

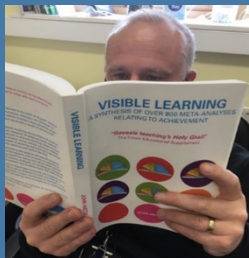
Sidmouth College Newsletter

INSIDE

Spring Term: Edition 4 Thursday 1st April 2021



World Book Day
Page 2



House Challenges
Page 3



Easter
Page 4



PE
Page 5



Drama News
Page 6



Sixth Form
Page 8



Students return to the College:

This term has been challenging for us all and once again as a community we have worked together and supported each other. It was wonderful to open the College to all the students over this half term and I must thank our fantastic volunteers who carried out the COVID lateral flow testing. Their generosity with their time enabled all our young people to return to the College safely.

Since returning to the College I have been incredibly pleased to see how, with each week, our students have settled back into the routines and expectations. Teaching and learning across the College is a real strength and it has been great to have all our students reengaging with face to face learning.

Recovery curriculum planning:

We are very fortunate at the College to have such a talented group of teachers who are all subject specialists. This not only ensures that we have a high-quality curriculum offer, but also a high-quality recovery curriculum offer. Each subject has worked hard to review students' progress, to map where they are and then plan to move forward with the curriculum. This will be a continual process of evaluation and planning over the next few months and years, ensuring that students are not disadvantaged by the College closure. We are looking forward to being able to start our enrichment offer, hopefully during the summer term, which will provide those wider opportunities for our students.

Build programme update:

The next few months will see considerable changes to our site and we are all looking forward to September when the site will be completed. The demolition process has now started and is due to continue throughout the summer term. I would like to reassure you that we are working very closely with Bouygues UK throughout this next stage of the process. The work is scheduled to be completed by the end of August ready for when the students return. I would like to thank the students for continuing to follow the new paths around the College while this work is taking place.

Updated government guidance:

We will be receiving updated guidance from the government during the Easter holidays and this will provide an update on the current protective measures that we have in place in the College to reduce the risk of transmission. I will share any updates with you before the students return so please look out for an email. A reminder that students need to continue with the lateral flow testing during the holidays and inform us if a positive test is produced.

I am proud to lead the College and work hard to serve our community, providing the best life chances for our young people. Once again in September we will be welcoming a full year group in Year 7 and will be holding a waiting list. We will also be welcoming back a large number of our current Year 11 students into our Sixth Form. As the College continues to grow it provides validation for the work that we do with all our young people. The strong relationships remain at the heart of our success; the relationships that we have with our parents, primary schools and our wider community are invaluable. I hope that you and your families are able to spend time together and enjoy the Easter break, I would like to personally thank you all for your continued support.

All of the staff at the College are looking forward to welcoming all our students back on Monday 19th April.

**Follow Sidmouth College
on Social Media!**



www.twitter.com/sidmouthcollege
www.facebook.com/sidmouthcollege
www.sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk



Students Start in New Building

We are thrilled that after months of Lockdown and Remote Education, we were finally able to welcome all students back to the College and also into the brand new building and facilities. The re opening process began on Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th March when we tested all year groups with the help of a group of brilliant volunteers. The Testing ran smoothly and students were mature and sensible throughout the process.



Red Nose Day

On Friday 19th March it was Red Nose Day and students were able to wear non-uniform to raise money for Comic Relief.

Students were encouraged to wear red to promote Red Nose Day, as, due to Covid-19 restrictions, noses were not able to be worn over face masks. We did however see some other Red Nose Day accessories including 'deely boppers' and pin badges worn by students and staff.

In total the College raised £615 for Comic Relief, well done everyone!



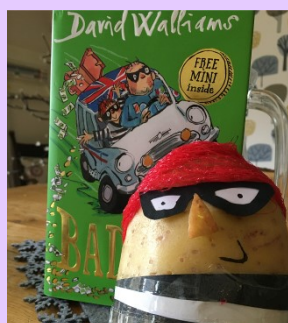
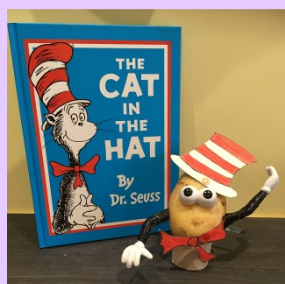
World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day, as well as the 'Who's Reading' House Challenge, the College took part in the toilet roll challenge, whereby students had to use a toilet roll tube to create a character or scene from a book. Congratulations to Cordelia in Year 7 who has been selected as the College winner with her Mr Men entry. Her entry will now go on to the next round of the competition run by Babcock. Well done Cordelia!



World Book Day Potatoes

In Literacy lessons Year 7 students were tasked for their remote learning to create their favourite book character out of a potato to celebrate World Book Day! See all the creations on our facebook page.



World Book Day Donated Books

We would like to thank Winstone Books of Sidmouth who have kindly donated some of the £1 World Book Day titles to the college. These were given to students on a first come first served basis and flew out of the Library!



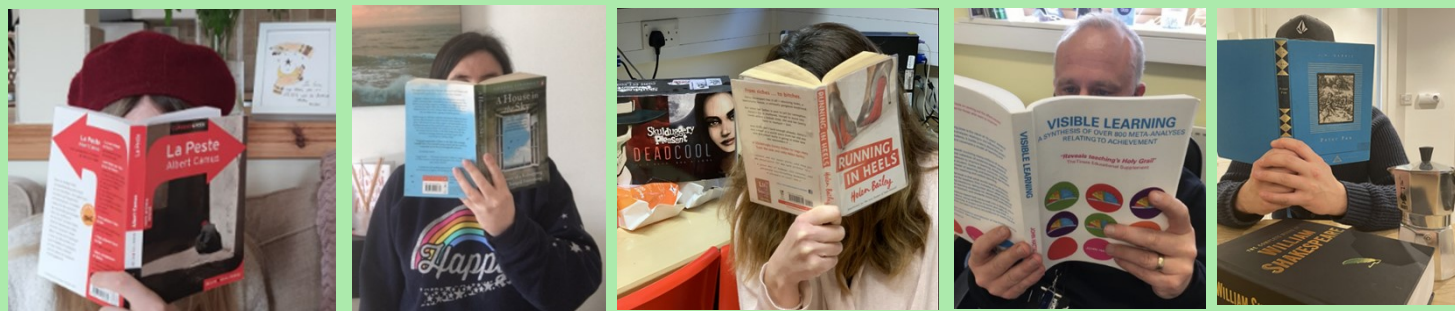
World Book Day 'Who's Reading' Challenge

On Thursday 4th March it was World Book Day and to mark the occasion Mrs Harrison the College Librarian ran a 'Who's Reading' House Challenge which saw the staff of Sidmouth College in a photo reading a book of their choice which they felt was a clue to who they were. Students then had to guess who was who and submit their entry. Lots of teachers got involved and students made some excellent guesses.



Students then had to guess who was who and submit their entry. Lots of teachers got involved and students made some excellent guesses.

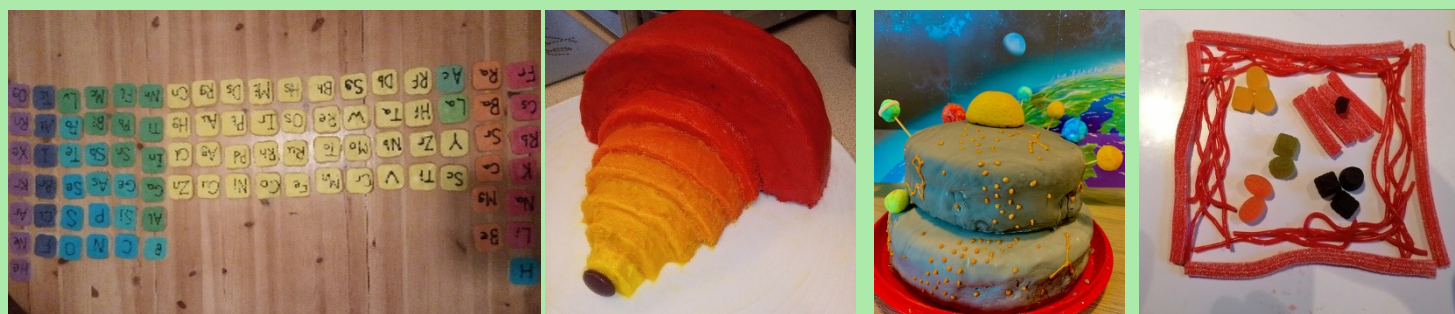
The winners were: 1st Grace T, Joint 2nd Katie S & Sophie S & 3rd Ellis E.



Science Model House Challenge

The Science Department ran a Science Model Making competition with students submitting a range of very impressive entries showing a variety of ideas and materials. We had biscuit periodic tables, cake solar systems and cells made from fruit. Well done to everyone who entered!

Congratulations to: 1st Martha C, 2nd Karl H and runners up: Jessica A, Jessica J, Daisy D, Harry J, Georgia M and Lara V.



MFL Cooking Challenge

The submissions for the MFL cooking challenge were very impressive with dishes from all over the world, ranging from Poland to India... It was difficult to choose a winner as all the dishes showed dedication and hard work. The three winners showed great skills in presentation and agility in following such complex recipes. Well done to them for getting to know typical dishes from these three countries.

Well done to: 1st Tilly B Y8 - Prinsesstårta - Sweden, 2nd Ruby A Y7 - Beef ribs with star anise egg fried rice - China & 3rd Abigael M Y7 - Tomato Farcies with rice & aubergine - France.





Easter Sweet Treats Competition

This term the Food and Nutrition Department ran an Easter Sweet Treats competition open to students in all year groups. Students were asked to make any Easter themed sweet item and we had an amazing array of entries from cakes and biscuits to chocolates and desserts.

The winning entry received a large Easter egg which was donated by Waitrose of Sidmouth. Well done to 1st Ayla C, 2nd Charley T & 3rd Lily E. Well done to all the entrants, they were fantastic and it was hard to select a winner!



Year 7 Geography Debate

This half term Mrs Gill's Year 7 Geography class have been learning about the Cocoa trade. They prepared for and took part in a roleplay debate whereby each student was allocated a role as part of the Cocoa Trade and had to bid for a percentage of the proceeds from each chocolate bar sold. The groups argued and learnt the importance of listening in order to give good counter arguments to support their points! There are definitely some budding politicians in this bunch!



Student Success

Well done to Year 10 student Tara who as well as completing all of her remote learning online this term, has also been working on an essay project for a competition organised by the University of Cambridge. Her essay on the history of French ballet will be read by the editors of the Cambridge Language Collective and sent to leading academics at the University.

It is a great achievement by Tara to have researched the topic, devised a question and written at length on the subject. We wish her the very best of luck with her entry, which will be judged at the end of April.



Year 11

It has been a less than normal year for our Year 11 students, but one tradition that they couldn't miss out on was receiving their leavers hoodies. During assembly in the penultimate week of term the hoodies finally arrived and students could not wait to get them on! Despite not spending that much of the academic year in school, year 11 have been a brilliant year group and it is so nice to have them back in classes and to be working with them.



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. Our next target is raise enough to purchase more furniture, internal signage and noticeboards for the new building to finish off the smart new interior.

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, as any amount will be put to good use. We have now raised over £11,000, 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.



PE Transition Challenges

This term the PE department have created new challenges for students and families at our local primary schools. So far these include a skipping challenge and a basketball challenge. These videos have proved a great way to get to know some of the pupils who will be joining the College in September, and encouraging pupils to keep fit during lockdown.

You can view and take part in the challenges by visiting the college's YouTube channel here:

Basketball:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=cs3YFs4tKE0

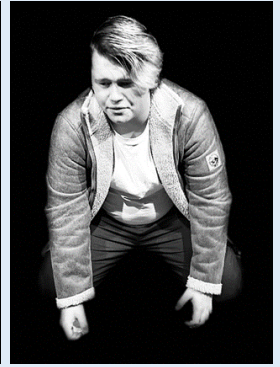
Skipping:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vaf_sRvFWI





A-Level Drama

Despite all the disruption surrounding the Covid 19 situation Year 13 A level Drama students performed their C3 Text in Practice exam on Monday 22nd March. This part of their studies involves them preparing to perform an extract from a published text to an audience. A range of texts were chosen and during lockdown the students prepared their performances which demand they play their roles with belief and integrity to engage an audience in a short time frame of not exceeding 5 minutes.



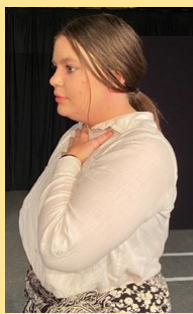
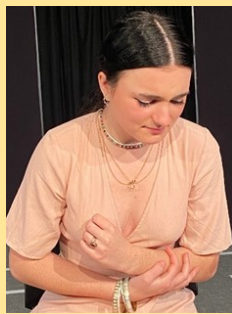
Molly portrayed a recovering drug addict Emma from Duncan Macmillan's contemporary play 'People, Places and Things' in her extract she rehearses how she will talk to her parents to apologise for how she has treated them due to her addiction.

Cameron's play is set in the 1960's where attitudes to disability were less tolerant than today. As Brian, the father of a severely disabled child, he hides behind a comic façade in his role as a teacher where the audience become his class of unruly students. Peter Nichol's play 'A Day in the Death of Joe Egg' challenges the attitudes of society and reveals the dark side of caring and its impact on a relationship.

Brody's chosen extract comes from another 1960's play that focuses on insidious and graphic bullying in the forces. As a young recruit 'Smiler', he has run away from the Air Force barracks following his treatment by officers and other trainees. Arnold Wesker's play, 'Chips With Everything' portrays the often hidden world that still has relevance today in the institutional bullying evident in the military forces.

GCSE Drama

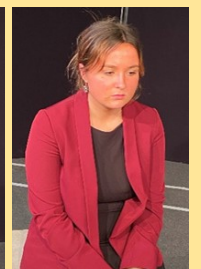
GCSE Drama students tackled their C3 exam extracts with energy and focused preparation. In a 'normal' year the students would be working in groups on a published text extract



for a visiting examiner but this year the task has been to work alone on a challenging monologue all based on complex characters ranging from a young teenager who is coming to terms with a terminal cancer diagnosis to the Mother of 2 yr old Jamie Bulger murdered by Thompson and Venables.

We watched performances that engaged the audience of fellow students with a sense of group endeavour as we witnessed a character leave his family for a new life, a sister of a disabled child challenging her parents for not showing love, a young woman who loses her mother sharing the impact of that event, a man reliving the horrors of the Somme in WW1, the 8 year old child beginning to grow up and challenging her mother and a father explaining his actions to his autistic son in an extract from 'Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time'.

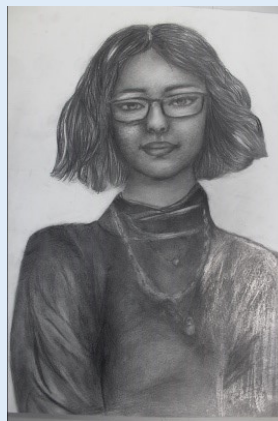
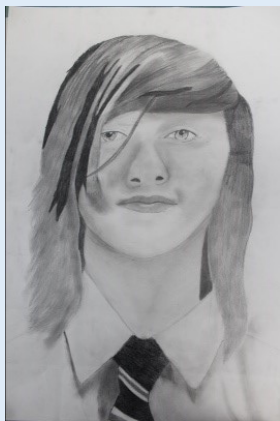
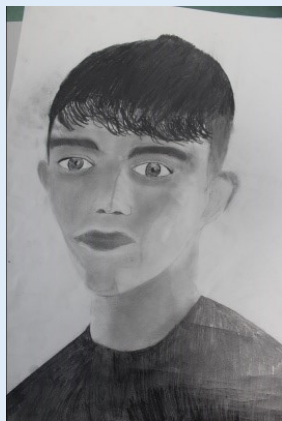
They rose to the challenge and should be proud of their performances which will account for 20% of their GCSE.





Year 10 Artwork

This term Year 10 GCSE Art students have been working on a project based around identity. As part of this project they all completed a large scale A2 sized portrait of themselves. The results are so impressive and Art teacher Mrs Chapple-Hyam couldn't wait to share some of them. To see the full collection visit our facebook page www.facebook.com/sidmouthcollege



A message from the Sidmouth College Governors

The National Day of Reflection last week was a moment for us to look back at all that has been achieved by the college community over the last 12 months.

As governors we have continued with our role of providing support and challenge to school leaders, looking specifically at how the college is keeping students and staff safe, communication, the quality of remote learning, the integrity of the process for following the government's requirements for centre assessed grades, and the move into the new building.

Like so many, we have had to adapt the way in which we work, replacing our usual visits to college with virtual meetings, feedback and surveys, all of which has given us a clear picture of our students' experience over the last year. We are looking forward to once again, meeting with staff, seeing students taking part in their learning and the activities available at the college and attending events celebrating their achievements. We have also welcomed 3 new parent governors, who bring a range of skills to the governing body.

The welfare and wellbeing of students is always the highest priority for the college, and we are so grateful for the extraordinary level of care, support and encouragement shown by staff throughout this time.

From the outset of the pandemic, we have been able to see how everyone, students, staff and parents have adapted to, supported and engaged with remote learning expectations and have no doubt this has contributed to how successfully our students have settled back into college and are moving on with their learning.

The support from our local community has been gratefully received, with financial donations, contributions of laptops and wonderful volunteer testers all ensuring the education of our young people has continued smoothly and safely.

We would like to use this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to Sarah Parsons and the leadership team. Leading the college through an unprecedented pandemic as well as a new school building project has not been without challenges, and we have seen how relentlessly hard they have worked to ensure clarity of communication for us all, and that the right decisions have been made at every stage. Thank you for the commitment you have shown, this has allowed the whole college community of students, staff, parents and volunteers to come together as an incredible team.

*Follow Sidmouth College
on Social Media!*



www.twitter.com/sidmouthcollege
www.facebook.com/sidmouthcollege
www.sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk



A Message from Mrs Hurley (Head of Sixth Form)

Despite all the events that have taken place over the last year, life in the sixth form at Sidmouth College could not be better! Recruitment is up, results are superb and the number of students who are going to university continues to rise.

As a resilient group of students, both in year 12 and 13, they have embraced all of the changes that have been 'thrown at them' as they have continued with their A Level/BTEC studies. Over the course of the next few weeks the Upper Sixth, in particular, will be preparing for their end of year assessments, knowing that many of them will be going onto the next stage of their educational journey, from September 2021. The students have applied to a wide range of universities, including Leeds, Keele, Southampton, Birmingham and Cardiff to name but a few. Two of our students, Emily Hadfield and Harriet Wardrop have also been accepted onto Medicine this year, demonstrating the high calibre of students that we have at the College. This year the route to university has been extremely difficult, with virtual interviews and increased demand for places, but our students have shown how prepared they have been for the application process that has taken place and we are so proud of what they have achieved. Whoever employs them in the future will have a group of employees that they will be proud of too!

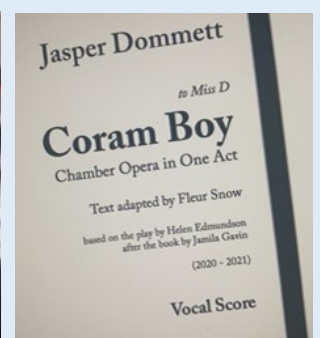
Numbers in the Sixth Form, from September 2021, are also looking extremely good as the Sixth Form continues to meet the needs of both our current students and those from outside. We have received over 80 applications at a time when competition is fierce and I am so looking forward to working with another group of students who are not only likely to excel in their GCSEs but who have also shown what it takes to succeed. As always, the future is good at Sidmouth College Sixth Form.



(Photo taken before covid restrictions)

Former Student Success

Congratulations to former Sidmouth College Drama student, Jasper Dommett, who has won a coveted place at The Royal Academy of Music in London to further his studies in composition at Masters level. This follows his highly successful five years' studentship at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama where he has won awards, composing and working with The BBC Orchestra and The Welsh National Orchestra.



Most recently Jasper has composed a one act Opera based upon a children's novel, 'Coram Boy' by Jamila Gavin which was adapted for the National Theatre stage by Helen Edmundson.

'Coram Boy' is an amazing piece of historical fiction, an epic adventure that concerns the theme of child cruelty. based in the eighteenth century in both London and Gloucester. In those days if you were unmarried but pregnant, had learning difficulties, were poor or had a different skin colour then life was going to be tough. To be a baby born poor, or out of wedlock, was especially difficult. But for the Coram Man, these poor babies were nothing more than a business opportunity not to be passed up.

It took many months to secure the rights to compose the Opera which will be transmitted live in May this year. He has dedicated this composition to Angela Davies, [Miss D] his Drama teacher for the inspiration to pursue his musical talent and in particular the study of the 'Coram Boy' play text when studying A level Drama and Theatre at the College.