

Sidmouth College Newsletter

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Autumn Term: Edition 1, Friday 23rd October 2020



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I started this academic year by sharing my priority with the students 'to provide a safe and supportive high quality learning environment for all students'. Seven weeks later I am proud to say that we have done this. With the dedication and hard work from all the fantastic staff at the College we have given all of our students a 'new normal', a different structure and routine, but the same quality daily diet of high quality teaching and learning. We have, with the support of all the students, successfully implemented our risk assessment and with careful management and updates over the term, I am pleased that we have not had any positive cases of COVID.

Our students have continued to be offered a broad and balanced curriculum. We have maintained our focus on feedback in lessons and, through the use of baseline and benchmarking assessments, we have mapped where students' knowledge and understanding is for each subject. Over this half term all subject areas have been developing a recovery curriculum to ensure that we support students to master their learning and move forwards.

Each individual student and staff member have played a part in the success of this half term and the collective community is, without question, a strength of the College. Thank you again for your continued support. I am sure that there will be challenges next half term and we will continue to review our risk assessment and make changes where needed. However, I want to reassure you that I will maintain regular communication with you to ensure that everyone is always fully informed.

This newsletter is a collection of some of the additional opportunities that our students have had this half term. It is fantastic that we are still able to offer wider curricular enrichment, even at this time of restrictions, and I am pleased that we will also be expanding our enrichment offer for next half term.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and relaxing half term break. Please make sure that you are following the current COVID advice so that we can continue to keep all of the community safe at this time. I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 2nd November.

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Year 7's First Half Term

In September we welcomed 152 Year 7 students to the College, the biggest cohort of Year 7 we have had in many years.

Because Year 7 did not have the usual three transition days during the Summer term, they had the College all to themselves on their first day.

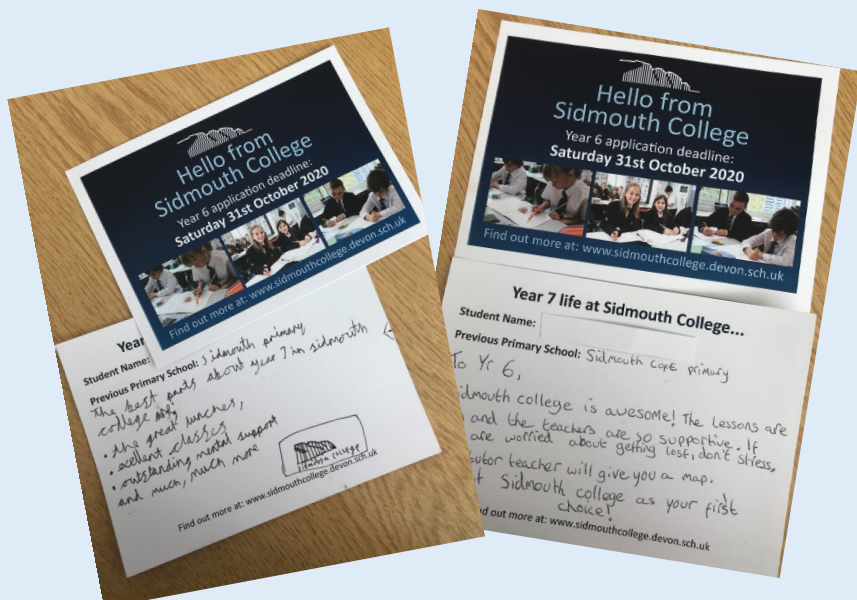
They enjoyed touring the College, meeting some of their teachers and taking part in a House group challenge on the field. Despite the rain in the afternoon for this activity, the new Year 7s were in fantastic spirits and keen to take on anything we gave them. We look forward to seeing them through their Sidmouth College journey, hopefully all the way to Year 13.



Year 7 Postcards

This term our new Year 7 group wrote postcards to be sent to their old primary schools. The postcards shared with Year 6 pupils how they have found their first half term at Sidmouth College, and aimed to encourage pupils not to worry about the move to secondary school.

Year 7 enjoyed writing these and explained that the worries they had before joining the College such as getting lost, having new teachers and lots of homework, were not as bad as they thought and that they are enjoying their new school!



Camps International Fundraising

Our Kenya 2021 Camps International group have been working hard fundraising over the past 12 months.

Back in February, before lockdown, as part of their fundraising towards the trip, the students helped customers at Waitrose in Sidmouth to pack their shopping - and raised £1,849.50. Students have also fundraised through long cycle challenges and even growing a 'mullet'!

During lockdown, when fundraising events were difficult, Toby made and sold candles and has now completed his fundraising for the trip.

When they get to Kenya they will be building new homes and classrooms with local materials, installing new facilities to provide fresh drinking water for local communities, and making items people can sell to make money.

They will spend time with local children, and take part in a week's scuba diving course.

Well done to all the students; to those that have completed their fundraising and to those very close. Keep up the good work!





Sidmouth College Riding Team

This term a selection of students have formed the Sidmouth College riding team and have taken part in their first competition. This was held at Bicton Arena on Saturday 3rd October and three of the team took part, jumping a course of show jumps, immediately followed by a Cross Country course.

It was a wet and blustery day, and an early start for the first college competitor, Lauren, who was first to jump in the 70cm class. The class consisted of eight show jumps, followed by eleven cross-country jumps spread over two arenas. The aim is to complete the course within the optimum time set without any faults (if possible!). Sadly, it was not Lauren's day with her pony Lorcan deciding that it was not for him today, despite having a good practice jump.

In the 80cm class were Ella on Mill Becks Willow, and Katie on Jim Gin (Connie). Both had an unfortunate knocked pole in the show jumping, giving four faults, but were clear around the cross country course.

There was stiff competition and nearly fifty competitors in the class, but they both left the arena with big smiles having achieved a great round at their first Arena Eventing competition and a first for the new Sidmouth College Riding Team.

The team would welcome any new members - there are competitions throughout the year in dressage, show jumping and eventing. Please get in touch with Mrs Churchill if you are interested!

The team are also hoping to fundraise to purchase Sidmouth College team riding kits, if anyone would be interested in sponsoring the team, please get in touch.



Ten Tors

We were delighted to be able to start our Ten Tors training with a local fitness walk on Sunday 18th October 2020. Four adults and a group of Year 10 students followed the Sid Valley Ring route around the Sid Valley and were back on the Esplanade by just after 1pm. We walked briskly, following the map and signposting; this was a great start, taking in some steep climbs as well as flat sections.

Our next walk is scheduled on Saturday 7th November 2020 and we will be advising students of the numbers for this walk later in this week. Please note that this walk is on the first Saturday back to school after half term and it is, therefore, important that students take note of Student Bulletins. Please also note that it will be parental/carers responsibility to get the students to the start of the walk in Lyme Regis. We will be following the coastal path back to Sidmouth.

We are looking to review how we can train in the current Covid climate and there is also a Zoom Parents' meeting on Wednesday 4th November at 5:30pm:

Zoom Meeting Details

Meeting ID: 728 3180 3041

Passcode: 5wVBKr





Meet Our New Student Heads of House

We are pleased to introduce our newly appointed Student Heads of House for the next academic year. After a busy first term, we now have 16 new enthusiastic leaders. For Raleigh House: Hollie, Hayley, Finn and Mya. For Grenville House: Elliot, Harriet, Isabel and Henry. For Scott House: Amy, Thomas, Zahra and Georgie and finally for Drake House: Dougal, Jess, Nola and Evan. Congratulations to them all, we look forward to seeing the work they do over the next year.

Raleigh Student Heads of House



Grenville Student Heads of House



Scott Student Heads of House



Drake Student Heads of House



Head Boy and Head Girl

In September students in the Sixth Form were given the opportunity to apply for a leadership position. Students had to apply to Mrs Parsons and Mrs Hurley with a covering letter as to why they would make a good Head Boy or Head Girl.

There were over 20 applications and after much deliberation it was narrowed down to four.

Meet our new Head Boy Max and Head Girl Anya who were appointed this term. Their deputies are Cameron and Emily.



Sixth Form

In September we were thrilled to welcome back so many students from Year 11 into Year 12. Sixth Form enrolment day was a busy day for Mrs Hurley and Mrs Barrett!

With over 100 returning in Years 12 and 13 it is by far the biggest cohort we have had in recent years and they are a fab group! Good luck to them all as they start their A-Levels over the next 1 or 2 years.

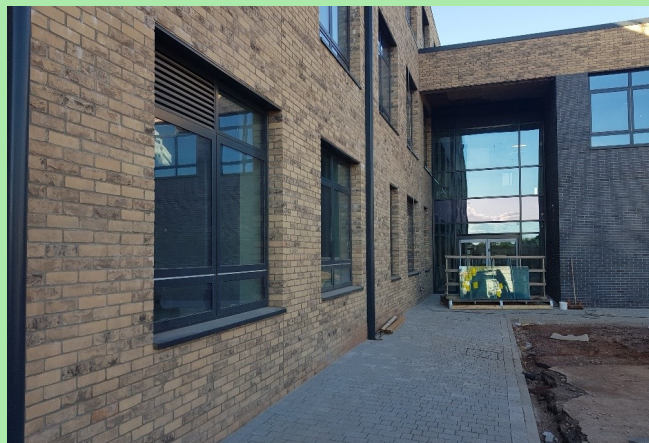




New Build Update

The new build is close to completion. Luckily most of the work was able to continue during lockdown, delaying the build by only 1 term. This half term we have seen all of the scaffolding come down on our new building. All brickwork and external features are now complete and, internally, paint has gone on the walls, flooring has been installed and furniture has begun to be moved in.

Some of the hoarding has now been removed, finally giving us a great view of what the building looks like as a whole. Completion is planned for the end of December with the aim of students and staff occupying the building in the Spring term. More information will be sent out to parents closer to the time.



Sidmouth College Fundraising Appeal

Last year the College launched a fundraising campaign to raise funds to purchase equipment available to students inside the new building. The first priority was to raise enough funds to equip all new classrooms with the latest audio-visual equipment, consisting of interactive HD screens and sound equipment. Thanks to a number of generous donations and funding we have been able to purchase this equipment.

With only a few months to go, we are now hoping to fundraise enough money to purchase new furniture for the building including classroom desks and chairs and seating for communal areas. We would also like to purchase internal and external signage for the new building to finish off the smart new interior and exterior.

Our aim is for Sidmouth College to become a centre of excellence for its students and the whole of the local community. We are asking the community for any donation, big or small, any amount will be put to good use.

If you would like to donate, visit our just giving page here:

www.justgiving.com/campaign/SCAPE.

Thank you to all those who have donated to our appeal so far!





Pumpkin Carving Competition

Back by popular demand this half term, the Student Heads of House ran the second ever Pumpkin Carving competition for students in KS3. Students could either bring in a pumpkin carved at home, or join one of the carving workshops after school this week.

We had some amazing entries including skulls, pumpkin prisons, star wars themed pumpkins and some traditional ones too.

Student Heads of House judged the designs and selected the top two designs to receive prizes and House points. The winners were:

1st place:

10 House Points - Year 7 Rose B - Baby Yoda

2nd place:

5 House Points - Year 7 Daniel P - Skull pumpkin



Careers News

It has been a busy term for our Careers Leader Mrs Young and the Careers Department. The college has received two awards as part of Mrs Young's ongoing work. We were presented with a certificate from Anne Blackburn of the Careers and Enterprise Company to recognise our achievement of 100% in the Gatsby Benchmarks which are an assessment tool for our careers work at Sidmouth College.

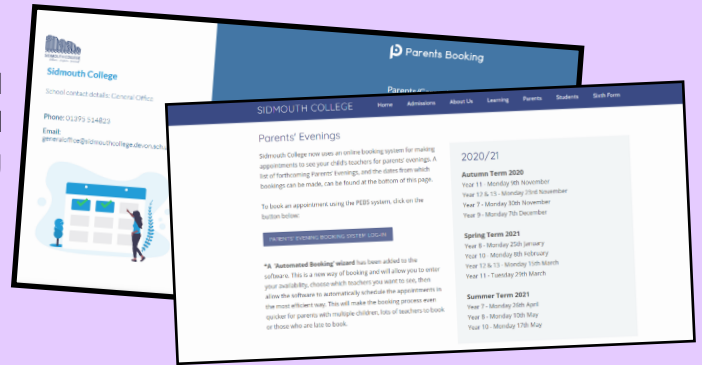


We were also fortunate to receive funding from the 'Careers and Enterprise Company' for our Careers Leader Mrs Young to study a Postgraduate Award in Careers Leadership at Warwick University and she was very pleased to receive a distinction this Summer!

Virtual Parents' Evening

This academic year will see parents evenings go virtual and be held over an online system. Parents will still need to book appointments through the Parents Evening Booking System on the College website.

www.sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk/parents-evenings



Autumn Term 2020

Year 11 - Monday 9th November
Year 12 & 13 - Monday 23rd Nov
Year 7 - Monday 30th November
Year 9 - Monday 7th December

Spring Term 2021

Year 8 - Monday 25th January
Year 10 - Monday 8th February
Year 12 & 13 - Monday 15th March
Year 11 - Tuesday 29th March

Summer Term 2021

Year 7 - Monday 26th April
Year 8 - Monday 10th May
Year 10 - Monday 17th May

Christmas Card Competition

This year the College is running a Christmas Card Competition which will be open to all students.

The winning design will be used as the official Sidmouth College Christmas card for 2020 and be sent out to various contacts and friends of the College.

The closing date is the 20th November 2020 and, once completed, designs need to be given to your Art teacher or to anyone in the Art Department for judging.

Design specifications:

- Design must be A4 or A5 size.
- Any media can be used such as paints, collage, ink, lino print, colouring pencils, felt pens, mixed media, photography, digital design.
- Must be 2D and able to be printed onto card.

We cannot wait to see your designs. After half term there is only two weeks until the closing date so half term is a great opportunity to get your entry made. Be as creative and festive as possible!





Sixth Form Open Evening

This year the Sixth Form Open Evening went virtual. Prospective students were able to access individual online videos from all of the course teachers, as well as a promotional video about the Sixth Form and a testimonial from previous and current students.

To view the videos visit the Sixth Form section of the website and go to the page titled Open Day 2020.

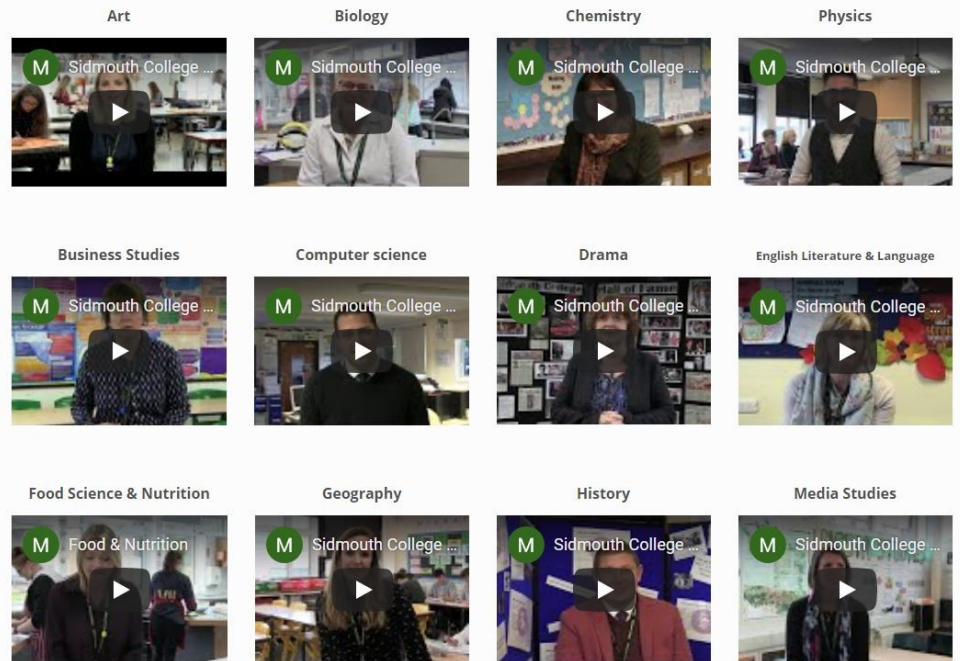
If any students in Year 11 have any queries or questions about joining the Sixth Form, please chat with Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Sue Hurley in school, or email her on: shurley@sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk

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A-Level Course Information Videos

See below a series of short videos presented by subject teachers, providing information about the course available to study at A-Level.



Sixth Form Mental Health Fun Day

On Friday 23rd October the Sixth Form Leadership Team organised a Sixth Form Mental Health Fun Day to raise money for mental health charities and to improve students' own mental health. This was held during a school inset day, and over 50 students chose to come in and take part.

The day included a breakfast session in the morning to raise awareness about mental health issues in young people which was supported by Sixth Form staff. This was followed by an hour of hide and seek around the College which the Sixth Form Leadership Team were eager to do, to let students have an hour of fun without the pressures of College work. The day also included a 5 a side football session and a creative session, as exercise and creative crafts both have been suggested to help reduce stress levels and provide an overall improvement in mental health.

Finally, before packing up for the day, the students took part in a second hide and seek game, this time with the teachers searching and the students hiding. The day was a great success and students left in high spirits ready for half term.

Thank you to the Sixth Form Student Leadership Team for organising the day and making it so enjoyable for the Sixth Form students. Well done.



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Equipment Check

Please can all students ensure over half term that they have the correct equipment ready for the when they return in November.

All students are expected to bring the following equipment daily.

Equipment checklist:

- Pencil case
- At least 3 pens with black ink
- At least 3 pens with red ink
- Pencils
- Rubber and sharpener
- 30cm ruler
- Maths set including compass and protractor
- Scientific calculator
- Highlighting pens
- Coloured pencil crayons
- White board pen
- Mini Whiteboard rubber
- Glue stick
- Round ended safety scissors
- Pocket English dictionary (Optional)
- Hole Punch (6th Form only)

Aim Higher Day

On Wednesday 21st October our Year 11 students took part in an Aim Higher Day. Students spent the day finding out about post 16 opportunities, researching careers they are interested in and practising skills needed for interviews, including completing an Application Form for a job and writing their own CV.

Staff and students also had discussions throughout the day about what the labour market looks like and what future jobs will be available. They also learned about and discussed how people do not stay in one job for life and the importance of recognising their transferable skills.

At the end of the day students all had their own CV and were prepared to write their first job application. Feedback from students was good and many said they felt more prepared now for their employment future.



Open Day 2020

On Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd September Sidmouth College opened its virtual doors to the public to attend our Opening Evening sessions. Things were a little different this year, but we were able to provide prospective parents and students with a glimpse of Sidmouth College life through our virtual presentation.

During the Zoom presentation Mrs Parsons and Mrs Carr spoke to parents about our transition programme and what students could expect. It also featured our new Year 7 students talking about their experiences so far at the College, as well as a Q and A session and Promotional Video.

Both sessions were a huge success, with the meetings at full capacity on both days..

Feedback from parents was positive with many compliments for the students involved. Thank you to everyone who attended the Virtual Open Day.

If you couldn't make it to our Virtual Open Day but would like to see some of our online resources, visit our website for more details by following this link: www.sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk/open-days.



Sidmouth College

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Open Event 2020

Tuesday 22nd & Wednesday 23rd
September

Online Zoom Presentation from the Principal and
Students starting at 7:00pm.

Booking essential. To book a place for a session
please call the College on:
01395 514823

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