



Sidmouth College Newsletter

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Naturally the end of a term is a time for reflection. The College has had a very successful Autumn term, a particular highlight for me has been the introduction of our Canon Reading Programme. It has really been a pleasure to see our students enjoying and engaging with reading. We are all aware of the importance of not only reading but the conversation that goes with it, as the benefits are far reaching. Following our parent survey this half term we have also held two parent forums. These will continue across the year and provide a great opportunity for parents to feedback to the College as well as have the opportunity to be involved in our continuous improvement. This term has also seen the ongoing development of our praise system and our student council. We have introduced new badges to recognise those students who are contributing to the wider student community and those who are achieving an exceptional numbers of praise points.

I have been really impressed with the way in which Year 11 and Year 13 have approached their first set of trial exams over the last few weeks. They have shown excellent exam conduct and a real maturity throughout, and they have certainly earned a well-deserved rest over the holidays. I have no doubt that they will be successful at the end of their courses in the summer if they carry on the great attitude that has been demonstrated so far this term.

This term we have also benefited from the collaborative working that being in a Trust can bring, not only for staff but also for our students. We have had access to professional development and additional student opportunities throughout this term. We look forward to continuing to build these relationships as we move through the year.

The end of a busy term always provides 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 final thank you goes to you, the parents and 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 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 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 College calendar. A special thank you must go to Mr Morgan, who once again worked incredibly hard and gave up a great deal of time to ensure that the event was a high-quality success.

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.

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 Thursday 4th January 2024. Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

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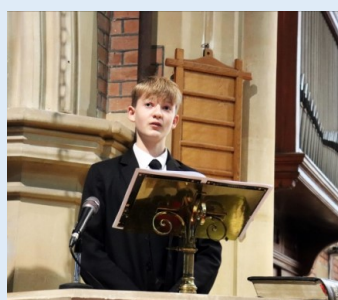


Christmas Carol Service

On Wednesday 13th December the Sidmouth College Christmas Carol Service took place, this year at a new venue, St Peter's Church in Sidford. The evening was a huge success, beginning this year with a delicious Christmas buffet for to all guests to enjoy, which was prepared by the Sidmouth College Food Technology department.

After the refreshments, the packed congregation was treated to a great variety of festive entertainment including the student choir, the College band, instrumental solos and student and staff readers.

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.



A Christmas Carol

On Wednesday 6th December, fifty Year 11 students, along with members of the English department, went to Exmouth Pavilion to watch a performance of 'A Christmas Carol'. The show was a dramatisation of the novel they are currently studying for their GCSE in English Literature and was a good opportunity to see the story come to life as well as helping us all get into the Christmas spirit!



The production, by the touring company Chapterhouse, was a traditional take on the classic tale, which sees Ebenezer Scrooge visited by ghostly spirits who help him to understand the true meaning of Christmas and to change his miserly ways.

Students and staff all enjoyed the performance, which featured traditional Victorian costumes and wonderful festive musical sequences. We were unsettled by the terrifying presence of The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come (an enormous hooded skeleton), haunted by the sad scenes of Scrooge's childhood and delighted by the happy final scenes of the Cratchit family Christmas. There will be much to discuss about this visual representation as we continue to read the novel in lessons, with no 'bah, humbugs' allowed!



Christmas Card

After the success over the last few 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 2023.

We had an array of creative entries to choose from, which was a difficult task for Mrs Fry. We are pleased to share that the winners are the students in the KS3 Photography Club who created the card using light drawing and photography techniques.

This will now be reproduced and used by the College for 2023.



Christmas Tree Carry

A long held tradition for our Sixth Form students is the annual Christmas Tree Carry.

Our Sixth Form collected the tree from Long Park in Sidmouth and carried it back up to the College, ready to be decorated and on display for students to enjoy.

A huge thank you to Kings Garden and Leisure in Sidmouth who kindly donated the 10 foot tall tree to the College, as they have done for many years.



Christmas Jumper Day

On Thursday 7th December it was the Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day. Students and staff were invited to wear a Christmas jumper for a donation to the charity. We saw some fantastic festive knits and it got everyone feeling jolly in the penultimate week of term. The College Facebook page ran the usual staff jumper competition, asking our Facebook followers to like their favourite. The winner was Mr O'Neill with his festive suit.





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.

Now they have all arrived, the books have been delivered to classes creating a vibe of excitement.

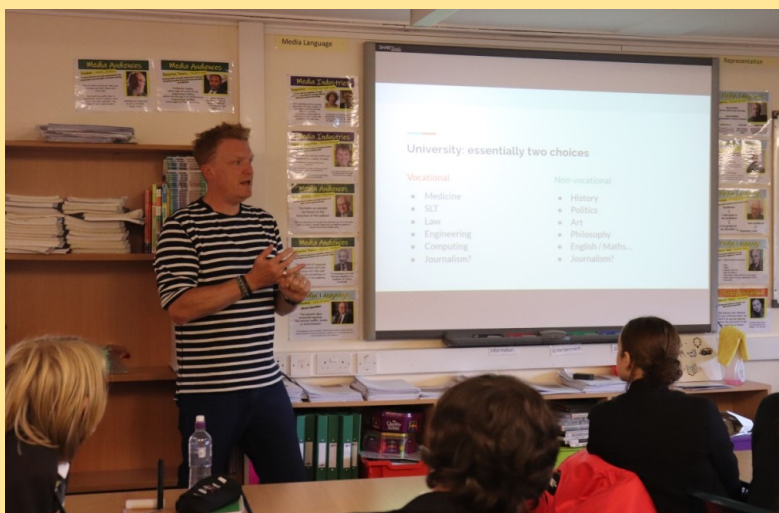
Happy Reading!



Media Studies Visit

On Monday 6th November the Media department was delighted to welcome Mike Baker, Senior Lecturer and Programme Leader of Journalism at Plymouth Marjon University.

Mike came in to speak to Year 10 Media students to signpost the various different careers and pathways that exist within the Media industry. Mike also provided lots of interesting insight into how the Journalism course operates at Plymouth Marjon and the array of facilities and support offered by the university. In addition, Mike has offered us the chance to visit the university to experience first-hand the facilities and maybe create our own little piece of media. So, watch this space for more exciting developments.



CRY Screening

On Tuesday 7th November Sidmouth resident and champion fundraiser Marion Hayman attended a Student Council meeting to speak to the students and explain why the CRY charity and the screening programme that she has fundraised for is so important to her and her family.

The students were incredibly inspired by Marion's resilience and fortitude in the aftermath of the loss of her 27-year-old son to a heart attack. Marion shared with the students how the terrible experience has made her determined to allow Sidmouth to access the screening that could have saved her own son. Marion was keen to emphasise how incredible the support from the community here in Sidmouth has been with many individuals, groups and organisations fundraising to support this amazing charity and ensuring that regular screening can take place. The Student Council here at Sidmouth College are proud to support this fantastic charity and a percentage of all the money we raise this year will be donated to this great cause.



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Girls Rugby

On Thursday 9th November the Sidmouth College Girls U13s Rugby team attended St Luke's School to compete in a Touch Rugby tournament.

The girls were fantastic, after playing St Lukes twice either side, they were able to break the deadlock in tightly contested games.

Sidmouth also drew against Matford Brook in the first game but grew with confidence under the leadership of captains Farrah P and Ella H and won 3 try's to 1 in their final game.

The team voted Chloe H as MVP who, in her first game of rugby, scored two of Sidmouth's three try's.



Netball

The Under 13 and Under 15 Netball team participated in a Winter 7's Netball tournament at ISCA school on Wednesday 22nd November.

It was a high intensity fast-paced tournament with both teams demonstrating excellent teamwork and communication throughout their seven games! Both teams placed 5th in the Tournament winning games against: ISCA A+B, St James and Dawlish College.

Congratulations to Daisy who was voted player of the match for all seven of her matches!



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 8th November.

The students who qualified did exceptionally well, all completing the course in good times, despite the muddy conditions and showers. Many students achieved personal bests, we also saw lots of amazing team results and students should be very proud of their achievements.





Raceworld

On Wednesday 8th November thirty two Year 11 students were rewarded for their efforts throughout Year 10 with a trip to Raceworld. The day consisted of three exciting heats which then led to a dramatic twenty lap sprint final. Whilst everyone performed at a high level, the real competition was between Ali M and Daniel W who oscillated between first and second places. Once all of the data had been collated and lap times averaged, Daniel was awarded the Gold medal by the narrowest of margins.

Raceworld provided us with an exceptional experience, which was full of excitement. We are really looking forward to another visit. The real highlight of the trip was the behaviour of our amazing students, who supported and encouraged each other with kindness and compassion that simply shone through. It was an absolute pleasure to be in their company and they were the perfect ambassadors for Sidmouth College.



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:

- Tallula, Harry and Izzy for their contribution to the 'Heads Up' project, providing voiceover to an animation which will be shared nationally.
- Nick and Tom for their amazing musical achievements outside of the College this term. Nick was recently accepted into the National Youth Orchestra Inspire programme on double bass. Tom was invited to join the Devon Youth Jazz Ambassadors on electric guitar. As an ambassador Tom will represent the best of Devon's young jazz musicians and will be promoting jazz with performances across the county over the coming year.

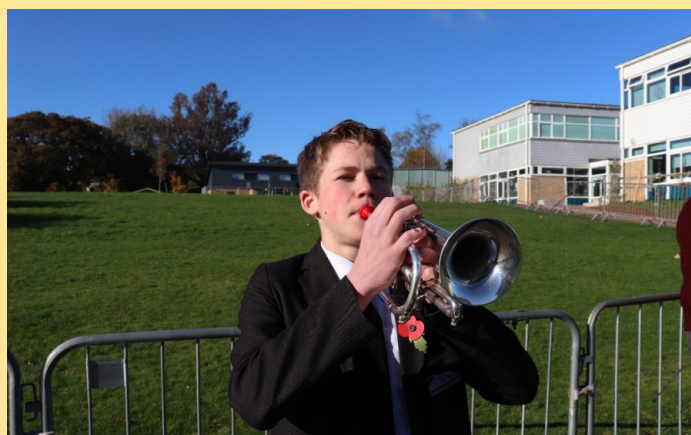
Mrs Parsons presented the students with their commendations during the last week of term. Well done to all the students who received this special recognition.





Remembrance

In the week running up to Remembrance Sunday, the Art Department and Year 13 Art Students created a remembrance installation made from poppies and a WW1 military uniform. The piece was displayed in the Hall for the week for students to see during the Remembrance Assemblies on Thursday 9th and Friday 10th November. In the College Library Mrs Harrison created a beautiful display to mark Remembrance Day and to recommend books to read relevant to the occasion. On Friday 10th November the College also took part in a two minutes silence at 11am, with student Jack P playing 'The Last Post' in the centre of the College grounds for all to hear.



Maths Challenge

Congratulations to Year 12 students James, Matilda, and Hayden (pictured below) and Year 13 students Izzi and Luca for achieving Bronze in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge last half term!

Students were awarded their certificates in assembly during the first week back.

An amazing achievement!, well done to all five students.



Buzz Coffee Art Mural

On Thursday 9th November Mrs Forrer and Mrs Young visited Buzz Coffee HQ along with a number of Sidmouth College students to create a celebration mural, along with the Sidmouth School of Art, Merakia Art and the Norman Family Charitable Trust.

The end result looked amazing and it was a fantastic initiative for our students to get involved with, as well as an opportunity to let their creativity shine!





Breakfast Club

This half term the College has launched the Breakfast Club.

This takes place every weekday from 8:15am-8:45am in the Canteen.

Breakfast costs £1 (free for free school meal students) and includes a bowl of cereal, toast with Jam or Marmite and fruit juice.

It is open to all students in all year groups and we hope many will be joining us for breakfast after Christmas!



Children in Need

On Friday 17th November the whole school wore non-uniform to raise money for children in need. In total we raised £460 for the charity which is a fantastic achievement. Thank you to everyone who donated!



Ten Tors

Students have been training hard this term. During November the Year 10 and 12 Students successfully completed a training weekend walk on Dartmoor, testing their navigational skills in low visibility and their endurance over rough terrain. They all did incredibly well, especially given the wet, windy and foggy conditions.



Tree Planting

We'd like to thank the Sidmouth Rotary Club who this visited the College this half term to plant a Liquid Amber Maple 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 donated the first tree last year and will continue to 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.





Peace Poster Competition

On Wednesday 22nd November 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 'Dare to Dream'. Our winners and runners up enjoyed receiving certificates and prizes and meeting the team from Sidmouth's Lions Club.

First place went to Rosie in Year 8, second place to Jimmy in Year 7 and third place to Taylor in Year 8.

The Lions commented on the use of colour, composition and responding to what they thought was a challenging theme.

There were lots of brilliant entries and we were delighted to hear that all were enjoyed by the judging panel.

We have more recently found out that Rosie's entry also won the second regional round and will now go forward to the national round! The first time a Sidmouth College student has achieved this, well done Rosie!

Head of Art, Mrs Fry, said "We would like to thank the Sidmouth Lions for offering our students the opportunity to demonstrate their amazing creative skills. This is my first term at the college, and I was particularly impressed with the high standard of work, as were the judging panel. We value sharing these wonderful opportunities with our students and feel very proud that they have enjoyed creating their posters during break times and independently at home. House points will be awarded to all students who entered the competition; well done to you all!"



Sidmouth Light Parade

On the evening of Saturday 18th November a number of Sidmouth College students took part in the Light Parade through Sidmouth town centre.

This was a collaborative project with the Sidmouth School of Art, during which Year 7 students created lanterns based on the theme of Save Our Seas.

A big thank you to all students who took part in a fantastic community event. And to the Sidmouth School of Art for working with us and giving the students a great opportunity.





Mock Interviews

During December all students in Year 11 had the opportunity to take part in a Mock Interview as part of their Careers enrichment programme. Across the week we welcomed Sue Reynolds from Puffins, Irene from the Mare and Foal Sanctuary, Joe Staddon from the Army, Paul Santer and Phil Ramsden from CECA, Cameron Evans Granger from Every's Solicitors, Sally Mynard from Sidmouth Hospice at Home, Alex McLachlan and Sean Priestly from RBH Brewin Dolphin, Nick Keast from The Royal Navy, Debbie Oliver, Emily Pitts from JCP, Sasha Hargraves from Waitrose, Anne Marie Taylor from Brend Hotels Caroline Blockley from Live West, Vicky Friedlander from BRC Brewin Dolphin, Sue Cockayne and Jo Fellows from EDDC, Denese Molyneux from Molyneux Financial Planning, Daisy Atlin from AWP and Katherine from Bicton College.

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.



Pride of Sidmouth College Award

Romain Holland a French Novelist once said, "A hero is a person who does what they can" and this term we are in the presence of three heroes who did what they could when others chose not to.

Earlier in the term three students helped an gentleman who had fallen outside his garage in Primley Road. Several other people walked past the injured man but these three heroes stopped to help him. They offered to call an ambulance or the GP but he insisted there was no need. However, later after a trip to the Minor Injuries Unit he discovered that he had in fact broken his arm. The injured man then called the College to say how grateful he was and wanted to pass on his thanks to them.

George H, Ted B & George C you acted in a heroic way and you epitomise the Pride of Sidmouth College. Thank you for representing us so well.





Extended Project

On Tuesday 28th November the Year 13's, who are completing their Extended Project Qualification, attended Exeter University to undertake a Library Tour.

As well as the tour the students had access to the Library resources to help with their individual research. We were given our own conference room to work in and collate the research that had been collected.

The trip was incredibly well organised by Exeter University's outreach team and provided excellent insight into Student Life. The Library was at 85% capacity on Tuesday because exams were looming so we got to see how well used the space is.

Our students fitted right into University life and it enabled them to see how their life might be this time next year.



Primary Art Workshop

It was a pleasure to host a specialist art workshop with Year 5 pupils from our feeder primary schools on Friday 1st December. The pupils worked with Head of Art Mrs Fry and Art teacher Mrs Chapple-Hyam to design and create their own sculptures out of clay. The finished results looked amazing, and once fired were sent off to the Primary Schools for the students to take home.



Cross Country

Well done to the students who represented East Devon at the Exeter Vs East Devon Cross Country competition in November. They were Izzy A, Jimmy C, Oscar S, Ella F & Gracie G.

All students did well on what was a cold and windy day. Students results were as follows:

Izzy narrowly didn't qualify for the next round in the first race of the day. Jimmy came 3rd and qualified for the next round. Oscar didn't qualify for the next round but was picked out by another member of staff from another school for helping a fallen athlete at the start. Gracie came 6th and will qualify for the next round and Ella came 16th and may be allowed to run as a guest in the next round. Well done!





The Sidmouth College Reading Canon

“Extensive international research shows that being a frequent reader is associated with a range of academic, social and emotional benefits. Far more than pleasure is at stake.” *The reading framework – DfE 2023*

This half term we have surveyed staff, students and parents about Canon Reading. Students made a number of comments about the benefits of reading. These included:

- Everyone gets better at reading
- It helps people to understand more about the world around us
- Helps us to empathise
- Getting to know more vocabulary
- Boost in GCSE and A Level grades

I think we can agree that these are worthwhile outcomes! Here are the books we are reading; most year groups are moving on to the third book after the Christmas break.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
<i>Private Peaceful</i> Michael Morpurgo	<i>Refugee Boy</i> Benjamin Zephaniah	<i>Of Mice and Men</i> John Steinbeck	<i>Lord of the Flies</i> William Golding
<i>Skellig</i> David Almond	<i>Goodnight Mr Tom</i> Michelle Magorian	<i>My Sword Hand Is Singing</i> Marcus Sedgwick	<i>The curious Incident of the dog in the night time.</i> Mark Haddon
<i>The house with chicken legs</i> Sophie Anderson	<i>When the world was ours</i> Liz Kessler	<i>I must Betray You</i> Ruta Sepetys	<i>Of Mice and Men</i> John Steinbeck

Christmas is a lovely time to give and read books so please take this opportunity to settle down with some great books and boost your vocabulary, comprehension and sense of well-being! Happy Reading!



Homework Club

This term we have launched a new homework club which takes place every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afterschool in the College Library.

The club gives students an opportunity between 3:15pm and 4:15pm to complete their homework in a quiet environment with books and resources on offer to use, with HLTA Mr Stephen on hand to give support where needed.

It is open to all students on a drop in basis and will continue after Christmas for any students who would like to attend.

Sidmouth College HOMEWORK CLUB

AFTER-SCHOOL FROM 3:15PM TO 4:15PM
EVERY TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY
IN THE COLLEGE LIBRARY
ALL YEAR GROUPS WELCOME



All Shook Up

Sidmouth Youth Theatre are busy rehearsing 'All Shook Up'. Over 70 young people will take you back to 1955 and into a small little town in mid-west America. The music of Elvis weaves its way into the plot played by a live Pit band. This small town is shaken out its dull existence by the arrival of Chad, a mysterious, good looking, leather-jacketed stranger with a guitar on his back, blue suede shoes on his feet and a song in his heart.

Is this stranger The Devil in Disguise or a Hound Dog in his Blue Suede Shoes? The townsfolk are about to be All Shook Up and could be headed for Heartbreak Hotel, but for Natalie, the love-struck, tomboy mechanic, it really is Now or Never. Mix 25 of the best loved songs by The King himself with a hilarious, 'tongue in cheek' plot and you have a show that you Can't Help Falling in Love with! All Shook up is a funny and moving tale of hope, second chances and the healing qualities of classic Rock 'n' Roll.

The cast hope they can spend One Night With You where you can Let Yourself Go as we perform at the Manor Pavilion Theatre from Wednesday 31st January to Saturday 3rd February 2024. Tickets priced £14.00 for Adults and £7.00 for under 16's can be purchased from the Box Office and online at www.manorpavilion.com

SIDMOUTH YOUTH THEATRE

presents

ALL SHOOK UP

Inspired by and featuring the songs of

ELVIS PRESLEY

Book by

JOE DIPIETRO



**WEDS 31st JAN -
SAT 3rd FEB 7.00PM
MATINEE SAT 2.00PM**

AT THE MANOR PAVILION THEATRE

ALL SHOOK UP' is presented through special arrangement with and all authorised performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW), www.theatricalrights.co.uk

TICKETS ON SALE AT THE BOX OFFICE