

24 May 2024

# OKEHAMPTON COLLEGE



Newsletter  
Issue 5

## Highlights

- Faculty news
- Competitions
- Cricket Success
- Neon Run

At  We are

Kind

Tolerant

Respectful

Independent

Committed

Resilient

Hardworking

Responsible

The Oke Way

We care - We challenge - We thrive



## Principal's Message; A. Sweeney

Welcome to our Summer Term Newsletter. As you will read and see inside, it has been another busy half term of activity and achievement in school and out of school for so many of our young people.

On reflection this term I have been so impressed with the level of charity fund raising that has taken place recently involving so many of our students. The level of care, hard work, and effort that so many of our students have put into raising money for fantastic causes has been so humbling to see. Thank you to friends and families who have supported these events, of which each will be making a big difference.

I wish you all a restful Half Term and we look forward to welcoming all students back on Monday 3rd June 2024.

Andrew Sweeney  
Principal



## Important Dates

- 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024- Last day of Half Term
- 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024 - All pupils return
- 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024 - Sports Day
- 8<sup>th</sup> 12th July 2024 - Enrichment Week
- 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024 - Last Day of Term.

# ... News from our Senior Leadership Team ...

## Uniform

Our new uniform will be live in September 2024. All students will be expected to wear this uniform from the first day of term, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024. We have been working closely with our suppliers to source and produce a comfortable and cost-effective uniform in response to the 70% of stakeholders who indicated that a change of uniform was needed.

- Branded college V-neck sweatshirt with new badge
- Plain white polo shirt (non-branded)
- Skort which matches current skirt design. (Current skirts can be worn until the need to purchase new)
- A choice of dark grey trousers or shorts.

The new uniform will be stocked by our suppliers, School Wear Direct in Okehampton and Thomas Moore in Exeter from May Half Term ready for purchase for September. Please note that other than the jumper and skort, all other items can be purchased at a range of retailers to offer family choice.

Along side the items listed above our uniform policy also requires the following:

- Shoes must be 100% black. Any laces must be black.
- Plain black socks or black/tan tights are preferred (NO white socks).
- Sensible waterproof outdoor coats are strongly recommended.
- Hoodies and non-uniform jumpers are **not** to be worn
- The only jewellery permitted:
  - One pair of small plain ear studs.
  - One small plain nose stud (**NO rings**).
- Hair should be of its natural colour.

For further details and to see requirements for the PE uniform please see our website by [clicking here](#)



## Marathon Moon Walk!

Congratulations to Year 8 student, Shavaun Eustace, who completed the London MoonWalk on Saturday 18th May 2024 whilst celebrating her 13<sup>th</sup> Birthday! A marathon 26 mile walk through London at night in aid of breast Cancer. Shavaun and her mother took 10 hours to complete the walk and despite a few aches and sores they enjoyed taking part. Well done!

# ... News from our Senior Leadership Team ...



## R. Corkell Assistant Principal Safeguarding

Following the recent Student And Family Voice surveys, the results and feedback has been analysed and here are the key findings and actions pending.

### YOU SAID – WE DID

Student Voice feedback: Common themes raised and planned changes to be implemented or already underway:

- Bullying:** Increase vigilance and intervention from teachers and pastoral staff to address instances of bullying promptly.  
*Provide more support and resources for students who are being bullied with anti-bullying ambassadors*
- Toilets:** Improve cleanliness and accessibility of toilets, and ensure they remain open and monitored at all times to meet students' needs.  
*Refurbishment of toilets and cleaning between social times.*
- Corridor Safety:** Address issues of pushing and disruptions in corridors.  
*Staff thresholding and being visible in corridors to supervise. Students acting against the OKE Way with these behaviours to be sanctioned.*
- Uniform:** Reassess the need for strict uniform policies.  
*The uniform policy has been amended for September and student voice has already paid a valuable part of this change, e.g., nose studs.*
- Teacher-Student Trust:** Foster a culture of mutual respect and trust between teachers and students by giving students more responsibility where appropriate.  
*The OKE Way cultural framework underpins this work with student leadership.*
- Communication:** Encourage open communication between students and staff to address concerns and implement changes effectively.  
*Focus on the 'Speak up' campaign as seen the recent newsletter to encourage students to report incidents and concerns they have, including concerns of another student to effectively safeguard each other.*

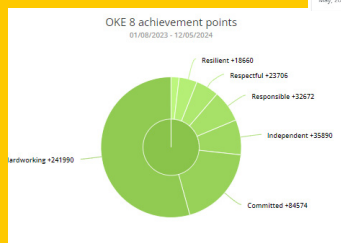
### Family Voice feedback:

Common themes and raised and planned changes to be implemented or already underway:

- Safeguarding of Students:** Concerns about the safety and well-being of students, including issues with bullying, violence, and lack of supervision.  
*An enhanced staff duty rota has been enacted with more supervision in identified areas. A review of the anti-bullying policy is planned for June 24 with focus on the 'Speak up' campaign as seen in the recent newsletter to encourage students to report incidents and concerns they have, including concerns of another student to effectively safeguard each other. Increased number of staff with enhanced level safeguarding is underway. Closer working partnerships with local policing and youth intervention services to address anti-social behaviours beyond the college gates.*
- Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support:** Frustration over the lack of knowledge and support for students with special educational needs, including dyslexia and slow processing.  
*SEND clinics are available to be booked with access to SEND specialists to support families and share knowledge and expertise. Please contact the SEND admin for more information. [itownsend@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto:itownsend@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk)*
- Mental Health Support:** Concerns about the mental health of students, particularly after bereavement, and the need for more support and resources.  
*All staff have recently received professional development and knowledge on childhood trauma. Further to this selected staff are mental health trained, with one specialising in bereavement. Signposting to external agencies is improving with our personal development curriculum referring to these agencies at the end of each lesson. The college is supporting national mental health week and raising awareness in response.*
- Career Guidance:** Criticisms of poor careers advice and a call for more personalised support and opportunities for apprenticeships.  
*The careers fair was a great success in providing access to alternative education routes. The college recognises this is only the beginning and plans for growth in this area with the upcoming vocational pathways.*
- School Environment:** Concerns about the school environment, including cleanliness and maintenance of facilities such as toilets.  
*Refurbishment of toilets and cleaning between social times. Upgrading social spaces by creating seating areas for students.*
- Teacher Support and Retention:** Concerns about staff turnover, support for teachers, and the impact of frequent supply teachers on students' learning.  
*The college recognises this a concern and is on a recruitment and staff development drive to keep high standards of quality teaching in the classroom and outcome for students.*

All behaviour breakdown - month  
01/08/2023 - 30/06/2024

Month	Positive	Negative
December, 2023	5767	1816
January, 2024	7828	429
February, 2024	6039	3183
March, 2024	7968	497
April, 2024	3839	284
May, 2024	7051	1771



# ... News from our Senior Leadership Team ...



D. White. Assistant Principal Attendance

## Attendance and Punctuality

Okehampton College is continuing to focus on attendance and punctuality. We will always encourage pupils to strive for the best possible attendance; We encouraged our pupils to maintain their attendance above 96% for this academic year 2023/24. There is a link between attendance and achievement and therefore it is very important that your child attends school unless there are exceptional circumstances.

## School Attendance and the National / Devon Campaign

The government and local authority have recognised the challenge that many families and schools face when supporting good school attendance.

During 2024 there have been several useful resources for students, parents, carers and school staff. Please [Click here for more information](#) on supporting positive mental health.

Our local offer through Devon County Council signposts parents to a range of sources for help and advice. The graphics shown on this page can be downloaded as a leaflet from their website. [Click here for the download.](#)



## Okehampton College – Supporting good attendance

We ask families to contact the College through either the Attendance Officer and/or their child's Tutor at the earliest opportunity if they feel they need support, advice or requests regarding school attendance. By working together, we can promote good school attendance and support your child in their educational journey.

A reminder of the communications you will receive from the College regarding attendance during this term:

1. Attendance figures for your child.
2. Statutory letter regarding requests for term time absence.

Our Attendance Officer: Tine Casbolt can be contacted through:

[attendance@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk)

Or directly by phone: 01837 650911

## School attendance matters



### What does the law say about attendance?

By law, all children of compulsory school age (between 5 and 16 yrs) must get a suitable, full-time education. As a parent **you are responsible** for making sure this happens. Parents and carers commit an offence if a child does not attend school regularly and the absence is not agreed by the school.

### Will an absence be authorised by the school?

Schools can only agree absences for a limited range of exceptional circumstances, these are typically absences that are completely unavoidable. Absences that **will not be agreed** might include:

- Arrival after registers have closed.
- Absences that are not properly explained.
- Day trips and holidays in term time.
- Leaving the school without school authorisation during the day.

Repeated unauthorised absences may be referred to Devon County Council for Parent Responsibility measures to improve attendance.

### Who can help you?

Do not be afraid to ask for help if a problem arises. Parents and carers should reach out to the school to explore how they can support and/or contact other services available to help.

Devon Safeguarding Children Partnership  
[www.devonscp.org.uk/](http://www.devonscp.org.uk/)

### Public Health Nursing Hubs

Tel: 03332 341 910  
[www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/health/publichealthnursing/](http://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/health/publichealthnursing/)

### Early Help

Northern Devon: [Earlyhelpnorthsecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:Earlyhelpnorthsecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk)  
Southern Devon: [Earlyhelpsouthsecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:Earlyhelpsouthsecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk)  
Mid & East Devon: [Earlyhelpmidandsecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:Earlyhelpmidandsecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk)  
Exeter: [Earlyhelpexetersecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:Earlyhelpexetersecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk)

Devon Independent Advisory Service  
DIAS [devonias.devon.gov.uk](http://devonias.devon.gov.uk)

### Why is good school attendance important?

Regular and punctual school attendance is essential to supporting a child or young person to flourish, fulfil their potential and enables them to:

- learn
- make and manage friendships
- develop new skills
- have fun
- experience new things in the world around them
- develop awareness and respect of other cultures, religion, ethnicity, and gender differences
- build confidence and self-esteem
- achieve and thrive with a sense of belonging to their school community
- prioritise their well-being and happiness
- be given the best start in life, enabling the best possible choices in their future

### Missing school... missing out!

Don't let your child be the one to miss out!

Attendance during one school year	Equivalent number of missed:		
	Days	Weeks	Average lessons
95%	9	2	54
90%	19	4	114
85%	29	6	174
80%	38	8	228
75%	48	10	288
70%	57	11.5	342
65%	67	13.5	402

### "We are only a few minutes late" - Does it matter?

Being late for school reduces learning time and does not prepare your child or young person for their future working lives.

- Arrival 5 minutes late every day = 3 days of learning missed each year
- Arrival 15 minutes late every day = 10 days or 2 weeks of learning each year.

### How you can help your child or young person to have excellent attendance in school

- Always inform the school if your child is absent.
- Talk openly to your child about school and work in partnership with the school to best support them.
- Encourage your child to attend regularly and advocate, speak up on behalf of their needs.
- Arrange medical or dental appointments outside of school hours when possible.
- Establish good morning and bedtime routines.
- Support your child to arrive at school on time.
- Take truancy seriously - consider where are they? Who are they with? What are they doing?
- Where possible attend parent consultations and school events.
- Value and acknowledge achievements in school.
- Take family holidays, visit family outside of term time.

Young people regularly missing school without good reason = increased risk of becoming isolated from their friends, underachieving in their learning and/or have vulnerability to become involved in antisocial behaviour.

A good diet and sleep routine aids to successful learning.

Every minute in school counts!

Helping your child to arrive at school on time, wearing correct uniform gives them a positive start to their day.

Regular school attendance (acts) as a young person life skills like time keeping, problem solving and independence.

Help your child by encouraging them to get their uniform and school bag ready the night before.

### Attendance advice and guidance for parents and carers

For further information about the Attendance Improvement Team and Devon Children's Services please see our website: [www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/](http://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/)

# ... Faculty Updates ...



## SEND

**Is your child finding it difficult to attend school?**

Having fears and worries are natural feelings for everyone to experience, however for some, these feelings can become overwhelming and distressing. These feelings can impact on all aspects of daily life- such as attending school, shopping and meeting up with friends and family.

Our Local Authority Educational Psychologist Lex Jefferies visited recently, delivering a session on 'Fears and Worries' specifically focusing on supporting families who have children who have difficulties attending school. We learnt about stepped-plans for families to use as a tool to help young people learn to face a worry. There are several ways to learn more!

1. Please book onto a SEND clinic where we can support you through the process. [SEND Clinic](#)
2. Community Links have an upcoming event which you can book onto (details below). This is also an opportunity for EP family voice on emotionally based school avoidance and the new support pathway.
3. The books below have been highly recommended by our EP to talk families through the process.



Community Links would like to invite you to attend their neurodiverse family support group on the 4th of July at 10am at the Ockment Centre.

The Educational Psychology team will be delivering a session around fear and anxiety, and will be sharing a stepped plan that can be used by parents and schools to help support their children.

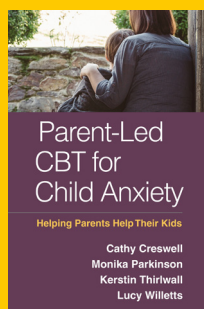
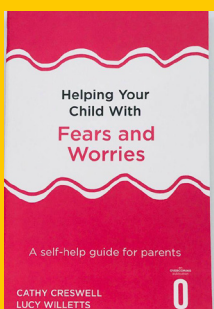
As part of this session the Educational Psychology team would also like to consult and seek feedback from parents on a new support pathway that they are developing. The new support pathway will be for parents, schools, and children, and will help them to identify where they can go for support when a child has emotional based school avoidance. We are hoping that this will be a valuable session for everyone.

Please could you complete the short reply slip on this link <https://forms.office.com/e/NVD0ipWKGc> to let me know whether you will be attending.

Many thanks

Isabelle Painter.

Email: [isabelle@communitylinks-sw.co.uk](mailto:isabelle@communitylinks-sw.co.uk)



# ...Faculty Updates...



## Years 7, 8 and 9

This half term, Year 7 have been looking at the Romantic poets, learning all about how they were influenced by the changing world around them: childhood, inequality in society and industrial revolution. They are now moving to creative writing, with a strong focus on building up their accuracy. The good bit: it's all based around a zombie apocalypse! Year 8 are on a similarly eerie journey, learning about the dawn of Gothic literature through three ghostly short stories. They will be writing an opening to their own Gothic stories in the next couple of weeks. Finally, Year 9 are moving to poetry from around the world, studying a range of poetry from different countries and cultures.

In Book Club, Year 7 are tackling Charles Dickens' Great Expectations to develop their understanding of Victorian Britain. Year 8 are reading Mary Shelley's biography, The Birth of Frankenstein, to support their knowledge of the Gothic and to get to know one of the foundational women writers of the 19th Century. Year 9 have started To Kill a Mockingbird and are enjoying bringing their understanding of US history to the text.

## Years 10 and 11

Year 10 are well on their way to completing our reading of Macbeth. We have been working on expanding their wider reading with articles on important context around tragedy, James I and women in Jacobean society. We are continuing with our Friday Write lessons, and really appreciate the support of parents in helping students to prepare. The focus of students in these lesson has been amazing to see and we want to congratulate Year 10 on their hard work.

To our wonderful Year 11s - well done! We are all so proud of you for your hard work in preparation for the English Literature GCSE, which you have now completed! There were an unusual number of smiles as students came out of both exams! Massive good luck for your English Language exams and remaining GCSEs. We will miss you!

## Competition Winner!

In April, one of our Year 9 students, Chloe Marten, fought off tough competition to be shortlisted for the 'Wicked Writers - Be the Change' national competition, beating over 1600 other young people. Chloe is part of the Creative Writing extra curricular group of aspiring young authors who focus on developing their own writing, entering writing competitions and working with younger children in our Trust to support their writing development. Chloe's piece was published, along with all of the 16 shortlisted entries in the 2024 Anthology (which is available to buy on Amazon) and she won a set of books for our school library.



Well done to all of the students who entered this tough competition!

## Sparx Reader

We are very proud of everyone's accomplishments in Sparx Reader this half term. Together we have now completed 3726 hours of reading and read a total of 775 books from around the world.

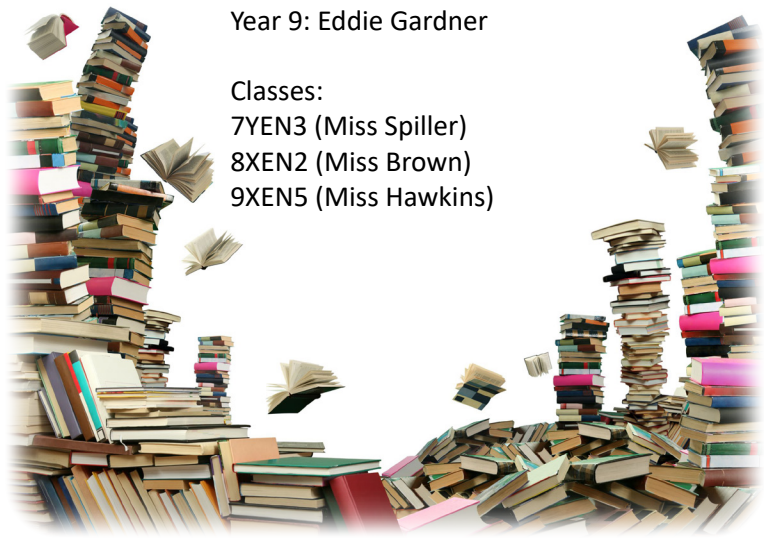
This half term, our special reader awards for achieving the most Sparx points across 5 weeks are as follows:

### Students:

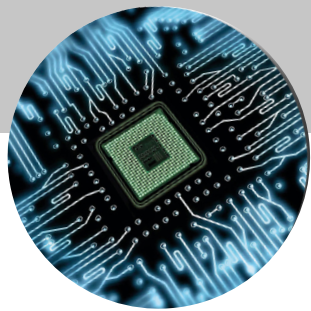
- Year 7: Michael Vaughan
- Year 8: Zak Fletcher
- Year 9: Eddie Gardner

### Classes:

- 7YEN3 (Miss Spiller)
- 8XEN2 (Miss Brown)
- 9XEN5 (Miss Hawkins)



# ...Faculty Updates...

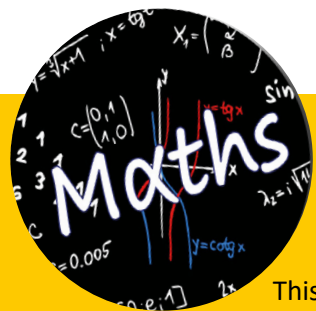
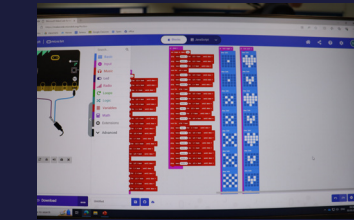
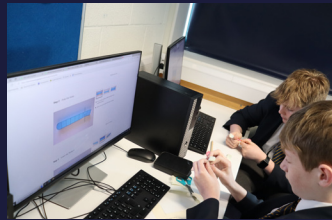
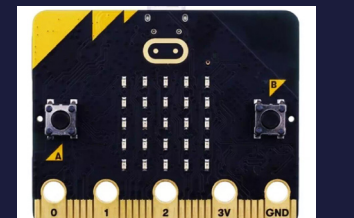
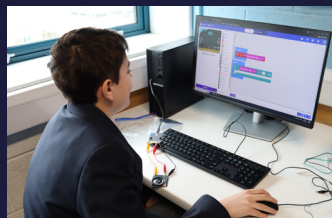
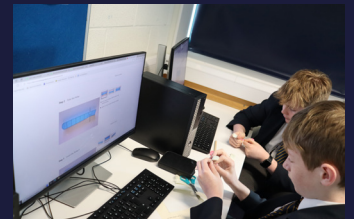
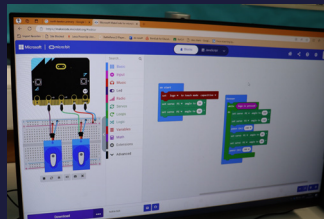
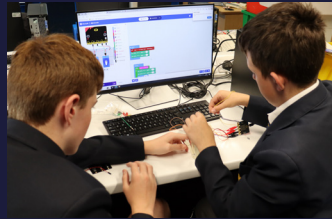


## Maths & Computer Science Faculty

This term Year 9 have been enthusiastically working on their Microbit projects in Computer Science.

The students had been given the autonomy to choose a project from the BBC MakeCode website. With gusto, they worked in small groups, planning and implementing their project plan.

Formulating and adapting the Microbit code, they generated many wondrous inventions, the students debugged, modified, and corrected the many obstacles they faced over the course of the term. An immense well done to all the students this term!

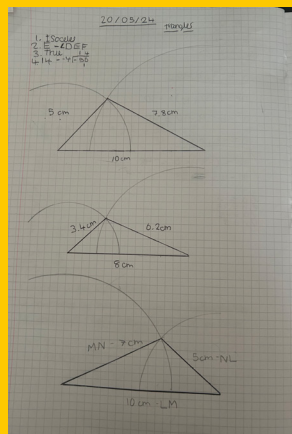


## Maths in Art

This term, Year 7 have been busy using protractors and a pair of compasses to construct accurate triangles and other shapes such as a hexagon - [How to draw a hexagon](#). These tools can be used to create some wonderful images and art which some students may like to explore further over half-term.

This [website](#) has some wonderful ideas for those of you who love to be creative so do check it out and you could be drawing some of the lovely images below.

Whilst we have been happy to lend equipment for this topic, we would ask that all students do have their own equipment to use. Small geometry sets can be purchased from online stores or supermarkets, or you can purchase items such as protractors and a pair of compasses separately from some high street shops. This would also be a timely reminder that all students should have a pen, pencil and ruler for every lesson.



# ...Faculty Updates...



## Competitions!

### OKEHAMPTON COLLEGE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



Over the half term the art department invite you to take your very best photo, print it and bring it to us in the art office by June 4th

first and second prizes to be presented!

Two places Will be chosen by our year 10 photography students

Two places chosen by the teachers in the art department

The beginning of term brings new rotations for Key Stage 3, with all groups moving to a different technology discipline for a full immersion into the varied subject. This term, Year 8 have an opportunity to join Mr Quick and Mrs Donnelly after school on Tuesdays for baking club which, at the time of writing this, there are still spaces available. Please see either of them if you wish to come and join the fun!

In Key Stage 4 food, Year 10 are focusing on more complex dishes this term and how to present them in different ways linked to our theory work studying different commodities. Year 10 Food Preparation and Nutrition are researching eggs and were set a "meringue presentation challenge" a couple of weeks ago and did a fantastic job!

In Year 11 food we are busy revising for the upcoming exam on 19<sup>th</sup> June and last week we carried this out in a practical way by cooking breakfast and labelling the food science reactions, heat transference and macro nutrients. Everyone did well with their labelling and enjoyed breakfast too!

Healthy Eating Week - 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> June is the British Nutrition Foundation's Healthy Eating Week and they are encouraging everyone to "give it a go!" Whether that means having one extra portion of fruit or vegetables a day, being a bit more active, experimenting with a new recipe or using up leftovers. So what can you do? For more information and ideas please visit [Healthy Eating Week 2024 - Monday 10 June to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June \(nutrition.org.uk\)](https://www.nutrition.org.uk/healthy-eating-week-2024)

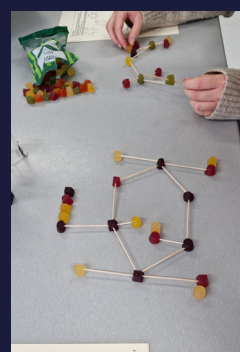
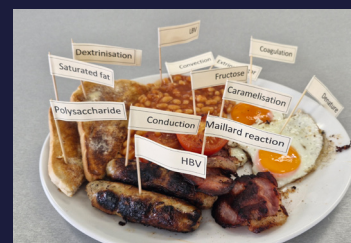
OKEHAMPTON COLLEGE CREATIVE ARTS

jteixeira@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk

### SONG WRITING COMPETITION

PRIZE: PROFESSIONAL RECORDING WITH MR MERCER & ENTRY INTO A NATIONAL SONGWRITING COMPETITION

Submit your recording to the Music Department by June 5th



DATE FOR THE DIARY:

Summer Expressive Arts Evening Tuesday 2nd July 2024



# ...Faculty Updates...



## Swim Success

Okehampton Otters were delighted to take 5 swimmers to the South West Regional Summer Championships this year – 2 more than represented the club in 2023. Held over 3 weekends at Millfield School, Hengrove pool, and Plymouth Life Centre, the Otters swimmers had secured the required entry times through strong performances earlier in the season. Abi Graves, Annie Marrison, Fin Molyneux, Francisco Rodrigues Martins, and Ben Webster qualified for 13 different events between them. All achieved long course PBs in the 50-meter length pools, with Fin and Francisco also gaining overall PBs taking into account short course times at 25 meters. A total of 6.54 seconds was knocked off entry times in total.

After a brilliant swim in the prelims, Fin made the finals of the 50-meter breaststroke – finishing 7<sup>th</sup> despite an unfortunate slip on the blocks at the start of his race.

With no disqualifications, and Annie and Francisco swimming at the regionals for the first time, the swimmers all did brilliantly, and the club are very proud of them. Head Coach Matt Henry said “Great results from our Otters swimmers at the regionals this year. We sent more swimmers to one championship than ever before and they all performed well at the highest level they’ve swam at. Lots of lessons learned and we’re now looking forward to starting our new training programme to make much more progress at our last competition of the season in July”.

With a new timetable now in place, Okehampton Otters have been able to secure even more pool time for training. We are pleased to offer sessions every weeknight and on Sundays, with 2 sessions a week taking place in the 50-metre pool at Mount Kelly. Our swimmers range from those looking for a single weekly swim to maintain skills and fitness to those looking for a competitive development programme. Visit our website to find out more or email [okehamptonotters@hotmail.com](mailto:okehamptonotters@hotmail.com).

## Athletics

The following athletes have competed for the college at round 1 of the Exeter and District AND due to their outstanding performance they have qualified to represent Exeter Schools vs East Devon. This is all part of a journey to try to represent Devon at the English Schools Athletics Championships.

- Zola Taylor – 100m
- Poppy Pengelly – 300m
- Joel Donaldson – 100m & Long Jump
- Adam Foster – 800m
- Vinnie Richards – 80m Hurdles
- Eleanor Foster - 800m

Special Mention to Corina Browne who came 3rd in her 100m and 2nd in her 200m. Unfortunately Year 7 do not have the opportunity for a next round event, however, we look forward to her performances in Year 8!

## Cricket Success

Well done to the U13 boys cricket team. They won the Mid Devon 8 a-side softball cricket competition on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May. They will now go to the County Finals later on in the summer term.



Congratulations to the U13 girls Softball cricket team - Mid Devon Winners 2024. They will now go on to represent Okehampton College and Mid Devon Schools at the County Finals Day later in June.

Thank you and well done to all involved!



# ...Faculty Updates...



## Neon Run

On 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024, 22 Year 9 Young Leaders from Okehampton College helped lead OCRA's Neon Run, making it a hugely successful day for all. The Neon Run aims to empower and give confidence to pupils who previously struggled with getting into sport and physical activity. Participants in the Neon Run ranged from primary to secondary age. Through enthusiastic encouragement, running alongside participants, leading small activities and joining in activities to boost confidence of participants, our young leaders made a huge positive difference throughout the day. It was brilliant to see our students making such a positive impact in the community.

A big thank you to Ian, OCRA, all the activity specialists and all the support from Active Devon to make this day possible and to give our pupils the opportunity to help lead this event.



## Languages Faculty Cultural Quiz

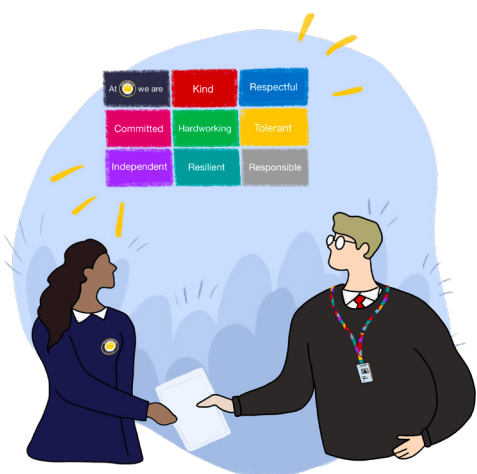
At Okehampton College, we are building on the Oke 8 habits of 'Tolerant' and 'Respectful' and considering different cultures and celebrations around the world. Try this short quiz! How much do you know about cultural traditions around the world? Answers sat the bottom of this page..

### Yr11 Speaking Exams

We would like to say well done to all our Year 11 French and German students who successfully completed their speaking exams this half term. They displayed the Oke 8 habits of 'Resilience' faced with surprise questions; 'Independence' in creating their role play responses, and 'Respectful' in their interactions with our invigilators. We wish them good luck in all their remaining exams and in using their language skills in their future careers.

### You arrive when?!

In our British Sign Language club this half term we have been studying the topic of transport, and getting more into the grammar of the language. In sign language, you often put the question word at the end of the sentence. At this stage of the year, students must remember and reuse a lot of different signs to be successful in their learning, and we would like to say well done to them for showing the Oke 8 habit of 'commitment'!



Q1. Cinco De Mayo and Día de Muertos are both celebrated in which country?

- |           |              |          |          |
|-----------|--------------|----------|----------|
| A. Mexico | B. Argentina | C. Nepal | D. Spain |
|-----------|--------------|----------|----------|

Q2. Mansaf, a dish made with lamb, yoghurt and rice, is a traditional dish belonging to which country?

- |            |           |           |              |
|------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| A. Morocco | B. Jordan | C. Turkey | D. Singapore |
|------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|

Q3. What is the name of India's festival of lights celebrated in either October or November?

- |          |         |         |           |
|----------|---------|---------|-----------|
| A. Pongo | B. Holi | C. Bihu | D. Diwali |
|----------|---------|---------|-----------|

Q4. In Japan, what does the concept of Omiyage mean?

- |                            |   |  |                                |
|----------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|
| A. Bringing a gift of food | B. Wiping your feet before entering a house | C. Keeping a flower in your pocket for good luck | D. Greeting someone with a bow |
|----------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|

Q5. In which country do they dye their Easter eggs red?

- |            |           |          |             |
|------------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| A. Austria | B. Greece | C. Spain | D. Portugal |
|------------|-----------|----------|-------------|

Q6. What is usually thrown at Thailand's New Year Festival of Songkran?

- |          |             |          |               |
|----------|-------------|----------|---------------|
| A. Water | B. Tomatoes | C. Paint | D. White wine |
|----------|-------------|----------|---------------|

Answers: 1A, 2B, 3D, 4A, 5B, 6A.

# ...Head of Year Updates...



A WORD  
FROM:

Mr Parker

Head of  
Year 7

It is a year since I first met most of our Year 7 students on their Year 6 visit to Normandy with our Year 7 transition leaders. It has been a pleasure to watch them grow and develop from children and on their way to being young adults. We now have a group of Transition Leaders from our current Year 7's who will be supporting our new cohort of Year 7 students who will be starting preparations for their journey to College in September.

As we approach our last half term of the year, there are lots of exciting things to look forward to. Our Enrichment Week which is the penultimate week of the term is something for us all to look forward to. It will allow students the opportunity to develop new skills, build their confidence and make some new friends with some similar interests.

Looking forward to next term, we also have Sports Day to look forward to, with students having the opportunity to sign up and represent their tutor groups.

Wishing you all a relaxing break.



A WORD  
FROM:

Mrs Ashelford

Head of  
Year 8

What a half term – we have certainly packed a lot in. So many of this year group doing fantastic things both in and out of school. As the end of the year draws ever closer, I have more and more of you lovely bunch asking about Year 9. It is really refreshing to hear how keen you all are to get to Year 9 and are already thinking about your options. I have had many conversations about how options will be chosen and how many choices there will be as well as the subjects that will be on offer. So many of you guys are already focusing on where your career path will go and the things that interest you the most to take you to your destinations.

You still remain by far the smartest year group – and are commented on throughout the school by many. We have only this half a term to go before there is a uniform change and then I look forward to seeing you all in the new uniform – again setting the bar high for the rest of the school.

As the end of the year approaches and Enrichment Week is nearly upon us, this is the time to relax a little and hang out with friends whilst gaining new skills. With the plethora of activities on offer, there is plenty to explore and do and you are all so excited about the trips!! The end of the year is nearly here.....well done team !



# ...Head of Year Updates...



A WORD  
FROM:

Mrs Wheeler

Head of  
Year 9

This half term has really flown by and Year 9 have been working hard, in and out of the classroom. I want to share with you some of their amazing achievements.

Well done to Emily Wright, Harry Bisson and Ben Kemp who all successfully completed the 35 mile Ten Tors challenge with North Dartmoor Explorer Scouts under rather hot conditions. It is an amazing achievement and hopefully they will all want to do it again next year. Emily said "it was an amazing experience to cross the finish line" whilst Ben added "it was a piece of pie". Harry echoed his teams mates thoughts and said how much they had all enjoyed the experience. Congratulations, what an example of resilience and commitment, especially all the training walks in the rain.

Archie Guscott cut off his long mullet and raised over £1000 for the Little Princess Trust and the RFU injured players foundation. Archie said that he feels better now his hair is shorter and he is relieved his hair went to someone who will use it for a better cause. Well done Archie, a great example of finding a way to support a cause you care about and be responsible and kind.

Chloe Marten is part of the extra-curricular Creative Writing Club and was one of the students who entered the National Literary Trust's annual competition 'Be The Change' where they had to write a persuasive piece about the environment. Chloe's entry was shortlisted, out of 1600 entries, and has been published in their annual Anthology and Chloe has also won the school some books for the library. Chloe is a great example of being responsible and independent and we look forward to reading more of her work in the future.

Annaliece Kiely is a world cheerleading champion following her team's triumph after competing at the AllStars Cheerleading World Championships in Orlando recently. Annaliece trains so hard and it is wonderful to see her commitment rewarded. Well done Annaliece you are a great example to your peers, being resilient and hardworking.

I look forward to seeing the achievements of Year 9 next half term, before they begin the next phase of their school journey into Year 10.



A WORD  
FROM:

Mrs Weigersma

Head of  
Year 10

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Happy Half Term Year 10,

Well done for another amazing half term, you have all shown such resilience and commitment to your learning and a fantastic approach to the Oke Way, with so many of you achieving the Oke Way Recognition Award. It was also fantastic to see so many positive reports going home, with some outstanding mock grades. Congratulations to all of you. Please remember, that whatever your results, respond in a positive way, we have 12 months to go until we will be sitting our GCSEs so there is plenty of time to become even better.

The next half term is an exciting one with work experience to look forward to. It will help you to be prepared by having an idea of what you want to study when you leave school, or what you want to do as a career. Make the most of this experience, use it as an opportunity to find out more about you and an area which inspires you for the future.

Have a lovely half term and see you in June.

# ...Head of Year Updates...



A WORD  
FROM:

Mrs Hodgson

Head of

Year 11

I am so proud of Year 11 during this exam season. They have been working exceptionally hard and focused on being successful in these exams. The behaviour of the students has been outstanding, and they have accepted my craziness!

Here is a link to a [revised timetable](#) for Year 11 students for after half term as there are study leave days that are being offered to all students. We have also added a few extra booster sessions for Catering and Food on 17th June 2024. I want to highlight that on the day of the final assembly, students will be authorised to leave at 1pm after this assembly. The shirt signing will not start until Break 1 due to the exam in the morning.

I want to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to all students for working with me over the last few years, it has been a pleasure to see you grow and mature into the young adults that you are becoming.

Best of luck for the final few weeks of exams and I look forward to celebrating with you when it is all over!



Well done to Year 12 for a successful exam week. I have received many positive reports regarding your conduct and approach to your exams. You'll shortly be getting your Year 12 exam results and comments written by teaching staff. Please use these as a learning opportunity and a focus for the remaining weeks of the summer term.

Year 12 attendance to tutor time, lessons, personal development and study sessions has been consistently good all year, please keep this going, being in lessons and working hard is crucial for your academic success. It is positive to see you working hard in the study room under the watchful eye of Mrs Little.

Year 12 have enjoyed and benefitted from two very good Personal Development sessions over recent weeks. Joe Rice delivered an incredible worthwhile First Aid course, this was a practical session and all students practiced their DR ABC and chest compressions. This week, Mr Strawbridge and I led a 'Learn2Live' road safety Personal Development lesson. We discussed, safe driving, the dangers of the road and being a responsible passenger. Despite the sometimes difficult content of the Learn2live sessions we sincerely hope that they prove valuable life lessons to our young road users.

Congratulations to those Year 12 students who completed the Ten Tors Challenge in the heat last weekend, this was a huge personal achievement by all.

Sports Day is on June 25<sup>th</sup> and the PE Dept are looking for Year 12 helpers - if any of you would like to help for the day, please see me.

Thank you and well done for all of your efforts this term.



A WORD  
FROM:

Mr Harris

Assistant Leader

Post-16

# ...Head of Year Updates...



## A WORD FROM: FROM:

Miss Searle

Assistant Leader

Post-16

Well done Year 13 on another successful and positive half-term. As we are now right in the middle of the exam season, I know that you are all working really hard, both in lessons and with private revision. Your conduct in and around the exam rooms has been exemplary; you have been perfect role models to the younger year groups. It has also been lovely to see some of you supporting each other so thoughtfully just before and after exams. Let's hope all the hard work pays off, especially with so many of you now having accepted university offers that require certain grades.

I hope that the half-term break offers you some opportunities to unwind after all your efforts but remember there are still plenty of exams to go so organise your time wisely next week. It will be worth it in the end. Don't forget there is the Leavers' Celebration Evening to look forward to on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July.



Attendance



Out of lesson behaviours



Expectations



When students get it right



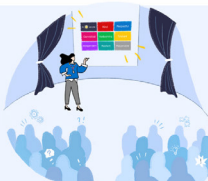
We Care - We Challenge - We Thrive



The welcome



When students don't get it right



Personal Development



Learning habits



Recycling bin located in our Okehampton store

Shockingly, 1.4 million wearable uniform garments are thrown away every year in the UK. By supporting our customers with the collection of unwanted schoolwear, we're working together to extend its life, reduce waste, and help families who might otherwise struggle to afford a uniform.



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Okehampton College



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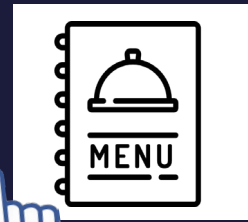
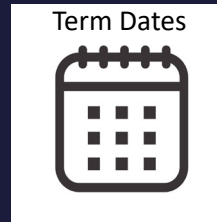
The Oke Way

We care - We challenge - We thrive



Please click on these icons to view the 2024 – 2025 Term Dates and also the Okehampton College canteen menus Alternatively visit our website;

[www.okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk](http://www.okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk)



## Can you spare a minute to take a short survey?

Active Devon is looking at ways to improve access and interpretation locally. For example, local signs showing routes, walks, cycle paths. Create heritage trails for families. Improve number of accessible routes. We are hoping to gather insight from those that live locally in Okehampton to complete the survey.

<https://forms.office.com/e/bR5vm3Kaig>

Dartmoor  
Multi Academy  
Trust

...everyone in our Trust.



active devon