

18th July 2023

OKEHAMPTON COLLEGE



Newsletter
Issue 8

Highlights

- Prom
- Sports Day
- Head of Year Updates

At  We are

Kind

Tolerant

Respectful

Independent

Committed

Resilient

Hardworking

Responsible

Principal's Message; Andrew Sweeney



Welcome to our final newsletter of this academic year. It is at this time of year when it is important for us all, students, families, and staff to reflect on the school year as we take a little time off and then prepare for the new year.

As is the case with so many of our lives, there are the good days and the days that did not go to plan and this school year has been no exception to this. When reflecting on this year there is a huge amount to celebrate for so many of our students including achievements made in lessons and huge successes out of the classroom. Every student at Okehampton College should make time to celebrate their successes from this year, however big or small and use this positive energy to think about how they can improve as they move into next year.

Our school improvement journey continues through next term in the run up to Christmas. We are driven to build on the success from this year and learn from the mistakes and continue to improve this school for its students and community.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported us this year, be it through honest feedback, engagement in our work with your children or offering support. Okehampton College is a special place and we all need to continue to unite in achieving our collective goal of ensuring our children are academically challenged and successful whilst also developed personally to put them in the strongest position possible for the rest of their lives.

I wish you all an enjoyable summer break and we look forward to welcoming Year 7 and Year 12 students back to school on Tuesday 5th September 2023 and Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 back on Wednesday 6th September 2023.

Important Dates

- Wednesday 19th July - Last day of Summer Term
- Tuesday 5th September - Year 7 and Year 12 students return
- Wednesday 6th September - All other year groups return

Vice Principal's message: Sally Banfield

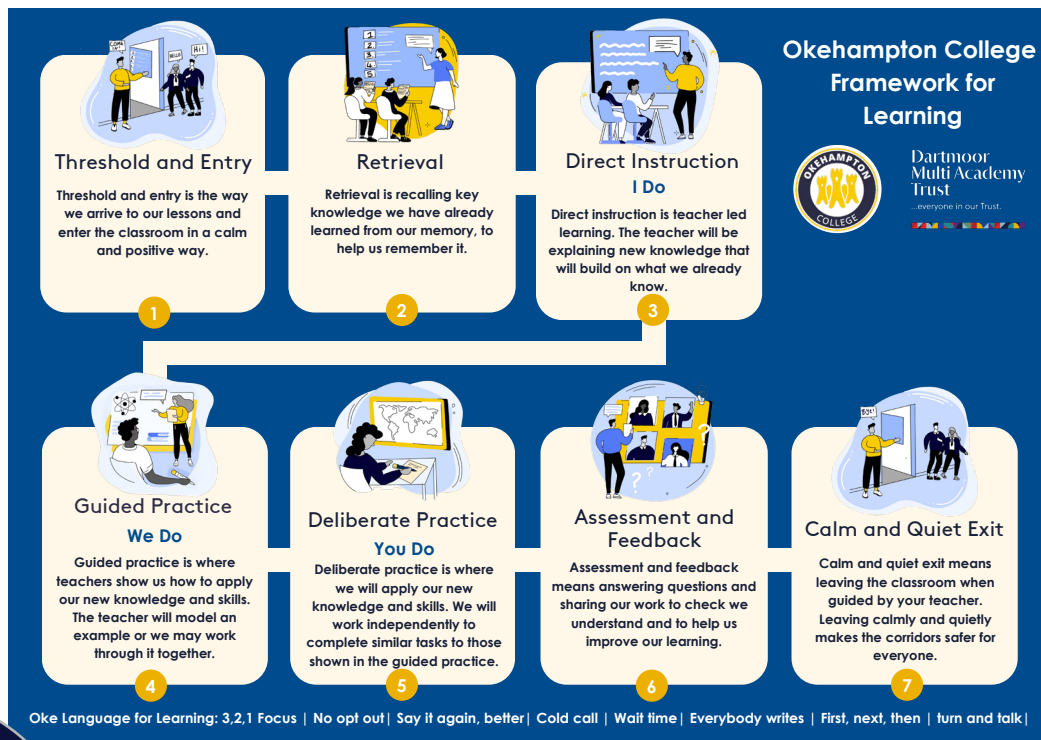


Dear Parent and Families

In September the College will be moving to a developed Framework for Learning that will support all students across the curriculum. Our framework builds on the already successful strategies of 'threshold' and 'retrieval' tasks and will support students to develop their knowledge and application of this knowledge in addition to working independently in lessons.

Tutors will work with all young people to explain the framework on the first day in September and what it means and will look like in lessons. This will also be part of our assembly programme.

I attach the framework for you all. I wish you a happy and restful summer break and look forward to working with you and all our young people in the new academic year.



..The new timings of the school day which will start next term!

School Day 2023/24	
Session	Time
First bell – students move to Tutor time	8.35am
Tutor Time	8.40 to 9.00
Period 1	9.00 to 10.00
<i>Transition/movement</i>	5 mins
Period 2	10.05 to 11.05
BREAK 1	11.05 to 11.35
Period 3	11.35 to 12.35
<i>Transition/movement</i>	5 mins
Period 4	12.40 to 13.40
BREAK 2:	13.40 to 14.10
Period 5	14.10 to 15.10
End of School Day	15.10
Afterschool clubs/activities	15.30-16.30

...Band Success...

On 8th June, Mrs Teixeira took Year 10 Band 'The Stereo Problems' to PETROC Sixth Form College to compete in the North Devon Battle of the Bands. The group were up against 6 other schools from across the county and impressed the audience and panel of judges with their performance of the song 'When the Sun Goes Down' by The Arctic Monkeys. We are very proud to announce that they were crowned as the winners of the evening!

As a prize the band have received an invitation to take part in a Live recording session at PETROC, this single will be played on The Voice FM radio station and they are travelling back up to perform in the PETROC end of year showcase next week. It is credit to their hard work, teamwork and resilience that they were able to wow the judges with their musicianship and stage presence, they are a credit to themselves and our school. We would also like to thank the families for their continuing support, commitment and co-operation to enable these opportunities to happen



...DMAT Pride Day...

On Friday 23rd June we held our first DMAT Pride day at Okehampton College. Students from Tavistock, Holsworthy and Okehampton came together to create a DMAT pride Logo, to discuss ideas about what 2024 DMAT Pride should look like and to share ideas about coverage of LGBTQ+ issues in schools and how we should tackle homophobic bullying.

The students were really engaged and came up with some brilliant ideas. The students voted on their best five Logo designs which will be judged by the DMAT and one will be chosen for our DMAT Pride logo.



...Sports Day 2023...



On Tuesday 27th June 2023 we held the annual Sports Day. All pupils from Years 7-10 were involved, whether participating in the athletics events, assisting with the results, organising the events, or joining the media, journalism and banner making teams. We were also supported by an excellent group of Year 12 students who did a sterling job all day.

Students in Years 9 and 10 carried out their competitions during periods 1 and 2 and Students in Years 7 and 8 took part during periods 3 and 4. We then had whole college participation during period 5 for relays, the banner making competition and tug of war. There was a fantastic atmosphere during this time with students showing great support, camaraderie and sportsmanship with each other.

It was a fantastic day for achievement with many athletics event records broken such as winners of the 300m in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10; 1500m runners in Years 7 and 10 as well as many of the javelin throws.

The addition of the Tug of War event was very successful with students and staff alike being very competitive. It was a great day overall and we were proud of the amazing teamwork and community on display.

We have not yet announced the all-important results, but certificates and results will be shared during Assembly on the last day of term.



English Championship Gold

Connie James Year 7, won a Championship Gold Medal in Silver DMT (double mini trampolining) on 16th July.

The English Championship is a national final run by English Gymnastics and British Gymnastics and was held at Telford International Centre.

To be able to compete at a national level requires a hard work, perserverance and dedication to a strict training programme.

Well done Connie.



Photos taken by the student media teams

...Year 11 & 13 Prom...

The Year 11 Leavers Ball was attended by over 200 students and staff at The Waie Inn, at Zeal Monochorum, on Friday 30th June. It was a glamorous and fitting event to celebrate the end of their time at Okehampton College.



The Year 13 Leavers Celebration was held at Sandy Park on June 30th.

The evening started with a lively bus journey to Sandy Park, with lots of singing and laughter. Whilst at the venue the students enjoyed a 3 course, sit down meal followed by the annual Post-16 Award Ceremony, this year presented by Clemmie and Valerie. Music and dancing followed and students returned to Okehampton College at midnight, where some attended private parties.

It is always sad to see a year group leave, however this was a fantastic evening for the students to celebrate their time at Okehampton College.

We look forward to seeing everybody on results day and wish everyone luck with their future academic studies and working lives.

Thank you for being an outstanding year group.
Best Wishes.

...Head of Year Updates...



A WORD
FROM:

Mrs Ashleford

Head of
Year 7

Finally, we come to the end of another half term, and massive congratulations to you all for successfully completing your first year here at Okehampton College! It has been amazing to see all the spectacular work you have put in over this last year both in your lesson and in some of the practical activities that you have undertaken in and outside of school. It has been with a sense of joy that I have had the privilege to watch you all develop your interpersonal skills and the way you have all begun to mature as the year has gone on, I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to be a part of your progress here at the school.

Last week we all went on Enrichment Week – Year 7's first experience of this amazing part of the year. The feedback I have had has been amazingly positive and all the trip leaders have said that it was a pleasure to be able to take so many young people to some great locations. These are the memories that will last forever, well done Year 7's.

This has been another amazing half term for positive points and badges. As a year group

you have now achieved 155695 positive points, averaging almost 350 each! You have continued to receive the most points from all the year groups, and for 98% of the points you receive to be positive ones. It had been amazing that, at the time of writing this, we are now up to 194 of you who have achieved your bronze badge, that is just over five sixths of the year group! Even more congratulations go to the 12 students who have already achieved their silver badge for receiving 500 positive points: a special mention goes to Callum who was the first in the college this year to reach this milestone. Please remember that from now on you will need to use the rewards section of ClassCharts to choose what to spend your points on!

Now that the summer holidays are upon us, I hope you will take this time to rest up and reflect on how far you've come this year. Enjoy a nice break with your family and friends and I cannot wait to welcome you all back in September as Year 8's !



A WORD
FROM:

Mrs Wheeleker

Head of
Year 8

Dear Year 8

It is hard to believe we are already at the end of another school year; this year seems to have flown by.

For many of you the highlight will have been the trips and adventures you had during Enrichment Week. The week provides so many experiences and opportunities for you to develop your Oke 8 habits and try something new. I have enjoyed hearing about your adventures, including caving, high ropes, Disneyland Paris and cycling. Next year will be your last Enrichment Week so you need to make the most of this opportunity before you embark on Work Experience in Year 10.

You were also all fortunate to take part in the amazing Summer Sounds music event this week organised by Devon and Torbay Music Education Hubs and the Wren Trust, big shout out to Mrs Teixeira for inviting Year 8 to take part. Your enthusiasm and engagement in the event, especially during

Sweet Caroline, was brilliant to see, well done on your excellent conduct throughout the event.

There have been numerous sporting and extracurricular events Year 8 have taken part in over the course of the school year with some outstanding performances by Year 8 students. Some of the Year 8 girls have taken part in the Girls Do Dartmoor programme run by Dartmoor National Park over the course the summer term which has involved walking, photography and cooking on the moor.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Year 8 team for their unwavering hard work this year- all your tutors, Ms Daniels, Mr May, Ms Morrison, Ms Nielsen, Mr Barnett, Ms Vine, Mr Bailey, Ms Donnelly and Mr Fox, and our Assistant Head of Year Mr Turnbull.

All the Year 8 team wish you and your families a relaxing and hopefully sunny summer break and we look forward to seeing you in September in Year 9.

...Head of Year Updates...



**A WORD
FROM:**

Mrs Wiegersma

**Head of
Year 9**



**A WORD
FROM:**

**Mrs Hodgson
& Team**

**Head of
Year 10**

Dear Year 9,

Congratulations for successfully completing Key Stage 3. As you leave Okehampton College for the summer holidays, please take the time to reflect on your educational journey so far and the exciting adventures you have ahead. Every student should have their choices for September and hopefully you are all excited for Key Stage 4.

Along with studying for your exams in 2025, Key Stage 4 brings lots of other opportunities, including work experience in 2024. Please start to plan your placement for work experience, as opportunities tend

to go quickly so it is best to get in and secure your placement as soon as possible.

The Year 10 team are looking forward to welcoming you back after a relaxing school holiday so that you return in September fully recharged.

I have only been your tutor for a year, but you have been so welcoming. It has been a real pleasure to watch you develop into the fantastic young people that you are! I wish you all the best next year! I am still in college so please stop for a chat and let me know how you are all getting on!

Mr Parker

'For most of us in our Tutor group, we've been together for the past 3 or 4 years, and it's been an absolute pleasure to work with such a lovely bunch of talents. I honestly believe that each of you will excel in your future careers and become perfect role models in your communities.'

Mr Abbey – Pobee

I have only had the pleasure of being 10LR's tutor for one term but the main thing I have learnt is to expect the unexpected. This group is filled with passion, determination, creativity and heaps of energy! If you set your minds to your goals, you really can go far! Good luck!

Mrs Roberts

It has been an honour to be tutor for LRS again this year - they have been amazing! I have been impressed by the resilience they have shown during their first set of mocks and their attitude towards their new GCSE courses. I am certain they will all have a fabulous Year 11 and I am very much looking forward to being your Assistant Head of Year. We sadly say goodbye to Misha who is

returning to the Ukraine and to Violetta who is moving to Plymouth - wishing you both the very best of luck for the future.

Ms Samuel

'Year 10, thank you for a wonderful first year, you have been great! Grab next year by the horns and take every opportunity to improve. Always remember - be positive and believe in yourself, you can do it!

Miss Ewen

We came together as a tutor group after the first lockdown, went through the second one with our tutor sessions on Teams. Year 9 we had more people added to the group and you picked your options. Now, Year 10 has come to an end and you're in the thick of your GCSEs. You've occasionally (sometimes frequently) driven me mad, but I wouldn't have had it any other way and I wish you all the success in Year 11. **Mr Giles**

Thank you all for two enjoyable years as your form tutor. It has been a pleasure to get to know you all, support you as a group and individuals. During this time, you have welcomed new students to the tutor group expressing genuine kindness and maturity in doing so. I have been a form tutor to all year groups throughout my 25 years in teaching in a number of very different schools, but I will certainly look back with very positive memories of tutoring you all! **Mr Ashby**

...Head of Year Updates...

Year 10
continued



A WORD
FROM:

Mr Wilson

Head of
Year 11

EW/RN, you've had a tough year with a lot of change. If you can handle this you can handle anything your GCSEs can throw at you. Work hard, be kind to each other and most of all try to enjoy yourselves. It'll be over before you know it!

I'll miss you all. Good luck,

Miss Nevin

10CSC, I've only been your tutor for a very short time, but it's been a pleasure. Remember the things we have talked about: Be kind to those around you, it will also make you feel happier, healthier and calmer; surround yourself with positive influences, and be a positive influence on others; you can do (almost!) anything if you put your mind to it, no matter what obstacles it may seem like there are. Good luck for everything you go

It is fair to say that our Year 11s are an exceptional group of young people and I feel very privileged to have had the opportunity to support them closely this academic year. What I say to our students for the future is this; never forget the lessons you've learned and to be grateful for all your accomplishments. Be confident in yourself, even if there are obstacles that come your way. Take every opportunity given to you and make your dreams become reality.

As a college community, we have spoken a lot about CORE values. As a year group, I ask you to try to stay true to them as you venture on to pastures new. Please be ambitious for yourselves and for your future. I want you all to stand proud of your contribution to our community and your own achievements.

Conduct during the exam season has been overwhelmingly positive. More often than not, our students got it right. Exam Invigilators have commented on the way the vast majority have shown mutual respect and empathy towards their peers during these very stressful times.

Indeed, we look forward to celebrating those successes during Exam Results Day on Thursday 24th August at the College. Mr White will be sharing more information in due course. It is worth noting that we are expecting the Leavers' Books to be available for collection that same day as well. There

on to do - have fun, see and experience new things, and enjoy life! **Mr Barker**

Well done Year 10 for another successful academic year. Next year is going to be exciting with many things to look forward to, with the finale being the Year 11 prom.

Things are going to be different next year with tutor groups and expectation about revision but I know you are going to continue to be an amazing year group. I look forward to seeing you through the next year and celebrating with you at the end.

Have a wonderful summer break and I will see you in September ready to rock and roll through Year 11.

Mrs Hodgson.

are also some Leavers' Hoodies still awaiting collection from the curriculum office, so please ensure these are collected at your earliest convenience.

It was a pleasure to co-host the Leavers' Assembly with Mr Collins on the 15th of June. Emotions were running high and conduct was outstanding. There was a wonderful buzz of excitement in the Octagon Theatre, with live music, Year 7 photos on display, 'Class of 2023 Awards', followed by ice creams and shirt signing on the field.

It is great to hear many of you are staying on at the College for Post-16 studies. The recent Year 12 Taster Day was well-attended and a truly positive experience for those returning students. There are still opportunities for others to enrol, should circumstances change over the coming weeks. Please don't hesitate to contact Mr Biddle - Post-16 Leader (hbiddle@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk) or Mr Harris - Assistant Post 16 Leader (kharris@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk) should you wish to discuss this further.

The Leavers' Ball went off with huge success. Over 200 students and 21 staff attended the event at The Waie Inn at Zeal Monochorum on Friday 30th June to celebrate their time here at the college. It never ceases to amaze me, the efforts our young people go to for what was a very special occasion. Thank you to you all for making the evening so memorable.

My best wishes to you all.



...Faculty Updates...



Year 6 Transition Day

We welcomed our future Year 7 students on 29th June for our Year 6 Taster Day. The students experienced a variety of lessons throughout the day and had the opportunity to get to know our staff and students in their year group. We really enjoyed getting to know them and we all had a great day. We very much look forward to welcoming them all in to our Okehampton College community in September.

During the Year 6 Transition Day the Year 9 Language Leaders were given the opportunity to put the skills gained over the past few months into practice by delivering a fun, interactive and above all successful, French session to our future Okehampton College Year 7 students.

The Languages Leaders taught a range of words describing French delicacies, followed by some interactive repetition games, and finished off with a fun craft: a cut and paste activity on a paper plate to reflect the students' opinions on French food.

The feedback from the Year 6 students was very positive and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

All Languages Leaders reflected our Oke 8 habits during their practice, especially being Resilient, Committed and Kind.

Well done, Languages Leaders! (Ms Valérie Thomann)

Year 10 Spoken Language

Over the last two weeks, Year 10 have been completing their Spoken Language presentations in their English lessons. This is an essential component of their English Language GCSE and it is awarded with a pass, merit or distinction grade. It is always one of our favourite topics as English teachers because students have free reign over their presentation focus, and we love to hear them talk with such passion and confidence about their world views, hobbies, beliefs and interests. This year, the variety has been particularly impressive, with speeches on 'Have we misjudged sharks?', 'Lesbian Erasure', 'Should PE be taught every day in schools?', 'Should we be introducing Universal Basic Income?' and 'The problem with cancel culture'. It is always quite nerve-racking to deliver a formal presentation in class, but Year 10 have risen to the challenge and the results have been exceptional. We are so proud of you all – well done!
The English Faculty



At Okehampton College we are always looking for new opportunities to support our pupils and to engage positively with families and the local community.

If you have any unwanted uniform items that are in good condition please bring them to Reception. Alternatively items can be handed to staff on Exam Results day.

Thank you in advance for your help with this initiative.



...Faculty Updates...



As the curtain falls on this academic year the Expressive Arts Faculty would like to publicly thank the community for their support encouragement throughout the year.

Thank you to The Rotary Club of Okehampton for their donation which funded some new PA speakers, they were given their first airing for the Celebration in the Park when the Big Band performed as part of the town's festivities. The PTFA have funded some much-needed updates to equipment and resources in our photography studio and dark room. Additional thanks go to the many kind families and members of the community who, over the year have sent in pre-loved brass and woodwind instruments, sheet music, guitar strings, and a piano! Without these kind offerings we would not be able offer such a breadth of experience to our students.

On Monday, we were fortunate to host the Devon Music Education Hub's Summer Sounds Festival. Over 250 primary school students attended the event and our Year 8 students were given the opportunity to participate in the concerts too. Many of them will remember singing a rendition of 'Sweet Caroline' with the HM Royal Marines Band for a very long time, we certainly will!

It has been an absolute joy to see so many students across the school involving themselves in Music, Drama and Art throughout the year and we look forward to more creative opportunities' and performance experiences in the future. Have a relaxing summer. Mrs Teixeira.



...Celebrations Catered For...



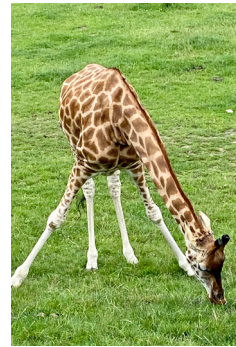
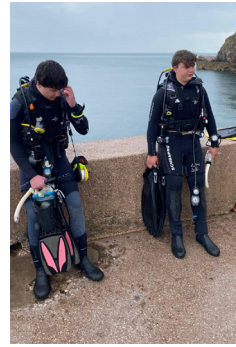
It has been a busy part of the term for our Catering Team, who have risen to the occasion and supplied a wonderful selection of food for several events recently including the Post-16 Taster Day.

On the evening of June 29th, DMAT hosted a celebration evening dedicated to honouring the achievements of Early Career Teachers (ECTs) within the Trust. The event served as an opportunity for colleagues across the 18 schools to come together and applaud the progress, dedication and hard work.

The evening kicked off with a reflection session, where ECTs had the chance to look back on their personal journeys in the teaching profession. After the reflection session, the celebration moved to the serene garden of Wardhayes Post-16 centre, where networking opportunities with colleagues in similar positions to each other awaited.



2023 Enrichment Week



Thank you to all staff and pupils for making this an exciting and fun week!



www.okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk



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Okehampton College



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Teen's Space

Starting from Wednesday 26th July
The Well-being Café will be opening
Teen's Space from 3-6pm every
Wednesday for ages 11-17 years.

This will be a place to hang out with your
mates, free wi-fi and free food & drink! What more
could you want!

Come on down and say hi, feel free to bring music/
games/interests along with you. There will be no
pressure for activities, just a safe space to chill.

You can find us at 14 St James Street, at the top of
the arcade – Okehampton.

inourplace

There are free parent courses available, run by In Our
Place. If you are interested in learning about how best
to support your child. There are many courses, from
how a teenagers brain works or how young people with
additional needs can be supported. Please click on the
link to browse the courses on offer and to sign up.

[https://inourplace.heiapply.com/online-learning/app/
courses](https://inourplace.heiapply.com/online-learning/app/courses)



Okebookfest

9th – 16th September 2023

Celebrating books next to rivers and moor



The Friends of Okehampton Library are excited to announce their very first book festival: **Okebookfest**. As a small group of volunteers we are starting small, but hope the festival will grow and develop in the years to come.

Please take a look at what's on offer (see below). We have author events, family events and creative writing. All events take place in Okehampton library.

As part of the festival, KS3 students at Okehampton College were invited to enter a short story competition with the theme of Dartmoor. Michael Jecks will be judging it and winners will be announced later.

Okehampton library will be showcasing the visiting authors' books for you to borrow free of charge and their normal reservation service is available too. www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/okehamptonlibrary

These books can also be ordered ahead of the festival from Dogberry & Finch Books, your local independent bookshop. www.dogberryandfinch.co.uk

Okehampton, nestled on the northern edge of Dartmoor, straddles two rivers: the East and West Okement. It can boast a castle and a beautiful park with river walks and play parks for children. There are many independent shops, pubs and cafes and is easily accessed from the A30 and other major roads. It is also well served by public transport – both buses and trains.

Tickets can be booked on **Eventbrite** from 8th July. They can also be purchased from Okehampton Library (**cash only**).

We look forward to welcoming you to our first Okebookfest.



Free 3 day moorland residential for 13-19 yr olds

**Like the outdoors? History? Drama?
Want to meet new people?**

MED Theatre invites 13-19 year olds to join them at 'On the Hill' outdoor site in the Teign Valley to immerse themselves in times gone by. This fantastic and truly different opportunity will enable the young people to live "off-grid" and experience what life may have been like in Mesolithic times.

This residential will feed in to a series of creative work with young people, including a festival of performances.

**Provisional dates:
1st-4th Sept 2023**

*(Save these dates,
however they are
subject to change
due to success of
funding application)*



Check out the venue: **On the Hill**
in the Teign Valley on Dartmoor:
www.onthehill.camp

Reserve your free place at education@medtheatre.co.uk.
Places are limited.