

# Okehampton College




Dartmoor  
Multi Academy  
Trust



2023-2024



## The Oke 8 Habits

At  we are	Kind	Respectful
Committed	Hardworking	Tolerant
Independent	Resilient	Responsible

The Oke 8 Habits are a collaborative piece of work completed by staff and students. The Oke 8 are the habits that, as a community, we should live by each day thereby helping to develop and form our character. In recognition, in the words of Martin Luther King Jr. "Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education."

To promote and embed our Oke 8 Habits, students are celebrated and awarded Achievement points through our Reward System if they display any of the Oke 8 habits. Staff can recommend students weekly for the Principal's Oke 8 Award if they have gone above and beyond in living by one or more of the Oke 8 habits. Any student who is successful in receiving this award will meet with Principal, receive a certificate and Oke 8 badge and have their photo taken to appear in The Principal's weekly newsletter to all of our stakeholders.

Our Oke 8 Habits are regularly communicated and celebrated to everyone through assemblies, tutor times, posters and on our 8 Oke 8 murals painted around our college.

# Welcome!



I am delighted to welcome you to Okehampton College. Our purpose and mission is to best serve our students, their families and the wider Okehampton Community. The ethos at Okehampton College is one of Support. The dedicated staff are working together to identify and provide the assistance your child needs to maximise their achievements. We have high expectations for pupils and teachers alike to work together to ensure strong progress, from when pupils join us in Year 7, to when they leave us in Year 13. We want to work with parents, carers, and families to give our pupils the best chance of success during what are very important years of their lives.

We are a vibrant academy, serving students aged 11-19, set on the edge of beautiful Dartmoor. We are rooted in the community we serve and are committed to the development of our students' character, as well as their academic achievements.

We are delighted to be part of the Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust. This is allowing us to build strong links with our feeder primary schools, as well as allowing us to work more closely with our partner secondary schools, Holsworthy College and Tavistock College. We believe achievement is not just about qualifications. Personal Development is key to what we do. We are developing opportunities for students to play an active part in the school community in the form of student voice groups and working more closely with the community. Our Local Stakeholder Body of Governors are knowledgeable, committed and a driven group who meet regularly to discuss and evaluate our needs and progress.

Fundamentally, we want our pupils to become independent, resourceful and responsible citizens of the future, with broad experiences that enhance their time at Okehampton College, to give them the widest opportunity for future careers and life-long learning as well as giving them experiences or activities that might mould their futures.

I genuinely feel it is an honour and privilege for me to be able to lead and develop further the education and life skills of the children at Okehampton College.

If you have any questions or would like to visit the College please get in touch on (01837) 650910 or email us at [admin@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk)

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'A Sweeney'.

**Andrew Sweeney**  
**Principal**



# Academic Curriculum

A knowledge-rich curriculum that aims to foster a powerful sense of belonging is the heart of our provision. We aim to provide an exceptional education for all - an education that will broaden students' horizons, intellectually, emotionally and culturally. Our curriculum is designed to provide children with the powerful knowledge they need for success in both education and life as an active citizen in society.

Our curriculum is an act of service to the community and young people who study in our uniquely life-affirming location on the edge of Dartmoor; it instils pride in our natural and cultural heritage and acts as a vehicle to sensitively introduce the children of our college to both similar and contrasting lives, empowering them to appreciate and participate in the full richness of the human experience.

With high levels of literacy being the gateway to success in all subjects, we support students in becoming fluent readers and lifelong learners who can decode, decipher and better navigate the often-complicated world in which they live. We will enable our students to become kind, insightful, and open-minded citizens who can build positive relationships in their professional and personal lives, empowering them to succeed beyond their school setting with a compassionate and well-informed voice in the world.

In Key Stage 3, we ensure a broad, balanced, challenging and personalised curriculum through the delivery of the national curriculum. Students study English, Maths, Science, Art, Drama, Music, Languages, Geography, History, Computer Science, Physical Education, Religious Studies, Personal Development and a full suite of Technology subjects.

With the help of a personalised choices process, our students make bespoke subject choices at the end of Key Stage 3. The curriculum remains broad, and all students will continue to study English Language, English Literature, Maths, Science, P.E, Religious Studies. Personal Development. Students will be supported and informed to add three further subject options of their choice. In this way, students can experience a range of opportunities across a balance of different subject areas. This approach ensures that students do not narrow their options too early in their schooling. Learning remains relevant to all students' future plans and is sufficiently personalised so that the work is well matched to their learning needs. Students will be in a strong position to join Okehampton College Post-16, extending their time at the College into the full seven years. Post-16 has a specialist campus at Wardhayes and offers a broad range of A-Level and vocational subjects. Students will leave Okehampton College equipped and able to access their next steps, whether that be at University, College, through an apprenticeship or into the world of work.

We are continually striving to improve our curriculum offer to ensure that it is right for our students and the community which we serve.







## Pastoral House System

The Pastoral Team are dedicated to ensuring our students are happy, safe and supported. Students (and parents) are assisted by dedicated teams which include a robust offer of support for each year group. In addition to the five existing Heads of Year, each year group has an Assistant Head of Year, and a Pastoral Support Officer, all of which are Safeguarding Level 3 trained. Members of the Senior Leadership team are also linked to a Key Stage to provide further support for students.

Pastoral teams provide strong relational support and well-matched interventions which help students to get the most from their learning. Our pastoral structures serve to create a whole school positive environment - fostering greater academic focus, personal wellbeing and growth. We aim to create an environment in which everyone can be proud of their achievements.

The student's key contact is their tutor, who has the oversight of their welfare and supports them with daily a check-in during tutor time.

### **Tutor System**

Each Year Group is separated into tutor groups. Tutors monitor and support the students on a daily basis, sharing key information and providing guidance on academic progress and personal development. Throughout the year, tutor competitions are run by different faculties and at the end of the academic year all students compete in our annual Sports Day. The results of these events are added throughout the year and the winning tutor groups receive a coveted trophy in recognition of their efforts.

## Student Voice

We value the views and participation of our students in all that we do. As part of this, Okehampton College has a system of Student Councils to ensure representation for all year groups. There are usually two Student Councils; one for Key Stage 3, including students from Years 7, 8 and 9, and one for Key Stage 4, representing Years 10 and 11.

The Councils meet monthly to discuss issues that have been raised by the student body such as changes to the College's canteen and menus, with consideration for vegetarian and vegan students, as well as improvements in student amenities. Student Councils have achieved real improvements for students waiting for buses in winter weather, whilst also feeding back on College initiatives, such as uniform, and the organisation of homework and environmental projects. Student Council members are also frequently involved in interviewing candidates for senior positions on the College's staff.

The Council regularly represents the College at Student Voice events run by Devon County Council and across Co-operative schools in Devon. Student Councils help to choose the charities that the College supports for the annual Sponsored Walk. They also contribute to the organisation of non-uniform days, raising money for Children in Need, amongst many other charities. In the past students have raised as much as £9,000 for our chosen charities in one academic year.

# Student Voice continued

Okehampton College has a diverse range of student voice groups, which include LGBTQ+ and mental health ambassadors. Opportunities for Student Voice are open to all. Many forums are used to give students the opportunity to contribute their views, and find solutions to issues raised through the Tutor programme, Student Survey and year group representations. These groups are also helping us shape our teaching and learning provision as part of the vital processes of the College's self-review and development work.

Humantopia is a programme we use to develop our students voice, character and personal development. Through Humantopia we develop Year 9 Heroes who train as peer mentors.

## Mental Health & Wellbeing

At Okehampton College, we cannot overstate the importance of wellbeing – caring for the mental, emotional and physical health of our community is at the heart of all that we do. We know that when considering a school for your child, reaching their full potential academically is key, but underpinning this is their happiness. This is always our priority.

Heads of Year, Tutors and the wider Pastoral Team are committed to the welfare, wellbeing, and success of students. Their purpose is to ensure we establish a secure foundation for students, both socially and academically. In this way, our young people can enjoy a happy and successful time at Okehampton College.

As part of our Personal Development programme, students receive a Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) lesson every week which is designed to provide students with skills which develop positive thinking and emotional resilience. They learn about Health and Wellbeing, Healthy and Happy Relationships, and Living in the Wider World. Alongside this as part of the Tutor Programme, Tutors deliver a weekly Personal Development Session which covers topics such as mindfulness, exercise, healthy eating, first aid, healthy relationships and kindness. Our Assembly programme, is vital in delivering and reinforcing key messages around Mental Health and Wellbeing.

We have a number of trained Y12/13 Mental Health First Aiders at the College who have been equipped to mentor and effectively signpost our younger students. Our students are also fortunate to benefit from the services of the counselling support charity Tor Support, who are located onsite. This year we have signed up to work towards achieving the Mental Health and Wellbeing Award.

We are always striving to improve and certainly won't stand still, prioritising the happiness and wellbeing for all in our community. As part of this commitment, we are developing our wellbeing interventions based around building resilience, self-esteem and good mental health through a range of indoor and outdoor interventions, including cookery, art, music and sensory activities and more physical outdoor activities. Students have fed back their ideas through their Student Council Representatives to help us understand how they would like their wellbeing to be supported in the College. This is allowing us to build an ever more robust offer which can help students to develop important life skills, support their learning, and ultimately support them towards leading happy, healthy and productive adult lives.







## Key Stage 3 Rewards Scheme

We consider rewards to be an essential part of a stimulating and encouraging environments for all our students. We offer a comprehensive rewards package for individual students and Tutor groups throughout the year: these are based on their demonstration of our 'OKE 8 values' and Achievement Points respectively. Class Charts converts each achievement point into a spendable point on in the virtual rewards shop using Class Charts with points exchanged for canteen vouchers, raffle tickets, stationery and much more at student reception.

Every half term, tutors nominate a student who displays a strong sense of community, takes opportunities to be the very best that they can be, respects others and treats others fairly according to the OKE 8. Our badge system recognises the milestones student achieve with their achievement points and from bronze to platinum. Further to this the college recognises positive attendance, student leadership and the principals award as an OKE 8 champion.

Tutor Groups as a whole, are also rewarded based on how many achievement points they earn collectively. Groups with the most points win a group prize, such as a free breakfast buffet. It is our firm belief that the hard work, dedication and strong values of our students should be rewarded.

## Primary Transition

The move from Primary to Secondary School can seem a huge step, especially for those students moving from a small village school to a community of 1300 students. We aim to support children and families through this process to make it less daunting. The events listed below form a crucial part of how we seek to build strong and productive relationships with families and children from the outset. We wish for families and children to feel confident through this important time.

- Open evening for Y4, Y5 and Y6 students
- Individual Tours for any family who would like one
- Visits from the Senior Leadership Team to all Feeder Primary schools
- An Information Evening for all families in the summer term
- A Taster Day at the College for Year 6 students in the summer term
- A Meet the Tutor Evening during the summer term
- A week of Summer School during the first week of the summer holidays
- Year 4 and Year 5 Taster Days
- Regular visits to the College with their existing schools, throughout the year, for sports and music events
- Current Y7 Transition Leaders at the College support the transition events, being a friendly face to the Y6 students.

Throughout these events and the duration of Year 6, we aim to maintain close contact with parents. We also offer a transition programme for Years 4,5,and 6. The college and feeder Primary Schools meet regularly in order to ensure all transition needs are met and that we offer the best transition process for our young people. We welcome all families to make contact at any time.



# The Enrichment Programme

We are extremely proud of the Colleges' commitment to providing opportunities which enhance and support our academic curriculum, and which actively encourage students to become resilient, motivated and inquisitive members of the community.

This programme offers enriching opportunities as part of the personal development offer from across the curriculum; such as sports clubs, school productions, Language Leaders clubs, bands and choirs, alongside visits to universities, outdoor education lessons and opportunities to watch top level sports teams.

## Expressive Arts

At Okehampton College we understand the importance of the Arts. We aim to inspire our students with the beauty of design, creativity and culture.

There is a wide range of opportunities for our students to enjoy at the College; every two years we hold a large scale production in the Octagon Theatre. Through doing so we aim to provide students with a professional experience by using radio microphones, hiring in sets and costumes, and allowing students to be part of a true theatre experience. In recent years we have performed *Oliver!*, *West Side Story*, *My Fair Lady*, *Les Misérables* and more recently *Beauty and the Beast Jnr*. We are proud of the production values and high quality of performance that our students achieve.

Offering opportunities for students to experience and participate in the wider community and world is also very much part of our provision in The Expressive Arts, we are always looking for the opportunity to broaden personal development through overseas collaborations. We have been able to take students to New York where they had the experience of a working with professional actors and musicians on a Broadway show, perform concerts and visit galleries. Similarly, we have also had the opportunity to take students to Mumbai, India, where students volunteered in local schools to teach lessons in Music, Drama, Dance and PE. This Year, 2023 we are planning to run a joint Humanities and Expressive Arts Trip to Naples, Italy.

Many activities also take place during lunchtimes and after school, such as Art clubs, Drama groups, and a whole range of music groups such as choirs, orchestra and big band. There are many opportunities provided for performances and exhibitions both in school and in the wider community. We make frequent visits to theatres, concerts, operas, galleries and workshops and aim to inspire and include all students of all ages.





## Physical Activity

Okehampton College has excellent sports facilities with a full Astro turf pitch, four flood lit tennis courts, extensive playing fields, a gymnasium, a fitness gym and use of two sports halls. The town's Leisure Centre is also sited on our campus providing access to their sports hall facilities.

Students can engage in a wide range of physical activities including all the major games as well as Trampolining, Dance, Aerobics, Athletics, Fitness, Tennis, Volleyball, Orienteering and Badminton.

We offer a wide Extra-Curricular Programme which is available at no cost. This timetable is changed each half term, and includes Football, Netball, Hockey, Rounders, Trampolining, Gymnastics, Rugby, Dodgeball, Badminton, Basketball, Athletics and Fitness. Students are welcome to attend clubs on a week-by-week basis.

Alongside our clubs we organise a range of different trips each year. Previously, students have enjoyed surfing lessons, climbing and have also visited Bath University sports campus to watch a Netball game and Edgbaston, Birmingham to watch a Cricket game.

The College provides an extensive fixture and inter-house programme. All students are encouraged to compete on a local level with other schools, but also enter national competitions in athletics, cross country, cricket, netball, rugby, and football. The College is a well-established participant in the school games programme. It is important to state that we emphasise the importance of inclusiveness and opportunity for all, in balance with competition in order to support our students in developing high skill and performance in their chosen areas of interest. We encourage all students to participate in at least 60 minutes of Physical activity a day, in line with guidance for health from the Chief Medical Officer for England.



# Ten Tors

Okehampton College is privileged to enter students from Year groups 10-13 into this amazing event alongside 2500 students from across the South West to navigate, camp and walk 35, 45 or even 55 miles, over two days on Dartmoor.

Usually, the College enters four teams and training takes place throughout the winter and spring in preparation for this demanding and hugely rewarding event in May. All those who attempt Ten Tors will undoubtedly remember it for the rest of their lives and for many it will be a life-changing experience.

## Sponsored Walk

Every year the whole College takes part in our famous eight mile Sponsored Walk which takes advantage of the Dartmoor National Park being on our doorstep. Aside from the obvious benefits of enjoying the natural environment and healthy exercise, the walk provides students the opportunity to support worthy causes as part of the civic responsibilities we seek to grow in our young people. It also promotes an important opportunity for students to build resilience, support their fellow students, and build relationships within their tutor groups. This annual event raises in the region of £6,000 for charities which are chosen by the student voice groups.

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is offered to students in Year 9 and above. They follow a programme encompassing volunteering, physical recreation, skills and an expedition. We currently run the Bronze Award in Year 9, Silver in Year 10 and the Gold award for our Post-16 students. Expeditions take place on Dartmoor for Bronze and Silver and the Brecon Beacons for our Gold Award students.

Please see [www.DofE.org](http://www.DofE.org) for more information about the award, timescales and requirements.







## Enrichment Week

Each year, for one week in July, the College collapses the regular timetable to provide students in Years 7, 8 and 9 with a week of exciting enrichment activities.

Enrichment Week aims to support our students in building character and resilience. We do this by exposing students to a diverse choice of new and exciting experiences which encourage them to challenge themselves, learn new skills, develop socially, and make new and lasting friendships.

In the past, activities have ranged across areas of science, technology, sport, and the creative arts amongst many others. All provided through a variety of regional, national, and international trips. Our aim is to support every student so that they can access a variety of experiences. Full details of the annual programme will be provided to students and parents alike to allow them to consider and make choices together.

Enrichment Week forms a focal point in our calendar year, is crucial to the character development of our students and is remembered with affection many years after students have left College.

TOLERANT



# Uniform and Behaviour

We believe the standards set in a school, and in particular the standard of a smart uniform, improves and raises expectations and behaviour of the students. We ensure students' conduct and behaviour meets our college expectations and OKE 8 values to create a safe, respectful and positive College culture.

The standard created through the consistency of uniform sets the tone of the College and will greatly help to encourage a positive work ethic for all students. The college use student voice to actively listen and respond to student views on uniform and has set up a uniform exchange to support families and student with the uniform requirements

A detailed guide to our uniform expectations can be viewed on our website and within our behaviour policy. [Click here to go to the website.](#)

## Safeguarding

At Okehampton College we believe that all children have a right to feel safe, be free from abuse and have a happy childhood. All staff are here to ensure that your child is safe and happy. Staff are vigilant and able to recognise signs when students' welfare may be at risk. This allows us to work closely and sensitively with parents and external agencies to monitor and support vulnerable students to ensure that they receive the help and protection they need.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mr Marc Cooper (Vice Principal). The DSL is supported by a team of Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads. All staff have annual and ongoing safeguarding training and read the statutory documents including Keeping Children Safe in Education each year.

Any student or parent who is worried about the safeguarding of any young person should talk to a member of staff at the College.

More information on safeguarding, including policies, contact details and signposted support for parents and children can be found on our website. [Click here](#) to go straight to our website or visit [www.okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk](http://www.okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk)





## SEND Faculty

The SEND Faculty provides support for students who have a Special Educational Need or Disability and require something 'different from or additional to' the majority of other students.

Our faculty consists of: the Director of SEND and SENDCo Jenny Harris. The SEND leadership team include Deputy SENDCo Mrs Arnett, Assistant SENDCos Marc Kerswill and Gemma Garnsworthy alongside Intervention Lead Nikki Lloyd. There are 14 Teaching Assistants delivering classroom support. More information on policies, contact details and signposted support for parents and students can be found on our website. Click on the link or logo below.

[www.okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk/learning-support](http://www.okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk/learning-support)



INDEPENDENT



# Post-16 Education

We encourage all students to enter our Post-16 after they have taken their GCSEs. We are proud of the wide range of choices on offer to students who may wish to follow a subject based course of either A-Levels and/or BTEC Nationals in Years 12 and 13, or a vocational based course for one or two years.

All students will study a personal development program and be involved in volunteering within the school and community setting. How students grow during their time with us will be accredited through a points-based system which recognises how they have developed through work experience, social events, the PD curriculum, attendance and engagement. Students will leave post-16 with a certificated outcome which recognises and rewards this.

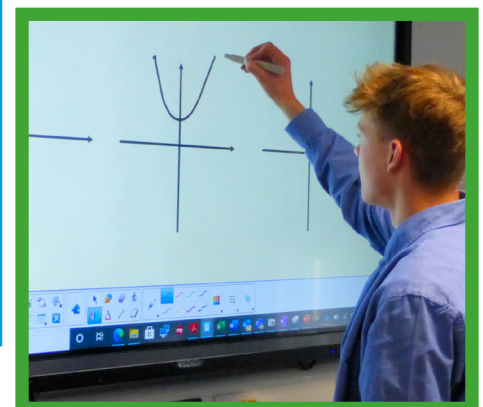
Each Post-16 student has a personal tutor who monitors progress and offers support and guidance in making crucial decisions for the future. Students are encouraged to develop increased independence and take more responsibility for their learning. Our approach offers variety to encourage students in growing this independence and will, for example, include university seminar style delivery. In this way we aim to familiarise students with a wider learning experience. Post-16 education can be very different and we seek to help students in building their confidence so that the transition between GCSE and Post-16 study is bridged effectively.

BTEC National courses are offered in a range of subjects. They offer an alternative and highly valued qualification route to traditional A-Levels since they are more coursework based.

Post-16 has a Senior Student Team. This team represents the College, helps to drive our Post-16 provision forward, and promotes its achievements. In addition, they coordinate fund raising events for chosen activities to grow and develop a sense of civic duty across our student body. All students are expected to contribute to College life, which can include volunteering to support the learning of younger students in subject areas, and across the wider experience of school life.

The Post-16 provision is based in our Wardhayes Campus. It contains its own café, common room and study rooms which provide the space and resource to help our young people settle quickly into Post-16 life. This allows a more adult feel and gives our sixth formers more independence in a college style setting.

Please see the Post-16 tab on the college website for more information.





# Okehampton College

To ensure our communication is as immediate as possible we make use of modern technologies. We ask parents to provide an email address and mobile telephone number. School Facebook and Twitter Accounts are used to signpost information that is available on the school website. We also ask parents to set up the class charts app, so that they can track their child's progress as well as receiving notices and communications.

Further information and a digital copy of this prospectus are available on the school website:  
[www.okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk](http://www.okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk)



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RESPONSIBLE

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