

Sidmouth College Newsletter



Autumn Term: Edition 1, 17th October 2019

INSIDE



Bake Sale
Page 2



Sporting Success
Page 3



Sing Sidmouth
Page 4



Science Week
Page 6



Youth Theatre
Page 8



Art Workshop
Page 11



Welcome to the first edition for the new academic year of our Sidmouth College Newsletter. I am sure that you will enjoy catching up with our amazing students and the fantastic and varied events in which they have participated since September.

I would like to start off this newsletter by recognising the amazing achievements of our students, over the summer holidays we were able to celebrate two incredible sets of exam results. Our students achieved record breaking success at both GCSE and A level. Thank you to all our wonderful staff and parents who supported students through this important time and a huge congratulations to a fantastic group of students who showed that with hard work, commitment and dedication you can achieve anything. I would also like to thank Mr Powell for taking a group of our students to Borneo for 5 weeks of the summer, the students had a life changing experience.

Since joining last year we have raised the expectations in not only behaviour but also in learning. Every day in lessons I see students engaged in their learning and striving for stretch and challenge. I have spoken to students about having high aspirations and high expectations and it is incredibly positive to see that they are responding to this challenge in such a proactive way. Our priority for next half term is to maintain the momentum that has started, to continue to build on the high quality learning and provide as many opportunities for stretch, challenge and enrichment. We are also continuing to have a real focus on feedback, this includes students using mini white boards and responding to feedback in red pen. Please can I ask that students are equipped with a white board marker and red pen in order to support the work that we are doing in the classroom.

It has certainly been an incredibly successful half term, we had record numbers of visitors to our open evening and a very well attended sixth form open evening. I have been impressed with every year group so far, however a special mention needs to go to our new Year 7 they are the biggest cohort of students in the College and they have very quickly settled into life at the College, they are both focused in lessons and working hard. In addition to this they are also taking advantage of the opportunities that are provided to them.

Although our emphasis is unashamedly on academic achievement, I am also very proud of the wider achievement of our students and they have excelled outside the classroom room, you will see the evidence of this throughout the newsletter.

The College has been involved in a wide range of local events and continues to build strong community links. The students are a real credit to the College and all of them who have acted as ambassadors this half term have done so with maturity and enthusiasm. Today has seen students taking on the challenge of the 20K sponsored walk, this was a great way to end the half term. Well done to all the students what an achievement, you should all be really proud of yourselves.

Finally, thank you to all students and parents for adapting to the changes to access routes and parking during our construction works, it was really exciting this week to see the steel frame starting to go up. We have now launched our fundraising campaign to raise money to equip our classrooms and music facilities to enable us to provide a high quality learning environment for all our students. Any donation will be gratefully received thank you for all the support we have had so far. Find more information on page 9 of this newsletter.

It really is an exciting time to be involved with Sidmouth College. Have an enjoyable, restful and relaxing much deserved half term break. I look forward to seeing students and staff back on 28th October.

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Students Bake for Macmillan

Our Sixth Form students were busy in the kitchen preparing for the Macmillan Coffee morning that took place on 27th September.

With plenty of cakes, biscuits and other sweet treats baked, everyone was eager to purchase them, a fantastic £119.71 was raised for Macmillan. The Sixth Form team said it was a great success and on behalf of all of the Sixth Form would like to thank everyone who donated and supported the bake sale. Congratulations to them all, a great effort towards a good cause.



Year 7 Impact Day

The Year 7 Impact Day saw students off timetable for five sessions rotating around a series of five workshops targeted at building students' personal development.

The day started with a Virtual Reality Play and Workshop, followed by positive behaviour in the community sessions. They also took part in a health session with School Nurse, Tracey Wills, which focussed on what happens during puberty and, finally, a House teamwork challenge in the sports hall at the end of the day, including problem solving and physical tasks! All students seemed to enjoy the sessions and, hopefully, learned some valuable life lessons.



Open Day 2019

On Wednesday 25th September Sidmouth College opened its doors to the public to attend our Open Morning and Opening Evening. Both were a huge success with over 500 guests across the day.

On arrival visitors listened to a welcome talk from Mrs Parsons, followed by speeches by our Head Boy and Head Girl and two Year 7 students, who spoke wonderfully in front of such big crowds. After the talks, parents and prospective students were given a tour by our Year 8 & 9 ambassadors, finished off with refreshments by our caterers, Caterlink. Feedback from visitors was all positive with many compliments for the student guides, Sixth Form helpers and staff who gave demonstrations in all departments. Thank you to everyone who attended the Open Day and to our fabulous students. If you couldn't make it to our Open Day but want to take a look around the College, we hold a series of Open Mornings across the year. Visit our website for more details www.sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk/open-days The next Open Morning will be on Tuesday 26th November.





Inter-House Cross-Country

This year's cross country was held over two days in October. Years 8, 9 & seniors raced on day one and Year 7 on day two. Both days presented challenging weather conditions, which made for difficult running conditions. Despite the rain, students were in good

spirits and there was some very competitive running, with just a few seconds separating 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions in most cases. The overall winning House will be announced in assembly after half term.

Results were as follows:

Y7 Boys - 1st Harrison W, 2nd Jack B, 3rd James S & Y7 Girls - 1st Josie B, 2nd Ronja C, 3rd Gracie G

Y8 Boys - 1st Jericho H, 2nd James A, 3rd Harlen S & Y8 Girls - 1st Roxy P, 2nd Annabelle R, 3rd Emily M

Y9 Boys - 1st Jake P, 2nd Ryan B, 3rd Charles J & Y9 Girls—1st Tara D, 2nd Rosie M, 3rd Emily M

Senior Boys - 1st Will D, 2nd Dan B, 3rd Daniel H & Senior Girls - 1st Ella C, 2nd Georgie M, 3rd Zahra H.



Lucy Wins Gold

Over the Summer Year 11 student Lucy played for the Southwest Junior wheelchair basketball team at the Lord Taverner 2019 UK Wheelchair Basketball competition. The team won the championships and all receive gold medals. Competition was incredibly tough with many top teams from across the UK competing. Congratulations to Lucy and her team, what an incredible achievement!



U15 Rugby

This term our U15 rugby team made a winning start to their season, beating Uffculme away in the Exeter and East Devon Cup. The boys defended particularly well, often making last ditch tackles in their defending 22 and winning turnovers in crucial areas. Ball in hand, they utilising their pace out wide and scored four well taken tries as a result. They progress to the next round full of confidence.





Sing Sidmouth

On Saturday 28th September the Sidmouth College Association (SCA) held an amazing event, Sing Sidmouth! The whole day event offered members of the community a workshop with top Gospel Choir master Josh Cadman, this was followed by a concert in the evening. At the concert guest choir 'Soul of the City' from Exeter, starring our very own Miss Hughes, opened with a number of upbeat and catchy songs. This was followed by the Sing Gospel choir who visited us from London and performed a number of soulful songs, finally the scratch choir who attended the workshop joined both choirs on the stage to finish the show. It was a fantastic evening and by the end everyone was up on their feet. In total the SCA raised £1,480, a huge amount that will go towards buying dining furniture for the new school building. Thank you to Emma Gray and the rest of the SCA for organising such a great event!



Anti-Bullying ambassadors - Diana Award

On the 10th September Mrs Beer and Mr Powell took a small group of Year 8 & 9 students to attend an Anti-Bullying training event held at Truro School. The event featured schools from all over the South West and was supported and recognised by the 'Diana Award' and Facebook. Students and staff received support and training by a national campaign to help students tackle the issue of bullying in schools and their local community. Our students had a series of activities to complete throughout the day and worked collaboratively with other schools to design their own programme to support the Anti-bullying campaign on their return.



Since returning the students have been busy thinking of great ways to support students both in school and their local community. As part of the campaign Mrs Beer will be holding assemblies in school during the Anti Bullying week 11-15th November where students in all year groups will have the opportunity to work with and help support the campaign and make bullying a thing of the past.

Students can be seen receiving the first part of their award after successfully completing their training.

This is a fantastic opportunity to give all the students at Sidmouth College the voice and tools to support other students when going through some difficult times. Although we offer a great support network in school, sometimes we have found that students want to talk to other students, students understand the local issues and are aware of the way in which social media is being used and how best to support their peers.

If students feel they do want to talk to anyone about the issues surrounding the campaign or how to get involved please contact Mrs Beer in the first instance. The student anti-bullying ambassadors will be holding a daily 'drop-in' during lunch times in Room 6 where students can come and talk to the mentors about any issues they may have.



Sponsored Walk

On Thursday 17th October the entire College took part in the mammoth 20km challenge of the Sponsored Walk. The walk takes place every 2 years in the Autumn term and is a fantastic fundraising event. At the start of October students took home sponsor forms and were tasked with getting as many sponsors as possible ahead of the walk.

On the day the weather was good overall, a few showers first ting but then the sun came out Students did amazingly, showing perseverance and determination to complete the walk. Although it is not a race, every year a selection of students race to finish first, this year Cody completed the walk by 13:30pm, taking just under 4 hours

Now the walk is complete, it is time for students to collect in all their sponsorship money and if possible, we ask parents to pay this amount on ParentPay. If this is not possible students can bring the money into school.

This year 10% of the money will go to FORCE Cancer Charity in Exeter and the rest to our SCAPE appeal to buy equipment for the new building.



Fantastic Results

Over the Summer holidays students eagerly awaited the arrival of their GCSE and A-Level results. For GCSEs its was an exceptional year, we had a large number of students achieving higher than their expected grades with 64 grade 9s across the year group! We even had ITV news visit to speak with our student Harriet who achieved grade 9s across all subjects! There was also a lot to celebrate with the A-Level results, once again we had a 100% pass rate for all of our students. Overall progress data showed an increase which meant on average students achieved above their target grade across all subjects. We also saw a significant rise in the percentage of students achieving the higher grades across a range of subjects with 30% of students achieving A*-A grades and 54% achieving A*-B. All our students worked incredibly hard and we'd like to congratulate them all!



Matilda Wins Poster Competition

Back in the Summer term the College teamed up with the Sidmouth Chamber of Commerce to run a competition for students to design a poster for this year's Christmas Late Night Shopping, which is taking place on Friday 6th December.

After lots of entries and a tough decision a winner was chosen. Congratulations to Year 8 student Matilda whose design was chosen. Representative from the Chamber of Commerce, Sally Mynard, came in this term to present Matilda her prize and show us the poster printed up and ready to go. You should see it up and around Sidmouth in the next few weeks in the run up to the event in December!





Sidmouth Science Festival

During Sidmouth Science week, Year 8 students were treated to a Science Show in the hall with Tim Harrison, who used lots of chemicals and carried out experiments live in front of their eyes!

Science teacher Mrs Clark said "The festival was a fantastic and enriching week for Year 8 students. We are very lucky to be a part of the

Sidmouth Science Festival activities and every year they get better and better. I would like to thank those who came into the College to run workshops and work with our fantastic students"

Students fed back that they really enjoyed the session, saying they found out lots of new and exciting facts about Science.



Couch To 5k

This term the PE department have been encouraging all students and staff to take part in the Couch to 5k challenge in anticipation of the Cross Country competition and Sponsored Walk. Lots of students and staff took part and many said they felt great after completing the challenge. We had some fantastic photos of students and staff practising and taking part. Well done to all those who did the challenge, keep it up!



Sidmouth College Couch to 5k in 6 weeks:

Monday 9 th September Week 1	
Session 1	Run 60sec, walk 60sec, repeat 10 times
Session 2	Run/walk 20min (freestyle)
Session 3	Walk 5km
Monday 16 th September Week 2	
Session 1	Run 90sec, walk 90sec, repeat 8 times
Session 2	Run/walk 25min (freestyle)
Session 3	Run 1km, Walk 4km
Monday 23 rd September Week 3	
Session 1	Run 2min, walk 2min, repeat 6



**COUCH
TO 5K**

Year 11 Aim Higher Day

On Friday 13th September our Year 11 students took part in an Aim Higher Day. During the event they reflected on the work experience completed in the summer term and discovered new Post 16 opportunities. They learnt about interviews and completed application forms in preparation for their futures. We will be supporting the students further with mock interviews after half term, which will give them great experience in something many of us find difficult. The students also created CVs to show the skills they have that they will be able to use in the future.





Malory Towers

Forty students from Year 9 and Year 10 travelled to the Northcott Theatre in Exeter on Wednesday 18th September to see a musical adaptation of Enid Blyton's 'Malory Towers'. This innovative production used a classic flashback theatre technique to transport us from a modern day secondary school where bullying was taking place to a 'jolly hockey sticks' boarding school and back again to reveal that little has changed in the behaviour of young people. We met many different diverse characters in this eight person cast and were transported using physical theatre and very clever animation to create the backdrop where we witnessed nail biting cliff rescues, train journeys, scenes in classrooms and in the dormitory and out on the cliffs. One particular sequence cleverly portrayed a swimming sequence where the cast synchronised their movements to make us believe they were in the water. We were treated to Nostalgic Malory Towers in a 'Girl Power' story full of high jinks, high drama and high spirits, all set to sensational live music and with breathtaking animation. This was definitely a show for girls, boys and all grown-up children who still dream of midnight feasts and Cornish clifftops.



One Man, Two Guvnors

On 26th September 32 students who study Drama at GCSE and A level were highly entertained by this modern adaptation of Carlo Goldoni's 18th century comedy 'A Servant to Two Masters'. In a full house at the live screening at the Radway Cinema the mood was high as we watched in admiration the comic skills of the performers and in particular James Corden who held the audience in the palm of his hand showcasing his ability as a master of slapstick and comic timing. The original text is studied as part of the A level and this performance will help students to visualise how they might portray the roles or direct actors in their roles for their exam responses. The time flew and the tears of laughter filled the cinema as the actors created physical and verbal comedy at a fast pace and with incredible precision. A show not to miss if you get the chance to catch it in a revival in the future.



The Girl on the Train

On the 2nd October A level Drama students travelled to Plymouth Theatre Royal to see 'The Girl on a Train', adapted from Paula Hawkins' novel – an international phenomenon selling over twenty million copies worldwide. This gripping new play kept us guessing until the final moment. The story focuses on Rachel Watson, played by Samantha Womack, who longs for a different life. Her only escape is the perfect couple she watches through the train window every day, happy and in love, or so it appears. When Rachel learns that the woman she's been secretly watching has suddenly disappeared, she finds herself as a witness and even a suspect in a thrilling mystery in which she will face bigger revelations than she could ever have anticipated.



Former Sidmouth College student, Oliver Farnworth, who has built an enviable career in theatre and TV, appearing in Hollyoaks, Mr Selfridge and as Andy Carver in Coronation Street and most recently in 'Endeavour', played the role of Scott Hipwell, the husband of the missing woman with a dark ominous presence that made him a suspect with a motive. He last performed in the Sidmouth Youth in 2001 in 'Titanic'. It was exciting for the students to meet him after the performance and he has kindly offered his advice for any student looking to work in the industry. In a message to Miss Davies he was keen to recognise the part his experiences at Sidmouth College and in the Youth Theatre have played in framing his life, 'Thanks for encouraging me to get into this crazy, awesome profession all those years ago'.



Youth Theatre Auditions

Miss Davies has auditioned over 100 hopeful Year 8 to Year 13 students over the last few days in search of cast members for the next Sidmouth College Youth Theatre production. Miss Davies is not yet divulging what the production might be but has indicated that she needs a cast of approximately 60 to 80 students, so it promises to be impressive!



Students should hopefully know if their audition was successful by the time they return to school after half term, when Miss Davies will announce her decision about the production! Students keep checking the noticeboard outside Art for information and news on all things youth theatre!

42nd Street at the Radway Cinema

NEWSFLASH! A fantastic opportunity for any student from Year 8 up to Year 13. This iconic West End revival is being screened at the Radway Cinema on 12th November at 7.00pm. The Drama Dept has secured seats for this event at the cost of only £5.50 per student. With a cast



of 60 the largest ever staging of this musical, the tap numbers are unbelievable and the costumes amazing. This would be a fabulous experience for any of our many dancers in the college or any student who enjoys Musical Theatre. Letters are available from Miss Davies in the Drama studio but with only 30 seats available they must be returned as soon as possible to ensure to book a seat.

42nd Street, is the song and dance, American dream fable of Broadway. With the West End's biggest cast, this is a 5-star musical like no other, entertainment doesn't get bigger than this. Young Peggy Sawyer is fresh off the bus from small-town America and just another face in the chorus line on Broadway's newest show. But when the leading lady gets injured, Peggy might just have the shot at stardom she's always dreamed of...

Mental Health Day

On Friday 20th September the College held a Mental Health Day. It was non-uniform for a donation of £1, all money collected has gone to the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust which works to support good mental health in young people, you can find out more about the charity by visiting www.cwmt.org.uk.

During the day students took part in a range of activities and learnt new strategies to tackle stress, particularly through mindfulness. The day proved to be very effective and students fed back that they enjoyed and found it very helpful to de-stress before a lesson.

In total the College raised £568, a great amount that will go towards a fantastic charity.





The Duke of Edinburgh Award at Sidmouth College

Congratulations to our Year 10 group who recently completed their qualifying expedition. It was lovely to see how much they had grown in confidence since their practice in July and they really impressed us with their navigation skills, team work and resilience in the face of some pretty challenging weather. Many of these students have now completed most or all of their other sectional activities and we look forward to presenting them with their awards at their presentation evening in November.

We are now offering the Bronze and Silver awards to Year 9 and 10 respectively. Students have attended a D of E assembly and been given the opportunity to collect enrolment letters. There are 25 places on each and these will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please see the college website if your child is interested but does not have an enrolment letter and make an online payment via your ParentPay account. More information about the award can be found at www.dofe.org but please do not hesitate to contact Mrs S Lilley, the D of E Manager, should you require any further information.



Sidmouth College Fundraising Appeal

The College has launched a fundraising campaign to raise funds to ensure that the equipment available to students inside the building matches the facilities and surroundings provided. We have set ourselves an ambitious target to raise £100,000 to fund the provision of:

- The latest audio-visual equipment in each of the 20 teaching/seminar spaces, consisting of interactive HD screens and sound equipment.
- New workbenches and other equipment for the Resistant Materials Technology workshop.
- Computer and recording equipment and software for the teaching of our new Music qualification which includes Music Technology.
- Audio-visual equipment for the new College Hall to enable high quality screenings for the College and community use.
- Provision of new computing equipment.
- Mobile audio-visual equipment for the existing Sports Hall.
- Upgraded servers and IT infrastructure to ensure that the whole campus can take advantage of faster internet and network speeds.

Our aim is for Sidmouth College to become a centre of excellence for its students and the whole of the local community. We are asking the community for any donation, big or small, any amount will be put to good use. We have created a short video showing some examples of what we would like to buy. You can view it on our website www.sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk/donations and if you would like to donate, visit our just giving page here: www.justgiving.com/campaign/SCAPE. Thank you to all those who have donated to our appeal so far!





Year 9 Art Workshop

On Friday 4th October students from Year 9 had the opportunity to take part in a clay workshop with visiting artist Jo Lathwood. They worked in teams to create the tallest and longest clay sculpture, and created animals from clay without looking, before creating a clay forest of endangered trees.

Artist Jo's work is about focusing on the process more than the outcome, and her sculptures are often taken apart after an exhibition. Some of the students are using this experience as a platform to gain their Bronze Arts Award. The students had a memorable and enjoyable day experimenting with clay and working with new materials, we are very grateful to Jo Lathwood and the Thelma Hulbert Gallery for this opportunity.



Pumpkin Carving Competition

The College is running a pumpkin carving competition for all students and staff after half term.

You can either carve your pumpkin at home and bring it in on Thursday 31st October for judging or bring a hollowed out pumpkin to a lunchtime workshop and carve it in school.

Please note the carving workshops have limited spaces so see Mrs Chapple-Hyam if you would like to attend.

Heads of House will be judging the pumpkin entries and there will be some great prizes on offer for the best and most creative designs!

The competition is open to all year groups and staff, and we cannot wait to see all the entries!

Photos of the winning entries will be on our Facebook page after half term so keep an eye out.

PUMPKIN CARVING COMPETITION

Heads of
House to judge



House Competition

Open to all Students and Staff
Prizes to be Won!

Come to the lunch Workshop or submit
a pumpkin you Made at home by
Thursday 31st October for Judgement

Carving Workshop Lunchtimes in Room 48 on:

Wednesday 30th October

Thursday 31st October

(Limited space so see Mrs Chapple Hyam for details)





Bristol Field Trip

This term Year 11 and Year 13 Geography students visited Bristol to see the urban regeneration that has taken place there and to evaluate the sustainability.

Students were given a tour of the 'behind the scenes' operations at Cabot Circus including looking at the



security room to see how the management keep people safe, looking at the numerous ways the centre tries to remain carbon neutral including the 'biowhale' which uses food waste and turns it into energy. Students also explored the city centre shops and restaurants before taking a river cruise to see the developments along the harbour.

These developments included museums, cafes, apartments made of shipping containers and even a nightclub on a boat! Students were a credit to the college.

Ten Tors Training Begins

Training for Ten Tor's 2020 kicked off on Sunday 13th with a 13 mile hike across Dartmoor in the wind and rain!

Everyone enjoyed the day and completed the training successfully even with a few river crossings where Mrs Clark and Mrs Gill got a bit wet!!

It is not too late to get involved. Our next walk is Saturday 9th November - speak to Mrs Gill or Mrs Clark for details .



Sixth Form Open Evening

On Tuesday 8th October Sidmouth College held its Sixth Form Open Evening. The evening was a huge success with over 150 visitors in attendance. On the night Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Sue Hurley spoke to visitors about the Sixth Form and the opportunities we provide. The student Leadership team then spoke about their role and general life in the Sixth Form. This was followed by tours of the facilities and a subject fair in the gym. Students and parents were also able to see our new Sixth Form Promotional video which you can watch by visiting our website here: www.sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk/open-evening-2019

SIDMOUTH COLLEGE
SIXTH FORM

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Christmas Fair

On Saturday 23rd November the SCA will be holding its annual Christmas Fair. After 2 years of huge success this year stall holders were queuing up to sell at the fair, with tables selling out within 2 weeks.

Visit us on the day, with a variety of local crafters and sellers with gifts and lovely products on sale. There will also be refreshments on sale, entertainment and a raffle. We will also be running our Chocolate Tombola stall which has proved extremely popular over the past 2 years, we ask that if any parents would be happy to donate any size chocolate prize for the tombola, please bring them or send in with your child to reception after half term, all donations are greatly appreciated and will help raise funds for the College.

See you there, all welcome!

Sidmouth College Association **Christmas Fair** Saturday 23rd November

In the Sidmouth College School Hall
All Welcome & Free Entry
From 10am-3pm



Over 30 stalls selling a variety of
craft and Christmas products

Christmas Raffle
Hot food and drinks on sale
Cake sale

All money raised will go
towards funding new
dining room furniture in
the Sidmouth College
new school building

believe • inspire • succeed

GCSE & A-Level Certificates

Past students – if you haven't collected your GCSE or A Level certificates yet, please can you contact the Exams Office either by email exams@sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk or by telephone 01395 514823 Ext 240 or 271.

