



HOT OFF THE PRESS



STOKE
DAMEREL

ISSUE 2

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we wrap up this half-term, there's a lot to reflect upon. The Year 7s had a fantastic time during their Big Day Out, and we've had a flurry of engaging trips and events. Notably, we hosted our first campus clubs fair, crowned our new Poet Laureate, Marie, and commenced our campus production of 'Mary Poppins.'

Our dedicated Sports Leaders continue to impress with their unwavering commitment and hard work, consistently earning praise from external partners.

We've also been actively involved in celebrating both World Mental Health Day and Black History Month, with students deeply engaging in these important topics.

As we look ahead, we anticipate the next half-term to be just as bustling and fulfilling!

Best wishes,

Anita Frier, Headteacher



MEET OUR NEW POET LAUREATE. MARIE!

We are delighted to announce that Marie, a talented student, has been crowned the new Poet Laureate in light of National Poetry Day.

The announcement comes after a rigorous competition that saw an impressive array of original and exceptional entries from students of all year groups.

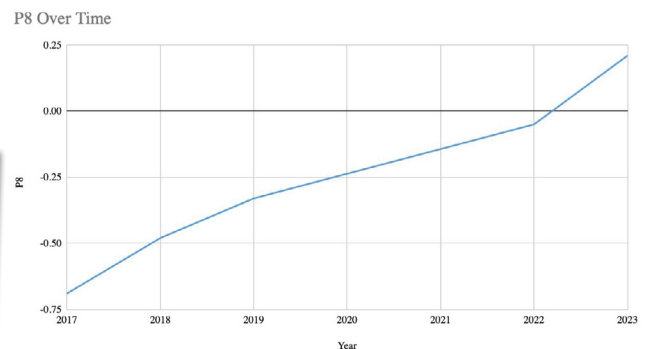
Marie, our new Poet Laureate said, "I am shocked but am delighted! We all have our own problems, but it's good to talk about them and share our experiences. Expressing this through poetry and creative forms really helps when you don't want to speak about things directly. I am so happy that people have resonated with my poem and that I have been chosen to be the new Poet Laureate."

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



EXAM RESULTS 2023 STOKE DAMEREL'S RECORD-BREAKING SUCCESS

Stoke Damerel has achieved the best results ever! Results have improved year on year as you can see from the graph below:



A progress score of **+0.21** shows that students at Stoke Damerel make better progress than they would in other schools nationally.

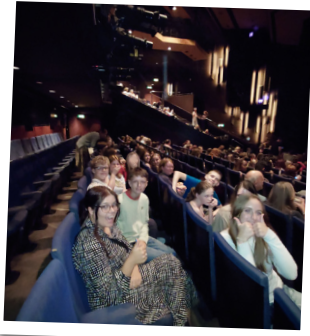
Stoke Damerel is ranked as the **2nd** best comprehensive school in the city using the progress measures, and ranked 4th of any school in Plymouth, and is in the top 28% in the UK, classed as **ABOVE AVERAGE**.

Students work exceptionally hard and are well prepared for their examinations following our bespoke 'Year 11 Package', which includes daily after school revision sessions, Champions Hour from 4 - 5pm; bespoke English and Maths every morning and afternoon; tailored revision homework and exam questions every week.

Some great achievements:

- Freddie, Deven and Izzahin all averaging above a grade 8!
- Deven achieved 159 out of 160 in his English Lit exam dropping only one mark across 4 hours of English examinations.

At A-Level 78% of students went onto university, with standouts for Ronnie, B, Di*, Di*, Tanisha receiving Di, Di, Di and we have to mention Kuba who is off to Southampton University to study Mechanical Engineering, Aerospace.



STUDENTS VISIT THE THEATRE ROYAL

46 eager students from across campus embarked on a thrilling theatrical journey to witness the opening night's performance of "Metamorphosis" at the Theatre Royal Plymouth.

This captivating experience was organised by the Drama department, providing students with the opportunity to delve into the world of Frantic Assembly, a renowned theatre practitioner often studied in depth in GCSE and A-Level courses.

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



SIXTH FORM STUDENTS VISIT UWE

Year 12 students embarked on an educational adventure to Bristol, where they visited University of the West of England Bristol (UWE) and attended the UK University and Apprenticeship Search event.

The trip equipped students with knowledge and insights needed to make informed decisions about their futures. It was a day of exploration, learning, and inspiration, setting the stage for their educational journeys beyond college.

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



CAMPUS PRODUCTION OF MARY POPPINS ANNOUNCED

Auditions for our 2023/24 campus production of Mary Poppins are well underway!

We are so excited to watch the final show in February. Keep an eye out for more updates and how you can purchase your tickets.



DR. JONATHAN CLARKE DELIVERS CHIROPRACTIC TALK

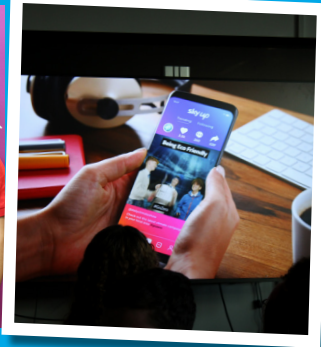
We had the pleasure of hosting Dr. Jonathan Clarke who delivered an engaging and inspiring talk about Chiropractic practices. His visit left our students thoroughly inspired.

His enthusiasm was contagious as he engaged our students in an interactive and enlightening session. The fortunate recipients of this session included our 6th form students, who are passionately pursuing careers in the medical field, as well as a Year 11 health and social care class.

As a token of his kindness, each student who attended his session received a copy of his book, 'The Happiness of Health.' We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Clarke for generously sharing his expertise and time with our students.

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)





SKY UP ACADEMY STUDIOS ON TOUR: EMPOWERING TOMORROW'S DIGITAL STORYTELLERS

In an era where digital literacy and creativity are more important than ever, Sky has taken an innovative step towards nurturing young talent.

For an entire week, Sky have been collaborating with Year 9 students on a groundbreaking initiative known as "Sky Up Academy Studios On Tour." This pop-up storytelling experience promised to boost digital skills, raise aspirations, and ignite the creative spark in young minds.

Working together, the students embarked on a mission to develop their digital skills while also contributing to a brighter future. They were tasked with devising a #GoZero media campaign for "The Daily Climate Show," a bold initiative to address pressing climate issues. Within the e-vehicle, students learned the art of crafting stories tailored for various platforms, whether it's utilising the pop-up photography studio or diving into the hi-tech digital media suite.

A particularly exhilarating moment for the students came at the end of each session, where they witnessed the fruits of their labour. Some of the most confident students stepped into the limelight as models and media correspondents, while others took on the vital roles of directors, photographers, and editors.

[READ MORE ON
OUR WEBSITE](#)



YEAR 10'S DIVE INTO FISH EDUCATION

Our Year 10 students embarked on a fascinating journey into the world of fish sustainability and the consequences of overfishing, particularly concerning the fish populations around the UK.

In a hands-on and somewhat daring endeavour, students had the unique opportunity to fillet whole Whiting fish, transforming them into delectable fish fingers and chips. For some, this prospect initially seemed daunting, but it turned out to be a rewarding and eye-opening experience for all.

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



CAMPUS CLUBS FAIR

Excitement filled the air as students of all ages gathered for our first-ever cross-campus clubs fayre this week.

It was a bustling event, where students from every year had the opportunity to dive into a world of extracurricular activities, sign up for their favourites, and engage with the dedicated staff behind these clubs.

Our clubs span a wide spectrum of interests and subjects with something for everyone. The diverse array of clubs ensures that every student can find a niche where their interests and talents can flourish.

[READ MORE ON OUR
WEBSITE](#)



YEAR 9 SPORTS LEADERS SHINE AT PSSP PRIMARY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

14 Year 9 sports leaders took on the challenge of running a two-hour session for primary students as part of the PSSP (Primary School Sports Partnership) Primary Leadership Conference.

The feedback from the staff and teachers who observed the session was overwhelmingly positive. Their comments underlined the maturity and responsibility these young leaders displayed, which speaks volumes about their growth and development. The primary students benefited immensely from their guidance, gaining not only sports-related skills but also invaluable life lessons that come with effective leadership.

It was a significant step for these young leaders, but they rose to the occasion with flying colours, proving just how far they've come in their leadership journeys.



MEET OUR HOUSE SYSTEMS!

We are well underway in introducing our new houses; Mayflower, Smeaton, Saltram and Sutton.

What is the House System?

Each student (via tutor group) and each member of staff will belong to a school 'House'. Through their 'Houses' students and staff can obtain 'House points' to win rewards throughout the school year. 'House Points' will be counted fortnightly and added towards a total at the end of each term.

How can students get points?

- Points can be obtained through:
- 100% weekly attendance
- 100% Sparx completion
- House card signatures
- House points
- Participation in clubs and activities

SDCC Virtues

Bi-weekly house cards are given out in which staff reward students for different virtues. Students need to demonstrate the virtues in order to get signatures which add up to valuable house points.

Our 9 virtues are: creativity, motivation, generosity, resilience, courage, respect, confidence, communication and community.

Watch out for more updates on our social media channels!



WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

To celebrate World Mental Health Day, students have had specialised assemblies around the importance of mental health as well as completing leaves to place on the SDCC thought tree in the Street.

Remember: There are always staff in school to talk to, however you are feeling, it matters. The more people who stand out and show up, the more comfortable young people will feel about talking to someone if they are struggling.

You can also reach out to **YoungMinds** at www.youngminds.org.uk who are there to support young people and their mental health.





STUDENTS ATTEND EGX EUROGAMER EXPO

Students embarked on an exhilarating journey into the heart of the gaming world as they attended the EGX Eurogamer Expo.

This extraordinary trip offered students the golden opportunity to immerse themselves in the latest playable computer games, alongside a myriad of captivating events. The day was not only packed with exciting gaming experiences but also invaluable insights into potential careers in the gaming industry.

Throughout the day, the students represented their school impeccably, and they returned with a wealth of inspiration and ideas for their future careers. The Expo not only broadened their horizons but also left them with a treasure trove of gaming memorabilia and goodies to remember the day.

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



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

As Black History Month 2023 unfolds, it is a time for us all to come together and reflect on the invaluable contributions of black individuals to British society.

Students from all backgrounds have been actively engaged in learning about influential black women in history. Students have created a display board in the "street," showcasing the lives and achievements of black women as well as having the opportunity to taste food from different cultures.

Sophie, our poet laureate from last year left a mark with an extraordinary poem that encapsulated the essence of Black History Month.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE AND TO READ SOPHIE'S POEM...](#)



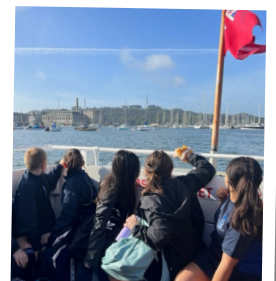
YEAR 7'S BIG DAY OUT

In an exciting week filled with laughter, exploration, and teamwork, Year 7 tutor groups recently embarked on a memorable adventure to Mount Edgcumbe for the much-anticipated Big Day Out.

This unforgettable experience provided an opportunity for our young students to bond, learn, and appreciate the wonders of the natural world.

Students delved into a series of engaging team-building activities that brought them closer together, exploring the beautiful beaches surrounding Mount Edgcumbe.

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



KEY DATES

Year 10 Parents Evening
Thursday 2nd November

SDCC Remembrance Celebration
Friday 10th November

Year 11 and 13 Mock Exams
Monday 20th November - Friday 1st December

Sixth Form Parents Evening
Thursday 14th December

SDCC SPORTS NEWS

NETBALL NEWS

YEAR 8 GIRLS NETBALL TEAM SHINE IN FIRST FIXTURES



The Year 8 Girls' Netball team made an impressive return to the field in their first fixtures of the season at Heles School.

One of the standout moments of the evening was their intense match against Devonport High School for Girls, where both teams battled relentlessly for possession. The final result, a hard-earned draw, showcased the grit and resilience of our Year 8 girls. Such closely contested games early in the season bode well for the team's growth and performance in the coming fixtures.

YEAR 9 NETBALL TEAM SHINES BRIGHT IN INTENSE TOURNAMENT

In a thrilling showcase of skill, determination, and teamwork, our Year 9 Netball Team made their mark at an intense tournament.

The girls left no doubt about their commitment to the game, delivering a series of standout performances.



The tournament consisted of six impressive 10-minute games in quick succession with barely a minute in between. Our girls rose to the challenge, demonstrating an unwavering work ethic and relentless determination that set them apart from the competition.

"Player of the Tournament" went to Elsie for her relentless defence and unwavering commitment to the team's success.

RUGBY NEWS

YEAR 7 BOYS RUGBY TEAM TOURNAMENT DEBUT



In a display of teamwork, sportsmanship, and determination, our Year 7 Boys Rugby Team recently made their mark in their debut appearance at a central venue tournament.

Despite many of the students playing their very first games of rugby, they left a lasting impression that speaks volumes about their potential.

Our young rugby stars achieved impressive results during the tournament, securing comfortable victory against All Saints, showcasing their evolving skills and teamwork. These early successes are a testament to their hard work and dedication during practice.

FOOTBALL NEWS

YEAR 7 AND 8 GIRLS SHINE IN CUP FOOTBALL MATCH



Year 7 and 8 girls showcased their exceptional skills and unwavering determination as they faced off against Heles in a cup match.

At the end of full time, the score stood at an even 1-1, Extra time brought with it heightened intensity, but Heles took the win bringing the final score to 2-1.

"Player of the Match" went to Bonnie. Her presence was felt all over the field, and she consistently delivered precise passes.

CLUBS

AUTUMN 2023



EVERYDAY

FOOTBALL
Who? All years | Where? Astro
When? Before School

MONDAY

PRODUCTION DANCERS

Who? All years | Where? DA1
When? 3-5pm

DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS

Who? All years | Where? AT1
When? 3-4pm

ROCK CLUB 1

Who? Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 | Where? MU1
When? 3-4.15pm

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY

FITNESS SUITE

Who? Years 7 & 8 | Where? Fitness Suite
When? 3.15-4.15pm

TUESDAY

ROCK CLUB 2

Who? Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 | Where? MU1
When? 3-4.15pm

FOOTBALL

Who? Years 8 | Where? Astro
When? 3-4.15pm

DIY FASHION

Who? All years | Where? PG2
When? 3-4pm

NETBALL

Who? Year 7 | Where? Courts/ Sports hall
When? 3-4.15pm

JOURNALISM CLUB

Who? All years | Where? MS1
When? 3-4pm

ECO CLUB

Who? All years | Where? EB2/3
When? 3-4pm

CODE CLUB

Who? All years | Where? CT2
When? 3-4pm

DIGITAL AMBASSADORS CLUB

Who? All students interested in working as Digital Ambassadors | Where? CT2
When? 3-4pm

OUR SOCIETY AND HOW

WE LIVE.

Who? Years 7-9 | Where? HS1
When? 3.15-4pm

COOKING CLUB

Who? Years 7-8 | Where? Fn2
When? 3-4pm

RUGBY BOYS

Who? Year 7 | Where? Field
When? 3.15-4.15pm

HISTORY AMBASSADORS

Who? All years | Where? EB9
When? 3-4pm

KS3 BOOK CLUB

Who? KS3 | Where? Library
When? Break A

TRAMPOLINING

Who? All years | Where? Sports Hall
When? 3.15-4.15pm

HSC CLUB

Who? Years 10 & 11 | Where? CT4
When? 1.15-1.45pm

TUESDAY - WEDNESDAY

DOFE CREATIVE SKILLS

Who? Years 9-13 | Where? PG2
When? 3-4pm

TUESDAY & THURSDAY

FITNESS SUITE

Who? Years 9-10 | Where? Fitness Suite
When? 3.15-4.15pm

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

PRODUCTION REHEARSALS

Who? All years | Where? Main Hall
When? 3-5pm

WEDNESDAY

DOFE EXPEDITION TRAINING

Who? Years 9 & 10 | Where? EB3/EB4 or KS3 Canteen
When? 3-4pm

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Who? All years | Where? PG1
When? 3-4pm

FOOTBALL

Who? Years 9 & 10 | Where? Astro
When? 3-4.30pm

NETBALL

Who? Year 8 | Where? Courts/ Sports hall
When? 3-4.15pm

RUGBY BOYS

Who? Year 8 | Where? Field
When? 3.15-4.15pm

CHESS CLUB

Who? All years | Where? MA7
When? 3-4pm

ART CLUB

Who? All years | Where? AT2
When? 3.10-4pm

CLAY CLUB

Who? All years | Where? AT2
When? 3.10-4pm

PARAGON MATHS

Who? All years | Where? ma5
When? 3-4pm

BASKETBALL CLUB

Who? All years | Where? Sports Hall
When? Week A Break B

THURSDAY

KEYBOARD CLUB

Who? All years | Where? MU1
When? 3-4pm

PRODUCTION SINGERS

Who? Students involved in Production | Where? MU1
When? 3-4.30pm

FOOTBALL

Who? Year 7 | Where? Astro
When? 3-4.15pm

NETBALL

Who? Years 9 and 10 | Where? Courts/ Sports hall
When? 3-4.15pm

NETBALL MATCH PLAY

Who? All years | Where? Courts/ Sports hall
When? 3-5pm

RUGBY BOYS

Who? Years 9 & 10 | Where? Field
When? 3.15-4.15pm

POKEMON

Who? All years | Where? CT1
When? 13.15-13.45pm

COLOURING CLUB

Who? All years | Where? SF05
When? 3-4pm

GLOWING STARS - YOUNG CARERS

Who? All years | Where? HS2
When? 3-4pm

STEAM

Who? All years | Where? Week A - MA3 - Week B - CT1
When? 3-4pm

SPEAK UP

Who? All years | Where? EN2
When? 3-4pm

LGBTQ+

Who? All years | Where? EN11
When? 1.15-1.45pm

INVESTIGATION CLUB

Who? All years | Where? Sc7
When? 3-4pm

WRESTLING APPRECIATION

Who? All years | Where? CT2
When? 3-4pm

BOARD GAMES

Who? Years 7-9 | Where? Ma2
When? 3-4pm

MEDIA CLUB

Who? All years | Where? MS2
When? 3-4pm

FRIDAY

LEVEL 2 FURTHER MATHS

Who? Year 11 | Where? FF05
When? 3.05-4pm



Aspire ACHIEVE Thrive

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

SAFEGUARDING ISSUES FOR PARENTS - VAPING

Stoke Damerel Community College, like many other schools across the country, has seen a recent spike in incidents involving student vaping.

- The vapour can contain nicotine, which is highly addictive, and other substances which are concerning.
- Inhaling any substance is not risk-free
- There has been a rapid increase in our community for adding a substance that is thought to be THC liquid or other synthetic derivatives to vapes.
- THC oil is a thick, sticky yellow / brown liquid chemical from the cannabis plant.
- THC is illegal in the UK
- Students can overdose on THC very easily as it is inhaled causing them to become unwell and needing medical attention or hospitalisation - this could happen to your child!

We take this issue very seriously due to the negative health effects vaping can have on our students and often find that our parents/carers may not be aware of the risks around vaping. The increase in vaping prompted us to do more research and we want to share our findings with you.



Vaping is prohibited in our behaviour policy, and will be subject to sanctions. Possessing, handling, providing and using a vape containing THC on our school site is a serious breach of our behaviour policy and a 'line in the sand' that the school and governors will not tolerate. THC is an illegal substance that is not permitted on the school site.

We encourage you to have a conversation with your child about this topic, and to contact us if you are concerned about your child. If your child needs some support or wants to discuss this with someone in school, please direct them to the safeguarding team.

APP SPOTLIGHT

TIKTOK: A FUN AND CREATIVE PLATFORM

TikTok is a popular video-sharing app known for its short-form content and creative expression. Here are some tips for TikTok:

- **Age Restrictions:** TikTok's terms of service require users to be **at least 13 years old**. Be sure to confirm your child's age if they're using the app.
- **Privacy Settings:** TikTok offers various privacy settings, including private accounts and content filtering. Discuss these options with your child and help them configure their account to ensure a safer experience.
- **Content Awareness:** TikTok hosts a wide range of content, so it's important to guide your child in consuming appropriate content and reporting any inappropriate material.
- **Screen Time Management:** Encourage responsible screen time usage, as excessive use can impact sleep and daily routines.
- **Cyberbullying Awareness:** Discuss the importance of treating others with respect and reporting any instances of cyberbullying.

Remember, open communication is key. Maintain a healthy dialogue with your child about their online experiences and concerns. Encourage them to come to you with any questions or issues they may encounter while using these platforms. Stay informed, stay engaged, and stay safe online!

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