

July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another busy and successful academic year, I write to you with a mixture of immense pride and personal sadness.

Looking back at our classrooms, sports fields, and creative spaces over the last few weeks, I am reminded of what makes our school so incredibly special. Secondary school is a time of immense transition. Watching your children grow from quiet, hesitant year-sevens into confident, articulate, and passionate young adults ready to take on the world is the greatest privilege any educator can have.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you, our parents and carers. A school is only as strong as the community that supports it, and your partnership, feedback, and encouragement have been vital to our success. Thank you for trusting us with your children's education and well-being.

I leave Stoke Damerel knowing it is in an exceptionally strong position, with a dedicated staff team who will continue to champion your children every single day. I have no doubt the school will continue to thrive under the new leadership.

Thank you once again for your warmth and support during my tenure. I wish you and your families a wonderful, restful summer break, and your children the very best of luck in their bright futures.

Start of term:

Friday 4th September Year 7 & 12 only

Monday 7th September ALL students

Remember: full uniform, no trainers, facial piercings, lashes or coloured hair or extreme cuts.

Pastoral Teams:

	Head of Year	Assistant Heads of Year
7	Ms Macmanus & Ms Hassall	Miss Childs
8	Ms Morgan	Mr Gould
9	Ms Honeyghan	Mr Sutton
10	Mr Nevin	Ms Lawrence
11	Mr Ward	Ms Plane

With my warmest wishes and deepest gratitude,

AT Frier

Anita Frier
Headteacher

Anita Frier, Headteacher

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STOKE
DAMEREL

ISSUE 6

Hot OFF THE PRESS



Dear Parents/Carers,

As a wonderful summer term comes to a close, I want to celebrate the outstanding achievements at Stoke Damerel. From the success of our DofE Awards and Awards Evening to the vibrant trips and sports events that brought such energy to the school, it has been a truly memorable term.

Amidst these celebrations, we also said a bittersweet goodbye to our exceptional Year 11 and Year 13 students. We are incredibly proud of everything they have accomplished and wish them the very best in their next steps.

Thank you for your continued support. I wish all our families a fantastic, restful summer break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September, ready for another great year.

Best wishes,
Anita Frier, Headteacher

DIARY DATES

YEAR 7 & 12 INDUCTION DAY
Friday 4th September

FIRST DAY FOR ALL OTHER YEAR GROUPS
Monday 7th September

YEAR 6 OPEN EVENING
Wednesday 16th September (Half day closing)



Special Award Winners



Headteachers Award Winners



Sports Award Winners

AWARDS EVENING 2026

Pride and excitement filled the air at the SDCC Awards Evening. It was an incredibly inspiring night celebrating the dedication, resilience, and unique achievements of our fantastic students.

During the ceremony, students proudly stepped up to receive their well-deserved awards, and special student guest speakers spoke out about their own personal moments that matter within school. Out of over a thousand students within our school, these individuals truly stood out for their hard work and determination.

As Year 7 student Carla beautifully put it: "At any age, women and girls can achieve their dreams if they work hard and never give up."

We are endlessly proud of all our award winners!

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



Sixth Form Award Winners



English Award Winners



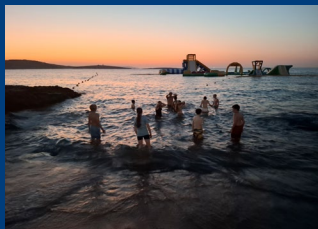
Year 8 Award Winners



EBACC Award Winners



Year 7 Award Winners



MALTA 2026!

This July, a group of lucky Stoke Damerel Community College students jetted off for an unforgettable football tour to Malta, staying at a fantastic 4-star hotel.

On the pitch, our players showcased excellent sportsmanship in competitive matches against local Maltese teams, while off the pitch they enjoyed the ultimate Mediterranean adventure.

From exploring the historic capital of Valletta and the colourful Marsaxlokk fishing village to splashing at the water park and snorkeling the crystal-clear Blue Lagoon on a Gozo and Comino boat tour, it was a trip of a lifetime that built incredible team bonds.



THE BIG SING

Music filled the air as our Year 7, 8, and 9 students joined forces with over 180 local primary school children for annual 'Big Sing' event. Organised alongside the Plymouth Music Education Hub, the day featured brilliant performances by the guitar-backed 'SDCC Singers' and a special guest appearance by the social-media-famous acapella group, Legacy Choir.

This unforgettable day ended with an electric, roof-raising grand finale as all 180+ participants joined together to sing and dance!



Open Evening 2026

Wednesday 16th September | 6pm

A warm welcome is extended to all Year 6 pupils and their families! Come experience our happy and aspirational school atmosphere, enjoy fun activities across all subjects, and meet our friendly students and staff. Plus, grab a free goody bag and some complimentary refreshments—we can't wait to meet you!



PROM 2026!

Our incredible Year 11 students celebrated the end of an era in style at the stunning Crown Plaza! From red-carpet-ready gowns and sharp suits to a packed dance floor, it was a night filled with glamour, laughter, and emotional goodbyes.

We are so incredibly proud of the path you've created and everything you've achieved during your time at Stoke Damerel Community College. This isn't just the end of a chapter - it's the start of your next big adventure!

Congratulations to the Class of 2026!

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





STUDENTS BRING HISTORY TO LIFE IN WINDRUSH PROJECT

As part of our student-led Diversitas initiative, 20 students took to the stage to honour and celebrate the incredible history of the Windrush community!

From researching local history to performing an amazing original play, it was an unforgettable look at the stories that shape our vibrant city. We were even joined by special guests Mr & Mrs Walters, who shared their moving real-life experiences of arriving from Jamaica 70 years ago.

"Learning about the real stories behind the Windrush generation made me realise how much of our history is woven into our local community," said Kenyon.

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



STUDENTS BRING BIRTHDAY MAGIC AND MUSIC TO TWO TREES CARE HOME

Our students recently visited Two Trees Care Home for a surprise birthday garden party!

Alongside flowers and gifts, our student boyband McDamerel put on a special performance that had everyone dancing. It was a beautiful afternoon of community spirit, and our students showed immense kindness and respect throughout the celebrations. Happy 90th Birthday, Shirley!

We can't wait to welcome the residents back to school in September for more croquet.

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



UK PARLIAMENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

A huge congratulations to Mrs. Burn, who recently went behind the scenes at Westminster for the 20th UK Parliament Teacher Ambassador programme!

From watching the House of Commons live in action to a Q&A session with the Speaker himself, Sir Lindsay Hoyle, she's bringing first-hand knowledge of British democracy straight back to our classrooms.

Watch out - we might just be teaching the next Prime Minister!



YEAR 11 LEAVERS

We said a fond farewell to our Year 11s this term.

Watching you grow into confident, resilient individuals has been an absolute privilege. Stay brave, chase your goals, and know that we are incredibly proud of you.

We're cheering you on every step of the way!



YEAR 11'S - STILL THINKING OF SIXTH FORM OPTIONS?

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JOIN OUR SPORT ACADEMY

FLEXIBLE BTEC PATHWAYS,
EXPERT COACHING, AND
WORLD-CLASS FACILITIES TO
HELP YOU THRIVE IN SPORT,
COACHING & FITNESS

GAIN REAL QUALIFICATIONS,
REAL EXPERIENCE,
AND REAL OPPORTUNITIES.



YEAR 9 GIRLS EXPLORE ENGINEERING UNDER THE TAMAR BRIDGE

Selected Year 9 students from across campus had a fantastic time at the Women in STEM Engineering Day, hosted by YMCA Plymouth and Tamar Crossings.

They took part in hands-on workshops with industry experts and even got rare, exclusive access underneath the main deck of the bridge to see how it works!

"It was amazing to see such a massive range of career opportunities... it showed us what we can do when we are older!" - Isla

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

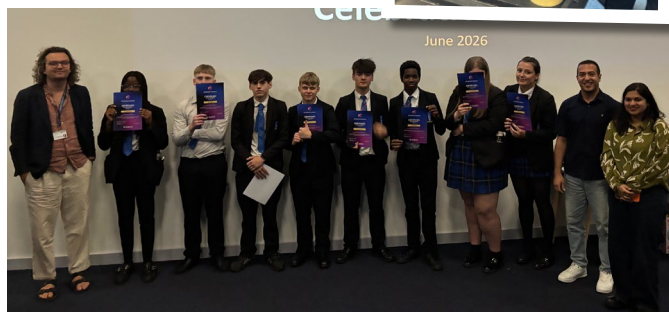
OPPORTUNITY PLYMOUTH

Our Year 10 students had a brilliant day at the University of Plymouth, wrapping up their 10-week 'Opportunity Plymouth' mentoring project with a fantastic campus celebration.

Rory in Year 10 loved getting a glimpse of his potential future: *"I loved the campus tour and looking at the massive wave machines. This program has definitely given me a lot more confidence to start planning my next steps after GCSEs."*

We are incredibly proud of all our students for planning ahead, boosting their confidence, and representing the school so brilliantly!

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



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

ANTHONY MAKES WAVES IN WATER POLO!

Huge congratulations to Anthony (Year 10), who is excelling at the highest levels of competitive Water Polo! Anthony plays for DRSA Devonport and Devon County, proudly winning a gold medal every single time he represents the county.

His packed summer includes the Conference League Semi-Finals, an international tournament in the Netherlands, and Devon County U17 trials this September!

Anthony's talent and dedication are a true inspiration to us all. Olympics next? Watch this space!

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)





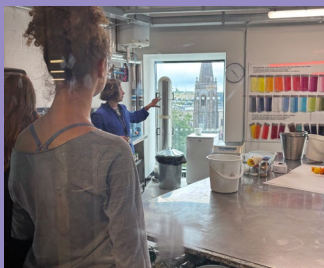
FUN, FLAVOUR & BUDGET-FRIENDLY FEASTS!

Students and parents joined us for a fantastic hands-on cooking workshop! Together, families cooked a bolognese from scratch, then took home ingredients for two more meals: chilli with wedges and sizzling fajitas.

The afternoon was packed with great tips on how batch cooking can stretch a weekly budget and save time on busy weeknights.

Thank you to everyone who joined us, and to our amazing staff for organising such a successful event

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



WORK EXPERIENCE: CREATIVE FUTURES AT PLYMOUTH ARTS UNIVERSITY

Five of our Year 10 students had an amazing work experience week at Plymouth Arts University! From screen-printing custom tote bags to developing photos in a darkroom, they got a true taste of life in the creative industries.

Ruby said: "Darkroom processing was amazing. I definitely want to work in the creative industries now!"

Freya added: "I loved having the freedom and being treated like an older student."

We are incredibly proud of how well our students represented SDCC. Huge thanks to Plymouth Arts University for hosting such an inspiring week!

SILVER DOFE QUALIFYING EXPEDITION

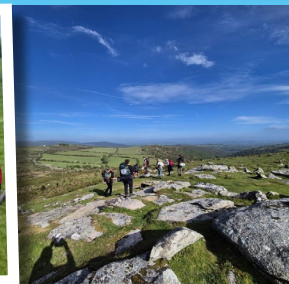
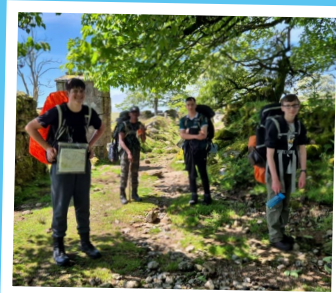
Huge congratulations to our Year 10 students who successfully completed their Silver DofE Qualifying Expedition across Dartmoor!

From Princetown to Buckfast Abbey, students showed resilience, teamwork and determination.

Otis said: *"It was definitely harder than I expected, especially in the heat, but our team worked really well together. The practice expedition beforehand helped us a lot! We learned that keeping morale high is just as important as the walking itself, and everyone made an effort to encourage each other when things got tough. Finishing the expedition felt like a huge achievement and showed how much we'd improved as a team."*

Well done to everyone involved!

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



NEXT-GEN TECH: STUDENTS WOW INDUSTRY JUDGES

Our students took on the challenge of "Overhauling Education for The Digital Era" and completely blew away a panel of 8 industry experts with VR classrooms, robotics, and gaming projects.

A huge shoutout to Faye, Elsie, and Evie ("Women in STEAM"), whose presentation earned them an exclusive invite from the CEO of DivesITy to return next year!

As Elsie put it, the experience was *"incredibly inspiring."*



WORK EXPERIENCE: GRACE'S INSPIRING WEEK IN SPORTS COACHING

Huge congratulations to Grace for completing an inspiring work experience placement with the Plymouth Argyle Community Trust!

From coaching primary school cricket to leading secondary classroom sessions on teamwork and self-esteem, Grace got a true taste of sports teaching.

"I've had the best week," Grace said. "Teaching the children and seeing them engage with me was so rewarding!"

- The week completely locked in Grace's dream and she's now aiming for a teaching qualification after GCSEs to become a primary school teacher! Well, Grace!

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



NATIONAL SUCCESS & LITERACY CHAMPIONS!

We are absolutely thrilled to celebrate winning the National Award for Student Impact through Lexia!

Alongside this amazing national achievement, Lexia has also recognised our top 10 students for their outstanding progress and dedication to improving their English literacy skills. These fantastic students were presented with certificates and a prestigious recognition badge to celebrate their hard work. Big congratulations to all of our students!

OPERATION MINCEMEAT

Our students loved watching the hilarious and fast-paced Operation Mince meat at the Theatre Royal Plymouth. It was a brilliant masterclass in acting that will directly enrich their drama studies.

The trip was extra special for Lewis, who was amazed by his very first live theatre experience!



SDCC SCIENTISTS SHINE NATIONALLY!

Congratulations to our Year 10s, who recently took part in the UK Biology Challenge, competing against 42,000 students across the country in two tough general knowledge exams.

A massive congratulations to Orson for winning a fantastic Silver Award (placing in the top 10% nationally!), and to Lewis for securing a brilliant Bronze Award.

Orson said: "It was a shock not being able to revise, but it made it really rewarding to see how much biological knowledge we actually knew."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: CARLA CELEBRATED AT YOUTH AWARDS

We are thrilled to share that Carla has been named a finalist in the prestigious 2026 Plymouth Youth Awards!

Out of over 2,200 nominations across the city, only 45 extraordinary young people were chosen as finalists.

As Carla shared: "When I found out I was a finalist out of so many people, I couldn't believe it!"

We are incredibly proud of you, Carla—you are a true inspiration to our school community!





YEAR 12'S STEP INTO THE SHOES OF CRIMINOLOGISTS, SOCIOLOGISTS, AND LAWYERS

Eager Year 12 students visited a campus crime suite for a hands-on experience in Criminology, Sociology, and Law. From analysing a crime scene to learning real fingerprinting techniques, they got a true taste of university life.

"Getting to work inside a real crime suite and try out fingerprinting techniques was amazing," said student Nicole. "It really brought everything we've been learning to life."

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



MIRRORBALL MUSEUM

Students recently visited the Micro Mirrorball Museum for an inspiring look at Plymouth's Pride history.

Despite the summer heatwave, the museum stayed open exclusively for us. Students explored powerful local stories, and viewed historic artifacts, including one of the very first Pride flags.

Ms Chalmers praised the group: *"The students behaved impeccably, engaging deeply and asking brilliant questions. It was definitely worth the trip!"*

This memorable visit was the perfect finale to a month of Pride assemblies and activities across the college.



'MISSION TO MARS' WORK EXPERIENCE!

Seven of our brilliant students spent a week at The Market Hall acting as software developers. They teamed up to code a Mars Rover, networked with Babcock, and presented their working robots inside the incredible immersive Dome!

Henry said, *"I've always found technology and coding fascinating, so this placement has been really beneficial. I've learnt so much about different elements of technology. I'm definitely going to look into this as a career now!"*

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



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: FROM THE SIXTH FORM TO THE UNIVERSITY AIRWAVES

Huge congratulations to our alumni, Freddie, who has finished his first year at the University of Exeter.

Balancing a flawless 100% lecture attendance record with some incredible achievements. He picked up Ultimate Frisbee (winning the beginners' tournament at Marjon) and was named Presenter of the Year at Exeter's student radio station, where he'll be Head of Sound next year!

He's made local and international friends and is already aiming for a data science placement at Sky.

Well done Freddie!



SDCC SPORTS NEWS



SPORTS FEST 2026!

SUN, SPORT, AND FESTIVAL VIBES!

Our school grounds transformed into a massive celebration of sport and community today. From fast-paced dodgeball, benchball, and football tournaments to track sprints, high jump, and the epic Tug of War - our students gave it 100%!

We kept the energy high with a live DJ and student radio, and paused midday to enjoy some delicious BBQ food whilst taking a well-earned break in the shade. To top it off, there were free ice creams, face painting, and plenty of glitter!

"The Tug of War and the football were definitely the highlights for me... It's been the best sports day ever!" – Bonnie, Year 8

A huge thank you to our incredible PE department, staff volunteers, and amazing students for making it a day to remember!



PADEL EVENT

29 eager students visited Plymouth city centre for an exciting introduction to one of the world's fastest-growing sports: Padel!

For most, it was a brand-new sport, but they gave 100% learning new skills. Year 10's Olivia added: *"It was so fast-paced and fun to learn... a really great day out!"*

Our students represented the college brilliantly with amazing behaviour and effort.

Well done, team!

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



E-Bikes

Do you know the law?



The Government have set out a series of regulations relating to the use of e-bikes (also referred to as 'electrically assisted pedal bikes' or EAPCs). According to current legislation, e-bikes can be used on public roads without a license or insurance, provided that:

- Cycles are **fitted with pedals** that are capable of propelling the bike
- Maximum continuous rated power of the electric motor **does not exceed 250 Watts**
- Electrical assistance **must cut-off** when the vehicle reaches 15.5 mph
- A throttle (walk assist) **cannot exceed 3.7mph (6km/h)**
- The rider is **not under 14 years of age**

An e-bike which complies with the regulations listed above is not considered to be a motor vehicle under terms stated in the 'Road traffic regulation act 1984' and the 'Road traffic act 1988'. As a result, e-bikes meeting these requirements do not need to be insured or registered as a motor vehicle and are not subject to vehicle excise duty (road tax).

A vehicle that does not comply with the above EAPC classification will need to be registered, insured and taxed as a motor vehicle. The rider will also need an appropriate driving licence and will need to wear an approved motorcycle safety helmet.

To learn more, visit: www.gov.uk/government/publications/electrically-assisted-pedal-cycles-eapcs/electrically-assisted-pedal-cycles-eapcs-in-great-britain-information-sheet

What about e-scooters?

E-scooters are classified as powered vehicles so the rules that apply to motor vehicles also apply to e-scooters, including the need to have a valid licence, insurance and tax.

It isn't currently possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, which means it's illegal to use them on the road or in public spaces. If you use an e-scooter illegally:

- Your scooter **may be seized**
- You may **incur a fine**
- You may receive up to **six points on your license**

Trials of rental e-scooters are currently taking place legally in various locations across the UK. To find out more, visit: www.gov.uk/guidance/e-scooter-trials-guidance-for-users



Devon & Cornwall
POLICE

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

Summer Safety Guide: Keeping Our Students Safe

As we head into the summer break, we want all of our students to have a fun, relaxing, and - most importantly - safe holiday. Please take a moment to review this quick safety checklist with your child.

Water Safety & Cold Water Shock

The "Gasp" Response: Water below 15°C is cold enough to trigger an involuntary gasp, leading to water in the lungs and instant panic. Enter the water slowly to let your body adjust.

Float to Live: If you fall in unexpectedly, fight the urge to thrash. Lean back, extend your arms and legs, and float gently until your breathing is controlled before calling for help or swimming.

Know the Flags: At beaches like Whitsand Bay or Bovisand, always check the flags:

- Red & Yellow: Lifeguarded area—safe to swim.
- Red: Danger! Do not enter the water.
- Black & White: Surfboards and kayaks only.

The Hoe: Stop the Drop

Tombstoning at Plymouth Hoe is incredibly dangerous. Water depth changes constantly with the tide. Submerged rocks and debris are completely invisible from above.

Cold water shock can stop your heart instantly, and strong currents can sweep you away. Do not risk a life-changing injury for a social media post.

Water Safety Resources for Parents and Teachers

The RNLI has produced a useful guide outlining Five Ways to Keep Teenagers Safe by the Water, which may be helpful to share with parents, carers, and school staff.

<https://theconversation.com/five-ways-to-keep-teenagers-safe-by-the-water-256837>

Need Support or Have Concerns?

If you are worried about your child or would like advice, please contact the school safeguarding team safeguarding@sdcc-smhc.net.

No concern is too small - early conversations help keep children safe.

Kind regards,

The Safeguarding Team

Online Safety & Grooming

Spot the Signs: Be wary of online "friends" who ask you to keep secrets, offer expensive gifts, or try to distance you from your real-life family and friends.

Protect Data: Keep social media profiles private, restrict who can message you, and never share your address, location, or school.

Speak Up: If someone online makes you feel uncomfortable or pressured, trust your instincts. Block them immediately and tell a trusted adult.

What is County Lines?

County Lines is a criminal network where gangs exploit young and vulnerable people to transport and sell drugs. Gangs use grooming, manipulation, and violence to trap young people in debt bondage, using them as runners. If you are worried about a young person being targeted, please seek help immediately.

Staying Safe in the City

Charge Up: Always go out with a fully charged phone. Consider carrying a portable power bank.

Group Up: Stick with your friends. Look out for each other and never leave anyone behind, especially if they are unwell.

Ask for Angela: If you ever feel unsafe or threatened inside a local venue, go to the bar or staff and "Ask for Angela" for discreet help.

Keeping Teenagers Safe Online - Bit Defender

Online safety guidance tends to group all under-18s together, which means it's often too broad to be genuinely useful, especially with teenagers.

Younger children may accept boundaries set by adults without much pushback. Adolescents are different. As they develop their own sense of agency, well-intentioned advice from parents and teachers can quickly become background noise. Getting teenagers to follow online safety guidance is one challenge; getting them to internalise it is quite another.

Bitdefender has published some practical thinking on how to approach this with teenagers specifically. Find out more by following the link below: <https://www.bitdefender.com/en-us/blog/hotforsecurity/how-to-keep-teens-safe-online>