



NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DARTMOOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND SIXTH FORM • AUTUMN TERM 2024 • ISSUE 10



Autumn Term Newsletter

Bringing you all the latest news from
South Dartmoor Community College

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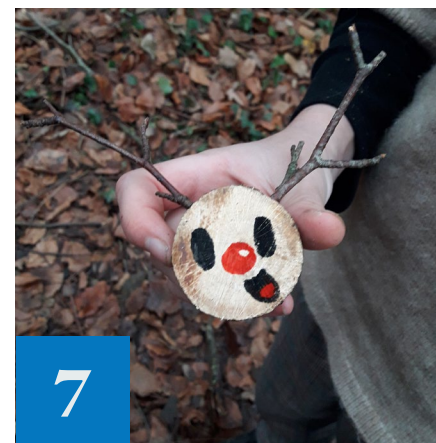
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Welcome

In my job, I frequently find myself immersed in data—numbers, figures, percentages—all meticulously crunched, analyzed, evaluated, tracked and plotted.



Yet, those who know me even a little, will recognise my real enthusiasm lies with the individuals behind these statistics. It is within the personalities, interactions and relationships, coupled with the successes and academic growth, that the true meaning (and fun!) of my work resides. The wonderful community at South Dartmoor Community College, comprising over 900 unique individuals, is what makes my role really special.

One number, however, stands out this term: 93. In our Ofsted survey, 93% of parents expressed that they would recommend SDCC. This remarkable figure is almost unprecedented and serves as a testament to our collaborative, positive partnerships, which are instrumental in helping children achieve their full potential.

To foster a sense of belonging, and alongside ensuring excellent learning in lessons, we have been developing the importance of community. In a world often overshadowed by negative news, it can be challenging to remember the power of kindness and the sense of belonging; yet, there is tremendous positivity in coming together. From the REACH initiative to festive Christmas dinners, from anti-bullying ambassadors to the Sparkle project supporting over forty families within our community, our relentless efforts have been dedicated to promoting respect, kindness and empathy.

I feel privileged to work with the SDCC community; with students who fill me with pride, parents who tirelessly support us and their children, and a staff body that is hard-working, caring and committed. Consequently, we nurture well-rounded, resilient and respectful young people who are ready to step into adulthood and make positive contributions to society. And, naturally, they carry with them a wealth of data that reflects their journey and their learning.

On behalf of all the staff, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jen Veal
Executive Head Teacher



Attendance Loyalty Card Scheme Winners

This term, students in Year 7 and Year 9 took part in the Attendance Loyalty Card Scheme.

They were challenged to complete ten consecutive days of school attendance. All completed cards were entered into a prize draw, and the winners were Emily M, Alfie P, Lily M and Chloe M.

Meanwhile, students in Year 8 were treated to hot chocolate and biscuits to celebrate their outstanding attendance this term. Well done, everyone!



Ready for Anything

Our students are ready for anything!

We ran our 'ready for anything' procedure. Our pretend 'intruders' were unable to gain access to the classrooms, and the students were amazing!



Remembrance Day

SDCC representatives attended the Remembrance Day service in Ashburton.

Harriet D and Luke T laid the poppy wreath on behalf of SDCC. Our school community spent time remembering all those killed in war. The Pastoral team wore white poppies alongside their red poppies. During morning welcomes, the Heads of Year explained the significance of the white poppy in regards to the importance of peace; we recognise all victims of war, as well as those who lost their lives on active service and their families.



Head of Year Pizza Lunch

Students enjoyed lunch with their Head of Year, as a small thank you for all their hard work and commitment to our school values this term.

The pizza lunches will happen throughout the year, for students in Years 7-11.



Ben Dunks

Ben Dunks, author of *Intimacy*, hosted two parent information evenings.

He discussed topics such as how to support our young people with managing life online, what it means to be male, the push and pull of online versus real-life interactions, and how to have potentially difficult conversations with our young people about sex and porn.



Celebrating Kindness

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

In response to a recent attendance survey, Year 9, 10 and 11 girls were asked to nominate their peers for acts of kindness, such as giving compliments, using kind words, showing gratitude, acts of service, being respectful and noticing good things.

Examples of kindness were collected each morning and celebrated, with all nominations entered into a prize draw. Well done to Honey M and Ruby G, who were the prize draw winners!



Christmas Dinner

A lovely way to mark the festive season together.

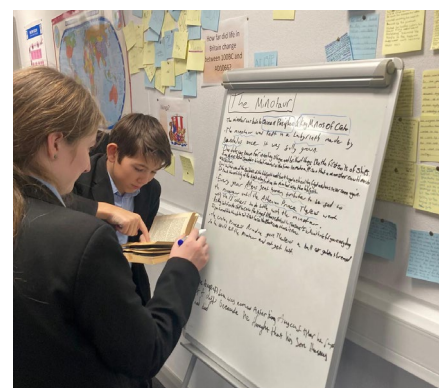
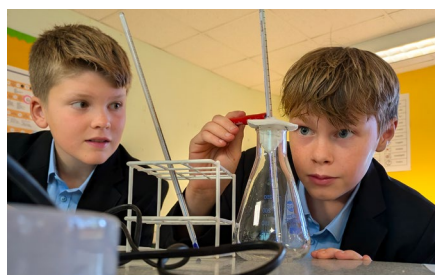
On Wednesday 18th December, Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day, we all ate together in our year groups. Along with the turkey and vegetarian options, there were crackers, bad jokes and much merriment.



Scholarship Programmes

December marked the end of our first scholarship programmes.

The programmes culminated in two graduation evenings, which were wonderful opportunities to celebrate with parents and carers. Congratulations to all involved, and we are very much looking forward to launching the new scholars' programmes in January.



Forest School

Our Forest School students have been hard at work preparing for the festive season!

They have been crafting beautiful wooden ornaments, honing and developing the woodworking skills they have learned over the course of the term. Each student has shown wonderful creativity, patience and attention to detail.



REACH Programme

This innovative curriculum enrichment initiative for Years 7-9 has brought immense joy and enthusiasm to our school community.

The REACH programme offers a diverse range of activities designed to broaden students' horizons and develop their skills. Students have embraced these opportunities with open arms, exploring new interests and building confidence along the way. We look forward to seeing even more students benefit from this fantastic programme in the coming months.



OFSTED Report - 'Good' In All Areas

We were delighted to share with you the Ofsted report from our inspection earlier this term.

For those of you who know the school and its journey, you will know how long we have waited for this and how much this means to us all.

The school has been good for a long time, but it is truly wonderful to have this finally recognised by Ofsted and in such a hugely positive way. The students, the staff and the community have an educational establishment of which they can be truly proud and this report highlights many of the ways in which we can celebrate this.

The full report can be viewed on our website. We hope you enjoy reading it and that you see in the narrative of the report the elements of South Dartmoor Community College that you know and value.

South Dartmoor Community College Ofsted Inspection 2024

We are **'Good'** in all areas!



“
Adults in school quickly identify the individual needs of pupils. These are clearly communicated with all staff so that they can make the adaptations for pupils.
Ofsted

“
Staff share leaders' vision to provide a high-quality education to all pupils.
Ofsted

“
Parents have great confidence in the school and overwhelmingly recommend it to others.
Ofsted

“
Pupils and staff have positive and respectful relationships which mean that pupils feel safe. As a result, the school is calm and pupils can focus on their learning.
Ofsted

“
Pupils are proud that their school is inclusive and know that bullying is not tolerated.
Ofsted

“
SDCC is ambitious that all pupils are well prepared for their future studies.
Ofsted




Year 11 University Trip

Year 11 students visited Plymouth University to gain an insight into student life, as they consider their next steps beyond Key Stage 4.

Meanwhile, Sixth Form Art, Graphics and Photography students toured Arts University Plymouth, where they were shown the amazing facilities and attended a portfolio talk given by former students.



Post-16 Opportunities

This term, we welcomed several local colleges and training providers.

These included Bicton College, South Devon College, Access Creative College, and Skills Group. They visited to talk to our Year 10 and Year 11 students about the various post-16 opportunities available to them.



Unifrog

We are excited to announce that we are now using Unifrog!

This comprehensive platform, used by 54% of UK secondary schools and colleges, supports 1.6 million students in making informed decisions about their next steps after school and building successful applications. All our students have access to this careers platform, and we will provide opportunities during lessons to explore its resources.



Award Presentations

Students came together at the end of term to celebrate each other's wonderful achievements.

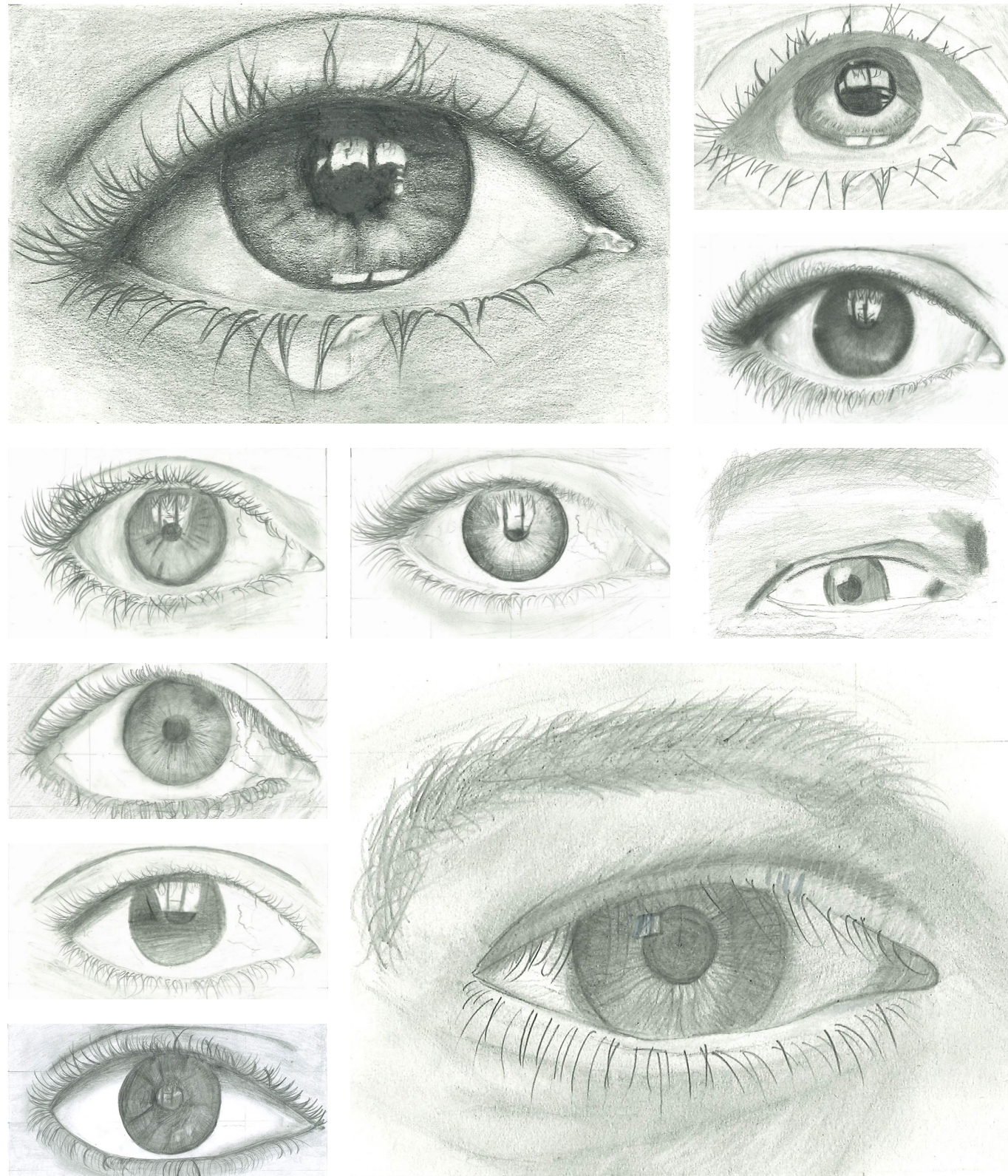
Students were nominated for a number of different awards, including subject, tutor, and Head of Year nominations. The final presentation was the Headteacher's award. Each award winner also received communication home to celebrate their achievements.



The Eyes Have It!

Fine Art students in Year 10 have been practicing their drawing skills as well as developing curious creativity.

They have produced some amazing work and we are so proud of their determination with these fabulous drawings!



Year 10 Fine Art Workshop

Year 10 Fine Art students were led through a fantastic workshop by Rachel from ROCWORX in paper marbling and traditional methods of book making.

The beautiful marbled books they created formed part of the The Generation Green exhibition at MAKE Southwest, which showcased work from this and other workshops in local schools and colleges. These workshops were delivered as part of the Young Green Maker Initiative (Young GMI), teaching sustainable making to the next generation of makers.



Manga Workshop

Artist Keith Sparrow joined us to deliver a workshop, sharing valuable hints and tips on drawing in the manga style.

The session encouraged students to develop and explore their artistic storytelling skills, fostering creativity in our budding artists.

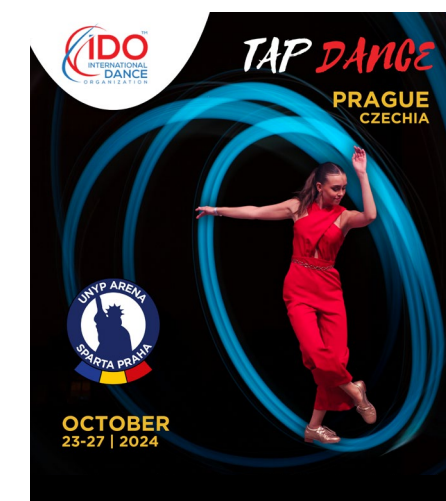


IDO World Tap Championships

Year 7 student Esmé B represented Team GB at the IDO World Tap Championships in Prague, and both of her groups made it to the finals.

The junior formation & *Juliet* placed 2nd, earning a silver medal! The other group, *Ladies Choice*, also shined, placing 5th in the world!

We are beyond proud to say that Esmé is now a world silver medallist and, together with her Tap Attack team, she has made memories that will last a lifetime.



War Horse

The Year 11 GCSE Drama group visited Theatre Royal Plymouth to watch War Horse.

Students and staff were mesmerised by the emotional connection between the puppets and the actors on stage and, in turn, how affected they were as an audience. They were incredibly impressed with the entire production, and left the theatre absolutely buzzing with excitement.



Into the Woods Jr.

Despite the snow and Storm Bert, we were thrilled to share the magic of our annual production of *Into the Woods Jr.* with four wonderful audiences.

A huge thank you to everyone involved for creating such a colourful and vibrant adventure for us all. With a talented cast featuring students from Year 7 through to Year 13, many experienced their first lead role and we enjoyed every moment on and off stage with this amazing group.

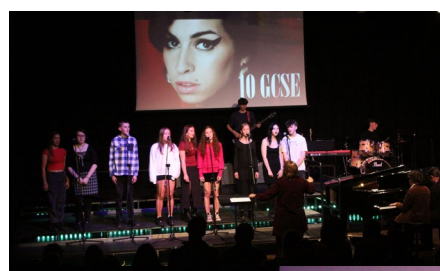


Autumn Concert

Students and staff were delighted to welcome audience members and share this term's music-making.

The Autumn Concert showcased students from all year groups, performing a wide range of genres and repertoire selected by the students themselves. They were very committed and focused during their weekly rehearsals and we are very proud of their performances and the support they showed for one another both on and off stage.

Thank you to everyone who performed and supported the evening.



Carols on Tour

Students performed carols outdoors for our annual *Carols on Tour* event.

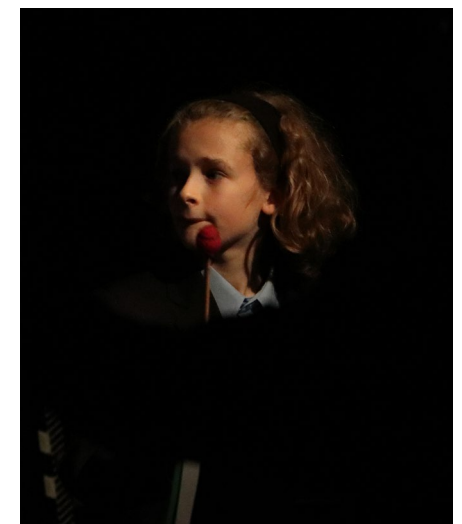
They sang their hearts out in Exeter, Newton Abbot and Buckfast Abbey, spreading festive cheer and sharing the joy of Christmas with members of the community.



Carol Service

Thank you to everyone involved in the Carol Service and to Jenny Weigel for leading the evening.

The audience enjoyed participating in traditional carols and listening to performances by the College orchestra, choirs and Folk ensemble. Readings were given by students and teachers. At the end of the service, music was provided by our Folk ensemble and refreshments were served by FOSDA, offering time for families and students to celebrate and look forward to the next term and the new year ahead.



Za Za Fantastico!

Year 10 and 11 Hospitality and Catering students enjoyed a spectacular culinary experience when they visited the multi-cuisine buffet restaurant *Za Za Bazaar* in Bristol.

On an adventure to broaden their culinary horizons, students sampled the spicy delights of a thousand-seat restaurant in the heart of Bristol's docklands.

Not only were they treated to firm favourites such as build-your-own-burgers, but they also sampled sushi, peri-peri, Chinese, Indian, Spanish and Italian food, as well as a wild array of noodle dishes and stir-fries. A particular attraction was the tandoor oven, where naan breads were being made to order.

And then there were the puddings! A five-metre-tall tower of jelly beans and jelly shots aplenty. Other winners on the dessert plates were the brownies and muffins. However, the utter triumph for the students was the self-serve Mister Whippy; there was quite a queue!

Students should be commended on their conduct during the journey and in the restaurant. Much restraint was shown, with only a couple of upset stomachs.

Above all, we would like to praise the students for their willingness to try new and unusual foods, finding inspiration for their own dishes. A special mention goes to Seth, who tried almost every dish on offer and challenged his palate at every opportunity.



Bake Off

As part of our European Day of Languages celebrations, students from Years 7 and 8 were tasked with creating something which celebrates a country or language of their choice.

Judges were blown away by the thought, effort and creativity that went into this year's entries. So much so that they were forced to create extra categories to recognise the achievements of our students!

Bravo à tous et toutes !



Year 8 Basketball

Year 8 students took on Newton Abbot College in a Basketball fixture.

After a great battle and with only one point separating the two teams, it was Newton Abbot who came away with the spoils this time!



Year 7 Football

Year 7 footballers travelled to Sir John Hunt Community Sports College in Plymouth to play in their first competitive fixture.

The team took an early lead with Zach S pressuring the goalkeeper, resulting in a 1-0 advantage. A shot from Will S led to a tap-in from Joe B, making it 2-1 at half-time. The opposition equalized in the second half, but a penalty from Jules P and a final goal by Zach S secured a 4-2 win.

Player of the Match, voted for by the team, was Zach S for his great performance as a striker, winger and central midfielder!

Mr. Malone awarded joint POTM to Zac N, for his calm possession with multiple defenders around him, and Gus S, for his solo efforts up front which led to a wide range of chances and brilliant attacking play from his teammates.

The whole team who played exceptionally well and represented the college and our values brilliantly!



Year 8 Football

Year 8 students travelled to Sir John Hunt College for their first football fixture of the year.

They started strong with a neat finish from Alex S, followed by a second goal from Toby S later in the half. The score was 2-1 to SDCC at half time. However, we extended our lead in the second half with goals from Max M and Jonas A, resulting in a final score of 2-4 to us.

Player of the Match was Owen W for his solid midfield performance, consistently keeping the defence on their toes throughout the game.



Year 10 Rugby

Year 10 students travelled to Forches Cross for a Rugby tournament.

Losing only one game in the group stages, the team finished second in their group, leading to a match against Stover for 3rd or 4th place. The team triumphed, securing 3rd place out of the eleven competing schools; a fantastic achievement!



South Devon Cup

The Year 10 Rugby team, with some help from a few Year 9 players, enjoyed a great start to their South Devon Cup campaign with an impressive 43-19 victory over Stover School.

Stover struggled to contain SDCC's powerful runners, with Josh T, Ryan C and Nat P frequently advancing the team up the pitch. Stover showed resilience and tested SDCC's defensive skills at times, with Paddy SC making some big tackles in the middle of the pitch.

Later in the term, the team secured their place in the final with an impressive 46-17 victory over Churston Ferrers Grammar School.

SDCC will face Torquay Boys Grammar School in the final, scheduled for early next year. Nat P, Tay SG, Josh H and Ryan C scored the tries, with Nat P being named Man of the Match.

Well done, everyone!



Year 7 Rugby

Year 7 students had their first taste of rugby action at a round-robin tournament hosted by KEVICC.

Despite being the only team without experienced players, they won their first game 4-3! Although the other games didn't go in their favour, the team scored more tries and demonstrated that they wouldn't be easy opponents.

Max W was voted Player of the Tournament by his peers, thanks to his blistering speed and no-nonsense approach to tackling. Mr. Malone's Player of the Tournament was Zac N for his impressive progress a solid player on the pitch. Well done to all!



Year 8 Rugby

Year 8 students completed their annual Rugby tournament at Forches Cross.

With 13 teams present, we were drawn into the larger pool of seven tough schools and, despite not being on the winning side of the scoreboard, the students put in a solid effort, making it difficult for their opponents to score tries. Their valiant efforts did not go unnoticed, and the team received many positive comments from opposition players and teachers.

Player of the Day, voted for by the students, was Jay B. who nearly scored a try and made some solid defensive efforts throughout the day. Mr. Malone's Player of the Day was Owen W. who demonstrated good leadership and showcased a wide range of skills throughout. Well done everyone!



Kickboxing

Fraya W. in Year 7 has completed her final kickboxing grading of 2024 this term, at Premier Kickboxing.

Fraya only needs one more belt (red advanced) before reaching the black belt. Impressively, she double-graded for the first time since she started, which is amazing. Well done Fraya, we are so proud of you!



U15 Mixed Cricket

Our U15 Mixed Cricket participate in a tournament at Paignton Academy.

We were fortunate to field two teams, with SDCC split into different pools facing tough competition. SDCC 2 delivered some impressive performances but fell short in the final standings. Meanwhile, SDCC 1 advanced to the final, where they faced Newton Abbot College and emerged victorious by 5 runs in a shortened game. Well done, everyone!



SDCC in UK Top 25 for Cricket

The UK's best schools for cricket have been revealed in The Cricketer's Schools Guide 2025, and South Dartmoor Community College is proud to announce that it has been recognised as one of the top 25 state schools in the country for cricket.

This prestigious accolade highlights the school's commitment to excellence in sports and its dedication to nurturing young talent. Led by Rob Pryke, Kallan Malone and Jack Brown, the school's cricket programme has received tremendous support from the local community, parents and alumni.

South Dartmoor collaborates with local cricket clubs, including Ashburton Cricket Club and Bovey Tracey Cricket Club, to provide students with additional training and match experience, enhancing their development and opportunities. Their involvement and encouragement have been vital in achieving this recognition.

Please visit our [website](#) for more information.



U15 Girls Cricket

Our U15 Girls Cricket team had an amazing day at Paignton Community College.

Players of the day for the A Team were Kitty and Ava, and Maisie was voted Best Team Player. For the B Team, Florence was Player of the Day, and Lanah and Megan G were voted Best Team Players. Great job, girls!



Dance Workshop

DSSP hosted a professional dance workshop for the Boys Dance Project group.

The workshop was part of a national tour by New Adventures, based on Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake 'Take Flight'. The boys focused on the Swan's character and choreographed group work, which they performed for each other. They had an amazing time and were inspired by the experience. The boys, aged 5-16, came from various primary schools and included older SDCC dance leaders. The Spring term Boys Dance Project will start on 29th January and run for six weeks.



Year 5 Invasion Games

DSSP hosted a fantastic afternoon at the SDLC Invasion Games mini festival.

The Year 9 SDCC leaders put the students through their paces with a mixture of adapted rugby, handball, and netball games, along with some fun warm-up activities. Everyone had a great time playing with friends and developing their skills!



KS2 Dance

SDCC hosted a KS2 Dance Festival.

Pupils learned a dance themed around the love for dancing down to our bones, and performed in mixed school groups. The event concluded with a final performance, showcasing their progress.



KS2 Multi Sports Festival

The SDLC Multi Sports Festival was a wonderful afternoon event.

SDCC and Stover Sport leaders did a fantastic job leading activities across six stations, including traverse climbing, skills relay, Benchball, Boccia, active noughts and crosses, and Orienteering. The children were in mixed groups, allowing them to make new friends from different schools for the afternoon, and everyone had lots of fun trying out new activities to develop their skills and confidence.



KS1 Festival

Students from Ashburton and Buckfastleigh primary schools attended a DSSP KS1 Aesthetics Festival.

The SDCC sport leaders brilliantly guided them through six activity stations, including yoga, a superhero dance motif, a creative dance pair section, a gymnastics skills station, a gym flight station, and a jumping elastics station! It was a busy afternoon, which the students absolutely loved.



Sixth Form Open Evening and Futures Event

We welcomed over 100 families to our Sixth Form Open Evening and Futures event.

The evening was a great success and it was wonderful to continue the dialogue with students about the next steps in their education.

An expression of interest form will be available soon for students interested in joining South Dartmoor Sixth Form to complete. Applications open in January 2025.



Bowling and Pizza

Our Year 12 students had a fantastic evening at the bowling and pizza social!

Abi and Freddie impressed with the highest scores, and all the students were excellent ambassadors for the college, demonstrating exemplary behaviour throughout.



CPR Training

Students in Year 12 had the opportunity to participate in CPR training provided by the University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust.

They learned about making a 999 call, stopping catastrophic bleeding, performing CPR and using a defibrillator, among other essential life-saving skills.

This was a great experience for the students, and they were fully engaged throughout.



Sixth Form Awards

The Year 12 and Year 13 awards ceremony celebrated students who exemplify our core college values of Truth, Respect, Equality and Excellence.

These awards are a testament to how these values are not just words but guiding principles that shape our community. The students who were nominated and won these awards have demonstrated these values in their actions, inspiring us all to strive for better.



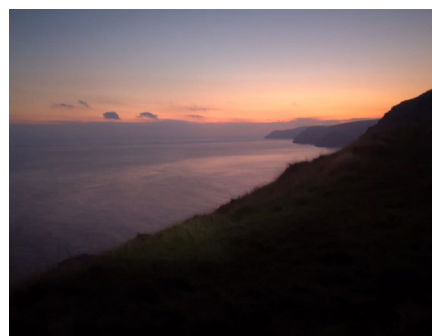
North Coast 110 Mile Ultra

Mr. Stokes was up to his old tricks again, taking part in another two days of madness with the North Coast 110 Mile Ultra Marathon.



The North Coast 110 Mile Ultra event takes on the true North Coast of the South West peninsula, and with nearly 6,000m elevation gain and 12 hours of darkness, it is a brutal adventure of epic proportions. After months of training, Mr. Stokes started running from Hartland Quay at 7.30am on Friday 4th October and didn't stop until he reached Minehead the following day. The time limit was 38 hours, but he completed the run in a staggering 32 hours, 34 minutes and 20 seconds, finishing in 9th place out of 44 participants!

The breathtaking scenery kept him motivated and inspired, and the camaraderie and determination from the other runners encouraged him during the tougher parts of the race. An unforgettable journey, and one that taught him a lot about resilience, determination and the power of community. We are so proud of you, Mr. Stokes!



New Staff

Meet the new members of staff who joined us in the Autumn Term:



Mark Badham-Doyle
Library and Reading
Coordinator

I am thrilled to have joined South Dartmoor Community College as Library and Reading Coordinator.

Prior to this role, I was a primary teacher and taught in several schools across Devon. I am also a self-published children's author, which is what drew me to the position of Librarian. I am excited to embark on this new role and share my passion for reading and writing and I look forward to evolving the fantastic library space to engage as many readers as possible.

In my own time, I enjoy reading comics and building with LEGO. My children's book is illustrated in a comic style and I like to design my own LEGO creations, sometimes even making digital instructions for them!



Spencer Bartlett
Premises
Manager

I am delighted to have joined South Dartmoor Community College as the Premises Manager.

With many years of experience in school environments, I began my career at the Ministry of Defence, spending time seconded to BAE Systems on rocket motor development and testing. I have also supported student commanders' training on multiple launch rocket systems at the Royal School of Artillery.

In my own time, I volunteer as a Youth Leader, managing a team of instructors for children aged 12-18 years. I have been doing this for over twelve years, and it brings me great enjoyment as it is both challenging and rewarding.



Jack Brown
Teacher of
Science

I am thrilled to have joined South Dartmoor Community College as part of the Science department.

Since graduating from Cardiff University in 2016, I have worked in the sports marketing sector in London, before relocating to Devon to take on a safeguarding role in secondary education. In this role, I took great pride in promoting anti-bullying and raising awareness of mental health.

Outside of teaching, I am passionate about all things sport. As the captain of my local cricket team, you'll often find me talking about, playing, or coaching cricket!



Jennifer Carr
Teacher of
Art

I am delighted to have joined the brilliant Art department at South Dartmoor Community College as a teacher of Art.

After studying for a degree in Surface Pattern Design, I worked as a freelance textile designer before training as an Art teacher. I have now been teaching for 17 years in schools across the country, and in the South West since 2015 when I relocated to Devon with my family.

As well as teaching and providing opportunities for students to take part in wider creative opportunities, I am a volunteer director at Bovey Paradiso and support the delivery of their arts programme.



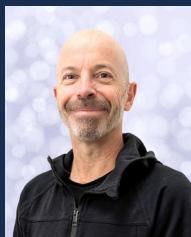
Liam Houghton
Site
Caretaker

I am really excited to have joined the Premises Team at South Dartmoor Community College after seven years of previous experience in a similar role. I have spent many years studying for and progressing my skills in a range of diplomas, including Plumbing and Painting and Decorating, and I can't wait to further improve my knowledge in my new role and be the best I can be. Outside of work, I enjoy bike riding, skateboarding and travelling throughout Devon.



Tom Webb
Teacher of
Maths

I am really excited to have joined the Maths department at South Dartmoor Community College. I have always been passionate about the subject and studied Maths at the University of Exeter. I graduated in 2021, after which I spent two years working as a specialist Maths Teaching Assistant at a school in Plymouth. During this time, I was able to help students to reach their full potential, and this is something I want to continue doing as a teacher. I am fortunate enough to live near the sea, and in my spare time enjoy walking along the coast. I also enjoy watching football and I support Plymouth Argyle.



John Whitehead
Teacher of Dance
(maternity cover)

It is such a great pleasure to return to South Dartmoor Community College, holding the fort in the Dance department while Mrs. Slater is on maternity leave. Having worked as the Community Artist in Dance and Drama at Exeter Phoenix for many years and choreographed productions for both Exeter Northcott and Plymouth Theatre Royal, I then trained as a teacher at South Dartmoor, where I taught for 18 years. I now work as a lecturer at Exeter University and as a teacher in schools. When I am not teaching, I love going to the theatre, cinema and art exhibitions, and walking the South West Coast Path.

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 Tuesday 7th January 2025, and we look forward to seeing you all then.



And finally...

As you may already know, 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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