

# Sidmouth College Newsletter

Autumn Term 2016: Edition 2, 16th December 2016

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Hello and welcome to this, our second College newsletter of the year, one full to bursting with a wealth of news, updates, stories and successes that have happened in College since October. I hope that you all enjoy catching up with what has been going on and, of course, taking note of one or two events for your diaries for 2017!

I have been immensely proud of Sidmouth College students and their many achievements and contributions this term. We have had a really full and successful term. I would also like to recognise the phenomenal efforts of the staff within the College. We are so fortunate to have a group of staff who are fully committed to ensuring student success both within lessons and through enrichment opportunities. My last thankyou goes to you, the parents, for your support for staff and pupils throughout this term. Our partnership is so important in ensuring every young person has the opportunity to grow fully and reach their potential and beyond.

It would be wrong of me to mention success without making reference to our recent OFSTED report. As a College we were delighted with the outcome of the inspection. The College continues to be recognised as a 'Good' school and one that has many outstanding features. To gain such a positive report within an OFSTED framework that is so much more demanding than the previous one and also in such testing times for all schools in terms of financial support from the government, is a testament to the hard work, dedication and commitment across the school community. For me personally, the highlights were the comments throughout the report that praised our outstanding students, without whom the college would not have made the rapid improvements that were recognised by OFSTED across all areas of the establishment.

Our annual Carol Service on Wednesday evening was a true celebration of the meaning of the festive season and showcased the talent of both students and staff here at the College. It was a fabulous example of collaboration across the whole college community with students of all ages working alongside staff to produce such a memorable evening. I would like to thank parents, governors, neighbours and friends of the College who came along on a lovely December evening to support this important event in the school's calendar.

Whilst reflecting on the satisfaction gained from a successful end to 2016 it is also worth looking forward to the New Year and events coming up in 2017. Straight after the holidays we will be embarking on a period of trial examinations with all Year 11 and Year 13 students. The exam period starts for Year 11 students on Monday 9th January, and for Year 13 on Monday 16th January. It is important that GCSE and A Level students spend some time revising and preparing over the next two weeks, but it's also vital that they have time to enjoy the holiday and recharge their batteries too.

I hope that everyone gets as much time as possible to be together and share the importance of the Christmas period, I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year and look forward to seeing everyone back here safe and well on the 3rd January 2017. Merry Christmas!

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## Carol Service

On Wednesday evening, our annual Carol Service took place at the Parish Church in Sidmouth and was a huge success. The packed congregation was treated to a great variety of festive entertainment including the College upper school singers, Year 7 readers, Year 10 ensemble and the Staff Choir, as well as a sketch performed Sixth Formers and Miss Hext.

Our retiring collection raised £258.50 for the Teenage Cancer Trust, so many thanks to all who attended and supported this event and a huge well done to all staff and students, and particularly to Mr Hickman and Miss Hext, who helped make the evening, yet again, one to remember.



## Mr Wickins and the Hairy Hooligans' perform live!

On the last day of term students were treated to a festive send off when they attended the Christmas celebration assembly. The highlight being the return of Mr Hickman and his band that have been renamed 'Mr Wickins and the Hairy Hooligans'. Including Mr Hickman on lead vocals, keyboard and guitar, Mr Jolley and Mr Birch on guitar and Mr Wickins on the drums. The band performed a host of Christmas songs and students had a blast. To see more photographs and to watch a video of the performance, visit the College facebook page at [www.sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk](http://www.sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk)



## Sixth Form Christmas Tree Carry

Following a long-held College tradition, our Sixth Form students could be found manhandling a large Christmas tree through town on 30th November, all in aid of a good cause. They had collected the tree from Wyevale Garden Centre (who had generously donated it) and then navigated a route, on foot, through Woolbrook and the town centre, along the Esplanade and back to College through the Byes, collecting money from passers-by as they went. They raised £60 which will all go towards putting on a party for residents at a local care home.







### SCA welcome Year 7 with Christmas Party!

To congratulate the new Year 7s on such a fantastic first term at Sidmouth College, the Sidmouth College Association (SCA) decided to hold a celebratory Christmas party to allow them to let their hair down and have some fun before the end of term. SCA members and parents Emma & Russell Gray provided a DJ set and lights, MC'd the event and created a great party atmosphere with music and games. Drinks and a pick and mix were available, as well as lots of party tunes to get everyone in the dancing mood!



We'd like to thank the SCA for all their efforts to put on such a great event. As well as raising money to buy extra resources and equipment for the College, the SCA also use their funds to give back to the students and provide fun and enjoyable experiences to enrich their time at Sidmouth College. We'd also like to thank the staff that came along and supported the event. Students in Year 7 really appreciated the party and it was a great way to round off a successful Autumn Term. We look forward to future events in 2017!



### Christmas Jumper Day!

Over the past few years the last day of term before Christmas has been celebrated with a Christmas Jumper Day. As well as being fun and festive, the day also raises money for Save the Children ahead of the Christmas period. As usual, we saw a vast array of bright and bold jumpers from students and staff. Students made a fantastic effort and we saw a great selection of jumpers and costumes worn. In total as a College we raised a fantastic £520 which will all go to Save the Children. Well done everyone!



### College staff get festive in music video!

After the success of last year's Staff Christmas Video, Media Studies teacher Mrs Jenkins tasked a group of eager year 8 students to plan and film a new version for this year. The film was played in assembly on the 16th December and went down brilliantly with students! To watch the video go to the Sidmouth College website at [www.sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk/staff-christmas-video.html](http://www.sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk/staff-christmas-video.html). Well done to Molly, Phoebe, Charlotte, Isla, Naomi, Ellie, Hayley, Grace, Eloise & Kate.







### Inter-House Rugby and Netball

During December Inter-house Rugby and Hockey matches took place for years 7, 8 and 9. As usual, students were highly competitive and eager to gain the title of House Champions and take home the House Cup. Over the two days students in both sports played well and the PE Department commended the level of teamwork, skill and sportsmanship that students displayed.

Winners were announced after the matches and the cups were presented.. The results were as follows: 1st Grenville, 2nd Raleigh, 3rd Drake and 4th Scott. Well done all!



### Cross Country

It's been another fantastic season for cross-country at the College. 130 of our students competed against teams from 10 other East Devon schools at the East Devon Cross Country Championships held at Bickton College on 16th November in the knowledge that the first 16 finishers from each category would be chosen to represent East Devon at the East Devon vs Exeter fixture. On a glorious winters day, fifteen of our students represented the East Devon area across the age groups competing over a very demanding course. Year 7 Georgie McNally finished in 24th place, Year 7 boy Sam Harris finished in 26th place. From the junior girls Kate Marriot came a fantastic 3rd and in the junior boys Josh Miller also came 3rd. Will Bond came 11th for the junior boys. In the intermediate groups Hannah Vicary placed 9th and Toby Garrick came 4th. Congratulations to all those who ran. They represented themselves and the College to the highest standards of performance and behaviour. Generally, the first 12 qualify automatically with a further four discretionary runners at the County Championships on Saturday 21st January at Stover School.



### U14 Netball finals

On Thursday 24th November our U14 netballers travelled to Exeter College to represent East Devon at the Devon County finals. The players worked tirelessly throughout the day and played against Maynards, Ivybridge, Pilton and Teign School. After 2 wins, a draw and 1 loss the team progressed through to the semi-finals where they lost by only a few goals to St Peters C of E School and Park School, eventually finishing in 4th place. The team are now looking forward to the U15 State School tournament in March. Well done girls!







### Year 11 Impact Day

On Thursday 24th November, Year 11 spent the day off timetable and taking part in a series of workshops hosted by outside agencies including the Army and the Nation Citizenship Service. Students completed a range of team building challenges set by Exeter Army Careers including moving items across ravines and working their way through obstacles in blindfolds. The day also included the 'Five Lives' workshop, which gave students the chance to listen to the stories of regular people who have overcome struggles such as alcohol addiction and self harm. After hearing their stories, students were able to ask questions and speak with the visiting guests to learn about the dangers of addiction and substance abuse. The day had a positive impact on students and we'd like to thank all the visiting guests who made it so successful.



### Year 11 Awards Evening

Around 60 ex-Year 11 students attended an Awards ceremony on 1st December to celebrate the achievements of their GCSE year at the College. In front of a packed audience of parents, staff, governors and guests, individual students received subject prizes for achievement and progress and House prizes were awarded by Heads of House. Community awards were presented by the Sid Vale Association, Sidmouth Lions Club, the Thelma Hulbert Gallery, the Ogden Trust and Waitrose of Sidmouth.

The Sid Vale Association presented three categories of award: the Prize for Excellence in Geography went to Oliver Turton and Isabelle Reed; the Prize for Excellence in History went to Darcie Cole and Emily Cole. Shalom Solman and Evie Seller were awarded the Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Citizenship. Meanwhile, Emily Vicary received the Waitrose Prize for Food Technology and Todd Whitrow was awarded the Thelma Hulbert Award for Achievement in the Arts. The Sidmouth Lions Shield for Achievement and Endeavour was presented to Safi Smith and Emily Vicary and the Sheelagh Michelmores Cup for Outstanding Achievement in Music was awarded to Charlotte Dance. Finally, the Pinney Cup for the Best Overall GCSE Results was awarded to Connie Champain and Sam Laurenti. The Bradford's Cup for Best Overall Contribution to the Year Group went to Alastair Papworth, who unfortunately could not make it to the awards evening.

Principal, Mr Ingham-Hill said, "This year group of students achieved a phenomenal set of exam results last summer and I am incredibly proud to further recognise and celebrate their successes this evening. We wish them all the very best with their further education and careers."







## Youth Theatre Rehearsals!

Sidmouth Youth Theatre are busy rehearsing for their next major production; 'Happy Days' will hit the Manor Pavilion stage from the 1st to the 4th February 2017. This new musical, set in 1950s, is based on the TV series of the same name and tells the story of the kids' plan to save Arnolds diner from demolition.



Audiences are in for a treat: a cast of 70, aged 12–20yrs, and a 12-strong band will bring the stage alive with upbeat songs, bright costumes and characters we all know and love. Zak Robinson will star in the leading role as the Fonz, supported by Callum Burns as Richie, Sam Hunt as Potsie, Vicky Wyant as Pinky, Jamie Taylor as Ralph, and Joe Buckland as Chachi.

Tickets are £12 for adults and £6 for under 16s and are on sale now in the College Hall at lunchtimes and at 'Tasty Baguette' in Sidmouth. Come and see the talented youth of Sidmouth in this feel good production!



## Book Buzz for Year 7

In order to encourage students to read, Sidmouth College gives the new Year 7s their very own book every year. They get to choose from a selection provided by Book Buzz in September and then pester Mrs Harrison until they are in!

Well, the books are in and Year 7s were very excited about receiving their free read! Don't forget to share with family and friends to inspire them too.

We would like to thank the SCA for their donation towards the books, without their help we would be unable to provide this excellent resource to our students.



## Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying week took place during November and the latest craze to sweep the nation was the 'Mannequin Challenge'. The challenge aimed to raise awareness against bullying and students were able to get involved during house assemblies when they participated in their own challenge. Students struck poses displaying scenarios of bullying or friendship and had to hold the pose for 90 seconds. Students also pledged that for the



entirety of Anti-Bully week they only say positive and kind words to one another. To watch our Mannequin Challenge video visit the College Facebook page at: [www.facebook.co.uk/sidmouthcollege](http://www.facebook.co.uk/sidmouthcollege)

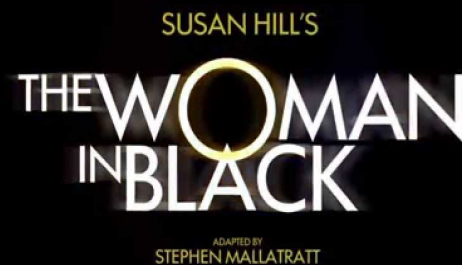




## The Women in Black

On the 17th November Miss Davies took 36 students in Year 10 and 13 to the Northcott Theatre in Exeter to see the original live production of 'The Women in Black'. The plot surrounds a lawyer obsessed with a curse that he believes has been cast over him and his family by a Woman in Black and a sceptical young actor who helps him tell his terrifying story and exorcise the fear that grips him. It all begins innocently enough, but then, as they reach further into his darkest memories, they find themselves caught up in a world of eerie marshes and moaning winds.

Students were gripped from the start by the terrifying thriller and were all inspired by the techniques used to achieve atmosphere, illusion and horror on the stage. Although slightly unnerved, it was a great show and one they'll never forget.



## Neighbourhood Plan

All of our students recently took part in the Young Persons' Survey for the Neighbourhood plan. The Neighbourhood plan will help to make the Sid Valley a better place to live & work, now and in the future. It will look at a range of areas, as there have already been surveys completed by clubs, business' & households. It is felt that young people need to have a voice as they are our future and the plan will influence the area for all. The following students worked hard with the young persons steering group, thinking about how we should implement the survey, what questions should be asked and how the survey should look: Tom West, David Luxton, Maciej Osinski, Mary-Jayne Babbington, Alex Hammond, Richard Papworth, Jacob Green and Izzy Marshal.

Several of the students have volunteered to feedback to the Town Council after the surveys have been analysed. All students who took part in the survey were entered into a Prize draw and we would like to announce the following winners.

<b>Kersley Sutton</b>	<b>Year 11 Raleigh</b>	<b>£50 Harbour Hotel &amp; Spa Voucher</b>
<b>Lauren Coleridge</b>	<b>Year 10 Drake</b>	<b>£25 Sidmouth Hotels Voucher</b>
<b>Xander Hancock</b>	<b>Year 7 Grenville</b>	<b>Scott Cinemas - Family ticket to cinema</b>
<b>Harrison Todd</b>	<b>Year 9 Scott</b>	<b>Book and Pen</b>



## Mock Interviews

This term our year 11 students all had the opportunity to experience a mock interview, which enabled them to practise the interview skills they have learnt. All students have now received feedback to help them identify any improvements that could be made.

Kirsty Trude commented that 'The forms were better quality than in previous years' this demonstrates the effort that many students put into the application forms.

We would like to thank the following for the time they spent Interviewing our students Dan Coulson - Sidmouth Hotels, Sgt Keast - Royal Navy, April Rose, Emily Skinner - Exeter College, Sally Mynard - Alpine Park Cottages, Nick Taylor- Devon & Cornwall Police, Anne Marie Taylor - Brend Hotels, Steph Kinsella & Kirsty Trude - The Donkey Sanctuary, Edward Blackmore - Fields of Sidmouth, Christina Hendie- Cornwall College group, Professor Bob Miles, Tim Swarbrick , Denese Molyneux & Sasha Hargrave - Waitrose.



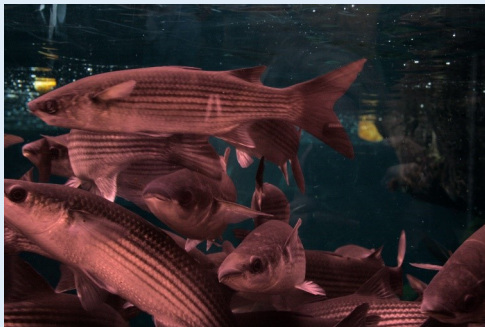




## Bristol GCSE Photography trip

On Wednesday 19th October GCSE photography students in years 10 & 11 went on a trip to Bristol with Mrs Roberts to record images for their coursework. Students visited 3 key locations including the Millennium Square, which was full of interesting reflections, The M Shed museum and the Bristol aquarium. Each location gave students a unique opportunity to take some shots of a variety of subjects. Students especially enjoyed getting creative in the aquarium, using the reflections and colour to enhance their pictures. See below some examples of the images students captured from the trip and some images that have since been edited from the photoshoots.

Photo by Izzy Wright



Photos by Jess Green



## London Art & Photography trip

On Friday 25th November the Art and Photography A level students had the opportunity to visit London galleries to see two exhibitions. Students visited the Elton John Private collection in the new switch house building attached to the turbine hall at the Tate Modern. The exhibition was packed full of iconic images from the photography world which were inspiring for students to see. All the work was produced in the darkroom and using SLR cameras, the exhibition showcased lots of experimental techniques. We then made our way across London by boat, and also on foot, recording ideas and imagery along the way. On arrival at the Royal Academy students were then able to feast on the abstract expressionism exhibition which was passionate, explosive and even at times calm. Many students were left questioning 'what is art?' It is still a topic for conversation in lessons. We were very proud of our students and their attitudes and intellectual approaches to the learning and the experience.







## History trip

This year the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM) in Exeter acquired the Seaton Down Hoard, a collection of over 22,000 Roman coins found within the College's catchment area. Sidmouth College was a supporting stakeholder of this acquisition and have developed a working partnership to celebrate the return of this historic find to Devon.

As part of this partnership, we were offered a Conservation Workshop at RAMM for A-Level students. On Thursday 3rd November five Year 12s were lucky enough to attend this workshop. The workshop involved discovering the job of a conservator and the science behind the process of conserving historical objects, like the coins of the Seaton Hoard. Later in the day the students were given the opportunity to start the process of conserving one of the coins. This involved using a microscope and specialised equipment to remove areas of corrosion. Hopefully these coins will be some of the ones displayed.



## Sociology Trip (Report by Year 13 Student)

On Wednesday 9th November, 30 AS and A Level Sociology students went to the historic and beautiful Exeter Castle for the Social Sciences Fair titled 'Proper Victims', which focused on the taboo topic of rape. The day was split into 2 parts, both of which were run by two University of Exeter lecturers. The first half of the day was about the black letter of the law and the law around rape. After the presentation we were sent out to discuss our views on whether the law was right or wrong on the matter.

After lunch the second part of the day was about the police and how serious crimes such a rape are dealt with. In this presentation we watched a video featuring victims of rape and what the police had done. This was fascinating and an important part of the day, it helped us to understand the consequences of crime and how victims are supported. After watching the video, we were once again sent out to discuss what had been said and whether maybe the police had to do more to support victims and investigate the crimes.

It was an interesting and though provoking day and we all came back with lots to discuss.

Mrs Jenkins said "All students were fantastic ambassadors for Sidmouth College and it was a worthwhile and educational trip that students found very thought provoking and interesting"







### Primary Schools visit for Hindu Workshop

On Friday 4th November Sidmouth College hosted a day of Hinduism workshops led by Sushma Sahajpal. Sushma is a British born Indian Hindu with a depth and breadth of knowledge and experience of India and its religions. In the morning Sushma led workshops for primary school students; they learned about Indian music, the story of Diwali and had a go at yoga, learning about stillness and harmony.

In the afternoon Sushma spoke to A level Philosophy and Ethics students about the concept of God in Hinduism before working with Year 10 students exploring yoga and Hindu stories.

Sushma's visit was part of Interfaith week and was organised by Devon SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for RE) and Devon Faith and Belief Forum. The visit was hosted by Mary Hext, Head of RE and Humanities at Sidmouth College and Ed Pawson and Jeremy Roberts on behalf of Devon SACRE. The event opened up different ways of seeing our world and was a colourful and vibrant introduction to Hindu thinking and practice.



### Ten Tors

It has been another busy term for our training Ten Tors students. Over 30 students and a mixture of adult staff and volunteers have enjoyed three training walks on Dartmoor this term. The clear and sunny weather conditions in October and December made for some easy walking, but in November thick fog needed some careful navigation skills. We look forward to re-commencing training with day walks on the Moor in January and February, before our two camping weekends in March and April. Many thanks to our volunteers and parents for their support.



Look out for a featured article in January's edition of 'Sidmouth magazine', on Sidmouth College's involvement in Ten Tors for over 30 years. The article includes photographs from the past 3 decades and interviews with this years group. Our next training walk takes place on Dartmoor again, on Saturday 14th January.



### Children in Need

On Friday 18th November Sidmouth College students had a non-uniform day to raise money for Children in Need. Students paid £1 each and as a school we raised a brilliant £701. A great effort! All the money raised will go to a cause and help children across the UK.







## SCA buy new kits

This term the Sidmouth College Association (SCA) have purchased new PE kit for Sidmouth College's sports teams as well as new seating benches for the Sixth Form common room. As a College we are incredibly grateful to the SCA for all their fundraising efforts. It is with these additional funds that we are able to purchase extra resources and items that have a huge impact on our students. We thank them for their continued support.



## Examination Certificates

### GCSE

If you were unable to attend the recent Awards Evening can you please make arrangements to collect these from the Examinations Office as soon as possible.

### A Level

These are now in school and can be collected from the Examinations Office. Someone else can sign for and collect them on your behalf with your written permission.

We still have hundreds of uncollected exam certificates from previous years. If you don't remember collecting yours, email the Exams Office at:

[exams@sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto:exams@sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk) stating your name (maiden name if applicable) date of birth, and the year that you took your exams and we will have a look for you!

## Do you know how to keep your children safe on the internet?



### Session for Parents and Carers

At Sidmouth College.  
31<sup>st</sup> January 6 PM - 7.15 PM  
Please email to confirm attendance - [enquiries@sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk)

### For practical advice on:

- Talking to your children
- Protecting Personal Information
- Privacy Settings
- Parental Controls
- Legal Issues



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## SIDMOUTH YOUTH THEATRE

present

# HAPPY DAYS

A NEW MUSICAL

WED 1ST - SAT 4TH FEB

7.30PM

MATINEE SAT 4TH

2.30PM

at  
**THE MANOR  
PAVILION THEATRE**



Adults £12 Under 16 £6

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