

# Sidmouth College Newsletter

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Autumn Term: Edition 1 Friday 25th October 2024



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Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter as we conclude this long eight-week term.

I appreciate your continued support in helping our children be ready for school. The introduction of our morning uniform shop and the warm welcome we provide at the gate have contributed to maintaining high attendance levels. Your efforts in ensuring your children arrive on time, dressed appropriately, and equipped for learning enable them to enjoy positive conversations throughout the day and feel a strong sense of belonging in our college community.

Earlier this term we had very high numbers of visitors to our open evening and a very well attended Sixth Form open evening. Thanks need to go to all of our wonderful students who volunteered to be tour guides, it was fantastic to have so many students from Years 7 – 13 involved in the event. They were a real credit to the College; we always receive so many fantastic comments from the families that they show round and this year was no exception. Our recruitment and retention continue to be very strong and this year and we were very pleased to welcome back an amazing group of Year 11 students into Year 12.

This year, we've adapted the Sidmouth College Way to emphasize three key principles: being ready, being responsible, and being respectful. We have also focused on fostering positivity and creating a welcoming atmosphere, which has further enhanced our attendance rates. We couldn't achieve this without your support.

This term has been filled with incredible events, and this newsletter highlights just a few. We hosted three excellent career-focused events for our Year 9, Year 10, and Year 11 students, which will aid them in their next steps. I would like to extend my gratitude to all our local businesses and partners who support these initiatives.

I feel privileged to lead the College this year and want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our staff. Many go above and beyond every day to support our children and young people, especially those facing challenges.

I hope all our students have enjoyed their education this term and have loved coming to school. We look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 11th November.

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## Year 9 Careers Roundabout

On Wednesday 23rd October, Year 9 students had the morning off timetable to take part in a Careers Roundabout. Following feedback from previous years we adapted the event and our Business partners worked with 4 groups over the event to carry out interactive sessions about their occupational area.

The morning is focused around giving students a vast variety of different workplace experiences, ahead of planning their work experience placements in Year 10 and making their GCSE choices. On the day students had some fantastic opportunities including sessions on healthcare, catering, hair and beauty, countryside conservation, animal care with the help of some giant insects, map reading, army training and electrical and plumbing engineering. There was something for everyone.



## Introduction to Work Experience

On Tuesday 2nd October Year 10 were off timetable taking part in an introduction to work experience day which included a series of workshops to prepare the students for their upcoming work experience placements in the Summer term. We were lucky enough to have employers from across Devon come in to speak to students and give advice on getting the most out of their work experience.

Thank you to all our visiting business partners for joining us on the day.



## Aim Higher Day

On Wednesday 18th September we welcomed Katherine Austen from Bicton, Thea Harvey from Blackhouse & Chloe Andrews from Exeter College to the College for our Year 11 Aim Higher Day.

During the day groups held a debrief and an evaluation of their summer work experience placements, a workshop on how to complete an application form and a session on interview skills.

All important and vital tools to set students up for their futures. Thank you to our local business partners for working with and supporting the students.







## Cross Country

This term students took part in Inter-House Cross-Country, competing for the House Champions title! Races took place during PE lessons across the last week of term. All three days were dry and cool which made for ideal running conditions. There was some very competitive running, with just a few seconds separating 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions in most year groups. The overall winning House will be announced in assembly after half term.



## Cricket Success

Well done to Year 9 Students Farah, Amalie and Becca and Year 8 Student Ellie who have been selected to represent Devon Cricket this year, an amazing achievement! Well done girls.



## Rugby

The College U16 Rugby team played Colyton in October and unfortunately lost. However they had a great time on the muddy pitch and it was great to see students who haven't played much rugby in the past giving it a go!



## Netball

In October the Year 11 netball team went to St Luke's School in Exeter to participate in an U16 netball tournament, taking on St Lukes, ISCA and QE.

The team started strong, winning their first 3 matches against QE 2 (4-1), ISCA 2 (20-2) and QE 1 (6-3) with Emily being named as player of the match for all 3 games.

The team continued to work hard demonstrating high personal skill in their final 2 games against St Luke's and ISCA 1's. Well done to the girls.







## Ted Wragg Trust Awards

On Thursday 17th October the Ted Wragg Trust held an awards night at the Crowne Plaza in Plymouth. Each school nominated a number staff and students for various awards. On the night Mrs Lucas was awarded the 'Teacher of the Year' Award. Congratulations to her and to all the nominees listed below.

**Student of the Year:** Jack Ponting

**Teacher of the Year:** Mrs Lucas

**Co-professional of the Year:** Mrs Denton

**Staff Teamwork Award:** Mrs Barrett and Mrs Liddle (Data and Exams)

**Student Teamwork Award:** Carrie, Summer, Ella, Emmi, Hattie and Lily

**Inspirational Leader:** Mrs Charalambous

**Unsung Hero:** Mr Mwangi

**Student Community Leadership:** Student Leadership Team



## Headteacher's Commendations

This term Mrs Whitworth awarded her first set of Headteacher's Commendations to deserving students who have excelled or achieved something above and beyond.

The first Autumn half term's Headteacher's Commendations have gone to Year 7 students Wilf and Florence. They received the award to congratulate them on their excellent speeches, which they gave at the Sidmouth College Open Day at the start of term in September.

They both did a brilliant job and are fantastic ambassadors for the College. Well done to them both!



## Head Boy and Girl Announced

We are pleased to announce our new Sidmouth College Student Leadership Team for 2024/2025.

After a very rigorous process of applications and interviews, the following students have been appointed:

**Head Boy - Adam Manakkad**

**Head Girl - Matilda Bentall**

**Deputy Head Boy - Hayden Hall & James Adesina**

**Deputy Head Girl - Ofelia Player.**







## Year 12 Biology Fieldwork

In September Mrs Bayliss took her A-Level Biologists in Years 12 and 13 on a fieldwork trip to Ladram Bay to study rocky shore ecosystems and to record the distribution of seaweeds along a transect. The students then collected data, using ecological sampling methods.



## Macmillan Bake Sale

On Friday 27th September the Student Council held a fundraising bake sale to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

On the day they received a record amount of contributions from staff and students in addition to items they had made themselves, which was brilliant to see.

In total the students raised £140 for Macmillan, well done to all the members of the student council.



## Empowering Girls

On Wednesday 9th October we launched our Empowering Girls programme. All Year 9 girls took part in the introductory session to learn about the programme and meet a range of women from local businesses.

The programme aims to help girls build a positive mindset, instil self-belief, allow students to meet and work with female role models from a range of industries and inspire our girls to pursue their ambitions.

Thank you to Denise, Molly, Olivia, Millie, Carolyne, Jessica, Joanna, Anne, Katherine, Chloe and Sonia.



## Art Trip to London

On Friday 18th October Mrs Chapple-Hyam, Mrs Bennett and Mrs Elliot took the GCSE and A-Level Art and Photography students to London for the day. They started the day at the National Portrait Gallery, followed by a visit to the South Bank Jubilee Gardens for lunch and finishing at the Tate Modern to explore the latest exhibitions. Students took photographs and made sketches as well as completing a scavenger hunt to find certain works of art. These will now be brought back and used to support their future projects and work.







## MP Richard Foord Meets Student Council

On Friday 18th October our local MP, Richard Foord, visited the College to meet with the Sidmouth College Student Leadership Team and attend one of their weekly meetings.

The students asked him an array of interesting and probing questions, the topics included proposed changes to Inheritance Tax, local facilities in Sidmouth for young people, Trail Hunting, Potholes, the huge gaps in education funding in Devon, issues around vaping and our support of the proposed Cycle Path between Sidbury and Sidford.

Our students were glowing ambassadors for Student Leadership here at Sidmouth College and we are immensely proud of them.

We look forward to welcoming Richard back in the near future to continue our discussions around democracy and change at both a local and national level.



## Duke of Edinburgh

During September students took on their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze expedition. They all had a fantastic first day of walking and testing out their navigation and camping skills. At the campsite students pitched their tents and cooked dinner. It was an early start on day two, testing their resilience, especially in the rain, but they all finished in good time and in great spirits, well done all and good luck with the rest of your D of E qualification!



## Ten Tors

On Sunday 15th September our Year 10 Students embarked on a local fitness walk to kick off the new Ten Tors season. They walked around 15 miles and showed us what they're made of.

Well done to all involved and we look forward to seeing the students up on beautiful Dartmoor next month. Good luck with the rest of your training.





## Sixth Form Open Evening

On Thursday 10th October we welcomed over 200 Year 11 students and their families to our Sixth Form Open Evening. The evening began with a welcome talk from Mrs Whitworth, Mrs Hurley and the Student Leadership Team. This was followed by a tour of the Sixth Form facilities.

Visitors were then able to get course details and speak to teachers about the subjects on offer, as well as chatting to current A-Level students about their subjects and experiences in the Sixth Form.

The evening was a huge success, thank you to all who visited and to our students who supported the event.



## World Mental Health Day

On Thursday 10th October it was World Mental Health Day and to raise awareness staff and students were invited to wear yellow and donate to the charity Young Minds.

Students and staff made a great effort with a variety of yellow coloured accessories, well done to all who took part.



## Open Day 2024

In September Sidmouth College opened its doors to the public once again to attend our Open Day. The event was a huge success with a record breaking 650 guests over the three sessions.

On arrival visitors listened to a welcome talk from Mrs Whitworth, followed by speeches by our Head Boy Adam, Head Girl Matilda and Year 7 students Wilf and Florence; they all spoke confidently in front of such big crowds.

After the talks, parents and prospective students were given a tour by our student ambassadors from Years 8 and 9, finishing off with refreshments in the Library and Canteen.

In the morning session visitors were able to see lessons in action as they toured the college. In the evening departments hosted a variety of subject activities. In History Mr Trengove pulled out all the stops in his Henry VIII costume, whilst also putting on a game of Kings and Queens 'Play your cards right'.

In Food technology everyone was invited to make their own delicious pizzas. In Photography guests were able to get creative and make their own light graffiti and in Science students set fire to their teachers hands!

Feedback from visitors was all positive with many compliments for our brilliant student guides, Sixth Form helpers and staff who gave demonstrations in all departments. Thank you to everyone who attended and to our student ambassadors. We hope to see many of our visiting pupils join us in the coming years.





## Year 7 Disco

On Wednesday 23rd October the Student Heads of House hosted a Year 7 disco to celebrate the last week of term before the half term break and to celebrate Year 7 completing their first half term at Sidmouth College.

The Year 11 SHOH hosted games and dance-offs which the Year 7s loved. They were supported by the music department tech team students who set up lights and music for the event.

Along with tickets, the Student Heads of House sold refreshments to raise further funds for two charities chosen by the students, these were CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) and WHAT (Wellbeing Health Action Team) and in total £200 was raised. Well done to the students involved.



## Sparx Maths Celebration

Sidmouth College Maths Department would like to congratulate the following students for the outstanding effort they have put into the Sparx Maths programme.

Since the launch of Sparx last year, Gracie, Hughie, Lucien, Johanna and Abby have collectively amassed over 250,000 XP points, which is a phenomenal achievement and highlights the commitment and ambition that these five students have shown towards their studies and their futures.



## Year 12 EPQ

In order to develop their critical thinking and presentation skills, Mrs Davey set her EPQ class the task of researching and creating a presentation based around the forthcoming US Presidential Election debate.

Team Trump took on Team Harris. Team Trump managed to win with an incredibly well researched and presented argument. Some of Team Trump also came prepared with bespoke t-shirts. Their commitment to the cause was impressive. Well done to all involved.



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## Christmas Card Competition

The College is running the Christmas Card Competition again this year, which is open to all students.

The winning design will be used as the official Sidmouth College Christmas card for 2024 and be sent to our various contacts and friends of the College.

The closing date for entries is Friday 22nd November 2024 and, once completed, designs need to be given to your Art teacher or to anyone in the Art Department for judging.

### Design specifications:

- Design must be A4 or A5 size.
- Must be a Christmas theme
- Any media can be used such as paints, collage, ink, lino print, colouring pencils, felt pens, mixed media, photography, digital design.
- Must be 2D and able to be printed onto card.

We cannot wait to see your designs. The October half term break is a great opportunity to get your entry made. Be as creative and festive as possible!

The Winner will be chosen and announced in the last week of November, and the card distributed in December.



## Artist Visit

On Tuesday 22nd October, Years 10 and 12 Art students were invited to take part in a workshop with local artist Nic George.

Nic showcased his own work to the group, and then worked with them to creating their own pieces, teaching new skills and techniques using watercolours to create a beach scene. The results looked fantastic and students were inspired by Nic's work and passion. A huge thank you to Nic George for visiting us and running the session. Find out more about Nic here: [www.nicgeorgeart.com](http://www.nicgeorgeart.com)







### National Poetry Day

National Poetry Day is celebrated every October and is a day to highlight the impact poetry has on people's lives. Each year has a different theme, and this year's theme was 'counting'.

The English department ran a competition, which was open to students from Years 7, 8 and 9, to write a poem on the theme of 'counting'.

Congratulations to our winners:

1st place-Chloe H

2nd place-Ginny W

3rd place- Bela G

The standard of entries was high and recognition must also be given to the following students:

Lizzie S Y7, Poppy F Y7 and Ella C Y9.



### Sparx Reader

The English Department at Sidmouth College are excited to let you know that following the success that our school has experienced in using Sparx Maths and Sparx Science, we are also partnering with Sparx to use their new reading platform, Sparx Reader. All KS3 students have already completed their initial reading assessment and are enthusiastically accessing Sparx Reader during their fortnightly library lesson.

# Sparx Reader

Research is clear that a young person's ability to read and their enthusiasm for reading are inextricably linked with their academic and wider success. Therefore, it's really important to us that young people are able to practise careful, silent reading for a sufficient amount of time, without distraction. Sparx Reader reassures us as teachers and parents that focused reading is happening, and that readers of all abilities feel successful and motivated.

Sparx Reader is easy to access and easy to use. Students simply click on the link on the student portal and will be directed to their chosen book. As they read, students will be asked to answer questions which are carefully designed and are based on the most important events, characters and themes from the section the student has just read. The language used in the questions is also pitched at the same level as the text itself. Every question that is answered correctly results in SRP (Sparx Reader Points) being allocated to the student.

Since the launch of Sparx Reader, students collectively have read for over 566 hours and have read over 200 books- what an amazing start! Keep a lookout in the English department for the new, Sparx Reader leader board. Year groups, classes and individual students will be recognised for their success.

### Homework Club

A reminder to students that we have a homework club which takes place every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after school in the College Library.

The club gives students an opportunity to drop in for as long as they like between 3:15pm and 4:15pm to complete their homework in a quiet environment with books and resources on offer to use and staff on hand to give support where needed.

It is open to all students on a drop in basis and will continue after half term for any students who would like to attend.

*Sidmouth College*  
**HOMework DROP IN**

**AFTER-SCHOOL HOMEWORK DROP IN SESSION**  
**BETWEEN 3:15PM AND 4:15PM**  
**EVERY TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY**  
**IN THE COLLEGE LIBRARY**  
**ALL YEAR GROUPS WELCOME**





## Remembrance Song

This half term the Sidmouth College Choir have been busy recording and releasing their very own single, a special rendition of 'Abide With Me' featuring excerpts from 'The Last Post'.

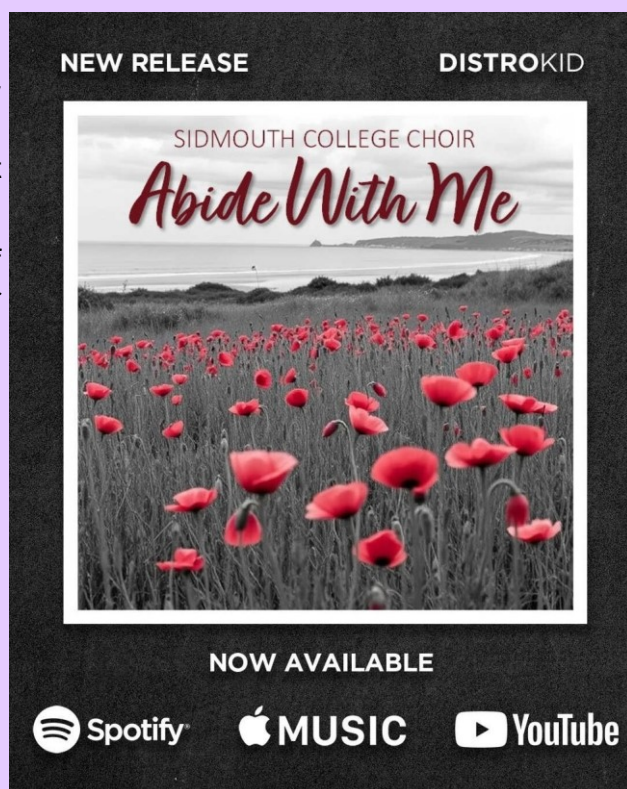
The single is available on all streaming platforms now, ahead of the music video release on the 11th of November via the our Facebook page.

Students involved said...

"It's a great experience because it was a totally new thing to do something like this ... I think it is a great way to remember" said Sandy, one of the featured soloists.

"It's really interesting to see how the whole process worked and how what we sang and played was recorded and mixed before we shot the video" added Isla, one of the trumpet players.

The trumpet players will be back on duty on the 11th, where they will be sounding the Last Post ahead of a two minute silence when the college returns from its half-term break.



## Maths Challenge

Well done to Sixth Form students Sandy and Aidan for their success in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge this half term achieving Bronze awards. On Thursday 24th October Mrs Hurley presented the two with their certificates in assembly.



## Knitting & Crochet Club

In the Library  
Friday Break 1

Bring your own projects or come along and learn some basics

Run by Miss Hembury & Miss Meredith

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Saturday 14th  
December 9am-12pm  
**SIDMOUTH COLLEGE**

# Christmas Craft Fair

EX109LG

If you are interested in a  
stall please email:  
[Louise.Davey@sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto:Louise.Davey@sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk)

• **£10 PER TABLE FOR  
STALL HOLDERS  
(SET UP FROM 8AM)** •

*raffle, refreshments,  
christmas shopping, bake  
sale, jewellery, and other  
handmade goods*



Organised by Sidmouth  
College sixth form