



Sidmouth College Newsletter

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To all our children, young people and families,

As we approach the end of another term, it's a wonderful time to reflect on the achievements and progress we've made. Our termly newsletter showcases the incredible opportunities open to our school community—experiences that have helped our children grow and thrive, both academically and personally.

We are excited to share that the Activities Days in July will offer all our children in Years 7 to 9 the chance to participate in learning and development opportunities beyond the classroom. These activities will provide enriching experiences designed to inspire curiosity, creativity, and growth.

There have also been numerous community events this term, showcasing the talents, hard work, and dedication of our students, which have brought our school together in celebration. Our Christmas Carol Concert was a beautiful occasion, brimming with festive spirit and talent, as students came together to perform a range of seasonal music. It was a heart warming reminder of the hope and light that music brings to our community. In addition, we held the Year 11 (Class of 2024) Awards Evening, where we celebrated the achievements and perseverance of our students. It was a proud moment for both students and their families as we recognised the hard work and dedication that has gone into their academic journey.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Awards were a highlight, with 35 students proudly receiving their awards in recognition of their dedication and perseverance. This achievement reflects their commitment to personal growth and community service through the challenges and adventures of the award program. Our sports teams also shone brightly this term, with students excelling in various events, including the Cross-Country Championships, Netball, Badminton, Boccia Qualifier, Football, and Rugby. Each event showcased the determination, teamwork, and athleticism of our students, and their efforts were truly inspiring.

The Year 11 Mock Interviews provided an invaluable opportunity for students to prepare for their futures, equipping them with essential skills and experience for the next stage of their careers. Similarly, the Non Examined Assessments (NEAs) completed this term highlighted the practical learning and skills that students are developing as part of their curriculum.

Finally, the Politics Trip to London was an enriching experience for our students, offering them the chance to gain a deeper understanding of the political landscape and the workings of government, further igniting their passion for current affairs.

As we reflect on these wonderful events, it's clear that this term has been one of growth, achievement, and community spirit. We look forward to building on these successes in the year ahead.

As always, our school values of Believe, Inspire, Succeed ring true in all that we do. We continue to encourage every member of our school community to believe in their potential, to inspire those around them, and to succeed in their goals.

On behalf of all the staff at the college, we wish you a merry and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday, 7th January.

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Christmas Carol Service

On Wednesday 11th December the Sidmouth College Christmas Carol Service took place at St Peter's Church in Sidford. The evening was a huge success, beginning this year with Mince Pies and Mulled wine for guests to enjoy as they arrived followed by a variety of festive entertainment including the student choir, the College band, instrumental solos, a Sixth Form sketch and student and staff readers.

Many thanks to all who attended and supported this event and a huge well done to the all staff, students and the tech team for creating such a fabulous event. Well done to Mr Morgan and Miss Hext who helped make the evening one to remember. Our retiring collection raised £170 in total, with half being donated to St Peter's Church, and the other half being donated to the MNDA. Thank you to all who gave generously.

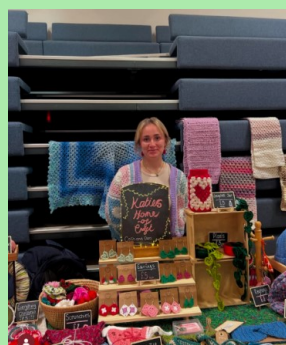


Christmas Craft Fair

On Saturday 14th December the Sidmouth College Sixth Form held a very successful Christmas Craft Fair at the College. We were thrilled to have over 30 stall-holders selling a huge range of items; there was a raffle with lots of great prizes and lots of games hosted by the Sixth Form.

The chocolate tombola raised over £50 and was very popular with the students and visitors.

A huge thank you to all the parents, friends and staff who donated chocolate for the tombola. The school was packed with visitors and in total the Sixth Form raised a fantastic £400. All the money raised will go to the Sixth Form's two chosen charities: CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) and WHAT (Wellness Health Action Team).



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Christmas Card

After the success of the last few years, the College decided to run the Christmas Card Competition again, giving students in all year groups the opportunity to enter their designs.

Students were given the task of designing a card using media of their choice, with the winning design being the official Sidmouth College Christmas card for 2024.

We had an array of creative entries to choose from, which was a difficult task for Mrs Fry. We are pleased to share that the winner

is Sandy in Year 8, and the runners up were Lizzie and Leo in Year 7 and Johanna in Year 8.

The winner will now be reproduced and used by the College for our 2024 Christmas card.



Christmas Tree Carry

A long held tradition for our Sixth Form students is the annual Christmas Tree Carry. Our Sixth Form collected the tree from Long Park in Sidmouth on Wednesday 27th November and carried it back up to the College, ready to be decorated and on display for students to enjoy.

A huge thank you to Kings Garden and Leisure in Sidmouth who kindly donated the 12 foot tall tree to the College, as they have done for many years.



Christmas Jumper Day

On Thursday 13th December it was the Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day. Students and staff were invited to wear a Christmas jumper for a donation to the charity. We saw some fantastic festive knits and it got everyone feeling jolly in the penultimate week of term. The College Facebook page ran the usual staff jumper competition, asking our Facebook followers to like their favourite. The winner was Mr Trengove with his festive suit.





Donation from Sidmouth Chamber of Commerce

We were thrilled to invite Denese Molyneux to the College on Tuesday 10th December to present a cheque for £500 from Sidmouth Chamber of Commerce to the Business Studies Department at Sidmouth College

This money will be used to purchase new text books for GCSE students at the college.

At a time when all budgets are being stretched this is a welcome boost for the department and students and a lovely early Christmas present.



GCSE Celebration Evening

On Thursday 12th December we welcomed past and present students who completed their GCSE exams last year. The event was an opportunity to highlight the many and varied successes that our students achieved with their studies. It was lovely to see how our students are continuing to thrive and are achieving well in their chosen areas of studies.

Individual students received subject prizes for achievement and progress across the curriculum. House prizes were awarded by Heads of House. Community awards were presented by the Sidmouth Lions Club and the Thelma Hulbert Gallery and there were a variety of cups and trophies for additional achievements. We were delighted to welcome Jim Metcalf on behalf of the Lions Club whose support and sponsorship of our annual Lions Club Achievement and Endeavour Award is always hugely appreciated.

It was lovely to celebrate a fabulous year group with their families joining us. Congratulations to all of our winners and we wish you all continued success.



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Badminton

On Tuesday 19th November our Under 13s boys and girls teams took part in an East Devon Badminton tournament. Both teams played well with the boys team finishing in 3rd place, narrowly missing out on 2nd. The girls team also played very well, placing 4th. Well done all, a good experience for the group.



New Team Kit

The College recently received new team shirts for extra-curricular PE, which were sponsored by local businesses. On Wednesday 20th November we welcomed sponsors to meet with students and see the new shirts. Thank you to Adam Howitt Renovations, Sweetcombe Cottage Holidays and Sidmouth Fit for generously sponsoring us. The new kit looks great and students are excited to wear it at fixtures this academic year. If any other businesses would be interested in sponsoring College kit, please get in touch via enquiries@sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk.



Equestrians

Well done to the Sidmouth College NSEA Equestrian Team who placed 2nd in the Bicton Eventers Challenge Qualifier on Sunday 17th November.

The team will now go on to compete at the National finals at Hickstead in May.

Congratulations to Livvi, Maisie, Willow, Ella and Isla and good luck in the finals.



Boccia

The Sidmouth College Boccia team attended the East Devon Schools Boccia Games at Bicton College on Tuesday 26th November. Both the Sidmouth Storms and the Sidmouth Sharks demonstrated excellent accuracy and tactical decision making across all 8 matches with Captain Kyle and Captain Briar leading them to victory.



Cross Country

An amazing well done to our Cross Country runners who competed in the East Devon and Exeter Championships last week. Good luck to those now going on to the County rounds!





Rugby Finals

Congratulations to our U14s for leaving everything out on the pitch against Exmouth in the final on Tuesday 17th December. Unfortunately, Exmouth were the better team on the day taking the win. We are really proud of our Yr9 for the commitment they show to Rugby and us at Sidmouth College.

We have no doubt that with this year we will get another opportunity to reach a final and hopefully reverse the result. Player of the match goes to Freddie for setting an example on the pitch with his leadership and fearless tackling.



War Horse

On Thursday 5th December 45 students and 5 staff attended a performance of War Horse at Plymouth Theatre Royal. The students were mesmerised by the wonderful immersive storytelling as they followed the wonderful and sometimes harrowing journey of Joey and Albert. The students as always were a credit to the school, and they coped admirably with the late arrival back home.



Geographical Association Worldwide Quiz

On Thursday 14th November Mr Sullivan took Year 10 GCSE Geography students Pip, Leo, Izzie and Adi to the regional Geographical Association Worldwide Quiz.

Team Sidmouth College did amazingly well, finishing 3rd in what was a very competitive quiz. Well done to the team!



Headteacher's Commendations

This term Mrs Whitworth has continued to reward deserving students who have excelled, or achieved something above and beyond expectations, with a Headteacher's Commendation.

For the second half of the Autumn term the Headteacher's Commendation has gone to Emily in Year 11 for her commitment and contribution to the Music Department this year.

Emily not only performed at the Christmas Carol Service with an amazing solo and reading, she also supported Mr Morgan and Miss Hext by working with the younger students and kept them entertained during the rehearsals.

Mrs Whitworth presented Emily with her commendation during the last week of term. Well done to Emily.

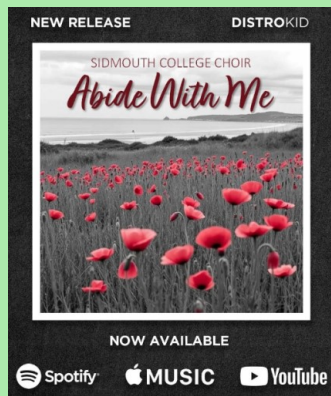




Remembrance

On Monday 11th November, the Student Council took part in an Act of Remembrance led by Head of Music Mr Morgan. Accompanying him were students Isla and Oscar who played 'The Last Post and Reveille'. The whole school also took part in a two minute silence at 11am.

In the weeks ahead of Remembrance Day, the College choir, band and tech team recorded and released a single for Remembrance. The special rendition of 'Abide With Me' featuring excerpts from 'The Last Post' is available now on all streaming platforms, just search for 'The Sidmouth College Choir'. The students also recorded a video to go alongside the single, which can be watched on our College Facebook page.



Anti-Bullying Training

On Friday 8th November a highly motivated and inspirational group of young people from Years 8 –11 gave up the last day of their half term to spend an hour training Sidmouth College Staff (both Teaching and Non-Teaching) in how to recognise and effectively tackle bullying.

Our journey to deliver this Anti-Bullying Training began in March when 4 students attended a Diana Award Anti-Bullying Training session in Bristol. With the training they were given they returned to Sidmouth College to fully embrace their roles as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.

Step 1 was to train all 80 members of the Student Council which was completed in July.

Step 2 was to set up a referral email address so students can signpost if they need help or support.

Step 3 was to train Staff and provide a unique student-centred perspective on the issue of bullying and how everyone can all be part of the solution.

The session, which was delivered to over 80 members of staff, was planned and delivered by the students. They performed role plays and created their own video which was shown to staff. The session was as innovative and inspiring as you would expect from our amazing young people. Staff absolutely loved this session, and the solution focussed approach that was taken. As part of our Diana Award journey, we are able to apply for three further badges. The first is our community badge and we now have all of the evidence that we need to make our application.



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Breakfast Club

This half term the College has launched the Breakfast Club.

This takes place every weekday from 8:15am-8:45am in the Canteen.

Breakfast costs £1 (free for free school meal students) and includes a bowl of cereal, toast with Jam or Marmite and fruit juice.

It is open to all students in all year groups and we hope many will be joining us for breakfast after Christmas!



Children in Need

On Friday 15th November the whole school wore non-uniform to raise money for children in need. In total we raised over £700 for the charity which is a fantastic achievement. Thank you to everyone who donated!



Mock Interviews

During December all students in Year 11 had the opportunity to take part in a Mock Interview as part of their Careers enrichment programme.

Across the week we welcomed Nick Keast, Sean Priestly, Anne Bolt, Sally Mynard, Emily Pitts, Katherine Austin, Emma Hopkins, Steve Bolt, Charlotte Hernandez, Paul Santer, Luke Moss, Lindsey Dell, Alex McLachlan, Denese Molyneux, Jayesh Elson and Beau Spivey.

The employers feedback was that the students were really positive and did exceptionally well.

Students said that they all felt much more confident after their interviews, which will help them to prepare for post-16 and work beyond education.



The Masked Singer

On the last day of term Sidmouth College teachers dressed up to take part in the Masked Singer for students to enjoy as an end of term treat.

The teachers performed two Christmas songs in the final assemblies before revealing who was behind the mask! Energy was high in the assembly and students had a blast chanting 'take it off, take it off' at the end of the song!



Well done to the two fabulous teachers who took part, but you'll have to watch the full version on the College Facebook page to find out for yourself who they were. Visit www.facebook.com/sidmouthcollege.



Politics Trip to London *(Written by Year 12 Student Milly Traylor)*

On Monday 2nd of December the Year 12 politics class travelled up to London to attend the National Politics Conference. The event took place in the Methodist Central Hall, just outside the Houses of Parliament. Upon arrival bags were searched, tickets scanned and the students soon took their seats.

Upon entering the Hall, great sloping rows of seats covered both the top and bottom level. Microphones were positioned at four different stands to allow students to be heard while asking questions.

MP's from many different political parties came to give speeches and answer questions from the audience. Conservatives, Green Party, Reform, SNP and Labour were the parties in attendance. The special speaker was announced half way through with Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle, speaker of the House of Commons being introduced. Sir Lindsay Hoyle gave a motivational and engaging speech to which the audience responded excitedly.

Possibly one of the most polarizing figures to attend the stage was Reform leader, Nigel Farage. Hot headed questions, and even hotter hit backs, echoed off the stage as the controversial MP began his speech. Many students from all over England gave excellent questions to each MP. From the cost of living crisis, Brexit, and what Trump24 means for the UK, no topic was left untouched.

I was super grateful to have a place on this trip, despite the early start. It gave me a great insight into different parties such as The Green Party and SNP, as I'd never known a lot about them before. Many questions the students asked gave me an idea on questions I should be asking myself when observing politics. A survey was also taken before the conference, and was later presented by a speaker. It was really valuable to see what other people my age thought and supported. It also aided in diminishing any fixed beliefs I had, prior to the conference, as so many different interpretations were thrown around. A great day in London and an even greater experience to take back to my class.



Junior Chef Academy

Congratulations to students Nancy, Suzy and Shanel who this term have been accepted into the Ted Wragg Trust Junior Chef Academy. The course is a 10 week programme learning a host of new skills from trained chefs at Exeter College and taking place after school. The group will start with learning knife skills and bread making, to fish filleting and desserts. The course will be completed with a graduation ceremony in March.

The three students did exceptionally well in their applications for the programme, with only fifteen spaces available across the Ted Wragg Trust. We look forward to hearing all about it in the new year and celebrating at graduation!





Peace Poster Competition

On Wednesday 11th December we were delighted to celebrate the amazing art work created and entered into the Lions Club International peace poster competition.

The theme for this year was 'Peace without limits. Our winners and runners up enjoyed receiving certificates and prizes and meeting the team from Sidmouth's Lions Club.

First place went to Lizzie in Year 7, second place to Bella in Year 7 and third place to Bethany in Year 7.

There were lots of brilliant entries and we were delighted to hear that all were enjoyed by the judging panel.

Head of Art, Mrs Fry, said "We would like to thank the Sidmouth Lions for offering our students the opportunity to demonstrate their amazing creative skills. Thank you to all our students who entered this year's competition; I was particularly impressed with the high standard of work, as were the judging panel. We value sharing these wonderful opportunities with our students and feel very proud that they have enjoyed creating their posters during break times and independently at home. House points will be awarded to all students who entered the competition; well done to you all!"



Sixth Form Conference

On Wednesday 11th December Mrs Hurley took Year 12 to the University of Plymouth for a Sixth Form Christmas Conference, along with students from the other Ted Wragg Trust Sixth Forms.

During the day students were introduced to the University by staff, followed by a tour of the campus, a Q&A session, free time to explore and the opportunity to sit in on two seminars of their choosing. It was a great day and another opportunity for our Year 12 to consider their options after Sixth Form. Thank you to the University of Plymouth for hosting us.



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Sidmouth School of Art Photo Shoot

On Wednesday 20th November the whole of the Sidmouth College Student Council was invited to take part in a photo shoot being conducted by JJ Waller as part of his exciting project Your Town My Town. His photographs will be on display in the Sensory Garden in March so look out for our wonderful students!



Anti Bullying Ambassador Training

On Friday 8th November a group of Anti Bullying Ambassadors came in during their Half-Term to train staff in how best to deal with and educate young people about bullying. We explained the distinction between Banter and Bullying and suggested alternative ways for dealing with incidents when they occur. To supplement this, we also delivered sessions in assemblies to the whole school and encouraged students to be Upstanders rather than Bystanders, we also highlighted ways to report bullying using a referral link on the Sidmouth College website.



Year 11 Student Heads of House

Year 11 have been incredible again this term and have supported a range of events.

The most recent was their hosting duties during the Staff Christmas Dinner on Wednesday 18th December. The students represented beautifully, and all staff were thrilled by the effort made. In fact, Mr Wilshaw commented that the Staff Christmas Dinner was the best staff event he has attended here! High praise indeed.



Sidmouth Town Council and Devon Youth Services Visit

On Tuesday 3rd December Town Council members Bernie Davis and Amanda Parkin attended a whole Student Council Meeting. This is always a logistical challenge as there are over 90 members of the Student Council representing all Year Groups.

Items discussed included our students' making suggestions for how to improve Youth Services across Sidmouth particularly in light of the closure of the Youth Club. We also made our opposition to proposed changes to the bus service through Sidbury. We have contacted both Richard Foord MP and Stuart Hughes County Councillor for Sidmouth. Both have been incredibly supportive and provided lots of useful information and context.



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