

Sidmouth College Newsletter

Spring Term 2017: Edition 3, 10th February 2017

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As you will expect, it has been another busy and productive half term both within lessons, across the College and in the local community. This half term's newsletter reflects both the amazing achievements of our students and the incredible commitment of our staff across the College.

Research shows that 70% of businesses believe extra-curricular activities make job seeking school leavers and graduates stand out from the crowd. In addition, nearly two thirds feel that candidates with such experience tend to be employees that are more successful and progress more quickly in their careers. This is not because these activities make good conversation topics within the College restaurant, but because of the attributes that they allow participants to develop. Skills such as leadership, communication and budget management are increasingly in demand in the workplace, where new recruits are perhaps technically able but lacking the transferable skills that are needed to succeed.

At Sidmouth College we strive for academic success, but also recognise the importance of a varied extra-curricular programme that develops the above mentioned skills.

Last week I was fortunate to be part of the audience at the College's production of 'Happy Days'. For me it is one of the highlights of the College calendar and an event that makes me immensely proud to be Principal of the College. You could not fail to be amazed at the quality of the performance put on by both the cast and the production team. I would like to thank everyone involved for the incredible commitment and dedication shown over the past few months. When you achieve a standing ovation, night after night, you know all the blood, sweat and tears have been worth it.

As you read this, many of our students are travelling across Europe to enjoy the surroundings of either Holland, Belgium or Italy. Whether it is enjoying the sights of Amsterdam or negotiating your way safely down a mountain in Prato Nevoso, these students will receive a thought provoking cultural experience and generate memories that will last a lifetime.

When you add to the above Ten Tors, sporting events, impact days, work experience and sixth form taster day you begin to get a flavour of the amazing opportunities on offer within the College.

I hope you all have an amazing half term.

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Happy Days the Musical

After months of rehearsals, the cast and crew of this year's Sidmouth Youth Theatre (SYT) production, 'Happy Days—a new musical', kicked off the first of five live performances in front a full house on Wednesday 1st February at the Manor Pavilion Theatre in Sidmouth.

The iconic 1970s TV series has been given new lease of life as an all singing, all dancing stage musical. A power house rock and roll trip down memory lane!

The musical has been adapted from a book based on the original television series which was written by original creator Garry Marshall. Brand new music and lyrics have been written and composed by Paul Williams and a host of dance routines choreographed to compliment the era. All of which transport the Happy Day's charm and feel good factor perfectly onto the stage.

On Tuesday 30th January the cast were able to run the dress rehearsal in front of Year 5 and 6 children from Sidmouth Primary School, who were invited up to watch. This was a great opportunity for the cast to practise in front of a real audience.



The following day, on opening night, students were prepared and ready to go as the curtains opened and we were transported to late 1950s America. The ensemble opened the show with the first of over 20 musical numbers 'Welcome to Wisconsin'. At this point we see a glimpse of what was in store for the rest of the show, bright costumes, retro themes and an upbeat soundtrack from a live pit orchestra to entertain throughout.

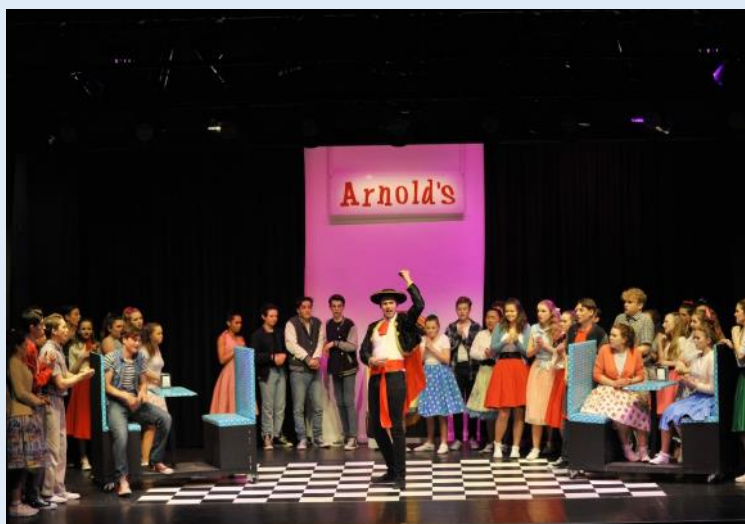
The story picks up in 1959 as Richie Cunningham (played by Callum Burns) prepares to graduate from High school and go off to college. Before he does, he needs to assemble his friends and family to help save Arnold's Diner, which is under threat of closure. The gang rally round, determined to save the diner and stop it from being demolished and a shopping mall built in its place.

Richie, along with the always charismatic Fonzie (played by Zak Robinson) vow to save the day with the help of feisty Pinky Tuscadero (Vicky Wyant), an old flame of Fonzie's who has returned to Milwaukee to judge a dance contest. Her return sends waves of excitement throughout the town, Vikki Wyant played the role of Pinky excellently, capturing the gutsy confidence that sends Fonzie weak at the knees and stumbling over his words!

The scene of the dance contest closes Act 1, we see a new array of bright 50's dresses and suits and students paired up to show off their best moves and impress the judging panel. However, despite being a huge success, the contest only raises a meagre \$118.

We see all the characters we know and love including Howard and Marion Cunningham played by Ed Atack and Jasmine Bartlett and Joanie Cunningham played by Dottie Holland. Jake Evans played Arnold Delvecchio and Charlotte Hadfield played Ritchie's excitable girlfriend Lori Beth. (continued on page 3)





The rest of Ritchie's gang, who make up a brilliant 4 piece signing group called the Dial Tones, include Jamie Taylor as Ralph, Sam Hunt as Potsie and Joe Buckland as Chachi.

There were some brilliant comedic scenes, especially those featuring the Malachi Brothers, played by Cameron Retter and Elliot Wright. They strutted the stage performing a hilarious duet which was a highlight of the show!

Act 2 continued to entertain, with Pinky and Fonzie's romance still simmering, the Dial Tones performed a brilliant version of song 'Run' and a final fundraising wrestling match took place which showcased some brilliant outfits! There was also a moving and powerful number from Pinky, Mrs C and Joanie.

The last few scenes leading up to the finale and, of course, Prom night, saw Arnold's declared a historical landmark and saved! The Prom gave one final chance for Ritchie and his family and friends to get together and celebrate. And there was lots to celebrate, Fonzie and Pinky finally got together, Joanie and Chachi overcame their nerves to sneak into the Prom and even Ralph got a date. The show was a feel-good, uplifting performance; the curtains closed with the entire cast singing the much loved theme tune to a standing ovation.

Congratulations must go to Director Miss Davies, all of the staff who supported the production and, of course, to our brilliant cast of students! Well done on another brilliant show!





Inter-house Football and Netball

On Thursday 9th February students competed in the annual Inter-House Football and Netball competitions at the College. Representative teams from all 4 houses played against each other to try and win the title of House Champion. Students showed some great skill in both sports, and the PE department said they were extremely impressed with the teamwork and sportsmanship that was displayed.

The overall results where as follows:

1st Raleigh
2nd Drake
3rd Grenville
4th Scott



Cross Country

On Saturday 21st January College students represented East Devon at the Devon qualifiers at the Stover School in Newton Abbot. Although a very cold and frosty day, conditions were ideal for cross country running and the low temperature kept the runners cool. Students did amazingly well, Kate Marriot (pictured right) came 3rd in the Junior Girls category and will go on to represent



Devon. In the Junior boys category Josh Miller came 5th and Will Bond 15th. In the Inter Boys Toby Garrick came 7th and Tommy Reardon came 20th. A fabulous set of results from all Sidmouth students. A huge well done and good luck in the next round!

Athletics

On Wednesday 18th January 2018



8 pupils took part in the indoor athletics competition at The Kings School. Whilst we were not successful in gaining qualification to the County round this year, there were some outstanding individual performances along with some excellent sportsmanship displayed. Special mention to George Manly who achieved joint highest score on the speed bounce.

Great teamwork from Hockey team

Our U15 girls played a great warm up hockey match against Colyton this term. After a first half in which Sidmouth dominated territory and possession the score was 1-1. Colyton's goalkeeping was fantastic however, which kept the score level pegging. In the second half Sidmouth ramped it up to go 3-1 up. Fading light saw Colyton make a break to score, which saw a final score of 3-2 to Sidmouth. Well done to the girls for a great first game!



Sidmouth College Equestrian Team

This term students Maddie Whitfield, Amelia Evans and Charley Hosking competed at Bicton Arena in the NSEA show jumping competition. All the girls rode brilliantly with Maddie jumping a double clear and finishing not far behind the top 3. Amelia also rode well despite her horse Ted not making it easy! Charley had a double clear and finished in 5th place overall. Some brilliant results! The next NSEA event Sidmouth College is hoping to have a full team and continue to show some impressive riding. Well done to the girls!





Panto time!

Miss Davies took 35 staff and students to the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, in January to watch the pantomime 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs'. Star of the show and Sidmouth College ex-pupil Duncan James played Prince Duncan of Devon and even gave Sidmouth a shout out during his performance!

Everyone had a fantastic time and the show was a barrel of laughs from beginning to end. A great way to start the new year! Made even better when Duncan popped outside to say hello and take a few pictures with the Sidmouth College group after the show!



Zak auditions for talent show

If you were watching Gary Barlow's new talent show 'Let it Shine' on Saturday 7th January, you may have spotted a familiar face up on the stage. Our very own Year 13 student Zak Robinson auditioned for the show months ago and made it all the way through to perform in front of the judging panel which included Gary Barlow himself, Dannii Minogue, Amber Riley and Martin Kemp.

Sadly Zak didn't make it on to the next stage of the competition, but he performed amazingly and we are incredibly proud! And of course we needed him to come back in February to star as Fonzie in the Sidmouth Youth Theatre's production of Happy Days!

Zak is hoping to attend drama and stage school next year and is currently applying for places. We wish him the best of luck and are confident this won't be the last time we see this rising star performing on Television.



Music students watch Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

GCSE Music students were given a rare opportunity to visit St Peter's School in Exeter, to see and hear members of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra perform Music linked to the GCSE Music course. The afternoon was organised and funded by Devon Music Hub. Patrick Bailey presented information on musical elements of each piece, while members of the Orchestra demonstrated sections of the music. Students and staff were then treated to pieces of Music including Pachelbel's Canon, Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik and Chopin's Piano Prelude in E Minor. After a short break, the presentation continued taking the audience through the history of Music, including Reich's Clapping Music, Samba em Preludio and Lucy in the sky with Diamonds by the Beatles. The students involved commented on how they had enjoyed having some of the musical ideas explained to them, being able to see the performers, and being able to join in with the interactive elements of the presentation. The next Music visit is to Powderham Castle at the end of February.





Year 10 Impact Day

This term Year 10 students had a day off timetable to take part in an impact day with workshops based around a range of useful experiences and topics. During the day workshops included learning about healthy relationships, a road and traffic safety session with the Devon and Somerset Fire services, an emotional health and wellbeing class with Mrs Clark, a social media extremism workshop with Mr Birch and a Drugs education session with the organisation Five Lives. The variety of workshops gave students a huge amount to think about throughout the day and, although some were very hard hitting, students were able to learn through listening and speaking to professionals and visitors with real life experiences of some of the topics. We'd like to thank everyone who ran the workshops and the visitors that came in to speak to our students.



Sixth Form Taster Day

On Thursday 26th January all Year 11 students enjoyed 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 Science, students were holding their breath as they dissected rather smelly fish heads, studying the gills and how fish breathe. Whilst in a photography lesson students experimented with different camera exposures, creating images using light effects and torches.



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.

Celebration Breakfast for Year 10

Year 10 students were rewarded with a celebratory breakfast during January. The breakfast was to praise those students who have gone above and beyond to organise their work experience visits that will take place in the Summer term. Mrs Young was thrilled that so many students had been so eager to get placements booked and wanted to give them a chance to discuss with each other where they would be going and what they would be doing. We look forward to hearing what they got up to later in the year.





Computer Science students build Weather Station

On Wednesday 25th January Year 10 Computer Science students spent the day taking part in a workshop run by '2timesdo' and supported by the Met Office. They were tasked with building a weather station for the College from scratch. This included designing and building the structure of the station in order for it to be fully functioning. They also worked in groups to build electrical components and circuits, as well as coding the station's software. The finished weather station will go back to '2timesdo' for testing, before being returned to the College and placed above Mr Wickins room at the top of the field. Mr Wickins and his students will then be able to monitor the readings from the station and process all the data.



This was a enjoyable and educational experience for our students and we look forward to seeing the station in place. Thank you to the representatives from the Met Office who worked with students on the project.



Half term trips

Over half term a number staff and students will be travelling across Europe to gain some invaluable experiences. Year 12 & 13 departed last night from Sidmouth College on route to Amsterdam, Holland. They will be visiting a host of places on their travels as well as in the city itself. We look forward to hearing all about the trip when they return.

A selection of students will also be heading off from the College in the early hours tomorrow and travelling to Prato Nevoso in Italy to hit the slopes. They visited the dry ski slope in Exeter last week to get some practise in before they left (see picture right).



Holocaust Memorial Day Visit

On Friday 27th January Miss Hext took sixth form students to a conference at Exeter University as part of Holocaust Memorial Day. During the visit students heard from guest speakers including those affected by the Holocaust, after listening to the conference and hearing from the speakers, students and staff were able to ask questions along with many other schools and sixth forms. Head Boy Tim Middleton attended and said 'it was



fascinating to hear the stories from the guest speakers, it was hard to hear the personal stories, but it made us all realise how important it was to hold a memorial day and remember those who suffered. It was a day I will never forget.'



Media Studies students sell roses for Valentine's Day



Year 12 Media Studies students have followed tradition this year by been selling roses for Valentine's day in school. For the past 2 weeks students have been able to purchase roses to send along with a personalised message to be delivered ahead of valentines day before the end of term. Today the day arrived for media students to hand deliver each rose to their lucky recipient during lessons, and of course students went all out to dress in Valentine's day themed attire. As well as abit of fun, the money students raised will be used to purchase extra resources and equipment for the Media Studies department.

Ten Tors training continues *(report by Carole Clark)*

On Saturday 14th January 25 students and 13 adults undertook our 4th training walk on Dartmoor. It was lovely to see some snow, although by the end of the day it had melted and we once again walked through some heavy showers. The students are now having to carry more items in their rucksacks as we continue training for the actual event and we head towards our final 'day' walk. After that we have two weekends, with camping overnight on the Saturday, and full training walks on both days.

Our 5th training walk was completed on 5th February when we had a mixture of weather on the Moor, fog to start us off, snow on ground on the high moor, with occasional sunshine along the way. This was our final day training walk and students have worked incredibly hard so far. Our next Moor training is on the weekend of 18th and 19th March, when we will also Camp. However, to ensure that walking fitness is kept up, we will be having a local walk from the College on Saturday 25th February when we hope to complete about 18 miles on East Devon Way and Coastal paths.

Once again, thanks to our volunteers and parents/carers who are supporting Ten Tors 2017. Students should continue to look regularly at the noticeboard and daily student bulletin for notices.



Remember we have discount letters for Cotswolds and links on the Ten Tors website provide discounts in other outdoor outlets: www.tentors.org.uk.





Calling all Year 7 singers!

On Monday 20th February (first day back after half term), Sarah Owen is running a singing workshop in the Music Room at lunchtime. Come along and get involved!



Science Department

The Science department are asking if you have any old working hairdryers that you no longer need and are willing to donate. Please bring them to the Science Prep Room. They will be used in Science experiments. Thank you in advance!



The Sidmouth College Association

Quiz Night



Friday 24th February 2017

7:00pm for 7:30pm start

In the Sidmouth College main hall

Ticket includes evening buffet

Tickets are available
from Sidmouth College
Reception

**Licensed Bar. Raffle. Games.
Great prizes!**

**£8
per person**
Teams of up
to 6



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