



Hot OFF THE PRESS



STOKE
DAMEREL

ISSUE 5

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a jam packed time at Stoke Damerel. We have had so many celebrations and successes, from the DofE Awards to our eagerly anticipated Awards Evening which was truly sensational.

We've also had some emotional farewells from our Year 11's and Year 13's who have had a chance to celebrate with staff and peers.

I am particularly proud to announce, we are a School of Character - earning the prestigious Character Kitemark.

There has been a variety of trips and a whole schedule of sports days and activities. The summer term is really, one of the best times of the academic year!

Best wishes,

Anita Frier, Principal



COLLEGE MARKS THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALKLANDS WAR

Stoke Damerel commemorated the Falklands conflict this month.

The 40th anniversary display was organised by Miss Booth and included research, reports, and photographs from history students, some of whom shared memories collected from family members who were involved in the Falklands War, which took place from 2 April to 14 June 1982.



College veterans, Mr Martin and Mr Tremaine who served in the Falklands.

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DofE AWARDS NIGHT

The College has celebrated our students' Duke of Edinburgh's Award success in style, with an awards evening in front of a packed audience of proud families and friends.

Introducing the evening's events, our DofE Manager Mr Chapman said: "We have grown massively in number and I could not have done that without our DofE team. Taking DofE forward has been a real school effort."

In an evening full of highlights, there was a special cheer for Cassie, who achieved the Full Gold Award. Cassie will go on to receive her award from a member of the Royal Family at St James's Palace in London. The College is extremely proud of Cassie, who is an inspiration to all our other students taking part in the DofE Awards.

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Aspire

Achieve

Thrive

YEAR 11 LEAVERS ASSEMBLY

It's been an emotional day today at Stoke Damerel, as we say good bye to our Year 11's.

You have overcome so many challenges over the past few years and we are so proud of you all. We wish you all the luck in the world with your next ventures!



YEAR 5 PRIMARY ART VISIT

We were delighted to welcome 25 Year 5 students from Keyham Barton Primary School to the Stoke Damerel Art Department this month.

Working with clay, and exploring the idea of fusing glass to ceramics, our Year 5 visitors created their own unique, individual works of art, inspired by observing patterns in nature.



YEAR 9 & 10 THEATRE TRIP

25 year 9 and 10 students went to see 'The Play That Goes Wrong'. this month. It was hilarious and every single student laughed their way through the two hours!

For some of the students, it was the first time they had ever attended the theatre before, they all thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were a real credit to the school.

A big thanks to Mr Bullard for organising his first trip. We have plenty more we are keen to run next year!

BODMIN JAIL TRIP

This month the History department took 65 Year 10 students to Bodmin Jail, this was a fantastic opportunity for students to see real life examples of the topics we cover in History GCSE including the Bloody Code and Victorian Prisons.



SILVER DOVE WALKING EXPEDITION

SDCC and Scott College Silver DofE students completed their walking expedition this month.



All groups were absolutely fantastic. Considering the weather was very mixed, the students really dug in deep and persevered to complete the walk.



SDCC VOLUNTEERING IMPACT

Participants from Stoke Damerel Community College dedicated 2041 hours to volunteering between April 2021 and March 2022, with a social value of **£9429.42**.

We know from hearing thousands of stories that volunteering has a huge impact on young people. That's why it's such an essential part of a DofE programme.

The DofE were delighted to share a certificate celebrating our DofE group's volunteering and its impact.

This is an incredible achievement and we hope you're as proud of your participants as we are.

AWARDS CEREMONY 2022

Stoke Damerel Community College's outstanding students have been recognised for their achievements and dedication, at our 2022 Awards Ceremony held on 29 June.

Dozens of students from across the school received awards, cheered on by family and friends in a packed Performance Theatre.

It was an evening full of pride and smiling faces as year and department heads presented the awards - and it was a fitting way to mark what has been a hugely successful year for the College.



joining our scarecrow, Josh, to introduce the Year 8 award presentations while in character!

Congratulations to all our award winners, and well-done, too, to the students who stood on the stage and introduced the award presentations for their year groups.

There was a special mention for our Class of 2022, and for our Year 13s, with Mr Tinkler expressing his pride in seeing our leavers develop into "amazing adults as they take on the next stage of their lives".

It has been a truly exceptional year of achievement for our College, epitomised by the winners of our Special Awards.

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The theme for the evening was 'Seas the Day', and we were delighted to welcome as our inspiring guest speaker, Jonathan Smith, one of the producers with the BBC's multi-award-winning series, Blue Planet II, and other BBC Natural History Unit wildlife documentaries.

There was a surprise in store, when Jonathan showed a sneak preview of his latest BBC documentary which has yet to be aired, as well as clips from Blue Planet II. He also shared a lovely report on his own inspiring story.

Jonathan had this special message for our students: "I am here to provide inspiration for you, but it is all of you who have inspired me tonight. Each of you is awesome, unique, and special. If you believe in yourself, you can achieve anything."

The ceremony also saw guest appearances from some of our Wizard of Oz stars, with Mollie and Gray performing 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow' and Mollie



YEAR 13 LEAVERS BBQ

Our departing Year 13s came into school this afternoon for a well-deserved barbecue after all their hard work over the past few years, culminating in their recent A-Level and BTEC exams.

Mr Tinkler donned his chef's whites and did the honours at the BBQ in the Sixth Form garden, with Mrs Gear helping out. Mr Tinkler said: "We are extremely proud of our Year 13s – they showed tremendous resilience and a 'let's get on with it' attitude during the pandemic.

"The GCSEs never happened, so this year's exams are the most important exams they've taken since Year 6. They have coped with all of that really well."

He added: "Close to 80% of our Year 13s have got a successful university offer, which is incredible, and a lot of our students have also secured employment or apprenticeships.

"We wish all of them the very best for their futures.



YEAR 12 BIOLOGY TRIP - EDEN PROJECT



This month the Year 12 Biology students had the fantastic opportunity to visit the Eden Project, home to the world's largest rainforest in captivity.

Mr Romaine, their biology teacher said "This experience has been fantastic for building skills which will help our students to meet the criteria for their Practical Endorsement, much favoured during UCAS applications to university."

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EMOTIONAL GOODBYE FROM OUR SIXTH FORMERS

Two of our sixth form sports students Luca and Preston, popped into the Careers Office to say an emotional goodbye to us today.

Mrs Gannon and Miss Trezona have worked with both Luca and Preston throughout their journey in exploring their higher education and employment options and are now, overwhelmed with pride and proudness to see the success that both boys have made.

We are very excited to hear about their adventures and wish them both all the luck in the world. They are going to join our school LinkedIn Alumni account so that we can keep in touch and see where their careers journey takes them!

All students are welcome to drop in to see Mrs Gannon and Miss Trezona, for help and advice alongside structured events and sessions during their wider curriculum sessions.



INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN IN ENGINEERING WORKSHOP

In celebration of International Women in Engineering Day, Babcock's STEM team hosted an online workshop offering students in Year 10 a unique opportunity to hear from Women in Industry who currently work within engineering.

This was a fantastic opportunity for our students to hear about the roles women have in engineering as well as the individual journeys of each which has led them to their career. Hopefully it will inspire some of our students to go on to be a Women in Engineering!

CHARACTER KITEMARK

SDCC CELEBRATES CHARACTER KITEMARK AWARD

We are proud to announce that Stoke Damerel Community College is the first school in Plymouth to become a School of Character, after being awarded the prestigious Character Kitemark.

The College is one of only 70 schools nationally to receive the kitemark accreditation, which is awarded by the Association for Character Education (ACE).

The kitemark recognises “outstanding character education that is delivered in an explicit, planned and reflective manner,” to enable young people to develop positive character qualities. ACE said the accreditation awarded to Stoke Damerel Community College was “testament to their authentic whole-school commitment to character and personal development”.

College Principal, Miss Frier, said that achieving School of Character status is an acknowledgement of how the school has prioritised the wellbeing of students, both inside and outside of school: “This kitemark is incredibly prestigious and we are extremely proud to receive it,” she said.

“Our character education is instilling in our students the character and virtues that are needed for life. It is important that our young people learn and practice behaviours that reflect ethical values, that they become conscious of the right thing to do.

“We have already seen the positive impact that character education is having,” she added. “And the characteristics our students are developing now will help them to flourish and thrive in society as young adults. Indeed, we are all benefiting from the focus on character education – not just our students, but our staff as well.”

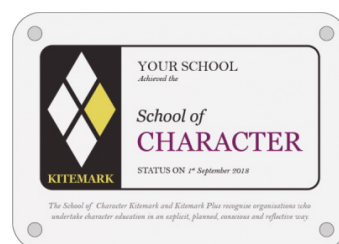
Character Lead at the College, Mr Kelly, explained how the school has implemented its character education: “The character education starts in our students’ academic studies and goes on to developing life skills and the characteristics that will allow them to contribute positively to

society as well-rounded people. We are developing young people’s character inside and outside of the classroom to build the attributes that help them to live successful lives. It also helps them to develop the right skills for the challenges posed by an increasingly tough world.”

The College has built its character education around its three core values: aspire, achieve, thrive. A big part of the programme is encouraging opportunities outside of school, such as volunteering, joining clubs and taking part in activities. It has also seen a wider focus on providing experiences such as educational day trips, overseas school trips, and cultural and sporting events.

“Everything we do in our character education is to achieve our three values,” said Mr Kelly. “This is through developing character traits such as self-confidence, determination, trust, kindness, empathy, and resilience. This is embedded in the curriculum across the whole school and is developed further in our Character Curriculum that runs alongside that, and extra-curricular activities.”

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YOUNG CARERS FESTIVAL 2022

This month 10 of our young carers attended the amazing Young Carers Festival in Southampton. This three day, two night event saw students let their hair down and enjoy an impressive range of fantastic activities.



The Young Carers' Festival was absolutely amazing for our students. They had the opportunity to try rock climbing, canoeing, paddle boarding and kayaking to name just of the few amazing activities.

They also enjoyed singing at karaoke, dancing at silent discos, going on unlimited fairground rides and relaxing at the outdoor cinema, whilst camping in pre-setup tents on site.

With nearly 2000 young carers from across the UK, there was a real buzz at the event. Students made new, like-minded friends from other schools & clubs which was fantastic. They really did have the time of their lives!

All students came back refreshed and happy with memories to last a lifetime. Special thanks to Mrs Jones, Mr Harris and Mrs Burman who arranged, organised and went with the students to the festival.



FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

Two of our amazing students recently raised over £200 for Cancer Research. Cobie and Daizie, organised a bake sale and a charity netball tournament.

The tournament was great fun and the bake sale was a huge success too!

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LOCAL COUNCIL FUNDING FOR BATTLEFIELDS TRIP

48 EBACC students are leaving for the trip of a lifetime to the World War One Battlefields this Sunday morning, for a 5-day tour of Belgium & France.

In addition to earning some money selling refreshments at the College's 3 night production of the Wizard of Oz, they are sincerely grateful to receive community funding of £350, from Local Labour Councillor for Stoke Ward, Jemima Laing. A huge Thank You to Jemima!

This funding has allowed the group to purchase tee shirts, a Memorial Poppy Wreath, and other resources needed for the trip.

The Poppy Wreath will be laid at the Menin Gate Last Post Ceremony on Monday evening.



YEAR 7 SPELLING BEE!

Introducing Coral, our Year 7 Bedrock Spelling Bee Champion for 2021-22!

Coral won in the Spelling Bee final, with Aiden and Jack coming in as first runner-up and second runner-up respectively.



Fittingly, the winning word that Coral spelt correctly, to lift the Spelling Bee trophy, was 'colossal'.

Ms Ekpoiffong said: "The standard of spelling was very high – the heats took quite a long time because the students kept getting the words right!

"Well done to all the students who took part, and to Coral for being our brilliant winner.

"The event was extremely enjoyable, and it was a great way to bring all our Year 7 English students together at the end of the school year to celebrate the vocabulary that they have learned."



GOLD FOR DIVING SENSATION NOAH!

Congratulations to Noah who received a Gold in synchro with his partner Alex and also received Bronze in the 1m Dive category, at the Swim England National Age Groups Championships 2022!

SDCC and his coach Paul Underwood are very proud, well done Noah!



WFC DRAMA PROJECT

Over the last 10 months, students in Year 9 have been experiencing industry professionals, 'With Flying Colours Group' coming into school and running various workshops including voice, movement and script work. This week all their hard work came together to produce an incredible final performance in our Performance Theatre.

Mr Bullard said, "This project has been an invaluable learning experience for our students. They have developed their physical and vocal performative skills whilst rehearsing through the script to better themselves as actors.

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SDCC SPORTS

CADETS VOLUNTEER WITH END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS AT PLYMOUTH COLLEGE

5 SDCC Cadets gave up part of their weekend and demonstrated their selflessness and citizenship by volunteering at the Plymouth College End of Year Celebrations.

In doing so it meant that their fellow Plymouth College Cadets and their families could be involved in enjoying the event. Despite some showers the team showed great determination and successfully ran a tag archery arena for the patrons to enjoy.



SDCC SPORTS

SDCC GIRLS FOOTBALL TEAM TAKE OVER HOME PARK



We were fortunate to get the opportunity to play a friendly match on Plymouth Argyle's pitch at Home Park. The girls who were selected due to their hard work & dedication all year.

The girls had an amazing time, and worked their socks off on a full size pitch at 10-a-side!



SUCCESS FOR OUR Y7 ROUNDERS TEAM

This week, we held a fantastic first night of fixtures for the Year 7 Rounders Team. Our girls managed two out of three wins, winning 15 -13 against Coombe Dean and a nail-biting 16.5 - 16 win against Plymstock.

After only two weeks of training they have made huge improvements and are now a force to be reckoned with!

SPORTS DAY SUCCESS

SPORTS LEADERS STEPPING UP!

It has been a very busy summer for the SDCC Sports Leaders in years 8, 9 and 10! Primary sports days are back this year and our students have supported many of these events across Plymouth, including sports days for Montpelier, St Peter's, College Road, Ford and Stuart Road.

These events would not be possible without the hard work of our leaders and they been excellent ambassadors for Stoke Damerel Community College.

YR10 GIRLS ARGYLE PREMIER LEAGUE *TOURNAMENT*

A group of our star Year 10 sports students were invited to participate in the 2022 Premier League Kicks Cup Football Competition taking place at the University of Nottingham this month.

This national event is a celebration of the Premier League Kicks programme. Clubs select participants to represent them at this event based on their dedication and attitude at local Premier League Kicks sessions. As part of the event all participants take part in sports workshops.

It was an incredible opportunity with the girls enjoying every moment!



GOALS TRIP

On Wednesday a group of 14 students had the opportunity to attend GOALS and participate in an SEN Inclusion Football event run by Plymouth School Sports Partnership.

The students from Stoke Damerel represented the school outstandingly, showing great sportsmanship and teamwork.



Well done to all the students in the Sports Leadership Academy for a great summer!

