

Sidmouth College Newsletter

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Summer Term: Edition 5 Friday 23rd May 2025



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Welcome to our summer term newsletter. As always, the newsletter is bursting with just a snapshot of some of the opportunities and events that have been happening at the College this half term. This has included our ski trip, incredible sporting and music success for some of our most able athletes and musicians and the brilliant success of our Ten Tors teams.

This half term has been incredibly busy with the start of the formal examinations for GCSE, BTEC and A level for students in Year 11, 12 and Year 13. The students have been exemplary in their conduct and preparation, demonstrating responsibility, motivation and maturity and have been working extremely hard. The staff at the College are looking forward to being able to share and celebrate their successes in the summer.

In this newsletter you will see the wonderful group of students who were involved in Ten Tors, I would like to thank the staff who give up their time at the weekends to organise and supervise the walks. We also rely on a group of volunteers who give their time freely, without them we would not be able to provide this enrichment. Thank you to our fantastic community.

Next half term is always incredibly busy, we have some wonderful events for our families to attend, which include the summer concert and PE awards evening. Our students have work experience, prom celebrations, reward trips and activity days to look forward to. Keep an eye on our social media page for dates of upcoming events.

Unfortunately, Mary Hext will be leaving us at the end of the summer term 2025 due to her ongoing health challenges. Mary has decided to take some time to fully focus on her recovery. Mary has been an integral part of our school community, known for her warmth, dedication, and unwavering support for both students and colleagues. Her passion for education and her genuine care for each student have left a lasting legacy. We are sure you will join us in extending our heartfelt thanks to Mary for her unwavering loyalty and dedication to our school and its students. We wish her all the very best and a speedy return to good health.

I would like to finish by thanking the staff at the College for their hard work this half term. Their dedication and support to all of our students is incredible, this enables our students to believe in their abilities, be inspired and successful. We couldn't provide the extra curricular opportunities that we do without the staff that go above and beyond every day.

Have a restful and relaxing half term break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 2nd June.

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Ski Trip

Over the Easter break, forty students from Sidmouth College set off for an unforgettable week in the Austrian Alps, staying in the beautiful resort of Flachau, part of the vast Sportwelt region. With over 350km of ski terrain, there was something for everyone – from complete beginners to advanced skiers.

Despite more than half the group being new to skiing, every student made impressive progress, with many advancing high up the mountain by the end of the week. Advanced groups had the opportunity to explore the wider terrain, and one day even started from a different base resort, Alpendorf, adding variety to their alpine adventure.

The weather was fantastic all week, offering blue skies and stunning views that made each day on the slopes even more special. Students took part in daily ski school lessons, culminating in a fun and friendly race on the final day to show off their new skills.

Off the slopes, the experience was just as memorable. Students enjoyed delicious food on the mountain during the day and returned to the hotel each evening for hearty three-course meals. A highlight of the week was the après-ski pizza night, and evenings out included bowling and mini-golf – perfect for winding down after a day of skiing.

A huge thank you to the students for their enthusiasm, teamwork and positive attitude – IBT Travel staff and instructors praised them as one of the best groups of the season. Thanks also go to the dedicated staff who made the trip possible: Mr Jackson, Miss Roberts, Mr Caldwell, Mrs Wilkinson and Miss Shepherd.

Lifelong memories were made and we are working hard to make this a regular trip for students at the College.



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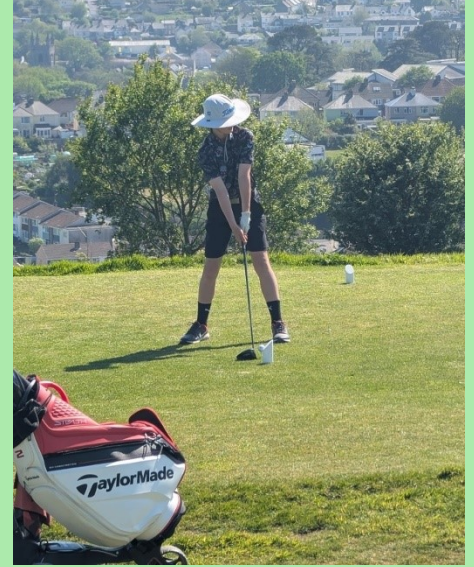


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Golf

On Tuesday 30th April students Archie and Isla represented Sidmouth College at the Devon Schools Golf Championships. They were up against over 100 participants from 33 schools, many of who had multiple teams of three players. Archie and Isla did incredibly well as a team of two and as individuals. Overall they finished 13th as team Sidmouth College. Individually Archie finished 12th (gross) and 52nd (net). Isla finished 3rd (net) and 1st (gross). Huge well done to both students!



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	Tennis All Weather Pitch All Years	Tennis All Weather Pitch All Years	Tennis All Weather Pitch All Years Volleyball Right of the Astro All Years	Tennis All Weather Pitch All Years
After school 3.15-4.15pm		Striking & Fielding (Cricket & Rounders) Field All Years	Cheerleading/Gymnastics LED/Field All Years	Athletics Field + Sports Hall All Years	No Limits Trampolining (paid club see Miss Roberts) Niki Grimes Sports Hall
PE kit required	Teen Gym (Get Active Gym 11) Leisure Centre (membership required)	Teen Gym (Get Active Gym 11) Leisure Centre (membership required)	Teen Gym (Get Active Gym 11) Leisure Centre (membership required)		



WOMEN'S ENG25



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Gymnastics National Championships

Over the weekend of 10th and 11th May students Faith in Year 9 and Lizzie in Year 7 competed at the NDP finals National Acrobatic Gymnastics Finals in Stoke on Trent. Both did amazingly well representing the South West region.

Both competed in the second to highest category (IDP1). Lizzie finished 3rd with her trio and Faith finished 6th with her gym partner in the mixed pair category. Well done to Faith and Lizzie!



Cricket Fixtures

It has been a busy start to the cricket season this half term, with both the U13s and U15s mixed having hardball cricket fixtures coming up. Excitingly we also have a hardball girls cricket league starting after half-term. This is an exciting step after a successful girls softball campaign.



Duke of Edinburgh

Congratulations to Fern and Jacob who both went to Buckingham palace last weekend to receive their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards which they achieved at Sidmouth College. Both young people also successfully completed their Bronze and Silver awards while at the college. This is a significant achievement and staff at the College are very proud to have helped them achieve this. Thanks to Mr Gilbert and Mrs Lilley who were instrumental in getting them through the awards.

The Gold award is offered to students in the Sixth form. It has five aspects which are volunteering, skills, physical, residential and expedition which can enable students to both gain recognition for things they already do and push them out of their comfort zone with new challenges. Students who take part in the award are given a huge bank of life experiences, providing concrete things to write and talk about in applications and interviews. It isn't the final award that singles them out, it is the life experiences that they gain. Achieving the Gold Award is a journey into organisation, resilience and independence.

Fern, volunteered her time coaching student netball at the college, pursued her ballet ambitions and created beautiful things inspired by the sea. Jacob volunteered his time to coach children's tennis, improve his own tennis skills and learnt to drive. Both went on a month long conservation residential trip to Kenya and successfully completed the four day Dartmoor expedition.

If you would like to know more about the Duke of Edinburgh award at Sidmouth College please email dofe@sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk.



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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 needed to be self-sufficient for two days on their backs. The two 35 mile teams consisted of Isla, Edith, Nancy, Katie, Pip, Rhody and reserve Phoebe in Team A and Harry, Charlie, Silas, Tom, Hadi, Lucas and reserve Isaac in Team B. Students who completed training also include Luke, Sonny, Will and George.

Ten Tors is a tough physical challenge and 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 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, Geoff, Roman and Ollie. 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 support students receive from their families. It really is a monumental effort from all involved.



Maths Challenge

On Thursday 1st May a selection of students in Years 7 and 8 took part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge in Maths lessons.

The papers will be sent away for marking and results announced after half term! Good luck to those who took part!





Headteacher's Commendations

This term Mrs Whitworth has continued to reward deserving students who have excelled, or achieved something above and beyond expectations.

For the first half of the Summer term, the Headteacher's Commendations have gone to the students who took part in the Ten Tors Challenge. They have all trained hard since the Autumn Term, spending many evenings and weekends on the moor and successfully completed the challenge this half term.

Mrs Whitworth presented the students with their commendations in the last week of term. Well done to all Isla, Katie, Charlie, Silas, Harry, Rhody, Pip, Hadi, Nancy, Lucas, Tom, Phoebe, Edith and Isaac, who received this special recognition.



Exmoor Challenge

Over the Bank Holiday weekend students from Sidmouth College took part in the Exmoor Challenge in partnership with the Sid Vale Scouts.

The Challenge is for teams of four to walk 16 miles across Exmoor in a fixed time, while completing a quiz about the route. Teams are given penalty points for every minute they are early or late to a checkpoint and for quiz questions they get wrong.

Congratulations to Lucy, Grace and Wilfrid who were in a team with a student from Colyton Grammar School and came joint first!

Well done to all students who took part including Lucy D, Grace M, Wilfrid F, Eddie P, Florence A-R, Ben B and James I. Our students were joined by pupils from our feeder Primary Schools of Sidbury and Newton Poppleford, who also won the Best Primary School Team.



Year 13 Leavers

On Friday 9th May Mrs Davey held a Year 13 Leaver's party in the Sixth Form to say goodbye to the Year 12 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!





Empowering Girls

On Friday 2nd May Mrs Young took fifteen girls from Year 9 to Michelmores Solicitors in Exeter for a confidence workshop as part of the Empowering Girls programme.

On the day the girls met with the largely female staff at Michelmores and received a tour of the offices. This was followed by a confidence session led by Judy Salmon. They explored what confidence is and techniques to support them in the future as well as activities to encourage the girls to be speak in public and share ideas with the group. It was a fantastic experience and the girls all left feeling more confident than when they arrived.

We would like to thank the Michelmores team Chloe, Laura, Zilah, Zaman, Sonia, Noor, Imogen and Judy for the experience.

The Empowering Girls programme will conclude in the second half of the Summer term with a celebration event at Winslade Manor on Wednesday 18th June.



Open Morning

On Wednesday 7th May we held an Open Morning, giving over ten families who were not able to attend our Open Day in September, or those new to the area, the opportunity to visit the College during the school day. Our amazing student ambassadors guided families around, answering all their questions and talking about school life.

This was our last Open Morning of the year, but we will continue to host these sessions next year, keep an eye on our College Calendar for upcoming events.



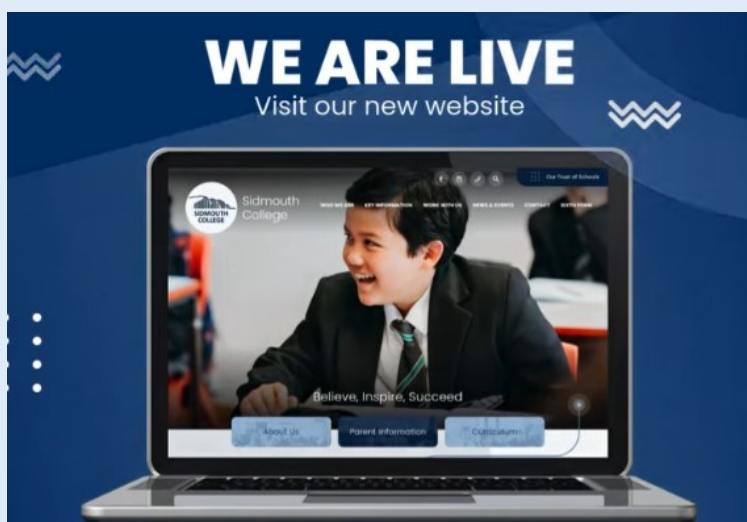
New College Website

At the start of this half term our brand new redesigned Sidmouth College website went live.

The updated site features a fresh new look and improved navigation to make it easier for students, parents, staff, and visitors to access key information and stay connected with college life. It also aligns with the Ted Wragg Trust school design.

We welcome you to take a look at our new site using the following web address:

www.sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk



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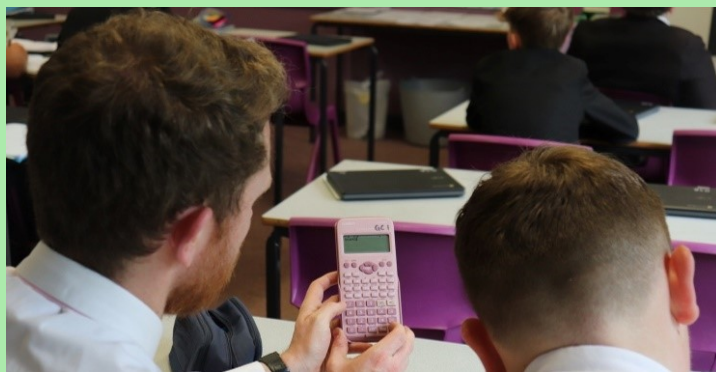


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National Numeracy Day

On Wednesday 21st May, the Maths Department celebrated National Numeracy Day. To mark the occasion, students in Year 7 looked at a pocket money problem in their Maths lessons. Students used logic, reasoning and problem-solving skills, working collaboratively to find the best way to profit from pocket money. Well done to all the Year 7s who participated!



Students Perform

On Sunday 10th May four Sidmouth College students were part of a joint performance with the Sidmouth Town Band Academy and Brass Class at St Francis' Hall in Sidmouth. There were some incredible performances including those from students Stanley on Tuba, Cowyn on Euphonium and Sophie and Josiah on Cornet.

Year 7 student Josiah also wrote and arranged a piece for the band called 'First Go' which was performed on the day and really impressed the audience. As the band's newest recruit, who has only been playing for 18 months, this is an amazing achievement.

Well done to all the students involved!



Kit Request

We're on a mission to equip our students for their exciting walking expeditions, and we need your spare kit.

Do you have any spare hiking rucksacks, ground mats, sleeping bags, fleeces and hiking boots? We're looking for good-quality donations to build a kit bank that will enable all our students to embark on their adventures.

Sidmouth College students participate in the Ten Tors and the Duke of Edinburgh Award, both of which require a significant amount of gear to ensure their safety on the moors. For many, this will be their first experience hiking and camping.

Your generous donations will make a huge difference in helping our students gain confidence, learn new skills, and create unforgettable memories. Let's come together as a community to support our young explorers!

Drop-off Location: Sidmouth College Reception.



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Malden House Visit the College

On Monday 19th May as part of Dementia Action Week we welcomed Jo, Colin, Gabby & Justyna from Malden House - Hartford Care for a visit to the College.

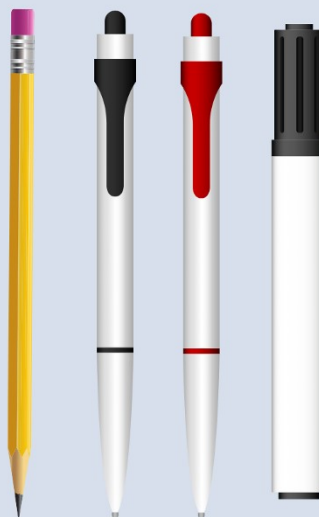
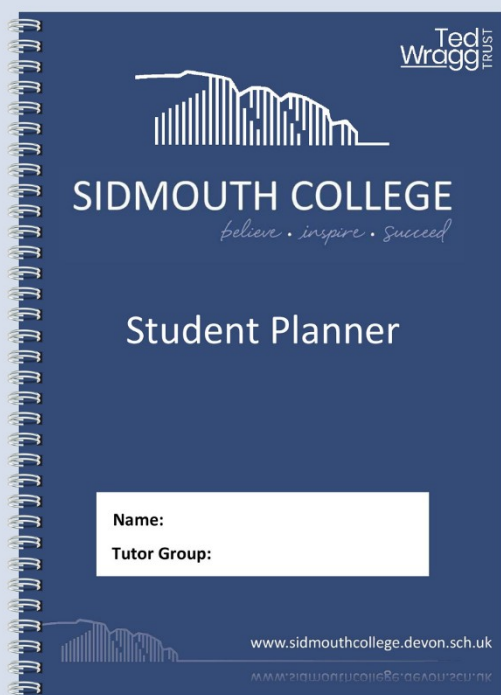
Year 10 students Tilda and Shanel welcomed our visitors and guided them around school. The tour visited two science lessons where Jo confidently answered a question set by Mr Marshall, we found out that Jo was a research scientist before retirement. They visited the DT rooms and saw some of the projects the students had completed as part of their A level coursework, Colin shared that he had been an architect when he worked. The last stop was the Library where the students heard from Ms Hembury and also met a mentee and mentor on the Empowering Girls project.

The visitors enjoyed their tour and were surprised how much happens in one lesson time at Sidmouth College. Colin commented that our students are well provided for in school. Our thanks go to Tabitha Donovan from Malden House for supporting work we do at Sidmouth College.



Ready to Learn

When we return for the final half term of the school year, it is important that students are prepared for lessons with all the correct equipment. Please take half term as an opportunity to check you have the following in your pencil case for when we return.



KS4 ONLY

- Highlighters
- Compass
- Protractor
- Clear pencil case

