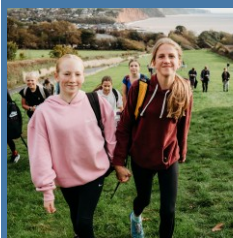


Sidmouth College Newsletter

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Welcome to our Autumn edition of the College newsletter

As we reach the end of what has been a busy and hugely successful first half term, I would like to begin by thanking everyone for the incredibly warm welcome I've received since joining Sidmouth College. It has been a genuine pleasure to meet so many students, staff, parents and members of the wider community. The pride people have in this school is evident in every conversation, and I feel very fortunate to be part of such a caring and committed community.

This half term has been full of memorable moments. Our Open Evening was a real highlight, with an impressive number of families visiting the College. It was wonderful to see so many students, from Year 7 through to the Sixth Form, volunteering as guides and ambassadors. Their warmth, enthusiasm and pride in their school made a lasting impression on our visitors and were a real credit to Sidmouth College.

We have also welcomed families from Key Stages 3, 4 and 5 to share their views on how we can continue to improve communication between home and school. These conversations have been constructive and insightful, and as a result we are developing a Communication Commitment that we will share with parents next half term. Strengthening these partnerships is vital to ensuring every child thrives, and I am grateful to all who have taken part.

Beyond the classroom, students have had a fantastic half term of enrichment and community activity. Our sponsored walk saw students step out into the local area to raise money both for the College and for local charities - it was brilliant to see everyone coming together for such a positive cause. We have also enjoyed a huge number of competitive sports fixtures, inspiring trips to the theatre, and a series of careers events where external providers have worked with our students to support their aspirations for the future.

I continue to be impressed by the dedication of our staff, who go above and beyond to create such rich learning and extracurricular opportunities for our students. This newsletter captures just a glimpse of that breadth and energy, but it gives a real sense of what makes Sidmouth College such a special place to learn and work.

As we head into the half term break, I want to thank our students for their hard work, our staff for their dedication, and our families for their ongoing support. I hope you all enjoy a restful and well-deserved break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 10th November, ready for another exciting and productive half term ahead.

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Sponsored Walk

On Friday 24th October, the entire College came together to take on the mammoth 22km Sponsored Walk challenge. After being postponed last year, it was wonderful to see the event return – and it was worth the wait!

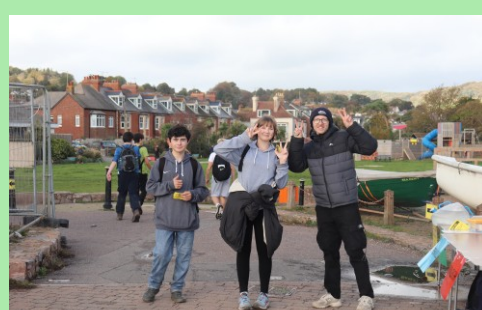
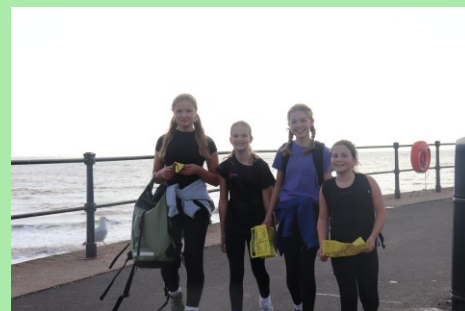
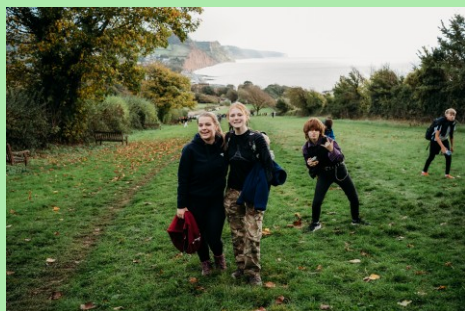
In the weeks leading up to the walk, students were given sponsor forms and encouraged to gather as much support as possible. On the day itself, the weather was dry and students showed fantastic perseverance and determination to complete the course. While the walk is not a race, a few students each year take on the challenge to see who can finish first. This year, Year 11 student Nathaniel completed the 22km route by 12pm, taking just under four hours.

We are thrilled to announce that so far an incredible £5,400 has been raised – a brilliant effort from all our students and their families. A huge thank you goes to everyone who supported by sponsoring students and staff.

A reminder to parent/carers to pay any outstanding sponsorship money to Local Giving using this link: [Sidmouth College Sponsored Walk Fundraising link](#).

The money raised will be split between Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY), a charity dedicated to preventing young sudden cardiac deaths, and the College, where it will go towards funding equipment, resources, and enrichment opportunities for students.

Well done to everyone involved!





Interhouse Pumpkin Competition

On Wednesday 22nd October, Mr Evans judged our annual Interhouse Pumpkin Carving Competition.

Students were asked to carve a pumpkin at home in any design they liked and bring it in for judging.

We had a variety of wonderful entries, and every single one was fantastic! House points were awarded to all participants, with extra points going to the winning design.

Congratulations to Carl in Scott House for their winning amazing pumpkin creation!



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. The weather was changeable, which disrupted the programme somewhat and made for some damp 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.



Year 9 Careers Roundabout

On Wednesday 22nd 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.



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Year 7 Cross Country

The Year 7 Cross Country teams competed brilliantly against a strong field of East Devon schools this month. Both teams showed fantastic determination and resilience throughout the challenging course.

A huge well done to the Sidmouth teams, who both secured an impressive 3rd place overall in East Devon! An excellent achievement for their first secondary school cross country event.



Rugby U13s

The College Under 13s played their first fixture of the year against Kings and made an outstanding start to the season. The team displayed excellent teamwork and determination, securing a convincing win by eight tries to two.

Two new players, Jacob and Harley, made an immediate impact, between them scoring seven tries and being named joint Players of the Match. The squad's enthusiasm and spirit were evident, and they're already looking forward to their next game after the half-term.



Year 8 Netball

On Tuesday 7th October, the Year 8 netball squad, made up of two teams, took on Exeter schools and Exmouth Community College at St Luke's in Exeter.

The Blues showed fantastic periods of play, with some determined defending from Lizzie S and Scarlett H.

The Pinks remained undefeated throughout the tournament and faced West Exe in the final. After some outstanding goal scoring from Elsie G and Annessia F, they secured a brilliant 14–8 victory!

Players of the Tournament were awarded to Annessia F and Scarlett H, congratulations to both and to our area Champions Annessia F, Elsie G, Tessa B, Beryl R, Poppy F, Megan V, Lydia H and Grace M.



Year 7 Netball

The Sidmouth College Year 7 netball teams travelled to St Luke's C of E School in Exeter on Wednesday 15th October to compete in the Ted Wragg Trust Netball Tournament. It was the first opportunity for both teams to put their training into action, showcasing their developing skills and teamwork.

Throughout the matches, the players demonstrated excellent communication, determination, and a growing understanding of the game. A fantastic effort from everyone involved!





Ted Wragg Trust Awards

On Thursday 9th October the Ted Wragg Trust held an awards night at the Crowne Plaza in Plymouth. Each school nominated a number of staff and students for various awards. On the night the Sidmouth College Student Council was awarded the Student Teamwork Award and our Chair of Governors, Ann Denner, was awarded the Unsung Hero Award. Congratulations to them and to all the nominees listed below.

Student of the Year: Lily Gowler

Teacher of the Year: Mrs Masters

Co-professional of the Year: Mrs Pyle

Staff Teamwork Award: The Attendance and Pastoral Team

Student Teamwork Award: The Student Council

Inspirational Leader: Mrs Omand

Unsung Hero: Mrs Sullivan and Mrs Denner

Student Community Leadership: Anti Bullying Ambassadors



Sidmouth College Riders NSEA Event

This month marked an exciting milestone as Sidmouth College riders took part in their first NSEA (Schools Equestrian) competition at Bicton Arena on Sunday 5th October.

We had five talented riders representing the College. Scarlett R competed in the 50cm and 60cm classes, achieving an impressive 2nd place in the 50cm and 5th place in the 60cm and qualifying for the Grass Roots Regional Championships in August 2026 in both classes. Scarlett also won the Style and Performance Rosette for her excellent riding.

Next up, our 70cm team of Ella F, Livvi W, Abby D, and Chloe J delivered a fantastic performance, finishing 4th overall. Ella then went on to compete individually in the 80cm class, placing 8th out of 38 riders, a brilliant result!



Student Leadership Announced

We are pleased to announce our new Sidmouth College Student Leadership Team for 2025/2026.

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

Head Girls: Milly T, Grace H and Emily A.

Well done to the four students, we look forward to seeing the work you do over this academic year.





CRY Screening

On Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th September Sidmouth College hosted a Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY) screening, which was open to students and members of the community aged between 14 and 35 years old. This service was organised by local fundraiser Marion Hayman, who sadly lost her son suddenly in 2013 due to an undiagnosed heart condition. Marion and her team have raised thousands of pounds for the national charity and we thank them for arranging the session.

Over 80 students opted to have a screening which involved a simple health questionnaire and an ECG.

To find out more about CRY visit their website here: www.c-r-y.org.uk/screening.



Empowering Girls

On Monday 22nd 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.



Estates Team Clear Grounds

On Wednesday 17th September, the Ted Wragg Trust Estates team, supported by volunteers from local firm Coreus, visited Sidmouth College to transform some long-neglected areas of the site.

The orchard and allotment area, which had been overgrown and inaccessible to students for several years, were carefully cleared and revitalised. Thanks to the team's hard work and commitment, these spaces have now been opened up and will be available in the spring for students to enjoy, learn, and spend time outdoors.

Their efforts have made a lasting difference to the college environment, and we are grateful for the time and energy they dedicated to the project.



Sixth Form Open Evening

Our Sixth Form Open Evening is taking place on Thursday 13th November from 6pm to 7:45pm.

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

Year 11 students and their families are invited to join us, no booking required, just turn up on the evening.

We look forward to welcoming you all on Thursday 13th November.

SIXTH FORM

OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2025

6:00PM - 7:45PM

VIEW THE
FACILITIES
SUBJECT
TALKS
SPEAK WITH
STUDENTS
MEET OUR
TEACHERS
TAKE A
TOUR

SIDMOUTH COLLEGE

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Open Day 2025

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 by our Head Girls Grace, Milly and Emily and Year 7 students Henry and Tilly; 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 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.





Author Visit

This morning, our Year 8 students had the exciting opportunity to take part in a writers' workshop led by local author Jane Corry. During the session, students developed imaginative story ideas and asked insightful questions about Jane's experiences as a published writer.

The workshop left students feeling inspired and enthusiastic about their own writing, with Jane herself commenting on how impressed she was by their creativity and imagination.

It was a fantastic experience that has sparked a love of storytelling among our young writers.



Artist Visit

On Wednesday 1st October local artist Nic George visited the College along with a life-size fibreglass donkey. This donkey is part of a special series, each one sponsored by a local business and painted by local school children and artists.

The finished donkeys will soon be on display in the grounds of Kennaway House, Sidmouth, during their forthcoming Open Exhibition. We can't wait to see them all together once they're complete!



National Poetry Day

It was National Poetry Day this half term and the theme this year was 'play'.

Students have been playing with words creating blackout poems in the library, exploring a poem about playground bullying in Reading Canon and creating their own poems about play in their English lessons for a House Competition.

The winners were:

Year 7 - 1st Raleigh - Siena M, 2nd Scott - Theo C, 3rd Grenville - Mary G, 4th Drake - George E.

Year 8 - 1st Drake - Alice K, 2nd Scott - Lizzie S, 3rd Grenville - Oliver D.

Year 9 - 1st Raleigh - Annie H, 2nd Scott - Nell J, 3rd Drake - Jonah H,

KS3 Individual Winners - 1st - Siena M, 2nd - Annie H, 3rd - Alice K.





Introduction to Work Experience

On Wednesday 1st October Year 10 were off timetable taking part in an introduction to work experience morning 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 17th September we welcomed Katherine Austen from Bicton College, Thea and Joseph from Exeter College and Julie from Future Smart Careers 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, which are 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.



Key Dates for Autumn Term 2

First Day of Half Term 2 - Monday 10th Nov

Sixth Form Open Evening - Thursday 13th Nov

Year 9 Parents' Evening - Thursday 20th Nov

GCSE Celebration Evening - Thursday 4th Dec

Non-Pupil Day - Monday 8th Dec

Christmas Carol Service - Thursday 17th Dec

Last Day of Term - Friday 19th Dec

Christmas Holidays - 22nd Dec – 2nd Jan

Non-pupil Day - Monday 5th Jan

Science Farm Visit

This half term Mr Wilman and his A-Level Biology Students visited Stantyway Farm in Otterton.

The farm is run organically by their wonderful and passionate host Sam Walker.

Students were able to see the nitrogen cycle taking place before their very eyes, and gained great insight into what first rate environmental stewardship looks like.



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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	Textiles Club Room 43 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 Eco Club Room 206 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 B57 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	



Sidmouth College PE Department Autumn Term 2025-2026 Enrichment Programme

No sign up needed



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Break 2 (Lunch time)	Badminton (BW) Sports hall Meet at PE office 1pm All Years	Basketball (JLT) Sports hall Meet at PE office 1pm All Years	Ultimate frisbee (SJR) Sports hall Meet at PE office 1pm All Years	Indoor cricket (JJ) Sports hall Meet at PE office 1pm All Years Table Tennis (SO) Activity Studio All Years (Until October Half Term)	
After school 3.15-4.15pm PE kit required	GCSE Trampoline Sports Hall Year 11 Invite Only Netball Sports Hall - LED Years 11-13	Netball Sports Hall - LED Years 7-10 Boys Rugby Field Years 7-8	Girls Rugby (coach) Field All Years Badminton Sports Hall All Years Cheer/Gymnastics Activity Studio All Years	Boys Rugby Field Years 9-11	Trampoline (coach) 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)			

