

Sidmouth College Newsletter

Spring Term: Edition 4, 5th April 2019

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The past two terms have been both incredibly busy and rewarding. The College continues to provide a fantastic range of opportunities for students both in school and as enrichment. The newsletter provides a snapshot of some of these.

We are focused on providing high quality teaching and learning experiences for all of our students every lesson of every day. As a College we are working with students to ensure that they are becoming invested in their learning, encouraging them to ask questions and challenge themselves. We are also asking students to be ready to learn to enable lesson starts to be prompt and purposeful. Part of being ready to learn is having all the correct equipment so please can you use the Easter break as an opportunity to check and restock if

needed. A red pen has been added this year as part of the equipment needed as students regularly self and peer assess in lessons and use a red pen for this.

I continue to be impressed with both Year 11 and Year 13 students. The majority of students achieved higher marks in their second trial exams and are focused and preparing well for their formal exams which start in the next few weeks. Whilst the Easter holidays will provide students with time to continue with exam preparations, it is important that students also have some time away from their studies so that they can return refreshed and ready for the challenges ahead. I have no doubt that our students will achieve well this summer if they continue to remain as focused and determined as we have seen so far this year.

We continue to work closely with the local community and have had a wide range of visitors, from scientists working with Year 11 to local artists running workshops. In addition to these visits we have received support from The Lions Club of Sidmouth to fund a Year 9 reward trip as well as the Arts Society, Sidmouth who provided a potter's wheel. We are thankful for the opportunities that both of these donations will provide. An important part of our wider community are our primary schools, with whom we have strong links. This year we have started a sports programme with our feeder primaries which has been very successful. In addition to this we are continuing to run Year 5 transition activities for pupils to attend in a range of subjects. Earlier this term we also hosted a choir evening which was an amazing event that provided a really good chance for our students and primary school pupils to work together. I am looking forward to developing our links even further in the future.

The plans for our new building continue to move forward and I am hopeful that I will be able to provide you all with an update after the Easter holidays.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish Mr Dudley luck in his new role at Court Fields School in Wellington. Mr Dudley will be greatly missed by students and staff. He has contributed significantly over the last five years to Sidmouth College not only in his leadership role, but as a teacher, and in his wider contributions to Ten Tors.

Have a wonderful Easter holidays and a reminder that the summer term starts on Wednesday 24th April.

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SCA Easter Egg Raffle

In the run up to Easter every year the Sidmouth College Association (SCA) organise an Easter egg raffle for staff and students to take part in. The raffle prizes are donated by staff and teachers and this year there were a record breaking total of 40 to be won!

Students had the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets in the school hall and could buy as many as they liked to increase their chances of winning. SCA member Emma Gray and a selection of student helpers sold tickets over the two weeks in the hall, equipped with Bunny ears and tails to draw the crowds! The draw took place on the penultimate day of term and the winning names were announced this morning.

Overall the SCA raised over £120 and those lucky students were delighted with their eggs! Thank you to all who donated eggs into the raffle, the students who helped sell tickets and to the SCA for their hard work and effort in organising this and other events this term.



Wear a Hat Day

On the Friday 29th March students fundraised for Brain Tumour Research with a wear a hat day! As a College we were more than happy to raise funds and awareness for the charity after one of our own previous students, Charlotte, was diagnosed with a Brain Tumour in 2015. Charlotte has been an inspiration since her diagnosis, undergoing treatment and setting up her own following called '#CharlottesArmy' which has aimed to raise awareness for Brain Tumour Research. Charlotte set up a Just Giving page with a goal is to raise £19,180, which would sponsor a week of Brain Tumour Research at Plymouth University. So far she has raised a brilliant £16,720. Today the College raised £482 which will go towards her total! To donate to Charlotte's cause, or to follow #CharlottesArmy follow these links:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Angela-Reid11>

<https://www.facebook.com/CharlottesArmyBrainTumourWarrior>



World Book Day

On Thursday 7th March it was World Book Day and as always certain staff members went to great efforts to impress with costumes of characters from their favourite books! Of course, the English department dressed to impress with characters this year in the theme of Vikings. As well as this, teachers also displayed their favourite books and those that they are currently reading on their doors and shared some of these with their classes.





Holland and Belgium Trip

On Thursday 14th February Miss Hext, Mrs Hurley and Mrs Liddle took over 30 students from years 11, 12 and 13 to Holland and Belgium as part of their GCSE and A Level Philosophy and Ethics course. The trip included visits to many sites in Holland and Belgium associated with the First and Second World Wars and gave students an eye opening and unforgettable experience. We began our trip with a focus on the Second World War. We visited the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, Arnhem, Oosterbeek War Cemetery where men killed during the battle for the bridge at Arnhem are buried and Vught Concentration Camp.



The second part of the trip focussed on the First World War. Three students laid a wreath for the College at the Last Post ceremony under the Menin Gate. The gate commemorates some of those killed in the First World War who have no known grave and has more than 54,000 names inscribed on it. We also visited Essex Farm Cemetery, Langemark German Cemetery and had the chance to walk through a trench at Hoge Crater.



The last stop was in Tyne Cott, the largest First World War cemetery containing 11,956 graves, 8,369 unidentified. Our guide Bruce found the name of a teacher from Sidmouth, Maurice Fishwick aged 25 (Miss Hext told his story in Remembrance Day Assemblies) who was killed in October 1917 and has no known grave, his name is on the wall at Tyne Cott; one of 35,000 names.



Student responses to the trip are;

"The trip was a fantastic experience. I would definitely recommend that anyone who is interested in the war (or is looking to have a fun time!) should go."

"The most impactful part of the trip was seeing the grave of Sibela, a 2 month old child who was killed with her mum during the bombing of Arnhem. No matter how many times you go it is still as hard hitting and a trip I will never forget."

"The trip was amazing! I can't think of anything I didn't enjoy. My absolute favourite bit was going to the Anne Frank house and driving around Amsterdam and looking at all the different sights and museums."

"The trip really challenged my thinking about human beings, how we are capable of real evil and amazing acts of courage and goodness. The things I saw, particularly the huge cemetery at Tyne Cott will stay with a long time. I think the trip really changed me and the way I think."

Triple Fantasy 'Best of British' *'From their first pointe to their last standing ovation'*

Many of our students have been showcasing their talents in the East Devon Dance Academy biennial show at The Manor Pavilion over the last two weeks. In a celebration of everything British, students from year 7-13 danced their way through a 3 act extravaganza in many varied dance disciplines and styles; Tap, Modern, Ballet, Jazz, Contemporary, hip hop, Irish and more. We were enthralled by the professionalism of every item in a show that used sophisticated lighting, effects and beautiful costumes to take the audience on a journey to remind us to be proud to be British; from our history, institutions and achievements to the music industry stars, and from the wars to the weather. The audience were subjected to the full range of emotions from laughter to tears. Everyone on stage should be very proud of their hard work and we look forward to the next show 'Multiplicity' when they share in the talents once more.





Girls Rugby

Our U13 and U15 girls visited St Luke's in Exeter this term to play in an Exeter and East Devon tournament, one of only three schools in the whole region to field teams in both age groups. The girls had some skills practise and matched and showed some excellent passages of play and potential. Thank you to Mr Morgan for supporting the U15s and thank you to our cover supervisor Mr Caldwell who gives up his time every Monday after school to run our girls rugby club. All girls are welcome to training, just turn up.



Cricket County Finals

On Wednesday 6th March the U13 girls cricket team attended the Devon cricket indoor finals, having won the East Devon finals last half term. The girls played some exciting cricket throughout the day, particularly with the bat where Lottie and Amy achieved retirement scores.

The girls finished 4th in the county and were a credit to the College with the way they conducted themselves on and off the pitch. Well done girls, we are very proud!



East Devon Runners Up

Well done to our Under 13 Girls Netball team who came runners up in East Devon finals this half term. They all played amazingly, a special shout out to Gracie, Tara and Katie who picked up Player of the Match awards.



Cricket Success

Congratulations to Alec Bagwell who has been selected for this season's Devon U12 cricket squad. Alec has been training over winter in preparation for a busy schedule this summer when he hopes to compete against other counties across the country.



Year 11 Boys Beat Kings 2-1

Well done to our Year 11 Boys who beat The King's School 2-1 in a league game yesterday.

The boys were 1-0 down at half time, but brought it back in the second half with some very competitive playing.

A special mention to Freddie who scored both goals and man of the match Harry for excellent defence.



Primary Event—The Rebound Games

On Wednesday 6th March the college hosted an event called The Rebound Games. Pupils from Sidmouth Primary, Newton Poppleford Primary and Branscombe Primary were invited to come to the college and take part in a variety of activities and games.

Leading the activities were our amazing Sport Ambassadors, this time from year 10. Our students gave pupils the opportunity to practice jumping, throwing, catching and balancing and, most popular, having a go on our trampoline.

Pupils had a blast and made great progress in their PE skills. Our ambassadors were a credit to the college as always, and excellent coaches to the youngsters ones. Thank you to the primaries for visiting and to our year 10 ambassadors for working so hard to make the event a success.



Hockey News

Our U13A hockey team finished 3rd in an East Devon tournament this half term. On Friday 8th March we saw Sidmouth host the annual U13 hockey tournament.

Sidmouth started strong with a 3-1 win over Cullompton, followed by a tough game against Uffculme as the teams were evenly matched. Uffculme went 1 up but some brilliant individual play by Amy S saw her draw the score level. Our next match against Colyton was extremely close. Rosie M, Katie C, and Tara D put in some fantastic tackles and channelling to keep regaining possession. Gracie, Imy and Evie were strong on the wings and had some excellent scoring opportunities. A fantastic short corner resulted in a goal, but it was disallowed as the umpire had just blown a whistle for a foot by Colyton and awarded another short corner instead. Unfortunately our set play didn't work as well this time.

In the final stages of the match the girls conceded a short corner and Colyton scored. We were straight on again against Kings, which was tough as the girls had given their all in the Colyton match and Kings had rested. It was a superbly close game. Some tiredness in the latter stages saw us concede short corners as we were unable to get feet out of the way quickly enough. Kings scored twice to win the game. The standard of play across all schools was excellent. It was great to see so many girls out enjoying their sport on International women's day.



Rugby Success

Congratulations to the U14 Rugby Team who reached the semi-final of the Exeter & East Devon 7's Competition last week beating Colyton, Uffculme and St Peter's on the way!



Hockey Success

Congratulations to the U16 mixed hockey team who beat Exmouth 3-1 this half term. Three great goals from Josh, Emily and Jo! Well done to the team!





Lions Club Make Generous Donation

In 2016 to mark their 40th Anniversary, the Sidmouth Lions Club launched a Sidmouth College Annual Pledge to donate around £1000 each year towards activities to improve the personal development of students.

For the past 2 years, the College has used the pledge to reward 50 students in Year 9, who achieved the highest number of praise points, with a trip to Haven Banks in Exeter. As part of the day, youngsters learn about team building and leaderships skills through a series of activities including archery and raft building. They then compete in dragon boat races down the River Exe to end the day.

This year the College is delighted to receive this kind donation again from the Lions Club and plans to reward the current year 9s with a similar reward trip in the Summer Term. Members of the Lions club visited to the college to present the cheque this term and speak with students about the opportunities the money could bring.

Vice Principal Jim Ingham-Hill said: "As a college, we are delighted and honoured to have had the chance to work alongside the Lions club for a third year in a row as part of the legacy project. We hope this partnership will continue and ensure that hundreds of Sidmouth College students are given the opportunity to take part in an exciting enrichment opportunity."



Eden Project

On Tuesday 26th February the entire Year 7 cohort visited the Eden Project in Cornwall. It was an early start at 8:30am when three coaches of 125 students and 10 staff set off on the 2 hour journey.

The group received a welcome talk from staff at the Eden Project and found out all about the History of Eden since March 2001 when it first opened. After that the group were split into two groups. The first group were able to explore the Mediterranean Biome and the entire site of Eden, including the outdoor gardens. They had a booklet and quiz to complete with various plants to find and questions to answer. The second group stayed with the Eden staff and completed a workshop, whereby they looked at what the Rainforest does and how it affects us. They also looked at products made from trees and plants in the rainforest and how deforestation is destroying the jungle and habitats for jungle animals.

After that they visited the Rainforest Biome, searching for plants that are used to make products such as the fruits we eat and the cosmetics we use. The temperature and humidity levels were high and many students were pleased to get back out in the cold after visting a climate similar to that of South America. In the afternoon the two groups swapped over and took part in the other activity.

Students had a fantastic day, for many it was their first visit to the Eden Project. Year 7 will use all the information they recorded and ideas from their visit in an upcoming topic in Geography where . The trip was a huge success and we hope to run it again next year for year 7.





Quiz Gets Minds Boggling

On Friday 29th March the Sidmouth College Association (SCA) held its annual fundraising quiz night in the College Hall, this year with the addition of a delicious curry for every attendee. There was a fantastic turnout with over 100 people attending, including teams of staff, parents and local quizzers! The quiz has proved a popular event over the years with the SCA raising an incredible £1,150 last year.

In total the SCA raised a fantastic £900 which will go towards funding resources and equipment for students at the College, as well as paying for experiences for students. Last term money raised by the SCA went towards purchasing story books for English, cooking equipment for Technology and a Theatre visit for Drama Students.

If you are a parent and are interested in joining the SCA or helping out at any upcoming fundraisers, please contact SCA Chairman Christine Clarkson on: sidmouthcollegepta@gmail.com



SCA Buy new books for students

This term the Sidmouth College Association (SCA) funded for the English Department to purchase 130 copies of the book 'Thornhill'.

Thornhill is a new book written by Pam Smy, which has been described as a darkly gripping tale of two girls separated by thirty years but pulled together by the looming house of Thornhill.

The book is included in the new GCSE syllabus and students will be able to have a copy each to read and work from during lessons.

During their Library time, pictured, Mrs Fisher's Year 8 class got a first glimpse at the book and a chance to see what they thought. So far students all seem excited by the new gripping book and its fantastic illustrations and artwork. Thank you to the SCA for funding these books, their hard work and efforts to raise money pays off in brilliant resources for the students.



Year 8 Impact Day

Year 8 students were off timetable on Monday 11th March to take part in a roundabout of workshops as part of their personal development programme. The day began with a video presentation in the hall called 'Fit' which taught students about tackling homophobia. The students then took part in four sessions throughout the day including a workshop with 'REACH' who spoke to students about Child Exploitation and a session with members of the Devon and Somerset Fire Service to discuss arson awareness. They also met with Matt from Jobcentre Plus to discuss the world of work and, finally, an hour with our college nurse Tracey in a session called 'Understanding your body'.





Sidmouth Daffodil Day

This term the town celebrated Sidmouth Daffodil Day, the College encouraged students to take part by entering the Art and Photograph competition. Students created some beautiful work that was displayed in Kennaway House on Saturday 23rd March. The winners were then selected by a panel of judges and prizes were awarded the following week in school. Well done to everyone who took part and to the winners. We are looking forward to displaying the student work in school for everyone to enjoy this spring.



Sidmouth Sea Fest

We were thrilled to have Coco from the Sidmouth Sea Fest team visit us this term to spend the day working with year 7 and 9 students making ocean themed carnival masks.

Students used a mixture of materials to create their masks shapes, and used papier-mâché to cover and create texture on their masks.

The masks will be worn during the Sea Fest parade at the Sidmouth Sea Fest event which is taking place on Saturday 18th May 2019 on the Ham in Sidmouth,



New Pottery Wheel Arrives

Last term we shared in the Newsletter the great news that The Arts Society Sidmouth had agreed to donate enough money to the College for us purchase our very own pottery wheel. Well after a few weeks of eagerly waiting, the wheel has arrived and students couldn't wait to have a go on it!

On Thursday 14th March Tim Andrews visited to give a talk and demonstration on the new wheel to staff and students. Tim Andrews is a ceramic artist with an International reputation. He is a Fellow of the C.P.A and a full member of the Devon Guild of Craftsmen (Chairman of the Selection Committee 1996-98) and Honorary President of the West Country Potters Association so it was an absolute pleasure to welcome him to the College.

On the day he was demonstrating his techniques to our GCSE and A level students using the new pottery wheel donated by The Arts Society. Students enjoyed trying out the wheel and we are excited to see what work they will produce in future. The department is open at lunchtimes for students to try throwing a pot. Thank you to Tim and Nigel from The Arts Society for providing our students with the opportunity to meet and work with a professional artist. Tim can be seen as the Raku expert in the last series of The Great Pottery Throw Down on the BBC.





GCSE Drama Practical Exam

GCSE Drama students performed their C3 'Text in Practice' exam this half term, which involves portraying characters from a published text to a visiting examiner. They are required to interpret the text, create the characters, learn the lines and perform two extracts from the same play. All groups performed with confidence and rose to the challenge. The drama studio was transformed every forty five minutes to a setting for each of the twelve plays featured; the World War 1 trenches for 'Birdsong',



a fence at Auschwitz for 'The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas', a flat in Manchester in the 70's, a bedroom and hospital room in the 80's and more in plays that were based on many varied themes from the futility of war, the impact of cancer, a mother and daughter relationship, an autistic boy to the friendship between two boys divided by race. We hope the results in August will celebrate their focus and endeavour.



A-Level Drama and Theatre Exam

A Level Drama students performed monologues in the 'Making Theatre' component of their course. The senior A level examiner for AQA attended to mark their efforts in performance. This is the final part of a challenge to study and perform three extracts from different time periods, focusing on the methodology of chosen theatre practitioner Max Stafford-Clark. Prior to this visit, the students' work-shopped and performed a scene from 'The Importance of Being Earnest' by Oscar Wilde and a duologue from 'A Knot of the Heart' by David Eldridge. The extracts examined were from 'People, Places and Things' by Duncan Macmillan, which focused on a recovering drug addict and 'At The inland Sea' by Edward Bond, which portrays a mother desperate to save her baby from the gas chambers of Auschwitz. This section of the exam also requires a 3000 word reflective log which analyses their approach to interpretation, research, application of the practitioners approach and their performance decisions.



'Falling' Performance

Drama students travelled to The Phoenix Theatre in Exeter to see 'Falling', an inventive piece of story-telling theatre created and performed by 'Theatre Alibi'. This will be the focus of their section C response in their written paper where they will answer a question that evaluates and analyses a piece of live theatre focusing on the performance skills of the actors.



What happens when terra firma isn't firm at all... It's five o'clock on a normal weekday evening. Claire and her teenage daughter Alice are making tea. Alice pops out to fetch some apples from the shed, but in the blink of an eye she's disappeared down a hole that has suddenly yawned open on the lawn... What happens when life swallows you whole and terror is only a heartbeat away?

Theatre Alibi combine powerful performance, projection, puppetry and a thrilling live soundscape to tell a raw and intimate story that focuses on the impact of a trauma on the relationship of a mother and daughter and how life can be altered by one event. Students will be able to access their education pack and have access to the script which will support their preparation for the exam.



Falling Workshop

Yr 11,12 and 13 drama students took part in a two hour drama workshop led by Theatre Alibi Theatre Company on 2nd April, following on from seeing their production of 'Falling' at the Phoenix Theatre in Exeter in early March. This was kindly paid for by the SCA and will support their responses to questions in their C1 exam. Students were challenged to use some of the story telling techniques that the company use to create highly effective theatre.

The session began with an exposition of their distinctive performing story telling style and then the students began to experiment with how they could use narration to create characters. This



developed into an improvisation challenge in groups to elaborate a story based on 'A Day at the Market' using the Theatre Alibi tool kit including narration to focus the audience, getting up to try ideas and being willing to experiment to create characters.



High Achievers Mock Trial

On Tuesday 26th February, a group of five high achieving year 10 girls attended a mock trial at The Maynard School, Exeter. The event was organised by law students from the University of Exeter following a series of workshops at the school as a way of introducing young women to the legal profession and its workings.

After introductions and an impressive buffet, the girls were allocated roles within the trial – some were working for the defence, some the prosecution and some took on the roles of the defendant and witnesses of the crime. There was also a jury of six to make their final judgment on the defendant's plea of 'not guilty'.

The crime was based around the plot of 'Hamlet' with the defendant – Claudius – pleading 'not guilty' to the accusation that he had murdered his brother, Hamlet Sr, by pouring poison into his ear. Two students from Sidmouth College, Molly and Enya, took on the roles of witnesses Gertrude and Hamlet Jr to support the accusation. Claudius claimed that he was in fact researching to write his own crime novel and the poison bottle and books about snake venom had only been found on his desk as they were part of his research materials.

The three remaining students from Sidmouth – Phoebe, Erin and Lauren - opted to take on the role of the prosecution and worked with a University of Exeter law student to develop a series of questions to ask Claudius during the trial. Erin then donned the gown on the stage and put her questions to Claudius.

Proceedings were led by a former judge who is now a lecturer in law at the university. Once all of the evidence had been put forward to the jury and the barristers had made their concluding speeches, the jury reached their verdict – guilty. Claudius was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Mrs Dudman, who is responsible for the progress of high achievers in the school, went with the students to the event and said:

'I was very impressed with the girls who attended the mock trial. They took on the challenge of the role play extremely convincingly and learnt a great deal about the court room process and the workings of the legal system. It was also brilliant for them to work with other girls of the same age with high aspirations for their futures who introduced them to the world of possibilities that are out there.'

The Maynard School plan to do some further events in the future looking at women in STEM professions and we hope to work with them on this moving forwards.'





Fairtrade Workshop

On Friday 1st March year 7 spent the morning in the College hall taking part in a Fairtrade workshop.

The aims of the workshop were to provide students with the opportunity to find out about the benefits of Fairtrade produce, and specifically bananas, to learn where and how bananas are produced, the challenges farmers face and learning about how to engage in global citizenship activities through supporting and buying Fairtrade products.

The morning began with a presentation and quiz to introduce students to the workshop and find out what students knew about Fairtrade. They then took part in a 'Life of a Banana' timeline challenge, followed by lots of discussion about the lives of the growers.

Next, students were shown what banana fibres looked like and challenged them to make their own friendship bracelet using the fibres. This was followed by a Banana poem and finally a Fairtrade party planning task.

Students were well engaged throughout the morning and we are very grateful to Alison and her team for delivering this workshop to our students.



Year 11 Photo

On Friday 29th March Year 11 were smartening up their ties, checking their hair and practising smiles for their final whole year group photo.

Each student will have been given an order pack to bring home with a sample of the photograph. If parents would like to order a copy they can do so by filling in the form in the pack, or going online to **www.htempest.co.uk** and using the order number on the form.



Tree Planting

On Friday 8th March a group of thirteen Yr7 students



went up to the top of Salcombe Hill with Mr Williams and Mr Creamer to take part in a community tree planting session.

The students helped to plant over 50 trees which they look forward to seeing grow and make an impact on the already beautiful landscape.

Mr Williams said 'It was a lovely day on Friday and we were very lucky with the weather. The students worked really hard to plant the trees and were a great group to work with, well done.'



Ten Tors

Ten Tors students battled the elements last week as training continues for the 2019 Ten Tors Challenge. The students completed a very successful training camp over the weekend of 23rd and 24th March, walking 35 miles over the two days and camping overnight in Princetown. The next day weather was kind to us and the sun shone! Many thanks to our wonderful group of volunteers.

The next training camp is on the weekend of 27th and 28th April 2019. Students need to look at the noticeboard and student bulletin for details of meetings.

There will be a full kit check in school on Thursday 25th April 2019.



Exmoor Challenge

On Sunday 10th March Mrs Vaughan and a group of twenty two students from Sidmouth College and twelve from Newton Poppleford Primary walked from East Budleigh through Yettington and onto the common and back as part of the Exmoor Challenge training. The walk was 8.33 miles in total.

They were joined by parents and siblings of the students and a couple of four legged friends, which made the walk all the more enjoyable!

The group left at 1:30pm and walked a good pace throughout, getting back to the starting point in East Budleigh by 4:30pm.

Mrs Vaughan said "On the walk we were lucky with the weather, with only a five minute shower at the end of the walk on the last stretch, students did very well and showed some great resilience and perseverance. We are all looking forward to the next walk later in the term."



British Science Week

British Science Week ran from 8th – 17th March and during the week students from years 7 and 8 designed and built rockets in class, and competed to see whose could travel the furthest.

They also entered a competition to design a poster based on the theme of "Journeys". We had some really interesting and varied entries and Mrs Parsons picked the three overall winners. The best five from years 7 and 8 will be entered into the national competition.





Building Resilient Learners

In 2015 Sidmouth College, along with 4 other local secondary schools, received funding from the Department for Education through their Character Education Grant, to explore ways that character can be developed in schools. One aspect of this work was looking at the link between mental health and wellbeing as a barrier to resilience. We used the Five Areas resource 'Living Life to the Full' over 8 weeks to teach students strategies to deal with difficult situations and understand their own emotions. By the end of the program we found that a large number of students showed an improvement in their self-reported wellbeing, measured on the Warwick Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale, students were also interviewed and many reported that they felt more able to cope with challenge.



Many of the staff involved in the Character project noticed that student's attendance and engagement in education improved, but had no evidence to demonstrate this. In order to further test the impact of teaching students these strategies and to find out if there was an impact on attendance and other educational outcomes, Sidmouth College applied for funding from the Institute for Effective Education. Working in collaboration with Professor Chris Williams from Five Areas and five other local schools, a new targeted course was created called 'My Big Life', specifically designed to develop the skills and attributes that support resilience. The findings and report from this research show some promising results with increases seen in student wellbeing, an increase in attendance, particularly for those students with low wellbeing scores and some evidence of a positive impact on behaviour and attitude to learning.

In order to collect further evidence and robust data in a wider range of settings, Sidmouth College have been successful in securing funding from the NESTA Future Ready Fund to work with Five Areas, The University of Exeter and The University of Sussex in supporting and evaluating the impact of My Big Life in a further 17 secondary schools. This is a really exciting venture for the college and we look forward to starting this research.

Maths Challenge

In February 100 students from Years 9, 10 and 11 took part in the UK Maths Trust Intermediate Maths Challenge. 34 of our students gained either a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award. A very special congratulations goes to Reece in Year 9, Jack in Year 10 and Freddie in Year 11 for getting the best in year. Freddie achieved an outstanding score which made him eligible for the next round, the Pink Kangaroo! Well done all of you.



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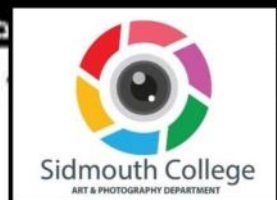


Collaborative Music Concert

On Thursday 28th February Sidmouth College and Sidmouth, Sidbury, Newton Poppleford and Branscombe Primaries joined forces to put on a musical concert in the College's school hall for family, friends and staff.

Over 180 students from the schools performed renditions of popular songs from films such as the Lion King and The Greatest Showman. The evening was very well attended with over 200 filling the College's hall to support Sidmouth's young talent.

Sidmouth College Teacher of Music, Mr Kelly, said "The concert has been a hugely successful collaboration between the College and our Primary feeder schools. It is so important to give students the opportunity to show off their musical talents and perform in front of a live audience. As well as being hugely rewarding for students, it helps to improve their performing ability and boost their confidence. Thank you for all the support we received on the night from those who attended, we look forward to holding many more future events like this one with the local primary schools."



March

Art & Photography
Stars of the month...

Year 7: Chelsea Farrell

Year 8: Charles Joy & Flora Hadfield

Year 9: Harriet Marshall & Evie Richards

Year 10 Art: Leo Birmingham

Year 10 Photography: Max Eyre

Year 11 Art: Hannah Dunsford

Year 11 Photography: Lucas James

A-level Art: Katie Gilbert

Art Club: Harriet Keenan

Congratulations!

Mr Ingham-Hill take on Marathon

In April Mr Ingham-Hill will be taking on the challenge of the London Marathon.

He is running to raise money for CLIC Sargent, the charity that has helped one of our own students, Harvey in Year 10, and his family over the last couple of years.

Mr Ingham-Hill said "I made my decision to run for CLIC following a visit to Harvey and his family when he was initially diagnosed. It gives me an opportunity to give something back to a charity that has assisted them greatly. If you wish to sponsor me then please follow the link to my just giving page."

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/James-Ingham-Hill>.

Mr Ingham-Hill has reported that his training is going well and he's hoping to complete the run in under 5 hours.

Good luck to Mr Ingham-Hill from all the staff and students at the College!



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