

Parent, Family and Community Briefing

Friday 3rd November 2023



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



I hope that you have all managed to stay safe in the inclement weather and that you have not been too badly affected by the various power outages, fallen trees and floods that have resulted from Storm Ciaran in our area.

It has been lovely to welcome all students back to college today. I want to take this opportunity to explain that days like yesterday (whereby the College has closed due to exceptional circumstances) do not count against a young person's attendance as a negative mark, as students were not able to attend.

We know that our young people achieved better grades at GCSE and A-Level the more they are in college. Lessons with expert teachers, having staff members to talk to, sharing experiences with peers and ultimately having a purpose each day makes such a difference.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support.

Humanutopia:

On Tuesday 31st November we welcomed Humanutopia back into the college where they delivered an all-day workshop to all of our Year 9 students. The students experienced working collaboratively in small groups, developing their teamwork and communication. The day focused on themes such as self-esteem, bullying and aspirations and it gave the year group an opportunity to be really reflective on how they exist as a cohort and what they can do to be kinder and more cooperative together.

On Tuesday 14th November there is the opportunity for those students who would like to be our next Year 9 Heroes to be trained and to then deliver workshops to Year 6 and Year 7 students. Those Year 9 students who would like to take up this opportunity need to apply stating reasons why they think they would be positive role models.

Faculty Reviews:

We're keen to share with you some of the great things happening in your child's learning journey at our college. As part of our commitment to providing the highest quality of education, we regularly review and evaluate our teaching and learning.

Each term in college, there is a review of each faculty to evaluate the effectiveness of teaching and learning. The review involves lesson visits, meetings with students and an evaluation of the learning in students' books. From the review, we gain a deeper understanding of what is going well and what needs to improve. Our reviews this year are closely looking at how effectively our Learning Framework is being embedded to support learning.

Recently, we completed reviews in two key areas: Humanities and Languages. We wanted to highlight some of the fantastic practice seen during these reviews:

In Humanities, students expressed their enthusiasm for the subjects History, Geography, and Beliefs and Values. They eagerly showcased their learning progress in their books. It was wonderful to see how retrieval quizzes at the start of each lesson and regular knowledge quizzes, are reinforcing what students are learning, ensuring core knowledge is transferred to long-term memory.

In Languages, there is a focus on fostering independence in learning. Students have dedicated time during lessons to practise using new vocabulary. Teachers model accurate pronunciation for students to echo and practise; this aims to build their language skills and actively involves students in their own learning.

The reviews help us track the things we're doing well and the areas where we can do even better. By aligning these reviews with our Learning Framework, we're creating a strong support system for your child's learning experience.

The insights and feedback we receive from these reviews are incredibly valuable. They guide us in supporting our teachers' growth and in providing an environment where your child can thrive. Our commitment remains unwavering in continuously improving the education we offer.

The team at Okehampton College and I are very much looking forward to working with you this year. Please do get in touch if you have any questions.

Email admin@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk

Telephone (01837) 650910



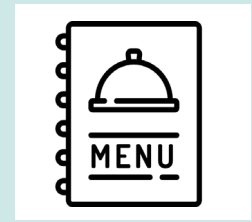
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PRINCIPAL'S OKE 8 CHAMPION AWARDS



We are very proud to be celebrating the successes of three of our students this week. Hazel Strube, Niamh Hawthorne and Joe Ward all in Year 9 have been awarded the Principal's Award for displaying hard work, commitment and independence every day in Year 9. Well done to you all.

USEFUL LINKS



Please click on these icons to view the 2024 – 2025 Term Dates and also the Okehampton College canteen menu for next week. Alternatively visit our website;

www.okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk

THE OKE 8 HABITS

