



Sidmouth College Newsletter

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Autumn Term: Edition 2, Friday 18th December 2020



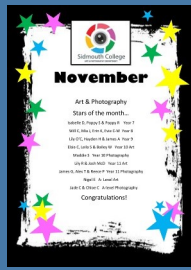
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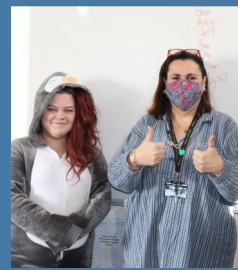
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With the final few days of this autumn term approaching I find myself reflecting back on the past few months. Firstly, with a feeling of pride towards our wonderful students, their maturity, resilience and their ability to adapt to our new normal has to be admired. Secondly, with a sense of overwhelming gratitude to the fantastic staff at the College, who have continued to provide high quality learning and pastoral care, during all the anxiety and uncertainty that we have all faced. I hope that you feel that your son / daughter has been provided with a safe and supportive learning environment over this autumn term as this was my priority when we returned in September.

We are all hopeful that we can look towards the spring term with a sense of optimism and hope that we may be able to move out of the current restrictions to be able to start to offer the enrichment element of our curriculum to all our students.

I would like to thank you for all of your support, especially with our remote education. Thank you also for the positive messages. We have worked hard to maintain communication and continue with our curriculum offer even when students have had to work from home. Our Year 11 and Year 13 students have also been able to complete a full set of trial exams without any interruptions, their attendance and conduct was exemplary.

Overall our risk assessment has worked well during this term with only a handful of positive student cases and no positive results for staff within the College. We will be reviewing our processes in preparation for the spring term and our updated risk assessment will be available on the website.

If dealing with a global pandemic wasn't enough, we have also been very busy with the final stages of phase one of our building programme. I am delighted that we will be moving over the Christmas holidays. I would like to thank everyone in advance for the time that will be spent ensuring we are ready to welcome our students back on Wednesday 6th January. Once we have moved into the new building phase two will commence, starting with the demolition stage and then the final phase which will see the landscaping of the site take place in early summer. Once the site is completed by mid-May we will see the benefits of the whole area. I would like to thank the students for their patience during this time. I was really pleased to be able to show all our students around the new facilities this week. Please don't worry as there will be lots of staff out and about when we return in the New Year to help students to find their way around.

Please continue to all to stay safe over the festive period by following the government guidance so that all our students can return in the New Year. Enjoy the time with family and I look forward to welcoming everyone back on January 6th. Have a restful and relaxing Christmas break.

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Staff Music Video

Every Christmas the staff form a band to sing and play in assembly to the students. This year they decided to create a music video to show students during tutor times and to share online for parents to see. This year the video had a little twist though and featured a few more staff members. Our Peripatetic teachers also created a music video for students and you can watch both of these on The College's Facebook page here: www.facebook.com/sidmouthcollege or on our YouTube Channel here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=YubalP3sMYs.



Christmas Cupcake Competition

This term the Student Council organised a Christmas cupcake decorating House competition for all students and staff. Students were tasked with baking a batch of cupcakes, decorating them in the most original Christmas design they could come up with, and then selecting the best one to be brought in and judged. Judging was based on decoration and not on tasting. We saw a over 30 entries which all looked delicious, making not eating them even more difficult! The winning designs were:

1st place: Abigail R, 2nd place: Abigail M, 3rd Place: Sophie S.

Congratulations to the winners and to all the students who entered.



Christmas Baking

The Food Technology department have been busy this term cooking up a number of delicious festive treats. Bakes have included gingerbread, Christmas cupcakes, yule logs and mince pies. See some of the great examples below.





Christmas Card Competition

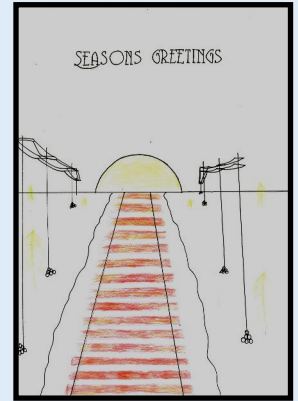
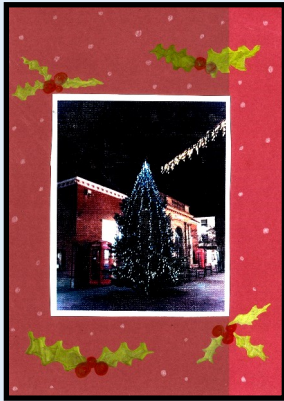
This term the College ran a Christmas Card Competition open to all students.

Students were given the task to design a card using a media of their choice, with the winning design being used as the official Sidmouth College Christmas card for 2020. We had an array of fantastic entries to choose from which was a difficult task.

We are pleased to share that the winner is Daniel Paget in Year 7 whose design featured the College's tie and blazer with Christmas lights around it. This will now be reproduced and used by the College for 2020. Congratulations Daniel.



Runners up included Rose B (Year 7), Evie C (Year 7), Grace C (Year 9), Isabelle D (Year 7) and Mia W (Year 9).



Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday 11th December it was Christmas Jumper Day. As well as being fun and festive, the day also raises money for Save the Children ahead of the Christmas period. As usual, we saw a vast array of bright and bold jumpers from students and staff. We ran a poll on facebook for which teacher wore the best jumper. The winner was Mr Richards in a Star Wars jumper. Students made a fantastic effort and we saw a great selection of jumpers worn. In total as a College we raised a fantastic £350 which will all go to Save the Children and the College SCAPE fund. Well done everyone!



Mr Richards



Mr Gilbert



Miss Carnell



Mr Trengove



Moving Day Approaches

It was over 5 years ago at the beginning of 2015 when Sidmouth College first received the news that they would be a part of the Governments Priority Schools Building project. It has been a long time coming, but finally the new build is coming up to completion.

During the last week of term students had the opportunity to visit the new build in class groups in preparation for the new term after Christmas. Students were shown where to go when they arrive at the College, where their tutor rooms and new classrooms will be. This was a very exciting time and students were thrilled with what they saw.

We will be sharing some videos and pictures of the completed building in the new term with you online and are hoping to have a future open event for friends, families and the local community to come and take a look at the space.



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

If you would like to donate, visit our just giving page here: www.justgiving.com/campaign/SCAPE.

Investors in Careers

This term the College achieved its Investors in Careers 'Quality in Careers' Award. The award is renewed every three years through a vigorous process of assessment and we have had confirmation that we have again met all the standards. The assessment involves students, staff and parents and business partners being involved in an assessment day to confirm evidence of the work the College does towards careers support and guidance.

We received our certificate this half term and will be displaying this in the new building in the Spring Term.



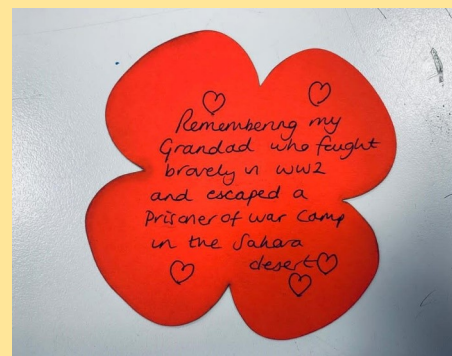
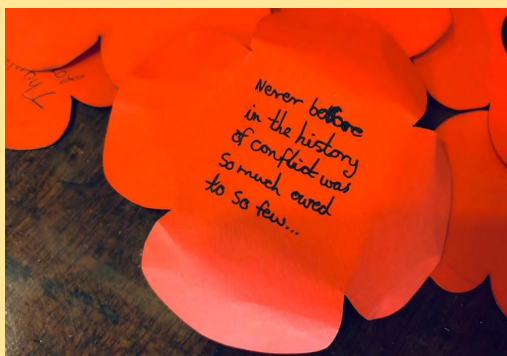


Remembrance

In the week running up to remembrance Sunday Mrs Chapple-Hyam and Mrs Bennett created a remembrance installation made from over 700 poppies. These poppies were given to all students and they had the opportunity to write a personal remembrance message on them.

These were then collated and pinned to a mannequin to resemble a spectacular dress made from poppies only.

The dress was on display for the week beginning 9th November for students and staff to see. Students created some lovely messages and really appreciated the importance of remembrance. Many writing messages to loved ones and family members.



Book Buzz

To encourage students to read, Sidmouth College gives the new Year 7s their very own book every year. They get to choose from a selection provided by Book Buzz in September and then pester Mrs Harrison until they are in!

Well, the books are in and Year 7s were very excited about receiving their free read! Don't forget to share with family and friends to inspire them too. We would like to thank the SCA for their donation towards the books.



Waitrose Food Donation

We would like to thank Waitrose of Sidmouth who this term donated a number of Food Technology ingredients to the College, including flour, sugar, pasta, spices and loads more, which will be put to good use.

On Wednesday 18th November the ingredients were dropped off by Julie from Waitrose and we were thrilled to accept these ready for lessons this term.

Thank you to Waitrose for the kind donation, we will put them to great use in the run up to Christmas.





Art & Photography Stars of the Month



Christmas Tree Carry

A long held tradition for our Sixth Form students is the annual Christmas tree carry and last year we celebrated its 40th anniversary. This year however, due to the current restrictions, our Sixth Form were unable to walk through the town carrying the tree through the streets of Sidmouth collecting donations.

We were still thrilled to have a tree donated by Kings Garden Centre of Sidmouth who kindly delivered the tree to us.

The Sixth Form are planning to hold a different fundraising event in the Spring term with the plan to use the money to give back to the local community. The tree now stands proudly at the entrance to the College where it will be situated for the last time on this site.

Next year we will plan a new home for the Christmas tree on our new site.



Ten Tors

Students completed another training walk on Sunday 13th December and to say the least it was hilly, muddy and wet!

Fifteen Year 10 students, two members of staff and three amazing adult volunteers braved the wet weather to walk around the Sid Valley, climbing three of the highest hills. Well done to everyone and we look forward to our next training which is due to take place on Saturday 16th January 2021 when, depending upon UK Gov Covid Guidance, we will be walking on Dartmoor.



Media Video Competition

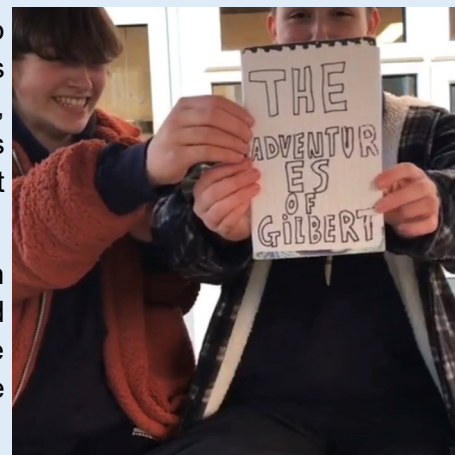
This term Mrs Jenkins organised a student Media Studies film making competition. The competition required students to create a story board of a Christmas video to a Christmas song of their choosing.

The winning storyboard was selected and that group of students could film and edit their video to be shared with the rest of the College.

The winning group included students Honey C, Georgia M, Tom P, Mia W, Darcy R & Yasmin T.

They made a video all about the teachers at Sidmouth College, with some references to their funniest features!

The film is currently in the editing stage, and when it is ready we will share with the students.





Former Drama & Music Student Success - Jasper Dommett

Following his work with BBC National Orchestra Wales, Jasper has been nominated in the 'Large Orchestral' category of the 2020 Ivors Composer Award for his original composition 'Night Music' which was commissioned by the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. He is one of the youngest nominees.

Jasper comments, 'To be nominated for the work I wrote for BBC NOW is also special. The orchestra has been integral to my development as a composer, not only enabling my music to be realised but also through their expansive programming. Experiencing a diverse range of live music on a regular basis is a composer's best education.'

Jasper reveals that 'Night Music' has a special place in his musical heart, as the 10 minute work is dedicated to his late grandmother and acts as both a celebration of her life but also a goodbye letter after a long illness.

To further expand his development, he has been Invited as a young emerging composer to work with RSNO Scotland's National Orchestra to develop compositions with guidance from award winning composer Stuart MacRae. Jasper will be given the opportunity to write orchestral compositions of different lengths and work with the orchestra to develop his ideas and skills, and to forge new creative relationships. The works will be performed in the RSNO's 2021/22 season.

We are proud to celebrate exciting developments for Jasper who is clearly destined for success in his dream to be an accomplished composer. In his words,

'Music picks up where our words fail and therefore should leave a room for each of us to imagine our own world when we listen.'



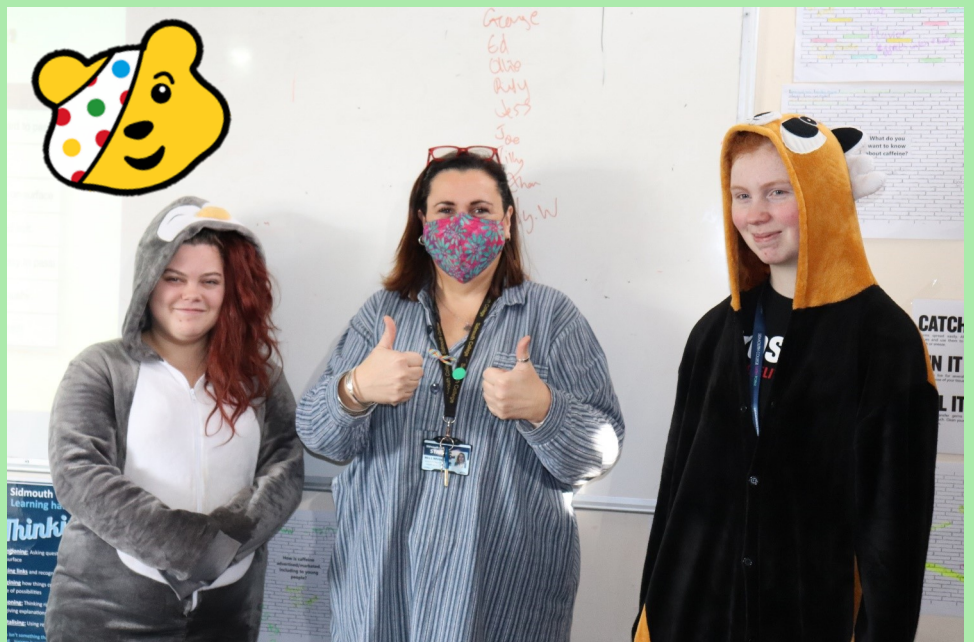
Children in Need

On Friday 13th November the College held a non-uniform day for all students to fundraise for Children in Need.

The Sixth Form also took part in the non-uniform day, but decided to dress in pyjamas and onesies instead.

Even some of the Sixth Form tutors decided to join in with Mrs Whitworth (pictured) teaching all day in her pyjamas and slippers!

In total we raised £670 for the Children in Need charity. Amazing efforts by all. Thank you to everyone who donated.





GCSE Drama

Year 11 GCSE Drama students performed their NEA practical devising exam this term, following delays due to isolation. All students took the situation in their stride and worked in their social media chat groups to make sure they were well prepared, despite cancelling on more than one occasion.

The students based their pieces on the Aberfan disaster which occurred in October 1966 when a tip of coal waste fell on Pantglas Junior School burying the children inside. 116 children aged between 5 and 10 lost their lives. This was almost the loss of a whole generation and had a devastating impact on those who lost their children and those who survived.

The students researched personal stories and the impact of the event on the town of Aberfan. They created moving and inventive accounts using ensemble techniques where they used physical theatre, playing multiple roles and where they crafted individual monologues to impact on their audience. The pieces allowed them to experiment and use inventive stagecraft, lifelike sound effects and the challenge to use music to support the mood and atmosphere of the piece.



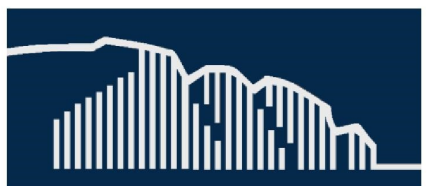
A-Level Drama & Theatre Exam

At A-level students devised work that must feature a focus on an influential theatre practitioner who has impacted on the development of Drama and Theatre. During the lockdown Drama A-Level students decided to focus on China's role in the spread of the virus and the question of whether they lied or were made a convenient scapegoat to blame for the worldwide pandemic. This argument lent itself to using Bertolt Brecht as their practitioner who believed that an audience should be made to question and judge what they see with an emotional detachment so they can assess the argument presented to them. The students used many sources for their research including detailed global news reports assessing the bias, and documentaries that addressed China's role and the nature of the spread of Covid-19. Despite 3 attempts to perform their piece being cancelled due to isolation issues they were able to entertain a live Sixth Form audience





What to do if your child tests positive in the Christmas holidays



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believe . inspire . succeed

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Dear Parents and Carers

What to do if your child tests positive for Covid-19 over the Christmas holidays

In preparation for the forthcoming holiday, I wanted to make you aware of the procedure we have put in place to maintain our obligation to safeguard our community members throughout the holidays and in addition to term time. Your support will, as always, be greatly appreciated.

If your child tests positive between 19th and 24th December 2020

Contact the College through the general office email generaloffice@sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk

We will then notify all other parents/carers of those students deemed to have been in 'close contact' with your child, as they will need to isolate for 14 days.

If your child tests positive between 25th December 2020 and 5th January 2021

You must follow PHE guidance and isolate.

If the isolation period extends into the new term, then you will need to let the College know by emailing us at generaloffice@sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk by **08:00hrs, Tuesday, 5th January 2021**. We will then contact you for further information in case we need to notify other parents/carers of students deemed to have been in 'close contact' with your child during the latter part of the holiday, as they will also need to isolate.

If your child tests positive between 25th December 2020 and 5th January 2021, please still inform the College as we will need to make arrangements for remote education and tutor phone calls as needed. It would be really useful if you could forward a copy of the confirmation email (or a screenshot of the text) to generaloffice@sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk for our records.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Mrs S Parsons
Principal

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