we are very deliberately wanting to work more closely with families to ensure we are all united in supporting our young people through their school journey here at Okehampton College.

Next half term is also a very busy one. Please familiarise yourself with the key dates listed below. Term dates can also be viewed on our website. Please follow the link on page 11.

We wish you all a restful half term break and we look forward to welcoming all students back to College on Monday 30th October 2023.

Important Dates

19th October 2023 - Last day of Half Term

30th October 2023 - All pupils return (Week B)

15th December 2023 - Last day of Term (closing at 1.30pm)

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



Quality of Education: S. Banfield, Vice Principal

In September the college launched its new Framework for Learning. This framework is used across all faculties and works to ensure consistency of teaching and learning for all our young people.

The framework follows a pattern of learning that embeds direct teacher instruction, guided practice and independent work.

Our framework also supports the consistency of learning language and we have created a student framework that helps our young people understand their responsibility in the lesson and in their own learning. All students have received support and guidance on the framework, and this will continue with assemblies after half term. Both frameworks are featured below.

Parent and Family Consultation Evenings

After consultation with parents and families last year we are trialling a combined approach to our consultation evening this year.

Some will be face to face in the College and others will follow a hybrid model of face-to-face slots and also online slots. The hybrid evenings will last for three hours, as in previous years.

The face-to-face session will be in the first three hours and the online sessions in the final hour. All sessions will be booked via the school cloud booking system. Details will be sent out for your appropriate year group.

Parent and Family Information Evenings

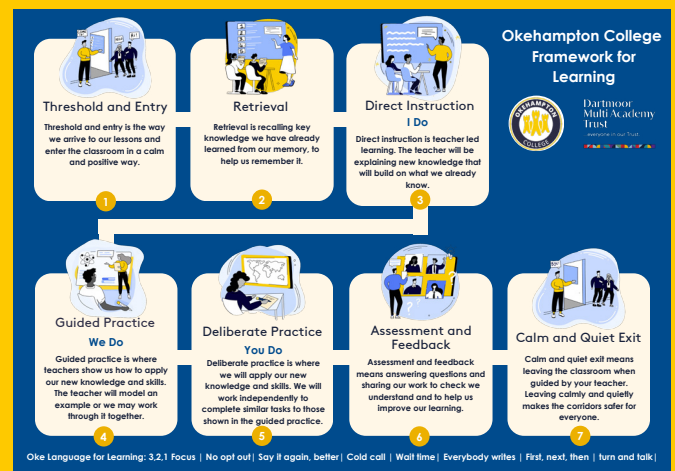
The rationale for our new evenings is 'how can we help you to help your child'.

The first of our new information evening took place on Wednesday 18th October with the focus on:

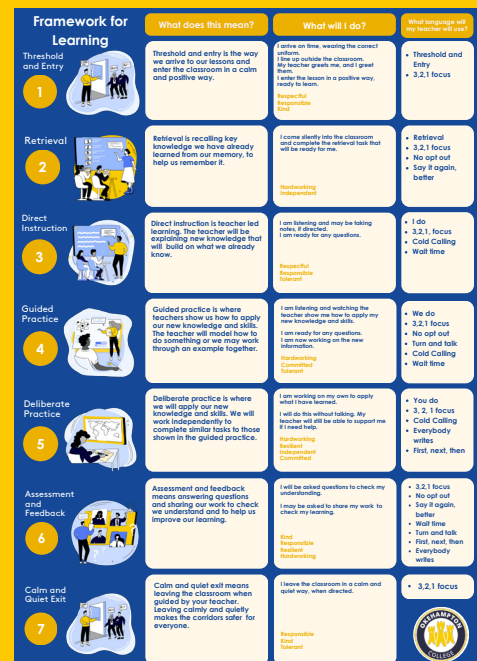
- The Learning Framework
- Online safety
- Classcharts
- Spax Maths

The slides will be available for our families who were unable to join us. We have already received feedback from some families who felt the time of 5pm was too early for them. To try to accommodate as many people as possible, we will hold the next session at a later time.

Watch the weekly bulletin for the next planned date.



Parent/Family Consultation Evening	Date	Suggestions
Year 7	13 March 2024	All face to face
Year 8	6 March 2024	Hybrid
Year 9	10 Jan 2024	Face to face
Year 10	31 Jan 2024	Hybrid
Year 11	29 Nov 2023 & 20 March 2024	1st Hybrid (one to one with SLT opportunity) 2nd face to face
Year 12/13	17 Jan 2024	Hybrid



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

Attendance Update: D. White, Assistant Principal



We would really like to thank all our families for their support in our effort to maintain good pupil attendance to school. We strive to work with our pupils and families to ensure that every child attends school as much as possible. This is essential for pupils to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing, and wider life chances. (DFE, 2022)

At Okehampton College we celebrate and reward good attendance. Your child's tutor regularly checks your child's attendance and will award achievement points to pupils maintaining good attendance (97% and above), and to those pupils that have improving attendance.

At the end of each half term we celebrate those pupils that have 100% attendance for that half term period. We repeat this at the end of each of the three terms and at the end of the academic year. This is through our Year group celebration assemblies.

We are committed to developing positive, open, and effective communication between home and school. In order to do this, we will regularly be communicating with families about their child's attendance in several ways, including;

- Regular attendance focus on newsletters to share important information and updates.
- Every parent/carer will be informed about their child's attendance by email, twice each half term. We would really appreciate your support in talking to your child about their attendance and celebrating with them when they have consistently been in school every day, or when they have tried really hard to improve their attendance.
- Your child's tutor will contact families to ensure everything is OK and offer support following any unauthorised absence. This includes longer term absence or after 3 incidents of absence within a 4-week period.
- In line with our policy, parents/carers will receive letters regarding their child's attendance should it fall beneath 95%. Where attendance is below 90% and either the family or school has identified areas that need additional support, an attendance meeting will be arranged. In partnership with the school and family, personalised and achievable targets for pupils will be developed, based on their individual needs and circumstances.
- Parents/Carers will be informed twice a year about the process for requesting absence during term time and the processes involved should

an absence not be considered an exceptional circumstance.

- The school level appendix of the Trust attendance policy contains details of relevant staff members who you can contact to discuss any concerns you may have regarding your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact us so as we can support where possible.

I wish all our pupils an enjoyable half term break.

Open Evening

On Wednesday 4th October we opened our doors to Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 families within our community. It was a fabulous evening where each of our faculties showed off their passion and expertise for their subjects. Our wonderful student volunteers helped each subject area to promote their favourite subject and we had some amazing Year 7 students who spoke about their experiences so far at Okehampton College, as well as a Year 13 student who is at the end of their journey with us. It was lovely to welcome so many families in to our College, to meet them and to show them our school and our students who were such a credit to us. It was a great start to our Transition process and we look forward to this year and to seeing Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 students at our College taster days.

Uniform Review

We are undertaking a full review of the current school uniform at Okehampton College. We would like to hear from everyone as part of this process with separate communications going out to students. The consultation will begin now with a stakeholder questionnaire and will close in December 2023 when we will share the outcome and next steps.

Use the QR code below or click on the icon to go straight to complete the questionnaire.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Okehampton College - Uniform
Consultation - FAMILIES



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



Personal Development: B. Hachipuka, Assistant Principal

We started the term with the first cycle of Student Voice through tutor time and Student Councils, asking students for their views on Enrichment, Canteen and the School Environment. A summary of these findings will be shared with school and home after half term.

Student Leadership has started strongly with Year 11 Prefects developing their skills at our Year 4, 5 and 6 open evening alongside our future Year 7 Transition Leaders who shared their experiences so far with families. The Year 7 and 8 Eco Warriors are meeting regularly making an action plan for the WOW project (War on Waste) which is a very exciting move towards ensuring we are an eco friendly school.

On Tuesday 31st November we have Humanutopia coming in for their second year of work with us as a college, where they will be delivering a day's workshop with Year 9. The workshop focuses on personal goals, self esteem, bullying issues and on the cohort as a whole whilst discussing how they can move forward together positively. The students who wish to train as Year 9 Heroes will apply and then attend a day's training on Tuesday 14th November, where some of last years Heroes will support and share their experiences as a Leader.

The Pride Alliance group and Youth Cultural Champions have met to discuss their way forward this year and 6 Post-16 students have been trained as Mental Health Ambassadors and as part of World Mental Health day delivered our Mental Health assemblies.

Year 8 Transition Leaders have been supporting Year 7s through their allocation of a tutor group which involves them dropping in on a Monday and Tuesday morning. As they get to know their tutor group, some Year 7s may benefit from being mentored by the Year 8 Leaders. The Year 8s will also be part of the application process for the new Year 7 Transition Leaders which is very exciting as already we have many Year 7s who want to step into their shoes!

We have offered an extensive extra curricular programme to our young people with the aim of encouraging every student to take part in at least one activity each term, whether that be within the Arts, PE or Technology faculty. As you can see below, the programme offers opportunities within all of our faculty areas.

Finally we have been working hard to confirm our Enrichment week offer for July 8th - 12th; ensuring we have a variety of day, residential and in-school activities students can choose from. As a college we very much look forward to this end of year activities week and it is a great opportunity to experience new experiences, new cultures and make new friends. The finalised programme will be sent out to all families after half term.



ACTIVITY / CLUB	FOR YEAR GROUP:	DAY	TIME	ROOM	STAFF NAME	FURTHER INFO
Art	Years 10 & 11	Monday	Break 2	302	KD	
GCSE Catch Up	Years 10 & 11	Monday	Break 2	302	KD	
Orchestra	All Years	Monday	Break 2	503	TBC	
Home Learning Club	All Years	Monday	After School	64	KS, LRD	Computers available for use
Maths for Art	Year 9	Monday	Break 2	202	MFI	
Big Band	Grade 2/3	Tuesday	After School	503	TBC	
The Great Okehampton Bake off	Year 7	Tuesday	After School	617	ND	Students will need to provide their ingredients, that's the best each week when we're cooking and obviously, wash!
Eco Club	Year 7 & 8	Tuesday	Break 1	410	LEW	
Girls Football	All Years	Tuesday	After School	406	MW, MC, CSC	
Boys Rugby	All Years	Tuesday	After School	Top Fields	MAB, SJL, GC	
Friendship / Computer Club	Year 7	Tuesday	Break 1 & 2	814	LJD	
Manga Club	All Years	Tuesday	After School	304	EAT	
Drama Club	Year 7 & 8	Tuesdays	After School	621	MT	
Panto Pandemonium	Year 8	Tuesdays	After School	617	GN	
Drama Club	Year 11	Tuesdays	After School	815	LR	
Drama Intervention	Year 11	Tuesdays	After School	815	LR	
Maths Practice	Year 11	Tuesday	After School	203	KAC	
Paper Club	Year 11	Tuesday	After School	205	SLC	
Home Learning Club	All Years	Tuesday	After School	64	KS, LRD	Computers available for use
Jam Band	All Years	Wednesday	Break 2	504	TBC	
Sign Language	All Years	Wednesday	Break 2	407	CW	
German GCSE Tips	Year 11	Wednesday	Break 2	620	GM	
French GCSE Tips	Year 11	Wednesday	Break 2	619	LRS	
Friendship / Computer Club	Year 7	Wednesday	Break 1 & 2	814	LJD	
Teddy & Art GCSE Catch Up	Years 10 & 11	Wednesday	Break 2	303	DH	
Geography Club	Year 7 & 8	Wednesday	Break 2	425	SBF	
Poetry by Heart	All Years	Wednesday	Break 1	619	EL, CE	
Pride Alliance	All Years	Thursday	Break 2	406	MG, LA, CSC	
Transition Choir	Year 7	Thursday	Break 1	503	TBC	
Transition Choir	Year 7	Thursday	Break 2	304	TBC	
Friendship / Computer Club	Year 7	Thursday	Break 1 & 2	814	LJD	
Art & Photography GCSE Catch Up	Years 10 & 11	Thursday	Break 2	303	WH	
Drama Intervention	Year 11	Thursday	After School	64	LR	
Origami Club	Year 10	Thursday	Break 2	202	MFI	
Fitness	All Years	Thursday	After School	Gym	MAB	
Girls Rugby	All Years	Thursday	After School	Bottom Fields	CSC, NY	
History Mystery Club	Year 7, 8, 9	Thursday	After School	423	SJG	Starting on 21st Sept
Coding Club	Year 10, 11, 12, 13	Thursday	After School	813	RDH	
Science Club	Year 7, 8, 9	Thursday	After School	411	EM	
Credit Awards	All Years	Thursday	After School	Parklands Sports Hall	MH	
Boys Indoor Soccer	All Years	Thursday	After School	Parklands Sports Hall	SL, ROB	
Chess Club	All Years & Adults	Thursday	Break 2	413	SL, ROB	
Folk Group	All Years/Adults	Friday	Break 1	503	TBC	
Language Leaders	Year 9	Friday	Break 2	406	WAT	
Friendship / Computer Club	Year 7	Friday	Break 1 & 2	814	LJD	
Art & Photography GCSE Catch Up	Years 10 & 11	Friday	Break 2	304	EAT	
Market Watch (Business)	All Years	Friday	Break 1	815	LTU	
Quiet Room	All Years	Every Day	Break 1 & 2	406	SEND Faculty	
Filem Club	All Years	Every Day	Break 1 & 2	619	SEND Faculty	

LATE BUSES RUN ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS





...Faculty Updates...

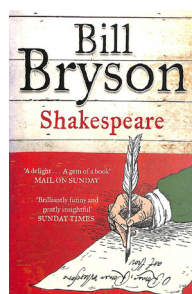
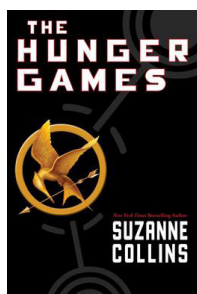
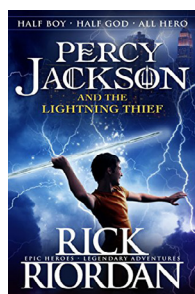


It's been an exciting first term in English and we would like to congratulate our students for their hard work and motivation, despite the darkening days! We rolled out a new initiative across Years 7-10 with a 'Fast Read' of their respective texts: Medusa by Jessie Burton, Animal Farm by George Orwell, The Woman in Black by Susan Hill and An Inspector Calls by J.B. Priestley. The aim of the Fast Read is to embed explicit teaching of academic vocabulary, and to develop reading fluency and comprehension. We have been really pleased by students' engagement with these texts and look forward to their responses as we move to analytical and creative writing. A particular highlight has been Year 10 students' ideas around An Inspector Calls: Eric and Mrs Birling always incite quite a strong response!

I would like to give a special mention to our Year 11s who have had an exceptional start to their final GCSE year. We commend their focus and commitment in the run-up to this set of mock exams. I felt very proud to see their positive attitude as they entered the exam hall last week, and was pleased to receive many compliments from the invigilators on their hard work during the exam. On to Macbeth next!

Book Club:

Last year, we introduced Book Club lessons in Years 7, 8 and 9 to complement our curriculum, broaden students' background knowledge and help to develop their oracy skills. This is a real highlight of our week: encouraging students to discuss texts holistically and explore their personal responses. This term, Year 7 are reading Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan alongside their work on Greek mythology; Year 8 are reading The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins to deepen their understanding of dystopian fiction; Year 9 are reading Shakespeare by Bill Bryson to give them a solid grounding in Shakespearean context before they look at Romeo and Juliet later this year.



Year 7 are currently having their introduction to one of the most important, and fun, branches of maths that is Algebra. All maths teachers love this topic and it extends across the key stages where students' skills are revisited and built on each year.

Did you know that algebra was first used nearly 4000 years ago in 1900 BC? Ancient Babylon and Egypt are the two places that were at the centre it's development. Both of these civilizations used algebra in different ways and for different reasons, but it's generally accepted that it was the Babylonians who first made basic use of algebra and pioneered its beginnings in the field of mathematics. It was then further developed by Greek mathematicians and then by Arabic mathematicians. The French mathematician and philosopher, Rene Descartes, introduced the cartesian plane with the x and y coordinates, in the early 17th Century, which are prevalent in modern-day algebra.

To read more about the history of algebra visit <https://www.mathtutordvd.com/public/Who-Invented-Algebra.cfm>

Can You Solve This Problem?

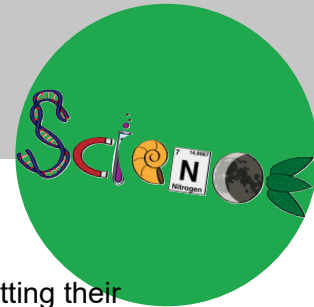


A farmyard contains both chicken and sheep. The farmer knows there are 26 heads and 74 legs.

How many chickens and sheep are in the yard?



...Faculty Updates...



This Half Term Key Stage 3 students have been completing their first Invasion Games and Fitness Units. They have worked really well to develop their skills and then incorporate these into games or more competitive situations. Students have been assessed via the three strands of the PE curriculum: A- Ability; B- Brain and C- Community.

We have been really impressed by students Community strand this half term with students being really supportive of their peers and assisting teachers with equipment to help lessons run smoothly showing excellent leadership and team work qualities.

In the final week of this half term all KS3 students will participate in an inter-tutor cross country competition, during one of their PE lessons, and results will be shared through the tutor system.

The first DMAT Central Venue league tournaments took place in Rugby and Football on Tuesday 17th October, and we also look forward to taking students out to represent us at Table Tennis and Cross Country, Indoor Cricket and Football at District, County and National levels next half term.

Key Stage 4 students who are undertaking BTEC Tech awards in Sport and Dance at Year 11 are currently undergoing their formal controlled assessments, and will complete this work by Friday 3rd November.

Languages

The Year 10 GCSE Languages cohort has started the new French curriculum. In Key Stage 3, we focused on talking about ourselves (describing our house, our family, our free-time, our school...).

In Key Stage 4, we change our approach, and try to focus on the world we live in. As Harriet says, *"we study 'up to date topics, that are useful in life"*. Sienna adds *'You can pick up a French paper and understand it'*.

After the first half-term, students are now able to engage in conversation about social issues, describing problems in their region and how to solve them. Next half-term, students will be able to talk about the environment and what we need to do to protect it.

Rachel thinks the lessons in KS4 are better, because they are more structured, and more relevant to the ever-changing world we live in.

As we approach half term, all of our students are preparing for their first end of topic tests in science (except Year 11 who are sitting their mock exams). For many this will be a familiar time but for Year 7s we are using lessons to help them prepare by revising the Energy topic and looking at exam-style questions, so they know what to expect. So, what is an effective way to revise? Here are some of the science faculty's top tips for effective revision:

- Know what topics you need to revise. Ask your teacher for a list of topics or look at the retrieval questions set for home learning to remind you.
- Find a quiet place to study.
- Switch off your phone so you don't get distracted by any apps like Snapchat!!
- Break up your topics into small chunks. Revising for 20 – 30 minutes is plenty if you repeat this several times over the week!

Revision strategies:

There is no "right way" to revise but it is worth remembering that revision is not just reading your notes or text books. Try different strategies and see which works best for you. Here are some suggestions:

- Flash cards: turn your notes into small diagrams/cards of they key facts. Make sure to read these often (e.g., on the bus on the way home!) Get friends or parents/ carers to test you on these.
- Make a mind-map poster linking together key words and facts. You can annotate with diagrams to help. Display these around the house so you can look at them often.
- Use revision websites like www.senecalearning.com or BBC Bitesize quizzes to test your knowledge.
- Use YouTube revision videos (especially at GCSE level).



Most of all keep calm. Tests are not there to trick you; they are to see how much you have learnt! Good Luck!

Science Topics this term:

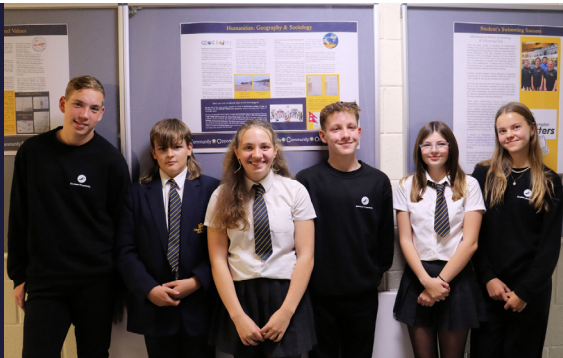
- Year 7: Energy stores and Energy resources
- Year 8: Acids and Alkalis and Acid and Metal reactions
- Year 9: Cell biology (cell structures, the microscope, diffusion, osmosis and active transport)
- Year 10: Adaptations and ecosystems, Photosynthesis, Respiration and Organising animals and plants



...Languages...

Danish School Visit

Hej! (Hello!),
 Pictured here are some of our Year 9 students with their Danish partners from Stenløse Privatskole. The Danish students visited us here at Okehampton College in late September as part of our international partnership work. Our Year 9s and Year 10s hosted the Danish students in lessons, took them on the sponsored walk, and watched a performance by the Danish students in the Octagon. We are very proud of our Year 9s and Year 10s who stepped up to the challenge of communicating with students from another country, exchanging information and ideas. Both the English and Danish students developed their cultural awareness and confidence. Magnus Andersen (far left) commented: 'I have learnt more English. The Danish teaching and English teaching processes are very different, and we don't move classrooms in Denmark'. Freya Davis (second right) explained: 'I have learnt some Danish, and about school in Denmark. The experience has been fun!'. Lene Andersen, the lead Danish teacher commented: 'We are very pleased that our Danish students can visit Okehampton College and meet British school culture'. We look forward to future visits and further collaboration- Farvel! (Goodbye!).



Magnus Andersen, Tyler Day, Isaac Toftkaer, Abigail Graves, Freya Davis, Cornelia Seidewinkel

How Do You Communicate?



Communication is key in our French and German lessons at the College, but how many of us have thought about how to communicate differently, without sound?

A group of students from all years across the College have started to learn British Sign Language at lunchtime. To date, they have learnt the fingerspelling alphabet, greetings, family description, and have all created their own sign name! Alongside this practical learning, students are developing their understanding of deaf awareness, and what they can do to support deaf students or students with hearing loss. In this photo, we can see (left to right) Freya, Isobel and Shavaun, using the fingerspelling alphabet to sign 'OKE'.

Why are you learning BSL?

Freya Kingdom: 'My aunt works with blind and deaf people and my cousin knows sign language, so I would like to learn it too'.

Shavaun Eustace: 'It will be nice to know what people are saying and give them the opportunity to communicate'.

Isabel Sheppard: 'It's the perfect language for me because it's quiet but expressive'.



Ich bin im Urlaub!

Our current Year 10 German students have been working hard on the topic of 'holidays' this half term, and considering cultural differences between Germany and England. This is the third year we have run the German GCSE, giving students a depth of choice and opening up opportunities to many career paths which value the German language such as: Engineering; Mechanics, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths), Electrics, Business and Tourism.

We asked Niamh why she chose to study German. 'I chose German to develop my Languages as I have an interest in this area. It will help future careers that I am considering such as translator or tattoo artist'.

European Day of Languages Quiz Result

The 26th of September was European Day of Languages. To celebrate this, we set a whole school quiz on ClassCharts, challenging as many people to join in as possible, in order to win inter-house competition points! We would like to encourage all our students to get involved in Languages outside of their lesson time, and consider different cultures, values and traditions.

Here are the results:

1st: 7SJK 2nd: 7JUL 3rd: 7GMA

The winning tutor groups for each year group were:

Yr7 SJK Yr8 JWW Yr9 GN Yr10 MT Yr11 KR

...Head of Year Updates...



A WORD
FROM:

Mr Parker

Head of
Year 7

It has been a real privilege to welcome so many new Year 7 students into Okehampton College this year. They have made a fantastic transition to secondary school, and I am very proud of each and every one of them. Their attitudes to learning have been exemplary which is reflected in the large number of achievement points they have been awarded so far (thirty thousand)! We have a number of students close to achieving their Bronze award, I look forward to sharing in their success as they achieve these over the coming weeks.

The highlight for me this year so far has been watching so many Year 7 students successfully complete the sponsored walk which took place on Friday 28th of September. The students were a real credit to themselves in the way that they conducted themselves across the moor. They have also made a fabulous effort with their fundraising, raising over £1250 as a year group for the Make a Wish Foundation, Cancer Research UK and the Devon Air Ambulance.

Moving forward, into the second part of the autumn term we are going to begin planning for our enrichment week visits, which take place on the 8th-12th July. Enrichment week is a fantastic opportunity for our young people to develop skills such as independence, communication and teamwork as well as having the opportunity to go new places and experience new experiences. Please keep an eye out for the booklet which will be coming out after half term and see which exciting adventures inspire your young people.



Year 8 students have been truly amazing this half term. I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing them all return a little older and wiser after their summer break. Some have come back with amazing stories of the things they have been doing over the summer break, some abroad and some just locally but all have it seems had some fun over the summer. They are working hard at being by far the best they can be, uniform for the whole year cohort has been commented on as being the smartest group and their attention to studies and conduct around the school is commendable.

This year we have a theme, 'Get Involved', and I have asked all of the Year 8s to consider taking part in something they would not normally get involved with, which will enhance their time whilst at school. We have started a fantastic project with Mr Abbey-Poebe who used to teach in a school in Ghana. We have now established links with his old colleagues and have 40 students lined up as pen pals for our own Year 8 students. The idea is that the students from each school will get to know about the daily lives and schooling of those in the opposite country. An opportunity to learn about life in a faraway place as well as how the children are educated and the things they do for extracurricular.

We have lots of other ideas for our year 8's who do not want to be a pen pal, running a club, mentoring another student or taking up a sporting or gaming challenge. Some of the students have already expressed ideas about what they would like to do and they are so very enthusiastic about this that I cannot wait to see this fantastic project getting underway in the coming weeks.

We have already hit some milestones this year, the sponsored walk being one of them and I thoroughly enjoyed spending the day out on the moors with everyone. The students enjoyed the camaraderie of the walk and worked together in small groups, each person taking their role in helping the whole group complete each section. We are now one week away from completing the first half term of the academic year and so far, it has been a blast. So many new friends and new challenges and this cohort have simply risen to the challenge of being one year older, no longer the newbies, and I cannot wait to see how the year pans out for them all.



A WORD
FROM:

Mrs Ashelford

Head of
Year 8

...Head of Year Updates...



**A WORD
FROM:**

Mrs Wheeler

**Head of
Year 9**

Well done on completing your first term as Year 9. It has been a very busy half term and most of you have enjoyed the lovely weather we have had in September and October.

One of the highlights of the autumn term is the Sponsored Walk, which I know you all enjoy taking part in, and Year 9 raised an incredible £1,385. Overall, the College raised £6,132 which is divided between Make A Wish, Cancer Research and Devon Air Ambulance. Many of you have also been taking part in the extra curricular clubs and activities at the College and offer so many fantastic opportunities to try something new and make new friends. Lots of you have signed up for the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award and I look forward to hearing about your chosen activities and volunteering.

Year 9 have achieved an incredible 26,752 achievement points this term and have really excelled at demonstrating the Oke 8 habits both in and out of the classroom. Several students have been awarded their bronze achievement badges which are being given out in the last week of term so congratulations to them all.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Turnbull for all his hard work and commitment to the Year 9 team as Assistant Head of Year 9. Mr Turnbull is stepping down from his official role next term, but he will remain a member of our fantastic and dedicated tutor team. Thank you to Mr Turnbull, Mrs Cleave our Pastoral Assistant Officer, and all the Year 9 tutors for their hard work.

Enjoy half term!



**A WORD
FROM:**

Mr Collins

**Assistant
Head of Year
Year 10**

As a college community, we have spoken a lot about the Oke 8 expectations. As a year group, it is evident that there has been a vast improvement in meeting these expectations across the cohort this academic year. It is important that you continue to build upon the positive start you have had, we want you to be proud of your achievements in KS4 and beyond.

Assemblies have been a huge success so far this year. Students have been engaged and listened respectfully throughout. We are excited to announce that the National Farmers Union will be delivering an assembly to Year 10 students in November which will explore careers in agriculture. We are looking to host more external speakers throughout the year to help inspire our students.

Keep working hard towards your goals and never ever give up on your dreams!

...Head of Year Updates...



A WORD
FROM:

Mrs Hodgson

Head of

Year 11

Welcome back Year 11, we have had a successful start to this academic year. It was lovely to see so many parents and students engage in our ready to revise evening and I hope that those techniques have been useful for the mock exams.

The students have been brilliant during their mock exams and the feedback we are getting from the invigilators has been amazing, they have said they have been the best year group in 5 years.

Well done Year 11, I am always so proud of you. Have a restful half term.



Post-16 has been reinvigorated this term with lots of fresh new ideas and aspects of provision. Year 12 and 13 students have all been given a new Personal Development folder to record and reward their personal growth through volunteering, work experience and taught aspects of the PD curriculum.

A new student council has been instigated, which has already led to new aspects of provision linked to social events, a competition for students to paint an area within the Wardhayes center and a new democratic system to appoint the Post-16 leader and Deputy leader from within the student body.

Our first social event, designed as a reward for Post-16 volunteers who marshaled the Sponsored Walk, saw lots of fun for the students, free BBQ and some karaoke! Many of those involved in volunteering have also supported whole school events benefitting our community including Open evenings, Information for new parents and the Post-16 curriculum launch for 2023-24. An event when we look forward to welcoming the current Year 11 as they make their transition into joining our community next year. It has been an excellent start to the year for Year 12s and 13s.



A WORD
FROM:

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