



Sidmouth College Newsletter



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As we are approaching the end of the Autumn term I find myself reflecting on the fantastic achievements that have taken place. The newsletter is packed full with a wide range of events, activities and opportunities that the students have been involved in.

September started with a shared vision to students and staff for the College, a continued raising of expectations and a focus on achievement. All staff have high expectations and aspirations for the young people at the College and students respond well every day. Our priority has been and always will be the quality of

teaching and learning, and I am proud to say that I see consistently high-quality lessons every day. If we get it right in the classroom every day then we will all see the rewards in the outcomes and ultimately better life choices for all our students.

The end of a busy term is always an important opportunity to recognise the hard work of all our stakeholders. I would like to firstly thank the incredible staff at Sidmouth College who have all worked tirelessly each day to provide not only fantastic opportunities in the classroom for learning but also a wide range of enrichment, many of these you will see in the newsletter. Secondly I would like to thank the students. I have been immensely proud of Sidmouth College students and their many achievements and contributions this term. My last thank you goes to you, the parents & carers, your support for staff and students throughout this term is really appreciated. Our partnership is so important in ensuring every young person has the opportunity to grow fully and reach their potential and beyond.

I hope that you enjoy reading the newsletter as it is 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. I am writing this following the fantastic Carol Concert that took place on Wednesday evening. This was a real celebration of the meaning of the festive season and showcased the talent of students 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 chilly December evening to support this important event in the College calendar. Special thanks must go to Mr Morgan who has given up hours of his time to ensure that we were treated to such a high quality musical event.

After this long term during which students and staff have worked incredibly hard, everyone thoroughly deserves a restful and relaxing break. Enjoy the celebrations over the festive period and I look forward to welcoming you all back on Wednesday 4th January.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

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Christmas Carol Service

After three years of being unable to hold the Carol Service, it finally returned on Wednesday 14th December 2022. The 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 student choir, the College band, instrumental solos, student readers and a nativity sketch.

Many thanks to all who attended and supported this event and a huge well done to all staff and students, particularly to Mr Morgan and Miss McCloskey who helped make the evening one to remember.



Christmas Fair

On Saturday 3rd December the Sidmouth College Sixth Form held a very successful Christmas Fair in the College Hall. We were thrilled to have over 30 stallholders selling a huge range of items; there was a raffle with lots of great prizes and lots of games hosted by the Sixth Form.

The chocolate tombola raised over £100 and was very popular with the students and visitors. A huge thank you to all the parents, friends and staff who donated chocolate for the tombola.

The school was packed with visitors and in total the Sixth Form raised a fantastic £1,163. All the money raised will go to the Sixth Form's nominated charity of the year, The Motor Neurone Disease Association.





Christmas Card

After the success over the last two years, the College decided to run the Christmas Card Competition again, giving students in all year groups the opportunity to enter their designs.



Students were given the task of designing a card using media of their choice, with the winning design being the official Sidmouth College Christmas card for 2022.



We had an array of creative entries to choose from, which

was a difficult task for Mrs Roberts and Mrs Parsons. We are pleased to share that the winners are sisters Gracie in Year 10 and Etienne in Year 7 whose design featured a Christmas scene, with donations for the local food bank under the tree, which is a project the College have been involved in this year. This will now be reproduced and used by the College for 2022.

Christmas Tree Carry

A long held tradition for our Sixth Form students is the annual Christmas Tree Carry. Our tree was kindly donated by Kings Garden Centre in Sidmouth. Our Sixth Form began their two mile trek from Long Park, through the town centre and along the sea front carrying a large Christmas Tree and bringing it back to the College via the byes.

Along the way students collected donations from passers by to raise money for the Motor Neurone Disease Association. Well done to the students.



Christmas Cupcake Competition

This term the Food and Nutrition Department organised a Christmas cupcake decorating competition for all students and staff. Students were tasked with baking a batch of cupcakes, decorating them in the most original Christmas design they could come up with and then selecting the best one to be brought in and judged. We saw over twenty entries which all looked delicious; making not eating them even more difficult! The winning designs were from . Congratulations to all the students who entered.





Drama Theatre Visit

In November GCSE Drama students visited the Lighthouse Centre for the Arts in Poole to watch a performance of their set text 'Blood Brothers'.

Willy Russell's legendary musical tells the captivating and moving tale of twins separated at birth, who grow up on opposite sides of the tracks, only to meet again with tragic consequences. Set in Liverpool in the 1970's and 1980's this story exposes the class divide and the decline of the industrial North.

In their written exam paper they will be given a specific extract from the play to focus on. They must consider how they will perform as the characters to reveal the themes and intentions and they must show they understand the social, historical and cultural contexts of the time.

Students have studied the play in detail, working practically and making decisions about their focus and the performance skills they could apply.

It was beneficial for the students to see professional performers in the roles they have studied and to examine how the professional actors establish and bring the characters to life on stage.

Students comments included:

Seeing Blood Brothers live really brought the script to life

Even though we know the story inside out, lots of us were emotionally affected at the end

The set really showed the difference between the lives of the working class in comparison to the middle class in Liverpool in the 1970's

The actors who played Mickey and Eddie were brilliant at playing children aged 7

I would love to see it again!

I went from laughing one minute to crying the next



Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday 9th December we held our annual Christmas Jumper Day. As well as being fun and festive, the day raises money for Save the Children charity ahead of the Christmas period. As usual, we saw a vast array of bright and bold jumpers from students and staff.



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Rugby

Congratulations to our year 8 under 13s rugby team for playing out a thrilling 25 - 25 draw with St Peter's School in November.

A special mention to students Alfie G for scoring 2 tries and also to Dylan M for winning player of the match!

The team have played exceptionally well this term and are going from strength to strength.



Cross Country

Well done to all the students in years 7, 8, 9 and 10 who competed at the cross country event at Bicton on Wednesday 9th November. The students who qualified did exceptionally well, all completing the course in good times, with many personal bests. A special mention to Harry R who finished 12th in his group and qualified for the East Devon Vs Exeter round. Well done to Year 10s Harrison W, Harry J, Chloe S and Gracie G who also qualified.



Student Success

Year 11 student Charlie recently returned from an "experience of a lifetime". He was selected to represent Devon Cricket Under 16's for their development tour to South Africa, playing against representative teams in Mpumalanga and Western Province. Catching up with the PE team this term, Charlie reflected; "It absolutely developed my cricket but the experience also helped with life skills such as independence".



Huge well done, Charlie, for not only being selected to tour but also holding your own out there against challenging opponents. Several graduates of this tour in the past have gone on to play professional cricket and even gain international recognition so this experience will be invaluable.

Netball

The College U16 netball team played and beat Colyton Grammar School 8-5 in November. After drawing and losing the first three quarters, the team showed real depth and a fantastic amount of team spirit.

Outstanding leadership skills from Lauren and Harriet and goals from Elle, Sienna and Flo. Player of the match was well deserved and awarded to Matilda.





Primary Sports

On Thursday 3rd November the College hosted a Primary Sports session for pupils in Years 2 and 3. Across the day the pupils from Sidbury, Sidmouth and Newton Poppleford primaries took part in PE circuits which helped them to develop their PE skills. Well done to our amazing sports leaders who led the activities and were excellent role models.



Year 7 and 8 Hockey

A massive well done to the U14 girls' hockey team who attended a Hockey coaching session and tournament at The King's School at the start of term. In wet and windy conditions, the girls excelled themselves exploring new challenging skills and competed in their first hockey tournament as a team, winning two of their four games; one against Cullompton.

Top defender was Katie with some great saves in a 2v1 situation with Isla and Daisy being our top scorers of the tournament.



Rugby

Well done to the U14 boys' rugby team who beat Colyton six tries to one at the start of term. In challenging conditions, Sidmouth played pragmatic and simple rugby.

They won the battle of collisions to keep possession which allowed them to score some superb individual and team tries.

Scorers were Harry x3, Nye, Sean and a superb solo effort from Kayden who ran his try in from his own half. Not bad for a front row forward!





London Trip

On Thursday 3rd November a group of GCSE and A level Art and Photography students and the Art Department embarked on a day trip to London.

They had an early start leaving school at 6.30am, but despite traffic and detours in London saw the King as well as many famous sights during our coach journey to the galleries! We visited the Cezanne exhibition in Tate Modern and all students enjoyed having the chance to see such a range of modern art in such a huge gallery setting. Later in the day we visited The Photographers Gallery in Oxford Circus where we saw some excellent exhibitions of Chris Killip's work and An Alternative History of Photography.

All students took photos, made sketches and notes, and gathered resources from this day for their coursework projects. The students agreed that although the day was long it was a memorable and useful one!



Principal's Commendations

This term Mrs Parsons has continued to reward deserving students who have excelled, or achieved something above and beyond expectations, with a Principal's Commendation.

For the second half of the Autumn term the Principal's Commendations have gone to the following students:

- Will B, for his extraordinary bravery at Sidmouth Beach helping to save 2 members of the public who were struggling in the sea.
- Isla D, Oscar S and Jack P for their contribution to the Remembrance day celebrations by playing the last post for the College.

Mrs Parsons presented the students with their commendations during the last week of term. Well done to all the students who received this special recognition.



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Sidmouth's Got Talent Auditions

During this half term, auditions for a new event entitled 'Sidmouth's Got Talent' have taken place. It was great to see so many students across all year groups get involved and audition.

Student Heads of House then had the tricky job of shortlisting just 12 acts for the final. The main event is due to take place after Christmas after school and more information will be available closer to the time. It is sure to be an entertaining night with student acts including a comedian, singers, dancers and a gymnast. A special staff performance will also be taking place, all judged by our guest judging panel and hosts.

In the meantime, the finalists have time to rehearse their acts. Well done to everyone who came along and auditioned, you were all brilliant.



Book Buzz

Sidmouth College aim to encourage students to develop a love of reading throughout their time here with us.

We start by giving a free book to every year 7 student purchased via Book Buzz; they get to choose from a selection in September and then wait with anticipation for them to be delivered in October/ November but due to high demand the books only just arrived on Friday.

Now sorted, the books have been delivered to classes creating a vibe of excitement. Happy Reading!



Geography Eco-House Competition

Mrs Gill was extremely impressed by the efforts made by all the Year 9 students who produced models for the Eco-House competition this term. She said the quality was like I've never seen before and choosing winners was so difficult. The winners were:

Lara V – with an outstanding and very intricate model showing careful planning and attention to detail and Bengi E – for a 'reusable' Lego design and an absolutely outstanding write up about the sustainable features of the model. Runners up were Poppy S, Atheana F, Nye PD, Beatte DT, Moss R, Ella M, Evie, Jude B, Kieron H, Freddie H and Gabe M.





Remembrance

In the week running up to Remembrance Sunday, the Art Department created a remembrance installation made from over 500 poppies hanging in a curtain. Each tutor group was given a set of poppies to write messages of remembrance on, these were then brought together on pieces of string and hung side by side. Students shared some lovely messages on their poppies and they are on display in reception for everyone to see.

The College also took part in a two minutes silence at 11am, with students Oscar, Isla and Jack playing 'The Last Post and Reveille' in the centre of the College grounds for all to hear.



Food Bank Donations

In the run up to Christmas the College tasked every tutor group with putting together a box of essentials to be delivered to the local food bank. This included donations from Christmas dinner items, to toiletries and nappies for those who may be struggling at this time of year. Well done to all the students who got behind the idea and to all the families who donated.



Children in Need

On Friday 18th November the whole school wore non-uniform to raise money for children in need. In total we raised £742 for the charity which is a fantastic achievement. Thank you to everyone who donated!



Year 7 Disco

On Thursday 15th December the Student Heads of House hosted a Year 7 disco to celebrate the last week of term before the holidays began. SHOH hosted games and dance-offs which the Year 7s loved. They were supported by the music department tech team students who set up lights and music for the event. Refreshments were also sold to raise money for house charities and in total £200 was raised. Well done to the students involved.





Duke of Edinburgh

This term six students in the Sixth Form completed their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award and received their certificates. Well done to Will, Toby, Jacob, Sam, Henry and Nola.

Students in KS4 also received certificates for their Bronze Award in the last week of term.

Well done to Jacob S, Cameron V, Jack P, Toby M, Kobie L, Kyra L, Grace H, Emily D, Lucas O'C, Freddi B, Lucy W, Tilly B, Ayla C, Jack B, Malena U, Roman M, Leyla H, Thomas F and Harriet K.



Ten Tors

Students and staff completed the second Ten Tors training walk this half term, heading out onto Dartmoor on Saturday 12th November. Twenty Six students took part in a circular route from Okehampton Camp, accompanied by six staff and volunteers. Everyone successfully completed the walk in good time.

On Sunday 11th December, the 45 mile team of students completed a training session on the Moor in very cold conditions, despite the weather, it was a very successful day. Training continued on 11th December for the final session of the term.





Peace Poster Competition

On Friday 9th December we were delighted to celebrate the amazing art work created and entered into the Lions Club International peace poster competition. The theme for this year was 'Lead with Compassion'. Our three winners enjoyed receiving certificates and prizes and meeting the team from Sidmouth's Lions Club.

First place went to Florry M, second place to Alphie O'B and third place to Chloe H, all in year 7. The Lions commented on the use of colour, composition and responding to what they thought was a challenging theme. In lessons we had distilled some of the words and discussed how these words could be applied to visuals, the entries were then completed at home.

There were lots of brilliant entries and we were delighted to hear that all were enjoyed by the judging panel. Florry's entry has now been sent off for judging in the regional round and was also given special recognition by the district governor Lesley Chudley. Art teachers Mrs Chapple Hyam and Mrs Roberts are very proud of the commitment by all students who entered and we would like to thank the Lions for this opportunity and for funding the brilliant prizes.



Mock Interviews

During November all students in Year 11 had the opportunity to take part in a Mock Interview as part of their Careers enrichment programme.

Last week all students in Year 11 had a mock interview with visiting local employers. Across the week we welcomed Nick from the Royal Marines, Jay from Exeter College, Anna, Sarah and Caroline from Live West, Harriet From Kier Construction, Kevin from Staggs, Terry from Exell, Edward from Fields of Sidmouth, Anne Marie from Brend Hotels, Dan from Building Greater Exeter, Katherine, Scott and Alex from Bicton College, Lauren from JCP, Denese from Molyneux.

The employers feedback was that the students were really positive and did exceptionally well. Students said that they all felt much more confident after their interviews, which will help them to prepare for post-16 and work beyond education.





Primary Transition Programme

This term Mrs Jenkins has been visiting our feeder primary schools as part of our transition programme. At the start of November she went to Newton Poppleford Primary School with Year 7s Barney, Tallulah and Elsie. They were all fantastic student ambassadors for Sidmouth College, answering lots of questions and giving advice to the Year 6s.

Later on in the term, Mrs Jenkins, along with Seb, Jake, Charlotte and Poppy, went along to Sidbury Primary School. Mrs Jenkins said that they represented the College fabulously and helped put the pupils at ease about their transition to the College next September.



Tree Planting

We'd like to thank the Sidmouth Rotary Club who this visited the College this half term to plant a Giant Redwood tree in the grounds of Sidmouth College.

This donation is part of the Rotary Club's 'Tree for Life' scheme which has been set up to mark the end of Year 11 Students' time at the College. The club will donate a tree every year to the College and we are thrilled to be part of this project.

We cannot wait to see the number of trees at the College increase and to watch them grow.



GirlsCAN

This term we launched the second year of GirlsCan, which aims to help girls build their self confidence and equip them with skills they can use in school and beyond. The letters CAN stand for Confidence, Ambition and Never give up. This is a unique opportunity to meet some great professional women who want to share their experiences, tools and knowledge to help our students pursue ambitions with confidence.

This launch will be followed by a series of workshops and the offer of mentoring to our students. We look forward to future opportunities with the group. Thanks to all our volunteers for running the day and enabling the scheme to take place.





Sponsored Walk

On Friday 4th November the entire College took part in the mammoth 20km challenge of the Sponsored Walk. The walk is a fantastic fundraising event and after 3 years of being unable to take place, it was wonderful to see it back. At the start of term 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 glorious and the 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 Will completed the walk by 1pm, taking just under 4 hours.

We are thrilled to share that so far we have raised £11,900. An amazing effort from all the students and their families. Well done and thank you to everyone who sponsored our students and staff.

This year 10% of the money will go to the Motor Neurone Disease Association and the rest to the College to fund equipment, resources and enrichment for students.



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Back to the 80s - Tickets on Sale now!

Sidmouth Youth Theatre are very excited to be heading back to the Manor Pavilion following their sell out performances last February of 'The Show Will Go On'. In what will be the 48th production in the town, we plan to take you on a pop culture trip down memory lane.

Remember when bubble skirts and blue eyeshadow were cool? When Atari was cutting edge technology? From the era that brought the world The Rubik's Cube, Max Headroom and the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and where the cassette tape was king, we bring you 'Back to the 80's'.

Discover the story of Corey Palmer in his senior high school year; his best friends, the class bully and the girl he loves. Throughout the course of the year Corey runs for class president, plans a Live Aid style benefit concert, and tries to win the heart of the girl next door, all while rocking out to some of the greatest music ever written. Throw in a charity concert for Africa, a Star Wars-inspired dream sequence, a final showdown between Michael and the class geek Feargal McFerrin and the upbeat music of the 80's played by a live band and you are guaranteed a great night out. The jukebox score includes a variety of iconic popular hits such as Girls Just Wanna Have Fun, Video Killed the Radio Star, Footloose, The Glory of Love, Hey Mickey and Material Girl.

The cast features seventy students from Sidmouth College and three well known Youth Theatre Alumni, Cameron Retter, Molly Morton and Mark Rose who will be playing the adult roles. Director Angela Davies, Head of Drama said, 'to be working this year without the fear of cancellation due to Covid has been uplifting and the cast are embracing the music and the 1980's fashions with excitement and commitment. I hope this production will showcase a time when teenagers were carefree and the Pop scene was electric!'

Will Corey finally get the girl of his dreams? Will Prom night be a success? Will Feargal McFerrin III ever get a date? To find out all these answers and many more...All you have to do is take the journey...Back to the 80's.

'Back to the 80's' opens at The Manor Pavilion Theatre on Wednesday 1st February and runs until Saturday 4th February. Performance times are nightly at 7.00pm and a 2.00pm Saturday Matinee. Tickets on sale now online at www.manorpavilion.com and from the Theatre Box Office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11am-2pm priced Adults £13.50 and Under 16's £6.50.

