



# Sidmouth College Newsletter



## INSIDE

Spring Term: Edition 4 Friday 4th April 2025



**World Book Day**  
Page 3



**Chef Competition**  
Page 4



**Student Success**  
Page 5



**Maths**  
Page 6



**Sports News**  
Page 7



**Trips**  
Page 9



Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to our Spring newsletter, bursting with examples of our brilliant young people taking opportunities to grow, be inspired and succeed beyond the classroom.

I would like to start by thanking you all for the support you give us every day, ensuring that our children are attending, ready to take on the opportunities we offer both in, and outside the classroom. As a school we have the best student attendance in our trust, which we are incredibly proud of. Our student survey tells us that an increasing number of students feel positive about coming to school. This is crucial for their academic success, as was illustrated in a recent Department for Education report on attendance: 'The odds of year 11 pupils achieving a grade 5 in English and Maths almost double if their attendance is over 95%, compared to those who miss between 5% and 10% of lessons' Our focus on unconditional warm regard is developing a sense of belonging for all our students.

Year 11 and 13 are now into their final countdown for the summer exams and have been conducting themselves with maturity and focus, these crucial final 5 weeks have a real impact on the GCSE, BTEC and A-Level outcomes that our students achieve and we will work with you and our students to support and challenge them through this important time.

As you will already know Mrs Hurley is currently unwell and not in work, we are also now able to share with you that Mrs Hurley will be retiring at the end of this academic year. This is something that Mrs Hurley was planning before she became unwell; we are hoping that she may be able to return to work before the summer. We have now appointed Mrs Selena Burroughs as our new Head of Sixth Form from September. We have been extremely fortunate that Mrs Burroughs has been able to support the work of Mrs Davey, Mrs Elliot and the sixth form tutor team in supporting Year 12 and 13 while Mrs Hurley has been off. We are really excited to have an experienced and passionate post 16 expert joining us at the college, Mrs Burroughs has the following message to share:

"Having worked in Post 16 education in East Devon for 30 years I am delighted to be coming to Sidmouth to take over the role from Mrs Hurley of Head of Sixth Form in September. Having lectured at Bicton College for nearly 20 years and more recently at Honiton College, I have a wide range of curriculum knowledge in vocational and academic qualifications and it is exciting to be coming to Sidmouth with their wide range of subjects on offer. As a qualified careers advisor I will also be working with the Sixth Form students to help navigate them through this stage and to explore their options for the next. This is a really exciting time for any 16 – 19 year old students and I am passionate about continuing the great work of Mrs Hurley and the team of creating a learning environment that fosters and encourages young people to become creative and technical intellectuals, achieving the highest outcomes and securing the best destination. Students will continue leaving the Sixth Form equipped with the skills needed to thrive at undergraduate level and in employment. I am very much looking forward to meeting and working alongside the students, parents and the wider community of Sidmouth"

Thank you to all the families who completed our trust parent feedback survey, you highlighted that you were pleased with how well informed you are with how to support attendance, the range of clubs and activities in the school and you are clear about what we expect of you as families. One of the areas that you highlighted as needing to improve was how easy it is to attend school events. To support this we will, more regularly, share when these events are taking place. We have reviewed the timings of some events to ensure that more families can attend. You can find on [page 2](#) a list of upcoming events in the Summer Term.

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# Summer Term Dates for your Diary

## April

**Tuesday 22nd April** - First day of Summer term

## May

**Friday 2nd May** - Empowering Girls Workshop

**Monday 5th May** - Bank Holiday

**Thursday 15th May** - Year 10 Parents' Evening

**Wednesday 21st May** - National Numeracy Day

## June

**June** - Year 7 Reward Trip to Crealy (**Date TBC**)

**Wednesday 18th June** - Year 11 Leavers' day

**Thursday 19th June** - Year 11 Prom

**Tuesday 24th June** - Year 9 Reward Trip to Haven Banks

**Thursday 26th June** – Step Up to Sixth Form Day

**Thursday 26th June** - Year 7 Parents' Evening

**Monday 31st June - Wednesday 2nd July** - Year 6 Induction Days

**Tuesday 1st July** - Year 6 Induction Parents' Evening

## July

**Tuesday 1st July** - Year 6 Parents' Evening

**Tuesday 8th July** - Year 8 Reward Trip to Flipout

**Tuesday 8th July** - Summer Concert (**Date TBC**)

**Thursday 10th July** - Year 10 Reward Trip to Race World

**Thursday 10th July** - PE Awards Evening

**Monday 14th– Friday 18th** - Work Experience Week (Years 10 & 12)

**Wednesday 16th - Friday 18th July** - Activities Days (Years 7-9)

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## World Book Day

On Thursday 6th March it was World Book Day and the theme this year was 'Read Your Way'. Students this half term have been celebrating the freedom to choose what they read by exploring the idea of banned books in assembly. There was a 'banned books' display in the College Library and staff shared extracts from their favourite 'banned books' in Reading Canon across the week.

Librarian Miss Hembury also celebrated World Book Day by holding a number of competitions and quizzes in the Library. These included a 'match the teacher to the book' quiz, a book cover design competition and a photo competition to take a photo of yourself reading a book in an unusual or funny place. We saw some fantastic entries in all categories. Congratulations to the winners and all those that took part!

Match the Teacher to the Book Quiz: Leo M  
 Design a Book Cover Quiz: Laya B & Yas J-P  
 Book Quiz: Olivia D  
 Photo Competition: Molly P



## Plymouth Snowsport Centre

Ahead of Sidmouth College's Ski Trip to Austria in the Easter Holidays, a select number of students, all first timers, enjoyed a trip to the dry ski slope in Plymouth to begin their learning prior to arriving in resort.

The beginner courses delivered by the centre team were fantastic for the building the students' confidence and ability. It was also very entertaining to watch them walk in Ski Boots for the first time!

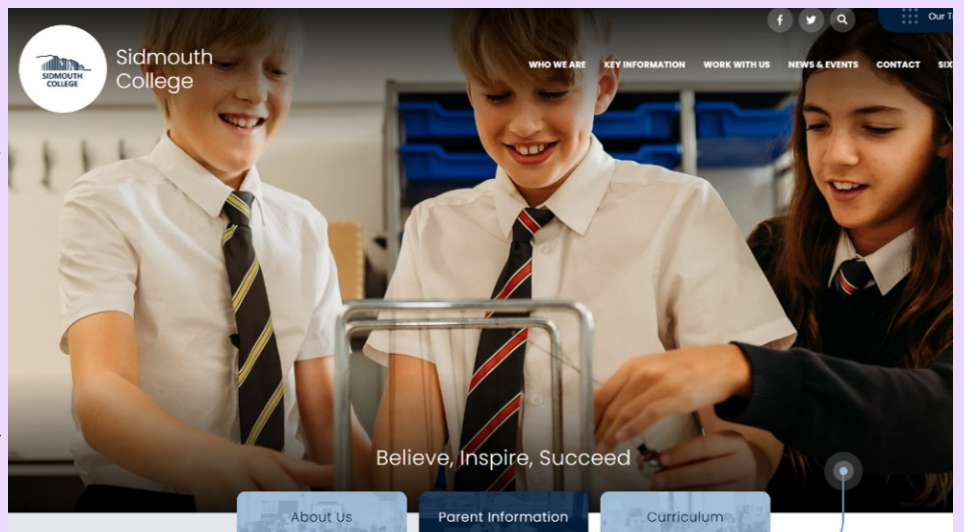


## New Website

We are pleased to share that on return from the Easter Holidays Sidmouth College will be launching a brand new website. The web address will remain the same:

[www.sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk](http://www.sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk),  
 but will have a brand new look in line with the Ted Wragg Trust.

We will share more information when we return in the first half of the Summer Term, watch this space.





### Ten Tors

Year 10 rose to the challenge of their first ten tors camping weekend this half term, navigating 40km across Dartmoor, losing sleep to daylight saving time, and carrying full kit for the first time!

What an incredible group of people, both the students and our volunteers who give up time to help.



### Comic Relief - Red Nose Day

In March Sidmouth College raised funds for Red Nose Day by holding a Bake Sale organised by the Student Council which raised £100.60 and a Staff vs Students dodgeball match organised by the Sixth Form which raised £117. In total, through the non-uniform day and extra events, we raised an impressive £950.

A huge thank you to all of the staff, students and their families who baked and/or donated goods and money to a great cause. A special shout out goes to the students who organised the Dodgeball event and Bake Sale, you are fantastic!

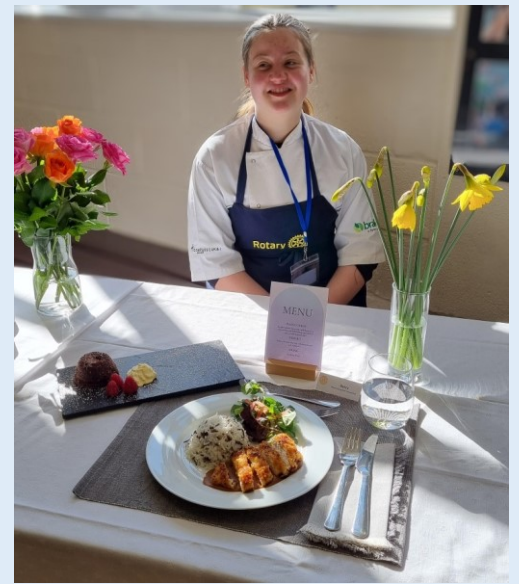


### Food Technology

This half term Year 10 student Nancy took part in the second round of the Rotary Club Young Chef Competition after winning the first round In February at the College.

Nancy competed against seven other students from Devon schools and was incredible on the day, finishing in third place and narrowly missing out on second by half a point.

Nancy cooked two impressive dishes which were a Katsu Chicken Curry and a perfect chocolate fondant. Well done Nancy!



### Headteacher's Commendations

This term Mrs Whitworth has continued to reward deserving students who have excelled, or achieved something above and beyond expectations, with a Headteacher's Commendation.

For the Spring term the Headteacher's Commendations have gone to Gracie in Year 12, who recently represented her age group in the National Cross Country Championships at the South of England Showground in Surrey.

Gracie has competed at the East Devon, round every year since Year 7 and there have been years where she has picked up an injury or even not run her best performance or even dropped out due to illness. However, Gracie believed in herself and continued to train hard, push herself and has now competed in the Devon level competition in both Year 11 and Year 12. This year she competed at the South West regional and qualified within the top 5 girls for the National Champs! Her determination to improve demonstrates that it's never too late to reach your potential and find success. She is an inspiration to her peers and the younger students at the school. She never speaks about her success and is very humble when you discuss it with her. The fact that this has been a 5+ year journey to success absolutely deserves the Headteacher's Commendation. Well done Gracie!

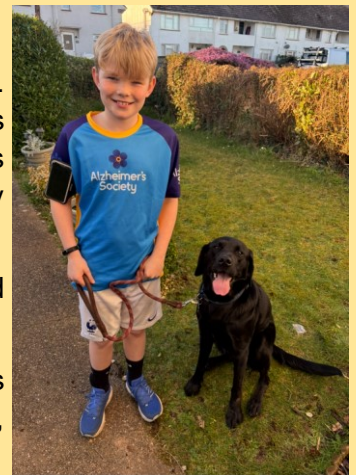


### Student Celebration - Pride of Sidmouth College

The Dalai Lama observed, "Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them humanity cannot survive" This half term's winner Samuel demonstrates the very best of humanity. He joined Sidmouth College from a small school and has had to overcome feeling a little isolated at secondary school. Samuel is very sporty and that has led to several injuries recently, but he perseveres and does not complain.

Accruing 331 praise points to date shows that he's Ready, Responsible and Respectful. He is always upbeat and has a lovely smile.

Samuel recently took on a challenge to raise money for Alzheimer's Society due to his Grampy having the condition. He ran 40 miles in February (despite illness, weather, school and sport) and raised £260 for the charity! A deserving winner!



### Praise Assemblies

On Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th April we delivered our Easter Praise Assemblies. Recognising our students' incredible achievements is always a complete honour. So far this year 232,142 praise points have been awarded this is 70,000 more than this time last year! Recognition is given for a range of achievements including success in Duke of Edinburgh, Rotary Club Young Chef Competition and Pride of Sidmouth College. In these assemblies we recognise the Top 3 Achievers in each House and they are as follows:

Scott:	Bronze – Lizzie 636 points,	Silver – Florence – 637 points	Gold – Greta – 648 points.
Drake :	Bronze - Lydia 585 points,	Silver – Izzy 647 points	Gold – Mckenzie – 705 points
Raleigh:	Bronze – Florence – 574 points,	Silver – Ginny – 577 points	Gold – Sandy – 614 points.
Grenville:	Bronze – Charley 564 points,	Silver – Grace 585 points	Gold - Molly 668 points.





### Pi Day

On Friday 14th March it was Pi Day and to celebrate the Maths Department held a Pi reciting competition at lunchtime. Students were very impressive learning and remembering the numbers in Pi.

In lessons students were also treated to a number of Pi themed activities including a Pi themed question in retrieval starters, a Pi wordsearch and discovering Pi by measuring the circumference and diameter of everyday objects.

The winners of the Pi competition were announced at the end of term and certificates presented to the top scorers. Well done to everyone who took part and had a go!



### Year 11 Photo

On Friday 21st March Year 11 students came together for their last ever official photograph as a cohort and they all looked very smart. The photo was taken by Tempest photography and is available for families to buy. An email has been sent, so check your inbox for a link to order.

The students also planned a surprise for Mr Ingham-Hill for his last ever Year 11 group photo. They each made and designed posters with messages of good luck and goodbye, which they held up to surprise him.



### Sidmouth Lions Club Visit

On Wednesday 19th March Graham Rossiter, President and Jim Metcalf of the Sidmouth Lions Club visited the College to present Sixth Form students Laura and Elliott with the awards that they received at the GCSE Celebration Event last year. The Lions had a special shield engraved and framed copies of the certificates made to present to Laura and Elliot..

Thank you to the Sidmouth Lions Club for their continued support of the College.



### Media Studies

Years 10 and 12 Media Studies students had the great opportunity this term to learn from specialists working in media industries via ERIC (empower, represent, immerse, create). Year 12 student Ruby L writes: For National Careers Week (3rd-7th March), Year 12 media participated in the ERIC x NCW online conferences. We joined the Screen Industries ones about Warner Bros Games, ITV, and Sky Studios Elstree. They spoke about how many jobs there are in the film industry, and how many different routes there are into the industry for people with any level of education. We really enjoyed the conferences and found them really interesting and it has given us ideas of how to start working in the industry and also provided ideas for finding future work experience. Any student interested in working in the creative industries could access similar opportunities via this link [ERIC x NCW](#)

[2025 — ERIC | Creative Career App.](#)



## U16s Rugby 7s

Before half-term our U16s girls travelled to Colyton Grammar School for a rugby 7s tournament against other schools in Devon. The girls put in a great effort against some tough oppositions throughout. Due to assessments and injuries we only had one sub, but that didn't stop us scoring some brilliant tries and challenging all oppositions. Player of tournament went to Cheyanne for her fearless tackling. Try of the day went to Isla.

Girls Rugby is in great hands at Sidmouth College with the majority of this team being U15.



## U15s Football

The Sidmouth College U15s concluded their East Devon schools 7-a-side league this half term. Out of eight teams, Sidmouth finished fifth. The girls grew in confidence in each game and were resilient in defence and kicks on the counterattack. Chloe H was awarded the teachers player award for her finishing ability and the Players Player award went to Lola.



## Basketball

Congratulations to the under 16's Basketball team for their one point victory over West Exe this half term! Special shout out to Jimmy 'Buckets' C for a monumental eighteen points across four quarters!



## Football

Our U14s visited The Kings School this half term for a football fixture. After some strong defending for the first half of the game, Harry scored the opener to put Sidmouth 1-0 up. Into the second half a mistake was made at the back and Kings levelled. Going into the final period Sidmouth hit back on the counter attack and Ali scored. With some strong defending throughout and an organised team performance Sidmouth came away with a 2-1 win.



## Netball

The U12 Netball team played their final competition of the year at the East Devon schools' tournament on Thursday. Having beaten King's, Uffculme and Honiton in the group stages they progressed to the semi final against Axe Valley where they won 11-1. A close final against Exmouth finished the afternoon. Unfortunately, they just ran out of time and lost 7-9. Mrs Omand's Player of the Tournament goes to Beryl, who demonstrated outstanding leadership on the day. Well done girls!





### East Devon Tourism Network

On Tuesday 25th March Mrs Young and Sixth Form student Emily attended an East Devon Tourism event in Exeter. The event brought together businesses from across East Devon to network. Emily was invited as a keen videographer to create a video for the EDTN. On the day she interviewed a variety of business owners and staff and recorded their answers. She is now busy editing and putting the clips together and we are excited to see the end result.



### Tree Planting

This term the College was thrilled to receive a donation of a variety of trees including Dogwood, Cornus, Hazel, Crab Apple and Dog-Rose to be planted in the grounds of Sidmouth College.

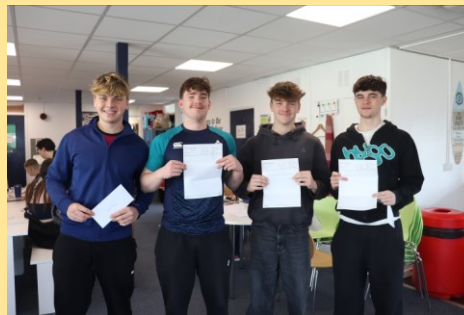
Students spent their break times with Mr Marshall planting the various trees in spots around the College that would benefit from planting. We cannot wait to see the trees grow.

Thank you to The Woodland Trust for their kind donation, we look forward to seeing the trees grow..



### BTEC Results Day

On Thursday 20th March the Year 12 and 13 BTEC Sport and BTEC Health & Social Care students received their first set of formal examination results. We are pleased to share that in all three subjects there were many students achieving merits and distinctions. A fantastic achievement and a testament to their resilience and hard work. Congratulations to them all!







### Holland and Belgium Trip

On Thursday 13th February Mrs Hurley, Mrs Liddle, Mrs Cox and Mr 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. They began the trip with a focus on the Second World War, visiting 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. The group also visited Essex Farm Cemetery, Langemark German Cemetery and had the chance to walk through a trench at Hooze Crater. The last stop was in Tyne Cott, the largest First World War cemetery containing 11,956 graves, 8,369 unidentified.

Throughout the trip the students were accompanied by an outstanding tour guide, Bruce, who used his wealth of knowledge and experience to make the trip very engaging for everyone.



### Geography Fieldwork

On Thursday 27th March, Year 11 GCSE Geography students spent the afternoon collecting data for their upcoming Geography GCSE exam. The group visited Exeter City Centre and looked at two locations, Princesshay and Sidwell Street. They collected data on footfall, traffic and the environment and compared the results to analyse whether the regeneration of the City Centre has been successful. They also asked members of the public questions about their experience in the city and the reasons for visiting.



## Clubs Fayre

On Friday 28th March Sidmouth College hosted a brand new event in partnership with the Sidmouth Town Council.. The Clubs Fayre is a new programme arranged to promote clubs in the community for young people. The event gave students the opportunity to meet with twenty different clubs that take place in and around Sidmouth to showcase what is on offer. On the day we invited staff and students to come to school wearing a club kit of a club they are a part of to positively promote existing clubs and encourage those who do not currently attend to consider joining. A clubs directory has been put together and can be read by visiting this link: [https://issuu.com/sidmouthcollege/docs/youth\\_hub\\_directory?fr=sYjQxZigzNzcxMjU](https://issuu.com/sidmouthcollege/docs/youth_hub_directory?fr=sYjQxZigzNzcxMjU).

The event was a huge success and inspired students to sign up and try out some new clubs outside of school. Thank you to all the clubs that were represented on the day and gave up their time to meet with our students; LED Leisure, Army Cadets, Air Force Cadets Squadron, Sidmouth Youth Club, Astro Scouts, Sidmouth Hockey Club, Sidmouth Netball Club, Sidmouth Vikings Football Club, Funkifeet, Sidmouth Cricket Club, Sid Vale Tennis Coaching, Sidmouth Sailing Club, Sidmouth Running Club - Juniors, Sidmouth Sea Fest, Sidmouth School of Art, Sidmouth Rugby Club, Sidmouth Golf Club, East Devon Dance Academy, Sidvale Scout Group, Sidmouth Community Food Forest & Sidmouth Guides, Rangers and Brownies & Rainbows.



## Junior Chef Academy

On Thursday 27th March students Suzy, Shanel and Nancy graduated from the Junior Chef Academy after completing a 10 week course gaining culinary knowledge and new skills.

The graduation was held at the Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth and hosted the friends and families of the students who took part, along with special guests. The students cooked and served a delectable 4 course meal to all attendees before the graduation ceremony.

They were each awarded a trophy and a set of Culinary Chef knives to congratulate them on completion of the course. Well done to the three students on an amazing achievement!



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### Student Heads of House Announced

We are pleased to introduce our newly appointed Student Heads of House for the next academic year. After applications and elections took place last term, we now have 16 new enthusiastic leaders. At the end of April students were awarded their new Head of House ties, presented by Mrs Parsons and Mr White in assembly. Congratulations to them all, we look forward to seeing the work they do over the next year.

**Raleigh House:** Hallie, Sophie, Isla & Islam

**Grenville House:** Katy, Rhody, Jessica & Chloe

**Scott House:** Oscar, Greta, Theo & Nancy

**Drake House:** Evie, Isla, Katie & Nathaniel

#### Raleigh Student Heads of House



#### Grenville Student Heads of House



#### Scott Student Heads of House



#### Drake Student Heads of House



### Golden Ticket

Each half term all members of Staff (both Teaching and Non-Teaching) are given one Golden Ticket. They award their Golden Ticket to a student who exemplifies the attribute highlighted on the ticket so either Ready, Responsible or Respectful. At the end of the half term Mrs Davey goes through all of the Golden Tickets and the Student Council pick one at random so congratulations to Jake T (Year 9) and Jayden R (Year12) who won the raffle this term.



### Make your Mark

On Friday 28th March Years 7-10 took part in Devon Youth Councils Make Your Mark democratic vote. The students engaged brilliantly and after a week of information regarding the various issues that impact young people across Devon our students voted for issues that they feel should be a priority. The top 3 issues that students voted for are:

- Transport
- Future Prospects
- Mental Health



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