



October 2026

Be World Class

Campus End of Half Term Letter

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of this first half term, we look back on everything our students have achieved since September with immense pride. It has been an honour as Interim Headteacher to see our brilliant Campus come to life, to feel a sense of optimism and positivity and see our students shine. It has been a busy, purposeful, and energetic start to the academic year across the Campus. Below, I am delighted to share key highlights of our journey together, structured around our core values: **World Class**, **Work Hard**, and **Be Kind**.

World Class

Our ambition across the Campus is to ensure every student develops the habits, character, and achievements that embody true excellence. In this section, we celebrate stand-out students who consistently go above and beyond, epitomising our World Class values and behaviours every day.

In Year 7, Jack W has been exceptional. He not only helped at Open Evening (only 9 days in) but he did so with maturity, exceptional professionalism, answered questions and addressed the whole group. Staff have also noticed how well he has settled into Secondary School and he's a part of our new Football Academy. We're really proud of you, Jack.

In Year 9, three students have really stood out this term: Vinnie W has made a fantastic start to the academic year, helping out in tutor time, signing up to DofE and still has 100% attendance. Julia P is truly mastering her reading and writing (her second language) and has worked so hard to achieve this. Joey W has demonstrated maturity and resilience beyond his years.

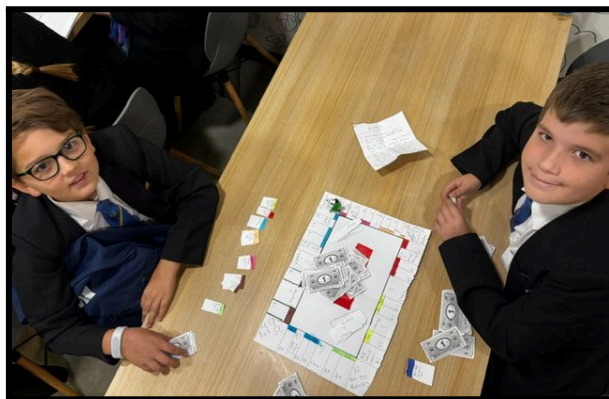
Whilst in Year 10, three specific students have shown how brilliant they are. Olivia T is our new Poet Laureate! Staff and students alike were blown away by her beautiful poem she wrote to come through as the overall winner. Hollie H has epitomised the value of Be Kind, demonstrating exceptional resilience and positivity, whilst inspiring and encouraging her peers. Well done, Hollie and thank you! Whilst William W also wrote a poem which wowed staff and students. William has an exceptional skill to take a subject and create a well-constructed and thought provoking poem. Don't stop, William - we know you will be a published poet in no time at all.

In Year 11, I was in awe of a particular student who in her own time has been working alongside the University of Plymouth on a World Class project. Ruby E has been searching and examining cosmic particles that have fallen from space. In her first investigation, she actually found one. It was fascinating, not only to hear of her work but to hear about the time she is dedicating to this project, alongside her study for her GCSEs. We are all very impressed, Ruby!

In Scott College, students have also been demonstrating excellence, embodying the Learn to Care, Care to Learn ethos. Olu, who is in our 6th Form, has had a fantastic start. He's worked so hard already and demonstrated that he is a truly caring and considerate member of our community. Thank you, Olu. And Esther B-O was congratulated for her entry to the Poet Laureate competition, alongside her fantastic personality and consistent kindness. As well as this, we have been informed this week that Esther's writing has won her national acclaim. This week, Esther has found out that she has been awarded as a Gold Finalist in the Queen's Commonwealth Writing Competition and will now go through to the Regional Panel to see if she wins overall. Her writing has been selected out of a massive 53,840 entries. What an incredible achievement!

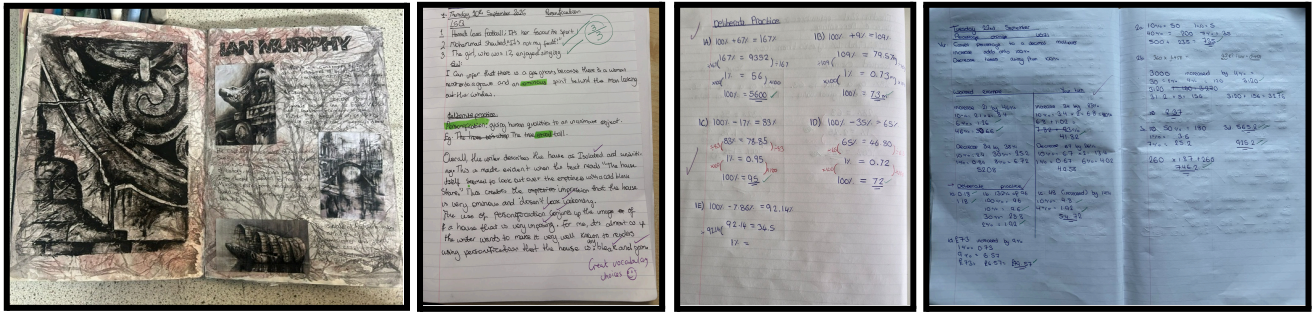


A stand out moment for me, was when I was asked to attend Breakfast Club to see what some students were doing. I was amazed when I walked in to see two of our Year 8 students playing a game of Monopoly (or should I say Stoke-opoly!) that they had created themselves. Oscar S had spent hours at home working on the board game, writing out the property cards and chance cards (I particularly liked the ones that said 'Mr Cole found you running - go to Recovery' and 'House Point awarded - collect £1'). We were all so impressed with the hard work and thought that had gone into this self-motivated project. A budding board game designer in the making I think!



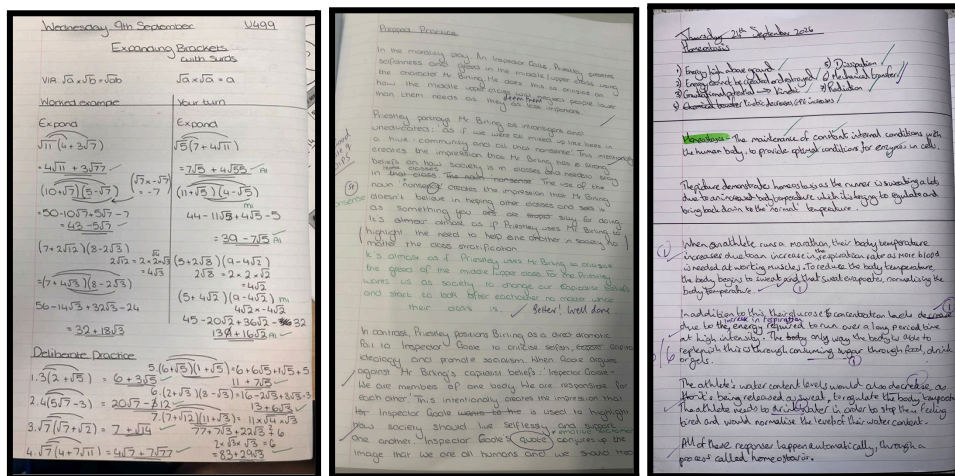
Work Hard

Throughout this term, we have placed a strong focus on taking pride in learning through high standards of presentation and academic rigour. Spelling, punctuation and grammar is essential foundational knowledge that will support students in their future years. Across all year groups and subjects—from Music and English to Mathematics and Visual Arts — our students have stepped up to show exceptional pride in their exercise books and daily tasks.



A key part of this success is our structured feedback and reflection process:

- **Teacher Marking in Purple Pen:** Teachers regularly mark and review work using purple pen, providing clear ticks, constructive feedback, and tailored guidance to address misconceptions or stretch understanding.
- **Student Progress in Green Pen:** Students actively engage with this feedback by using green pen to complete deliberate practice, make amendments, correct errors, and green-highlight key improvements/vocabulary.



Whether calculating surface areas of prisms, mastering percentage changes, exploring Gothic literature imagery, or learning scientific processes like homeostasis, the work in our students' books demonstrates real effort, pride, and continuous improvement.

Be Kind

Kindness is foundational to our community, and this term we strengthened our commitment to ensuring every student feels safe, supported, and heard.

- **Tootoot & 'Call It Out':** We officially launched Tootoot across the Campus to reinforce our strong stance of 'Call it out,' giving students an accessible, safe, and confidential platform to speak up about any concerns.
- **Culture of Kindness Day:** The entire Campus participated in a dedicated day where students worked together in across-age and cross-campus groups to define what kindness should look like in our schools and how we should address acts of unkindness.



- **Student Leadership & Ideas:** Students led presentations sharing their thoughtful perspectives. I had the privilege of reading hundreds of letters sent to me by students following the event. We are now selecting a group of these students to meet and develop their ideas into tangible school initiatives, ranging from promotional posters and videos to new tokens and reward systems.
- **Parent Engagement:** We concluded our Culture of Kindness day by feeding back our collective progress and outcomes directly to parents and carers with some lovely food too!

Incredibly, our students across our Campus have earned a combined total of **40,000 house points** so far this term! In addition to this, students have also earned a whopping **18250 Golden Tickets**, for special achievements that are considered worthy of additional recognition. On Friday morning, we celebrated the students who have the highest house points total and attendance for the half term within their year group at our **STARS/CARE** breakfast. Additionally, **about 700 students** are in line to receive a Standout Badge before the Christmas holidays, for meeting and exceeding our expectations every single day, and having a high attendance to college. A reminder of the rewards available to students, and when they will be recognised with these, can be found below.



Student Rewards



Every Day

- House Point – Work Hard, Be Kind** 1 HP
These should be rewarded frequently in and out of lessons, to reinforce positive learning behaviours, with staff striving to reward at least a 3:1 positive to negative ratio.
- Golden Ticket and Platinum Tickets** 10/20 HP
An 'instant' reward given on the spot, exchangeable for a queue jump in the canteen queue. Platinum Tickets winnable by Year 10 and 11 students in Twilight.

Every Week

- Excellence Award** 20 HP
Students nominated for producing consistently exemplary work/consistent high levels of effort.
- House Competition Winner** 20 HP
Reserved as a reward for leaders to assign to students for winning Fun Friday competitions.
- Completed House Card** 50 HP
Each completed side earns 50 house points entered by tutors on Celebration Friday.

Every Half Term

- Effort Boards** 20 HP
Students will earn their place on the college effort board for producing excellent work and thriving in assessments across their subjects.
- Celebration "STARS"/"CARE" Breakfast**
The top students in each year will be invited via contact home to attend this celebration.
- Head Teachers Award** 50 HP
For making an outstanding contribution to the development of college culture, at a school, community, regional or national level.

Every Term

- Individual Award Certificates**
Students receive certificates in assemblies when they hit the house point thresholds below.
- Standout Badges**
Students can win a Bronze, Silver or Gold Badge depending on their contribution towards college culture.

Every Year

- SDCC STARS/SMHC CARE Raffle**
Students earn tickets in a raffle based on their net behaviour points total, as shown below.

Net Points	Certificate Level	Raffle Tickets
1 - 49	N/A	1
50	Iron	2
100	Copper	3
150	Bronze	4
200	Silver	5
250	Gold	6
300	Titanium	7
400	Platinum	8
500	Diamond	10

★ **Work Hard, Be Kind, Be World Class** ★

To further strengthen students' **sense of belonging** to our community, we continue to develop our House System. Students were able to design their own House mascot before voting on their preferred one. The results are in and the mascots were introduced to the students in their respective House assembly. They even made an appearance during break times - just to say 'Hi'.



As well as this, we also ran a celebration of our diverse community. Did you know we have over 40 different nations represented across our Campus? The 'How Very British' event was a true celebration of our Country's diversity, an opportunity for students to speak in their home language, as well as enjoy some typical British food - nothing beats a cream tea! What was truly special about this gathering was seeing our older students meeting and supporting our newest learners, all coming together as one. Well done and thank you to our EAL team who made this happen.



And no one can forget our Dementia Croquet in partnership with local Care Homes. Our students demonstrated an exceptional level of care and consideration to the residents, enjoyed some food, lots of chat and a game or two of croquet (which I wasn't very good at!). It was a truly inspiring moment and our value of 'Be Kind' truly shone through. Well done to all involved.



Looking Ahead & Key Dates

To maximise their potential and ensure students make the most of all the exciting opportunities on offer, students need to be in school every day.

We are incredibly proud of the progress our students have made with their attendance. By the end of last year, SDCC was in the top 25% of schools nationally for most improved attendance, and SMHC was in the top 10%. We have built on that success and made even greater gains this term - with SDCC up a further 1% and SMHC up another 2% compared to the same time last year.

To celebrate and reward good attendance, we run several initiatives throughout the term:

- **Weekly Attendance Tokens:** Students with 100% attendance each week receive tokens to spend in our Swap Shop.
- **Prize Draws:** Students with 100% attendance for September were entered into a draw to win an iPad.

As the saying goes, 'you have to be in it to win it!'

We also understand that children sometimes feel under the weather. If your child is feeling slightly unwell but is well enough to come to school, please use the '**Under the Weather**' link on our school website. This lets us know to check in on them throughout the day and support them while they are here.

Important Return Dates:

- **Years 11 and 13:** On site starting **Wednesday 4th November**
- **Years 7, 8, 9, 10, and 12:** Return to school on **Monday 9th November**

Thank you for your ongoing partnership, support, and encouragement as we work together to support your child. I hope you all have a relaxing half term break and your child is looking forward to the many World Class opportunities ahead when we return.

Regards,

Mr Oakes
Interim Headteacher