

Sidmouth College Newsletter

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As we reach the end of another busy and successful half term, I would like to thank our students, staff, families and wider community for the continued support that makes Sidmouth College such a positive and vibrant place to learn and work. Over recent weeks, it has been wonderful to see students embracing such a wide range of opportunities, demonstrating resilience, creativity, leadership and compassion both within the college and beyond.

There have been many highlights throughout the half term. Our students have represented the college exceptionally through enrichment opportunities including the Iceland Sixth Form trip, the Ten Tors Challenge and the Rotary Exmoor Youth Challenge. These experiences not only develop independence and teamwork, but also create memories and friendships that will remain with students for years to come. We are incredibly proud of the determination and commitment shown by all students involved, as well as the staff and volunteers who gave their time to support them.

Alongside this, students have continued to thrive through academic and cultural opportunities across the college. From welcoming local author Jane Corry for a creative writing workshop, to Media Studies students working with the East Devon Talking Newspaper, it has been fantastic to see learning extended beyond the classroom in such meaningful ways. Activities including the Year 7 Summer Bake-Off, Eco Club bird box project and the Empowering Girls programme have also showcased the creativity, confidence and enthusiasm of our students.

Student leadership and student voice continue to play an important role within the college community. This half term, we were delighted to appoint our new Student Heads of House for the next academic year, and we look forward to seeing the contribution they will make across the school. Opportunities for students to develop confidence, responsibility and leadership remain central to our vision for Sidmouth College.

I would also like to congratulate our Year 11 and Year 13 students as they continue through their examination season with maturity and determination. We know how much effort students, staff and families have invested in preparation for these examinations and we are incredibly proud of the resilience and positive attitude shown by our young people throughout this period. We also enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate our Year 13 students at their recent Leavers' event and wish them every success in the future.

This half term has also been an important one for the college more widely. We were delighted to receive the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection, with the college recognised as meeting the expected standard in all seven inspection areas. This reflects the dedication of our staff, the support of our families and the character and conduct of our students, all of whom contribute to the continued improvement and success of Sidmouth College.

As we look ahead to the second half of the summer term, there is much to look forward to including Sports Days, reward trips, work experience, Activities Week, the Summer Concert and a range of celebration events across the college. These opportunities are an important part of the wider experience we want every student to enjoy during their time at Sidmouth College.

As always, thank you to our staff for their professionalism and care, our students for the energy and positivity they bring each day, and our families for their continued support and partnership. We look forward to another successful half term ahead.

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Iceland Trip (Report written by Scarlet W, Year 12 Student)

This year’s sixth form trip to Iceland was undoubtedly a thrilling experience enjoyed by everyone. It was a packed few days, beginning from the moment we arrived at Keflavik airport. I think everybody was equally surprised at the sheer amount of snow on the ground, which turned into excitement during multiple snowball fights on the first evening exploring Reykjavik.

The next morning, we set off early to travel the popular Golden Circle tourist route, visiting the Secret Lagoon geothermal pool, Gullfoss Waterfall, geysers and Thingvellir National Park, where you are surrounded by the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates. After a long day of travelling and sightseeing, many of us went on a walk along the waterfront back in Reykjavik in the evening hoping to see the northern lights.

Our second full day consisted of visiting Solheimajokull Base Camp where we walked out onto the glacier, learning from our guides about the history and movements of the glacier. From there, we drove down to the south coast, seeing the black sand beach near Vik before heading further inland to visit Skogafoss and Seljalandfoss, both popular waterfall areas.

In between all of the travelling and sightseeing, we took part in Mr. Sullivan’s game on the coach of who could see the Bonus Pig supermarket first, by shouting out ‘Bonus Pig’ as loud as possible to earn the point, which turned into quite a competitive game.

Also, there was lots of time to take pictures, buy souvenirs and eat unlimited pizza during an evening out at a restaurant in the city. Overall, it was an incredible few days that we’ll remember for years to come.



Author Visit

On Wednesday 13th May we were delighted to welcome local author Jane Corry to the college, where she led an engaging writing workshop for students in Years 7 and 8.

The workshop explored the theme of “Secrets”, with Jane sharing valuable advice on how writers can weave secrets into their storylines to create tension, intrigue, and stronger narratives. Students were encouraged to develop their own ideas and discover how hidden truths can make their writing more compelling.

A huge thank you to Jane for working with our students and passing on some of her best writing secrets!



Bake-Off

On Monday 18th June, Mrs Reeve hosted the Year 7 Summer Biscuit Bake-Off. Students were challenged to bake and decorate a selection of biscuits inspired by summer themes and the results were fantastic.

The competition featured an impressive range of creative designs, including ice creams, seashells, tennis balls, seaside scenes complete with Jelly Babies swimming in the sea and pebble stacks. Mrs Reeve carefully taste-tested each entry and awarded marks for creativity, presentation and flavour.

Awards were presented to Caleb for Best Summer Themed Design, Jasper for Best Taste, and Isla for Most Creative Entry.

Congratulations to all the students who took part and helped make the competition such a success.



Exmoor Challenge

Huge congratulations to the amazing Sidmouth College students who took on the Rotary Exmoor Youth Challenge at the weekend!

Teams completed a demanding 16-mile trek across Exmoor, relying on map-reading and compass skills to navigate the unmarked course, showing incredible resilience, teamwork and determination.

A special shoutout to Lucy, Grace, Flynn and Wilfrid, who achieved 2nd place in the mixed juniors category with perfect timing at every checkpoint.





Ten Tors

After months of training, Sidmouth College students successfully completed the Ten Tors challenge this term. Beaming smiles disguised their sore legs and feet as they crossed the finish line having hiked 35 miles across Dartmoor, with all the kit on their backs needed to be self-sufficient for two days. The two 35 mile teams consisted of Rueben, Oscar, Chris, Izzy, Atheana and Harrison in Team A and Ella C, Micky, Edan, Tom, Amalie and Corey in Team B.



Ten Tors is a tough physical challenge and a test of determination and teamwork that remains with participants for years. Participation in the event is a longstanding tradition for Sidmouth College with continuing success for our teams. The training is as much a part of Ten Tors as the event itself and this begins in October. It requires months of effort both in school and on the moor throughout the winter months, as students work together on the navigation skills and fitness required to get around the event as a team.

Alongside the incredible commitment from students is the equally commendable commitment from the team of adults supporting the students and enabling this enrichment opportunity. Sidmouth College is very grateful to our experienced and skilled team including volunteers Matt, Martyn, Jen, Faye, Nick, Simon, Patrick, Andy and Geoff. Thank you for your time and expertise, and to staff members Miss King and Mr Richards who also give up their free time to support the students. Thanks also extend to the families who support students throughout training. It really is a monumental effort from all involved.



Year 13 Leavers

On Friday 8th May Mrs Burroughs held a Year 13 Leaver's party in the Sixth Form to say goodbye to the Year 13 students ahead of their exams.

Students enjoyed a buffet of party food, had some photo opportunities and the chance to say goodbye as a year group. Year 13 have been an amazing cohort and we wish them all luck in their upcoming A-Levels and beyond!



Parent Forum

On Thursday 8th May we hosted a Parent Forum for Year 10 families focused on supporting students as they



prepare for the transition into Year 11 and their GCSE studies next year. The evening also marked the launch of our 5-1 Revision Countdown programme, designed to help students develop effective, sustainable revision habits and prepare confidently for their trial exams in June.

Thank you to everyone who attended, it was wonderful to see such a strong turnout and level of support for our students.



Empowering Girls

On Tuesday 28th May, a group of Year 9 students visited the Met Office in Exeter to take part in a confidence workshop as part of the Empowering Girls programme.

During the day, the students attended an engaging confidence session led by Judy Salmon. They explored what confidence means and learned practical techniques to help build and maintain it in the future. The session also included a range of activities designed to encourage the girls to speak in public and share their ideas with others.

Following this, the students had the opportunity to meet female staff at the Met Office, who shared their personal journeys and experiences of entering the workplace. This provided valuable insight and inspiration. It was a fantastic experience and all of the students left feeling more confident than when they arrived.

The Empowering Girls programme will conclude in the second half of the summer term with a celebration event at Westpoint on Wednesday 23rd June.



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 last term students were awarded their new Head of House ties, presented by Mr Evans and Mrs Davey in assembly. Congratulations to them all, we look forward to seeing the work they do over the next year.

Raleigh House: Ginny, Lacie, Henry & Harrison

Grenville House: Tallulah, Jess, Florry & Ollie

Scott House: Archie, Faith, Christeen & Joel

Drake House: Marley, Jimmy, Bronwyn & Anna

Raleigh Student Heads of House



Grenville Student Heads of House



Scott Student Heads of House



Drake Student Heads of House



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Sidmouth College Facebook

We would like to inform you that our previous school Facebook page has recently been taken down. Unfortunately, despite our efforts, we have been unable to recover the account.

To ensure we can continue sharing important updates, news and celebrations from the college, we have created a new Facebook page.

You can follow us here:

www.facebook.com/sidmouthcollegedevon

We encourage you to like and follow the new page to stay connected with everything happening at the college.



Key Dates for Summer Term 2

First Day of Half Term 1
Monday 1st June

Year 11 Leavers' Day
Monday 15th June

Year 11 Prom
Thursday 18th June

Year 13 Leavers Night
Friday 19th June

Art Exhibition
Tuesday 23rd June

Year 7 Parents' Evening
Thursday 25th June

Year 9 Reward Trip
Friday 26th June

Summer Concert
Monday 29th June

Sports Days
2nd and 3rd July

Year 10 Reward Trip
Monday 6th July

Year 8 Reward Trip
Wednesday 8th July

PE Awards Evening
Thursday 9th July

Year 7 Reward Trip
Friday 10th July

Yr 10 & 12 Work Experience Week
Monday 13th to Friday 17th July

Yr 7,8 & 9 Activities Days
15th, 16th and 17th July

Boys Impact PT Session

On Wednesday 29th April, we were delighted to welcome local personal trainer and former Sidmouth College student, Josh Solmon, back to the College to lead a Boys Impact PT session.

Making the most of the sunny weather, the group took the session outdoors onto the field, where they participated in a variety of fitness activities. These included working with kettlebells, dumbbells, and weighted bags, as well as trying out boxing drills using gloves and pads to build fitness and stamina.

The session was both energetic and enjoyable, with students fully engaged throughout. It was a fantastic opportunity for the group to work with a professional personal trainer and gain insight into different training techniques. A big thank you to Josh for returning to support and inspire our students.



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Media Studies Visit

On Friday 1st May, Mrs Todd's Year 10 Media Studies students welcomed special guests from the East Devon Talking Newspaper: Heather Penwarden, a reader and publicist and Peter Eagles, Chair, Editor and Producer.

The visitors introduced students to the important work of the Talking Newspaper, explaining how it delivers local news to visually impaired residents in the Sid Valley area. They also demonstrated how a typical recording session operates, giving students a valuable behind-the-scenes insight into the production process.

Students had the opportunity to ask questions and deepen their understanding before taking part in a practical activity. Each student was given a news article to read aloud, simulating a real recording session for the newspaper.

Building on this experience, students will now select their own articles and record segments that are set to feature in upcoming editions of the East Devon Talking Newspaper.

We would like to thank Heather and Peter for giving up their time to work with and inspire our students.



Bird Boxes

This half term, Mr Marshall's Eco Club have been spending their lunchtimes designing and building bird boxes.

Working alongside Mr Walshaw in Design Technology, students used recycled pieces of wood to carefully construct boxes that are perfectly suited for birds to nest in.

The project has not only helped develop practical skills, but also highlighted the importance of supporting local wildlife. Bird boxes provide safe nesting spaces for birds and by installing these boxes around the College grounds, students are helping to create a more wildlife-friendly environment and to encourage biodiversity.



At the end of the half term, the finished bird boxes were proudly completed and are now being placed around the College grounds. We hope they will soon be inhabited, offering a safe home for birds and a great opportunity for students to observe nature up close.



Pride of Sidmouth College Award

Last year, Dylan was awarded the Pride of Sidmouth College Award, an achievement that recognised one of the most remarkable personal transformations we have witnessed within the PE department in recent years.

Throughout the year, Dylan demonstrated incredible determination and resilience, overcoming obstacles through hard work, perseverance, and by working closely with key members of staff. His positivity and commitment to improving himself were truly inspiring to see. Dylan’s dedication to sport flourished, leading to the outstanding achievement of earning a place on the Devon Athletics Team, a testament to his talent, work ethic, and unwavering commitment. Alongside his sporting success, Dylan consistently showed maturity, leadership, and a willingness to support both his teammates and younger athletes, embodying everything we stand for at Sidmouth College.



The Pride of Sidmouth College Award is proudly sponsored by Sidmouth Town Council, who provide the winning student with funding to purchase something that will benefit students within the school community. Dylan chose to purchase a set of athletics starting blocks, which are now being used in PE lessons and athletics clubs to help enhance students’ sprint-start technique. Starting blocks provide athletes with a solid, angled surface to brace their feet against at the beginning of a race, allowing runners to explode out of the start with maximum force and speed while also preventing slipping on the track surface. These new resources will have a lasting impact on students developing their athletics performance for years to come.

Congratulations once again, Dylan, a truly deserving recipient, and an inspiration to others.

Ofsted

We are delighted to share the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection and to thank our families, staff, students and wider community for the support shown to Sidmouth College before, during and after the visit.

The inspection recognised the positive work taking place across the college, with the school being graded as meeting the “expected standard” in all seven inspection areas. This outcome reflects the commitment, care and dedication shown every day by our staff team and students, as well as the strong partnership we continue to build with parents and carers.





Families received an email from the College on Friday 15 May containing full details of the report. You can also read the report here:

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/23/149602>

Thank you once again for your continued encouragement and support. We look forward to building on this positive outcome in the months ahead.

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Sidmouth College Enrichment Programme

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BREAK 1 (11.05am to 11.35am)	Knitting & Crochet Club College Library All year groups Litter Picking Club All year groups Meet at Snack Shack	Music Open Access Music Room See Mr Morgan	Maths Drop-In Room M34 Years 7-11 Gardening Club Meet at Library All year groups (Start date TBC) Music Open Access Music Room See Mr Morgan	Music Open Access Music Room See Mr Morgan	Music Open Access Music Room See Mr Morgan
BREAK 2 (12.55pm to 1.25pm)	Photography Club Room 44 (Week 2 only) Years 7, 8 and 9 Careers Drop-in Careers Office (between M49 & M50)	Table Talk- Card Games/UNO College Library All year groups LGBTQ+ Club All years (See Mrs Sullivan for info) Music Open Access Music Room See Mr Morgan Eco Club Room 206 All year groups	Textiles Club Room 43 Years 9, 10 and 11 Music Open Access Music Room See Mr Morgan	Doodle Club Room 43 KS3 Students Drama Club Drama Studio All year groups Music Open Access Music Room See Mr Morgan	Music Open Access Music Room See Mr Morgan
AFTER SCHOOL (3.15pm onwards)		Homework Drop-In College Library All year groups Maths Drop-In Room B37 Years 7-11 College Band Music Room - All Years (Audition Required)	Homework Drop-In College Library All year groups Music Tech Team Music Room All Years (Interview Required) English Drop-In Year 11 S74	Homework Drop-In College Library All year groups College Choir Music Room All Years Welcome Post-16 Maths Drop-In B39 Years 12 & 13	



Sidmouth College PE Department Summer Term Enrichment Programme

No sign up needed



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Break 1 (Morning)	Tennis All Weather Pitch All Years	Tennis All Weather Pitch All Years	Tennis All Weather Pitch All Years	Tennis All Weather Pitch All Years	Tennis All Weather Pitch All Years
Break 2 (Afternoon)	Tennis All Weather Pitch All Years Volleyball Games Right of the Astro All Years	Tennis All Weather Pitch All Years Volleyball Games Right of the Astro All Years	Tennis All Weather Pitch All Years Volleyball Games Right of the Astro All Years	Tennis All Weather Pitch All Years Volleyball Training Right of the Astro All Years	Tennis All Weather Pitch All Years
After school 3.15-4.15pm PE kit required	GCSE Trampolining LED Year 10 GCSE only Ultimate Frisbee LED/Field All Years	Rounders Field All Years Soft Ball Cricket Field All Years Hard Ball Nets LED All Years	Cheerleading LED/Activity Studio All Years	Athletics Field + Sports Hall All Years	No Limits Trampolining (paid club see Miss Roberts) Niki Grimes Sports Hall





**SIDMOUTH
COLLEGE**



**SUMMER
CONCERT
MONDAY 29TH
JUNE**

TICKETS £6

**OUTDOOR SUMMER CONCERT
GATES OPEN - 5:30PM
CONCERT - 6:30PM TO 8:30PM
FOOD STALLS & SNACKS ON SALE
BRING A PICNIC BLANKET**

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