

Sidmouth College Newsletter

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Welcome to our first newsletter of the new academic year.

As we reach the end of a busy and hugely positive first half term, I would like to begin by thanking everyone for the wonderful start we have made to the new academic year. It has been a pleasure to see our College community come together once again, and I am particularly proud of how well our new Year 7 students have settled into life at Sidmouth College. Starting secondary school is an important milestone, and it has been fantastic to see our newest students growing in confidence, embracing new opportunities and becoming part of College life so quickly.

One of the highlights of the term was our Open Day in September, which was a record-breaking success, welcoming an incredible 650 visitors across the three sessions. It was wonderful to see so many families coming through our doors and experiencing first-hand what makes Sidmouth College such a special place. Our student ambassadors, Sixth Form helpers and staff did an outstanding job of showcasing the very best of our College, with visitors commenting so positively on the warmth of the welcome they received and the enthusiasm of our students. I would like to thank everyone involved in making the event such a success; it was a real reflection of the pride our community has in its school.

We have also started the academic year with another set of fantastic results from our previous Year 11 students. Their achievements are something we are incredibly proud of, reflecting their hard work, determination and commitment throughout their time at the College, alongside the dedication and support of our staff and families. It is always a pleasure to celebrate the successes of our students as they move on to the next stage of their education, and I wish them every success in the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.

This half term has also been full of opportunities for students to discover new interests, develop their talents and challenge themselves beyond the classroom. From our unbeaten U14 netball team and impressive cross-country performances to Kieran's success at the World Martial Arts Championships and Archie's selection for the South West Regional England Golf Squad, there has been plenty to celebrate. We were equally delighted to see our students and staff recognised at the Ted Wragg Trust Awards, with the Sapphires Cheerleading Team receiving the Student Teamwork Award and Tom Parker being named Student of the Year. These achievements demonstrate the talent, resilience and commitment that run throughout our College community.

Alongside these successes, students have been exploring new experiences and developing valuable skills for the future. Our Year 9 Careers Roundabout and Year 10 work experience workshops have helped students begin thinking about their future pathways, while our Empowering Girls programme is encouraging students to build confidence and aspire to new possibilities. From hands-on science activities during World Space Week to life-saving CPR training for Year 8, a geography field trip to Lyme Regis and our students' involvement in the Devon Youth Council, this edition captures just some of the breadth of learning and enrichment taking place across the College.

I continue to be impressed by the enthusiasm of our students and the dedication of our staff, who work so hard to create an environment where young people feel supported, challenged and inspired to achieve their best. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, through leadership opportunities or in our wider community, it is encouraging to see so many students making the most of everything Sidmouth College has to offer.

As we head into the half term break, I would like to thank our students for the positive start they have made to the year, our staff for their continued commitment and our families for their ongoing support. I hope everyone enjoys a restful and well-deserved break, and I look forward to welcoming our students back on Monday 9th November, ready for another exciting half term of learning, opportunity and achievement.



Interhouse Halloween Bake-Off and Fancy Dress

On Wednesday 21st October, our Student Interhouse Leaders organised a Halloween-themed Bake-Off. Staff and students were challenged to bake something at home and bring in their finished creations to be judged. The Interhouse leaders along with staff carried out a blind tasting and awarded House points to the winners based on appearance, taste and creativity.

To make the day even more fun, staff were challenged to come to school in Halloween-themed fancy dress, with House points up for grabs for the best-dressed costume. Scan the QR code below to vote for your favourite costume. Well done to everyone who took part and helped make the event such a fun and festive occasion.

Winners will be announced after half term in assembly.



Year 9 Careers Roundabout

On Wednesday 21st October, Year 9 students had the morning off timetable to take part in a Careers Roundabout. 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.





Taekwondo Success

Congratulations to Year 7 Student Kieran, who competed in the World Union of Martial Arts Federations 4th World Championships in Crawley this weekend, alongside over 1,000 participants from around 25 countries.

Competing in Taekwondo, Kieran showed great determination and resilience to win a bronze medal in Poomsae and a silver medal in Kyrougi, facing a more experienced opponent.

Well done Kieran. We're proud of your achievements and look forward to seeing what you accomplish next.



Year 11 Netball

The Year 11 netball team competed in their first tournament of the year, travelling to ISCA to take on teams from across the Ted Wrapp Multi Academy Trust.

The team got off to a fantastic start, securing two convincing victories. They defeated the home team, ISCA, 5–3, before producing an excellent performance against West Exe, winning 12–3.

The final two matches were much closer, with the team narrowly losing to QE and Exmouth. Despite these results, the team showed great resilience and continued to work hard right until the final whistle. A real highlight of the tournament was the team's ability to work together and adapt, with players switching positions to create the best opportunities for their teammates.

The results saw the team finish an impressive 3rd overall in the competition.

A special shout-out goes to Rebecca, Jess and Bronwyn, who were all awarded Players of the Match for their outstanding individual performances. A fantastic start to the Year 11 netball season – well done, team!



U14 Netball Team Remain Undefeated

Our U14 netball team travelled to Kings School to compete against teams from across East Devon and delivered a fantastic unbeaten performance to take home the title!

Results:

20–0 vs Cullompton – Player of the Match: Anessia

15–0 vs Axe Valley – Player of the Match: Bella

11–2 vs Kings – Player of the Match: Tessa

16–7 vs Uffculme – Player of the Match: Beryl

14–6 vs Colyton (Final) – Player of the Match: Grace

The girls showed outstanding teamwork, strong defence and clinical shooting throughout. Congratulations to the whole squad! The team remain undefeated in both Exeter and East Devon this season.

Next up: the East Devon League, good luck girls!



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on Social Media!*



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Year 7 Cross Country

Sidmouth College's Year 7 Cross Country teams enjoyed an excellent performance at the Year 7 East Devon Cross Country Race, competing against teams from Honiton, Uffculme, The Kings and Exmouth schools.

The students took on a challenging 2.2km course, showing fantastic determination and resilience throughout the race. Despite having completed only two training sessions, both the girls' and boys' teams delivered outstanding performances, securing 2nd place overall in their respective competitions.

This is a fantastic achievement and a testament to the students' commitment, effort and enthusiasm. Well done to all the Year 7 runners who took part and represented Sidmouth College so brilliantly!



Year 7 Rugby

It was great to see Year 7 rugby back in action this half term at the Rugby Touch Festival. The students made an excellent start, demonstrating great teamwork, determination and enthusiasm. The squad will continue building on this experience as they develop their skills and progress towards contact rugby.



Year 9 Rugby

Our Year 9 rugby team began the season with a closely fought fixture against Colyton. The boys played some excellent rugby and showed great character throughout. Despite narrowly losing 23-22 with the final play of the game, it was a performance to be proud of and a positive start to the season. Thank you to Colyton for hosting. Man of the Match was Ike, well done!



East Devon Netball League Gets Underway

We welcomed students from Axe Valley for a home fixture to kick off the start of the U14 and U16 East Devon Netball League in September.

The U14s started with a closely contested first quarter, leading just 6-4. They continued to build momentum throughout the game, finishing with an impressive 26-9 victory. The U16s produced an excellent defensive performance, conceding just one goal across the 40-minute match. Combined with some fantastic shooting, they secured a dominant 37-1 win.

A fantastic start to the East Devon Netball League for both teams!





Ted Wragg Trust Awards

On Wednesday 7th October the Ted Wragg Trust held an awards night at the Great Hall in Exeter. Each school nominated a number of staff and students for various awards. On the night the Sidmouth College Cheerleading team were awarded the Student Teamwork Award and Year 13 Student Tom P was awarded the Student of the Year. Congratulations to them and to all the nominees listed below.

Student of the Year: Tom P

Teacher of the Year: Mrs Eyre

Co-professional of the Year: Mrs Richardson

Unsung Hero: Miss Pollentine

Staff Teamwork Award: Behaviour Team

Student Teamwork Award: Sapphires Cheerleading Team

Inspirational Leader: Mr Gilbert

Student Leadership Award: The Student Council



Student Success

We are delighted to celebrate Year 11 Student Archie's fantastic recent achievements in being selected for the South West Regional England Golf Squad U18 for 2026/27.

Following an intensive trial day at Cumberwell Park Golf Club, involving training and challenges, Archie earned his place on this prestigious programme, recognising his outstanding performances and success in competitions across the country this season.

An especially impressive achievement, Archie is the only boy from Devon to have been selected this year. This is an exciting opportunity to benefit from top-level coaching and experience with England Golf coaches, opening up the possibility of future selection to represent England at U18 level.

A huge congratulations to Archie on this well-deserved success!



Student Leadership Announced

We are delighted to announce our new Sidmouth College Student Leadership Team for the 2026/2027 academic year.

Following a rigorous process of applications and interviews, we are pleased to have appointed the following Sixth Form students to take on these important leadership roles:

Head Students: Emily, Tom & Cordelia

A huge congratulations to our successful students. Taking on a student leadership role is a fantastic opportunity to represent the student body, support the wider College community and help shape the experience of students across the school.





Empowering Girls

On Monday 21st September 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 across different sectors.

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.



World Space Week

In October, we celebrated World Space Week with an exciting hands-on science lesson. Students began by solving space-themed puzzles in the classroom before heading outside to launch their very own rockets on the field. They explored how the rockets were powered and watched to see just how high they could be propelled. It was great fun and the students loved seeing science come to life right before their eyes!



Devon Youth Council

On Saturday 3rd October four members of the Sidmouth College Student Council attended the Devon Youth Council meeting in Exeter.

They discussed the Make Your Mark vote which is taking place in November and planned how they would involve all Sidmouth College students in this.

The Make Your Mark vote sets the agenda for the Devon Youth Council and last year they awarded £160,000 of funding to the priority of 'Places to go, things to do'.



Sixth Form Open Evening

We are delighted to invite all Year 11 students and their families to our Sixth Form Open Evening, taking place on Thursday 19th November from 6pm.

The evening will provide a fantastic opportunity to find out more about life in our Sixth Form, the subjects and courses on offer and the opportunities available to students as they take their next steps in education.

The evening will include a welcome talk from our Head of Sixth Form, followed by subject talks, a tour of the Sixth Form facilities and the opportunity to speak with our dedicated teachers and current Sixth Form students.

We look forward to welcoming you all and sharing more about what our Sixth Form has to offer on Thursday 19th November.



SIDMOUTH COLLEGE

SIXTH FORM

OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2026 AT 6PM

OPEN TO YEAR 11 INTERNAL & EXTERNAL STUDENTS

believe • inspire • succeed

Sidmouth College
Primley Road,
Sidmouth,
EX10 9LG

Tel: 01395 514823
www.sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk

Open Day 2026

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 Mr Evans, followed by speeches from our Head Students Tom, Emily and Cordelia and Year 7 students Matilda and Bethan; they all spoke confidently in front of such big crowds.

After the talks, parents and prospective students were given a tour by our student council members from Years 8 and 9, finishing off with refreshments in the Hall 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 decorate their own biscuit. 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.





CPR Training

On Wednesday 7th October, [Jay's Aim](#) visited the College to deliver CPR training to all of our Year 8 students.

Jay's Aim is a charity committed to teaching young people and the people who support them how to perform CPR and use a defibrillator, helping them to feel confident and prepared should they ever be faced with a cardiac emergency.

The training session was fun, interactive and hands-on, giving our students the opportunity to learn these important and potentially life-saving skills. Each student was provided with their own mannequin to practise CPR.

Students also learnt about defibrillators and how they can be used alongside effective CPR during a cardiac arrest. It was fantastic to see our Year 8 students getting involved and developing skills that could one day make a real difference. We would like to thank Jay's Aim for visiting the College and delivering such an engaging and valuable session.



Christmas Appeal Poster Competition

On Tuesday 13th October, we were delighted to welcome Mike Goodman from Sidmouth Rotary Club and Brian Dowle, Manager of Fields of Sidmouth to attend a Student Council meeting and announce the winner of the Sidmouth Christmas Appeal poster design competition.

The winning entry was created by Lizzie S, who was presented with a certificate and £50 Fields voucher in recognition of her fantastic design. Runner up was Ruby B who received a £25 Fields Voucher.

Lizzie's poster will be used throughout the festive season to help raise awareness of the Christmas Appeal and encourage the local community to donate gifts and food items to support local families in need.

A huge well done to both students for creating such a wonderful posters and helping to spread the spirit of Christmas across our community!



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Geography Fieldtrip

On Wednesday 14th October, our Year 11 GCSE Geography students headed to Lyme Regis with Mr Sullivan, Mr Gilbert and Mrs Bennet for a day of coastal fieldwork.

The students investigated coastal management strategies and explored a range of data collection methods, putting their classroom learning into practice in a real-world coastal environment. After a productive day of geographical investigation, they also enjoyed some well-deserved downtime with a round of mini golf!



Sidmouth Science Festival

On Friday 16th October, Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 Science students were treated to a presentation in the College Hall from Dr Sam Gregson as part of the Sidmouth Science Festival.

Dr Gregson is a particle physicist and award-winning science educator and presenter. Having worked at the University of Cambridge and conducted research at the Large Hadron Collider, he is passionate about making science accessible, exciting and engaging for everyone.

The visit provided a valuable opportunity for our students to engage with science beyond the classroom and to hear from someone who has worked at the forefront of particle physics and science communication.

We are grateful to Dr Gregson and the Sidmouth Science Festival for providing our students with this opportunity to celebrate science and explore the exciting possibilities it offers.



Cross Country

This term, students took part in the Inter-House Cross-Country competition, battling it out to earn points for their Houses and claim the title of House Champions! The races took place during PE lessons over two days in the final week of term. Day 1 brought dry, sunny weather and ideal running conditions. However, Day 2 proved more challenging, with strong winds and heavy rain making the course wet and muddy. Despite the difficult conditions, students showed great determination and resilience, producing some excellent performances. The competition was particularly close, with just a few seconds separating first, second and third place in most year groups. The overall winning House will be announced in assembly after half term. Well done to all the students who took part.





Introduction to Work Experience

On Wednesday 30th September, Year 10 students came off timetable to take part in an Introduction to Work Experience morning. The event included a series of engaging and informative workshops designed to help prepare students for their upcoming work experience placements in the Summer term. The sessions gave students the opportunity to develop their understanding of the workplace, learn about employer expectations and gain valuable advice on how to make the most of their placements.



We were fortunate to welcome a range of employers and business partners from across Devon, who generously gave up their time to share their experiences, offer practical advice and provide students with an insight into different careers and industries.

Their contributions helped students to understand the importance of developing key skills, such as communication, teamwork and professionalism, as they prepare to take their first steps into the world of work. The morning was a valuable opportunity for students to ask questions, explore different career pathways and begin thinking about how they can make the most of their upcoming work experience.

A huge thank you to all our visiting business partners for joining us and helping to make the morning such a success. We really appreciate their time and support in helping our students prepare for this exciting opportunity.



Key Dates for Autumn Term 2

First Day of Half Term 2 - Monday 9th Nov

Parent Forum - Reporting - Wed 11th Nov

Sixth Form Open Evening - Thursday 19th Nov

GCSE Celebration Evening - Thursday 3rd Dec

Non-Pupil Day - Monday 14th Dec

Christmas Carol Service - Thursday 17th Dec

Last Day of Term - Friday 18th Dec (early finish 1:30pm)

Christmas Holidays - 21st Dec – 4th Jan

Science Trip to Ladram Bay

On Thursday 24th September Mr Wilman took his Years 12 & 13 Biology students to Ladram Bay for a day of fieldwork.

Students investigated the fascinating rocky shore ecosystem, recording the distribution and abundance of seaweeds along a transect. It was a great opportunity to put their classroom learning into practice, develop their fieldwork skills, and explore the amazing biodiversity of our coastline.





Sidmouth College Enrichment Programme

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BREAK 1 (10.20am to 10.50am)	Careers Drop-in Careers Office (between M49 & M50) Computer Science Drop in Room M49/M50 All Year	Music Open Access Music Room See Mr Morgan Computer Science Drop in Room M49/M50 All Years D of E Drop-In Room S71 DofE Students	Music Open Access Music Room See Mr Morgan Computer Science Drop in Room M49/M50 All Years	Music Open Access Music Room See Mr Morgan Computer Science Drop in Room M49/M50 All Years Chess Club Library Years 7, 8 & 9	Music Open Access Music Room See Mr Morgan Computer Science Drop in Room M49/M50 All Years
BREAK 2 (12.50pm to 1.20pm)	Photography Club Room 44 Years 7, 8 and 9 Drama Club Drama Studio All year groups Computer Science Drop in Room M49/M50 All Years	LGBTQ+ Club All years (See Mrs Sullivan for info) Music Open Access Music Room See Mr Morgan Eco Club Room 206 All year groups Maths Drop-In Room M34 Years 7-11 Computer Science Drop in Room M49/M50 All Years	Music Open Access Music Room See Mr Morgan Computer Science Drop in Room M49/M50 All Years	Doodle Art Club Room 43 Years 7, 8, & 9 Chess Club Library Years 10, 11, 12 & 13 Music Open Access Music Room See Mr Morgan Comp Science Drop in Room M49/M50 All Years	Music Open Access Music Room See Mr Morgan Computer Science Drop in Room M49/M50 All Years
AFTER SCHOOL (3.20pm 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)	Homework Drop-In College Library All year groups College Choir Music Room All Years Welcome A-Level & Core Maths Drop-In M35 Years 12 & 13	



Sidmouth College PE Department Autumn Term Enrichment Programme

No sign up needed



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Break 2 (Lunch time)	Badminton & Pickleball Sports hall Meet at PE office 12:55pm All Years	Basketball Sports hall Meet at PE office 12:55pm All Years		Table Tennis Activity Studio All Years	Multi-Sport Club Sports Hall Year 7
After school 3.20-4.20pm PE kit required	GCSE Trampoline Sports Hall Year 10 & 11 Invite Only Ultimate Frisbee Sports Hall All Years	KS3 Netball Netball Courts/LED Years 7-10 KS4/5 Netball Netball Courts/LED Years 11-13 KS4 Boys Rugby/ GCSE Moderation Preparation Field Years 10 & 11	Girls Rugby Date: TBC Field All Years Badminton & Pickleball Sports Hall All Years Cheerleading Activity Studio All Years	Hockey External Coach from Sidmouth & Ottery Hockey Club Date: TBC All Weather Pitch Years 7,8,9,10 KS3 Boys Rugby Field Years 7,8,9	No Limits Trampoline Club Sports Hall All Years Paid Club See PE Staff for Letter and start date
	Teen Gym Get Active Gym Leisure Centre (membership required)	Teen Gym Get Active Gym Leisure Centre (membership required)	Teen Gym Get Active Gym Leisure Centre (membership required)		





2026 TED WRAGG TRUST

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

CHOCOLATE & HOBBYCRAFT VOUCHERS TO BE WON

✨ WINNING DESIGNS MADE INTO THE OFFICIAL TRUST CHRISTMAS CARD ✨

Entries welcome from all ages across our Primary and Secondary schools. Contact your Head of Art or teacher today!

✨ **Submission Deadline:** Monday 9th November

✨ **Winners Announced:** Week commencing 30th November

There is no maximum size, however artwork should be no smaller than A5 as it needs to be photographed.

Artwork will be judged by a panel of artists.



DID YOU
KNOW?

WHAT IS A MULTI ACADEMY TRUST?

Ted
Wragg
TRUST

We are part of the Ted Wragg Trust, a family of schools working together to transform lives.

An Academy Trust is a **charitable organisation** that supports a group of schools to work together for the benefit of children and young people.

As a school we are part of the Ted Wragg Trust, dedicated to improving opportunities and outcomes for children and young people. We work together with other schools to deliver an excellent education for every child, close to home.

Being part of a Trust helps our school to **achieve more than we could alone**. Our students enjoy new opportunities alongside expert and specialist support. This includes unique opportunities such as the annual Innovation Competition, where students offer their innovative ideas to tackle big issues, and access to support from the in-house Speech and Language Team for those who need an extra helping hand.

There is **no one size fits all approach**. Every school that is part of the Trust is different and leaders, staff, governors and communities are trusted to shape what is right for their own pupils, families and community.

“ At the heart of everything we do is
a simple ambition:
children will love coming to school. ”



Find out more

To learn more about the Ted Wragg Trust and how they support our school, please visit:

www.tedwraggtrust.co.uk