Prospectus Stoke Damerel Community College

SOM



Aspire Achieve Thrive

"Most parents and carers believe that the school is well managed and would recommend the school to other parents."

OFSTED



Stoke Damerel Community College is part of the Greenshaw Learning Trust.

Principal's Welcome

Dear parent and prospective student,

I am delighted to welcome you to Stoke Damerel Community College. It is an absolute privilege to be the Principal, to drive the standards and performance of the College and to share my passion for supporting and developing students to realise their potential and prepare them for the next journey in their lives.

Making the right choice of secondary school is one of the most important decisions for a family and I hope that this prospectus will enable you to discover a little more about us and our aspirations for the future.

My ambition and vision for the College is clear: to develop a strong partnership of school improvement within the College and our wider Multi Academy Trust through high-quality teaching, learning and leadership, and to ensure that we are a 'community' school working in partnership with other organisations to improve health outcomes for our students, their families and our community. Our ethos supports our vision - Aspire, Achieve, Thrive.

Stoke Damerel is a place for high-quality learning and teaching and has been fully subscribed for the past 13 years.

All students and staff are entitled to work in a safe, happy and positive environment where there are opportunities to make good progress and achieve challenging goals. We believe every student has the right to learn and every teacher the right to teach, creating a disruption-free learning environment in which all students can flourish and feel safe, respected and valued. This is supported by our high expectations where students are expected to arrive to school on time, in correct uniform, with the correct equipment and prepared for learning.

All our classrooms are 'disruption-free' and our decision to restrict the use of mobile phones and devices has improved our students' learning and interaction with one another. Our Daily Reading Scheme is seeing our students' knowledge of classic literature flourish while improving their range of vocabulary and comprehension of challenging texts.

We have an excellent teaching and support staff team who themselves demonstrate and encourage a lifelong love of learning, both within and beyond our curriculum. We appreciate the individuality and unique strengths and talents of each student and encourage everyone to invest in their education in preparation for a fulsome ambitious career.

Outside the classroom we encourage students to take part in a wide range of extra-curricular activities from being a Sports Leader to joining the Combined Cadet Force or the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, from taking part in a College theatrical production to joining one of our STEAM clubs.

Our commitment to supporting students' health outcomes is weaved throughout the fabric of the college:

- We are a Trauma-Informed school
- We have the Healthy Schools quality mark
- We offer extensive support for Young Carers
- Through the Who Cares? programme we have become a mental health aware school, something we staff and students are very proud of.

We take great pride in the fact that more and more of our students enjoy success in every possible way and at every level.

Anita Frier Principal



"The vast majority of pupils have a strong sense of moral duty. They accept each other regardless of differences in their background or circumstances. This contributes strongly to the welcoming ethos at the school."

Happy and successful

Stoke Damerel Community College sits on a hill to the north of Plymouth and from three sides it has a stunning panoramic view over the city. Visit the College and you will notice immediately a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Look more closely and you'll perceive a real sense of teamwork and shared purpose. Stoke Damerel has built an enviable reputation for excellence throughout the South West.

In their latest report Ofsted inspectors highlighted that our College places a high priority on the health and welfare of our young people and complimented our welcoming ethos. Other highlights include:

- Pupils transferring from primary school in Year 7, as well as pupils who join the school at other times, are well supported by knowledgeable and caring staff.
- Pupils feel well looked after and secure at all times.
- Students feel safe at school and understand how to keep themselves safe in a variety of situations.
- Students' personal development and welfare are promoted well by a programme of tutorials and events.
- Students are positive about their decision to join the Sixth Form.
- Most parents believe that pupils are well behaved at school. They support the Principal's high expectations of behaviour.
- Pupils are polite to each other and to visitors. The vast majority of pupils have a strong sense of moral duty. They accept each other regardless of differences in their backgrounds or circumstances.

We put students at the centre of everything we do, ensuring we provide focused, personalised learning for all our learners.

We expect every one of our students to leave Stoke Damerel achieving good progress in all their subjects, including a GCSE level qualification in both English and Mathematics. We have a tried and tested system of target-setting and performance measurement to ensure students maintain good progress and achieve outcomes that we and they are all proud of. Progress is monitored carefully. Examination expectations are high.



"It's really supportive here and we're all like a family. I always know who to go to if I have a problem. I enjoy all my lessons, English is my favourite - it's very interesting"



Bethany Class of 2021

"Middle leaders in Mathematics and English have developed the curriculum well. Teaching is well planned and so pupils are usually engaged and motivated."

Curriculum Provision 11 to 16

The curriculum is much more than just lessons. It includes the ethos, attitudes and relationships which create the high quality of life in our school. Our aim is to provide a broad, balanced and extensive curriculum that meets the needs and aspirations of every young person and leaves them well prepared for their future.

We organise the curriculum by teaching our pupils in nineweek cycles of work. Each cycle starts with an assessment of prior knowledge so teachers know what each pupil already knows and where there are misconceptions. This information is used to inform the teacher's planning and subsequent teaching. Marking is an active part of lessons, however, in the middle of a cycle teachers will evaluate each pupil's progress and provide guidance for the remainder of the module. At the end of the cycle, each pupil will be assessed on the learning that has taken place in previous weeks. We will communicate this information to you in the form of a simple Progress Report. This will be repeated in all subjects and for all cycles throughout the year. We believe in supporting students to develop independence. We put a lot of emphasis on recall of knowledge and then, once the knowledge is embedded, we develop students' ability to think more deeply and apply this knowledge to different scenarios.

The curriculum from 11 to 16

In Years 7, 8 and 9 students follow the Key Stage 3 curriculum. Students will experience a range of additional subjects within the Visual and Performing Arts, including Art, Dance, Drama and Music. Students will also have the opportunity to enrich and deepen their learning within Humanities and Languages. Our Curriculum of Modern Britain, PSHE - including Careers - contribute towards our Social, Moral, Spiritual and Careers education. Students also enjoy Food Technology.

In Years 9 and 10 students start Key Stage 4. This means that, following individual advice and guidance, students are able to focus on the subjects that interest them and that best suit their learning style. Students are given support to choose from a wide range of GCSE and Level 2 courses. All students study Maths, English, Science, Modern Britain, Statistics and Physical Education and at least one Ebacc subject (History, French, Geography) and three other option subjects.

Teaching groups

Students are placed in Form Tutor Groups of mixed ability so that a balance of interests, abilities and potential provides a supportive and stimulating environment for all. We try to have a maximum of 24 students in any tutor group (and in some as few as 12) to allow for personal advice and mentoring from the tutor. This has proved to be very popular with the students and parents. In tutor time we have a reading programme where the tutor reads a selected book based around different cultures and genres to the whole class who follow in their own copies. This extends the vocabulary of our students and is a valuable, shared cultural experience. In most subjects students are placed in teaching groups according to their ability. Work in all classes is differentiated to ensure that each student learns at the appropriate level and pace.

High ability pupils

It is vital that we stretch and challenge our high ability pupils both with regard to their curriculum and enrichment activities. Students have many opportunities within the enrichment programme to reach their full potential and to be challenged outside their comfort zone. Within their lessons students are expected to take part in challenging questions and activities designed to use a variety of skills which enhance learning. High ability pupils also follow our 'High Flyers' aspirational programme.

Learning Support

The College has an inclusive and holistic approach to the support of students with special and additional needs. Our team of Teaching Assistants and our Literacy and Numeracy Interventions Team support students in all year groups. A range of specialist intervention programmes, tailored to meet the individual needs of a student, ensure that all our students receive the appropriate support at the appropriate time. There is a separate Nurture pathway at Key Stage 3 for students who flourish with more individual attention and support.

Expectations

The school has a policy of no mobile phone use on the school site. This allows students to focus on learning without distractions and to develop social skills during break and lunch times. We follow clear teaching principles throughout every lesson, including regular low-stakes quizzes to help students retain key learning. Each student is provided with a fully-equipped pencil case at the start of the year which they must top up when supplies run out. We also operate a policy of disruption-free learning, where students are able to work free from distraction.



"The school provides a wide variety of extra-curricular activities including a large number of sports clubs and a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) club. These help pupils to develop their interests and widen their horizons."

Supporting Teaching and Learning

We are committed to providing the very best educational experience so that all our students can reach their full potential and we achieve this in a number of ways.

Accommodation and Facilities

The College has 1430 students (some 150 are in the Sixth Form). The Street creates a welcoming space to move around the College and access to all learning rooms.

As well as an excellent library and resource centre, the College offers well-equipped specialist rooms for Science and the Performing and Visual Arts. The Assembly Hall is air-conditioned and hosts many school performances and events. The sports hall, fitness suite, dance studio, gymnasium and Astro Turf facility are a part of our high-quality sports facilities. You will find the general classrooms are attractive and well-equipped with the latest audio visual equipment.

We have an extensive range of computers and Chromebooks to make learning exciting and accessible. We have an industry-standard network of computers and Wi-Fi is available across the campus.

Enjoy Learning

Our College provides for a variety of learning styles for all students to enjoy and make the most of their learning. We emphasise study skills which promote independence, initiative, the ability to research and experiment, make decisions and apply the experience of school to everyday life.

Independent Study / Homework

Each student is given a structured timetable for independent study to:

- self question to consolidate work done at College
- encourage the development of self-reliance through unsupervised study
- use our online resources to support their learning including Google Classroom, Hegarty Maths, Bedrock and other online learning platforms.
- homework is checked daily.

The Home and School Partnership

We see it as of fundamental importance that we receive the support of parents for what we are seeking to achieve with the young people entrusted to us. The successful resolution of any difficulties and the achievement of a student's full potential is best realised by the College, student and parents working together.

As a parent, you can expect regular contact, personal contact by letter, phone or email or postcards as we share your child's successes and address any concerns that might arise.

There is a parent meeting, so you can discuss your child's progress with their class teacher, However, we are more than happy to discuss your childs progress when necessary.





"Pupils and parents said that the school is a safe place. Pupils feel well looked after and secure at all times. Pupils talked of an atmosphere of tolerance and respect at the school."

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Being Safe

We know that every child needs to feel safe and happy to come to school. This is their fundamental right and a responsibility that we believe is paramount. Providing a safe and happy place to learn is essential to raising achievement and attendance, promoting equality and diversity and in ensuring the safety and well-being of your child.

Pastoral Care

Students at Stoke Damerel are cared for, guided and supported by an extensive support team. Each pastoral team is led by a Head of Year supported by an Assistant Head of Year, a Welfare Assistant and a team of Tutors. These teams monitor the academic progress and personal development and well-being of the students in their year group. Our Student Welfare Director, Attendance Outreach Worker and Safeguarding Officer all work closely with the pastoral teams, as well as outside agencies.

Safeguarding Children

All young people have a fundamental right to be protected from harm and have the right to expect the College to provide a safe and secure environment for them to enjoy their learning. We have a Safeguarding Team and our policy and procedures are robust and known to all staff who receive regular training to ensure the safety of all our students. This includes Prevent training and completing Mind Ed courses.

"Senior leaders ensure that the procedures for keeping pupils safe go beyond statutory requirements. This is a strength of the school."

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Safe Relationships

Through our PSHE programme students are given advice and guidance about how to build positive, enjoyable and respectful relationships and how to stay safe both on and offline. We extend that advice and support to parents and carers through initiatives such as our Cafe Click project – which focuses on online safety – which we run during parents' evenings.



"What I like is that people behave as they should and everyone gets treated fairly here."



Leo Class of 2019

"Senior leaders give pupils' personal, social and health education a high priority. For example, diversity days help pupils respect different cultures and religions."

DOO

Healthy and active

Stoke Damerel Community College is nationally recognised as being a Healthy School after achieving the Healthy Schools Mark each year since 2008 and achieved Gold in 2015.

At Stoke Damerel we believe that good health underpins a young person's ability to learn, flourish, stay safe and achieve as they journey through adolescence to adulthood. Good health and emotional well-being are associated with improved attendance and attainment at school, which in turn lead to improved employment opportunities. It is vital we educate and develop our students' understanding of how to be healthy and make informed health choices.

The focus of Healthy Lifestyles is to provide students with understanding, knowledge and skills to lead a long, healthy and active life. Relationships and Sex Education, drug and alcohol awareness and healthy eating are some of the components delivered within these programmes of study.

Our canteen provides a comprehensive and varied daily menu to serve all students and staff with a broad, balanced and nutritious diet. As a College we promote a healthy eating lifestyle and pride ourselves on the fresh and nutritious food served by our award-winning catering team.

The Physical Education curriculum is based on healthy living and providing students with the opportunities to make wise lifestyle choices. Our emphasis is on a balance of competition with participation and inclusion for all - promoted throughout PE lessons in a stimulating, exciting and engaging way. Our Sports Leadership Academy sees many of our young people volunteering multiple hours to support a variety of sporting activities in a number of the city's primary schools.

Encouraging a healthy lifestyle beyond the College curriculum is very important to us and Breakfast Club is an integral part of this philosophy. A variety of daily clubs and activities are available before school for students. After school students have a vast array of extra-curricular opportunities and are encouraged to participate. Some of the opportunities available to students are The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, CCF, reading club, dance, art club and music and drama clubs. Students study a PSHE programme, as well as a Modern Britain curriculum, which is underpinned by Curriculum Collapse Days where students enjoy specific learning activities which develop health and educational outcomes including Diversity Days and healthy mind and body.

Promoting good mental health remains a high priority for the College and it has a national reputation for its work on mental health awareness and support, including living with someone with a mental illness - our own 'Who Cares?' project is used in schools across the country. We offer Mindfulness sessions and a Young Carers Support Group led by our Young Carers Champion, as well as access to counselling and variety of other initiatives, including peer mentor support.

For Healthy Lives

Stoke Damerel site is a focal hub within the community to promote healthy living in practice by:

- Raising awareness of mental and physical health issues.
- Providing facilities in the heart of our community to make taking part in sport and physical activity a realistic,
- affordable option. • Providing resources and programmes to improve mental
- and physical health, exercise and nutrition.



"Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is threaded through the curriculum. For example, pupils involved in the sports leaders programme develop their social skills rapidly."

Making a positive contribution

Being a student here includes learning how to lead a full, responsible and enjoyable life as a young adult with the skills, knowledge and understanding to be an active citizen in society. We encourage students to take responsibility for themselves and become leaders within their school and community.

Rewards and Recognition

We believe in a praise culture and recognition takes various forms, including a wide variety of trips and celebrations. In addition students receive:

- certificates, postcards, phone calls and letters home
- extensions of privilege and responsibility
- Weekly 'Best Work' Principal Award
- Aspire, Achieve, Thrive badges

We give awards for regular attendance and celebrate many personal achievements during assemblies.

There is a rigorous system of monitoring and tracking behaviour of students, both positive and negative. The commitment of the staff, both teaching and support, in establishing a caring, mutually supportive and aspirational environment for all students is a distinctive and special characteristic of the College. This has been regularly remarked upon by inspectors, teachers and visitors to the College. It has also been formally acknowledged through national awards for Investors in Careers, Investors in Education and Business Partnership, Artsmark, Sportsmark, Plymouth NQT Kite Mark, Basic Skills Quality Mark, Healthy Schools Award and the International Schools Award.

Student Leadership

Our students are encouraged to join the College Council and are elected by their peers to make real decisions with real impact on the life of students in College. Council decisions have included the change in the College uniform and changes to the menu in the canteen. Lead Students advise the Senior Leadership Team on the needs of students to ensure that they achieve the best they can. They produce their own priorities and improvement plan. Leadership skills are also encouraged and enhanced through sports leadership. Awarded Plymouth Sports Leadership Academy of the Year for the third year, our academy offers students the opportunity to develop key life and work skills, outside of the classroom environment. Students volunteer personal time to assist, co-ordinate and organise sporting events in local primary schools, the wider community and across Devon - working towards a nationally-recognised Bronze, Silver or Gold Youth Sport Trust Awards - up to 200 hours of volunteering!

Community Engagement

The College is well-placed to play an important part in our community. Local sports clubs use our sports and dance facilities, while local organisations and groups offer a range of evening courses as well as after school clubs and societies.

The Modern Britain Council organises debates and events including visits to the Council Chamber with the Lord Mayor to learn more about local democracy and Skype Q and A sessions with the Speaker of the House of Commons and our local MP.

The College's Dementia Project was launched after the College was invited to become one of 21 Dementia Pioneer Schools as part of the Prime Minister's Challenge on Dementia. Since then the College has worked to embed dementia education across the curriculum from running croquet sessions with local people with dementia to designing dementia-friendly games in Maths. The College has shared its work at conferences and with visitors to the College from as far afield as Japan and in May 2014 the College was the winner in the Alzheimer's Society's first ever Dementia Friendly Awards in the School/College category. Find out more at www.sdcc.net/dementia

"The school provides impartial careers education and guidance through a well thought-out strategy. Many pupils have a good idea of the area of work they would like to go into when they leave."

Building our economy

Students have many opportunities to be involved in enterprise, financial, vocational and Careers education within the curriculum and in activities outside the classroom.

Careers

We have a dedicated Careers and Employability team which recently achieved the Investors in Careers Award. They provide careers advice, careers lessons and targeted further education guidance sessions for students.

We take a whole-school approach to implementing Careers information, education, advice and guidance from the start of Year 7. It is built into curriculum time through discrete lessons via PSHE for Key Stage 3 and through a tutor programme for Key Stage 4 and 5. It aims to teach students to recognise and record their own skills and qualities, to consider the full range of option choices and pathways and how to make informed decisions and where to look for reliable information on the labour market and further and higher education routes.

Special careers, enterprise and employability events are run on Curriculum Collapse days such as the Step Into The NHS national competition and an Industry Day where visiting employers help students appreciate key skills needed in certain jobs. The school has strong links with local and national employers who provide enterprise activities, work experience opportunities and mentoring.

There are also careers events organised on alternative school days, such as our annual Future Talks initiative - a TEDx-inspired event for Key Stage 4 and 5 with inspirational speakers.





STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths)

In recent years the College's participation in STEAM activities and competitions has greatly increased and we have forged strong links with local industries and employers including: Babcock International, Dartmoor Zoological Park, Plymouth University, Exeter University, the National Marine Aquarium, the Ministry of Defence and other schools in Plymouth.

These contacts offer STEAM open days, conferences and exciting activities on a yearly basis, such as Science Week challenges, Engineering experiences, Chemistry shows, Environmental Sustainability and much more. Our students are also exposed to numerous STEAM career events, from working with STEAM ambassadors to web-based talks and discussions with employers, to enhance their understanding of future opportunities.

We offer both Key Stage 3 and 4 after-school STEAM clubs and give students the opportunity to take part in extended projects as well as regional and national competitions.

We also organise work experience for students in Years 10 and 11 who show a particular interest in a career in STEAM backgrounds. We have a number of students successfully obtaining placements at Babcock's International programme.

"It's a good environment for learning and we have a lot of opportunities to take part in different activities and trips. There's a lot of support throughout our time here. I'd definitely recommend this school"



Alex Class of 2021

"Sixth Form students have many opportunities to be involved in the life of the main school. For example, many students act as peer listeners to support other students and younger pupils at the school. These activities help develop students' confidence and empathy."

The Sixth Form

Stoke Damerel Sixth Form is a successful and long standing provision which completes the final transition into adulthood.

Our proven success and popularity enables us to provide a curriculum offering a wide range of A Levels and vocational qualifications. Students have many opportunities to enrich their personalised curriculum by taking part in Sports Leadership, volunteer opportunities and fundraising events. Sixth Form students have a Common Room as well as access to our new Learning Zone to support their independent study.

Students are encouraged to take an active role in the running and development of their Sixth Form and are involved in supporting and mentoring the younger students in the College, including becoming Peer Mentors available to younger students during break times. The Lead Students perform many duties throughout the year representing the Sixth Form at celebration events and Open Days.

We have a specialised team of Year 12 and 13 tutors who, through a targeted programme, will help students enhance their CV. Students will have the opportunity to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, or gain a qualification with The Prince's Trust. Their tutor is also there to prepare and guide students and parents in their onward plans. We have forged links with trainers and employers which enable many different progression routes for our students.



A Level and BTECs

Students study a range of Level 3 qualifications from English, Further Mathematics, Sociology, Media Studies and Psychology to name a few. Students are provided with Chromebooks for use in all lessons and independent study.

Students are supported to broaden their horizons and there are many opportunities to experience trips and visits. We have developed very strong links with universities, in particular Exeter and Reading, where we take part in their scholarship programme. Students benefit from taking part in workshops, as well as shadowing schemes and Summer Schools. Many students have additional tutoring in subjects across the Greenshaw Learning Trust.

Vocational pathway

There is a wide range of vocational courses at Level 1, 2 and 3. These are taught in collaboration with a range of providers including course in Hair and Beauty and Construction. Students gain valuable work experience as well as studying for Mathematics and/or English lessons at Stoke Damerel if they have not achieved Grade 4 or above.

Sports Academy

Stoke Damerel has a popular, successful Sports Academy where students can achieve the equivalent of two or three A Levels in BTEC Sport to equip students with invaluable knowledge and preparation for many of the different sporting industries. The students are an integral part of the Sixth Form often used to support multi academy trust events such as primary sports days and PE lessons within Plymouth primary schools.

Careers and guidance

Students have an enhanced careers and destinations programme which includes early access to advice and guidance including support to apply for medical school and the very top universities. They have opportunities to participate in high-quality enrichment, for example the national engineering schemes and medical research programmes. Our students go on to secure places at universities across the country to study for a wide variety of degree programmes as well as other further training, apprenticeships, or full-time employment.



"Through Modern Britain lessons, and the elected Modern Britain Council, pupils are given ample opportunity to learn first-hand about democratic processes and the rule of law."

Things you need to know

The College Day

7.50-8.25 Magic Breakfast in the Canteen free for all students

Lesson Times

8.35 for 8.40 Registration
8.40 Line-up/Tutor Reading
9.05 Lesson 1
10.00 Lesson 2
10.55 Break
11.25 Lesson 3
12.20 Lesson 4
13.15 Lunch
13.45 Lesson 5
14.45 Line-up and dismissal*
15.10 – 16.00 Lesson 6 (Twilight)

* From 15.00 extracurricular clubs, teams and activities.

The College Uniform

The College has an attractive, business-like and distinctive uniform, which was designed in consultation with students and parents. A high standard of personal appearance is expected of all students.

*Girls' and Boys' Uniform

- College blazer
- College tie
- White shirt
- Black bespoke College trousers
- Tartan bespoke College skirt
- Black shoes

*Girls' and Boys' PE Kit

- College short sleeve top
- College shorts/leggings/skort
- Navy Socks (outdoor)
- White Games socks (indoor)
- Football boots and training shoes

* Please see uniform policy

Uniform is sold in the College at very competitive prices. A price list and information on sales arrangements will be forwarded to students choosing Stoke Damerel. Details are also available on our website: www.sdcc.net

"I have learned so much here already – there are so many opportunities and everyone makes you feel welcome"



Toby Class of 2021



Admissions

Criteria for admission

The published admission number for each year group is 240.

Application for a place at Stoke Damerel Community College should be made on the Plymouth City Council Common Application Form.

You can find our Admissions Policy on our website www.sdcc.net

Please see the full admissions criteria for details of how these are applied and appeals. They are available on our website and the Plymouth City Council website.

Statutory documents

Please contact the Principal's PA, Mrs Findlay, regarding any statutory documents you wish to read.

Contact details

Stoke Damerel Community College, Somerset Place, Stoke, Plymouth, PL3 4BD Website: www.sdcc.net Email: info@sdcc.net

Stoke Damerel Community College is a company registered by guarantee (England and Wales), Company Number 7557634 and an exempt charity.

The Registered Address; Stoke Damerel Community College, Somerset Place, Plymouth, PL3 4BD







"A great majority of staff are proud to work at the school." OFSTED

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How to find us

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Tel: 01752 55606 Email: info@sdcc.net Web: www.sdcc.net Twitter: @stokedamerelcc



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