

# HOT OFF THE PRESS



## GOLD DofE QUALIFIER

Nine Year 12 SDCC students completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh expedition walk on Thursday and Friday last week. They did incredibly well, and we were very impressed with their perseverance and passion!



Dear Parents/Carers,

*With the well deserved Easter break taking up quite a lot of April, we have still managed to fit a huge amount into this month.*

*We've had success stories from both students and staff achieving incredible feats such as Lucy who completed the difficult and lengthy Hegarty Maths Scheme. Not forgetting our all-school showcase of The Wizard of Oz. The hard work, dedication and effort that both students and staff have put in is admirable and has shown through the high-standard of the production.*

*A huge well done to all.*

Best wishes,

Anita Frier, Principal

## SKI TRIP

Thirty-two of our students enjoyed an amazing school skiing trip to Andorra last month.

The 32 students from Year 7 to Year 13 headed off at the start of the Easter holidays for a week of skiing lessons in the tiny principality high up in the Pyrenees Mountains.

It was the College's first skiing trip for a number of years, and was led by Mr Chapman, who is an experienced skier: "The trip was a huge success with all the students having an amazing time. The snow conditions were great, and we were lucky enough to have an excellent week of skiing!"

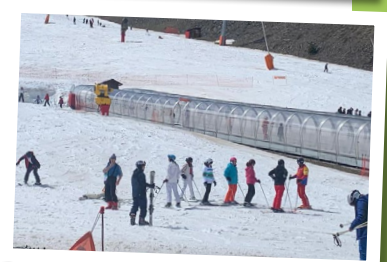
For the majority of the students, this was their first experience of skiing, but they had plenty of skiing hours under their belts by the end of the week. Mr Chapman and the other staff on the trip also organised activities for students for the evenings, including quiz nights or movie nights.

Mr Chapman said, "We can't wait to do it again soon!"



## U15 CRICKET TEAM SUCCESS

Congratulations to our U15's boys cricket team! These boys did an amazing job in their first cricket match of the year. They beat Egguckland convincingly, before losing narrowly to Coombe Dean. They then finished the night by beating St Boniface with a huge total of 83 runs.



Aspire

Achieve

Thrive

## HEGARTY HERO

Congratulations to our Hegarty Hero, Lucy! This is a huge achievement with less than 100 students nationally completing Hegarty from tens of thousands of students.

Not only is Lucy the first student within Greenshaw Learning Trust to ever have completed the whole scheme. She's spent over 200 hours this year alone watching videos and completing nearly 900 tasks including the A Level transition tasks.

To put that into context, the national average is 5 hours spent on these tasks per student, whilst at Stoke Damerel the average is double that at 10. So she's spent 20 times as much time on Hegarty as the average here! She answered 15,372 questions correctly, which is more than 187 other schools across the country have completed on their own.

An incredible achievement,  
Well done Lucy!

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## DANCE ACHIEVEMENT

Our Year 10 student Molly-Jane recently danced her way into an impressive 2nd place in the solo tap Under 18's Novice at the Torbay Dance Festival in Paignton.

We are very proud of Molly's achievements especially as she was the youngest Dancer in her division.

Well done!



## BUSINESS TRIP



A specially selected group of our Business Studies students, recently enjoyed a unique opportunity to take part in a career residential for talented students.

Throughout the three day, two night residential, students learnt about careers available to them in the finance industry and the wider corporate sector. They participated in activities and training led by industry experts from Goldman Sachs, that built awareness and skills for their careers.

Students were able to explore possibilities and build the foundations of their future careers. Over the 3 days, the students covered: communication and presentation skills for the workplace; insights into Goldman Sachs and the banking sector; financial literacy and theory.

There was also an opportunity to experience cultural highlights of London.

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## SKYDIVING FOR CHARITY

Two members of our welfare team took to the skies in April to throw themselves out of a plane at 10,000 feet, all in aid of charity.

Chelsea and Lisa raised £600 for Young Devon as they faced their ultimate fear of skydiving. Although very nervous before the flight they both had the time of their lives and loved every minute of it. Chelsea and Lisa would like to thank everyone who donated and supported them.



# SDCC RATED 'GOOD' BY OFSTED

Stoke Damerel Community College has reason to celebrate, after being judged as a 'Good' school following a recent inspection by the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted).

Ofsted inspectors visited the college for two days in February, and in their report just published, they have upgraded the college from its previous inspection grade of 'Requires Improvement'.

The inspectors found Stoke Damerel Community College to be 'Good' in all the key areas: quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development, leadership and management, and sixth form provision.

The report and inspectors' comments have been welcomed by College Principal, Miss Frier: "We are absolutely delighted to be judged by Ofsted as a good school. The report reflects the dedication, skills, and hard work of everyone involved at the college - our staff, our students and their parents and carers.

"We will be continuing with this hard work in the future and aim to build further on the improvements that have already been made and which have been acknowledged by the Ofsted inspectors."

The report highlights several aspects where the school is doing well. It says: "Leaders expect much of their pupils. They want the best for pupils academically and holistically. Many pupils recognise this. They know that staff care for them. Pupils say they feel, and are, safe."

"Pupils embrace the opportunities to enrich their understanding of the world through learning and extracurricular opportunities. For example, pupils enhance their knowledge through school performances, art and through useful links to their spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development.

"Leaders strive to help pupils achieve their potential. They have constructed a well-designed curriculum that is broad and balanced. They have focused on ensuring that the core elements of the curriculum are more effective than it was when the school was last inspected. Consequently, staff deliver the curriculum successfully in English, mathematics and science, including in the sixth form. There are other strengths in the curriculum, including in the performing arts and computing. Pupils do well in these subjects. Pupils' reading is a priority. Pupils benefit from a range of strategies to help them to read more widely.



"Leaders act swiftly and appropriately to tackle areas that could be better. For example, pupils' attendance overall is improving and suspensions reducing.

"Leaders responsible for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are effective. They work with teachers to plan learning activities that suit the whole range of pupils' needs. SEND pupils learn the same curriculum alongside their peers. SEND pupils rightly believe in the support they receive because teachers and support staff know them as individuals. Teaching enables most pupils with SEND to achieve according to their potential."

The school's careers provision is also noted in the Ofsted report: "Careers advice is woven carefully into the curriculum from Year 7."

And safeguarding arrangements are described as "effective," with safeguarding responsibilities shared between "skilled" leaders: "They ensure that those who work at the school prioritise pupils' safety and well-being."

Miss Frier said the college was already addressing the use of homophobic language by some students, prior to it being mentioned in the report: "Our curriculum Collapse days focus on tolerance and diversity which our students appreciate. However, sometimes students may use words and terms without thinking about the impact on others," she said.

During the two-day visit, the Ofsted inspectors met with senior and subject leaders, staff, governors and pupils. They also visited lessons and scrutinised students' work. More than 50 responses from parents on Ofsted's online parent survey were also scrutinised.

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# THE WIZARD OF OZ THEATRE PRODUCTION

The reviews are in - and it's five-star ratings all the way for our school production of the classic story, The Wizard of Oz.

Students from all years took part in the musical - on stage, behind the scenes and in the band. And, after months of rehearsing and fine-tuning, all that hard work paid off, with a sparkling first night show for families and friends to enjoy in the auditorium of our new Performing Arts Theatre.

The performance on 11 May started a three-night run and followed a premiere in front of children from local primary schools on 6 May.

Head of Performing Arts, Mrs Clift, said: "The students were amazing! They really stepped up to the challenge of handling their nerves for a wonderful public audience."

"There were so many highlights which the audience really enjoyed, and we have had some nice comments from those who attended. We have our new cast for the second performance, who cannot wait to get into costume and make-up."

Mrs Clift added: "The show has been a real team effort, with a sensational band - led by Mr Yardley, and superbly creative teachers on make-up, hair, costumes and set. A special thanks also goes to the staff who led front of house and those staff and students offering refreshments in the interval."

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## KEY DATES

**Half Term** 30 May - 3 June

**Start of Summer Exams** 16th May

**DofE Awards Event** 17 May

### LOOKING FORWARD

**Awards Evening** 29 June

**Year 11 Prom** 8 July

Stoke Damerel Community College

**DofE  
CELEBRATION  
NIGHT**

17TH MAY 2022



## DOFE AWARDS

Stoke Damerel Community College is delighted to host a special celebration evening to mark our students' Duke of Edinburgh's Award achievements during the past two years.

We are looking forward to seeing the students and their families on the night, to enjoy this well-deserved recognition!

SDCC Main Hall  
Tuesday 17 May, 6.30 - 8pm