

Okehampton College

# Prospectus



# Okehampton College Core Values

At Okehampton College we strive to provide an environment where mutual **respect**, **equity**, a sense of **community** and tremendous **opportunity** leads to success for all our members.

**COMMUNITY:** At Okehampton College a sense of community is very important to us. We strive to ensure that the College community is supportive of everyone and everyone feels proud to be part of it. We believe that students should thrive in an environment in which they can flourish and where they can pursue their interests. We believe that the College community should celebrate both that which we have in common and that which makes us different.

**OPPORTUNITY:** Okehampton College is a place of opportunity. We have high expectations of our students and our staff. High quality teaching and a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum coupled with an extensive extra-curricular programme, allows our students to develop and excel in their areas of interest both inside and beyond the classroom. We believe that everyone should take advantage of the opportunities put before them and that everyone has the right to succeed and to celebrate their successes.

**RESPECT:** At Okehampton College mutual respect and strong relationships are the foundations on which we build our community. Everyone has the right to feel valued, to be treated courteously and receive or deliver high quality learning in an interruption free environment. Everyone has the right to strive to be the best that they can be and be respected for it.

**EQUITY:** At Okehampton College we strive for equity. We believe that everyone has the right to succeed, regardless of background and that nobody should be left behind. We believe that it is the College's role to inspire all members of our community to believe that they can fulfil their ambitions and to provide them with the knowledge and skills with which to do so.

As members of the Community of Okehampton College we have a collective understanding of the moral imperative to uphold these values and to champion them in all that we do; to settle for nothing but the highest standards and to provide high quality education, inspiration and opportunities for all.

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for taking the time to look at the Okehampton College prospectus. In the years you will be with us, from Year 7 to Year 13, the College will provide you with an outstanding education that ensures all the young people of our community develop into respectful, successful, well rounded, happy individuals able to take the opportunities to fulfil their ambitions and live well in the 21st Century. Students will have been inspired to develop a life-long love of learning and knowledge whilst identifying and developing their individual talents and interests. They will have broadened their horizons, been exposed to new ideas, developed an appreciation of our local context whilst having a greater understanding of the wider world.



Our most recent Ofsted report stated that 'The governors, the principal and the staff have created an outstandingly caring and supportive community where students flourish and develop as individuals'. The College was rated as Outstanding at this time and although we live in very different times at the moment due to the pandemic, we continue to work to our CORE values and provide an environment where a sense of community and tremendous opportunity mutual respect and equity of opportunity, leads to success for all. We have a collective understanding of the moral imperative to uphold these values and to champion them in all that we do; to settle for nothing but the highest standards and to provide high quality education, inspiration and opportunities for all. Everybody has a part to play in the success of the College and you will have many opportunities to play your part.

Exam results at the College are consistently above the national figures with students achieving on average, above their expected grades. Despite the unusual exam process in 2020, many of our Post 16 students who wished to go to University were awarded places at their first choice. In the last two years alone, our students have gone on to study at Universities including Oxford, Durham, St Andrew's, Cardiff and Manchester to study courses including Astrophysics, Medicine, PPE, Philosophy, Psychology and Veterinary Science

We are very proud of all our students and the way they approach their qualifications. Their successes are matched by achievements in many other areas including sport, drama, music and in the highly successful programme of extra-curricular activities. The range of opportunities given to our students is exceptional and we would encourage all of them to involve themselves in as many clubs as possible. Okehampton College is a happy College where students enjoy attending and feel valued.

When I speak with the new Year 7 students who joined us just a few short weeks ago, they tell me how quickly they are settling in and how much they are enjoying life here. This is a very exciting time as you make decisions about where you will go next year and I am sorry that the current restrictions have made it impossible for you to see the College in action. Hopefully, an opportunity will arise late in the year and when this happens, I will be delighted to meet with you.

If you have any questions, please contact the College and we will be happy to answer them.

Principal



## Senior Leadership Team



Mr Derrick Brett  
Principal



Mr Craig Griffiths  
Vice Principal



Mrs Charlie Edwards  
Assistant Principal



Mrs Bernice Hachipuka  
Assistant Principal



Mr Rob Kelly  
Assistant Principal



Miss Karen Moore  
Assistant Principal



Mrs Tracey Nethercott  
Assistant Principal



Miss Kathryn Redstone  
Assistant Principal



Mr Neil Sproats  
Assistant Principal

## Heads of Faculties



Mr David May  
Computer Science &  
Business Studies



Mrs Rose Richards  
English



Mrs Val Berry  
Expressive Arts



Mrs Laura Doxford  
Humanities



Miss Karen Moore  
Learning Support



Mrs Tracey Nethercott  
Mathematics



Mrs Charlotte Wates  
Modern Foreign  
Languages



Miss Kathryn Redstone  
Physical Education



Miss Emma Dean  
Science



Mr Chris Henderson  
Technology

## Academic Curriculum

By the time students leave Okehampton College we wish to develop them into well rounded, resilient individuals able to excel on whatever path they choose to take. Our curriculum is designed to be broad, balanced, relevant and personalised, thereby fostering the intellectual, social, creative, physical, moral and spiritual development of all our pupils by developing within them an appreciation of literature, the sciences, the arts, humanities and recreation.

In Key Stage 3, we ensure this broad, balanced, relevant and personalised curriculum through the delivery of the national curriculum. Students study English, Maths, Science, Art, Drama, Music, Foreign Languages, Geography, History, ICT, Physical Education, Beliefs and Values, Technology and PSHE.

Our students make some subject choices at the beginning of Key Stage 4. The curriculum remains broad and all students study English Language, English Literature, Maths, Science, P.E., Beliefs and Values and a further EBACC subject as well as studying 4 subjects of their own choice. In this way students can experience a range of opportunities across a number of subject areas, balanced to ensure that students are not narrowing down their options too early in their schooling, relevant to students' future plans and personalised so that the work is suitable to the ability and learning style of each individual. It is intended that almost all students will be following the EBACC at Key Stage 4 within the next 3 years.

## Heads of Year



Mrs Bernice Hachipuka  
Head of Year 7



Mrs Ruth Proudfoot-Smith  
Head of Year 8



Mrs Joanne Teixeira  
Head of Year 9



Mr Arron Wilson  
Head of Year 10



Miss Kimberley Marchant  
Head of Year 11

## Pastoral / House System

The Pastoral Team are dedicated to ensuring our students are happy, safe and supported. Our team, based in The Treetops Office, consists of Heads of Year, Pastoral Support Officers, Tutors and the Safeguarding Team. Staff from the team are always available to help and guide students. There are 10 tutor groups per Year Group and 2 tutor groups per Year form a House. We have 5 Houses, Elm, Beech, Ash, Maple and Oak and throughout the year each House takes part in different competitions and events run by all of the subject areas. At the end of the year, every student competes in Sports Day and the results of this event are added to those already accumulated throughout the year and the Winning House receives a coveted trophy.

## 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.



Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Charlotte Edwards. More information on safeguarding, including policies, contact details and signposted support for parents and children can be found on our website.

## 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 student's conduct and behaviour meets our College expectations and core values in order to create a safe, respectful and positive College culture.

The standard created through the consistency of the uniform will do much to set the tone of the school and will greatly help to encourage a good work ethic for all students. A detailed guide to our uniform expectations can be viewed on our website.

## Learning Support Faculty

The Learning Support Faculty provides support for students who have needs or disabilities that affect their inclusion in mainstream education.

Our faculty consists of: one Special Needs Teacher, three Literacy Tutors, one Numeracy Teaching Assistant, a Team Leader for the Teaching Assistants, a further twelve teaching assistants supporting students in class and delivering interventions and the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENDSCO), Miss Karen Moore.

Our Achievements:

We are very proud of our students' achievements, both on a personal and social level, and academically. Our students achieve well at Key Stage 4 with statemented/EHCP students, as a group, doing particularly well, often exceeding their predicted grades.

What OFSTED (2014) have to say about us:

*'Students who are disabled, have special educational needs or who qualify for additional government funding, all make excellent progress, with many attaining high grades in GCSE and A Level courses.'*

*'Students who are disabled or who have special educational needs make excellent progress because of the high quality support they receive from additional staff.'*

## Mental Health and 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 however their happiness is always a priority.

Our pastoral team of Heads of Year, tutors and the wider pastoral team have the welfare, well-being, and success of students as their priority, ensuring that we establish a secure foundation, both socially and academically, for a happy and successful time at Okehampton College.

Our comprehensive Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) programme is designed to provide our students with skills such as positive thinking, emotional resilience along with learning about health and well-being, relationships and living in the wider world. Form tutors along with dedicated PSHE teachers help to deliver a programme to pupils, covering topics such as mindfulness, exercise, healthy eating, first aid, kindness and the importance of sleep.

We have a team of pupil Mental Health Champions who have worked with pupils in our feeder primaries to run workshops and who meet and share ideas for how we can progress further. We also have a number of trained Mental Health First Aiders at the College who have been equipped to effectively signpost pupils if necessary. Our pupils are also fortunate to benefit from the services of the counselling support charity 'Tor Support', who are located on site.

Recently we have successfully renewed our award for the 'Healthy Child Quality Mark' for our continued high standards for prioritising health and well-being.

We are always striving to improve and certainly won't stand still, prioritising the happiness and wellbeing for all in our community.

*"Okehampton College is exceptional at working with students and teachers to improve mental health awareness whilst providing support for those who may need it." Year 13 Mental Health Ambassador.*



## Enrichment Opportunities

### The Enrichment Programme

The program includes enriching opportunities from across the curriculum; including sports clubs, school productions, Language Leaders, bands and choirs, alongside trips to Universities, outdoor education lessons and opportunities to watch top level sports teams.

We are extremely proud of the Colleges commitment to provide enhancing opportunities to support our academic curriculum and actively encourage students to engage in these activities in order to develop resilient, motivated and inquisitive members of the community.

### Expressive Arts

At Okehampton College we very much 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 take advantage of. Every two years we hold a production which is put on in the Octagon Theatre over the course of a week. We aim to emulate the process in a professional manner by using radio microphones, hiring in sets and costumes etc allowing students to be part of a true experience. In recent years we have performed Oliver!, West Side Story, My Fair Lady and Les Miserables.

As an Expressive Arts Faculty, we have taken students to New York where they were able to experience a Broadway show, perform concerts and visit galleries. Over the last two years, we have also been lucky enough to have the opportunity to take students to volunteer in schools in Mumbai, India where students taught lessons in Music, Drama, Dance and PE.

Many activities 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 with frequent visits to theatres, concerts, operas, galleries and workshops.

## Enrichment Opportunities

### Physical Activity

Okehampton College has excellent facilities with a full astro turf pitch, four flood lit tennis courts, extensive playing fields, a gym and use of 2 sports halls. The town's leisure Centre is attached to our campus enabling us use of their sports hall.

Students have the opportunity to engage in a wide range of physical activities including all of the major games, trampolining, dance, aerobics, athletics, fitness, tennis, volleyball, orienteering and badminton

Lunchtime and after College sees many different activities being coached and played and provides many opportunities for competition with an extensive fixture and inter house program. Extra-Curricular clubs are at no cost, and students are welcome to turn up on a week to week basis. The club timetable is changed on a termly basis, but throughout the year will include Football, Netball, Hockey, Rounders, Trampolining, Gymnastics, Rugby, Dodgeball, Badminton, Basketball, Athletics and Fitness.

The College has experienced many success stories within sport, with students going on to represent at County and National Level in Cross Country and Athletics. Our current Year 11 boys were winners of the Rugby Exeter/East Devon Cup and also of the County Cup Semi-finals in 2020 (with the finals not being played). Our U15 girls cricket team were West Devon and County Indoor cricket winners as well as finalists in the South of England Finals at the Ageas Bowl in the 2018-2019 season. Our U15 boys cricket team were County Champions in 2019 and our U13 girls cricket team were also County Champions qualifying them for the West of England Finals in 2020.

We compete on a local level with other schools, but also enter national competitions in athletics, cross country, cricket, netball, rugby, and football. We are part of the school games program and have plenty of inclusive opportunities available for all.

Alongside our lunch time and after school program, we also run different trips each year, previously having taken students for surfing lessons, climbing and to Bath University sports campus.



## Enrichment Opportunities

### Ten Tors

Each year Okehampton College is privileged to enter students from Year groups 10-13 into the largest youth event in the United Kingdom. Approximately 2500 students navigate, camp and walk either 35, 45 or 55 miles over 2 days on Dartmoor. Usually the College enters 4 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.



### 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 here in the College with students undertaking 3 months of each of the above sections and a 2 day, 1 night, self-sufficient expedition. Within the expedition, students complete an additional practice expedition and day training event.

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

## Enrichment Opportunities

### Enrichment Week

For one week in July, the College collapses the regular timetable to provide students in Years 7, 8 and 9 a week of exciting enrichment activities. The offer ranges from foreign residential trips to College based activities and caters for all tastes, interests and budgets.

Enrichment Week enables students to challenge themselves, learn new skills, develop socially and make new and lasting friendships. It is one of those events that is remembered with affection by former students many years after they have left College.

Activities previously offered included: Active Out & About, Animal Antics, Chills & Thrills, Jolly Paris, Germany, Jersey, Watersports in the Med, Outdoor Adventure, Days Out In Devon, Crafty Cooks and many, many more. However, every year new activities are added alongside some old favourites.



### Sponsored Walk

Every year the whole school takes part in our famous 10 mile Sponsored Walk. Whilst taking advantage of the Dartmoor National Park on our doorstep; the walk not only gives students the opportunity to support worthy causes but also enables them to build relationships within their tutor groups, while enjoying the natural environment and benefiting from healthy exercise. This annual event raises in the region of £6,000 for charities which are chosen by the students themselves.

## Student Voice

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 toilets. They have also achieved real improvements for those students waiting for buses in wet weather whilst also providing feedback on other new initiatives in College, for example; uniform, the Canteen, the Ready To Learn system and the organisation of homework and environmental projects. Student Council members are also often involved in interviewing candidates for senior positions on the College's staff.

The Council also regularly represent the College at Student Voice events run by Devon County Council and Co-operative schools in Devon. Student Councils also have input whilst choosing charities the College supports for the annual Sponsored Walk as well as organising non-uniform days to raise money for Children in Need amongst others. In the past we have raised as much as £8,000 for our chosen charities in one academic year.

Prefects are chosen from Year 10 applicants in readiness to start in their new position in Year 11. The students are encouraged to express their views in meetings as well as support the College with its priorities. Last year, prefects completed a school improvement plan for a chosen area and worked on implementing that throughout the year. The prefect system is a great opportunity for students to develop their leadership, communication and teamwork and to support their personal development.

We have a peer mentor system where volunteer students from Years 8 and 9 are paired with a Year 7 tutor group to support and help the new students settle into College life. This is a successful programme where the older students are able to draw on their own experiences to help others.

### Key Stage 3 Rewards scheme

We consider rewards to be part of a stimulating and encouraging environment for 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 'CORE values' and Achievement Points respectively. 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. These students are awarded prizes such as a 'canteen pass', Achievement Points and a 'praise postcard' that is sent home to parents/guardians. They are also entered into our end-of-year prize draw for even bigger prizes! Tutor Groups are also rewarded on the basis of how many Achievement Points they earn collectively. Tutor 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.



Principal, Mr Brett with Head Girl Ella Kaye and Head Boy Adam Hassan

## Post-16 Education

Students staying on at College after GCSEs have a wide range of choices following either 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.

Each Post 16 student has a personal tutor who monitors progress and offers support and guidance in making those crucial decisions for the future. Post-16 education is very different; students are expected to take far more responsibility for their learning. Teaching styles are different - more like University seminars.

BTEC National courses are offered in a range of subjects and these offer an alternative to A-Level courses in that they are more coursework based! They are worth the same as A-Levels.

Post-16 has a Senior Student Team led by a Head Boy and Head Girl to represent the College, help drive Post-16 forward and to promote its achievements. In addition, they coordinate fund raising events for chosen activities. All students are expected to contribute to College life as well, volunteering to help with younger students in all sorts of ways in different subject areas.

The Post-16 Wardhayes Campus is our new building which contains its own café, common room, study rooms and classrooms.



## Admissions

Okehampton College is a large comprehensive school serving the rural community of West Devon. Students come from Okehampton, the market towns of North Tawton and Hatherleigh as well as from many smaller villages and settlements around the catchment area and on Dartmoor. Admissions to the college are in line with the Local Authority policy.

Total number of students on roll September 2020 = 1233

Number of students in the 6th form = 203

## Primary Transition

The move from Primary to Secondary School can seem a huge step, especially for students coming from a small village school to a community of over 1400 students.

We aim to make this less daunting by holding the following -

Parents/Carers and students meet staff at the College on three designated evenings.

Year 6 students visit Okehampton College for taster days in the summer term.

Meet the Tutor Evening at the College.

Students may already be visiting the College for sports or music events.

Close contact with parents is maintained, through Information Evenings throughout the year.

Okehampton College

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Devon

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For your Notes...

Okehampton College

# Community Opportunity Respect Equity

