

Sidmouth College Newsletter

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Starting a new academic year, we have new priorities for the continued improvement of the College. We have spent time with students and staff revisiting our values at the College. These are really important to everything that we do and are expressed in [The Sidmouth College Way](#) - [SIDMOUTH COLLEGE](#). We have a set of very strong values and these are shared by all, I am proud to observe the engagement of our students in all aspects of College life and see the Sidmouth College Way in practice every day.

Within teaching & learning we have a real focus on the quality of our curriculum along with the effective use of assessment & feedback. We use research informed practice within our lessons. Prioritising retrieval of knowledge at the start of lessons is a key element of this. Mini white boards and RAG cards are used every lesson to allow high quality feedback to take place, please use half term as an opportunity to replenish any equipment ready for next half term.

I am really pleased that we are once again able to provide a wide enrichment offer this year and enable our students access to valuable wider curriculum opportunities which will enhance and support their learning experience while at the College. You will see a snap shot of some of these opportunities in this newsletter.

As well as having a full enrichment programme in place including clubs and events, we have also welcomed a large number of visitors into the College from our wider community. Being able to enrich our students is such an important element of their education and part of our curriculum intent and it is very rewarding to see students engaging so positively.

This term we have once again started our transition work and Primary PE links, we actively look for opportunities for students from our feeder primary schools to come up to the College and work with our students and staff. A number of College students have helped and supported these events and shown great leadership skills and qualities in doing so.

This half term we have held very a successful Open Day and Sixth form open evening. I would like to thank all our wonderful students from Year 7 to Year 13 who volunteered to be tour guides and subject ambassadors at these events. They were a real credit to the College and we always receive so many fantastic comments from the families that they show round. Our recruitment and retention continue to be very strong this year and we were very pleased to welcome back so many of our amazing Year 11 students into Year 12.

As you are aware we are currently in a consultation process with all our stakeholders to convert to academy status and to join the Ted Wragg Multi-Academy Trust. We believe this will fundamentally support Sidmouth College to improve even further for the benefit of our students. It is important that we join a Trust which aligns with our vision and values and one that is established with a commitment to working collaboratively to improve outcomes for all students. The consultation ends on Friday 11th November. Please use this Google Form <https://forms.gle/CgxCrDN9fQHHkgBr5> to give feedback and raise questions. A reminder that there is also information on our website including FAQs. www.sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk/ted-wragg-trust.

Have a wonderful half term break and we look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 31st October.

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on Social Media!**



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Principal's Commendations

This term Mrs Parsons has awarded deserving students who have excelled or achieved something above and beyond with a Principal's Commendation.

The first Autumn half term's Principal's Commendations have gone to the following students in Year 7 Isaac, Jake, Molly and Jess. They received the award to congratulate them on their excellent speeches, which they gave at the Sidmouth College Open Day at the start of term in September.

They did a brilliant job and were fantastic ambassadors for the College. Well done to the four students!

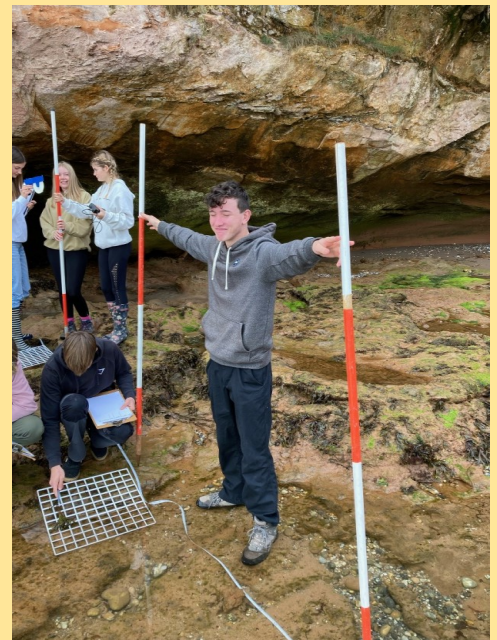


Years 12 and 13 Science Trip

This half term, and for the first time since Covid restrictions were lifted, the College Science Department were able to run a field trip to Ladram Bay.

A-Level Science Students from Years 12 and 13 were transported to Ladram Bay, where they carried out sampling techniques using transects and quadrats on the exposed rocky shore.

They were able to identify a number of species using keys and Mrs Bayliss' excellent knowledge. The field trip allowed essential sampling skills to be developed as well as giving students the opportunity to study the local environment in detail. The group did some excellent work which will be beneficial to their tasks in lessons. Many thanks to the staff at Ladram Bay Holiday Park for their support in making the trip happen.



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on Social Media!*



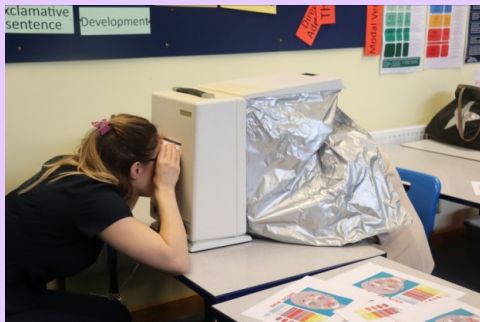
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Year 9 Careers Roundabout

On Wednesday 19th October, Year 9 students had the morning off timetable to take part in a Careers Roundabout. Following feedback from last year we adapted the event and our Business partners worked with 4 groups over the event to carry out interactive sessions about their occupational area. The morning is focused around giving students a vast variety of different workplace experiences, ahead of planning their work experience placements in Year 10 and making their GCSE choices. On the day students had some fantastic opportunities including sessions on healthcare, catering, hair and beauty, countryside conservation, animal care with the help of some giant insects, map reading, army training and electrical and plumbing engineering. There was something for everyone.

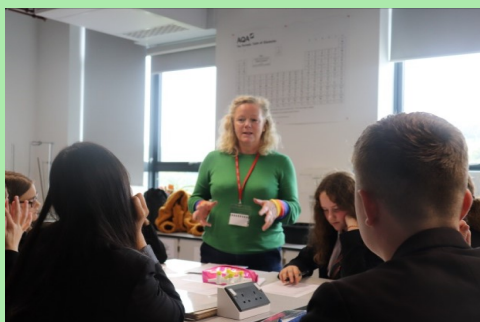
We would like to thank Scott from the MAPS team @Bicton College, The Animal Care, Vets & Equine departments at Bicton College, Sarah, Caroline & Stuart from Hair, Beauty and Hospitality at Exeter College, Jon & Katherine from the Arboriculture team at Bicton College, Terry - retired BAE engineer, Cheryl a Paramedic from Seaton Surgery, Alex & Sean from RBC Brewin Dolphin, Dan & Dan from Coreus, Vanessa from Ward Williams Associates, The Army Infantry team and Kathy and Alie from Voyage Travel Marketing. Without our amazing employers events like this could not happen.



Introduction to Work Experience

On Wednesday 5th October Year 10 were off timetable for the day taking part in an introduction to work experience day which included a series of workshops to prepare the students for their upcoming work experience placements in the Summer term. We were lucky enough to have employers from across Devon come in to speak to students and give advice on getting the most out of their work experience.

Thank you to all our visiting employers for joining us on the day Sue Cockayne from East Devon HR, Helen Maynard & Katherine Austin from Bicton College, Andrew May from Voyage Travel Marketing, Terry Exell ex BAE Engineer, Sean Priestley and Alex Mclachlan both from RBC Brewin Dolphin and Victoria Robinson from EDDC.



Rugby Season Begins

Our Under 13s rugby team kicked off our fixtures for this term in September taking a win of 8 tries to 2 against Colyton Grammar School. The boys ran away with it in the second half, scoring 6 unanswered tries. Scorers were Riley with x3, Alfie x2, Dylan x2 and Charley x1 following a clever kick through from Sean. Well done for an encouraging start to the season!



Rugby Success

It has been a successful season for our boys rugby. After a match to forget against Uffculme at the start of term, the boys got another win under their belt with a convincing 25 - 7 win against Woodroffe. They achieved 5 tries in total with a hatrick for Alfie M.

Lets hope the success continues next half term for the teams.



Cross Country

This term students took part in Inter-House Cross-Country competing for the house champions title!. On day one the weather was dry and sunny which made for ideal running conditions, however day 2 was not so good, with showers and grey skies. There was some very competitive running, with just a few seconds separating 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions in most year groups. The overall winning House will be announced in assembly after half term.

Results were as follows:

Y7 Boys - 1st Bryn B, 2nd Owen W, 3rd Kaison C & Y7 Girls - 1st Chloe H, 2nd India C, 3rd Ella C

Y8 Boys - 1st Toby S, 2nd Oscar B, 3rd Henry T & Y7 Girls - 1st Isla D, 2nd Lily C, 3rd Olivia H

Y9 Boys - 1st George A/Kayden A, 2nd Harry R/Jaden L , 3rd Jack C/James J & Y7 Girls - 1st Daisy H/ Maisie C, 2nd Ella F/Jess J, 3rd Emily H/Ella M

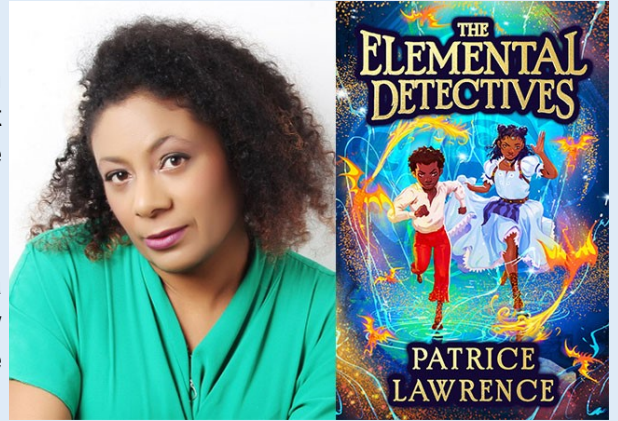
Senior Boys - 1st Harry J, 2nd Alex B , 3rd Jamie W & Y7 Girls - 1st Gracie G, 2nd Josie B, 3rd Millie T



Author Visit

On Wednesday 14th September, as part of the Budleigh Salterton Literary Festival, the English department were delighted to host award-winning and best-selling young adult author Patrice Lawrence for the morning.

Patrice delivered an inspiring and enthusiastic presentation to all of Year 7 where she talked about her life, how she came to be a writer and her creative process. She also spoke about her new fantasy crime novel, *The Elemental Detectives*, and how she came up with lots of the ideas for her story. The talk was followed by a Q&A session, with many of the Year 7 students choosing to ask interesting questions about how Patrice writes and her inspirations. Students also had the opportunity to purchase a signed copy of *The Elemental Detectives* and speak to Patrice one-to-one. We hope to welcome more published authors to the college later in the year.



Tribute to HM Queen Elizabeth II

This term the students and staff at Sidmouth College collaborated to create an art tribute to Queen Elizabeth II. The piece was made up of four paintings in the style of pop artist Andy Warhol and each one was hand painted by students and staff from across the college community.

The project was directed by the Year 11 Student Heads of House and supported by students Georgia and Lily who all worked with the younger year groups, making this a whole school effort. We were so pleased with how great it looked displayed from the windows of the building for everyone to see.



In addition to the art installation, the College also reinstated its original 1960s flagpole which was taken down during the recent build. The flag flew the Union Jack flag at half mast for the mourning period. On Tuesday 20th September students Grace and Thomas requested the job of raising the flag to full height the day after the Queen's funeral.



Christmas Card Competition

The College is running the Christmas Card Competition again this year, which is open to all students.

The winning design will be used as the official Sidmouth College Christmas card for 2022 and be sent to our various contacts and friends of the College.

The closing date is Friday 25th November 2022 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.

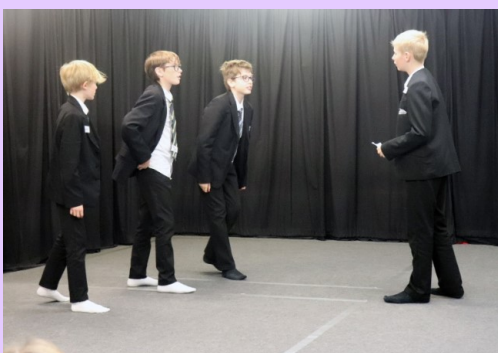
We cannot wait to see your designs. Half term is a great opportunity to get your entry made. Be as creative and festive as possible!



Youth Theatre Auditions

Auditions for the next Sidmouth Youth Theatre Production took place last Wednesday and Thursday after school. The Drama studio was bursting with students from Years 8-13 acting out a short scene in groups and then either singing a show tune in a group or singing a solo. Mama Mia was a popular choice this year!

Miss Davies said, "Having no productions during the Covid Pandemic I was fortunate to be able to stage a compilation 'The Show Will Go On', which was a sell out last February at The Manor Pavilion Theatre. Final decisions will be made over half term when performing rights give me permissions to perform what will be a Musical show. With so many auditioning and the restrictions of the size of the stage at the theatre some who auditioned may not get in this time. I am excited with the level of interest and the willingness of the students to give it a go. If they are unsuccessful on this occasion they will get another chance to audition next year".



Primary Events - Modern Foreign Languages

This term it was great to restart our events with pupils from our local Primary Schools. In September we hosted two Primary PE cross country events for pupils in Years 3,4,5 and 6. On hand were our Sports Leaders who marshalled and kept scores.

We also hosted a Modern Foreign Languages day to celebrate Languages Day 2022. This was the first MFL session we have hosted and the pupils were fantastic. Mrs Bee and Mrs Southwell taught the pupils from Sidmouth, Newton Poppleford and Sidbury Primary Schools in French, using puppets they made in class.



Primary Events - Art

On Thursday 6th October it was a pleasure to host a specialist art workshop with Year 5 pupils from Branscombe, Newton Poppleford and Sidbury Primary schools. The pupils enjoyed learning about the art of Inge Morath and Saul Steinburg.

They then responded by creating wonderful masks showing expression, body language, printing techniques and paint application. They created some wonderful masks, with fabulous expressions and wore them really well. We look forward to welcoming year 5's back later in the year for another art workshop.



Ten Tors

The college is pleased to have been allocated 2 x 35 -mile teams (year 10) and 1 x 45 -mile team for Ten Tors 2023.

Our first fitness training walk took place on Sunday 16th October when we completed a challenging circular walk from the College to Branscombe and back. A total of 23 students took part with two staff members and two volunteers. Students did well, coming in in good time and keeping a good pace throughout the walk.



The next training will be on Saturday 12th November 2023 on Dartmoor. Currently the Army are considering changes to the original planned date for the actual event, which now clashes with the coronation of King Charles. Information and updates can be found on the notice board in school, or on the College website.



Exeter University Trip

Exeter University was the destination for Mrs Hurley and Mr O'Neill on Tuesday 20th September as they led a group of 25 Year 11 students on their Aim Higher Day.

The programme for the day involved looking at the application process for jobs and higher education courses from the letter of application and CVs to the interview itself.

We then enjoyed a brief tour around the campus to gain an insight into what life at university is really like. This was all the more exciting given it was Freshers' week.

It was an enjoyable day. The students behaved immaculately, involved themselves fully in the activities and hopefully left feeling inspired and excited about their future careers.



Open Day 2022

In September Sidmouth College opened its doors once again to the public to attend our Open Day. The event was a huge success with over 400 guests over the three sessions.

On arrival visitors listened to a welcome talk from Mrs Parsons, followed by speeches by our Head Boy Jacob, Head Girl Harriett and Year 7 students Molly, Isaac, Jess and Jake, who spoke confidently in front of such big crowds.

After the talks, parents and prospective students were given a tour by our student ambassadors from Years 8 and 9, finishing off with refreshments in the Library and canteen. In the morning session visitors were able to see lessons in action as they toured the college. In the evening departments hosted subject activities. In History Mr Trengove put on a game of Kings and Queens 'Play your cards right'. In Food technology everyone was invited to make their own pizza and in Photography guests were invited to make their own light graffiti.

Feedback from visitors was all positive with many compliments for the student guides, Sixth Form helpers and staff who gave demonstrations in all departments. Thank you to everyone who attended and to our student ambassadors.





Pumpkin Carving Competition

Back by popular demand this half term, the Student Heads of House along with Mrs Chapple-Hyam and Mrs Cox ran the Pumpkin Carving House competition for students. Students could either bring in a pumpkin carved at home, or join one of the carving workshops during lunchtimes 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 designs to receive prizes. All students who entered received House points. The winners were 1st place Year 10 Freddi B, 2nd place to Year 7 group including Patience G, Kourtney C, Frank M and Amber R. 3rd Place went to Year 8 Summer H.



Drama and Theatre A Level Practical Devising Exam Performance

On Thursday 20th October A level Drama students performed their devised original drama piece which accounts for 30% of their A level marks.

The task was to create an original inventive piece of theatre based on the methodologies of a specific Theatre practitioner/ Company. The students chose their own content and the practitioner influence was chosen from a list provided by the exam board. This year, the focus has been based on research regarding the Pol Pot regime and the mass genocide in Cambodia in the late 1970s. The practitioner choice was a challenging attempt to perform a piece that is 'immersive' for the audience and influenced by the theatre company 'Punchdrunk' who are currently performing a devised performance in an old warehouse in Woolwich. 'Burnt City'. Based on the fall of Troy, this production allows the audience to move through a series of rooms and spaces and involving them in the action of the performers.

The piece directly involved the audience where they were moved to the points of action in the drama studio which was transformed to become unfamiliar for them. The audience's role changed throughout, from at times, being made to feel complicit and at others, becoming a victim. The research provided some harrowing accounts and individual stories that were challenging to stage.

The students channelled new knowledge and understanding in their approach to this task and each one of them developed skills to sustain roles in close proximity to their audience.

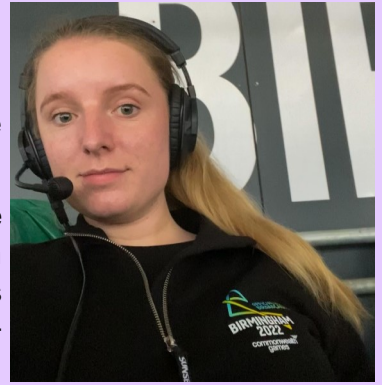




Alumni Success

Former Drama student Charlotte Hadfield, who is currently studying Drama and Theatre Arts at Birmingham University, was selected to play an important role in the Commonwealth games in Birmingham in the summer.

Charlotte had an incredible experience working on the live coverage of the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. She spent 5 days as a live gallery production assistant and she also had a volunteer role as part of the lighting crew for the Games opening and closing ceremonies. The host broadcaster for the games, 'Sunset + Vine' set out to train and hire 150 young people for various broadcasting roles during the games. Charlotte won a place after a 6 month application process and two interviews. She successfully convinced the panel that she had the ability to work well under pressure and was well suited to the roles.



The Live gallery PA role involved working closely with the director and producer in an outside broadcast truck to keep the programme running to schedule and communicating with all international TV channels and the streaming services for the live feed of the games. Her tasks included communicating with the camera operators counting in and out of camera shots, synchronising segments of recorded media and ensuring all the live action was caught. The lighting crew experience was the result of a volunteer programme which involved over 10,000 people in various roles. She operated a Follow Spotlight in the roof of the Alexander stadium. She rehearsed with the performers for a week and as someone who had never touched a stage light before she was challenged to light key performers during the ceremony which was broadcast to over a billion people around the world.

Charlotte relished this opportunity which has reaffirmed her interest in working in Live TV. She is hoping to pursue a career in production in the future after she completes her degree. This experience will certainly provide her with ammunition to be successful at interview within the challenging TV industry.

Daisy Pulls It Off

Drama students in Years 10 and 11 led the cast at The Manor Pavilion Theatre in Sidmouth Amateur Dramatics Society's production of Denise Deegan's Comedy 'Daisy Pulls it Off'. The play is set in 1927 at Grangewood School for Girls. It is a fast paced, fun pastiche of the classic girl's schools of old. With splendid scrapes, midnight feasts and lots of jolly hockey sticks, harking back to a nostalgic bygone era.



With splendid scrapes, midnight feasts and lots of jolly hockey sticks, harking back to a nostalgic bygone era.

The lead role of Daisy Meredith was played with confidence and a real sense of character by Bronwyn Aires. She arrives as a 'new girl' where her biggest problem is that she is a scholarship student. She finds a friend in Trixie Martin but throughout the play she is taunted and by the odious, snobby, privileged character Sybil Burlington and her side-kick Monica Smithers played respectively with panache by Florence Rousseau-Kennell and Pippa Nicholls. It is not until Daisy rescues Sybil and Monica, scores the winning goal in an exciting on stage hockey match and finds the Beaumont treasure which saves the school that she becomes the hero of the day. Tilly Bennett played the part of sports mad Belinda Mathieson and Elise Snowden played the role of a Year 2 student understudying Winnie.

The girls were all excellent in the staged routines, creating the journey to the school by train, creating scenes in the library, a full scale hockey match and the cliff rescue. It was a pleasure to take fifty Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 drama students on Wednesday 5th October to see this play and for the students involved to have their support. Live theatre is an invaluable enrichment that helps drama students to develop their knowledge and understanding of how theatre works. It provides a resource of ideas in terms of stagecraft that they can use in their own devising work and script interpretations. In their exams, whether GCSE or A level, they will need to be able to critically evaluate live theatre. This trip provided an opportunity for them to consider all aspects of the performance.



Sidmouth Science Week

Sidmouth College celebrated Science Week in October. Activities during the week including a visit from Hannah Nobbs who is a co-pilot for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance and a qualified engineer. Hannah visited a number of lessons in science and worked with students in Years 8, 9, 11 and post 16. In Year 9 she helped to run a bridge building competition and awarded prizes to the group who showed the most cooperation and developed and improved their model. Hannah was also available at lunchtime and spoke informally to students about careers in the air industry and in engineering.



We also welcomed Dr Edward Steele to the college, who works at the Met Office and Antonia Dommett from the Environment Agency who both gave a talk to students about their roles and work.



Finally on Tuesday 11th October Years 7 and 8 were lucky enough to attend a Science Magic Show in the Hall with Ian B Dunne, who performed a series of science based tricks using electricity and robots. The students were an excellent audience, participating and getting involved in the science and showing great enthusiasm.

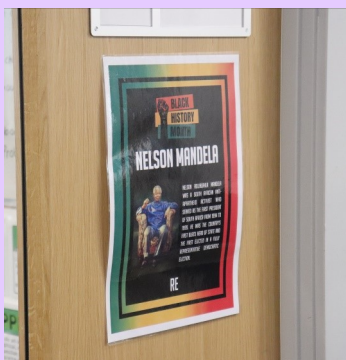


We'd like to thank all our visitors during Science Week for sharing their work and passion for science with the students and hopefully inspiring some future scientists from the College.

Black History Month

To mark Black History Month this October departments created a number of posters celebrating key people who have made a difference in their field. These posters were displayed throughout the month on classroom doors. The English Department featured author Patrice Lawrence, who visited the College this half term ([page 5](#)) and discussed with the students her struggle growing up and not identifying herself in books.

Students also took part in a logo competition to design a logo for Preet Chandi, the first woman of colour to complete a solo expedition to Antarctica. The logo will go on her sled throughout phase 2 her 1000 mile expedition. The winner was Rory whose logo can be seen below. It will now go to Antarctica with Preet!



Art and Photography Stars of the Month



Sports Stars of the Month

SPORTS STARS OF
THE MONTH
OCTOBERFOR OUTSTANDING
PERFORMANCE IN PE

- ★ YEAR 7 – ALI G
- ★ YEAR 8 – ISLA D
- ★ YEAR 9 – JAMES J
- ★ YEAR 10 – FREDDIE T
- ★ YEAR 11 – HARLAN S

GCSE PE

- ★ YEAR 10 – JOSIE B, ALI M
- ★ YEAR 11 – ELLE V-H

BTEC SPORT

- ★ YEAR 12 – CHARLOTTE A-R
- ★ YEAR 13 – GEORGIE M

Student Success

At the College we love to hear about student's successes outside of school. We would like to congratulate Year 10 Student Archie who has had many successes in his karting career already and shows no signs of stopping! Recently Archie has competed at the Belgian National Kart Championships as one of only four racers representing the UK. Archie came 23rd overall out of 76 drivers from 13 nations. Archie also competed at the National Kart Championships 2022 in the UK and came 4th overall. Amazing achievement Archie, well done!

If any other students have hidden talents and stories, we'd love to hear about them and share them with the college community.



Sidmouth Air Cadets



A number of Sidmouth College students are members of the Sidmouth Air Cadets. They are always looking for new members to join them. If any students are interested they can contact: oc.2019@rafac.mod.gov.uk

Student Success

Congratulations to James who has been selected for the Devon development U14 cricket programme. He will undergo an indoor training schedule at Blundell's school over the winter months with the hope of being selected for representative teams during summer. Well done James – very well deserved.





Christmas Fair

The Sixth Form are organising a fundraising Christmas Fair this December to be held at the College. They are currently looking for stallholders and sellers for the event. If you would like to book a table please email ctregale@sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk with your contact details and what you would like to sell.



SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER
10AM-3PM

TAKING BOOKINGS FOR STALLHOLDERS
£20 FOR EXTERNAL SELLERS
£10 FOR STUDENT SELLERS



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