



HOT OFF THE PRESS



STOKE DAMEREL

ISSUE 5

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of this half-term, we reflect on a fantastic few weeks filled with enriching experiences for our students. From hands-on workshops to inspiring guest speakers, fundraising initiatives, our annual careers fair, and house extracurricular activities, they've embraced incredible opportunities to learn, grow, and get involved.

Beyond the classroom, our school community came together to celebrate key events. World Book Day and British Science Week sparked curiosity as students explored some of nature's most unusual adaptations.

On the sports field, our students demonstrated dedication and skill, achieving impressive victories in football and showcasing their talent in netball.

As we head into the Easter break, we cherish these wonderful moments and look forward to another term filled with exciting opportunities and achievements.

Best wishes,
Anita Frier, Headteacher



CAREERS FAIR 2026 – INSPIRING FUTURES

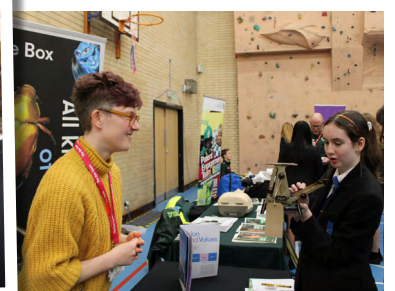
Years 9–12 explored their options at our annual Careers Fair, meeting 40 exhibitors from sectors including law, accountancy, defence, education, museums and gap year opportunities.

Throughout the day, students engaged in meaningful conversations with exhibitors, discovering more about qualifications, skills and experiences needed for different professions. The event also helped students think more broadly about their own interests and ambitions.

“It was really helpful speaking to people who actually work in these jobs. It made me think about careers I hadn't considered before and gave me a better idea of what skills I need to focus on for the future.” Jacob said.

A fantastic day of learning, inspiration, and planning for the future!

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE...](#)



WORLD BOOK DAY 2026

Our staff have truly outdone themselves this World Book Day, dressing in some fantastic costumes to celebrate the joy of reading! From classic characters to modern favourites, it's been amazing to see so many creative outfits around the school today.



Events like this help bring books to life and remind us just how powerful stories can be. A huge well done to all the staff who embraced the fun and helped make the day so special for our students!

STUDENTS RETURN TO INSPIRE FUTURE ENGINEERS



Ex-Stoke Damerel students Sam and Tobe returned to share their journey working at Babcock International.

"I love working at Babcock - the projects are exciting and it's rewarding to see the impact of our work." – Sam

"I wouldn't be on this pathway without the support and guidance I received at Stoke Damerel." – Tobe

They inspired students by sharing insights into ambition, teamwork, and apprenticeships, showing there are many routes into engineering.

We are so proud of what they've achieved and how they now inspire our students!

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE...](#)

STUDENTS BRING SMILES TO TWO TREES CARE HOME

Our students had another fantastic morning at Two Trees Care Home, spending time chatting, singing, dancing and playing games with residents.

There were plenty of smiles and laughter, and it's been wonderful to see the incredible bonds our students have formed with the residents. We are so proud of the kindness, empathy and community spirit they show on every visit.

Poppy said, *"I really look forward to our visits. It's so nice hearing their stories and seeing how much they enjoy the games and dancing. It makes you realise how important these little moments are."*

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE...](#)



RAFFLE SUCCESS FOR MAKE-A-WISH!

During the High School Musical performances, Mrs Green and Year 7 students Sienna and Ava ran a raffle with 65 fantastic prizes, raising an amazing £527 for Make-A-Wish!



There were plenty of winners in a brilliant fundraising effort - thank you to everyone who bought a ticket!

STUDENTS STEP INTO THE COURTROOM!

Modern Britain students visited Plymouth Magistrates' Court to explore the Rule of Law. Years 7–9 took part in a mock trial, meeting a District Judge and asking questions about careers in law.

Students acted as judge, barristers, and jury for a cyberbullying case - with the jury finding the defendant guilty. They also visited the Knife Angel sculpture, sparking discussions about knife crime and justice.

Evie said, *"Being the judge today felt really powerful, it's definitely something I'd consider as a career."*

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE...](#)



KEY DATES

DofE Presentation Evening
Wednesday 22nd April

Year 7 Parents Evening
Thursday 30th April

Bronze DofE Qualifier Walk
Thursday 24th - Friday 25th April

Year 8 Parents Evening
Thursday 14th May

**Silver DofE Qualifier Walk /
Gold DofE Practice Walk**
Thursday 21st - Saturday 23rd May

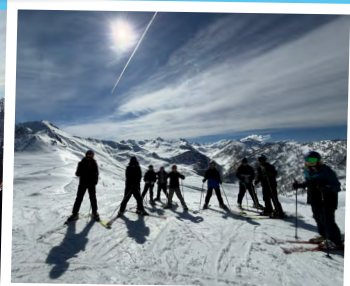
DIVERSITY CULTURAL SHOW

Students and staff recently came together to celebrate a vibrant Diversity Fashion Show, organised by sixth form student Kezhal.

Students proudly showcased their heritage and countries on stage, highlighting the incredible range of cultures represented across the school. The event also raised awareness for White Ribbon, a charity working to prevent violence against women and girls.

With the hall full and 46 different languages represented across the school community, the event was a powerful celebration of inclusion and pride, with hopes of making it an annual tradition.

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SKI TRIP 2026

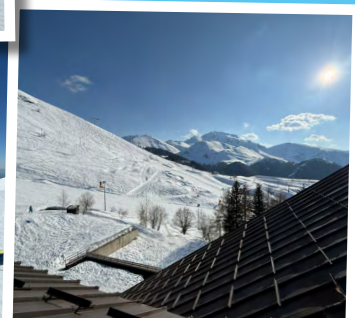
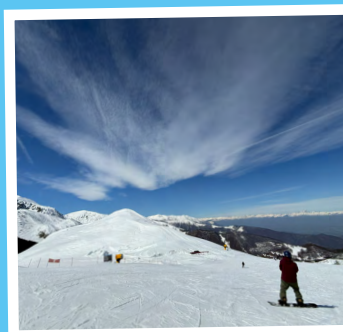
Year 10 students enjoyed an incredible five-day ski trip to Prato Nevoso, challenging themselves on slopes suited to all abilities. By the third day, beginners were confidently skiing Blue and Red runs, while the advanced group explored Artinsina.

Max said: "I loved pushing myself to ski down the Red runs – it was such an achievement!" Poppy added: "Even as a beginner, I felt proud seeing how much I improved by the third day."

Evenings were filled with fun off the slopes, including tobogganing, trips to the local shop, and relaxing at the hotel with pool and card games. The weather was mostly sunny, with just one colder day, making it a truly memorable experience for all.

The trip was a fantastic mix of challenge, teamwork, and fun, creating memories to last a lifetime.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE...](#)



GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

Year 11 students recently completed two days of geography fieldwork, exploring both human and physical landscapes. They carried out a human geography investigation in Tavistock and a physical geography study at Cadover Bridge on the River Plym.

Milan said: "It was great to see how the things we learn in the classroom actually happen in real life – even in the rain! I really enjoyed collecting data and seeing the differences between the human and physical geography sites."

The students showed great engagement, gaining valuable hands-on experience to support their studies.

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BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD

Year 12 students performed brilliantly in the Biology Olympiad, a national competition for broad biological knowledge.

Dawid received a Bronze Certificate, placing in the top 15% nationally, alongside several Highly Commended and Commended awards.

Dawid said: *"It was a tough challenge, but it was amazing to see how much I've learned and to test my knowledge against students across the country."*

These results highlight the dedication and enthusiasm of our students and we are extremely proud of their achievements.



STUDENTS RAISE FUNDS FOR JAMAICA HURRICANE RECOVERY

Our students came together for an amazing fundraising day to support communities affected by Hurricane Melissa. From bake sales to cracker-eating contests and the hilarious "Pie the Teacher" event, the day was full of laughter, music, dancing and team spirit!

Max said, *"It was such a fun day and everyone got involved. It felt good knowing that what we were doing would help families who really need support."*

A huge thank you to everyone who joined in!

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE...](#)

VISUAL ARTS TRIP TO LONDON

Our Year 10–13 Visual Arts students enjoyed an inspiring day visiting the Victoria & Albert and Natural History Museums.

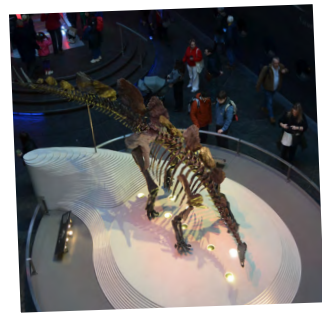
GCSE & A Level students gained first-hand experience of artwork for their exam projects, while Year 10 explored architecture and captured creative photography.

Quinn said, *"Seeing the artwork and architecture in real life has given me so many new ideas for my project."*

Despite a very early 5am departure and a return time of around 9.30pm, students demonstrated exemplary behaviour throughout the day. Their enthusiasm, maturity and engagement were a credit to the school.

A truly inspiring day!

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE...](#)



MACBETH COMES TO LIFE!

Year 10 & 11 students enjoyed an immersive live performance of Macbeth by Quantum Theatre, bringing Shakespeare's psychological horror to life. The dramatic finale sword fight had everyone on the edge of their seats!

Molly said, *"Seeing it performed live, especially the final fight, was amazing!"*

It was a fantastic way to experience Shakespeare beyond the classroom!

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE...](#)





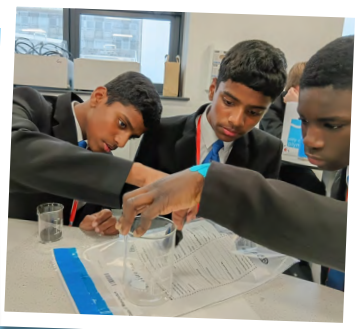
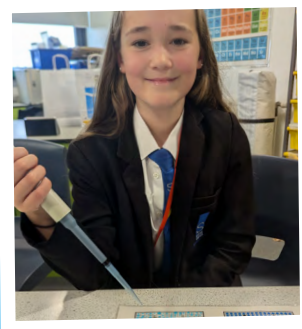
STUDENTS EXPLORE A LIVE CONSTRUCTION SITE!

Our students visited the Community Diagnostic Centre during Building Plymouth Open Sites Week 2026, gaining a great insight into careers in construction and healthcare. Highlights included a guided site tour, the view from the roof and learning about the Faraday cage being built for the MRI suites.

Shiloh said, *"It was really interesting to see how a hospital building is put together – the MRI area was amazing!"*

A sunny walk, brilliant questions and fantastic school ambassadors made it a memorable visit!

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE...](#)



YEAR 9 CELEBRATE NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK

Year 9 students from across campus had an amazing day at City College Plymouth celebrating National Science Week.

From sports therapy and force deck jump testing to DNA pipetting, healthcare science, and forensic fingerprinting, students enjoyed a full day of hands-on science experiences.

Aidan was "Jumper of the Day" jumping 30.7 cm and Charlie was Coach of the Day! *"We didn't just learn, we did!"* Jack said.

[CLICK TO READ MORE...](#)



LEGO LEAGUE

Our Years 7–9 students competed in the First LEGO League at the National Marine Aquarium, showcasing amazing projects: VR environments, plaster cast pillars, leaflets, interactive games, and a brilliant presentation!

Jake said: *"It was amazing to see all our ideas come to life and to work with my friends as a team. Even though we didn't win, I'm proud of everything we achieved and how we represented our school."*



SDCC RETRO GAMING CHALLENGE!

Students have been showing off their skills in our Inter-House gaming competition, with Space Invaders last week and Pac-Man up next! Staff are even joining in — think you can beat them?

"It's so much fun competing against friends and staff, and it's a great way to earn House Points at the same time!"

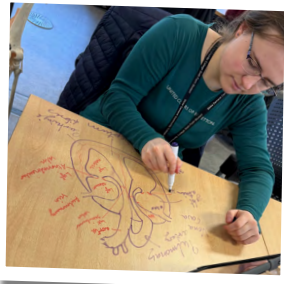
[READ THE FULL STORY HERE...](#)

AIMING HIGH: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY VISIT

Year 10 and Year 12 students took part in an inspiring session with Anais Pettecrew, School Liaison Officer from Downing College, Cambridge University.

Students learned about studying at the University of Cambridge and the benefits of attending a competitive university. Through interactive activities and discussion of Cambridge-style interview questions, the session encouraged students to think critically, aim high and recognise their academic potential.





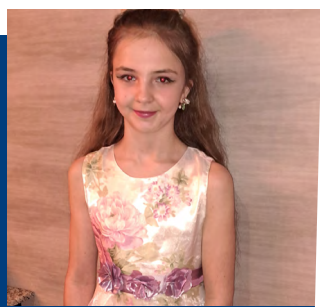
SIXTH FORM BIOLOGY AT PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY

Our Year 12 BTEC and Year 13 A Level Biology students visited Plymouth University for a cardiac anatomy workshop, exploring interactive heart models and using Anatomage technology to study real human anatomy.

Year 12 student Ophelia said: "It was really interesting to see how the different systems in the body connect with each other. The technology made it much easier to visualise how everything works together."

An inspiring day bringing biology to life and exploring future careers in medicine!

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE...](#)



CARLA INSPIRES AT INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CONFERENCE

Our very own Carla wowed the crowd at the "Building Stronger, Healthier Communities" Conference for International Women's Day!

"Every woman who came before us paved the way, and every woman today continues to shape the future."

Her inspiring speech ended with a standing ovation—we couldn't be prouder!

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE...](#)

YEAR 12 LEARN TO BUDGET WITH YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Our Year 12 students joined Young Enterprise to learn about careers, personal skills, and budgeting for the future. The session helped them plan, set goals, and understand the real costs of life and work.

Josh said: "This programme helped me understand the fundamentals of the skill set required for my future employment."

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE...](#)



YEAR 9 STUDENTS EXPLORE CONSTRUCTION CAREERS

Our Year 9s visited Ward Williams, learning how Project Managers and Quantity Surveyors plan, manage, and cost real-life construction projects. Students split into teams to design and cost their own eco-friendly school, presenting their ideas to a panel of experts!

"It was amazing to see how a real construction project works. I loved working in a team to design our eco-friendly school and presenting it to the experts — it really made me think about a career in construction."

A fantastic experience for developing teamwork, problem-solving, and communication skills while exploring the construction industry.



CAREERS INSIGHT DAY AT FOOT ANSTEY

Our Year 12 students recently visited Foot Anstey for an inspiring Careers Insight Day. Students heard from professionals about their career

journeys, developed their confidence through personal pitching, and worked together on a business challenge.

Rachel said: *"It was a great opportunity to learn about careers in law and ask questions about the different routes into the profession. The business pitch helped us use our teamwork and confidence."*

A huge thank you to Foot Anstey for such an engaging and valuable experience!



BRONZE DOFE STUDENTS CONQUER THEIR FIRST WALK

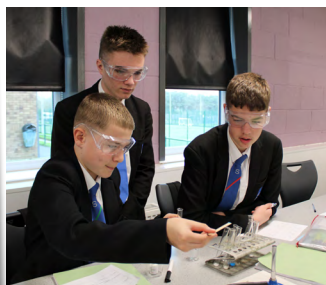
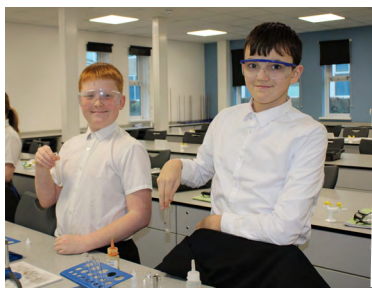
Our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh students had a fantastic day completing their first practice walk at Mount Edgumbe, with sunny skies and bright spirits all round!

Starting at Cremyll Ferry, they passed Fort Picklecombe, Makers Church (where lunch was cooked!), Cawsands Beach, and Hooe Lake Point, before finishing back at the ferry.

Pupils showed incredible determination, resilience, and teamwork, digging deep, learning from mistakes, and putting their training into action. Staff were so proud of everyone!

Check out the photos capturing the sunny, fun-filled day. We can't wait for the qualifier walk!

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE...](#)



CURIOSITY WEEK

As part of SDCC's Science Week celebrations, Year 7 students took part in an interactive session with visiting speaker Dan Larn exploring the theme of curiosity.

Students asked a range of weird and wonderful questions before planning how they might test their ideas, modelling the scientific process.

The session ended with a fun team challenge to build the tallest sandcastle, encouraging collaboration and learning from each other's ideas.

Marley said, *"I liked asking weird questions,"* while another added, *"Making a sandcastle with your own body was fun."*

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WE DO MULTISPORTS

EASTER HOLIDAY CLUB 2026

FUN · ACTIVE · SAFE · INCLUSIVE

ST MATTHEWS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tuesday 7th April Thursday 9th April

Tuesday 14th April Thursday 16th April

HOOE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tuesday 7th April

Thursday 9th April

Tuesday 14th April

Thursday 16th April

Friday 17th April

Ages 5-12 • 10:00am - 3:00pm

EARLY DROP-OFF FROM 9:15AM (FREE)

What to Expect:

- Dodgeball
- Basketball
- Multi-Sports Games
- Fun Competitions

- ✓ Safe & Welcoming Environment
- ✓ Fully Insured
- ✓ Fit & Fed Spaces Available
- ✓ Packed Lunch & Drink Required

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SDCC SPORTS NEWS

NETBALL NEWS

YEAR 9/10 NETBALL TEAM WIN BRONZE AT PLYMOUTH SCHOOLS TOURNAMENT

After an incredible night at the Plymouth Schools Tournament, our girls fought hard and came third overall!

Highlights included a 4-game winning streak and a strong finish with 12-1 vs Plymstock!

Huge congratulations to Paula, Mica, Ashleigh, Jess C, Katie, Livvy, Jess, Neveah & Lilly - you made us all proud!



YEAR 7 GIRLS SHINE AT END-OF-SEASON TOURNAMENT

Our Year 7 girls' football team had a fantastic end-of-season tournament, with plenty of parents cheering them on. The team played brilliantly, securing some great wins while enjoying the fun of the game.

A special shoutout to Verity for her outstanding teamwork and support on and off the pitch. The girls also made sure to capture some memorable moments, even insisting on a few creative photos lying down!

A wonderful way to celebrate a season full of commitment, talent, and team spirit.



U15 NETBALL TOURNAMENT

Our combined Year 9 & 10 team gave it their all at the first-ever state school competition at Ivybridge! Five intense games and so much teamwork on display, narrowly missing out on the regional round.

Maddie said, *"It was amazing to play alongside girls from different year groups - we all worked so well together and had so much fun!"*

Special shoutout to Mica & Paula for their incredible interceptions!



SPORTS LEADERS EXCEL IN HOCKEY LEADERSHIP TRAINING

20 of our Year 9 and 10 students took part in hockey leadership training with the Plymouth School Sports Partnership, preparing to run an upcoming primary school festival. They developed their knowledge of the game, learned basic skills, practiced delivering skill sessions, and officiated small-sided games.

They embraced the challenge with enthusiasm and determination. Their willingness to try something new and step into leadership roles is a real credit to them, and we can't wait to see them put their new skills into practice at the festival!



YEAR 11 NETBALL TEAM FINISH ON A HIGH!

Our Year 11 girls played their final SDCC tournament today, with 3 wins and strong performances all around.

Over the last 5 years, this team has represented SDCC across netball, rounders, football, and as brilliant sports leaders - a true credit to the school!



SDCC SPORTS NEWS

FOOTBALL NEWS

YEAR 7 BOYS' FOOTBALL TEAM SHOW GRIT AND RESILIENCE

Our Year 7 boys' football team showed incredible resilience and teamwork this week! Despite being 4-0 down at half time in the cup quarter-final against Torquay Grammar, they won the second half with a brilliant attitude.

The game finished 6-4 to Torquay, but every player should be proud of their efforts.

It has been a pleasure taking this team across the county, and their positive attitude has been inspiring. Well done boys!



YEAR 6 FOOTBALL ACADEMY TRIAL A HUGE SUCCESS

Over 55 Year 6 students attended the Stoke Damerel Football Academy trial at Foulston Park on Wednesday. Students showed fantastic attitude, enthusiasm, and plenty of talent – it was a joy getting to know so many potential future players.

There will be another chance for these young players to train and play on our school site during the summer term, and we'll make sure the café is open for all the adults cheering them on!



CLUBS

SUMMER 2026

EVERYDAY

THURSDAY

COMING SOON!

CAMPUS RADIO CLUB

Who? All years | Where? EB17
When? Break A & B

FITNESS

Who? Years 7 & 8 | Where? FT1
When? After school

SIXTH FORM GYM

Who? Years 12 & 13 | Where? FT1
When? Wednesday Week A
Tuesday Week B
3.10-4pm

SCHOOL PRODUCTION

Who? All years
Where? Theatre (Main Space)/PA1 & PA2
When? 3-5pm

BOYS CLUB SILVER

Who? Years 9 and 10 (will have pre-signed up)
Where? KS3 Canteen
When? After school Week B

RUGBY

Who? All years | Where? Green Astro
When? After school

BOYS FOOTBALL

Who? All years 9 & 10 | Where? Blue Astro
When? After school

BENCHBALL

Who? Years 7, 8 & 9 | Where? Sports Hall

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

Urban Exploring – A Safety Reminder for Easter

With the Easter holidays approaching, we would like to remind families about the risks associated with “urban exploring” (often referred to as “urbex”). This involves young people visiting abandoned buildings, construction sites, rooftops or other restricted areas, often encouraged by social media trends.

While it may seem exciting, urban exploring can be extremely dangerous. These locations are often unsafe, with risks including unstable structures, broken glass, exposed wiring, hidden hazards, and the potential for serious injury. There is also the risk of encountering unsafe individuals or becoming involved in situations that require police involvement.

Trespassing on private property is illegal and can have serious consequences. Many sites are monitored by security or CCTV, and emergency services may be called.

We encourage parents and carers to speak with their children about staying safe, making sensible choices, and avoiding unsafe or restricted areas. If your child is looking for adventure over the holidays, we recommend organised activities or supervised environments where their safety can be ensured.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our students safe.

When Everyone Watches: What the Bystander Effect Means for Our Children

It was a busy afternoon at the park. A child tripped near the climbing frame and began to cry. Several adults glanced over - but no one moved right away. Each person seemed to pause, waiting, assuming someone else would step in.

This moment captures something psychologists call the bystander effect—a tendency for people to be less likely to help when others are present. It's not because people are uncaring. In fact, it often happens because we're social beings, quietly taking cues from those around us.

For parents, understanding this phenomenon matters more than you might think—because children are always watching, learning not just from what we say, but from what we do (or don't do).

What Is the Bystander Effect?

In simple terms, the bystander effect occurs when responsibility gets “shared” among a group. The more people there are, the less any one individual feels personally responsible to act.

Children experience this too:

- In classrooms when a classmate is being teased
- On playgrounds when someone gets hurt
- Online when they witness unkind behavior

They may hesitate, unsure if it's their place to step in—or assume someone else will.

Why It Matters for Children

We often teach children to be kind, but we don't always teach them how to act when kindness requires courage.

Without guidance, children may:

- Freeze in uncertain situations
- Follow the crowd instead of their instincts
- Miss opportunities to help others

With the right support, they can learn to notice, decide, and act

How Parents Can Help

1. Talk About It Openly

Bring up real-life situations:

“Have you ever seen someone being left out?”

“What do you think you could do in that moment?”

These conversations help children mentally rehearse action.

2. Teach Small, Clear Actions

Children don't need grand gestures. Simple steps are powerful:

- Check on someone: “Are you okay?”
- Get help from an adult
- Include someone who's alone

Clarity reduces hesitation.

For more information

<https://www.redcross.org.uk/stories/health-and-social-care/first-aid/what-is-the-bystander-effect>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/gb/basics/bystander-effect>



Need Support or Have Concerns?

If you have a concern or worry about a student please contact the safeguarding team safeguarding@sdcc.net

Talk 2 us is available for students to raise any concerns or worries. talk2us@sdcc.net

Mr Kelly Designated Safeguarding Lead