

Principal's Update



**Dartmoor
Multi Academy
Trust**

...everyone in our Trust.



As we come towards the end of the first half term of this school year, I wanted to update you on some of the amazing things that are happening at the College and remind you all of some of our key improvement initiatives.

Year 7s journey so far

Our Year 7 students have made a great start to the College. They are proving to be a hard working, committed and respectful group of young people who have together achieved nearly 19000 achievement points so far! They are really applying our Oke 8 Habits to their daily routine and as a year group they are working together to be the best they can.

Some Year 7 students are enjoying attending extra curricular activities and we are encouraging every student to be involved in at least one club a week. The extra curricular program appears on the College website for families to talk through together at home. Every tutor group also has a copy on the wall in their tutor room. [Click here to go straight to the website](#)

A group of Year 7s are enjoying Forest School and Gardening intervention and some will be involved in the Year 9 Heroes program after half term. I also had the opportunity to meet with a group of Year 7 students for a student voice session; answering questions about how they feel they are settling in.

The Year 7 Pastoral Team are offering support when needed and are enjoying getting to know all the students. Any questions or concerns please continue to communicate through your child's tutor.

Overall, a fabulous first half term for our Year 7 students!

Student Voice

As a College we are carrying out regular student voice groups to gauge how students feel about their school. As previously mentioned, I met with both Year 7 and Year 12 students to ask how they are settling in. Their voice is important to us and is vital in the development of all areas of our College.

Meanwhile, Heads of Year have also met with a group of female students in relation to how they feel about the use of language in school and this will be repeated with a group of male students later on in the schedule.

New student councils have been formed for each year group and are being lead by our Assistant Heads of Year so they can contribute towards our College self review process. As part of our Faculty reviews, Heads of Faculty are also carrying out a Student Voice on their chosen focus area. Each week a student voice group will be carried out and fed back in various forums. We will also feedback to you as stakeholders throughout the year via our various communications; Social media, newsletters and emails for example.

Class Charts

Class Charts is a digital platform we use for parents/carers and teachers to monitor pupils achievements and attitude to learning. This Class Charts App allows you to review the progress of your child in real time and support the work of the College in promoting a positive attitude to learning.

In order to use the Class Chart parent App, parents/carers need to use the parent code we have previously issued to you. If you are experiencing difficulties with this please contact the tutor of your child who will be able to reissue the code. The QR code below will take you to the Class Charts app to download to your device.





Year 9 Heroes

Through the Humanutopia workshops at the start of term, we have successfully recruited 21 Year 9 students to become our Year 9 Heroes. They have already attended 2 training days to develop their leadership and communication skills and to be Peer Mentors. Our Year 9 Heroes have made an impressive start and will be led by 2 Lead Heroes who will coordinate them and the program. They all wear a Heroes Badge to identify themselves.

Recently the Heroes helped to deliver a workshop to Year 6 students from Okehampton Primary School and are now starting to organise a seven week mentoring program for our Year 7 students. This will require the Heroes to work with a Year 7 student on a one to one basis during one tutor session each week. This is an amazing opportunity for our Heroes to put their training in to practice as well as for our Year 7 students to benefit from having an older student to talk to every week.

Year 11

I would like to remind Year 11 students and families, of the "Countdown to GCSEs" Meeting which is being held next week on Tuesday 18th October, 5.30pm to 6.45pm here in the College. The aim of the evening is to share our overview for the year with key information on preparation for exams from Faculty departments, together with additional guidance on exam protocol and procedure. We shall also be sharing the overview for the GCSE mock timetable for the mid-November exams. Refreshments will be on offer from 5.30pm in our school canteen. It is not too late to register to attend; Please email admin@okehamptoncollege.sch.uk

Murals

As part of our positive culture and personal development, we have commissioned a local artist to paint our 8 Oke habits as murals around the College. These have been inspired by some of students' designs and we also hope to get some students involved with the painting with the artist. As you enter the College in Reception, you will see the first finished mural 'We are Kind'. The second finished mural is outside on the sports hall wall 'We are Resilient' which is a very vibrant and uplifting design. 'We are Tolerant' has been started and appears along the English corridor. Students are working on designs

for the remaining five Oke Habits. I am sure you will agree these larger than life murals make a huge impact and will encourage everyone in our school to feel proud of who we are, both as individuals and as a College community.

I would like to thank everyone who is supporting us in our mission to continue to raise standards at the College and as always if you have any questions or feedback, please get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Mr Andrew Sweeney
Principal



At Okehampton College we are	Kind	Respectful
Committed	Hardworking	Tolerant
Independent	Resilient	Responsible