



NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DARTMOOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND SIXTH FORM • SPRING TERM 2024 • ISSUE 8



Spring Term Newsletter

Bringing you all the latest news from
South Dartmoor Community College

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Welcome

Welcome to this term's edition of our Newsletter. As usual, it is a packed edition and I never cease to wonder how we manage to fit everything in, particularly in short terms such as this one has been.



Of course, contained within these pages are just a selection of the events and activities we have held; in reality school life is so much more than this, as you will no doubt know from your busy schedules. School is as much about rhythms and routines as activities and trips.

Many of my favourite things from this term have not made it on to these pages because they are part of the normal every day interactions of our school and it is difficult to capture and take photos of these moments. For example, I have really enjoyed co-planning the Personal Development Programme with Year 12 students, who are just brilliant; so open, honest, wise, considerate. At the other end of the spectrum, I have also really loved doing Pupil Passports with Year 7 students; it has been a joy getting to know them better.

Also worthy of mention are our Year 11 students, who have turned out the best set of Mock Results I have experienced. We are so proud of them and we continue to support and encourage them all the way to that final exam.

Meeting so many parents this term too, has been great. Opening up the school to host parent information evenings to Years 7 and 8, the Year 9 Option Evenings, the Scholar events and the Progress Evenings for Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 has enabled us to come together as a community around our children.

As much as extra-curricular activities are so important in creating opportunities and memories for students, it is also vital that every day matters and is right. Thank you to everyone for supporting us to empower everyone to be the best they can be.

Jen Veal
Executive Head Teacher



Year 9 Attendance Awards

Throughout this term, students in Year 9 have been competing to complete as many consecutive days in school as possible.

Students recorded their attendance on their loyalty cards, and we had the pleasure of drawing our three winners.

Congratulations to Megan, Caleb and Bill who all received Amazon vouchers!



Random Acts of Kindness Week

In a world where you can be anything, be kind.

We asked students to catch their peers being kind, and examples of kindness were collected and celebrated each morning.



Belonging

What does it mean to belong?

We asked students to catch their peers and staff members demonstrating respect, support and acceptance to help us celebrate belonging.

We also welcomed nominations from parents and carers.

Examples were collected and celebrated each morning, with all nominations being entered into a prize draw.



Positive Bus Behaviour

Members of the Pastoral Team have been out and about in our school community meeting students off their buses.

The team spent time speaking to students and drivers about our expected positive bus behaviour, and even had the chance to talk to our local shops about our students. The feedback was really positive.



HPA and Masterclass Sessions

South Dartmoor Community College launched its Scholars' Programme this term for Year 7 students (High Performing Academy) and Year 8 students (the Masterclass Sessions).

The Programme aims to enrich the curriculum to enhance students' learning in an enjoyable and scholarly manner. The activities so far have been extremely well received and the students have surpassed themselves in their engagement and achievement.

We are looking forward to next term and seeing how the exciting High Performing and Masterclass learning opportunities will be embraced by our scholars.



Making the Most of Key Stage 3

Thank you to all the families who attended our 'Making the Most of Key Stage 3' information evening.

It was wonderful to see so many of you!

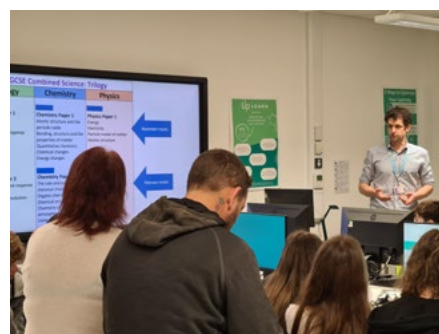
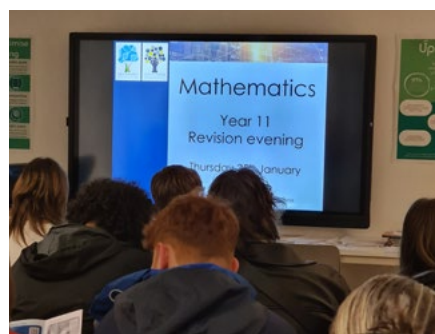
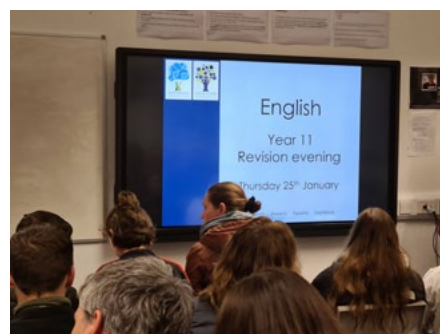


Year 10 and 11 Revision Evening

Thank you to all the families who attended our Year 10 and 11 Revision Evening.

The evening included revision guidance, exam tips, coursework information and subject specific talks aimed at maximising exam success.

For those who couldn't make it, there is a wealth of revision information [on our website](#).



Year 9 Options Information Evening

Families of Year 9 students turned out in force for the Options Information Evening, with extra chairs needed to accommodate everyone!

There was a real community buzz, and we are grateful to parents/carers for attending and supporting.



Careers Information

Apprenticeship opportunities

It is a good idea to look at company websites for apprenticeship opportunities, for example Princess Yachts or Babcock's.

Useful websites to find apprenticeships include: skillslaunchpadplym.co.uk and www.gov.uk/apply/apprenticeship. You can create an account on this government website and save your search.

For apprenticeships in the construction and trades sector, keep an eye on this [Building Plymouth live Padlet of vacancies](#).

Careers support for parents/carers

[Careerplilot Parent Zone](#) has information to help parents and carers support young people in making the right decision about study and work.

SDCC Careers Event

On Friday 28th June between 11:30am - 3:30pm students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 12 will have an opportunity to attend the SDCC Careers Event during the day. Parents/carers and students can visit from 3:10pm - 3:30pm.

Last year we had 30 exhibitors from local employers, universities, colleges and training providers, who were all impressed at the level of engagement shown.

The event was well received, and we are excited to be holding it again this year.

Understanding Labour Market Information

Labour Market Information (LMI) is a combination of data, statistics, research and practical experience about the world of work.

LMI looks at:

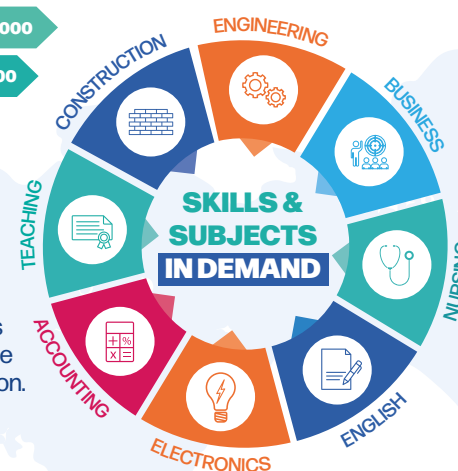
- What jobs are available in your area – this includes industry types and earnings.
- What type of opportunities are available and routes to employment and/or education.
- Apprenticeships and Trainee placements
- Future trends - how the job market and workforce is likely to change i.e. growth industry.

Labour Market Information Heart of the South West

ROLES IN DEMAND

Care support staff	8450
Nurses	7750
Administration roles	5000
Sales executives	4900
Programmers and software developers	4500
Customer services	4000
Management roles	3950
Van drivers	3000
Facilities	2900
Accountants	2500

These are the job roles most in demand in the South West region at the moment.



Current trends and future requirements in the labour market indicate that these subject/skill areas will be in demand in the South West region.

Neo-Romantic Inspired Artwork

In Year 7 we have been looking at the spirit of the landscape, and students have made work inspired by the Neo-Romantic artists.



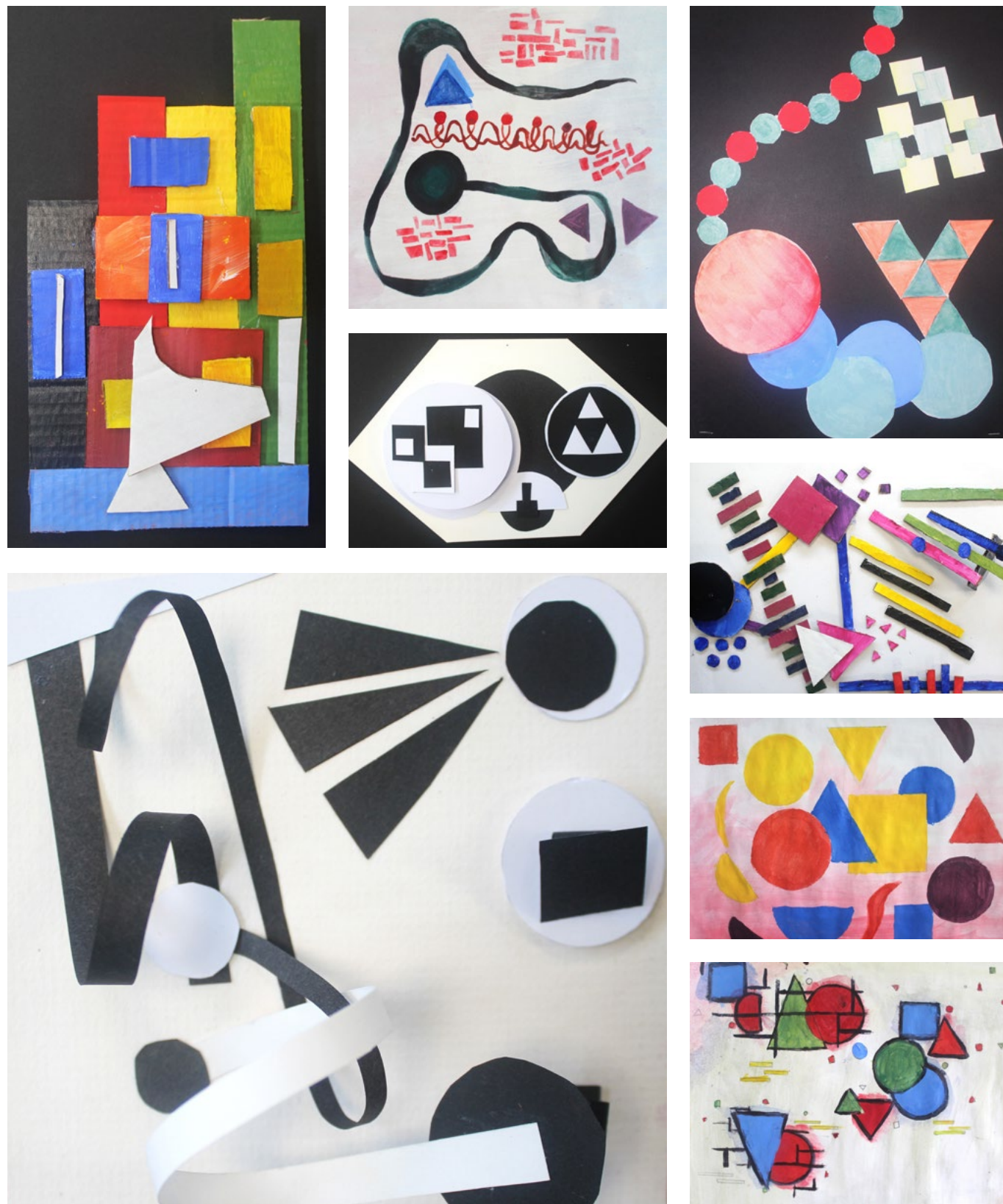
Making and Breaking Rules

Year 8 students have been working on a project called *Making and Breaking Rules*, and they have created some still life collage work inspired by the Cubists.



Visual Music

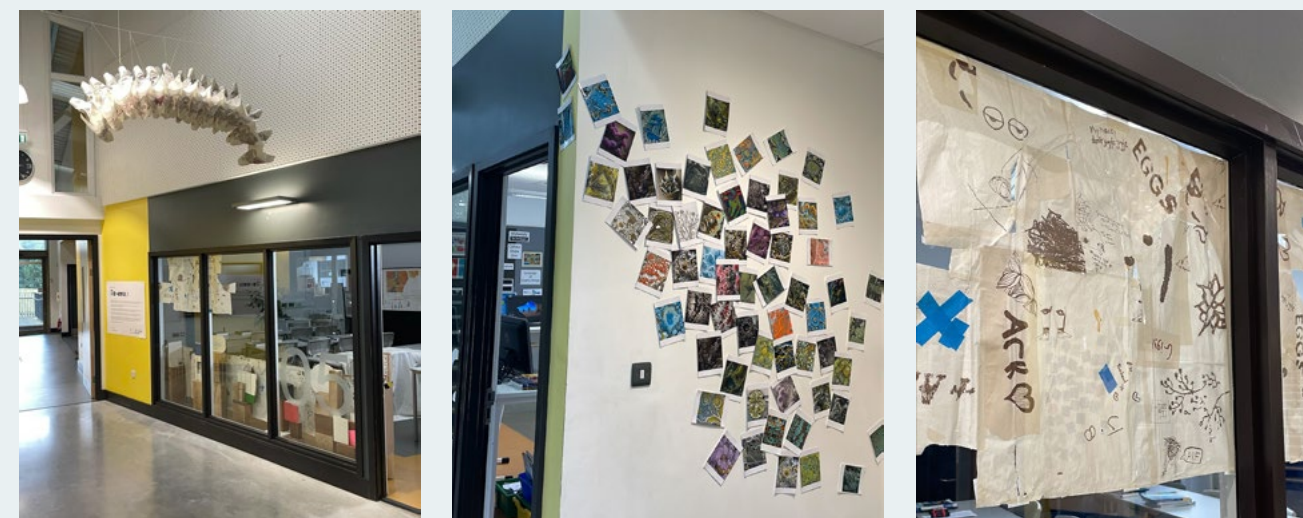
Year 9 students have recently been creating some work within the theme of *Visual Music*. They have created paintings and constructions, thinking about how to represent sound through shape and colour.



N-E-W ASSEMBLY Exhibition and Workshop

SDCC welcomes the N-E-W ASSEMBLY crew, bringing their exhibition into new spaces to provoke new conversations!

We are so excited to see our Sixth Form space transformed by the work, and our Year 10 upcoming workshops will be adding to what is already installed in the coming months.



As part of the ongoing creative practice between SDCC and Arts University Plymouth, the team from the ASSEMBLY exhibition returned to SDCC to carry out a workshop with a new group of students. The workshop looked at raising the questions about what education is, what it should be, and what we would like it to be. It was wonderful to hear the thoughts and ideas from the group.



Drawing Club

South Dartmoor Drawing Club has been meeting weekly to create a wonderful collection of imaginative drawings, including everything from quick doodles to personal projects.

Take a look at the first issue of [Draw Club zine](#) in digital format, which features some of the artwork created by our amazing students.



Body Language 2024

There are many infectious things about Dance. One of its most inspiring qualities is the way that it brings people together, and we were able to celebrate the power of this at this year's Body Language performance.

Over 250 tickets sold, hours of committed rehearsals with students, and families enabling all of this to come together; it is a shared language that sparks curiosity and encourages collaboration. Dance continues to sit prominently as a foundation in our school community and this is a wonderful way to acknowledge the 28th year of Body Language.

On Monday 4th March the Body Language stage sprung to life with primary and secondary dancers from the Dartmoor Schools Sports Partnership launching the week with the 'Let's Dance' show. On Tuesday 5th March we welcomed Year 5 and 6 students from our feeder primary schools to the stage with a selection of seven dances inspired by musical theatre from the West End for Primary Body Language 2024. These two events alone saw over 400 young people sharing our stage and performing their choreography with passion and flair; just one example of exactly why the performing arts are so important within education and far beyond.

On Thursday 7th March an exciting and diverse programme of dance was performed by South Dartmoor dancers across KS3, 4 and 5. Dances were enriched with original movement inspired by a range of stimuli and professional dance, all of which has been explored through the Dance curriculum as well as the rich extracurricular provision we are proud to offer to our student body.

We are proud of so much that we do at South Dartmoor, particularly when we reflect on the huge number of live performance opportunities we offer our learning community. The growth and dedication from the performers of Body Language 2024 is representative of the array of life skills they have developed by embracing the Body Language experience; it brings us great joy to play a part in their journey.

Every single dancer on the Body Language stage this year embodied our core values; Truth, Respect, Equality and Excellence. They feel a sense of belonging and investment within our community.

Thank you for supporting these young people and enabling them to share their excitement, hard work and creativity with confidence and pride. Body Language 2024 is our 'Thank You' to you all.



An Inspector Calls

J.B. Priestley's remarkable play about Edwardian England focuses on the class differences of the time.

Eva Smith has committed suicide, and an inspector visits the Birling family home during an engagement party. Our Year 10 GCSE Drama students' performance of Act 1 focused on the revelations that Mr. Birling, his daughter Sheila Birling and her fiancé Gerald Croft are all partly to blame for her death. Sheila is the bright hope; whilst being a typically spoilt rich young lady, she immediately recognises her guilt and is remorseful to the extent that in Act 2 she changes, representing a brave new future for the social divide evident in 1910 and in 1945 when the play was written.

The Year 10 students produced, directed and performed Act 1 of this advanced play, and whilst they did not perform Act 2 or 3, the rest of the characters, Eric Birling – the son, and Mrs. Birling, are also seen to be partly to blame. Whilst the drunk Eric is unpredictable it appears as though he too will change; whilst the others remain implacably fixed in their views and biases. Like Eva, Gerald's father is never seen in the play, but he represents the real evil in J.B. Priestley's view – class-based society.

The Year 10s independently produced, directed and acted in the play which they performed to a private audience in February. All the acting choices, setting, costumes, sound and lighting were their own, guided by two student directors.

The work was exceptional for students of this experience and age; they completely immersed themselves in the play, focusing on detail and the precise enactment of Edwardian people. The play has demanding language, concepts and some really long speeches – all of which the students excelled at. Their learning and progress in stagecraft has been astonishing.

Whilst very nervous, the students also performed to Year 11; a daunting prospect, but one which they took in their stride. They are a very special group and company, and they deserve every future success. They are hard-working and professional, and it has been a privilege to support their journey.



The Paper Birds

Year 10 GCSE Drama students went to the Northcott Theatre in Exeter to watch *Feel Me* by theatre company *The Paper Birds*.

The piece was about displaced people and included some difficult themes which were presented in a really engaging and thought-provoking way.

Our students were fantastic, and a member of the public commented on how exemplary their behaviour and engagement was.

We didn't get a photo of students outside the theatre because we were too busy chatting about how incredible the show was, and how inspired they were to apply some techniques to their own devised pieces that they are currently working on.



Live Sessions

Thank you to everybody who attended Live Sessions, and to our wonderful students across all year groups who sang and played their hearts out.

We have a real depth of very talented students, who are supported and encouraged by a great team.



Easter Concert

What a wonderful night of music! Students from years 4-13 performed in our Easter Concert. Thank you to all the fabulous performers, and to everybody who came along to support.



The Marriage of Figaro

The Marriage of Figaro is one of the jewels in the crown of the opera genre.

The South Dartmoor performers have worked really hard over the course of the academic year to master new singing techniques, complex lyrics and ensembles, and period characters, as well as some of the most recognisable operatic solos in the repertoire. It is to these students' immense credit that they performed such difficult music with skill, control and expression on the night. We are so proud of them. We are very grateful to [The Helen Foundation](#) Ella Philp Fund for sponsoring the opera.



Ten Tors

Our Ten Tors participants undertook their longest walk of this year's training so far.

Everyone did a great job at all distances. The 35-mile teams also enjoyed team building activities (high ropes and shooting), on the Sunday. Well done everyone!

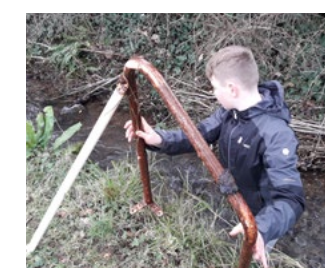


Forest School

Forest School is an inspirational concept providing learning opportunities through practical activities in an outdoor environment.

Mrs Dixon is a trained Forest School Leader and has run Forest School sessions for many years. Students are enjoying the freedom to explore and experience the natural world in all seasons and in all weathers.

It can be personally and socially uplifting, so laying firm foundations for other learning. Forest School embraces an approach of nurturing, support and development of student's self-esteem, confidence and resilience. It is an ideal environment in which students develop innovation, problem solving, risk taking, creativity and teamwork.



Isle of Arran

One February morning, whilst the South Dartmoor community was slumbering, cosy in their beds in the depths of the night, Year 12 geographers slipped off to start the annual field trip to the Isle of Arran.



Keenly awaiting the arrival of the 2:45am Falcon bus to Bristol Airport, excitement illuminated Drumbridges roundabout and the size of the merry throng scared the driver!

Clearing bag drop and security as quickly as possible, the boys found the allure of duty-free cologne irresistible whilst the girls refilled their water bottles. After a slightly lumpy flight, fifteen happy Sixth Form students descended the steps to Glasgow's tarmac in glorious sunshine and biting temperatures to find the local bus to take them to the fifth mode of transport; the train to Ardrossan Harbour, with the ferry still awaiting. All this before break time!

Finally, after 12 hours in transit and a journey that included cars, coaches, aeroplanes, local buses, trains and a ferry, they finally made it to their destination.

Slightly windswept, a little bit jaded, but definitely impressed by the beauty of the island scenery

and with only the wrangling of duvets/pillows into fresh bedding and the consumption of a hearty evening meal left on the to-do list, a good night's sleep was eagerly anticipated!

“Slightly windswept, a little bit jaded, but definitely impressed by the beauty of the island scenery....”



The first full day began with changeable conditions and very deep puddles. An extended session in the classroom reviewing field-sampling methods and strategies helped avoid the worst of the deluge and, with clouds breaking and sun sparkling on freshly fallen rain, the class set out to practice data collection on the Lochranza Saltmarsh before returning to the centre for self-made sandwiches at lunch.

The afternoon included the introduction of footpath impact studies and kite graph analysis. Beautiful weather, with a little taste of Winter as a backdrop. After a hearty dinner, there was a well-focused evening classroom session to finish the day off. Evenings in the student common room were equally structured with table tennis, pool and cards featuring highly as the class maximised away from home downtime.

“Beautiful weather, with a little taste of Winter as a backdrop.”

On the morning of day two, heavy rain cleared to reveal the promised snow-capped peaks as a backdrop for a quick look at the polygenesis of the landscape and some glacial clast orientation research, before being whisked on to part two in the centre's two electric minibuses!

For the second half of day two, the weather returned to being more typically Scottish! Snowy peaks were shrouded in murky mist, making the sketching and note taking more tricky with soggy paper and imagined landscape views. However, spirits remained high, and the promise of a deluxe hot chocolate by the bus stop in a wonderful warm café spurred the troops on!

The third and final day of the geography pilgrimage involved surveying the change in characteristics of settlements around the island. Fresh from the usual four-course breakfast, the team set off to survey Brodick, Lamlash, Blackwaterfoot and Lochranza.



With dry feet and firm underfoot conditions, all enjoyed the opportunity to sample the delicacies offered by these semi-urban environments by visiting a Co-op supermarket to restock on teenage-flavoured nosh. Plenty of new techniques learnt, both qualitative and quantitative, providing our young geographers with the skills to tackle the more subjective realm of human geography!

With one evening session left, delirium started to set in with the

prospect of balmy, tropical Devon rain rising in the mind. Leaving brings such sorrow, especially if you're a teenager needing to get up at 6am! The long hard days of crafting enquiry skills in the hills and survey techniques on the streets had swollen their brains as much as the fine catering had swollen Mr. Hodge's waistline. Our fine young people had worked hard and with pride equal to the excellent impression they left on everyone they met. Bus

and taxi drivers, centre managers and tutors and, most importantly, the residents of the island all complemented their exemplary conduct and most friendly characters.

Thank you to the parents who entrusted us with their children, and the community who followed our progress on social media. We can't wait to take next year's group on this ultimate eye-opening adventure.



Dawlish Warren Trip

There is nothing that says Geography more than a good field trip to Dawlish Warren, and with the express dictate from the exam board's compulsory fieldwork requirement demanding that we go to the beach, we duly obliged.

Focusing on the geographical enquiry process rather than the overcast weather, students set about collecting quantitative and qualitative data to assess the effectiveness of the coastal management strategy on this Devon coastal treasure. All students worked hard to understand the collection methodology they were learning, and they were a credit to themselves with the way they carried out their workbook completion.

Lunchtime enabled them to sample the gastronomic delights of the Warren eateries and bask in the pre-ordered sunshine. This proved to be most relaxing, especially as there were very few seagulls around to bother the picnickers.

To round the day off our students walked to assess the gem of coastal erosion features; the Langstone Rock arch and caves. The field sketching of their view of the rock and surrounding coastal defences was swiftly completed with the promise of an up-close examination of processes of attrition and hydraulic action at the foot of the cliffs urging them on.

The happy band of homeward bound students returned to the bus with a flourish of stone skimming and muttering of aching feet, field working honour satisfied.



World Book Day

World Book Day is a worldwide celebration of books and reading, and it is marked in over 100 countries around the globe.

It promotes a life-long habit of reading for pleasure, which is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success.

Students participated in a Tutor Book Quiz exploring words from around the world, created bookmarks decorated with some of their favourite interests, and visited the Book Bistro to 'taste' the different genres of fiction available in our library.



Macbeth

This term students went to see *Macbeth* by Revision on Tour productions.

The performance was an enriching and highly relevant opportunity for students to revise the play, and they will carry the memories with them right through until the final minute of their English Literature GCSE.

More recently, students enjoyed seeing the national tour of the critically acclaimed musical *Blood Brothers*.

The production was flawless and students were enthralled by the play.



French Penpal Project

We welcomed 56 students from Betton (twinned with Moretonhampstead). Students took part in lessons, had a PE session and made scones with Monsieur Ray - which they ate the Devon way for afternoon tea.

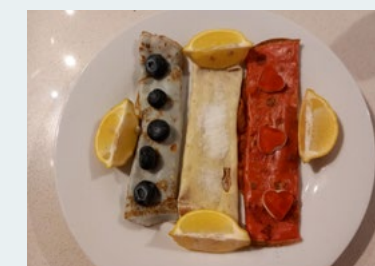
It was lovely for some of our Year 9s to meet the students they have been writing to this year, and we were left with biscuits and sweets from la Bretagne to say 'merci beaucoup'.



La Chandeleur

In February, students learnt about 'La Chandeleur' which is celebrated in France as a way to look forward to Spring.

Well done to Alex S in Year 7 who created this winning entry in the ensuing crêpe competition. J'adore la créativité!



Gothic Writing

Year 7 students took part in a WeST Gothic Writing competition.

The competition was tough, and each school had to pick the best piece of work to submit for judging across all secondary schools in WeST.

We are proud to say that Holly F came second overall. A fantastic achievement!



Christmas Card Competition

Absolutely fantastic entries for the Year 7 languages themed Christmas card competition.

Winners were Delphi, Jo, Scarlett, Tom L and Phoebe.



Bonjour

hello

hola

Cricket Tournament

Year 7 and 8 represented us in a cricket tournament hosted by Paignton Community College.

Our teams had an enjoyable day, with some students playing their first ever cricket fixture. Cricket Club runs on Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtimes and on Fridays after school – it would be great to see some new faces!



Cross Country

Congratulations to Year 7 student Ollie D on competing in the latest round of Cross Country Championships.

Ollie qualified after a fantastic display in the previous round hosted at Stover, and has been committed to making sure he achieved the best possible result.



Year 7 Football

Our Year 7 football team played their Devon cup fixture against Kingsbridge.

South Dartmoor took the lead early courtesy of Jay B, with a great strike to the bottom corner which beat the keeper. Then before half time came two goals from Kingsbridge in quick succession; one taking a wild deflection past the already diving Toby S in goal, and the other bouncing off the underneath of the crossbar and just going over the line.

The second half was a stalemate, but the quality of football was much better and the match ended SDCC 1-2 Kingsbridge.

These boys train every week and their commitment and attitude to extracurricular clubs has been amazing, keep it up!



Basketball

Basketball fixtures with Newton Abbot College continue.

Our latest game ended in a close 43-41 win for Newton Abbot College.

SDCC top three scorers were Freddie S (16pts), Gethin W (11 pts) and Harry V (10pts).



Indoor County Cricket Finals

The U15 Mixed and Girls teams competed at the Chance to Shine Indoor Cricket County Finals which were held at the University of Exeter.

Both sides should be extremely proud of their achievements, finishing in the top 5 best teams across Devon.

In the U15 Girls Team, the players nominated Mae and Isabella as the *Players of the Day*, and Immy as the *Best Team Player*, and in the U15 Mixed Team, they nominated Albie as *Player of the Day* and Joe as *Best Team Player*.

The highlights of the day were scoring 96 and 98 runs in consecutive matches, and Albie's hat trick. Well done to everybody who took part!

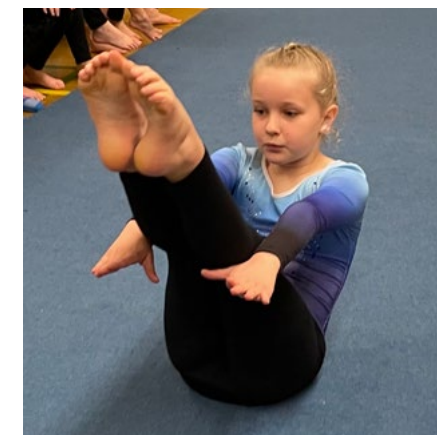


DSSP Gymnastics Competition

Students from seven primary schools came together to perform at the DSSP gymnastics competition.

There were six categories to suit all levels of ability, and gymnasts were judged and scored by the brilliant South Dartmoor Sport Leaders.

It was wonderful to see so many students competing and supporting each other, and it was very clear to see how hard they had been practicing their skills for the event. Well done to everyone involved!



Primary Body Language 2024

Well done to everyone who took part and performed at Primary Body Language 2024.

We are very proud of all the children that bravely and confidently took to the stage. A big thank you to all schools that took part and for all the audience support in both sell out shows!



Inspire Day at Plymouth Life Centre

The DSSP Inspire Day at Plymouth Life Centre saw students take part in diving, climbing and team building activities.

Our SDCC School Sport Coordinator took a group of Ashburton Primary School students along for the day. Fears were overcome with the students being encouraged by the fantastic dive and climbing coaches, and it was wonderful to see the progress they all made. It was a great opportunity, and an experience they will never forget.



KS2 FunFest Multi-Sports Festival

The Key Stage 2 FunFest Multi-Sports Festival was a wonderful, action-packed afternoon!

Students took part in a variety of activities; jumping off springboards and controlling their landing, aiming a ball and taking turns in *Battleships*, putting their muscle groups and cardio fitness through a tough *Fitness Ladder* challenge, playing different versions of *Stuck in the Mud* to improve their agility skills and playing some fun listening games with the parachute.

After a quick break the students were put into six teams and played bench ball games to help develop their throwing and catching skills, as well as their understanding of a team game.

The SDCC Sport Leaders did a fantastic job of enthusing the pupils and really engaging them in the variety of activities available. Thank you to everyone who came along!



KS2 Alternative Sports Festival

At the Alternative Sports Festival students took part in traverse climbing, trampolining, archery, Tae Kwon Do and dodgeball.

The Year 9 SDCC Sport Leaders did a brilliant job of encouraging the students to explore new skills, and we were very grateful to have experts supporting our session too.



Learn with the Lords

We welcomed over 140 Year 12 and 13 students from across WeST to our Sixth Form Centre to engage with the first collaborative Sixth Form Supra Curriculum event to be hosted at one of our schools.

Lord Hogan-Howe from the House of Lords spent the morning with students to give insight into how the House of Lords works, followed by a wonderfully rich Q&A session. Students asked superb questions that generated wonderful thought and discussion.

We are incredibly proud of the Sixth Form students from South Dartmoor and the other WeST Sixth Forms for their investment and engagement with this Learn with the Lords event.



Police Careers

Sixth Form students enjoyed a visit from two local police officers who gave their time to discuss routes into careers within the Police.

What was particularly great was that one of the officers was an SDCC Sixth Form alumni.



Bank of England Visit

We were delighted to welcome Iain Ramsay, a managerial figure within the Bank of England Markets Directorate who is responsible for the oversight and analysis of financial market developments.

Sixth Form Business, Economics and Finance students were provided with a comprehensive understanding of the Bank of England's mandate, including the criteria and timing for interventions in financial markets, as well as its broader initiatives aimed at buttressing the stability of the financial system. Of particular note was students' keen interest in the Bank of England's strategies for managing inflation through its monetary policy measures.



Aspirations Day

A group of Year 11-14 students attended an Aspirations Day, comprising of a visit to either the University of Plymouth or the Arts University Plymouth.

Our students were outstanding ambassadors for the college and, most importantly, came away feeling inspired about their possible next steps. They enjoyed interactive workshops, campus tours and informative lectures that have better prepared them for making informed life choices.



'Lessons from Auschwitz' Project

Year 13 students James and Rhys represented us on the Holocaust Educational Trust's *Lessons From Auschwitz* project.

Schools from across the South West sent representatives, and they left Exeter airport at 5am to fly to Poland to see Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Both students said what a powerful experience this trip was, and they will now be planning a lesson for younger SDCC students, to share their experiences.



UCAS Exhibition

Year 12 students visited the UCAS Exhibition at Westpoint Arena.

As they begin to engage with the Sixth Form 'Next Steps' provision, it was a great way to get them thinking about higher education and apprenticeship opportunities available to them.



New Staff

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



Andy Carpenter
Teacher of
Science

I have had the pleasure to be involved in teaching and learning for over 30 years. During this time, I have had a range of roles and responsibilities including being a head teacher, senior leader and lead educator in innovative, successful secondary and all-through schools.

I am particularly looking forward to using my requisite skills to drive the South Dartmoor Community College vision, and help to create scientists who care about making the world a beautiful place in which to live happy and worthwhile lives.



Sue Gilson
First Aid
Lead

I am delighted to have joined South Dartmoor Community College as the First Aid Lead. I have worked in social care and hospitals for the last fourteen years, and I enjoy caring for people and helping them to get better.

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

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



Linda Pugliese
SEN Teaching
Assistant

I am really pleased to have joined the lovely team at South Dartmoor Community College as an SEN Teaching Assistant.

I started my career in secondary education over 20 years ago as a teacher of English Literature and of English as a second language; my native language being Italian. I have specialised in supporting students' learning through a holistic approach, with special emphasis on wellbeing and positive mental health. I have completed a Master's Degree in Psychology and worked as a Thrive Practitioner.

My passion for foreign languages is still there. I am currently trying to learn French, and I adore reading books from all over the world.



Leona Squires
Head of LIT
Provision

I am really excited to have joined South Dartmoor Community College as part of the SEND department.

I am originally a primary teacher and have lots of experience with both SEND and EAL learners. I thoroughly enjoy supporting those children with literacy needs and seeing them flourish. I have taught in international schools in Thailand and Malaysia and have been back in the UK for a couple of years now. I am especially enjoying the weather!

When I am not teaching, I like to do at home yoga and venture to the gym for a swim. I also enjoy reading and spending time with my family.



Sarah Williams
Teacher of
English

I am delighted to have joined the English department at South Dartmoor Community College as a Teacher of English and Drama. I have been teaching for 20 years, and during this time I have enjoyed a range of roles including Head of Year and Head of Key Stage Three. I love the variety and engagement that teaching English and Drama brings.

My passions are singing and writing, and I am currently writing a musical. My dreams are for it to be staged and performed one day, perhaps by a student company!

Happy Easter!

The staff at South Dartmoor would like to wish you all a Happy Easter.

The new term starts on Monday 15th April 2024, and we look forward to welcoming students back.



EMPOWERING EVERYONE TO BE THE BEST THEY CAN BE



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