

Sidmouth College Newsletter

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Spring Term: Edition 4 - Friday 31st March 2023



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As another busy half term comes to an end it provides us all with an opportunity to reflect on the fantastic work that has taken place across the College.

I speak regularly about how proud I am of the College, leading a school is a challenging role and we would not have the continued improvements and successes that we have had, and continue to have, without the staff at Sidmouth College. We are all working incredibly hard for our students and it is a real joy to celebrate their successes. These successes are a result of the dedication and hard work of an incredible team of staff. I would like to thank them and also all of you for your continued support.

Focus weeks: This half term we have introduced weekly focus areas linked to our College expectations and our Sidmouth College Way, this is to ensure that we maintain our high standards. Focus weeks will now remain each week on a cycle and will be a constant reminder that it is really important to get the basics right every day.

Teaching & Learning: We continue to focus on providing high quality teaching and learning experiences for all of our students, every lesson of every day. Our teaching and learning principles at the College are underpinned by the research of Rosenshine; if you would like to read more please do have a look on our website at [Teaching and Learning](#). We continue to prioritise retrieval in lessons as we understand the importance of the work around memory and cognitive load. We expect all students to be ready to learn to enable lesson starts to be prompt and purposeful. Part of being ready to learn is having all the correct [equipment](#) so please can you use the Easter break as an opportunity to check and restock if needed.

Year 11 & 13: I continue to be impressed with both Year 11 and Year 13 students. The majority of students achieved higher marks in their second trial exams and are focused and preparing well for their exams which start in the next few weeks. Students have been given their final countdown this week to support with revision. Whilst the Easter holidays will provide all students with time to continue with exam preparations, it is important that they also have some time away from their studies so that they can return refreshed and ready for the challenges ahead. I have no doubt that our students will achieve well this summer if they continue to remain as focused and determined as we have seen so far this year.

Community links: We know and value our position within the community and I am always pleased when we can continue to build links and work with other members of our wider community. We work as part of a learning community with our feeder primary schools and this year we are prioritising work around curriculum. We had the privilege of being able to spend time in Newton Poppleford primary school recently with a focus on History and Geography and will be continuing next half term as our Science leaders visit Sidbury primary school. Year 5 students also had the opportunity to attend a Science workshop at the College recently. This not only supports the curriculum but also strengthens the relationships between the College and our primary schools. This half term through our careers work we have also continued to build on the links we have with local business and industry and we are fortunate that local leaders come into the College to support sessions.

Please enjoy reading the newsletter. As ever it is a snap shot of some of the wonderful opportunities that students have at Sidmouth College; hopefully you are also able to follow our Facebook posts to see regularly what is happening not only in the curriculum but outside of the classroom too.

Have a wonderful Easter holidays, the summer term starts on Monday 17th April.

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Indoor Cricket

Congratulations to our U13 boys' indoor cricket team who competed at the Devon County finals at Exeter University in March. They were competitive throughout the day against some challenging opponents and will have hopefully learnt a lot from the experience. Highlight of the day was their final over victory in their last match. Alfie was voted Sidmouth's player of the day for his cameos with the bat. They finished 7th overall in the county, well played!



Cheerleading Championships Success

Well done to Kiesha A in Year 7 who took home a Gold medal as part of the winning team at the South West Cheerleading Championships in March.

Also a well done to our very own Miss Roberts in the PE department, who won a Championship title as a performer and coach!

Amazing achievements for both.



No Label, No Limit

On Monday 27th March we welcomed Emma Davies to lead our 'No label, No Limit' workshop which was based on resilience and being kind.

We were also joined by Emma Sueref & Judith O'Neil who spoke to the group about their roles and explored resilience, including what it is and how important it can be.

The group also watched a video from Rosie Nixon, the Editor of Hello Magazine, which explored the concept of kindness.

Finally the girls looked at the book 'Be Kind' and selected passages that resonated with them. All the girls were then gifted a copy of the book to take home.

This day also saw the College run the first lunchtime session, where we welcomed additional employers Emily Gilbert and Harriet Kelly from Kier. The girls networked with the employers finding out about the jobs they were in and had the opportunity to ask questions.

Thank you to all our visitors.





Sidmouth College Chess Championship

This term Mr Dodd has organised the Sidmouth College Chess Championships. Taking place at lunchtimes in the Library, we have seen over 30 students battle it out over 3 rounds for the title. After the knockout stages, the final came down to students Jack P and Joel S. The game was live streamed across the school so everyone could watch the action! Well done to the winner Jack P, 2nd place Joel S and 3rd Alex H.

It has been great to see so many students playing chess and being enthusiastic to take part in the Championship. We hope to run this every year and get more students involved.

Remember there are chess and other board games available in the Library at break and lunch for all students.



Red Nose Day

On Friday 17th March it was Red Nose Day and students were able to wear non-uniform to raise money for Comic Relief.

In total the College raised £577. Thank you to everyone who donated and supported the charity.



Transition Workshops

This term Mrs Jenkins has been visiting our feeder primary schools to meet the Year 6 pupils that will be joining the college in September. For each workshop she is joined by a group of Year 7 students who help to run the sessions, as well as answer any questions the Year 6s might have. Well done to all our helpers this half term who have been excellent ambassadors for the college.



World Book Day

On Thursday 2nd March it was World Book Day. To mark the day College Librarian Mrs Harrison ran a quiz all week and also a Literary Pair Competition for students.

Teachers were each given a badge with a chosen literary character on, students had to find the other half of the pair and record all the pairs they made.

The winners received a selection of prizes on Monday 6th March.

Well done to all students who took part in the World Book Day celebrations and the teachers who were paired up.



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Languages Lab

This term Year 10 MFL students have been testing out our new language lab software in lessons. The new software enables students to practise listening and speaking, safe in their own cocoon, with headphones and individual speaking tasks. We are already seeing that the students are keener to speak and improving their listening scores.

Mr O'Neill, Head of Modern Languages, is really appreciative of having the resource and excited about the possibilities it opens up. The students have been superb in navigating the new language lab.



International Women's Day

Year 10 and 12 Media and Sociology students attended Exeter University's #embraceequity conference for International Women's Day on Wednesday 8th March.

Students listened to inspirational women from a whole range of fields, alongside having a small campus tour and experiencing university style learning.

Students were engaged throughout the day and were excellent ambassadors for the College. Well done girls!



British Science Week

The 13th to 19th of March was British Science Week and the Science Department celebrated with a number of workshops in lessons.

Students in year 7 were treated to a glider making workshop. They began by looking at how gliders work and the components needed. They then had the opportunity to build their own and see whose could fly the furthest.





Ten Tors

Ten Tors training for 2022/2023 is coming up to completion with the big challenge weekend taking place in May!

This half term students have been busy preparing for the challenge. On the 12th of March Years 10 and 11 students successfully completed a walk on Dartmoor with Mrs Clark and Mr Richards. They were joined by a number of wonderful volunteers who give up their weekends to support the students, thank you to them all.

Next term they have their final training walks in April. Good luck to the group in their final preparation and we look forward to the main event in May!



Maths Challenge

Over ninety Years 9, 10 and 11 students took part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge on Thursday 2nd February. The national challenge encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. Thirty six of our students won Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates and their efforts were celebrated during assembly. Special mention goes to Adam who won Gold, best in Y11 and best in school, Jack who won Silver and best in Y10 and Kai who also won Silver and best in Y9. A huge congratulations to all who took part. Some really incredible achievements!



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Student Council

This term all of our students were invited to take part in a survey from the 'Young Persons Network in Sidmouth' to consider what they would like to see in the town.

On Monday 13th March our Student Councillors worked with Design West to explore the ideas that came out from the survey.

The group considered what Sidmouth already has to offer young people and what is needed. This included working on a large scale map of the town and identifying indoor and outdoor opportunities as well as looking at the routes the students feel safe to walk on.

All of the students engaged well with this opportunity and enjoyed being part of the voice for Sidmouth's young people. We hope their input will make a difference to the town and improve the area for our young people.

Thank you to the team at Design West for working with the group and Sarah Hall for taking some great photographs of the students.



Year 8 Careers Workshop

Our Year 8 students had the fantastic opportunity to work with our amazing business partners last week including Terry Exell- retired BAE engineer, Anne Marie Taylor - Brend Hotels, Katherine Austin and Scott Lawson - Bickton College, Ashley Leeds- Full Cup Coaching and Sarah Vincent and Sue Cockayne from EDDC.

The students heard from our business partners about the jobs they do and what skills they use in their careers. They then considered what skills they have and what skills they would like to develop. We would like to thank our business partners as they enrich our Careers programme.





Holland and Belgium Trip

On Thursday 9th February Mrs Hurley, Mr Demetre, Miss Gosling and Mrs Liddle took over 30 students from Years 11, 12 and 13 to Holland and Belgium as part of their GCSE and A-Level Philosophy and Ethics course.

The trip included visits to many sites in Holland and Belgium associated with the First and Second World Wars and gave students an eye opening and unforgettable experience.

They began the trip with a focus on the Second World War, visiting the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, Arnhem, Oosterbeek War Cemetery where men killed during the battle for the bridge at Arnhem are buried, and Vught Concentration Camp.

The second part of the trip focussed on the First World War. Three students laid a wreath for the College at the Last Post ceremony under the Menin Gate. The gate commemorates some of those killed in the First World War who have no known grave and has more than 54,000 names inscribed on it.

The group also visited Essex Farm Cemetery, Langemark German Cemetery and had the chance to walk through a trench at Hoge Crater.

The last stop was in Tyne Cott, the largest First World War cemetery containing 11,956 graves, 8,369 unidentified.

Throughout the trip the students were accompanied by an outstanding tour guide, Bruce, who used his wealth of knowledge and experience to make the trip very engaging for everyone.

Student Will said "Overall, we learnt an immense amount which certainly gave us a great deal to think about. The whole experience gave us the opportunity to reflect and, as a result, it had a profound impact on us all."



Science Workshop

During March we invited pupils from our feeder Primary schools in to take part in a Science workshop with the Science Department. The pupils were tasked with looking at different solutions and using equipment such as thermometers and test tubes to measure the changes and reactions when mixed with different substances.





Technology Centre Visit

On Wednesday 22nd February a group of Year 10 students had the opportunity to visit the Technology Centre at Exeter College. The event was arranged for allow students to explore what it's like to study technology post 16 at the College and think about future options.

The students learnt how to weld using virtual welding machines. All students improved their techniques over the sessions, with Connor achieving a pass rate of 95% on one of his welds. After some lunch they had a session on Robotics, where the students started building a variety of models using Lego Mindstorm. Unfortunately the students didn't finish the robots due to time constraints, but some were shown the basics of programming.

Whilst not all students are interested in engineering, the networking proved useful. They met a range of staff including one who had done the music technology course at the College. They also met Andy Wells who explained the importance of research in making decisions, the qualification levels and how they equate, and how important it is to do the best you can at GCSEs.



Music Equipment Donation

This term, the Sidmouth College Tech Team were very excited to take delivery of some incredible music technology equipment donated to the College. We would like to thank Devon Summerhayes, a local Sidmouth resident, who was pleased that his generous donation would be put to good use.

It includes some rare and handmade components as well as high end preamps, synths, MIDI devices and more!

Mr Morgan, head of Music, said 'While recording equipment is becoming more and more accessible these days, it is a wonderful opportunity for our students to work with truly professional equipment, to see the difference that makes and to explore ways of making music that aren't so accessible due to the often prohibitive costs associated with such high end technology.'



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Bicton College Visit

On 22nd March a group of Year 10 boys had the opportunity to explore Bicton College to support them in considering post 16 options.

The students explored the campus and enjoyed seeing the variety of opportunities on offer. They then had a session with the Military & Protective Service team where the boys did a variety of team activities, followed by learning why and how to camouflage yourself. They finally visited the plant operations area where they had the opportunity to find out how some big equipment worked and have a go at using them in a controlled way.

Thank you to Katherine Austin and the team at Bicton College for a fantastic opportunity



UCAS Convention

Today Year 12 visited the UCAS Discovery event at Westpoint. They had the opportunity to speak to universities and apprenticeship providers from all over the country and collect some bonus goodies!



Primary Transition Programme

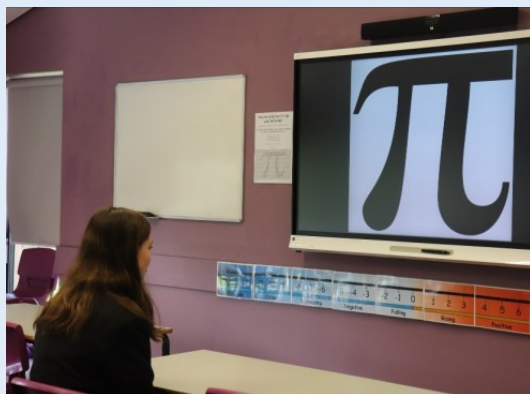
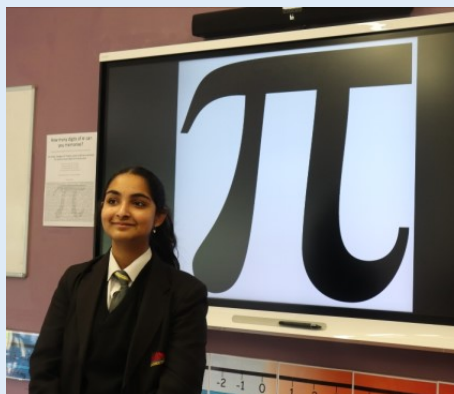
On Friday 17th March Mrs Parsons, Mr Trengove and Mrs Gill visited Newton Poppleford Primary School to talk to the pupils about the History and Geography Curriculum. It was a great opportunity to meet the pupils and visit every class in the school. We look forward to more visits to the primary schools in the summer term as well as the transition days when Year 6 will have three days at the College in July.



Pi Day

On Tuesday 14th March it was Pi Day and to celebrate Mrs Charalambous, Head of Maths, held a Pi reciting competition. Students were very impressive learning the numbers in Pi.

The winner was Laura in Year 10 who remembered 181 numbers. Laura received a certificate, chocolates, apple pies and a badge on Friday 17th March. Well done to everyone who took part and had a go!





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

Musicians Scarlet R and Olly C who attended an Army Reserve Musician Open Day and represented the College. Both students played and sang among seasoned performers and did exceptionally well!

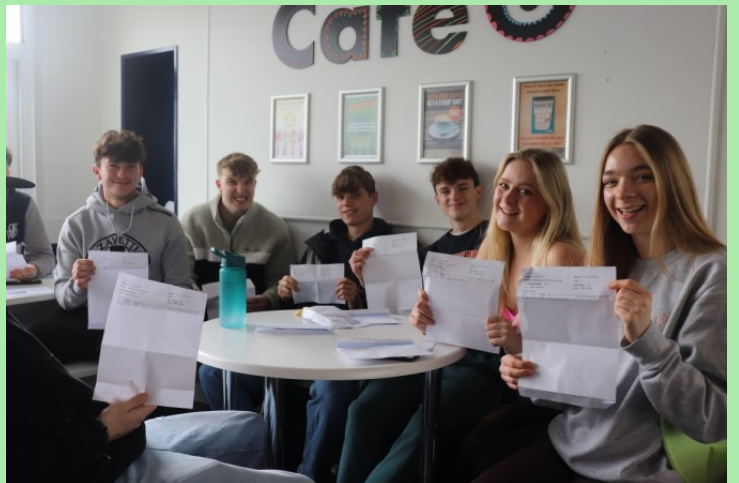
The second award went to Mia P for her amazing fundraising efforts this half term. Mia has raised £250 for the Earthquake appeal in Tukey by holding a cake sale and coffee morning for her neighbours.

Well done to all the students awarded a commendation.



BTEC Results

On Thursday 23rd March Years 12 and 13 Sport, Science and Health and Social Care Btec students received their first set of formal examination results. We are pleased to share that in all three subjects there was a 100% pass rate, with many students achieving merits and distinctions. A fantastic achievement and a testament to their resilience and hard work. Congratulations to them all!



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Easter Fair

On Friday 24th March 20 students who are currently fundraising for the Camps International Expedition to Costa Rica 2024 held a Easter Fair in the College canteen. For the evening event they each set up a stall selling a variety of homemade items such as candles and soaps, as well as baked treats and sweets. Students also ran games and sold refreshments.

It was a huge success and every stall was busy with customers. All profits have gone towards the students individual fundraising efforts.

Well done to all involved and good luck with your fundraising efforts between now and the trip!



SIDMOUTH COLLEGE CAMPS INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Easter Fair

FRIDAY 24TH MARCH 2023

4.30PM-7.30PM IN THE COLLEGE CANTEEN

A VARIETY OF STALLS RUN BY STUDENTS

**FREE ENTRY | REFRESHMENTS | TOMBOLA
CAKES | GIFTS | CRAFTS | LIVE MUSIC**

**FUNDRAISING FOR CAMPS INTERNATIONAL
COSTA RICA EXPEDITION SUMMER 2024**



Message from Devon and Cornwall Police

Could your child – or one you know – be sexting images or videos of themselves?

With the majority of students owning a smart phone we have unfortunately noticed an increase in the taking, sharing and keeping of intimate and nude pictures of persons under the age of 18.

We are aware that teenage years come with a degree of curiosity however it is our duty to remind students and parents alike that the taking, sharing and keeping of those images is a criminal offence.

This is the case even if the image is of yourself as someone under the age of 18. This is a reminder to everyone that as soon as that image is shared all control over it is lost which can lead to embarrassment, bullying and even blackmail.



**Devon & Cornwall
POLICE**

However awkward, please have the conversation with your child about their own responsibility if they come into possession of such an image.

Please visit the Devon and Cornwall Police website for further guidance.

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A-Level Drama Performances

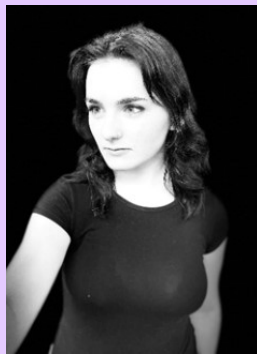
Drama and Theatre A-Level students performed their C3 Texts in practice exam 2 weeks ago to an appreciative audience and the Senior AQA Drama examiner. This is the first year since the Covid restrictions impacted on this part of the A level exam.

Each student performed a 5 minute monologue taken from a range of plays from different genres and periods. These ranged from a political anti-war play 'US' set in 1966 to an extract from the highly acclaimed 2022 play 'Prima Facie' challenging the patriarchal judicial system. This is a challenge as, unlike a group piece, there is no one to rescue you if you forget your lines. You have only 5 minutes to showcase your ability. There are no second takes! Prior to this exam they had workshopped other styles and period extracts and completed a 3000 word Reflective report that demands they analyse the process of rehearsal and the acting skills they have applied to create and develop their characters. They must show evidence that they have applied the influence of a renowned theatre practitioner throughout the process.

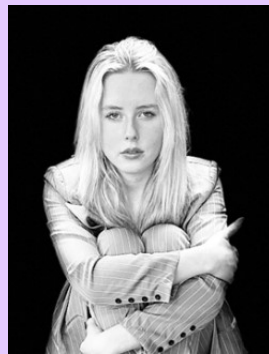
Every student maximised this opportunity to display their ability and can be proud of their performances. They will now have to wait until exam results day to know how well they achieved their aims.



Head Boy Jacob Green as
Dysart in 'Equus' by Peter
Shaffer



Iona Gray as
Glenda in 'US' by
Peter Brook



Hayley Jones as
Tessa In 'Prima Facie'
by Suzie Miller



Finn O'Brien as Megan
In 'The Girl on the
Train' By Rachel
Wagstaff



Georgie McNally as
Emma In 'People
Places & Things By
Duncan Macmillan

Year 7 Careers Day

On Monday 27th March Year 7 had the opportunity to learn about the 'World of Work'. This was the first time the year group had the opportunity to network with a range of employers. Our employers shared information about their job, what they actually do, entry requirements and training, salaries and much more.

We would like to thank our amazing employers for supporting this event Ben Borkowski, Jack West, Anne Marie Taylor, Kevin Clarke, Lauren French, Katherine Austen, Jo Fellows, Lauren O Neil, Angela Turner, Terry Exell, Emily, Irene Breckenridge, Ashley Leeds, Jo Widdecombe & Juliet Bidgood.



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SIDMOUTH COLLEGE *Equipment List*

- A pencil case
- At least 3 pens with black ink
- At least 3 pens with red ink
- Pencils
- Rubber
- Sharpener
- 30cm ruler
- Maths set incl compass & protractor
- Scientific calculator
- Highlighting pens
- Coloured pencil crayons
- White board pen
- Mini whiteboard rubber
- Glue stick
- Round ended safety scissors
- Student Planner



believe • inspire • succeed