# Sidmouth College Newsletter

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I would like to take this opportunity not to write about the challenges that we have all had to overcome this year but instead to share my thanks and recognise the positives from this unusual year.

Our students have been amazing throughout this year; from our Year 7 who came to us in September with no on-site transition visits and settled remarkably well, to our Year 11 and 13 who had the initial uncertainty about their exams. Even after working in education for 20 years and having two children of my own I am still overwhelmed by the resilience and positivity of young people. We need to champion them and show others just how remarkable they all are. I cannot wait to be able to provide the wider curriculum enrichment opportunities for our students next year. The newsletter shares with you a

snapshot of what they have been involved in this half term. I am pleased that we have been able to run inhouse activity days and that our Year 11 students managed to have their prom.

Our staff have once again worked so hard for our students, delivering high quality remote education, adapting curriculum plans and providing pastoral support for all. In a year that was filled with so much uncertainty our wonderful staff provided stability for our young people and families. I would like to thank each and every one of them for their dedication which enabled us to maintain high quality education even when students were working remotely.

Our parents, thank you for continued support. The relationship between you and the College is so important. I received so many positive messages during the COVID months and these were all passed on to the staff. We do ensure that every decision that is made has the students at the centre and I hope that this is translated in the communications that you received at home. I appreciate all that you did to support your children especially during the period of College closure.

Our College community, and our wider community have been incredibly supportive over the year. We were one of the only secondary schools in the county who ran the lateral flow mass testing solely on volunteers. When the call went out for devices we were inundated with donations. It shows the incredible strength of the Sidmouth community. It also reinforces just how important the College is in the town. I know how much the community want our students to succeed and that is testament to the relationship that the College has with the Sidmouth Community.

I am immensely proud to lead the College and feel privileged to work in such a supportive community. The College continues to thrive and grow. Next year I am pleased to share that we have our largest intake of students into Year 12 and another full Year 7 joining us. I will continue to drive improvement in the new academic year and I am excited at the prospect of a year with less disruption in which to focus on our priorities.

I would like to wish all our families a restful and relaxing summer break, enjoy the lifting of restrictions. Please keep an eye on communication from the College over the holidays as we will be organising mass testing when we return. We look forward to welcoming you back in September. A reminder that Year 7 return to us on Wednesday 8th September, with Year 8, 9, 10 and 11 on Thursday 9th September. Years 12 & 13 will register on Wednesday 8th September. Have a wonderful holiday.

Follow Sidmouth College on Social Media!



www.twitter.com/sidmouthcollege www.facebook.com/sidmouthcollege www.sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk



#### **Student Heads of House**

We are pleased to introduce our newly appointed Student Heads of House for the next academic year. After applications, campaigns and elections we now have 16 new enthusiastic leaders. For Raleigh House: Imy, Flora, Charles and Ben. For Grenville House: Charlotte, Evie, Jake and Poppy. For Scott House: Izzi, Katie, Anna and Jessica and finally for Drake House: Brooke, Tara, Bella and Teigan. Congratulations to them all, we look forward to seeing the work they do over the next year.

#### Raleigh Student Heads of House









Scott Student Heads of House







#### **Grenville Student Heads of House**









**Drake Student Heads of House** 









#### Ten Tors

After the disappointment of both 2020 event and 2021 event being cancelled due to Covid 19 we were pleased to be able to take a Sidmouth College Ten Tors team out on Saturday 12th June to take part in the Army's official 'virtual event'.

Our 35-mile team completed a 15+ mile walk using the East Devon Way walking from Exmouth back to Sidmouth College. It was an extremely HOT day but they completed the walk in a great time and we have no doubt that this would have been a successful team on Dartmoor.

We were thrilled to present the students with certificates in assembly the week after the walk to celebrate their achievement.

Congratulations to the students and many thanks for our volunteers Martyn and Jen. Well done to Matthew H, Joshua S, Teigan M, Fern D, Katie-Mae W and Katie C.



#### **Duke of Edinburgh**

Congratulations to Year 9 students Grace and Leyla and Year 10 students Laura and Ben, all of whom received their DofE Certificate of Achievement for completing the Physical, Skills and Volunteering sections of their D of E Awards, Bronze for Leyla and Ben and Silver for Laura. This is a fantastic achievement, recognising their amazing efforts during these challenging times. Well done to all of you.







#### **Summer Ball**

We were thrilled when we learnt that the Summer Ball for Year 11 could go ahead this year. After postponement on Tuesday 20th July and a last minute venue change, Year 11 students finally arrived at the Rougemont Hotel for the much anticipated final event of their year.

We were blessed with glorious sunshine, which helped everyone get into the celebratory mood. Students arrived in style in the usual array of interesting and impressive vehicles including motorbikes, a tractor, a party bus and a quadbike. Everyone dressed to impress in sharp suits and dazzling dresses that wouldn't have looked out of place on the red carpet, After photos around Woodbury Park and a photo booth inside, it was time to tuck into a 3-course meal, followed by song requests galore, selfies and plenty of dancing - even staff couldn't resist joining in to show off some moves!

It was lovely to see the year group enjoying themselves after a challenging year. It is always sad to see Year 11 finish but we are pleased that so many are coming back for Sixth Form. The College would like to wish all our Year 11 students the very best of luck with the next exciting stage of their lives.





















#### **Primary Sports**

We were delighted to be able to host pupils from our local primary schools this half term. These were the first primary sports events since lockdown, so we were excited to start up the program again.

For each session a number of our fantastic Year 8 students helped as leaders and worked with the Year 3 and Year 4 pupils to take part in a variety of athletic events including running, hurdles and long jump. We had wonderful weather both days and the year 8s were excellent role models to the younger pupils. Well done to all who took part!







#### **Sports Leaders**

Congratulations to our Year 10 Sports Leaders who have successfully completed their Sports Leaders UK Level 1 qualification. All 23 of them developed their leadership skills and showed the ability to stay calm under pressure and plan for a variety of different activities. Mrs Omand said she was impressed by how they supported one another through the course and motivated younger students to participate and perform successfully. We hope they use these experiences to further develop their leadership skills throughout Year 11 and 6th form and use it as a platform to move on to further qualifications in sport.



#### **Year 7 Cricket**

The Sidmouth College Year 7 Cricket team played against Colyton this half term in their first fixture of the year. Unfortunately they lost by 10 runs, but played



so well and had a great time playing in the sun. Well done to the team!

#### **Rounders**

Years 8, 9 and 10 girls played their first competitive rounders match of the year against students from Colyton. On the day we saw some very competitive



matches, particularly from the Year 9's. Congratulations to Sheril, Avie, Tilly and Millie who were awarded Players of the Match.



#### **Sixth Form Fundraising**

This term the Sixth Form students ran a fundraising week to raise funds for the Sixth Form refurbishment appeal.

This included a car wash, a lands end to John O'Groats virtual bike ride at in the canteen courtesy of LED and a cake sale. All the events were a huge success. The cake sale lasted over two days because we had so many donations, and the bike ride saw over 50 staff and students take part.

The main event, which kicked off the fundraising week, was a Cricket Match on Sunday 11th July at Sidmouth Cricket Club. The teams taking part were the 'Sixth Form Legends' (past and present) vs 'The Sidmouth College staff' (past and present).

Unfortunately the weather was not on our side and after 10 overs play was abandoned. Those in attendance still enjoyed a BBQ and refreshments and were able to buy raffle tickets to support the Sixth Form. We were able to finish the game the following week on Monday 19th July when the teams returned and were able to play a few more overs with the Old Boys winning by 30 runs.

The Sixth Form raised £2000 in total from the fundraising week. Well done to them all and thank you to all who came along and helped us raise some money.

If anyone couldn't make it on the day but would like to donate to the appeal, visit our Just Giving page at::

### www.justgiving.com/campaign/sidmouthcollegesixthform.



















#### **Year 6 Transition Days**

Due to restrictions we were unable to host our usual 3 transition days for pupils in year 6 who will be joining us next year. However, we were able to hold an online transition event including a virtual tour, meeting the tutors, meeting the Heads of House, a Q&A with current year 7s and a parents evening.

If you are a parent of a Year 6 student and would like to see our transition resources, visit:

www.sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk/year-6-transition

We are looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7 cohort in September.



#### **Blackmore Garden Planting**

On a beautifully sunny morning in June a number of Year 8 students, accompanied by Mrs Harris & Mrs Young, worked with Peter and Sue from Sidmouth in Bloom (SIB) to plant containers in Blackmore Gardens.

During the day the group learnt about the 50th anniversary of Sidmouth In Bloom and the work of all the volunteers. They planted a range of flowers including Geraniums, Nemesias, Verbenas, ornamental potatoes and Lobelias with the help of Peter and Sue, who provided guidance on where they should go.

They also learnt about SIB links to Royal parks and how our floral elephants have gone to a garden in



London and how "Gardener Tom" has come on holiday to Sidmouth and is residing in the flower bed in Blackmore gardens. These links have meant Sidmouth has had the opportunity to exhibit at the Chelsea Flower show, which has been moved to September this year.

On the way back to school the group popped in to see ex student Olivia at Browns Kitchen Bakery and the students heard from her about setting up her new 'Cakery' in Sidmouth. With the benefit of cake the students walked back to school in time for lessons after break. Thank you to the team from Sidmouth in Bloom for working with our students.









#### **Year 8 Printmaking**

On Tuesday 22nd June we were joined by Artist Emma Molony from Double Elephant for a printing workshop. The workshop was focused around engaging with nature and using natural forms as inspiration for our prints. Twenty Year 8 students took part in the workshop and created a really exciting range of prints. We think we might have some future printmakers!













#### The Sid Big Paint

The College was recently involved in a project called Sid's Big Paint which was run by the Sidmouth Society of Artists. Over thirty artists created individual sections of a photograph of Sidmouth in their own style and it looks so effective! The society then ran a competition open to all to spot various items in the picture. The work was on display at the Festival or Art exhibition in Kennaway House in July and it was a pleasure for the College to be part of the project.







#### **House Challenge Days and Activities**

To celebrate the last week of term, students were treated to House challenge days on the field with the heads of House. These took place in year groups and included team tasks and challenges to get the students working together and problem solving.

Half way through the day year groups swapped and took part in a range of subject based fun sessions including a 'bake-off' task in Technology, printing and model building in Art, light graffiti in Photography, marble runs in maths, mandala making in RE and top trumps designing in History.











#### **Sports Day**

During the last week of term students took part in the Sidmouth College Athletics Championships, competing in a range of athletics events for their house groups, with eyes on the prize of being house champions!

We were fortunate to have great weather on the two days, if not a little too hot with the heatwave setting in! Despite this, all years were eager to compete with regular cool down times and lots of water breaks, Many students aimed to break records and beat their personal bests and were particularly impressive this year, showing great commitment and enthusiasm to each of their events.



The PE Department said, "As a department we are so proud of the students this year, despite the days being split to allow for Covid restrictions, the students gave 100% to each of their events and they all excelled. As well as performing on the field, students were also excellent sports, cheering on students from other houses and encouraging each other."







#### **Year 10 Careers Day**

On Tuesday 20th July Year 10 took part in a careers day with employers, solving business problems and finding out about skills needed in the workplace.

They started the day with a presentation from Ann Daniels, who inspired us with her story of going from everyday life to becoming a polar explorer. Her key message was that you can do anything, as you are in charge of your destiny, you just need to believe in yourself! Students also learnt about the importance of work ethic, planning and presentation skills. At the end of the day they planned and presented on a subject of their choice without the use of IT.

Thank you to Ann Daniels, Ben and Kerry from Midas, Vicki from Molyneux Financial planning, Terry Exell, Sabrina from Kings Manor Care Home and Sue from East Devon HR.









#### **Science Competition**

Congratulations to Grace, Ebony and Mia who this term entered the Kew Gardens Endeavour competition with the help of science teacher Mrs Clark.

The whole class took part in a Biodiversity lesson provided by the Kew Gardens Endeavour team, which was part of the Ecosystems topic. Students were given the option to further research how we can help retain the world's Biodiversity and to put the information into a presentation.

One of the requirements for the competition was to make and record a presentation on biodiversity and upload it, along with a PowerPoint. Grace, Ebony



and Mia spent time during lunchtimes perfecting their presentation before they presented to the class. They had clearly researched some very interesting facts about local ecosystems.

The three girls were informed last week that they won the competition which has a prize of £1,000 to be spent within the Science Department on Biodiversity and plant science. Well done to the three students for this fantastic achievement.

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#### **Drama Department celebrates success**

Callum Burns is a former A level Drama student and lead actor in many Sidmouth Youth Theatre productions. He began acting in year 8 as a Bell Boy in 'Titanic' progressing to take on leading roles in 'Bugsy' as Bugsy Malone, as Action in 'West Side Story' and Richie Cunningham in 'Happy Days'. We are thrilled to hear that Callum has successfully auditioned and won a place at the renowned Bristol Old Vic Theatre School to study a BA in Acting.

Every year 2,500 young people audition for only 28 places, making this one of the most selective drama schools in the world. Applicants are purely judged on talent alone in two rounds of intensive auditions. Hopefuls prepare and perform two contrasting monologues; a classical and contemporary in front of a challenging panel of industry experts. The first round lasting only 15 minutes starts with a sight-reading challenge and then a performance of the classical and contemporary monologues followed by singing 30 seconds of a chosen song. This is followed by a request to perform one of the monologues with a different intention. This challenges the actor to be flexible, adaptable and to think on their feet. There is no discussion, you leave and wait for the letter to arrive in the post in the hope to be called for the second round of auditions.

This is a fantastic achievement for Callum who left after his A levels to travel. On returning to the UK he successfully auditioned for The National Youth Theatre where he worked online during last summer's lockdown to develop his skills. He then gained a place at Oxford School of Drama on their six-month foundation course which prepared him for the rigorous audition process and his current success.

This is another feather in the Drama department cap as another student heads into the Theatre Industry to join the continuing list of success. Callum is definitely one to look out for in the future.









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#### Year 10 Drama students complete their GCSE Drama NEA this term

The students were presented with four stimuli to choose to focus on; The Hillsborough disaster, The Chernobyl disaster, an abstract image that linked to mental health and the Aberfan disaster.

All the groups chose Aberfan as they were shocked and saddened by the loss of almost a whole generation of children. They were keen to research for personal stories, witness accounts and to discover the impact of such a traumatic event on the people in this small Welsh town. Fifty-five years ago, on 21st October 1966, the children left their homes to go to their school never to be seen again. It was the last day before the start of half term, when at 9.15am 116 children between the ages of 5 and 11 lost their lives. A tip of coal waste became dislodged in heavy rain and slid down a man-made mountain engulfing Pantglas Junior School.

Using their drama skills and their detailed research they devised an emotive and informative performance that

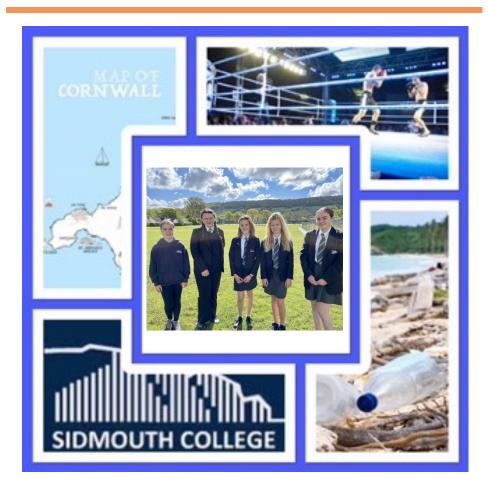
challenged them to multi-role and to perform a monologue within the piece. The groups worked hard to develop their skills and include many effective drama techniques to relate to their audience.







### **EDITION 2 - THURSDAY 22ND JULY**



PAGE 02
WHAT HAPPENED AT
THE G7 MEETING?

PAGE 03
SCHOOL UPDATES
AND ENVIRONMENTAL
TIPS.

# WELCOME TO THE SIDMOUTH COLLEGE STUDENT HERALD

Hi everyone! I'm Ayla! I hope you all enjoy our first proper newsletter and that you look forward to many more in the future!

**HOUSE POINTS:** 

R<mark>aleigh 27937</mark> Drake 26927 SCOTT 28266 Grenville 29098 QUIZ/JOKE
WHY DID THE EGG
DIE?

**ANSWER ON PAGE 4.** 

#### **G7** summit meeting

Earlier this month, between the 11th and 13th of June 2021, the G7 summit was held in St. Ives, Cornwall.

But, what is it and why is it important?

#### What is the G7 summit?

The G7 summit is an annual meeting of world leaders, in particular the G7 (group of 7). This group consists of the figureheads of the world's seven largest advanced economies. Representatives of the EU, European Union, also participate. At this meeting, discussions

are held about current

affairs and plans made for the year ahead. This year, the motto of the summit was 'build back better' with leaders focusing on how lives could be improved after the covid-19 pandemic.



"Unite leading democracies to help the world fight and then build back better from coronavirus and create a greener, more prosperous future"

#### Who are the G7?

Boris Johnson, **United Kingdom**; Angela Merkel, **Germany**; Jo Biden, **USA**; Justin Trudeau, **Canada**; Mario Draghi, **Italy**; Yoshihide Suga, **Japan**; Emmanuel Macron, **France**, together with Ursula von der Leyen, **European Union**.

#### What was discussed?

The main aim of the 2021 summit was to "unite leading democracies to help the world fight and then build back better from coronavirus and create a greener, more prosperous future". While focusing on rebuilding economies after the pandemic, it is clear the G7 are working towards an environmentally friendly future. The UK, USA and Germany in particular have set up a 'package of support' to aid and protect those directly affected by climate change and climate disasters. The leaders also pledged to commit to protecting the planet and investing in a greener economy. Another priority was to drive for gender equality and a fairer world for all. Covid-19 was also on the agenda, especially with regards to vaccines. The UK will donate 100 million doses to the world over the coming year, helping the world to recover from these unprecedented times.

By Katie Swinney

#### **Environment**

We all need to be more environmentally conscious, and I was hoping we could help with that.

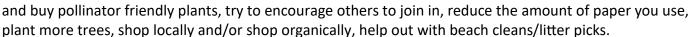
13 million metric tons of plastic ends up in our oceans each year. This can be catastrophic for the marine life as they can end up getting caught up in plastic bags, or even digest micro plastics. This can be dire because plastic can block their air passages. Furthermore, marine life absorb micro plastics and then humans consume them.

Our environment is responsible for keeping pretty much every living thing on earth alive. However, there are many factors like pollution, climate change, and deforestation, that threaten our planet along with everything on it.

But there are ways in which we can help before it's too late.

For example,

Reduce the amount of single use plastics you buy, reuse and recycle as much as you can, keep your garden chemical free, try to reduce your carbon footprint, plant



If we all do our bit, we can make a difference.

By Gracie Giles



#### **Updates**

**School building:** You will have noticed that the top half of the school demolition has finished, but the three story building has yet to be demolished. This is due to the discovery of a wagtail nest within the building. The demolition will continue once the birds have left. For now the top half of the school will be landscaped first.

**PE kit:** Recently, year nine students organized a petition for better PE leggings and many students from different year groups signed it. The petition was handed in with a letter that explained why students wanted new PE leggings. The school has listened to the student voice and has decided to change the leggings. These will be available in Thomas Moor and Honiton Sports in time for September. The PE department is also looking at new options for girls shorts, which most likely won't be ready until September.

**Activity days:** Many of you may be wondering what is going to happen instead of the activity day trips. Covid 19 guidelines say that activity days cannot run as they normally would. Instead of the usual range of trips there will be a mixture of subject activity days for three days at the end of term. The school will also host house challenges and sports events.

By Ella Watkins

#### **Sport - Chess Boxing**

The sport of chess boxing was invented in 1992 by the French artist Enki Bilal, who thought it up for his comic book, Froid Équateur. Little did he know, it would take more than a decade for the sport to appear in real life, but in 2003 the first official match was held in Berlin.

Over the past five years, the sport has spread from Berlin to the United States, the U.K. and Siberia. According to Frank Stoldt, Siberia is a chess-boxing paradise.

The boxing rounds last three minutes and the chess rounds last four. You win by knockout or checkmate. If neither of those is achieved, the boxer with the highest number of points wins.

The aim is to make chess boxing recognised as an international sport and be included the Olympic games. The sport is growing rapidly so this goal may be achieved soon! Chess boxing - the ultimate game of brain-versus-brawn where players quickly flicker between rounds in the boxing ring and move about the chessboard.

By Seren Moss

#### Corona virus word search

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Corona

Key worker

**Pandemic** 

Home learning

Lockdown

Sanitiser

Isolation

Mask

**Temperature** 

Answer to joke: because it cracked with laughter.

By Ella Watkins

#### Teacher interview

#### **GET TO KNOW YOUR TEACHERS!**

Ever wondered what your teachers were like in school? Or if they like pineapple on pizza? Then, this is the section for you! There are answers to these questions and more...

#### MR DEMETRE



#### Q - What do you teach?

A - I teach religious education.

#### Q - What is your favourite thing about the subject you teach?

A - I enjoy the A-level philosophy - big questions about whether God exists and why we are here. I also really enjoy ethical debates on topics such as abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment.

#### Q - When you were younger, what job did you want to do?

A - When I was a lot younger, I wanted to be a footballer! I realised that I wanted to teach from when I was doing my A-levels.

#### Q - If you could be any book character, who would you be and why?

A - I would like to be Sherlock Holmes. His inductive reasoning and attention to detail is very impressive. Even if he is a bit crazy!

#### Q - Who do you look up to the most?

A - I look up to my parents. If I could be half the parents they are when I have children, I will be happy!

#### Q - What was your favourite subject in school?

A - I really enjoyed PE as I love so many sports! Obviously, I also enjoyed discussion in RE, although I was never too keen on the large amounts of writing!

#### Q - What was your least favourite subject at school?

A - Science - I struggled to get my head around a lot of the concepts and this made it very frustrating. I was never too keen on the arts either due to my lack of creativity.

#### Q - If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

A - I really want to go to Australia to see my brother. He has lived out there for 5 years and I still haven't had a chance to go see him. Hopefully, we can travel again one day.

#### Q - Do you have any pets? If so, what are they?

A - No, not at the moment. I loved my black Labrador (Maggie) growing up and will definitely get another dog one day.

#### Q - Finally, a very controversial topic, does pineapple belong on pizza?

A - I don't mind pineapple on pizza. It wouldn't be my first choice but, each to their own.

Ever wondered about different careers? Each term read about where your subjects could take you!

Job: Journalist

**About:** A journalist writes and researches different topics for a newspaper, radio or social media etc.

**Responsibilities:** Interviewing people, attending press conferences, asking questions, working closely with

people.

**Linked subjects/ skills:** You would have to like writing, researching and have a knack for working with people.

Salary: Ranges from £12,000 to £40,000 plus.

Find out more: https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/newspaper-journalist

Job: Marine Biologist

**About:** The study of life in the sea and environment.

Responsibilities/skills: Collecting data, using information developing research theories.

Linked subjects: You would have to like science, geography, researching and being outside.

**Salary:** Ranges from £12,000 to £90,000.

Find out more: https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/marine-biologist

Job: Fashion Designer

**About:** Researching fashion trends and designing new and improved clothes.

Responsibilities/skills: Researching fashion trends, keeping up-to-date and planning.

**Linked subjects:** You would have to like design technology and planning.

**Salary:** Ranges from £16,000 to £85,000.

Find out more: https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/fashion-designer

By Ayla Cheesman

#### **Credits**

Page 2: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/53wxkdjd">https://tinyurl.com/53wxkdjd</a> photo of leaders

https://tinyurl.com/4k6k8um9 photo of flags

www.g7uk.org information

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-49434667 Information

Page 3: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/ytv8f6jb">https://tinyurl.com/ytv8f6jb</a>

Page 4 sports section credits: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/58mxfsyf">https://tinyurl.com/58mxfsyf</a>