

Sidmouth College Newsletter

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As we reach the half way point of the academic year I have been reflecting on the excellent progress that the students have made so far. This progress would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the fantastic staff at the College. Every day they are planning and preparing high quality lessons, with many opportunities for feedback. I continue to be impressed with the work that is taking place during every lesson of every day. It is this daily grind of 'getting it right' that will ensure positive outcomes for the students.

Every year group at the College has important milestones and it is at this time of year that our thoughts turn to those year groups with exams in the summer; I would like to congratulate students in Years 11 and 13 for the mature and positive way they are approaching their studies. We are supporting them by providing structure and resources. We are encouraging students to engage with the countdown revision programmes in order to ensure that they are prepared for their summer exams. I would like to thank parents for their continued support during this important time.

It was fantastic to host the Head Teachers from our Primary feeder schools this half term. They were able to talk to the Year 7 students about their transition experience and see the work that they are producing. We received really positive feedback from the visit and this only validates further the high-quality experience that our students receive at the College. This half term we have also run our Year 5 workshops and primary PE programme, all providing great opportunities for students to prepare for their transition to the College. We do also hold half termly Open Mornings, which provide opportunities for pupils in Years 5 & 6 to visit the College and see lessons taking place. Dates for these can be found on our [website](#).

On Saturday I had the pleasure of taking my two daughters to see the Sidmouth Youth Theatre production of 'All Shook Up' and what an incredible show it was. All of the performances were sold out and those watching were treated to a whole host of talent, it was a privilege to watch. The amazing hard work and dedication of Angela Davies and the fantastic cast of students must be congratulated, it was a huge triumph. A very special mention needs to go to Angela, the time that she devotes to the show is truly incredible and I would like to personally thank her for this. I know that the wider community have thoroughly enjoyed this year's production.

This half term has once again been incredibly busy outside of the classroom. The amount of enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities on offer to our students is fantastic. This newsletter provides a selection of these and celebrates the success that students have at Sidmouth College. As you are reading this we have a number of students overseas on the Holland & Belgium trip. We will continue to look for opportunities to enrich and support the learning in the classroom to enable our students to have their horizons stretched.

Have a wonderful half term break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the next half term on Monday 19th February.

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All Shook Up!

After months of rehearsals, the cast and crew of the 49th Sidmouth Youth Theatre (SYT) production, 'All Shook Up', kicked off the first of five roof raising performances on Wednesday 31st January. A full house of audience members were waiting in eager anticipation to see what the next two and a half hours would hold, with the promise of some of Elvis Presley's greatest hits, it was destined to be a night to remember.

"All Shook Up" is a vibrant and energetic musical that pays homage to the timeless music of Elvis Presley while putting a fresh and entertaining spin on a classic love story. Set in a small town in the 1950s, this jukebox musical successfully combines the spirit of rock and roll with a lively narrative that keeps audiences engaged from start to finish.

One of the standout features was the very impressive cast of students, who brought both talent and charisma to their characters. The lead character, Chad, played by James Adesina, captures the essence of Elvis Presley with his electrifying stage presence and impressive vocals. The supporting cast members added humour to the storyline, creating a dynamic ensemble that kept the energy high throughout the production.

Solo renditions from Alex Denning, Iona Gray and Pippa Nichols were particular highlights. However, some of the most rousing moments in the show came from the whole company singing together. The Act 1 finale – 'Can't Help Falling In Love' was beautifully sung by the ensemble, along with 'If I Can Dream', another powerful number!

The acting was, as always, of a very high standard. Iona Grey was charming as Natalie and had lovely chemistry with Alex Denning who played her best friend, Dennis. Along with the rest of the cast, they understood the value of comedic timing and there wasn't a joke delivered that did not land with the audience.

One of the most memorable scenes takes place in the museum garden, where the ensemble were transformed into incredible statues. They came to life as the Museum Curator Sandra, played wonderfully by Flora Hadfield, attempts to seduce Natalie who at this point and unbeknown to her, is dressed up as Ed.

Other cast highlights deserving a mention are Radina Velikova as Lorraine and her love interest Alex Harvey as Dean. The two were the perfect pair with a wonderful duet of 'It's now or never'. Pippa Nicholls was the town Mayor Matilda and her sidekick Jude Barret was obedient Sherriff Earl. Tilly Bennett also sang beautifully as Henrietta.

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We also welcomed back Sidmouth Youth Theatre alumni Mark Rose as Natalie's Dad Jim and bar owner and mother of Lorraine, Sylvia, played by Molly Morton. It was great to see the pair back, both adding a wealth of experience and singing talent to the cast.

The musical numbers are, of course, a major highlight. Featuring some of Elvis's greatest hits, the songs are seamlessly integrated into the plot, enhancing the emotional and comedic elements of the story.

The choreography by Flora Hadfield was lively and infectious, with the dance numbers showcasing the incredible skills of the ensemble.

The musical's ability to transport the audience back to the 1950s was enhanced by the set design, authentic costumes, props and overall production quality.

"All Shook Up" oozed nostalgic charm and infectious energy making it a delightful experience for audiences of all ages. Whether you were a die-hard Elvis fan or simply looking for a feel-good musical with toe-tapping tunes, "All Shook Up" delivered a satisfying and entertaining night at the theatre and a fantastic demonstration of the effort and dedication that the cast, crew and director, Angela Davies, have put into this show. It was a pleasure to watch the students of Sidmouth College on the stage, we are immensely proud.





Primary Teacher Visit

On Friday 19th January our primary feeder Headteachers and Year 6 teachers visited the College as part of our transition programme.

During their visit they had the opportunity to look around the school and drop in to a selection of Year 7 lessons. They also spoke with students and staff about the transition from primary to secondary and what works well. The students were thrilled to see their old teachers and show them what they have been up to since starting secondary school.

It was a pleasure to host Mr Spragon and Mr Evans from Sidmouth Primary, Mrs Foote from Sidbury Primary, Mrs Tubbs from Branscombe Primary and Mr Pope from Newton Poppleford.



Ten Tors

Our Ten Tors students continued training this term ahead of the final challenge in May. On the weekend of 13th and 14th January the group headed out on a foggy, cold and icy morning, which then became a clear day with a bit of blue sky which made a welcome change.



All students managed their routes in good time and navigated through areas of the Moor they were unfamiliar with. Well done to all involved and as always, a huge thank you to our team of volunteers who support the students, without them it would not be possible.

Maths Challenge

On Wednesday 31st January over 100 students in Years 9, 10 and 11 took part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge in the Hall.

It was great to see so many students taking part and giving it a go, papers have now all been sent off for marking and the results will be announced next term.

Good luck to all those students awaiting their results!





Primary Workshop

On Thursday 18th January over 80 Year 5 pupils from our feeder primary schools Branscombe, Newton Poppleford, Sidbury and Sidmouth Primaries visited the College to take part in a Geography and History workshop.

Mr Trengove and Mr Sullivan worked with the pupils to talk about Africa, linking to themes from Geography, History and RE. The pupils used images of Africa from people, places and historic events to discuss how the past impacts on the present. They were very impressed by the Year 5's knowledge and engagement in the workshops and look forward to welcoming the students in the future to events like these.



Holland and Belgium Trip

Over half term a number staff and students will be travelling across Europe to gain some invaluable experiences. Year 11, 12 & 13 departed on Thursday morning in the early hours from Sidmouth College on route to Amsterdam, Holland. They will be visiting a host of places on their travels as well as in the city itself, including the Bridge at Arnhem and Anne Frank's House. We look forward to hearing all about the trip when they return, a full report will feature in next term's newsletter.



Football

Well done to our Year 11 football team for a great result this half term, beating QE 4-2 in the East Devon and Exeter Cup. A fantastic left footed finish from Harrison was the pick of the goals. Good luck in the next match!



Extra-Curricular Sport

This half term we have seen a number of students take part in extra-curricular activities. We encourage all students to give a new club a go and try out a new sport. See a list of extra-curricular clubs on the back page of this newsletter.





Netball

The Under 13 and Under 15 netball teams started the East Devon league with a bang this half term as both teams beat Honiton Community College.

Some great play by both teams and a big thank you to Katy for stepping up into the Under 15 team for the first time.

The results were as follows:

U13 won 16-3. Player of the match Christeen

U15 won 34-1. Player of the match Maisie

Next match is Tuesday v Colyton, good luck!



U19 Football

The Sidmouth College U19s (Sixth Form) travelled away to Torquay Academy for a Devon Cup fixture on Wednesday 31st January.

After a close fought game with lots of chances for both teams Sidmouth College narrowly lost the game late in the second half.

A brilliant performance from the Sixth Form team.

We look forward to continuing to grow our sixth sporting calendar.



Cricket

Our under 15s indoor cricket team put in a fantastic performance at the East Devon indoor cricket competition at the start of February.

They managed to top their group, which included Axe Valley, Cullompton and The Kings School progressing through to the semi-final.

Unfortunately Sidmouth were knocked out in the semi-finals in a close game with Uffculme School.

Sidmouth won their third place playoff game, finishing 3rd out of 8.



Cross Country

Huge congratulations to Grace in Year 11 and Jimmy in Year 7 who represented East Devon at the Devon Cross Country Championships in January. Both ran an outstanding race and came in the top 15. Jimmy qualified to represent Devon at the South West Championships this weekend. Best of luck to him!





Sixth Form Taster Day

On Friday 26th January Year 11 students were off timetable enjoying a taste of life as a Sixth Form student at Sidmouth College. Students were in non-uniform and able to use the Sixth Form common room and Café for the day. As well as a free period to enjoy the Sixth Form facilities and experience A-Level lessons.

All student and teacher feedback was positive and it was an all round enjoyable day. We hope to see many of our Year 11s back next year to study their A-Levels with us in the College Sixth Form.



Sixth Form University Trips

This half term Sixth Form students have had the opportunity to find out about the opportunities they have post-18. On Tuesday 6th February Year 12 visited Sandy Park to attend an Apprenticeship fair. Meeting representatives from a range of UK companies and finding out what apprenticeships they offer.

On Wednesday 7th February, Year 12 visited Bath University for the day, meeting students and lecturers, touring the campus and experiencing a degree level lecture theatre.



Principal's Commendations

This term Mrs Parsons has continued to reward deserving students who have excelled, or achieved something above and beyond expectations, with a Principal's Commendation. For the Spring term the Principal's Commendations have gone to the following students:

- Joe A, James A, and Flora H all for their contribution to the recent Sidmouth Youth Theatre production. Joe supported back stage, and stepped up to take on the spotlight duties at the last minute, James A played the lead character in the show, on stage for almost 90% of the running time, James was also an amazing role model to the younger cast members. Finally, Flora supported Miss Davies in choreographing the show.
- Edie P received a commendation for her amazing work with the student council and the Environmental Warriors group, organising an upcoming litter pick next term. Amazing initiative Edie!

Mrs Parsons presented the students with their commendations on the last day of term. Well done to all the students who received this special recognition.



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Year 8 Enterprise Event

On Wednesday 24th January Year 8 took part in an enterprise event hosted by Howmet Aerospace. During the morning session Year 8 learnt about Howmet Aerospace's function and how robots are used in the organisation. Following this the students were set the task to work in teams and put a proposal forward for a small start-up robotics company, this involved assigning job roles, creating company branding, researching the market, designing a robot and completing a business plan to present. The five top groups then pitched their idea to the business partners, these were Waffle Bots, A Friend for Dogs, Binny Bin, Geo docs and Aqua Pals.

The business partners found it difficult to decide on a winning team, but following the judging Aqua Pals design of a robot to help children learn how to wash their hands with a range of additional functions was chosen. Well done to Kiesha, Molly, Ella & Kitty. Well done to all of Year 8 who demonstrated a range of skills including teamwork, communication, presentation, innovation and leadership. We would like to thank Kirsten Berggren & Maisie Bailey from Howmet and Rachel Baker from CSW group and our fantastic staff for supporting this event.



Water Bottle Donation

On Tuesday 23rd January we were delighted to receive a donation from Jayne Savage from Clinton Devon Estates of 30 reusable stainless steel water bottles for those students in need of one.

Dehydration can have a huge impact on a child's learning and many studies have proven that a student who is inadequately hydrated is unable to maintain concentration and consequently cannot access the education on offer. Our aim as a school is that every student has access to a reusable water bottle which can be filled up at break times and last throughout the day. These 30 bottles will have a great impact on our students education, thank you to Clinton Devon Estates for your kind donation.



Open Morning

In February we held an Open Morning, giving those families who were not able to attend our Open Day in September or those new to the area the opportunity to visit the College during the school day.

Our amazing student ambassadors guided families around, answering all their questions and talking about school life.

Our next Open morning takes place on Wednesday 13th March 2024, visit our website here for more details using this link.

www.sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk/open-days





Sparx Maths

The Maths Department are excited to announce that from this term, students in Year 8 will be using Sparx Maths to complete their weekly Maths homework. This term, students had the opportunity to look at Sparx Maths in their Maths lessons. Parents of Year 8 students should have received a letter at the start of the term with further details. Visit this link <https://support.sparx.co.uk/v1/docs/sparx-math-homework-for-parents> to watch a parent information video.



Student Council

On Tuesday 9th January we welcomed Councillors Chris Lockyear, Bernie Davies, Hilary Nelson and Paul Dodd from Sidmouth Town Council. The Town Council are working collaboratively with the young people of Sidmouth to discuss ideas for Youth Provision.

The meeting took place over Lessons 4 and 5. The Councillors firstly met with forty members of our Student Council and then with our Year 11 Student Heads of House. Our students were articulate, thoughtful and quite simply incredible. As a result of our meetings the Town Council members have gone away with lots of suggestions and ideas for how to shape Youth Provision.

The Council members were so impressed, especially by our Student Heads of House that we are now looking at how our students can attend Town Council meetings and present their ideas to all council members.



Navy Visit

In January Mrs Cox's Year 10 and 11 GCSE Food and Nutrition students were visited by Royal Navy chefs Del and Sam. During the visit the students were given a presentation about the Royal Navy, including the opportunities available in cooking and food, as well as many other career options.

After the presentation, the students got into small groups and took on a Ready Steady Cook style challenge, with ingredients and recipes provided by the Navy, students were tasked with planning, cooking and presenting a savoury and sweet dish for judging. Year 10 were tasked with making burgers and bread and butter pudding, whilst Year 11 made chicken kiev's and brownies..

All the finished dishes were delicious and students paid great attention to the presentation of their food. Thank you to Del and Sam for working with our students and giving up their time to visit us.





The Sidmouth College Reading Canon *(Written by Mrs Lucas)*

I have just read the report by the National Literacy Trust into reading for well-being. They reported that in the sample of young people they talked to, those who read are three times more likely to have higher levels of mental well-being than those who don't. We already know that readers do well academically so isn't it good to know that in turbulent times, students can boost their well-being by sitting down with a book?

So the students they talked to said reading:

- Helped them relax
- Made them feel happy
- Made them feel more confident
- Helped them deal with problems
- Improved their mental health

In my assembly, this half-term, I was talking to students about Jay Blades, presenter on 'The Repair Shop' who didn't start to learn to read until he was 51. He said he wouldn't have struggled as a young person if he had learned to read at school. At Sidmouth students who struggle with reading get extra support. All students benefit from canon sessions where they read, discuss vocabulary and improve their comprehension skills.

Here are the books that students have read this half-term and the ones coming up after the break.

- The house with chicken legs by Sophie Anderson
- Goodnight Mr Tom by Michelle Magorian
- I must Betray You by Ruta Sepetys
- Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck
- Arthur – High king of Britain by Michael Morpurgo
- When the world was ours by Liz Kessler
- The House on the Cerulean Sea by TJ Klune
- Hitch hiker's Guide to the galaxy by Douglas Adams

Please discuss the books at home and enjoy reading some new titles over the break.





Homework Club

This year we have launched a homework club which takes place every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after school in the College Library.

The club gives students an opportunity between 3:15pm and 4:15pm to complete their homework in a quiet environment with books and resources on offer to use and a member of staff on hand to give support where needed.

It is open to all students on a drop in basis and will continue after half term for any students who would like to attend.

Sidmouth College HOMEWORK CLUB

AFTER-SCHOOL FROM 3:15PM TO 4:15PM
EVERY TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY
IN THE COLLEGE LIBRARY
ALL YEAR GROUPS WELCOME

Breakfast Club

A reminder to students and parents that the College has a Breakfast Club on offer to students. This takes place every weekday from 8:15am-8:45am in the Canteen.

Breakfast costs £1 (free for free school meal students) and includes a bowl of cereal, toast with Jam or Marmite and fruit juice.

It is open to all students and will continue after half term.

SIDMOUTH COLLEGE

BREAKFAST

8.15AM TO 8.45AM

£1

club

CEREAL FRUIT JUICE TOAST WITH JAM OR MARMITE



Sidmouth College PE Department Spring Term Enrichment Programme

No sign up needed



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Break 1 (Morning)				Indoor Cricket Sports Hall All Years	Table Tennis Activity Studio Years 10 & 11
Break 2 (Afternoon)	Table Tennis Activity Studio Years 7-9	Basketball Sports Hall All Years Just Dance Activity Studio All Years		Cheerleading/Gymnastics Activity Studio All Years	
After school 3.15-4.15pm PE kit required	Girls Football All Years	Netball All Years Football Year 8 & 9	Ultimate Frisbee Sports Hall All Years Football Year 7	Girls Rugby (Coach) All Years Badminton Sports Hall All Years Football Year 10 & 11 Hockey All Years Running Club Various locations – collect a permission letter from PE staff	
	Teen Gym (Get Active Gym 11) Leisure Centre (membership required)		Teen Gym (Get Active Gym 11) Leisure Centre (membership required)		



SIDMOUTH COLLEGE *Equipment List*

- Pencil case
- At least 3 pens with black ink
- At least 3 pens with red ink
- Pencils
- Rubber and sharpener
- 30cm ruler
- Maths set incl compass & protractor
- Scientific calculator
- Highlighting pens
- Coloured pencil crayons
- Mini white board
- White board pen
- Mini whiteboard rubber
- Glue stick
- Round ended safety scissors
- Student Planner
- Pocket English dictionary
(Optional)

