

Sidmouth College Newsletter

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Welcome to our summer term newsletter. As always, the newsletter is bursting with just a snap shot of some of the events that have been happening at the College.

This half term has been incredibly busy as we have started formal examinations with GCSE, BTEC and A level exams for Year 11 and Year 13. The students have been exemplary so far in both their conduct and preparation. These students have shown amazing maturity and have been working extremely hard. The staff at the College are looking forward to being able to share their successes in the summer. We are also looking forward to being able to welcome a large number of students back to our sixth form.

Student leadership opportunities are important to us at the College and this half term the student Head of House process has been completed. I would like to recognise all those students who put themselves forward for this role and congratulate those who have become our new student Heads of House. We have a fantastic group of young people in Year 10 and I am sure they will be great ambassadors for the students and the College.

In this newsletter you will see the wonderful group of students who were involved in the Ten Tors Challenge. I would like to thank the staff who give up their time at the weekends to organise and supervise the walks. We also rely on a group of volunteers who give their time freely, without them we would not be able to provide this enrichment. Thank you to our fantastic community.

Next half term, the final one of the academic year, we have a very busy College calendar with a number of key events, including our Transition days for Year 7. We are once again oversubscribed at the College for our new intake and we are looking forward to getting to know the students who will be joining us in September. In addition to the Transition days we also have our GCSE Awards evening, PE Awards evening, Summer Concert, Activity Days, work experience and our Proms for Year 11 and 13. It will be a great half term of celebration and opportunities for students.

We continue to prioritise ensuring that we are providing a high-quality learning environment for all students; to support this it is really important that all students are fully equipped. Please use the half term break to ensure that your son / daughter has all the equipment required. You will find an equipment list in the newsletter.

Have a restful and relaxing half term, the summer weather has finally arrived! We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 5th June.

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Year 7 and 8 Reward Trip

On Friday 19th and Friday 26th May, Mr Trengove, Miss Flynn, Miss Carnell and Miss King took 100 students from Year 7 and 8 on a reward day to Cullompton to take part in the Bear Trail. The trip was arranged to recognise those students with the highest number of praise points in each of the year groups, celebrating their hard work since September.

The Bear Trail is an assault course with over 30 obstacles across the site all with unlimited mud! It was a sunny day and students made the most of it and all gave it a go. Luckily there were excellent shower facilities before we were allowed back on the coach! Everyone had a fantastic time and the students were a credit to the college.



Geography Fieldwork

On Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th April Mrs Gill, Mr Gilbert and Mr Herbert took their Year 11 GCSE Geography students to Dawlish Warren beach to complete fieldwork and collect data for their upcoming GCSE exams.

During the visit the group visited Langstone Rock and learned about the how the Devon Sandstone had originated from Africa 500 million years ago. They looked at the changing shape of the rock and how the weather and sea has eroded it over time. After a lunch break and time to enjoy the beachfront activities, the group went to the East side of the beach to look at offshore drift and the use of defences to protect the beach.





Athletics

In May students in Year 7 took part in their first Athletics competition. It was a great opportunity to have a go at various track and field events and compete against other schools for the first time. We look forward to a summer of athletics including sports day next half term!



Javelin Student Success

Congratulations to Harry R in Year 9 who this half term won the East Devon junior boys javelin competition.

Harry will now go on to represent Devon in June. An amazing achievement!

Good luck Harry!

Devon Cricket Cup

Congratulation to our under 12s cricket team who won their first match this half term on the evening of Tuesday 16th May. The team won a thriller of a match by 4 runs.

Batting first, Sidmouth scored a competitive 81 thanks largely to the platform from the top three of Archie, Freddie and Ally. With the ball, wickets were shared around but the key moments were at the death where Amalie and Freddie held their nerve to restrict the opposition to under 80.

A highlight to mention was the team hat-trick in Freddie's last over! Well done to the team for a great night of cricket.



Under 13s Softball

Well done to our students who played in the Under 13s softball side this term. The team came third in Exeter and East Devon at a Devon Cricket Softball Festival for girls.

They played some excellent cricket throughout the day where all bowlers contributed and batters made great progress as the day went on. Their effort and conduct was superb with all games played in the right spirit.





Ten Tors

After months of training nineteen Sidmouth College students successfully completed the Ten Tors challenge this term. Beaming smiles disguised their sore legs and feet as they crossed the finish line having hiked either 35 or 45 miles across Dartmoor, with all kit needed to be self sufficient for two days on their back.

On Saturday 29 April, students were awoken by the institutional Ten Tors alarm: Chariots of Fire at 5am over the loudspeakers. Students then set off at 7am as the canons marked the start of the 2023 event. Students then have until 5pm Sunday to complete their set route going via all checkpoints across the moor. Around 2500 young people took part in the challenge organised by the Army, all walking in teams of six people.

The two 35 mile teams consisted of Milly, Maddie, Charlotte, Heidi, Joe, Laurence, Ayla, Gracie, Radina, Ronja, Ned and Alastair all in Year 10. The 45 mile team, all of whom successfully completed the 35 mile route in 2022, consisted of Bronwyn, Harriet, Roman, James, Dan and Tom. Seven really strong year 11s trained for the 45 mile challenge this year but there are only six places in a team. An extra special mention to Sam who was so determined to complete the challenge, he did so with with another school's 45 mile team who were a person short.

Ten Tors is a tough physical challenge and test of determination and teamwork that remains with participants for years. Participation in the event is a longstanding tradition for Sidmouth College with continuing success for our teams. The training is as much a part of Ten Tors as the event and this begins in October. It requires months of effort both in school and on the moor throughout the winter months as students work together on their navigation, fitness and skills required to get around the event as a team.

Martyn Dudley, one of the 2023 Team Managers said 'the students have been a real pleasure to work with during the months spent training for Ten Tors. Over the event weekend, they were a credit to themselves and the College. They should be very proud of all they have achieved in training, building confidence, developing map skills, demonstrating sheer determination and working together as a team, all celebrated as they enjoyed the event at the weekend. We look forward to running Ten Tors again for the 2024 event with new faces and some old faces returning to take up the 45 or 55 mile challenge'

Alongside this incredible commitment from students is the equally commendable commitment from the team of adults supporting the students and enabling this enrichment opportunity. Sidmouth College is very grateful to our experienced and skilled support team including volunteers Andy, Gabe, Geoff, Jen, Josh, Martyn, Matt and Nick for their time and expertise, and to staff members Mrs Clark, Miss King, and Mr Richards who also give up their free time to support the students. Much of the work goes on in the background from hours of admin and sorting kit, to 4.30am starts to set up base camp ready for the final weekend. Thanks also extend to the support students receive from their families. It really is a monumental effort from all involved.

Sidmouth College Ten Tors has recently received funding to support student participation, staff qualifications and to buy much needed new equipment. The Ten Tors students and team have been blown away by the financial support received from Sidmouth Town Council, the Alpkit Foundation and the WPA Foundation. The money received is going to make a huge difference. Thank you to all involved.



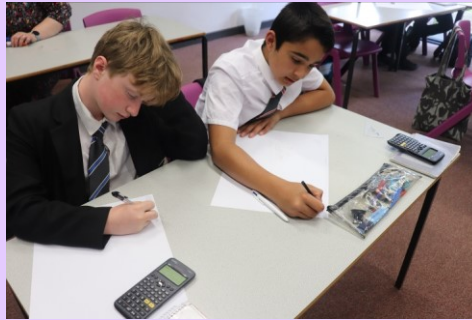


National Numeracy Day

On Wednesday 17th May, the Maths Department celebrated National Numeracy Day. To mark the occasion, students in Year 7 looked at a pocket money problem in their Maths lessons. Students used logic, reasoning and problem-solving skills, working collaboratively to find the best way to profit from pocket money. Well done to all the Year 7s who participated!

Furthermore, National Numeracy ambassador Bobby Seagull invited students from across the UK in Years 7 and 8 to become Number Heroes with their annual competition.

Students were asked to create a picture of themselves doing their dream job or hobby, describing all the different ways they would use numbers and Maths. Good luck to the Year 7s and 8s who have entered!



Student Heads of House Announced

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We are pleased to introduce our newly appointed Student Heads of House for the next academic year. After applications and elections which took place last term, we now have 16 new enthusiastic leaders. On Friday 12th May students were awarded their new Head of House ties, presented by Mrs Parsons and Mr White in assembly. Congratulations to them all, we look forward to seeing the work they do over the next year.

Raleigh House: Milly, Tilly, Raif and Ted
Grenville House: Gracie, Alex, Ruby and Ayla
Scott House: Laura, Jack, Joe and Josie
Drake House: Dara, Alex, Grace and Freddi

Raleigh Student Heads of House



Grenville Student Heads of House



Scott Student Heads of House



Drake Student Heads of House



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

The first award went to Archie G for his commitment to sports in and out of school. Archie represents the College as well as the County in Cricket and Golf and is having huge success. Well done Archie.

The second Principal's Commendation went to the Ten Tors students, who have trained hard since the Autumn Term, spending many evening and weekends on the moors and for successfully completing the challenge this half term.



EPQ Qualification

Congratulations to Year 13 students Holly and Nola for completing their Extended Project Qualification this term.

New to the Sixth Form offer this year, and highly valued by employers and universities alike, the qualification is an opportunity for students to work over the course of ten months researching a topic of interest to them but outside the scope of their A-Level courses. The qualification is equivalent to having an extra half A-Level but the benefits are so much more in terms of developing students' character.

Students are required to produce a 5000 word dissertation working under the guidance of a tutor, very much in the style of a university seminar. At the end of the project students present their findings before fielding questions from a panel of staff.

The neurological effects of creativity was the subject of Holly's project whilst Nola looked at the development of the modern Hepatitis-B. Their research was detailed, their presentations articulate and engaging and both students deftly fielded the questions asked of them. Holly and Nola acquitted themselves superbly and have set the standard for the current Year 12, many of whom will begin their EPQ journey shortly. Well done, girls!

Any students in Year 12 wanting to know more about the AQA EPQ can find out more [here](#) and will soon be able to register interest. In the meantime though they should talk to Holly and Nola for their tips.





No Labels, No Limit

On Wednesday 3rd May a group of Year 9 girls took part in the 5th workshop of the "No Labels, No Limit" programme.

During the session the group heard from a variety of successful business women and considered what skills they had. They then looked at how and why they had started their organisations and the links.

The session was a huge success and we would like to thank Emily from 'Small Steps Big Vision' and The Heart of the South West Careers Hub (HOTSW) for this opportunity.

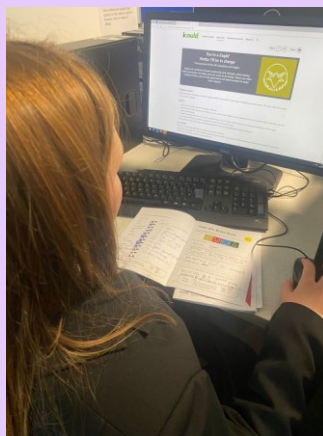
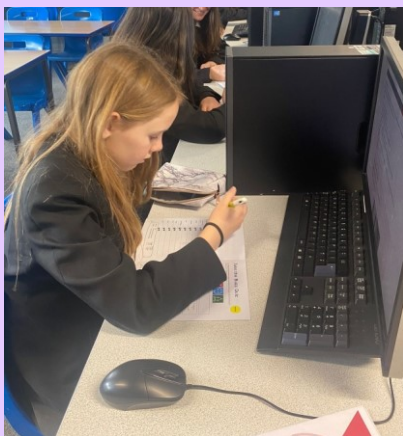
We look forward to the final session and conference for this programme which will be held in the next half term.



Year 7 Careers Session

This half term students in Year 7 have taken part in a careers session during their PSHE lessons. The session aimed at introducing students to possible careers and information about the choices they could make. Each student completed a questionnaire and thought about the skills they have and what careers they might suit.

At the end of the session the students had a questionnaire to take home and complete with parents, family or friends to look at the careers of others.



Will Goes to Buckingham Palace

In May Sixth Form student Will H was rewarded for achieving his Gold Duke of Edinburgh award with an invite to London during the Coronation weekend.

Will visited Buckingham Palace and was presented with his certificate. What an experience, congratulations Will!



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GCSE Drama

GCSE Drama students tackled their C3 Text in a practice exam with energy and focused enthusiasm and apprehension. The task involves performing two extracts from published play texts to a visiting AQA examiner.

They had spent half a term preparing the two extracts which involved learning the lines and becoming the character in a monologue or duologue. The performance has to be in costume with props and they design their own setting and lighting to support their work.

The pieces chosen are challenging and complex with extracts from fifteen different plays. The examiner and the audience watched engaging and challenging performances tackling complex themes and situations such as a sister of a disabled young man challenging her parents, a scene depicting life in the battlefields of WW1, a mother and daughter reconnecting following a long prison sentence, two seven year old boys dealing with life in WW2, a challenging relationship where a mother agrees to bring up her daughters child as her own, a piece that deals with the impact on a friendship when one teenager is diagnosed with terminal cancer and another where 2 actors perform an adaptation of 'The Boy in the Stripped Pyjamas' set at a Concentration camp. These are just a flavour of the range of content explored by the students.

On the exam day thirty extract performances took place demanding a logistical approach as each group set up their set and performed. An array of large props including large fences, sofas, beds, blocks, tables, desks, chairs, stools and rugs were strategically placed in order to ensure a speedy transition from one performance to the next. Each performance was filmed as evidence to support the marking process for the examiner.

Each extract is marked out of 20 and accounts for 20% of their overall GCSE Drama Grade. The students will have to wait until results day in August to discover their marks and fingers crossed they will be happy with their hard work.



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Geography Fair Trade Chocolate Bars

This half term Year 7 students have been learning about cocoa farming and fair trade companies in Geography lessons.. To complete the project in groups students were tasked with designing their own fair trade chocolate companies and chocolate bars. During the last week of term groups presented their designs to Mrs Gill and the rest of their class.

Mrs Gill's feedback was that they were all amazing, but a special mention needs to go to Faith, Christeen, Amelia and Elsie for their 'lucky dip' and intense marketing campaign, Chloe for her original 'Bees Knees' chocolate and Jake, Dylan, Hayden, Freddie and Marley for getting David Attenborough involved in their campaign. Top work!



Maths Challenge

Over 90 students in Years 7 and 8 took part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge on Wednesday 26th April.

The national challenge encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. 21 of our students won Bronze and Silver certificates.

Special mention goes to Ella who won Silver, best in Year 7 and best in school and Shanel who also won Silver and best in Year 8. A huge congratulations to all who took part. Some really incredible achievements!



D of E

The Year 12 Duke of Edinburgh students set off on their Silver main and Gold practice expedition on Exmoor on Tuesday 23rd May. Teams did well walking over 10 hours a day in the high temperatures. They even managed to squeeze in time for tea and cake to celebrate Charlotte's birthday!



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SUMMER CONCERT



THURSDAY 6TH JULY

DOORS OPEN 6:30PM • CONCERT STARTS 7PM

**LIVE PERFORMANCES FROM SIDMOUTH
COLLEGE & LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS**

ALL WELCOME • PIZZA VAN • GELATO • CREPES

TICKETS £5 ON EVENTBRITE



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



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