

Sidmouth College Newsletter

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Dear Families,

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding half term, I am delighted to share this newsletter with you, which captures so much of what makes Sidmouth College such a vibrant and caring community.

Within this edition, you will read about a wide range of opportunities and achievements that reflect the breadth of experience available to our students. From inspiring curriculum visits such as the London Art Trip, to creative, sporting and competitive successes across photography, drama, swimming, football, netball and cricket, it has been wonderful to see students challenging themselves, representing the College with pride and developing their talents beyond the classroom.

You will also read about the strong partnerships that enrich learning at Sidmouth College, including our work with local organisations, community groups and employers. Experiences such as careers workshops, competitions and visiting speakers help students connect their learning to the wider world and develop the skills, confidence and ambition they will need for the future.

Alongside these highlights, I have recently written to you about how we are listening carefully to student voice and responding to what students have told us matters most to them. This work continues to shape daily life in school, strengthening relationships, supporting positive behaviour and ensuring that students feel safe, valued and proud to belong.

High-quality classroom learning remains central to everything we do. Staff continue to focus on calm, purposeful routines and ambitious teaching that supports and challenges all students, helping them to make strong progress and achieve their best.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and celebrating the many ways in which our students continue to thrive at Sidmouth College.

I hope you all have a restful and well-deserved half term break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 23rd February, ready for another exciting half term ahead.

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London Art Trip

On Friday 13th February, the Art & Photography Department took 50 students from Years 10, 11, 12, and 13 on an enriching day trip to London, visiting the National Portrait Gallery and Tate Modern.

The group set off bright and early, departing the college at 6am for their journey to the capital. After a breakfast stop at Fleet Services, students arrived in London and headed straight to the National Portrait Gallery. This was followed by a creative photoshoot along the South Bank, before finishing the day at Tate Modern.

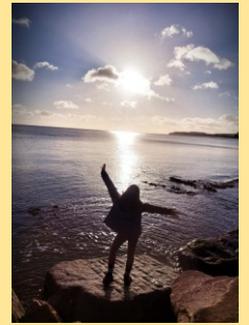
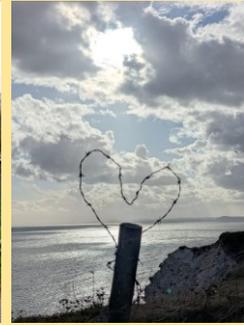
During the visit, students explored the permanent collections at both galleries, making observational sketches and completing a scavenger hunt to research selected artworks. These activities encouraged close looking, critical thinking and creative engagement. The trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all and we hope the students returned feeling inspired by the artwork they experienced.



Rotary Club Photography Competition

On Tuesday 10th February, members of the Sidmouth Rotary Club visited the College to present prizes to students for the Rotary Young Photography Competition. This year's theme, "Happiness in Nature," inspired students to submit a wonderful collection of creative and high-quality photographs.

Congratulations to the two winners Molly and Matilda and to all the students that submitted entries.



Empowering Girls Filming

On Wednesday 21st January we welcomed Sam and Milly from Ocean City Media to Sidmouth College for a very exciting project. We have been working with Empowering Girls for the past three years and they are currently creating a video to showcase the project. Having already recorded footage of our mentors, this visit gave our mentees the opportunity to take part.

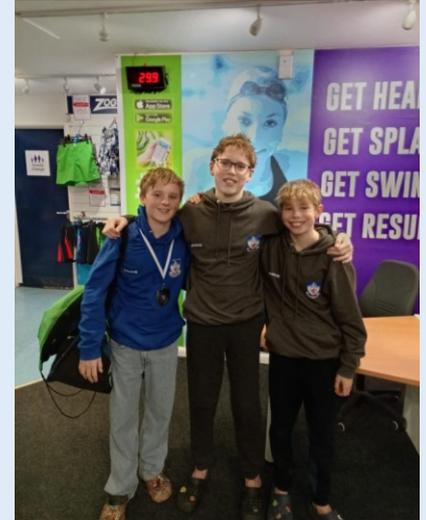


We were also pleased to welcome Bernice Williams from LiveWest, who supported two of our Year 10 students, Faith and Bronwyn, who had participated in the project last year. Following this, students were recorded taking part in a science experiment before being interviewed about their experiences.

Swimming

Congratulations to Students Bronwyn, Edward, Daniel and Matthew who have competed in the County Swimming Championships this term representing the Sidvale Sharks.

With a couple of swims still to go, they have already produced outstanding performances, swimming personal bests across all their events. Edward won Silver in the 100m U13 Butterfly and also swam a time that has qualified him for the South West Regional Championships later this year. Bronwyn won Bronze in the 100m U15 Butterfly.



Congratulations to all four swimmers on their hard work, dedication, and success!

Girls Football

Congratulations to the Years 7 & 8 girls on an outstanding performance in the first round of the U13 football tournament at Axe Valley.

The team showed great determination, teamwork and skill throughout the competition, representing the school brilliantly in every match.

A special well done to Isla, whose consistently excellent performances earned her the Player of the Tournament award, a fantastic achievement.

We are incredibly proud of the whole squad and look forward to seeing them continue their success in the next round.



Netball

Congratulations to Year 8 students Anessia F and Tessa B who recently attended the England Netball Pathway Academy trials along with 90 other girls from across Devon.

After a day of trials, demonstrating their skills and talent, we are delighted to share that both girls were selected for the final 18 and are now members of the Devon County England Netball Pathway Academy team, an amazing achievement!



U15 Cricket

The U15 cricket team took part in their last fixture of the term. The boys did exceptionally well beating The Kings School and Colyton Grammar School in the group stages.



They then played Axe Valley in the semi finals, batting first and scoring 39. Axe Valley started strong but fell short all out for 31!

Sidmouth showed some fantastic bowling and fielding form throughout. In the final we played Exmouth and narrowly lost to a consistent team. Sidmouth will now represent East Devon in the Devon finals at Exeter University this Spring.

U13 Indoor Athletics

A brilliant Bronze medal performance for the Year 8 students who represented Sidmouth College at the East Devon Under 13 Indoor Athletics this half term!

Well done to everyone who competed and gave it their all. A special mention to Riley, who launched the shot so far it hit the wall and made it very hard to measure.

A huge shoutout to the girls who had to race against the clock rather than another team, a tough challenge but they battled hard and did themselves proud to secure the bronze!



Boccia

The East Devon Schools Boccia Games delivered an exciting showcase of skill, strategy and teamwork as the Sidmouth Sharks, Scorpions and Stingrays went head-to-head in eight back-to-back matches.

Across a demanding schedule, all three teams demonstrated excellent communication, tactical awareness and sportsmanship. Matches were closely contested, with players showing impressive precision and focus throughout the competition. The fast-paced format tested both physical skill and mental resilience, and every team rose to the challenge.

Huge congratulations go to the Sidmouth Sharks, who once again proved their quality to become back-to-back East Devon Secondary School Boccia Champions. Their consistent teamwork and smart tactical play set them apart over the course of the tournament. The Sharks will now progress to represent East Devon at the Devon Boccia School Games, and we wish them the very best of luck as they take the next step in their Boccia journey. Well done to all players involved for an outstanding day of competition.



U13 Netball

The U13 Sidmouth College Girls Netball Team continued their excellent form with a dominant 26–4 victory over Axe Valley Academy, marking their second consecutive win this season.

From the first whistle, the team showed determination and confidence, moving the ball swiftly through the court with great control. Anessia, Scarlett, Elsie, and Tilly displayed consistent and accurate shooting, capitalising on every opportunity to keep the scoreboard ticking over.

In defence, Poppy, Lyla, Beryl, and Grace worked tirelessly to apply pressure, intercept passes, and limit Axe Valley's scoring chances. Their committed defending ensured that our opponents struggled to break through the circle.

The transition from defence to attack was seamless, thanks to the excellent connection and communication from Tessa, Lydia, and Lizzie. Their vision and passing helped maintain the team's momentum and keep the attacking play fluid throughout the match. It was a fantastic all-round team performance, full of energy, teamwork, and determination — a true testament to how well the group is developing together.





Police Support Drama Lesson

On Wednesday 14th January, three members of our Community Policing Team visited Sidmouth College to be interviewed by our Year 10 Performing Arts students. The visit formed part of a workshop designed to support students' understanding of key themes in their current drama study.

The session focused on policing and the consequences of drinking and driving, a central theme in the play *Too Much Punch for Judy*.

Students asked a range of prepared questions, deepening their understanding of the police role in maintaining public safety.

The Community Police Officers were extremely generous with their time, providing thoughtful and informative responses. Overall, the session was both engaging and highly beneficial, and we are very grateful to the officers for their support.

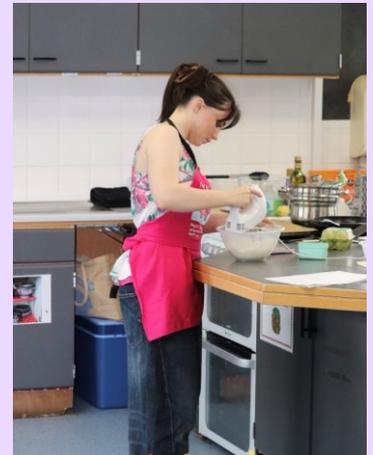


Rotary Club Young Chef Competition

On Saturday 17th January the College hosted the second round of the Rotary Club Young Chef Competition.

This competition, sponsored by Filippo Berio, gives entrants the chance to develop their culinary skills and be judged by leading industry professionals. Entrants plan and cook a two-course meal (main course and dessert), develop their food presentation skills, and gain experience in high-pressure situations. The winner of the Rotary Young Chef National Final will receive a prize of a two-day trip to Tuscany, which includes cookery classes to learn the secrets of regional Italian cooking.

Students Jess, Isabel and Lilly were joined by Dawlish students Joni and Henry and competed over a two-hour period to create their dishes. The results saw Jess awarded first place, followed by Joni in second, Isabel in third, Lilly in fourth and Henry in fifth. Jess will now progress to the District round in Newton Abbot next month. Huge congratulations to Jess and to all the students who took part.



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Year 7 Artwork

You may have spotted some eye-catching sculptures around Sidmouth over the Christmas period. Our Year 7 Art students have been busy creating their own land art, inspired by the artist Andy Goldsworthy. Using natural materials such as flowers, stone and even ice, students explored colour, pattern and texture while letting their imaginations run free.

As well as creating these beautiful temporary artworks, they also developed their photography skills by capturing their work in its natural setting. A wonderful blend of creativity, nature and learning.



Lions Club Peace Poster Competition

On Thursday 15th January we were delighted to celebrate the amazing art work created and entered into the Lions Club International peace poster competition.

The theme for this year was 'Together as One'. Our winners and runners up enjoyed receiving certificates and prizes and meeting the team from the Sidmouth's Lions Club.

First place went to Ruby in Year 7, second place to Lizzie in Year 8 and third place to Mckenzie in Year 8.

There were lots of brilliant entries and we were delighted to hear that all were enjoyed by the judging panel. Thank you to the Sidmouth Lions for offering our students the opportunity to demonstrate their amazing creative skills and well done to all our students who entered this year's competition. As always the standard of work was very impressive.





Meet our Interhouse Leaders

This academic year, we are proud to introduce an exciting new addition to student leadership at the College: Interhouse Leaders.

At the start of the year, students were invited to apply for this role, and representatives from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 were selected from each House. These students have already shown great enthusiasm, responsibility and commitment to making a positive contribution to College life.

The role of an Interhouse Leader is wide-ranging and impactful. Leaders act as excellent ambassadors for the College, organise and support fundraising initiatives such as the Christmas Food Bank Appeal last December, and help to plan and run Interhouse events across the whole school. Central to their role is fostering a strong sense of belonging and community among both students and staff.

In recognition of their achievements and responsibilities, our Interhouse Leaders were presented with special Interhouse Leader ties this half term, which they can now wear proudly around the College.

We look forward to seeing the continued positive impact of our Interhouse Leaders throughout the year.



Parent Forums

Following our recent forums on communication, it was wonderful to see so many parents join us at our Year 9 Curriculum forum on Friday 9th January, followed by our Guided Choices evening on Thursday 22nd January which was also well attended,

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to the discussion!

We are excited to continue these conversations throughout the academic year, with our next forum focusing on improving reporting. Stay tuned for more details.



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Year 8 English Workshop

In January, a group of Year 8 students have had the opportunity to work with Pippa Marriott, Creative Director of Word Kitchen, crafting writing that captures a sense of different places and landscapes.

Selected work, from the whole community project, will appear in a published anthology of the same title in March 2026, with a book launch in Sidmouth! This opportunity is not restricted to Year 8 students, it is open to the whole community. Please see the information flyer on our Facebook page for information on how to get involved.



Geography WorldWise Quiz

Huge congratulations to our brilliant Year 8 and Year 9 geographers who represented Sidmouth College at the Geographical Association WorldWise Quiz this half term

It was fantastic to see both teams put their map skills, global knowledge and teamwork to the test against some tough competition.

We are so proud of the curiosity and dedication these students showed throughout the event.

Well done to our future explorers!



Guided Choices Evening

It was a pleasure to welcome so many Year 9 students and their families to our Guided Choices Evening on Thursday 22nd January. We were delighted to be joined by our Sixth Form Student Leadership Team, who were on hand to offer guidance, answer questions and support students throughout the evening.



Maths Challenge

On Wednesday 28th January over a hundred students in Years 9, 10 and 11 took part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge in the Hall. It was great to see so many students taking part and giving it a go. Results will be in after half term.



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Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

A huge congratulations to Year 13 Students Grace H and Grace T who both has completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award last year. Both received their certificates in the post this half term and will be invited to a very special ceremony at Buckingham Palace in the summer to celebrate their achievements! Well done to both!



Key Dates for Spring Term 2

First Day of Half Term 2
Monday 23rd February

Year 9 Theatre Trip
Thursday 12th March

Year 12 & 13 Parents' Evening
Thursday 19th March

Year 11 Group Photo
Friday 20th March

Non-pupil day
Monday 23rd March

Activities Fair
Friday 27th March

Last Day of Term
Thursday 2nd April

Launch Pad Careers Session

On Wednesday 4th January we welcomed a team from Young Enterprise, accompanied by a group of our local business partners, to work with students in Year 8 for the day. The Launch Pad workshop is a fast-paced and engaging challenge designed to build enterprising skills and a clearer understanding of the world of work.

Working in teams, students launched their own fledgling companies, creating a brand identity and marketing strategy while balancing a budget. Through a series of fun, hands-on activities, they developed teamwork, creativity, problem-solving and communication skills, all key qualities employers value. Encounters with employers helped broaden their understanding of the world of work, while team activities encouraged students to recognise their own strengths and areas for development. By working collaboratively, students experienced first-hand the benefits of teamwork and learned how to plan, use information effectively and present their ideas persuasively to an audience.

At the end of the day, the winning teams from each group presented their businesses the rest of the year group and the panel of judges. Well done to all the students for throwing themselves into the day.





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 45 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 Spring Term Enrichment Programme

No sign up needed



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Break 2 (Lunch time)	Badminton (BW) LED Sports hall Meet at PE office 1pm All Years		Ultimate frisbee (SJR) LED Sports hall Meet at PE office 1pm All Years	Table Tennis (SO) Activity Studio All Years (Until Feb half term)	
After school 3.15-4.15pm PE kit required	GCSE Trampolineing Sports Hall Year 11 Invite Only Netball Courts Years 11-13 Girls Football Astro All Years	Netball Courts Years 7-10 Boys Football Astro Years 7 & 8	Girls Rugby (coach) Field All Years Badminton Sports Hall All Years Cheer/Gymnastics Activity Studio All Years	Boys Football Years 9, 10 (Grass) & 11 (Astro) Hockey (coach) Astro Years 7-9 Basketball LED Sports Hall All Years	Trampolineing (coach) LED Sports Hall All Years Paid Club See PE Staff for details Football Astro Years 12-13
	Teen Gym Get Active Gym LED Leisure Centre (paid membership required)	Teen Gym Get Active Gym LED Leisure Centre (paid membership required)			

