

Sidmouth College Newsletter

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This half term has, as always, been incredibly busy, rewarding and at times, challenging. Despite the usual winter impact on our school of staff illness, we have been able to continue to offer a fantastic extracurricular program, consistent routines in lessons and great pastoral support for all our children.

As many of you are aware, we have recently undertaken a competitive process to recruit a new permanent Headteacher at Sidmouth College and we are thrilled to share that Alex Evans has been appointed as Headteacher.

Alex Evans is currently Deputy Headteacher at St Luke's, leading on quality of education. He joined the school over 13 years ago and has been a pivotal part of the school's rapid improvement journey, which saw the school being named in the top 10 schools in Devon for GCSE progress this year. He is also well known for his commitment to supporting staff development and the implementation of coaching, both at St Luke's and nationally in his role leading a Steplab coaching hub.

His appointment follows a robust recruitment process and highly competitive field. As part of the process, candidates underwent eight panel interviews, alongside completing several tasks and exercises during the course of the week. This included a student panel and two staff panels, with ten members of our Sidmouth staff team involved and a final staff Q&A session open to all staff. Feedback from across the activities consistently highlighted Alex's vision for the school, his exceptional track record and his commitment to ensure the very best opportunities for every child at Sidmouth College.

We have worked with Alex in some relentlessly positive collaboration over the past year, on our teacher coaching programme and also on our whole school approaches for supporting SEND. I am really excited that he will be taking over as our permanent Headteacher and am looking forward to working alongside Alex to ensure a smooth transition for him and all our community.

As a relatively small school, it makes me incredibly proud that we are able to offer our children and young people such a broad range of opportunities and a chance to believe in themselves and show off their success. This newsletter really highlights our values of believe, inspire and succeed.

I hope you all have a wonderful half term break and look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 24th February.

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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 Principal's Commendation. For the Spring term the Headteacher's Commendations have gone to the following students:

This half term's award went to Milly, Molly and Alex who are all members of the College Student Council and attended the "Working Together for Young Sidmouth" event, hosted by Sidmouth Town Council. During the meeting the students shared their opinions on how to improve the lives of young people in Sidmouth. Also awarded was Emily who created a video for the students to share at the event.

Hilary Nelson of the Sidmouth Town Council said "Milly, Alex and Molly were absolutely exemplary representatives of the Student Council and powerful advocates for the young people of Sidmouth. Their contribution, both in their presentation and in the discussions that followed, was the highlight of the event and we had so many positive comments about how professional they were. Emily's video was also very impactful and gave delegates lots to think about."

Mrs Whitworth presented the students with their commendations on the last day of term. Well done to Milly, Molly, Alex and Emily.



Year 5 Art Workshop

On Wednesday 22nd January over 70 Year 5 Pupils from two of our feeder Primary Schools, Sidbury and Sidmouth Primaries, visited the College to take part in an Art Workshop collaborating with the Sidmouth School of Art.

The pupils worked with Head of Art Mrs Fry and Coco from SSOA to design and sculpt their portraits in clay tiles. These will make up an installation of 1000 tiles, including designs from College students, which be displayed in Sidmouth by The Ham car park.

We can't wait to see the finished installation.



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Year 8 Football

Year 7 had their first football fixture representing Sidmouth College that produced a tightly fought match against Honiton. Despite taking the lead twice from goals from Monty and Jake, the game finished in a draw with a dramatic last-minute goal from Honiton which just crept over the line.

Due to fading light penalties were needed to separate the sides. Honiton were the victors in sudden death. Congratulations to both teams and to those who showed great courage and volunteered to take a penalty.



Year 8 Football

Year 8s played their first football game this year, after a respectable rugby campaign in the Autumn Term, with a friendly against Honiton to start their season. Sidmouth played fantastically well as a team with a positive outlook on the game.

Well done to both teams, overall a 2-2 draw was a fair result. Teachers' player goes to Henry who played out of position at CB. A special mention also goes to Heath for getting an assist with his first touch and Oscar for brilliant wing play.



Boccia Team

Congratulations to the Sidmouth Sharks Boccia Team who took to Torbay on 29th January at the Devon Boccia Finals.

Despite being a team member down, the Sharks pulled together very well, demonstrating excellent precision and tactical awareness in securing a silver medal.

They had a great time and were fantastic representatives for the College.

Well done to the team of three!



Year 12/13 Football

This term it was great to be able to take our Sixth Formers for a sporting fixture. The group with little first team experience faced tough opposition, but showed great spirit and togetherness as a community.

Due to a couple of unlucky bounces the boys were 2-0 down on the stroke of half-time. Despite a resilient effort in the second half, they were punished on the counter-attack losing the game 6-0. Despite the loss, the team remained in good spirits on the drive home.



Football

On Tuesday 14h January the U14 Football team took on Honiton CC here at Sidmouth College. Sidmouth started well with a 2-0 lead. Honiton fought back scoring 2 goals in quick succession. In the final five minutes, Freddie T stepped up and scored Sidmouth's third goal, winning them the game! A great team effort.





Girls Football

Thank you to Axe Valley for hosting a brilliant event with schools from across East Devon in attendance. The group played four games of twelve minutes each and showcased an exciting and enthusiastic style of football. Goals came from Lily and Isabel. The Players' Player was awarded to Lily and the Teachers' Player was awarded to Eva. We look forward to heading back to Axe Valley this term to complete the league.



Cross Country

Congratulations to both Lizzie in Year 7 and Gracie in Year 12. who both qualified to represent Devon at the South West Cross Country Championships on Saturday 1st February. Gracie has qualified from Bicton every year since Year 7 and has now competed in the Devon competition in both Year 11 and Year 12. Her determination to improve demonstrates that it's never too late to reach your potential.



Ten Tors

Our Ten Tors students continued training this term ahead of the final challenge in May. On the weekend of 18th and 19th of January the Year 10 group headed out to Dartmoor on a cold and cloudy morning. Both teams walked well, showing great leadership and navigation skills on the way.

Well done to all involved and as always, a huge thank you to our team of volunteers who support the students, without them it would not be possible.



Maths Challenge

On Wednesday 29th 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.

Just before the half term break, the results were in and certificates awarded on Thursday 13th February.

Well done to all those who took part and achieved Bronze, Silver awards and an extra well done to Louis B who achieved a Gold award and the Best in School award!





The Codex Project

The Art Department teamed up with the Sidmouth School of Art last year to take part in the CODEX Project.

The project took inspiration from 'The Thamesmead Codex' by Bob & Roberta Smith and explored a range of techniques, including digital print, typography, photography and experimental printing using gelli plates.



The work explores identity, personal journeys and emotional wellbeing and, through a collection of outcomes, creates a visual conversation between the Sidmouth Wallspace on the Ham Carpark and the Telephone Box Micro Museums giving a 'voice' to the young people of Sidmouth.

Mrs Fry, Head of Art and Photography commented:

"It's really important that art departments are engaging with artists within their local community, it's important for students understanding the role of an artist and to see in terms of careers where they could go once their creative journey at Sidmouth is complete."

Visit the spaces in town and watch the project film short to find out more via the Sidmouth College Facebook page or by visiting www.youtube.com/watch?v=SETTHRvReAo.

Holland and Belgium Trip

Over half term a number staff and students will be travelling across Europe to gain some invaluable experiences. Years 11, 12 & 13 departed on Thursday morning in the early hours from Sidmouth College on route to Amsterdam in Holland. They will be visiting a host of places on their travels as well as in the city itself, including the Bridge at Arnhem and Anne Frank's House. We look forward to hearing all about the trip when they return, a full report will feature in next term's newsletter.



Fundraising

A huge well done to Year 11 Student Tom who ran a half marathon on Saturday 25th January to fundraise for the charity CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young), with whom the College works closely. The half marathon took place along the coastal trail, starting at Beesands in South Devon, which is a challenging route with an uneven and rocky terrain along the coast.

Tom completed the half marathon, raising £255. an amazing achievement! The money raised will go to the charity and specifically be used to fund the work Marion Hayman does with the College to screen our young people.

If you would like to donate to CRY please visit Tom's go fund me link here: <https://gofund.me/b71fe578>





Year 8 Careers Skills Event

On Wednesday 5th February Year 8 took part in a careers skills event over two sessions. The aim of the event was to help students understand the skills that a range of employers use on a daily basis. They did this by interviewing the employer as a whole class and asking questions about their roles.

After this the students thought about the skills they would like to develop themselves. The classes split into smaller groups and spoke with the employers one to one about how they could improve their skills in school and beyond.

A huge thank you to Luke Moss, Chris Hodgson, Anne Marie Taylor, James Bishop, Hannah Barnard, Denese Molyneux, Harvey Stead, Katherine Austin, Joe Sains, Kai Holland and Beau Spivey.



Uniform Shop

The Sidmouth College uniform shop launched in September and has been a big success, giving students the chance to purchase or borrow second hand uniform and upholding the Sidmouth College Way and Uniform Policy.

We are in need of more uniform and are asking families to have a rummage at home. If you have any items in good condition that are no longer needed or do not fit, to please donate them.

We are especially in need of ties, medium sized blazers, skirts and shoes.

Items can be sent in to reception either with a student or dropped off between 8:30am and 4:30pm to reception.

Thank you to all those families that have already donated to the College uniform shop.

SIDMOUTH COLLEGE



UNIFORM DONATIONS



PLEASE BRING ITEMS IN
GOOD CONDITION TO THE
COLLEGE RECEPTION

- Blazers
- Skirts
- Trousers
- Ties
- Shoes
- PE Kit

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Sixth Form Taster Day

On Friday 24th January Year 11 students were off timetable enjoying a taste of life as a Sixth Form student at Sidmouth College.

Students were in non-uniform and able to use the Sixth Form common room and Costa Café for the day. They had a free session to enjoy the Sixth Form facilities in-between experiencing a variety of A-Level lessons. Students created and printed their own patterned fabric in Textiles, measured speed in Physics and performed scenes in groups in Drama.

All student and teacher feedback was positive and it was an all round enjoyable day. We hope to see many of our Year 11s back next year to study for their A-Levels with us in the College Sixth Form.



Rotary Club Young Chef Competition

On Tuesday 4th February ten Year 10 students took part in the first heat of the Rotary Club Young Chef Competition. The Young Chef competition gives students the chance to develop their culinary skills and be judged by leading industry professionals.

In the first heat all entrants had to plan and cook a two-course meal (main and dessert), develop their food presentation skills, and gain experience in high-pressure situations.

On the day we welcomed members from the Rotary Club and local chefs Matthew Raistrick and Stuart White. The judges were very impressed with our students and found it tough deciding the top three.

The winners of the heat were 1st Nancy P, 2nd Lily C and 3rd Harry P. They each received a certificate, apron and Tesco vouchers to purchase ingredients to get practising on their next dishes! Nancy will now go on to represent the College in the second round.

The overall 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. Good luck to Nancy in the next round!





Blood Brothers

On Saturday 8th February Year 11 GCSE Drama students attended a performance of Blood Brothers at the Hall For Cornwall in Truro.

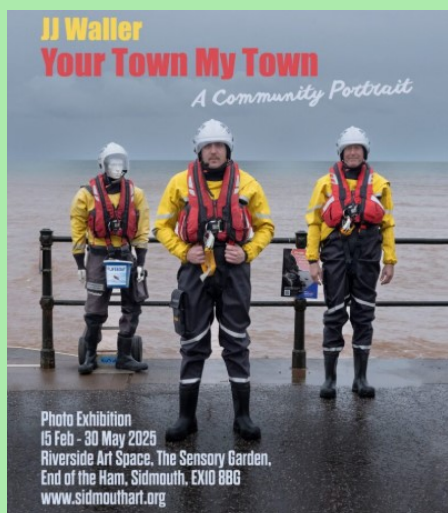
The students were mesmerised by the wonderful emotive story of twin brothers separated at birth. The play explores the complexities of Class, Superstition, Loyalty and Love.

The students as always were a credit to the school, and they coped admirably with a long day of travelling.



Sidmouth School of Art Photo Shoot

On Wednesday 20th November the whole of the Sidmouth College Student Council was invited to take part in a photo shoot being conducted by JJ Waller as part of his exciting project 'Your Town My Town'. His photographs are now on display in the Sensory Garden in Sidmouth so please look out for our wonderful students!



Anti Bullying Ambassador Training for Year 7

On Wednesday 5th February all Year 7 Student Council members attended Anti Bullying Ambassador Training. We explored the distinction between Banter and Bullying and discussed ways of reporting incidents when they occur. Moving forwards the Anti Bullying Ambassadors will be focussing on spreading the message that we all need to be Upstanders rather than Bystanders, and we are raising awareness of how to anonymously report bullying using a referral link on the Sidmouth College website.



Malden House Visit

On Tuesday 4th February three delegates from the Student Council attended the "Working Together for Young Sidmouth" event which took place at Kennaway House. We were able to share the views of the student body with around 35 delegates from a wide range of organisations and had some really productive discussions. It is very exciting that there is so much goodwill and willingness to collaborate in Sidmouth for the benefit of our young people.

Councillor Hilary Nelson commented that, "Milly, Alex and Molly were absolutely exemplary representatives of the Student Council and powerful advocates for the young people of Sidmouth. Their contribution, both in their presentation and in the discussions that followed, was the highlight of the event and we had so many positive comments about how professional they were. Emily's video was also very impactful and gave delegates lots to think about. There was a great deal of praise too for how active and effective the Student Council is, and for its reaching out to decision makers and the wider community."



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