



NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DARTMOOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND SIXTH FORM • AUTUMN TERM 2023 • ISSUE 7



Autumn Term Newsletter

Bringing you all the latest news from
South Dartmoor Community College

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Welcome

South Dartmoor Community College is a wonderful school to be a part of, made so by fabulous students, brilliant staff and a marvellous community of parents, carers, extended families and eager supporters.



Therefore, I would like to start by thanking you for the support you give your children in not only getting them to school, on time, in correct uniform and ready to learn every day, but also for the things you do outside of school such as supporting home learning routines, giving them lifts to and from activities after school, attending events that we host etc. Parenting is not always easy and it certainly doesn't come with a manual! However, we are fortunate to have lovely young people who are invariably kind, polite and keen to do their best. They look after each other and they are often appreciative of their teachers and their lessons, and this matters to us. Thanking a teacher at the end of a lesson can brighten the dullest of days.

We started this term being able to celebrate excellent GCSE results in the summer that were among the best in Devon. Although results are not everything in life, they do build a confidence in us as a college and one that helps our students to have high aspirations. We have seen this transfer into a fabulous start for the Sixth Form students, as well as with students throughout the school and particularly those in Years 10 and 11. By working together we really can achieve both a fantastic experience for young people and outstanding outcomes.

My plea for next term is that you help us to achieve better attendance. As you will have heard many times, students do better if they attend better, and this is true in all respects, academically, socially, emotionally. For now, however, it is time to take a break, rest and recuperate ready for the new term. On behalf of the staff, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jen Veal
Executive Head Teacher



Young Shepherds Final

Year 7 student Becky qualified for the Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST) Young Shepherds Final, which was held at Staffordshire Show Ground.



Becky's rare breed is Black Leicesters and she came 4th in the line up.

She also showed Ryland sheep, a very tough class, coming 2nd, and then competed in the winter fair, coming 6th. A fantastic achievement, well done Becky!



Young Carers at Haytor

Our Year 7 young carers took a trip to Haytor, where they had the opportunity to learn and have fun as part of a funded year-long art project.

It was very wet and cloudy, but the students were excited to see sheep, cows and ponies on the moor. They also enjoyed our school dog Bonzo's company on a walk after lunch. They loved splashing in the puddles and the fast flowing stream, which was great fun.

In the summer the young carers will be taking part in an art festival at Haytor, to celebrate their achievements.



Road Safety

Year 12 attended the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Services annual Learn2Live road safety event.

They learnt about the importance of making informed decisions, both as a young driver and as a passenger, in order to best prepare them to stay safe on the roads.



We Will Never Forget

South Dartmoor Community College representatives attended the Remembrance Day service in Ashburton on Sunday 12th November, 2023.

Violet J, Tom S, Ty H, Jack F, George R and Eloise W joined Mr. Vile at the service and did us all proud.



Careers

Year 12 and 13 students engaged with a guest speaker from Exeter University, to explore all that there is to understand about degree apprenticeships.

It was informative and inspiring, a great way to learn more about the various pathways beyond post-16 education.



Year 11 Student Leadership

Our Year 11 Student Leadership Team:



Maria
Chair of Student Council

"My aim as Head of Student Council is to motivate students to speak up about issues within the school community. As of right now, we are working hard to obtain the best council possible by interviewing the students who applied."



Phoebe
Deputy Chair of Student Council

"As Deputy Chair of the Student Council, I would like to give others the opportunity to make their voices heard and to feel as though they are actively involved in what goes on around our school."



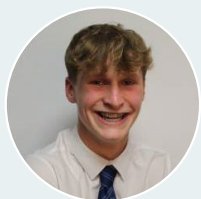
Alex
Sports Representative

"Hi, my name is Alex. My aim is to help more people enjoy getting into sports and to help them with their progress. From November, we will be running a new Year 7 Basketball Club in the gym on a Wednesday during break 1, so come and see us there."



Sunnie
Sports Representative

"Hi, I'm Sunnie. As a sports leader I would like to reach out to, and encourage, people who don't participate or don't like sport to get involved."



Freddie
Sports Representative

"Hi I'm Freddie, your Year 11 Sports Representative, and my goal is to help people feel more comfortable about participating in sport at South Dartmoor. Feel free to come and find me at break 1 on a Wednesday during our new Year 7 Basketball Club!"

Co-op Community Fund

We have been lucky enough to be selected by the Co-op for their Community Fund, so we need as many people as possible to choose FOSDA (Friends of South Dartmoor Association) as their cause.

The Co-op Local Community Fund supports projects across the UK that their members care about, giving local causes a helping hand. If you have a Co-op membership card, please go online [here](#), choose FOSDA and follow the instructions to sign in. It only takes a minute to do and means that we will receive much needed funds. If you don't have a Co-op membership card, you can join and become a member [here](#).

Give the Gift

Co-op members can also give the gift of community spirit this Christmas.

If you donate to the Co-op [Local Community Fund](#) they will match your donation, so causes like us will benefit!

easyfundraising

Another way you can help FOSDA is by signing up to support us on easyfundraising.

You can raise donations whenever you shop online with more than 7,500 retailers including John Lewis & Partners, eBay, Argos and M&S. This will make a real difference to us during this busy shopping month. Sign up for easyfundraising [here](#).



Riverford Farm

Working with our community, we joined forces with Riverford Farm over the summer to support around 30 of our local families by providing them with food boxes.

This included fruit kindly donated by Riverford Farm.



Keep Me Close

Former SDCC Head of Geography Mustafa Shaikh would love your support in helping to raise some funds for the Plymouth hospital charity **Keep Me Close**.

[Keep Me Close](#) provides support for families whose child is in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Derriford. The unit helped his grandson, Freddie, who was born 15 weeks premature in 2019.

Year 10 Fine Art

Fine Art students in Year 10 have made an incredible start to their GCSE creative journey.

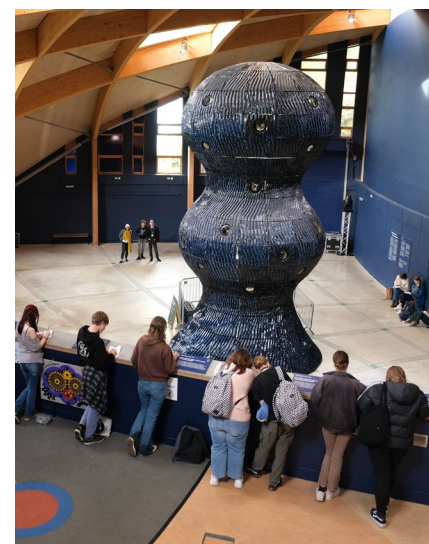
They have been doing lots of experimenting in class, and these home learning tasks blew the teachers away!



Eden Project

Last week the Art Department took a group of A Level students to the Eden Project for a day of plant-based inspiration.

Students had the opportunity to record their experience through photography and drawing, which will provide source material for their current projects. It was a fantastic day, and we are looking forward to seeing how the students respond creatively to their experience!



Linear Perspective

Year 7 have been learning about linear perspective.

For home learning they were asked to draw their name or initials in 3d. This painting is by Jo H and is A2 in size!

If you'd like to find out more about our KS3, GCSE and A Level art classes, clubs and opportunities please come and speak to a member of the Art Department, or send us an email.



Daisi

Some amazing perspex pictures were made by our young carers, with Kerrie and Vicci from the arts education charity [Daisi](#).

We have been lucky enough to receive full funding with Daisi through [Devon Carers](#), which also enabled Year 7 carers to go to Dartmoor for a day of art.

Our young carers were also making clay and decorating in half term and lantern making in December, with willow art planned for the spring as well as another art trip for students in other year groups in summer 2024. All of these activities are funded by Daisi, and we are very grateful for their support.



Perspex pictures created by our young carers in Year 7.



Richard Chappell Dance

Year 10 GCSE Dance students were invited by [Richard Chappell Dance](#) to attend an open rehearsal at the Ashburton Arts Centre, ahead of the company's performance celebrating 10 years of dance in Devon.

This was inspirational for students, giving them a behind the scenes experience of what it is like to work as a professional dancer in a nationally recognised company.



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre

Year 10 and 11 dancers had the most inspirational day working with the [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre](#), as part of their international tour programme.

Students took part in a practical workshop, learning repertoire and had the honour of watching a company class. We closed the day with an evening performance of four works, including Ailey's masterpiece *Revelations* (1960).

It was truly inspirational and our students amazed the company with their determination, skill and hunger to learn more and do better.



Autumn Concert

Thank you to everybody who supported our Autumn Concert. The stage was full of excited performers from Years 7 to 13 and the programme included solos and music chosen by ensemble members.

Students have made an outstanding commitment to Music this term. Club attendance and instrumental tuition has seen numbers increase and there were many new students participating in the concert this year, from all year groups.



Musical Talent

Two Year 13 students and three former students have formed a band called *Tempus*, which now has regional management and promotion.



Having performed and delighted audiences in the hall at South Dartmoor since 2017, these talented musicians have now started their official journey towards fame!

The band has grown and evolved through GCSE and A Level/BTEC courses and tuition in the Music department at SDCC.



Cameron Mills, Director of *Music Schools and Studios, Exeter* - a leading-edge centre for music in the heart of Exeter - recently said of the band "it would be rude to keep them from the general public any longer."

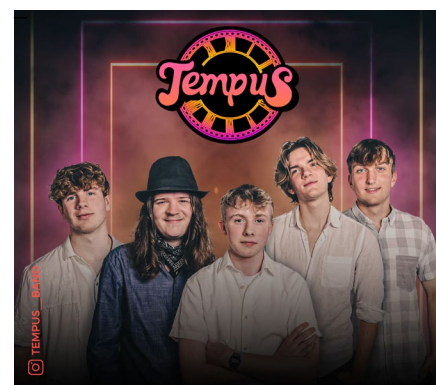
Playing musically tight and fluid funk jazz tunes, mixed with classic rock floor fillers, *Tempus*

have been busy recording demo tracks, videos and photo shoots ready for full scale appearances on the Exeter and Devon music scene.

"It would be rude to keep them from the general public any longer."

They will be performing a showcase headlining gig in Move Club on the Exeter Quays before Christmas.

You can keep up to date with what's new and what's next for the band on Instagram: [@tempus_band](https://www.instagram.com/tempus_band)



TRP Visit

A Ghost Story.

18:15

15 Year 10, 11 and 13 students brave the wet and wild storm and head off down the A38 to Plymouth. We've been told it may snow at 22.22!

19:10

Entering the theatre, finding our seats - some of us can't count and we all have to move along one seat.

19:30

Curtain up - the show starts. It's called *2:22 A Ghost Story*, an award-winning piece of theatre. It's supposed to be scary, but we'll see...

19:52

Everyone jumps and screams for the first of many times!

21:30

Heading home via some interesting detours and roundabouts...great to hear the excited conversations about the play.

22:22

No ghosts as we near Ashburton. Sir suggests he might team message at 02.22 - not a popular suggestion. It is trying to snow.

02.22

Still no ghost - but who knows!



Carols On Tour

We had an amazing December in the Music Department, with musicians preparing for Christmas celebrations.

Carols on Tour saw 87 members of South Dartmoor take carols out to our local communities. Students visited Totnes, Buckfast Abbey and Newton Abbot to spread the joy of Christmas; they were generous in spirit and their commitment and energy throughout the day was amazing, despite the wet weather.

We have already received some performance requests for 2024!



Carol Service

Thank you to everyone involved in the Carol Service, and to the Reverend Kevin Hooke for leading the evening. The audience enjoyed participating in the traditional carols and hearing the college orchestra, choirs and folk ensemble performing.

Readings were given by students and teachers, and at the end of the service music was provided by our folk ensemble and refreshments served by FOSDA. It offered a wonderful opportunity for families and students to celebrate the term and look forward to the new year ahead.



Duke Of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

Students at SDCC have the opportunity to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, and our current students have been busy completing their Bronze Level Award.

There are four sections to complete at Bronze level: **Volunteering** (helping the community or environment), **Physical** (becoming fitter), **Skills** (developing new skills) and **Expedition** (planning, training for and completing an expedition).

Our 16 Duke of Edinburgh participants in Years 10 and 11 had the challenge of planning a walking route and self-navigating from Coombe Cellars in Newton Abbot to Cockington in Torquay, as well as organising an overnight stay in tents and carrying all of their own equipment. All of the groups were organised in their approach, upbeat and good humoured.

This was the final section of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award to be completed, and all of the students passed - well done to them all!

We have 29 of our current Year 9 students enrolled on the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, and at our initial meetings they were full of enthusiasm. Most of them have started various activities which will go towards the completion of the Volunteering, Skills and Physical sections of their award, and their expedition will be in the Summer Term 2024. We wish them well in their endeavours.

If you would like to know more about the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme at South Dartmoor Community College please visit [DofE - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award](#) or contact dstokes@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk



**YOUTH
WITHOUT
LIMITS**

Geography Trip

In an incredibly fortunate gap in the winter procession of Atlantic frontal rainfall events, Year 11 geographers managed a quick day trip to Exeter city centre.

As one of the two compulsory fieldwork enquiry exercises, students set off to gather evidence that might determine the extent of economic, social and environmental regeneration in the Pricesshay area of the city.

Armed with the geographically compulsory clipboard and work booklet, three groups set about recording tally charts and bipolar environmental quality assessments at locations spanning South Street, Princesshay, Sidwell Street and the newly redeveloped bus station area.

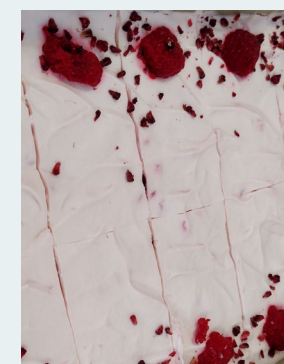
Having worked exceptionally efficiently and cooperatively, they even got to experience the festive tone with a browse (munch) through the Christmas Market stalls on the Cathedral Green before having to complete a public opinion survey and a rapid coach loading to return happy and full but slightly chilly. Thank you, Year 11 geographers, for making this annual event one of the best yet!



Bake Off

In celebration of European Day of Languages in September, Year 7 and 8 students were invited to participate in a language themed Bake Off.

The entries were outstanding and we were all impressed by students' creativity and culinary skills. The overall winners were Megan F-H in Year 8 and Chloe B in Year 7.



Poetry

In October, Year 7 students studied a poem in French or Spanish and considered our relationships with other cultures, countries and languages.

We were really impressed by the quality of discussions and students' analysis of the poems. Year 7 are becoming fantastic linguists!



'Appy' Friday!

Students from all year groups are invited to ML1 on Friday lunchtimes to use a language learning app of their choice.

These have ranged from Blooket and Duolingo to LanguageNut. It has been great to see students engaging with their LanguageNut vocabulary since September. At the time of writing, South Dartmoor Community College was ranked 89th out of hundreds of schools and 3rd in the Westcountry Schools Trust for our overall points scores, despite having fewer students.

Top scoring students in November were Evie C, Barnaby and Phoebe P.

Fantastic work!



Blooket



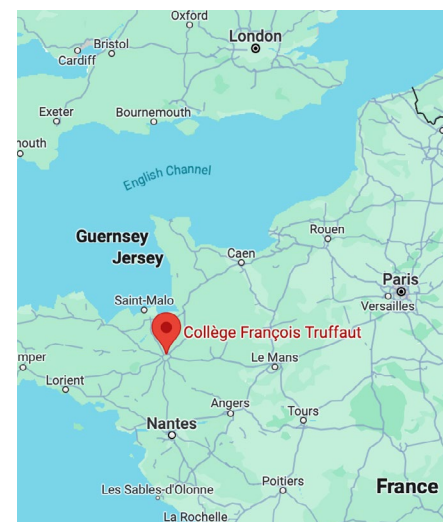
Penpal Project

Year 9 French students wrote letters to their new French 'correspondants'.

Their school is the [Collège François Truffaut](#) in Betton, which is twinned with Moretonhampstead.

Our Year 9 French students are working on an interactive project with the French students to find out about the similarities and differences between school here in the UK and in France.

Students from France will be visiting us in March!



Joyeux Noël and Feliz Navidad

The Languages department would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Joyeux Noël and Feliz Navidad.

Key Stage 3 students will be learning about Christmas traditions in French and Spanish-speaking countries.

If you would like to find out more, the [Christmas Zone](#) on the Euroclub Schools website is a great starting point.

You will find lots of interesting facts as well as quizzes, jokes and even some Christmas Sing-Alongs!



Science Enrichment Day

During our science enrichment day, Year 9 students were treated to an exciting bird display featuring an owl, a vulture and a falcon.



They had the opportunity to observe these magnificent birds in action, gaining insights into their hunting techniques, behaviours, and unique habitats.

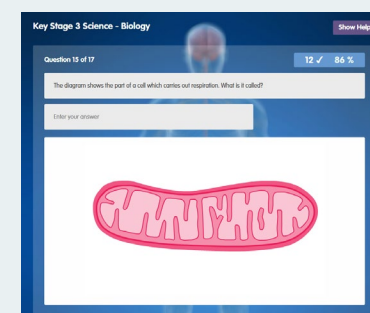
This hands on experience enriched their understanding of the avian world and its fascinating intricacies.



Home Learning

Science students have been learning how to use Educake.

Educake is an award-winning online assessment and revision platform. Science homework is now set and handed in weekly using this app. It helps students with revision by allowing them to create their own quizzes, tracking their progress on different topics.



SCIENCE

ALL YEARS HOME LEARNING IS SET ON:

TUESDAY

ALL YEARS HOME LEARNING IS DUE ON:

DAY

Tuesday

TIME

Before 8.30am

ALL YEARS MISSED HOME LEARNING DETENTIONS WILL BE ON:

DAY

Thursday

TIME

Break 1

ROOM

SC7

Cricket

Congratulations to the U15 girls' team, who qualified for the Indoor Cricket County Finals.

We sent two teams to the district round of the Chance to Shine Competition at Paignton Community College. They were up against strong opposition, including two former county champions, so the girls' team knew they had to be at their best to qualify.

South Dartmoor A team went undefeated, winning all four of their matches to reach the county finals, which will be held next year in March. South Dartmoor B Team, which was made up largely of a young side, improved throughout the competition. They finished by comfortably defeating Paignton Community College.



Year 9 Rugby

Year 9 took part in a rugby tournament, topping their group pool by going undefeated and winning four games and drawing one.

They only conceded one try in the whole group stage, while scoring 23.

In the semi-finals we played Churston Ferrers Grammar School, winning 28-0, before losing in the final against a very well established Torquay Boys' Grammar School team.

We are incredibly proud of every single player, they were all fully committed throughout the day.



Boxing

Year 7 student Myles B is excelling in boxing, representing his local club and the school as a great sports ambassador.

Chris Rattenbury, the Head Coach at Kings Boxing Academy in Kingsteignton, told us: "In our opinion this 12 year old is going places. Under our direction, he assists beginners in the club, runs the stretch and ensures others are in line with the coaching. He is an asset for any club. Please celebrate with us the great achievements from the start of his boxing career, we have high expectations of him."

"In our opinion, this 12 year old is going places."

Myles is pictured with former world champion Glenn Catley, holding the boxer's winning medals.



CTECH Sport

We love to make links with other organisations as part of our Ctech Sport and Physical Activity course, so we were fortunate to hear from Lauren Rowe from Exeter University.

She told us about her role reaching out to students to get them moving and got us thinking about the different aspects to consider when planning programmes or initiatives.



Year 7 Rugby

Year 7 headed to Churston Ferrers Grammar School to represent us in a rugby tournament.

Each one of these students has put in a lot of effort and dedication over the last few weeks to come to Rugby Club, as well as extra sessions to prepare for the tournament, which hasn't gone unnoticed by the PE Department!

Player of the day was Owen W, for his relentless running up and down the pitch - all game every game - and making some big tackles.



Year 11 Rugby

The Year 11 Boys Rugby team did themselves proud at the South Devon Schools Rugby Sevens Tournament, coming fourth out of ten high quality teams.

They played some outstanding rugby, showed impressive resilience over a long day and conducted themselves impeccably.

Well done George G, Archie P, Ollie G, Ben B, Freddie S, Daniel G, Jaden F, Finley W, Alex H and Charlie V.



Refereeing

Well done to Owen D in Year 9.

Owen has been refereeing in the Bovey Tracey youth football league.



Tap Dancing

Congratulations to Eliehsa M who competed in Germany, tap dancing for Team GB.

She won silver in the final against fierce competition, dancing with Tap Attack.



Year 5 Invasion Games

Year 5 pupils from Ashburton and Bovey Tracey primary school took part in the Invasion Games Festival at South Dartmoor Community College.

They played four different games: Basketball, Handball End Zone, Netball Benchball and Bee Netball, and were led by the SDCC Year 9 Sport Leaders who were quick to adapt and enthuse the pupils.



KS1 Aesthetics Festival

The Superhero themed KS1 Aesthetics Festival at South Dartmoor Community College was a great event.

Pupils from Ashburton, Blackpool, Bovey Tracey, Buckfastleigh and Stover School took part in a carousel of six stations of Dance, Gymnastics and Yoga. They were put into mixed school groups led by the brilliant South Dartmoor Year 9 Sport Leaders, and it was great to see their confidence and skills grow throughout the session.



KS2 Dance Festival

Nine primary schools took part in the KS2 Dance Festival led by the South Dartmoor Community College Dance Leaders.

The pupils learnt a dance, a motif and a duet and then created their own section. They performed these to each other to build their confidence, then put everything together at the end. The pupils were buzzing!

KS2 Multi Sports

KS2 pupils had a fantastic afternoon of multi sports.

Rotating around four different stations, pupils explored and developed a variety of skills.

The South Dartmoor Year 12 and 13 CTECH Sport students were fantastic sport leaders throughout the afternoon.



Sixth Form Open Evening and Futures Event

Thank you to all those families who attended our Sixth Form Open Evening and Futures Event.

It was filled with excitement around next steps and how the Sixth Form at South Dartmoor will be at the heart of this chapter for so many young people.

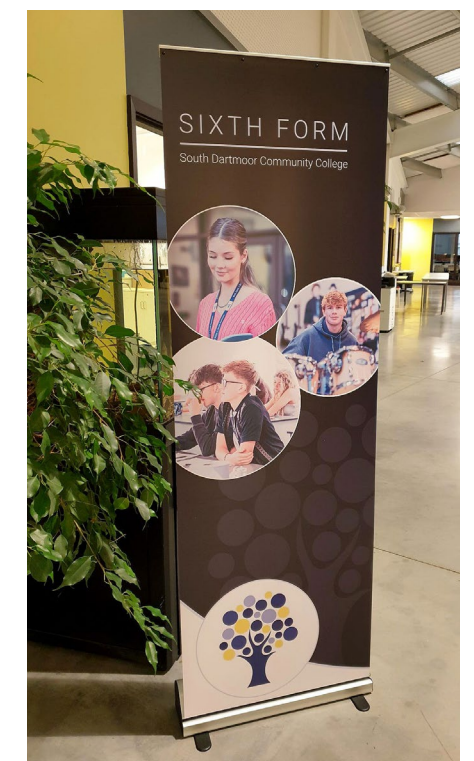
It was great to see lots of external students joining us to see what makes our Sixth Form so vibrant, as well as our Year 10 students who are already looking forward to being part of our Sixth Form community.



Sixth Form Volunteers

Many of our Sixth Form students have engaged in some superb volunteering.

Alice is an example of this, she is one of a handful of Sixth Formers supporting our Diverse Education Needs and Communication and Interaction Resource Base students.



Bowling and Pizza

Our Sixth Formers enjoyed the first social event of the year, travelling to Exeter to enjoy an evening of bowling and 'dustbin lid' pizzas.

Great fun was had by all, with some pretty impressive bowling scores from both students and staff. There were many highlights of the evening, but staff felt immensely proud when a member of the public took the time to comment on just how wonderful our young people are.



The Dartmoor Way

On Friday 10th November, Mr. Stokes embarked upon a 100-mile circumnavigation of Dartmoor.



Pictured here with Mrs. Veal, who with many others, cheered him on en route.

The Dartmoor Way 100, 'The Full Circle' is a continuous non-stop event which skirts the periphery of the whole of the northern and southern sections of the Moor, taking in many wild and ancient tracks and trails. 34 hours is the maximum time allowed to complete the race with over 4000m of ascent to contend with, as well as some challenging terrain.

Mr Stokes completed the race in an amazing 32 hours and 29 minutes, running a distance of 109 miles (175km).

His highlights included enjoying the clear night sky and being able to eat an awful lot of snacks!

You can read more about his incredible running journey in his [blog](#) on our website.



Silver for Bonzo

Congratulations to Mrs Dixon and our school dog Bonzo for passing the Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme Silver Award.

The Silver Award aims to build upon the skills learned in the Bronze Award whilst increasing the level of difficulty. It is a natural progression of practical dog training skills and introduces new concepts such as the controlled greeting, road walk and vehicle control exercises which are important in everyday life situations.

The Silver Award also aims to provide handlers with a good knowledge of understanding and training their canine companion.



New Staff

Meet the new members of staff who joined South Dartmoor Community College in the Autumn Term:



Sam Barnes
Teacher of Maths
and P.E.

"I am so pleased to be back at South Dartmoor Community College as a member of the Maths and P.E team. As a former student, it's great to be working alongside teachers that I looked up to during my time here; people who inspired me to be my best self, and to work hard to achieve great things.

I am lucky to be representing Maths and P.E., both of which I loved during my time here. It's great to see students in both an academic and sporting spotlight.

When I am not teaching, you will find me playing football, hiking on Dartmoor with my dog, or on the North-Devon coast surfing and kayaking."

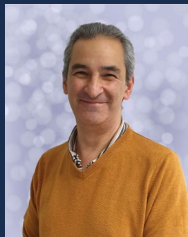


Emily Bingham
Teacher of
Science

"I am really excited to have joined South Dartmoor Community College as part of the Science department. I studied Biological Sciences at The University of Exeter and I graduated in 2012. I have a real interest in all science topics, but especially genetics and evolution.

Since graduating I have had a range of roles, both in and out of education, including working for The South West Ambulance Service for a few years as an emergency medical dispatcher, like on the TV ambulance programme!

When I am not teaching, I enjoy hiking on Dartmoor with my family and rescue dog, Alvin, as well as playing the saxophone in a local big band."



Richard Camilleri
Senior Science
Technician

"I was delighted to be able to join the Science team at South Dartmoor Community College as the Senior Science Technician, having spent eleven years in a similar role at an independent school.

After studying for a degree in Forestry I worked in that industry for 15 years before retraining as a Science teacher. I taught in Cumbria and Somerset for a few years before leaving the profession to take a six year gap while my children were young.

I still have a passion for the natural environment, enjoying walking, wildlife photography and sea angling, when time and weather permits."



Stephanie Carter
Assistant Pastoral
Lead

"I am really excited to join the team at South Dartmoor Community College as Assistant Pastoral Lead. I graduated from university in 2021 where I studied Criminology and Psychology for two years and completed my final year in Education, Development and Society.

I initially joined SDCC as a Teaching Assistant, but working within the pastoral team allows me to further support and engage with the students whilst continuing to learn and develop my own knowledge.

Outside of school I love to watch the Formula 1 and hope to one day go to a race or two."



Adam Dyer
Teacher of Business
and Maths

"After leaving teaching in 2019 to work with the NHS, I am delighted to have returned to my teaching career with South Dartmoor Community College.

I finished University in 2006 after studying Computing & Education Studies, and started working for Apple supporting the education department. I am hugely proud to say that my name is on the *Wall of Fame* at Apple HQ in California! I then gained my second degree in Media Arts, before deciding to embark on my teaching career. In 2020 I released my first Children's Book which went to #1 in two different categories on Amazon UK.

I enjoy spending time with my family, writing tv and film scripts, and penning the next great children's novel. Move over, J.K Rowling!"



James Gilson
Exams Officer / DofE
Assistant Manager

"I am very pleased to have joined South Dartmoor Community College as the Exams Officer, and DofE Assistant Manager. I have spent the last fourteen years working in prison education, and have taught a range of very interesting students.

Outside of work, I volunteer with the Air Training Corps and instruct first aid, foot drill, target shooting, field craft and the expedition side of the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme.

My wife and I enjoy taking our grandchildren to the moors and the sea, where we have achieved a wide range of cub scout badges!"



Rowan Hardisty
Receptionist and
Administrator

"I am really pleased to have joined South Dartmoor Community College as a Receptionist and Administrator and being part of the wonderful admin team. Having spent the last ten years working in hospitality, I am enjoying the new challenges I am facing.

In my free time, I spend time with my daughter, visiting family and going out exploring and making memories."



Christopher Lowe
Cover
Supervisor

"I am really pleased to have joined South Dartmoor Community College as the Cover Supervisor.

I have been working in education for more than ten years, as a teacher of Art, English and Media. I trained in art teaching at Goldsmiths, University of London and have an MA in Art History. I am interested in books, poetry, media and all things creative.

Dartmoor is my spiritual home and I love spending time rambling whilst listening to podcasts and learning about new things, but I also love cities and enjoy visiting museums and art galleries as well as visiting other countries."



Ethan Merrington-Pink
Teacher of Science

"I am very excited to be beginning my teaching career at South Dartmoor Community College. It is a wonderfully supportive community with both happy staff and happy students.

I graduated from Cardiff University in 2021 with a degree in Chemistry and am excited to bring my chemistry expertise to the Science department.

I grew up a stone's throw from Ashburton and completed all 3 Ten Tors during my time at school. Whilst I get out on the moors less these days, I hope that the close proximity of South Dartmoor to the moorland will encourage me to get out there more."



Hayleigh Oliver
Teaching Assistant

"After working at Oldway Primary School in Paignton for over six years, I am pleased to have joined South Dartmoor Community College as a Teaching Assistant.

In my previous role, I worked with children with additional needs and very much enjoyed the challenge. I look forward to developing positive relationships with the students I work with."



Mandy Solly
Head of Year 7

"I am so excited to be working at South Dartmoor Community College as Head of Year 7. I attended South Dartmoor myself, and now have two children here. I have had a varied career, but for the last seven years I have worked in Year 6 at a local primary school where I enjoyed preparing the students for their transition into secondary school and all the opportunities that awaited them.

I enjoy spending time at the beach, camping/glamping, keeping myself fit and walking my dog, Gus, on the moor.

My first term at South Dartmoor has been everything I wanted it to be and I have enjoyed getting to know all the fantastic staff and amazing students."

Merry Christmas

The staff at South Dartmoor would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The new term starts on Wednesday 3rd January 2024, and we look forward to seeing you all then.



And finally...

It has become something of a tradition at South Dartmoor for Mrs. Veal to share a *Christmas Bad Joke du Jour* with us all each day throughout December.

It would be unfair of us to keep these to ourselves, so here are some of the best (or worst!):



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