

# WORD on the street

Stoke Damerel Community College Newsletter



Community College

Dear Parents/Carers,

We started this term with a special welcome to our new Year 7 students, who all look very smart in their new uniform. They have made a great start, impressing staff with their readiness to learn and have settled quickly into the daily routine of College life.

As always the year ahead will be busy, full of learning challenges and exciting opportunities for all our students both in the classroom and beyond.

Our website has a Virtual Tour to give you the opportunity to meet our experienced, knowledgeable and enthusiastic staff. It will also give you an insight into the range of learning activities that happen within a secondary school day, and the wider opportunities available to all of our students. I hope that the videos and documents created by our staff answer your questions and provide you with the information you need to make that important decision about which secondary school to send your child to.



We are a warm and caring school where learning is at the centre of all that we do. We have a wealth of opportunities for our students, which you will see in this newsletter, and we have been able to continue these despite the national lockdowns.

I hope that you enjoy reading this newsletter and take part in our Virtual Tour. I look forward to welcoming you to the school next September. Do contact the school if you wish to visit at any time.

Anita Frier

ISSUE 4 2021

# CHARACTER EDUCATION

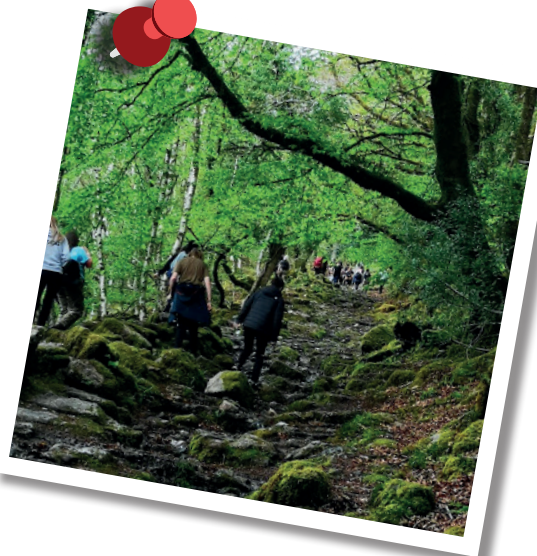
Character education sits alongside our academic curriculum to ensure that students have access to a wide and balanced range of experiences throughout their time at school, giving them the opportunity to develop and embed our core values of **Aspire, Achieve and Thrive**. Our students are provided the opportunity to reflect upon their week of activities both inside and out of College. Within tutor time students record these activities in their Character Curriculum booklet.

Over recent weeks students have participated in some amazing opportunities and have had amazing times these include:

## Duke of Edinburgh Award (D of E)

Over the last few weeks we have had huge numbers of students planning and undertaking expeditions for their Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Despite the changing weather, the students have shown fantastic determination, resilience, motivation and sense of humour to complete their expeditions and had some amazing experiences along the way!





# Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

The SDCC CCF currently has its highest membership ever. The success of the group is reflected in the recent number of promotions.

Cadets have recently taken part in a range of activities including: Patrol Skills, Pairs fire and manoeuvre, Fire Control orders as well as some enjoyable 'bushcraft skills'.



## CHARACTER EDUCATION



## YOUNG CARERS

Our Young Carers group had a trip to Go Ape, where they were able to face their fears and take on the high wires and zip lines.

The students learnt a lot about supporting each other, being brave and working as a team and all thoroughly enjoyed their experience.

# Top author proves a big hit with students in College visit

Best-selling children's author Chris Bradford paid a visit to the College in July to help spread the word about the importance of reading for fun as well as for school studies.

Chris' action-packed adventure books are published in over 25 languages and have earned more than 30 children's book award nominations. His school visits are aimed at supporting teachers and librarians and to help improve literacy skills among young people.

He did two presentations for our Year 7 and Year 8 students. College Librarian Mrs Wrennall said: "The presentations were brilliant, and Chris had the students thoroughly engaged. We look forward to asking him back again soon!"



## Spelling Bee

Friday 9th July, our Year 7 students were on top form when they took part in the Year 7 Spelling Bee in the main hall.

At the end of the competition, it was Alex who came out on top and was presented with the Year 7 Spelling Bee trophy by Miss Frier.

Congratulations also go to Class 7x/En6 who were presented with a trophy for their hard work over the past academic year on Bedrock.

Ms Ekpoffiong said: "We were very impressed with the team spirit displayed by all our students, and by the resilience

shown by the contestants when they were under pressure.

"Well done to Alex and the other finalists, not only for reaching the final, but for also having the confidence to stand up in front of everyone in the final.

"The end of year trophy for Class 7x/En6 was also well deserved. The students have focused on their Bedrock spellings throughout the year and are worthy winners of the class award.

"The event was good fun, and everyone enjoyed it.





## Lord Chief Justice gives students a valuable insight into law as a career

The College was delighted to welcome Lord Chief Justice, The Right Honourable Lord Ian Burnett of Maldon to the school to talk to 25 of our students about his role as the Head of the Judiciary of England and Wales and to discuss law as a career.

The Lord Chief Justice also held a question-and-answer session with the students, from Year 10 going into Year 11 and Year 12 going into Year 13. He was joined by District Tribunal Judge Julia O'Hara and District Judge Penelope Taylor for the 45-minute event on 29 June.

Miss Frier said: "This event was a wonderful opportunity for our students, and we are very grateful to the Lord Chief Justice for sharing his experience and advice. We have several students who have expressed an interest in law, and this has given them a real insight into what an important and rewarding career it can be. Hopefully, it will have inspired others, too."



## MP Luke Pollard answers students' questions on diversity and inclusion

The College was hugely indebted to our local MP Luke Pollard for visiting us to take part in our Diversitas and LGBTQ+ group meeting.

Mr Pollard, who is the Labour MP for Plymouth Sutton and Devonport, was invited to the College on 28 May to answer questions from students around issues of diversity, equity and inclusion. He was also very generous in sharing his own experiences of growing up in Plymouth and of becoming the city's first ever openly gay MP.



Afterwards, the MP praised the College for setting up the Diversitas group and complimented the students on the questions they put to him: "It was great to see how passionate they are to help make the College and the wider community as inclusive as possible. And it's good to see the College doing such great work on this."

Diversitas, which was launched last September, is working towards engendering a College-wide attitude of inclusion and acceptance of everybody. The group is open to all students to join.

# Year 12s hit the back of the net with their leadership skills

Well done to our Year 12 Btec students for the brilliant coaching session and football tournament they led with our Year 7s on Sports Day.

The two-hour session was part of Year 12s Btec course work. Staff were extremely impressed with their leadership and coaching skills, and with the positive way that our Year 7s responded.

Mr Cole said: "It was an excellent morning. Our Btec students were tasked with organising the session, getting the Year 7s into teams, coaching

them and overseeing the 7-a-side matches in the tournament.

"Getting practical experience like this is very important towards building their skills and their confidence, and they passed the test with flying colours.

"Well done, too, to our Year 7s for their enthusiasm and teamwork, and for the respect they showed to each other and to our Btec students."



## Celebrating our seas on Oceans Day

Stoke Damerel Community College has held a special Oceans Day, with Year 7, 8 and 9 students taking part in a carousel of ocean-themed lessons.

The purpose of the day was to inform students of the impact that human actions have on our seas. It followed the second fully virtual celebration of the United Nations' World Oceans Day on 8 June 2021, which this year highlighted the theme of The Ocean:Life and Livelihoods.

In The Street at lunchtime, marine artifacts were put on display for students and staff to view.

Miss Heseltine said: "The aim of the day was to illustrate to students the huge role that oceans play in our everyday life, as a critical part of the biosphere. The oceans are the lungs of the planet, and they are a major source of food and medicine. And yet they are increasingly at risk because of human actions.

"We are very fortunate that we live by the sea in Plymouth and get the chance to enjoy it. One of the messages from Oceans Day is that we can all play a part in looking after it not just for now, but for the future."





# Girls Football Activators - Event

The Girls Football Activators have been taking part in a programme over the last few months to develop their leadership and organisation skills. The Game of Our Own programme, created by the FA, empowers girls to lead football-related activities for others. As part of their course they were asked to organise and lead an event that promotes girls football during National School Sports Week.

They chose to focus on promoting girls football to our current Y7s. They then used their skills developed during the programme to organise and run a football tournament for Y7 girls on Thursday 24th June.

It was fantastic to see the Girls Football Activators passing on their passion and knowledge of football



to the Y7s. Lots of the Y7s are now really keen to get involved with football clubs both in- and outside of school, which is testament to the hard work and enthusiasm of our football leaders!



## CRICKET LEADERSHIP COURSE

Twenty Year 9 and 10 Sports Leaders were put through their paces at a Cricket Leadership course on Thursday 17th June at SDCC. The course was led by Devon Cricket coach Jonny Varcoe. The day included activities that developed the students' understanding of leadership in sport and also focused on cricket skills such as bowling and batting. The day concluded with a cricket match, giving students the opportunity to learn the rules and put them into practice.

It will be great to see the Sports Leaders supporting primary students at Cricket events next year using their new knowledge and leadership skills!

# Curriculum Collapse Day puts the focus on careers

Our Year 12 students have been learning about some of the exciting career and university opportunities available, in a curriculum collapse day.

We had two virtual guest speakers - Kathy Deakin from the NHS, and David Walker from Plymouth University. Mr Walker talked about the increasing impact of artificial intelligence in the workplace, while Ms Deakin, joined by some of her NHS colleagues, outlined the wide variety of roles across the health service in her presentation, 'It's Not Just Doctors and Nurses!'.

In the morning, there was a Medical Mavericks online work experience session, and students were also able to spend time working on their Unifrog profiles, which will help them with their university applications and CVs.

In the afternoon, Richard Blackmore from Babcock International attended the College to talk to students in the Main Hall about how business can ensure diversity and inclusion and what this means on a day-to-day basis.

Richard is our Enterprise Adviser and the College's Careers Link Governor - he is also a former student here. He told students: "In our business, we aim to attract and retain a diverse group of individuals and create an inclusive environment for them to thrive. This makes us better as a business as our employees can bring their whole selves to work along with unique ideas and perspectives. Embracing difference gives us the best opportunity to succeed."

The day was organised by our Careers and Employability Manager,



Miss Trezona. She said: "Today was important in giving the students a real insight into careers that they might not necessarily have considered. And getting that insight from people who are experienced in these sectors is invaluable."

Miss Trezona added: "It was an excellent day, and we would like to thank all of our speakers for giving us their time and sharing their advice and knowledge with our students."

## Miss Trezona wins recognition as a 'Careers Champion'

Congratulations to our very own Miss Trezona, who has been awarded a 'Careers Champion' Certificate of Recognition by the Heart of the South West Careers Hub.

They praised Miss Trezona as an "inspirational and dedicated Careers Lead" at Stoke Damerel Community College and "for going above and beyond to ensure your students receive an excellent careers programme".

As our Careers and Employability Manager, Miss Trezona and her team work very closely with local employers, colleges, universities and other organisations to

deliver the careers programme for our students. The Heart of the South West Careers Hub links businesses with schools to help them strategically with their careers provision.

The College is immensely proud that Miss Trezona has collected this well-deserved Certificate of Recognition for her work.

Photo shows Miss Trezona (second left), with Richard Blackmore, SDCC Enterprise Ambassador from Babcock International, Miss Frier, and Nicky Henderson, from Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership Careers Hub.





# Students secure their next steps after achieving some fantastic grades

What an incredible week for our Year 11 and Year 13 students! Their hard work and resilience has culminated in them achieving some fantastic grades in this year's GCSEs and A levels.

Miss Frier said: "Our Post 16 students have secured their next steps to university, apprenticeship or employment. Destinations include studying a range of courses at Russell Group Universities, including Law and Medical Sciences at Exeter University, and Literature at UCL. Our students have also secured a number of highly sought-after Higher Level Apprenticeships, including with Babcock International.

"At GCSE, some of our students achieved the top grade 9's in a number of subjects and all students have aspirational plans for Post 16. We are very proud of them all."



Also in Results Week, we had the Prom for Year 11 at the Crowne Plaza. Miss Frier said: "This was a fitting way to celebrate and reward our students for their commendable attitude to their education all year - attending revision lessons until 4pm every day and being a delightful group of young adults.

"Good luck to all our students as they embark on their next steps."

## STUDENT DESTINATIONS 2021

Congratulations to all our hardworking students who have secured places at universities and colleges to study a range of courses, or have found apprenticeships or employment



Community College



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### Further Education

Achievement Training Teaching assistant  
CCP Barbering  
CCP Princes Trust  
Discovery College Funded futures program  
NORPRO L3 Mechanics  
Princes Trust CCP  
Scott College - 1 Year BTEC  
SDCC Yr 14 - Discovery  
Skills Group - teaching assistant apprenticeship

### Gap Year

### Employment

Aldermann Tooling TBC  
Collinswood Care  
Collinswood Care  
Fishermans Arms  
Fit for Sport (working with students)  
Little Blossoms Nursery  
MAXIM  
Builder  
Shop  
SW Glazing  
Tesco  
Timpsons Dry Cleaning  
Two Trees Care Home  
Vospers  
Connells Estate Agent  
Dust Free Living - Cleaning Company

### Apprenticeship

Babcock  
Babcock  
Builders Merchant  
Greenlight  
Nursery  
Babcock  
Pixeland Nursery  
ZED



### Plymouth University

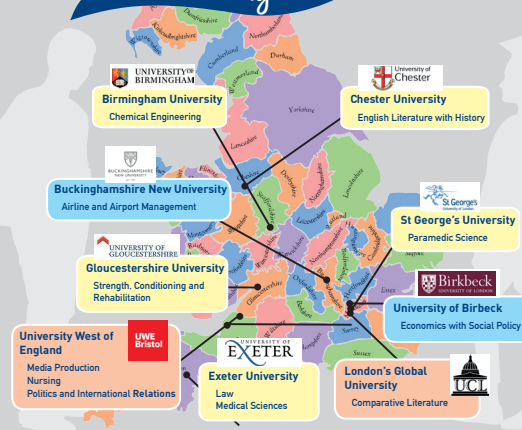
Business Management  
Business Management  
History with Politics  
Biomedical Science  
Biomedical Science  
Business Management  
Business Management  
Criminology and Criminal Justice  
Criminology and Criminal Justice  
Education (Foundation)  
Law  
Mechanical Engineering  
Occupational Therapy  
Occupational Therapy  
Photography  
Photography  
Psychology



### Marjons University

Football Science  
Sport Development and Coaching

### University



62%  
University

20%  
Full Time Work

10%  
Apprenticeships/  
Degree  
Apprenticeship

4%  
Further  
Education

4%  
Gap Year then  
University

# Helping students to kick-start a career in the sports industry

Students in Year 9 and Year 12 have been learning about the wide range of roles within the sports industry, and the types of degree courses that are available to help kick-start a career in the booming multi-billion pounds sector.

Andy Speed, Regional Recruitment Manager at University Campus of Football Business (UCFB), spent the day at the College talking to BTEC Sport and Coaching students. In England, UCFB has two locations with Wembley Stadium and Manchester City's Etihad Stadium at the heart of their campuses. Globally, UCFB also has campuses at major sports venues in the US and at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in Australia.

The students learnt that having a specialism within the sports industry could open up exciting opportunities not just in the UK, but overseas. In

the EU alone, there are 1.7 million people working in the sector - 55% male and 45% female.

The students also discovered that there is much, much more to a long-term career in the sports industry than just on the playing side.

Sports specialism courses at UCFB cover three main areas - physical education, coaching, management and talent development; stadium and events management; and professional services such as sports journalism, broadcasting, marketing, finance and law. Courses are at Foundation, Degree and Masters' levels and are delivered together with the University of East London.

Mr Speed also highlighted the strength of the sector: "The sports industry is a huge player in the UK economy in terms of revenue generation and in terms of the



number of people who follow sport. So it is a fantastic sector to get into."

The day was organised by our Careers and Employability Manager, Miss Trezona. She said: "The sports industry is an expanding and thriving sector to work in, and it involves a lot of varied specialisms - I think the types of roles might have been an eye-opener. I am sure that hearing about these exciting career opportunities will have inspired some to look at the courses that are available and consider the qualifications that will give them an advantage if they choose a career in this industry."

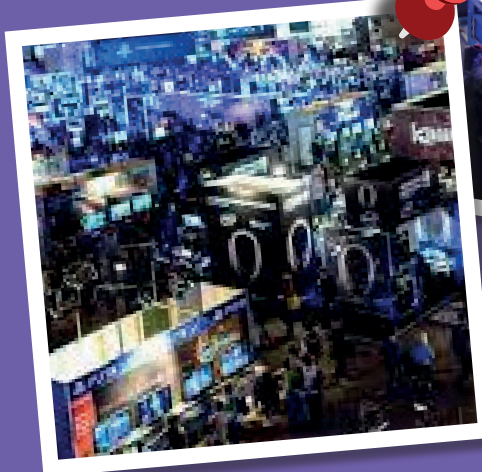
## EGX EuroGamer Convention Trip

The Computing department launched the trip to the EGX EuroGamer Convention in London last week.

The 50 spaces were booked in less than 24 hours so another 50 spaces were added. These were also snapped up and are now fully booked.

It is amazing to see students so keen to get involved in these opportunities and experiences

If you are still interested in attending you can go onto ParentPay to register your interest, and if enough are interested, the trip might be opened to more students.





# Showing the importance of STEAM subjects - with the help of an Army helicopter

No, you were not seeing things - that really was a Gazelle helicopter parked in our school car park! The helicopter was brought into the College by members of the Army Air Corps Engagement Team, who spent a day showing our Year 9 students how STEAM subjects are used in the real world.

The students took it in turns to sit in the helicopter, as the team talked through the control panel. They were also put through their paces in teamwork exercises, where they had to use communication and on-the-spot decision making skills to complete tasks.

WO2 Matthew Simpson from the Hampshire-based Corps said: "We visit schools around the country to build relationships between the community and the Army, and we were delighted to be invited to Stoke Damerel Community College.

"I hope that all the students enjoyed the short time they spent with us. Their behaviour was of the highest standard and they were an absolute pleasure to engage with, a real credit to the school and all the staff there."



The event was organised by Miss Trezona and Mrs Heseltine. Miss Trezona said: "It was lovely to see the students throw themselves wholeheartedly into the tasks. They had to make quick decisions, work as a team, and show their initiative and they did really well. The Gazelle helicopter was also very popular, which we knew it would be!"

She added: "It is important for our students to see how what they are learning in the STEAM subjects is applied in the world of work, and we are hugely indebted to the Army Air Corps Engagement Team for providing such a brilliant, interactive event. The day was a tremendous success."



## FOOTBALL MATCHES

After a long time without any competitive sports our year 8 and 9 football teams faced off. They were fantastic matches, showcasing great skills, competitive spirit, determination, and sportsmanship

# A dramatic experience for our Year 9s!

For the past two years, the College has been participating in a playwriting and performance project involving 15 schools in the city. The three-year project, With Flying Colours, sees professionals work with the schools to co-create pieces of theatre. Each school is also assigned a professional playwright in residence.

This year, our Year 9s have been working with Beyond Face to learn all about what it takes to make a piece of theatre. See them in action and hear their experiences captured in this lovely video posted on the With Flying Colours Facebook page. Read our earlier story for more information about With Flying Colours



## CHARACTER EDUCATION

## Clubs



Community College

## Contact us:

Stoke Damerel Community College  
Somerset Place, Stoke,  
Plymouth PL3 4BD

Tel: 01752 556065

Email: [info@sdcc.net](mailto:info@sdcc.net)

Web: [www.sdcc.net](http://www.sdcc.net)

Twitter: [@stokedamarelcc](https://twitter.com/stokedamarelcc)