

Sidmouth College Newsletter

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I would like to start by thanking you all for your continued support this half term; despite the COVID challenges we have managed to have a really successful half term. I would also like to recognise the work of our wonderful staff at the College who have covered absence caused by COVID to enable the College to continue to operate during this time.

Starting a new academic year, we have new priorities for the continued improvement of the College having returned from a period of instability last year. We have spent time with students and staff revisiting our values at the College which underpin everything that we do at the College and are expressed in [The Sidmouth College Way](#). We have a set of very strong values and these are shared by all. I am proud to observe the engagement of our students in all aspects of College life and see the Sidmouth College Way in practice every day.

Within teaching & learning we have a real focus on students 'knowing more & remembering more' and are using research-informed practice within our lessons. Prioritising retrieval of knowledge at the start of lessons is a key element of this. Mini white boards and RAG cards are used every lesson to allow high quality feedback to take place. Please use half term as an opportunity to replenish any equipment ready for next half term.

I am really pleased that we are once again able to provide enrichment this year and offer our students those wider curriculum opportunities which will enhance and support their learning experience while at the College. This was an area that was impacted by the previous COVID restrictions. As well as having a full enrichment programme now in place including clubs and events, we have also welcomed a large number of visitors into the College. These have been from our wider community, business, sport, media, science and art to name a few. Being able to enrich our students is such an important element of their education and part of our curriculum intent and it is very rewarding to see students engaging so positively with all these opportunities. The newsletter provides a snapshot of some of the enrichment opportunities.

We have also been able to restart our face to face transition work and primary PE links. We actively look for opportunities for pupils from our feeder primary schools to come up to the College and work with our students and staff. Once again, a number of College students have helped and supported these events.

This half term we have held very a successful Open Evening & Open Morning and I would like to thank all our wonderful students from Year 8 to Year 13 who volunteered to be tour guides at these events. They were a real credit to the College and we always receive so many fantastic comments from the families that they show around. Our recruitment and retention continues to be very strong this year and we were very pleased to welcome back so many of our amazing Year 11 students into Year 12.

A reminder for students to continue to use the lateral flow tests during the half term and to test prior to returning on Monday 1st November. Have a wonderful half term break.

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Principal's Commendations

This term Mrs Parsons has launched a new award for students who have excelled or achieved something above and beyond.

For the first half of the Autumn term the Principal's Commendations have gone to the following students Alec B, Joe F, Luca M, Leo G, Josie L, Lola H and Sheril M who, during the summer holidays, went to the aid of a local man who fell into the river in the Byes. The group called an ambulance and stayed with the man throughout, showing incredible maturity, empathy and community spirit.

Commendations were also given to Lucy M, Isla T, Richard P, Ted W, Lacey W & Henry T for their excellent speeches given at our Open Day early in the term.

The final award was given to Honey C for the amazing work she has done championing the LGBTQ community in the college. Mrs Parsons presented the group with their commendations during House celebration assemblies this week.

Well done to all the students who received this special recognition.



Sidmouth Science Festival

This half term the annual Science Week was held in Sidmouth. To celebrate the festival on Tuesday 12th October Sidmouth College welcomed Dr Jonathan Furze from the University of Bristol. Dr Furze delivered a Science show entitled 'A Pollutants Tale' to students in Year 7 and 8. The show included demonstrations of how Nitrogen reacts to heat (which you can see in the first picture), how dry ice changes state when combined with other substances and how the gases in our atmosphere are changing due to climate change. Thank you to Dr Furze for his fantastic and educational show, which had the students engaged from start to finish.

On Thursday 14th we were joined by 'Links to a Life', a creative learning collective who visited the College to deliver a live performance to Year 10 students about astronomer Henrietta Leavitt. The show linked science, drama, history, maths and philosophy all in one and was enjoyed by students!





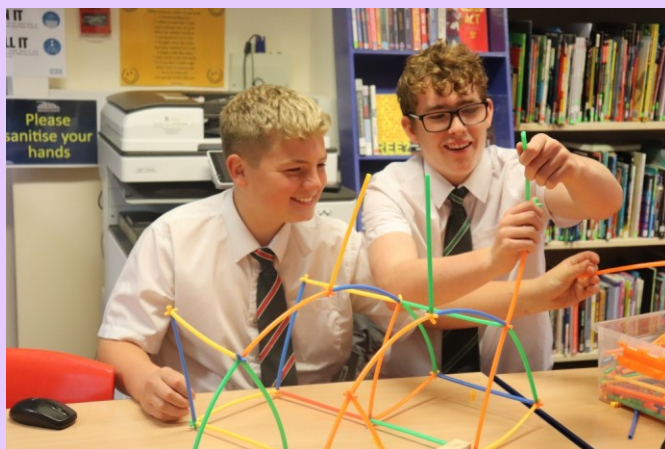
Year 9 Careers Roundabout

On Monday 18th October Year 9 students had a day off timetable to take part in a Careers Roundabout. The day 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.

The day was packed with exciting and interesting visitors (not all human). Visiting employers included Bickton College, Exeter University, Midas, Kier, SDS, Willmott Dixon and the Army.

Students had some fantastic opportunities including sessions on law and media, dance, hair and beauty, countryside conservation, animal care (with the help of some ferrets and giant insects), map reading, Army training and electrical and plumbing engineering. There was something for everyone.

We are extremely grateful to all of our visiting employers for providing this valuable experience. Careers Coordinator Mrs Young said "I've been blown away by the support of our business partners and staff in school. The students were all engaged and enjoyed the experience, thank you from everyone at Sidmouth College."



Introduction to Work Experience

On Wednesday 13th October Year 10 were off timetable for the day taking part in an introduction to work experience. Activities 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 employers for joining us on the day.



Netball Season Kicks off

During the second week of term the U16 netball team kicked off the start of the sporting calendar with a long trip down to Brixham to play Churston Grammar in the SIS Netball Schools Cup. It was a closely fought match but sadly they did not progress to the next round, this time. Congratulations to Katie who was named Player of the Match and to Georgie and Hollie from our Sixth Form, who umpired their first match as part of their netball umpiring qualification.



Rugby Fixtures

It's been great to see the return of rugby fixtures this half term along with a host of extra curricular activities and clubs.

A highlight of the season so far was the under 16s, pictured below, who had their first fixture of the year against Colyton and were victorious. Well done to them all.



Students play in central tournament

On Thursday 7th October our Under 13s boys rugby team played in the Central Venue Touch Tournament. The tournament invites a number of local schools to one venue to allow teams to play against each other on one night at one venue. It gave the teams lots of experience and was a huge success. On the night the boys drew one game and lost the remaining 3, but Mr Williams commended the boys teamwork and improvement over the evening.

They are now preparing for more fixtures next half term and we look forward to sharing how they get on. Good luck to the boys.



Year 7 Rugby

Our Year 7 rugby team enjoyed their first fixture of the year this half term. They participated in a touch rugby competition with other East Devon schools.

On the night they picked up the laws and strategies quickly, which allowed them to play some great rugby at times and will be looking forward to full contact fixtures soon.

Well done to the team!



Sixth Form Refurbishment

Last term the Sixth Form held a fundraising week to raise money to improve the facilities in the Sixth Form common room and work space. The fundraising did incredibly well, raising £2000. Over the Summer holidays the money was put to good use. Work including dividing walls being taken down to open up the space, a complete redecoration in Sixth Form colours, new furniture being purchased and more working space added. This year we have a record breaking 80 students in Year 12 and 70 in Year 13, so the extra space will be well used by our Sixth Formers.



Students Volunteer at the Duck Derby

During the Summer Holidays a number of our Sixth Form students volunteered to help out at the famous Sidmouth Duck Derby.

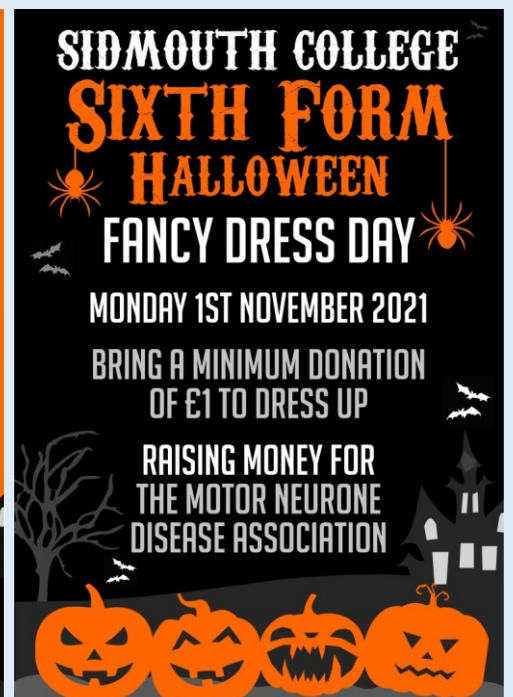
Students helped out on the day, keeping the ducks moving throughout the race and sorting them as they crossed the finish line. Students wore waders and got stuck in providing a fantastic help to the organisers. Well done to Reuben B, Jack F, Esme B, Izzy F, Ellie W, Emily M, Edmund H.



Sixth Form Bake Sale

On the first day back after half term the Sixth Form will be running a fundraising day for the Motor Neurone Disease Association. They will be in Halloween themed fancy dress (Sixth Form only) and will also be holding a Bake Sale. The sale will take place in the bandstand by the courts at breaktime and is open to all students. Please bring in some money on Monday 1st November to buy some sweet treats!

If anyone would like to make something Halloween themed for the bake sale donations cake are welcome, please bring these to the Sixth Form on Monday morning.



Christmas Card Competition

The College is running the Christmas Card Competition again this year, which is open to all students.

The winning design will be used as the official Sidmouth College Christmas card for 2021 and be sent to our various contacts and friends of the College.

The closing date is the 26th November 2021 and, once completed, designs need to be given to your Art teacher or to anyone in the Art Department for judging.

Design specifications:

- Design must be A4 or A5 size.
- Any media can be used such as paints, collage, ink, lino print, colouring pencils, felt pens, mixed media, photography, digital design.
- Must be 2D and able to be printed onto card.

We cannot wait to see your designs. Half term is a great opportunity to get your entry made. Be as creative and festive as possible!



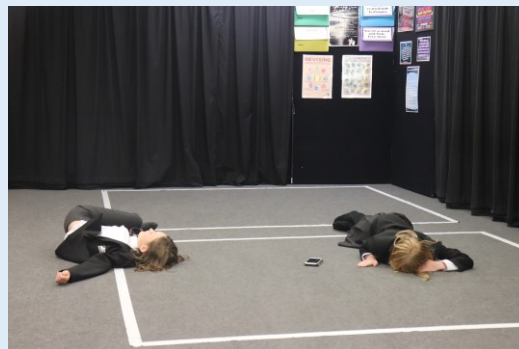
Youth Theatre Auditions for 'The Show Will Go On'

Miss Davies is very excited to launch the next Sidmouth Youth Theatre Production which will be a Compilation of extracts from West End shows old and new. Many students will have the opportunity to perform on the Manor Pavilion stage. Miss Davies is hoping to involve former alumni to contribute to 'The Show Will Go On' which will celebrate the variety of styles and range of diversity in the West End today as the theatre world starts to revive. The show will feature numbers from the classics of 'Matilda' & 'Les Miserables' to the new shows 'Cinderella', 'Hamilton', 'Six' and 'Dear Evan Hanson' and many more. If you were fortunate to see 'Let's Celebrate and Dream' in 2015 that celebrated 30 years of the Sidmouth Youth Theatre then you will know what to expect.

A compilation takes many hours to rehearse and many costumes to change into. This will be an exciting challenge which will be a joyous uplifting journey for the audience and a marked contrast to the last show before the Pandemic hit, the powerful and impactful 'Korczak'.

Auditions took place this week as enthusiastic students showcased their ability and challenged themselves to perform, hoping to become part of the cast. As always, the size of the stage and back stage areas do restrict how many can be involved, so the competition was fierce. It was fantastic to see so many students and the confidence they displayed.

Miss Davies now has the difficult task to cast the show and always encourages those who don't get in this time to try next year. Watch out for updates and information on when tickets will be available to purchase in early December. Information will be posted on the school website and the college Facebook page.





Primary Events

This term it was great to re start our events with pupils from our local Primary Schools. We hosted Sidbury and Sidmouth Primary for a PE cross country event and a multi skills session. On hand were our Sports Leaders, who led the activities and supported the visiting pupils. We look forward to more events like this during the year.



Primary Transition

This term Mrs Jenkins has been visiting our local primary schools to get to know the year 6 pupils that will be joining us next September.

On Thursday 14th October she was joined by Year 7 students Sophie, Theo and Elise on a visit to Newton Poppleford Primary School. The three students came from Newton Poppleford last year and went along to help deliver a workshop to Year 6 pupils about the transition from primary to secondary school, focusing on the emotions they may feel making this big step, and reassuring the pupils that it will be ok. They answered lots of the Year 6 pupils' questions and described a typical day and week at Sidmouth College. They also spoke about the extra-curricular clubs we offer.

They were brilliant with the younger ones and excellent ambassadors for the College. Well done to them!



Media Studies Enrichment

On Monday 27th September Year 10 and 12 Media Studies students were fortunate to meet Andrew Gwyn Davies who works in the TV and Film Industry.

Andrew shared some of his experiences of working in the industry, the roles and departments that exist and ways to enter the industry. All students commented on how eye-opening Andrew's visit was and how much they enjoyed hearing of his experiences.





Sixth form Sociology trip (Written by Roo Salih)

On Wednesday the 15th of September Year 12 and 13 Sociology students went on a trip to Clyst Vale School in Broadclyst with Sociology teacher, Mrs Jenkins.

The students went to meet Her Honour Judge Vanessa Francis who was appointed to her current role by the Queen in April 2019. The day consisted of a talk from Judge Francis, discussing her life and her previous careers, all of which led to her current career as a judge. Additionally, she discussed the sexism she faced from her teachers, she spoke about how being a solicitor was out of reach for her at school, let alone being a judge. After her talk she then went on to spend the rest of the session answering students' questions.

Students were informed about how long trials last, how final decisions are made in court by the Jury, misconceptions the media paints about her job and each of the problems she has witnessed with our criminal justice system. Students said the day was 'very interesting and informative' and they all learnt something new, for example, in England Judges do not use a gavel, that is false information painted by crime dramas and other media!



Drama Trip

During the Summer break, GCSE Drama students visited Plymouth's Theatre Royal with Miss Davies and Miss Collins to see 'Blood Brothers' by Willy Russell. This play is the set text for their Drama GCSE written paper, so to be able to see this production live was a vital experience and a support for their studies.

Blood Brothers tells the captivating and moving tale of twins who, separated at birth, grow up on opposite sides of the tracks, only to meet again with tragic consequences. The music includes the songs Bright New Day, Marilyn Monroe and the famous and emotional song Tell Me It's Not True. The actors brought the play to life, engaging the students and bringing back the magic of live theatre. In class we can talk about it and students can get up and work with the script, but to see professionals tackle the themes and create the characters always reveals the dynamics and deepens their understanding of the social, historical and cultural context of the play.

Hopefully a return to a regular programme of theatre visits will develop this year if Covid is kept under control! This was the first Theatre visit for 18 months and a welcome return to this enrichment extension to learning outside the classroom.



New Site Progress

Over the Summer holidays and this half term we have seen lots of progress made on our site after the completion of the new build.

Most of the hoarding has now come down, the ground levelled and top soil spread. Paths and lighting have gone in and new hardstanding areas for students to use at break and lunch have been created. Grass seed and turf will be going down next and we look forward seeing the site complete in the near future.



Art and Photography Stars of the Month



Year 11 Aim Higher Day

On Monday 27th September 2021 all Year 11 students took part in an Aim Higher event. The aim of the event was to equip students with the skills and knowledge to start considering transitions for Post 16 education. Students found out about options for future and higher education, including apprenticeships. They also looked at qualification levels and discussed labour market information to make them aware of where there are growth areas for employment.

Students had the opportunity to explore what jobs may suit them by carrying out a task on 'Careers Pilot', they then had the task of looking at jobs or courses they may be interested in with the help of Martin, our Careers Adviser from Future Smart Careers.

They finally examined how to apply for jobs or post 16 courses and started writing CVs. This session will be followed up by mock interviews with employers later this term, using the application forms students completed on the day. All students in Year 11 will have been offered a Careers Interview by the end of this term to further support their post 16 choices. Mrs Young is available in room 103 on a drop in basis for students and on nyoung@sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk for parents if there are any questions about transition choices.

Ten Tors

We were very pleased to start our Ten Tors 2022 training on Saturday 16th October, when 26 Year 10 students, 4 members of staff and 2 volunteers set off for an 18 mile circular route around East Devon. We walked in beautiful sunshine and everyone made it back in a good time. The photograph shows some of the group having a rest and refreshments on the cliff near to Ladram Bay Holiday Park.



We will walk again in November, when we plan to go to Dartmoor. Students must look on their emails and on the Student Bulletin for information. If your child has signed up for Ten Tors, parents and carers will receive an email.

Face Coverings

We would like to remind you that after half term students still be required to wear face coverings in communal areas at the College including walking to and from lessons. Please make sure you have a facemask with you when you return to school in November.



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