

Parent, Carer and Community Briefing



Dartmoor
Multi Academy
Trust
...everyone in our Trust.



Wider Curriculum Events

As part of the DMAT's work on Protected Characteristic Groups, we have held two of our five planned workshops. The first workshop took place on the 3rd February at Tavistock College where students from Okehampton College, Holsworthy and Tavistock discussed the issues in our schools around LGBT+. Students worked in groups to create presentations and tutor time resources.

This week we held our second DMAT workshop on the 28th February at Okehampton College where students from Tavistock and Okehampton discussed and created resources around Sexist and Misogynistic language. Our young people have done such valuable and collaborative work together which will help drive our school improvement in educating everyone around these important groups. The students have been amazing with their mature approach to this work and Mr Hoskins and Mrs Hachipuka are really looking forward to the next workshops taking place with the focus being on Race and Culture, Disability, Religion and Beliefs.

The Power and Joy of Reading

Last week we started a brand-new tutor-time reading programme at Okehampton College - a Literary Canon - a fantastic collection of both fiction and non-fiction books that all of our students will read during their journey from Years 7-11. It has been fantastic to see students engaged in 'active reading', where their tutor reads as they follow along - this strategy can improve student reading ability enormously, while also being a calm and enjoyable start to the school day. Did you know that if students read for just twenty minutes a day, they are exposed to around 1.8 million words per year, compared with only 8000 words if they read for just one minute per day? What an incredible difference reading can make for our young people!

We have also celebrated World Book Day with a book swap in the library, book vouchers for all students and a 'guess the teacher' competition.

Dartmoor Trust Careers Fair

We are looking forward to our Dartmoor Trust Careers Fair for students in Years 9 – 12 taking place next week on Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th March to be held at the Ashbury Hotel near Okehampton.

With over 100 trade stands, a programme of speakers for students to experience and separate sessions for SEN students and an Open Evening for parents to attend, we are confident that this will be a successful event and a huge benefit to our young people.

Year 10 Information Evening

The Year 10 Exam Information Evening will be taking place on Wednesday 8th March, from 5.30pm to 6.30pm at Okehampton College. The aim of the evening is to share key information in preparation for the Year 10 practice exams, which are scheduled from Monday 17th April to Friday 28th April 2023. This evening will include guidance from curriculum departments, with our Head of Faculties from English and Mathematics presenting as part of the evening. Our Exams Officer will be presenting information on exam protocol and procedure to support your child for their first set of formal exams.

Student Voice Feedback

In response to the voice work undertaken with pupils, the feedback has been clear that although the college badges are great in recognising milestones for achievement points earned, pupils wanted real tangible rewards linked to the OKE 8 character habits.

From this half term, every time a pupil earns an achievement point, pupils automatically get a spendable point in the virtual rewards shop via Class Charts. The rewards shop itself will run through the curriculum support office whereby stationery and vouchers for the canteens can be redeemed.

There has been a fantastic start to the scheme with 22167 points earned by all pupils so far and pupils have been quick to spend these. As the scheme grows, the variety of rewards will grow with it as pupil voice continues to evolve the scheme along with staff rewarding more pupils, more often.

Key Dates

- Thursday 30th March 2023 – Last day of the Spring Term.
- Monday 17th April 2023 – First day of the Summer Term.
- Please follow this link [Term Dates](#) to the Okehampton College Term Dates 2022 – 2023 and 2023 – 2024.

Thank you for all your support.

If you have any questions, please get in touch via email at admin@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk or telephone (01837) 650910.

Andrew Sweeney

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