

Sidmouth College Newsletter

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As we reach the half way point of the academic year I have been reflecting on the excellent progress that the students have made so far. This progress would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the fantastic staff at the College. Every day they are planning and preparing high quality lessons, with many opportunities for feedback. I continue to be impressed with the work that is taking place during every lesson of every day. It is this daily grind of 'getting it right' that will ensure positive outcomes for the students.

As you are aware we have been in a period of consultation to be an academy and join the Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust. On Monday the Governing Body agreed to transfer into the Ted Wragg Academy Trust with effect from 1st March 2023. This is an exciting next step for all the stakeholders involved with the College and one that I hope will provide ongoing opportunities for continued school improvement.

"We are so excited to welcome Sidmouth College to our family of Ted Wragg Schools. As one of the best schools in Devon, Sidmouth College will play a key leadership role in our mission to improve life chances for children across the region. This will be a transformative partnership between the College and the Trust that share the same values to help continue and develop the fantastic school improvement journey that the College has been on. This is an exciting time for us all."

Moiria Marder. CEO, Ted Wragg Trust

I had the privilege last week of watching "Back to the 80's", I was overwhelmed by the quality of the show. To see the students perform at such a high level was incredible. The experience that students get from being involved in a production of this level is something really special to Sidmouth. A performance of that calibre is only possible because of the fantastic team of people behind the scenes, and the vision of Miss Davies. She has to be congratulated for orchestrating such a wonderful show that was enjoyed by so many members of the wider community. It was definitely a showcase of the talent we have at the College.

Every year group at the College has important milestones and it is at this time of year that our thoughts turn to those year groups with exams in the summer; I would like to congratulate students in Years 11 and 13 for the mature and positive way they are approaching their studies. As a school we are supporting them by providing structure and resources. We are encouraging students to engage with the countdown revision programmes in order to ensure that they are prepared for their summer exams. I would like to thank parents for their continued support during this important time.

This half term has once again been incredibly busy outside of the classroom. The amount of enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities on offer to our students is fantastic. This newsletter provides a selection of these and celebrates the success that students have at Sidmouth College. As you are reading this we have a number of students overseas on the Holland & Belgium trip. We will continue to look for opportunities to enrich and support the learning in the classroom to enable our students to have their horizons stretched.

Have a wonderful half term holiday. I look forward to seeing you back on Monday 20th February.

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Back to the 80s

After many months of rehearsals, the cast and crew of the 48th Sidmouth Youth Theatre (SYT) production, 'Back to the 80s', kicked off the first of five roof raising performances on Wednesday 1st February. A full house of audience members were waiting in eager anticipation to see what the next two and a half hours would hold, with the promise of some 80s jukebox favourites, it was destined to be a night to remember.

Back to the 80s tells the story of 17 year old Corey Palmer, told through the eyes of his older self, who narrates the story throughout. Older Corey, played by alumni Cameron Retter, retells his final year at high school back in the mid-1980s. The likeable Corey is a shy and humble character who gains the audiences' sympathy as he delves back into the angst and awkwardness of his teenage years, inviting us to join him on his journey of reflection.

Almost immediately the stage was an array of neon attire, crimped hair and vintage 80s fashion, as the entire cast filled the stage with a highly energetic (and very colourful) rendition of Kim Wilde's 'Kids in America'. The cast delighted and dazzled with their polished choreography, the tone was set and all were left wanting more.

Jacob Green played the role of young Corey with great depth, his awkward, stumbling, shy character quickly won the hearts of the audience. We followed him on his journey to impress and ultimately win the heart of the 'girl-next-door' Tiffany Houston played by Poppy Teuton. Corey was supported and encouraged throughout by his loyal friends Alf Bueller and Kirk Keaton (George Anning and Roman Moore). The warmth of the three characters was evidenced when they succeeded in cheering up a rather wounded Eileen (Iona Gray) in the second half through their 'Barber shop' style trio performance of 'Don't worry; be Happy' and 'Come on Eileen'.

Along with Cameron Retter, previous SYT stalwarts returned to join the cast including Molly Morton as Ms Sheena Brannagan and Mark Rose as Mr Stevie Cocker, two teachers at William Ocean High School with a love story of their own.

The show was brimming with 80's references; Feargal working with nerdy Billy Gates on computers, a karate class taught by Mr. Miyagi, and unforgettably, a Star Wars dream sequence that had everyone in stitches.

A highlight of the show were the costumes, showcasing the iconic 80s fashion, with sparkly frocks, fringe boots, and retro tees, it was the perfect accompaniment to the brilliant choreography by student Georgie McNally. The casts rendition of song "Girls Just Want to Have Fun," sung by Poppy Teuton, Florence Rousseau-Kennel, Hayley Jones and Georgie McNally, was a favourite among the audience with the iconic dance routine and incredible vocals, it was a pitch perfect performance. Another highlight was 'Let's hear it for the Boy' performed by Laura (Bronwyn Aires) and Debbie
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(Pippa Nichols) who both sung beautifully and showcased their vocal talent, as well as their fantastic characterisations of slightly awkward and nerdy teens.

The girls' performance was quickly mirrored and matched by the lead boys' highly energetic 'Footloose.' Led by sports jock and school heartthrob Michael Feldman (James Adesina), his best friends Billy, Huey and Lionel (Alex Harvey, Dan Chinolo and Jude Barratt) dazzled us with their punchy routine and strong vocals.

The show entertained, wowed and touched many hearts and minds: young people and adults alike.

James Adesina was convincing in his role as Corey's nemesis, the arrogant, smug and yet widely popular Michael Feldman. His arrogance was epitomised as Tiffany, Cyndi, Mel and Kim adorned him during their vibrant cheerleader performance of 'Hey Mickey'. James sang, danced, and even rapped his way through his scenes impeccably.

Undoubtedly one of the most lovable characters in the entire show was Feargal McFerrin – the hugely intelligent and socially shunned, school-geek. This lovable character was brought to life by Alex Denning, who captured Fergal's insecurities and idiosyncrasies perfectly. 'Video killed the Radio Star' was a huge hit amongst the audience: With his loveable character and infectious smile, audiences were all won over.

The comedy in this show was expertly delivered, not least during Corey and Michael's battle for Tiffany's affection in 'I'm Gonna Be (500 miles)' by the Proclaimers.

What better way to close the show, than with Dirty Dancing's 'The Time of my Life' and a Back to the 80s Megamix. The stage flooded with music and emotion, with the entire cast delivering a powerhouse performance. It was clear that every student was having the time of their life.

Audiences were left feeling uplifted and joyous. 'Back to the 80s' was a fantastic demonstration of the work, effort and dedication that the cast, crew and director, Angela Davies, have put into this show, it was a pleasure to watch the students of Sidmouth College on the stage giving it their all, we are immensely proud.





Primary Sports

On Wednesday 25th January we welcomed over forty Year 5 pupils from Sidmouth Primary to take part in a trampolining and circuits event.

The morning was supported by our fabulous Years 9 and 10 Student Sports Leaders who worked with the pupils and demonstrated a number of skills and exercises. We look forward to many more events coming up in the Summer.



U15 Girls Football

Well done to our U15 girls football team who represented the college at the East Devon Schools football tournament this half term. All games were played in fantastic spirit and the progress made on the day was superb. Carole's rocket of a free kick was by far the moment of day which won her MVP!



Football

Well done to the Year 7 boys' football team who played their first ever match representing Sidmouth College, against Woodroffe School this term.

A special congratulations to Oscar and Marley who were nominated as players of the match!



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 first half of the Spring term the Principal's Commendations have gone to the following students:

Georgie McNally in Year 12 for her role as Choreographer for the Sidmouth Youth Theatre. Georgie worked tirelessly and patiently to create and rehearse the cast over many months. Miss Davies said 'The show would not have been successful without her support and creativity.' Well done Georgie!

The second award went to students Laura Godsen and Grace Hodgson, who have given up their own time this term supporting Miss Flynn in the College allotment. They have spent many hours afterschool clearing and tiding the allotment ready to start growing this spring, with the aim to donate the food grown to the food bank. We hope the space will be a real asset to the College for many students to enjoy, well done to Laura and Grace.

The final award went to Year 7 Chloe Henderson for her brilliant achievement, reaching the Devon Cross Country Championships this half term. Chloe placed in the top 30 of the County, well done Chloe.





Sidmouth College Allotment and Tree Planting

This term Miss Flynn and members of the Science Department have been busy working in the Sidmouth College grounds including the allotment, orchard and lower field. The allotment area includes a large greenhouse, polytunnel and raised beds which were in need of repair and restoration. The allotment is looking great so far and we are excited to get it up and running as a working garden, with the long term goal to grow and supply food for the Sid Valley Foodbank. In other areas, Year 10 students volunteered to help the Sidmouth Arboretum plant hedgerow along the pathways entering the College, and in the Orchard Mrs Ritchie has been collecting apples to donate to the food bank.



No Label, No Limit

In January we hosted the third workshop in the 'No, Label, No Limit' project which is designed for KS4 girls. The project is funded by the DFE and delivered by Small Steps, Big Vision and the Heart of the South West Careers Hub.

The workshop was split into two sessions across the day, with the groups thinking about daily routines to support them with a positive mindset. This included morning routines to help them be ready for the day and evening routines to prepare them well for the next day. They also practised some meditation to support good mental health and many indicated they found it useful and may use this in the future.

As part of the programme we have employers visit and share information about their career journeys and how they deal with the subject of the workshop. We welcomed Gracia Souster Busquier from Clifton Emery Design and Rebecca Pike from Francis Clark Chartered Accountants. Gracia and Rebecca both told their career stories and supported the girls during the workshop.

We would like to thank Emma Falcon for running the event and sharing her enthusiasm and passion with the students.



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Ten Tors Update

Ten Tors training has continued this half term. Unfortunately the first walk of the year was cancelled due to the high winds and poor conditions on the moors. The group managed to get out on Saturday



21st January on a snowy but sunny Dartmoor. All of the Years 10 and 11 students successfully completed the training and will walk again on Sunday 26th February. Many thanks to our wonderful adult volunteers!

Duke of Edinburgh

Well done to Year 11 student Grace who completed her Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award this term. Grace is a member of the East Devon Explorers Scouts and did her award through the group.



Girls Can

On Tuesday 7th February we had the absolute joy of working with six incredible women to give Year 10 girls a foundation for the next steps in their lives.

Vicky Eastwood from RBC Brewin Dolphin gave the students some hints and tips about how to pave their way to financial happiness.

Sarah Jepson from Six Degrees (a female only club) spoke about how surrounding yourself with people who believe in you and want to see the best version of you, will have an immense impact on your life.

Rebecca Hooker from Committed Clothing spoke about her experiences and why she created her company (and got the students up on their feet!)

Emily McGuirk and Emma from Small Steps Big Vision spoke with the girls about the ways they can get what they want in life and more!

And finally Faye Elizabeth Whitley from Beehive Ltd spoke about the creation of her amazing company and the challenges she's faced on the way.

We would like to thank all of the amazing women as without them we couldn't run days like this. All these women prove you can be hugely successful and still be kind and build each other up.

They shared the following comments with us: 'The energy at the close was palpable, if we've managed to impact just one or two girls alone that's incredible, but I think it will be much more!', 'The feedback is great to read thus far and so happy to know it was valuable to them, I also had a couple of girls reach out to say 'thank you' and 'that what I do is really cool', what lovely feedback from the girls; I'm so pleased they identified with us all and felt inspired. It was a really great day and you have a fantastic school and bunch of students!'





Primary Teacher Visit

On Friday 27th January our primary feeder Headteachers and Year 6 teachers visited the College as part of our transition programme.

During their visit they had the opportunity to look around the school and drop in to a selection of Year 7 lessons. They also spoke with students and staff about the transition from primary to secondary and what works well. The students were thrilled to see their old teachers and show them what they have been up to since starting secondary school.

It was a pleasure to host Mr Spragon and Miss Curtis from Sidmouth Primary, Miss Hill and Mr Burnett from Sidbury Primary, Mr Pope and Mr Morison from Newton Poppleford Primary.



Half term trips

Over half term Mrs Hurley, Mr Demetre and Mrs Liddle, along with 34 students will be travelling across Europe to gain some invaluable experiences.

Years 12 and 13 departed last night in the early hours from Sidmouth College on route to Amsterdam, Holland. They will be visiting a host of places on their travels as well as touring the city itself, including the Bridge at Arnhem and Anne Frank's House. We look forward to hearing all about the trip when they return, a full report will feature in next term's newsletter.



Learn 2 Live

On Monday 30th January we welcomed organisation Learn 2 Live as part of our Sixth

Form Enrichment Programme. Students in Years 12 and 13 heard from specialists from the police, fire and ambulance services about the risks for young drivers and their passengers, the consequences of those risks and ways to avoid them happening.

The talk was hard-hitting, but incredibly informative and thought provoking for the students.

Thank you to Learn 2 Live and all their speakers who gave up their time to speak to our students about such an important topic. Visit www.learn-2-live.org.uk to find out more.

Learn 2 Live

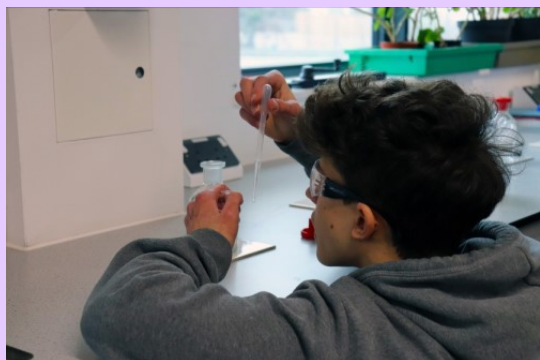


Sixth Form Taster Day

On Friday 27th January Year 11 students were off timetable enjoying a taste of life as a Sixth Form student at Sidmouth College.

Students were in non-uniform and able to use the Sixth Form common room and Café for the day. As well as a free period to enjoy the Sixth Form facilities and speak to staff, students also experienced a host of A-Level lessons. In Chemistry, students were identifying different chemicals and solutions. Whilst in a photography lesson students experimented with different camera exposures.

The taster day is a great opportunity for students to experience what Sixth Form at Sidmouth College is like and the great facilities we have on offer. All student and teacher feedback was positive and it was an all round enjoyable day. We hope to see many of our Year 11s back next year to study their A-Levels with us in the College Sixth Form.



Sidmouth's Got Talent

On the last day of term students in Years 7 and 12 were treated to the final of 'Sidmouth's Got Talent'. Back in the Autumn term students were invited to audition in front of Mrs Chapple-Hyam and the Student Heads of House. The acts were then shortlisted to just 8 performers from across the year groups.

Performing was Year 7's Faith with a gymnastics routine, Christeen singing and Kiesha cheerleading. Year 8 Student Keajanne and Year 9 Alice sung solos. Year 10's Milly and Tilly sang and rapped and Sixth Former Henry played an original song accompanied by this guitar,



The acts were judged by the panel made up of Miss Hughes, Mrs Carnell and Miss Ryce and hosted by Student Heads of House Dan and James.

It was a whole college effort, with lots of students supporting the event behind the scenes including the Music department tech team who set up the sound equipment.

After all acts had performed, it came down to just two, Christeen and Faith. The winner was Christine for their excellent singing performance.

A huge well done to all the students who auditioned, performed and helped make the show a fantastic success. It wouldn't have been possible without the hard work of Mrs Chapple-Hyam who works closely with the Student Heads of House to make sure these events can go ahead. Thank you to her and to Mr Morgan for his expertise.

