

21st December 2023

Dear Families,

As we approach the end of another term, I am delighted to reflect on the achievements of our students at Stoke Damerel Community College. The past few months have been filled with academic accomplishments, extracurricular successes, and a sense of community that truly embodies the holiday spirit.

Academic Excellence:

Our students have demonstrated outstanding commitment to their studies, with notable achievements in various subjects. Special congratulations to the students who received academic awards and distinctions. Their hard work and dedication has not gone unnoticed. Science and English launched their new online platform for homework, with Stoke Damerel Community college featuring consistently in the top 3 schools globally for completion - whilst maintaining our top 5% globally for maths! We have had many external visitors over the last few months who have been blown away by our amazing students in their lessons. Our Year 11 and 13 students have conducted themselves superbly throughout their mock examinations.

Extracurricular Triumphs:

Our extracurricular activities continue to flourish. The sports teams have showcased exceptional talent and sportsmanship, bringing home victories and making us proud. The Year 7 and 8 netball teams have recorded some fantastic results and the Year 7 rugby team remain undefeated. Our sports leaders have excelled supporting inclusion football tournaments and city wide athletics championships to name a few. Our arts and cultural groups have also been active, with stunning performances in drama, music, and visual arts. The cast of over 100 students are deep into rehearsals ready for their performance of Mary Poppins next term. The choir has performed at many locations including Stoke Damerel Church, local Care Homes and the City Centre. Kudos to all the students who contribute to the vibrant life of our school outside the classroom.

This term was marked by several special events that brought our school community together. One event in particular springs to mind and that was the Remembrance Day parade; with students in their cadet uniforms, our CCF students leading the parade and our excellent poet laureates reading their poems superbly. We have also had so many well represented house events and 'Sutton' are currently just edging it. A highlight was certainly the speech campaigns to nominate our House leaders.

Looking Ahead:

We know students continue to have great pride in our College Uniform. We are able to support families with uniform if required; please contact Heads of Year. After the festive period it is pertinent to remind all families that only one plain silver or gold stud in the lower earlobe and a plain ring can be worn. Stoned jewellery is not permitted. Students are able to wear natural make-up, but false eyelashes (including tips) and false nails are not permitted. So, return without the nails, lashes and piercings for a positive start to term. As we bid farewell to this term and the year 2023, we anticipate an even more exciting and successful year ahead. The school staff are dedicated to providing the best possible education and support to our students, and we encourage everyone to set new goals and aspirations for the upcoming term.

We sadly say farewell to Mr Follett, Head of School, who leaves this Christmas to take up a new post for a Trust in Cornwall - a promotion truly deserved. We then welcome Mr Matt Oakes who will join us from Saltash as the new Head of School.

On behalf of the entire Stoke Damerel family, I wish each of you a joyous and restful holiday season.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A Frier'.

Anita Frier
Headteacher



STOKE
DAMEREL

ISSUE 3

Hot OFF THE PRESS



Dear Parents/Carers,

This term has proven to be exceptionally dynamic, teeming with a multitude of trips and activities.

Among the noteworthy individual achievements is Lilly and Phoebe's success in the prestigious World Martial Arts Cup in Bregenz, Austria.

Moreover, our sports teams have demonstrated outstanding victories in numerous tournaments and cups. Witnessing the commendable display of teamwork, resilience, and determination among our students has been truly gratifying. Heartfelt congratulations to all students involved in these accomplishments.

As we conclude the present term, we eagerly look forward to the continuation of these fantastic events in the New Year, cultivating a dynamic and enriching learning environment for everyone.

Best wishes,

Anita Frier, Headteacher

YEAR 8 VISIT THE EDEN PROJECT

Over 100 Year 8 students embarked on a captivating journey of learning at the renowned Eden Project. The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the exploration of the Eden Project's iconic biomes.

One of the key learning objectives was understanding plant adaptation, and the Eden Project provided the perfect living laboratory for this exploration.

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



SDCC POET LAUREATE CHRISTMAS POEM

Countdown to Christmas

Christmas is the best time of the year,
Here at Stoke Damerel, there is festive cheer.
It's nearly time for the winter holidays,
The countdown begins in different ways.

Two weeks to go,
Reading the third Stave
Will Scrooge's soul ever be saved?
Student carolers singing in town
They make Stoke Damerel feel very proud.

Seven days left
Celebration assemblies begin
A variety of awards
That students will win
House points, attendance
And tutor nominations -
And don't forget those
character curriculum celebrations.

Three days remain
Still working hard in class
Humourous video montages
Helps the time to pass
Standing proudly in The Street,
The tall Christmas tree
Decorated by students
For us all to see.

On the very last day
We can't wait to get home
Really excited for Christmas to come
Cheering gladly, that's term one done.
Finally time for the students to leave,
The day has ended,
The countdown has ceased.
Now we wish everyone happiness,
relaxation and peace.
Have a merry Christmas from SDCC!

By Marie

CHRISTMAS NEWS



PRIMROSE FOUNDATION CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The spirit of Christmas was brought to life at the Primrose Foundation Carol Service on Friday, where the SDCC Singers stole the show with their enchanting vocal harmonies.

Held at Stoke Damerel Church, the atmosphere was filled with the joyful sounds of Christmas, echoing through the sacred space and captivating an audience brimming with proud parents.

Well done to all our talented singers.

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



STUDENTS SING AT CITY CENTRE CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Despite the persistent rain that had dominated the evening, the City Centre Christmas Markets became a stage for enchanting performances by our talented students, Jake, Zoe and Amelia.

The students treated the audience to a delightful array of Christmas songs. Zoe and Amelia, accompanied by ex-pupil Richard, crafted a beautiful duet of the timeless classic, 'Last Christmas.' Their harmonious voices blended seamlessly, creating a moment of magic that resonated with the spirit of the season.

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



SDCC SINGERS SPREAD FESTIVE CHEER

Talented singers from SDCC once again took center stage, this time at the 'Meet Me at the Tree' lunchtime session in Armada Way, Plymouth. Our students brought a burst of holiday magic that transcended the weather enhancing the festive atmosphere for Plymouth city centre workers and shoppers during their busy lunch break.

The SDCC singers, known for their captivating performances, continued to weave their vocal magic, spreading joy and holiday cheer to all who were fortunate enough to be present. Well done!

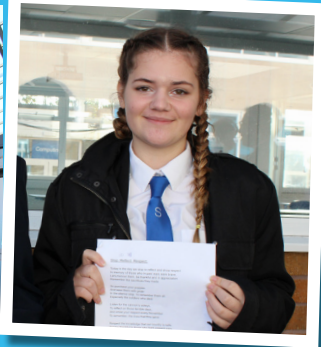


SDCC CHRISTMAS TREE!

The SDCC Christmas tree proudly stands in The Street, showcasing an array of exquisitely decorated birds meticulously crafted by the diligent efforts of our Year 7 students.

Each bird tells a story of creativity and dedication, contributing to the festive ambiance that envelops our school. The tree stands not only as a symbol of holiday cheer but also as a testament to the artistic talents and collaborative spirit of our students who worked diligently to bring this festive display to life.





REMEMBRANCE DAY 2023

Our school community came together this half term to commemorate and express gratitude to those who served in World War II.

The collective effort of both staff and students resulted in a moving and respectful tribute that reflected the significance of this historical event.

At 10.55 am, a poignant moment unfolded as all lessons concluded to make way for a special Remembrance poem. Crafted by our talented Poet Laureate, Marie, the poem was read out to both students and staff. At the stroke of 11am, students observed a 2-minute silence with a remembrance presentation on screens in classrooms, fostering reflection and remembrance.

A particularly moving aspect of the day was the joint effort of students affiliated with the Combined Cadet Force (CCF), RAF, Scouts, Army Cadets, and Sea Cadets. Clad in their respective uniforms, they formed a beautiful remembrance parade, joined by selected students who demonstrated exceptional commitment. The parade, attended by Sixth Form students and staff, provided a poignant and respectful demonstration of gratitude and remembrance, witnessed by fellow students.

The school's art department played a crucial role in adding a visual dimension to the remembrance activities. A stunning installation in the Street, featuring poppies made from bottle tops and umbrellas, served as a powerful symbol of remembrance. Both students and staff actively participated in the creation of this beautiful display, reinforcing the collaborative spirit of the school community.

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



YEAR 11 STUDENTS EXPLORE THE ART OF INCLUSIVE COMPOSITION

Year 11 music students recently had the opportunity to collaborate with Plymouth University, exploring the realm of music creation with a focus on inclusivity.

The workshop's central theme was to demonstrate how music can be crafted and performed irrespective of physical challenges. Students were given a unique task: compose a short piece of rhythmic work using only their left hand!

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SIXTH FORM EXAM BOOSTER SESSION

Year 12 and Year 13 students, accompanied by Miss Gratton and Mr Romaine, embarked on a journey to Birmingham for an intensive exam booster session.

This dedicated effort aimed to prepare the students for their upcoming January BTEC exams, turning a long journey into a worthwhile and rewarding experience.

The day was filled with engaging sessions designed to bolster the students' understanding of key concepts. The students, in turn, displayed remarkable enthusiasm, actively participating in the sessions and demonstrating their commitment to academic excellence.

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

HOUSE SYSTEM NEWS!



STUDENTS DELIVER FANTASTIC HOUSE CAPTAIN SPEECHES

Excitement and anticipation filled the halls of SDCC as the process of selecting the first cohort of House Captains unfolded.

The selection process began with students expressing their interest by writing letters to their respective Heads of House. Following this, they diligently crafted speeches that would showcase their leadership qualities. This week marked the culmination of their efforts as students delivered their speeches under intense pressure, facing an audience of 180-200 students and staff from their respective houses over the course of two days.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL STORY](#)



STAFF NETBALL MATCH

Over four breaks, dedicated teams representing Sutton, Mayflower, Smeaton, and Saltram houses battled fiercely for the coveted top spot. The event not only showcased the staff's athletic prowess but also drew enthusiastic cheers and chants from the students who filled the hall, adding to the vibrant atmosphere.

In the end, it was Team Sutton that emerged victorious, claiming the top spot. Mayflower secured a commendable second place, followed by Smeaton in third, and Saltram rounding out the competition in fourth place. The cheers from Sutton's supporters echoed through the hall as they celebrated their team's triumph.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



MARY POPPINS REHEARSALS ARE IN FULL SWING!

Excitement and dedication fill the air as rehearsals for the upcoming campus performance of "Mary Poppins" are in full swing. The campus has become a hive of activity, with students devoting three to four times a week to perfecting their roles, showcasing a remarkable commitment to their craft. Whether singers, dancers, actors, or behind-the-scenes crew members, everyone is approaching their tasks with unwavering seriousness and enthusiasm. We can't wait to watch it!



SAVE THE DATE

Mary Poppins

Show dates: **6th, 7th and 8th February**

Time: **7pm**

Location: **Performance Theatre**

Tickets will be released in January, keep an eye out on notifications in the new term!

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION WINNERS!

The competition featured five captivating categories; Land, Sea and Sky, Black and White, Abstract and Colour. Each photo entry was rewarded with 5 house points. The response from our students exceeded expectations, with an impressive influx of over 100 entries flooding in. It quickly became evident that we have a pool of exceptionally talented young photographers within our school community.

After meticulous checks for authenticity and thorough deliberation by our judging panel, we proudly announced our well-deserved winners. Miss Frier, thoroughly impressed by the students' photographic skills, personally met with the finalists to present them with their house points and certificates.

As we celebrate the success of this competition, we eagerly anticipate more opportunities for our budding photographers in the upcoming year. Watch this space and well done to all students who submitted photos!



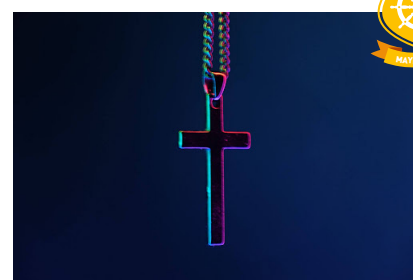
COLOUR CATEGORY



1st Justin, Year 11



2nd Mya, Year 10

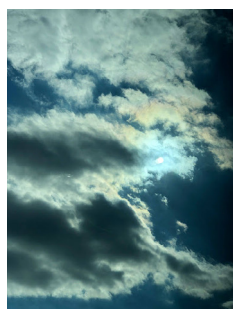


3rd Luke, Year 12

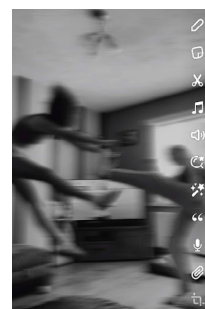
ABSTRACT CATEGORY



1st Mya, Year 10



2nd Jude, Year 12



3rd Molly, Year 11

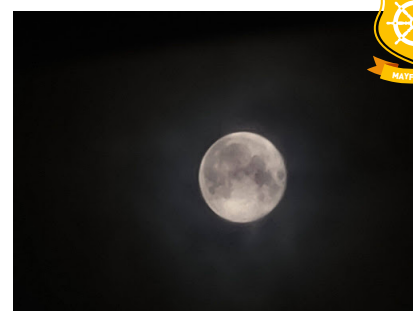
BLACK AND WHITE CATEGORY



1st Luis, Year 11



2nd Freddie, Year 12



3rd Rori, Year 11

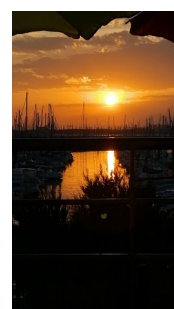
LAND, SEA AND SKY CATEGORY



1st Olivia, Year 9



2nd Simeon, Year 11



3rd Ophelia, Year 11

SIXTH FORM GEOGRAPHY STUDENTS' ADVENTURE IN SLAPTON

A group of Sixth Form Geography students embarked on a memorable 5 day journey to Slapton.

Students hiked into the local woodland to measure infiltration rates, investigated the effects of sustainable urban development strategies in the local town centre, measured the impact of sea defences at Beesands and crafted their own investigations.

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



CHILDREN IN NEED 2023

Students from all years joined forces to support a cause close to our hearts – Children in Need. The atmosphere was buzzing with enthusiasm as our school community rallied together to raise funds for this important charity.

Our CCF cadets, took on the responsibility of being fantastic ambassadors for Children in Need. From axe throwing on the field to the thrill of shooting a House Leader on the Astro, students were treated to a variety of engaging experiences. The laughter and cheers that echoed across the school grounds were a testament to the joyous atmosphere created by these activities.

One of the highlights of the day was the sea of colourful accessories adorning students, each item representing their respective houses or featuring playful spots to symbolise support for Children in Need.

For those in need of a warm break, the snack shack served up comforting cups of hot chocolate adorned with cream and marshmallows. They proved to be a popular choice, offering a sweet treat to those who participated in the day's events.

We are proud to reveal that our collective efforts resulted in a total of **£288.83!** This achievement is a testament to the generosity and commitment of our school community, and we extend our gratitude to everyone who participated, donated, and supported this noble cause.

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



UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH'S WINTER CONFERENCE

In an enriching experience, Year 12 students from SDCC were honoured with an invitation to the University of Plymouth's Winter Conference.

The event offered a comprehensive introduction to university life, a captivating campus tour, and a thought-provoking lecture by Professor James Daybell. The day not only expanded the students' understanding of higher education but also delved into peculiar historical facets associated with the Christmas period.

The event underscored the importance of such experiences in shaping students aspirations.

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



NEW CAREERS ENTERPRISE ADVISER

Stoke Damerel is delighted to announce the addition of Billy Booth to our school community as the new Careers Enterprise Adviser.



Billy's journey from Stoke Damerel student to a successful career in construction and banking brings a wealth of experience that will significantly benefit our students as they navigate their own paths toward future employment and careers.

Thank you to Maciej Krzyminski, Enterprise Coordinator from Plymouth Careers Hub, who introduced Billy to the school. This collaboration reinforces the commitment to providing students with real-world insights and mentorship, preparing them for success in their future endeavours.

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



STEM ROADSHOW CAPTIVATES STUDENTS

AE Systems, in collaboration with The Royal Air Force and The Royal Navy, brought an exciting and informative STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) theatre road show to our school, leaving an indelible mark on students in Years 7 and 8.

The 50-minute performance, themed 'From the depths of the oceans to outer space,' aimed to inspire and engage students in the vast world of STEM careers.

The road show offered a dynamic and immersive learning experience, showcasing the interconnected nature of STEM disciplines and their real-world applications, which the students thoroughly enjoyed.

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



KEY DATES

Year 11 Parents Evening
Thursday 18th January 2024

Sixth Form Open Evening
Thursday 1st February 2024

Mary Poppins Performance
6th, 7th and 8th February 2024



MCCF SPECIALIST COACH INSPIRES FUTURE STARS

Excitement filled the air as some of our talented girls recently enjoyed a unique cricket experience with a specialist coach from the MCCF Foundation.

The highlight of the day was the opportunity for our girls to put their newly acquired batting skills to the test in a lively game. The coach's expertise and guidance proved invaluable as our students showcased their talents on the cricket field.

OPPORTUNITY: The MCCF is offering a fantastic opportunity for girls aged 11-14 to participate in a free 10-week cricket program at Plymstock School starting in December. This initiative is a wonderful chance for budding cricket enthusiasts to refine their skills, build confidence, and embrace the camaraderie of the game.

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

YOUR INVITATION TO JOIN OUR MCCF HUB IN PLYMOUTH (GIRLS)

• **VENUE:** Plymstock School (PL9 9AZ)

• **DATES:** Thursdays, 5-6:30pm
Taster: 7th Dec. Sessions: 4th Jan, 11th Jan, 18th Jan, 25th Jan, 1st Feb, 8th Feb, 7th March, 14th March, 21st March, 28th March

ELIGIBILITY
Aged 11-14
Attend a state school
Committed to putting 100% effort into all training sessions
Does not currently play in a County Team

FOUNDATION

APPLY
Thinking about it? Email the Hub Manager for more info: jack.ormsby@devoncricket.co.uk
Ready to go? Scan the QR code and register your interest by: 30th November 2023

STUDENT SUCCESSSES!

AMELIA SECURES 2ND PLACE AT PLYMOUTH MUSIC FESTIVAL

In a celebration of musical talent at this year's City of Plymouth Festival of Music, Dance, Speech & Drama, our very own Amelia in Year 10 emerged as a shining star, claiming an impressive 2nd place out of 11 participants in her category.

Amelia's exceptional performance earned her a distinction with a remarkable score of 87 out of 100, falling just one mark short of the top spot.

"I was so surprised I even came second, and the competition and calibre were so high this year. I practise every day as well as singing lessons twice a week so I am so pleased to have achieved this." Well done Amelia!

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



SISTERS SHINE AT THE WORLD MARTIAL ARTS CUP IN AUSTRIA

Lilly and Phoebe, two formidable sisters at SDCC, recently embarked on a journey to compete in the prestigious World Martial Arts Cup in Bregenz, Austria, in celebration of Black History Month.

Lilly emerged as a true martial arts prodigy, clinching the coveted title of WMAC World Champion in the Light Continuous Female 50+kg Category as well as securing a silver medal in the Point Fighting category for females weighing 50+kg.

Phoebe earned two well-deserved bronze medals in Point Fighting for females under 50kg and another in Light Continuous for females under 50kg. Well done!

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



INSTRUMENTAL-BASED WORKSHOP FOR YEAR 11

In an enriching experience, the Year 11 Music students recently delved into an instrumental-based workshop that provided them with hands-on exposure to the diverse instruments of the string family, a crucial component of their exam preparation.

The students embraced the opportunity with enthusiasm, showcasing their musical prowess as they explored the intricacies of various string instruments.

Focusing on the violin, the students accomplished an impressive feat by learning three pieces during the workshop.

Their dedication and skill highlighted the value of practical engagement in enhancing their understanding of the subject.



LEVI PERFORMS AT LOCAL CARE HOME

Levi recently had the opportunity to showcase his remarkable talent for Michael Jackson dancing at a local nursing home.

His performance was nothing short of spectacular, as he wowed the elderly residents with his incredible moves, bringing immense joy to their faces.

Levi's dancing was so infectious that it prompted many of the residents to join him on their feet, turning the event into a heart-warming celebration of music and movement!



SDCC SPORTS NEWS

FOOTBALL NEWS

YEAR 7/8 GIRLS FOOTBALL EFA CUP COMPETITION



In a thrilling showcase of skill, teamwork, and determination, the Year 7/8 girls' football team recently participated in the EFA Cup Competition at Marjon University.

Over the course of the event, the team engaged in a total of six games, displaying fantastic skills by securing victories in three, facing two defeats, and securing a draw in another. Well done girls!

A special highlight of the tournament was the stellar performance by Bonnie, who earned the well-deserved title of Player of the Tournament.

YEAR 7 FOOTBALL TEAM CELEBRATE!



The Year 7 Boys Football Team delivered a spectacular performance that left everyone in awe in the Plymouth Cup tournament.

Their resilience and skill were on full display as they battled to a 1-1 draw, ultimately leading the game into a thrilling penalty shoot-out. The boys exhibited incredible bravery and determination, emerging victorious with a 5-4 win in the shoot-out.

Jasper's nerve-wracking final penalty secured the triumph and, Addas demonstrated exceptional maturity throughout the match, rightfully being awarded Player of the Match. Well done lads!

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



YEAR 9 FOOTBALL TEAM TRIUMPHS IN DEVON CUP OPENER

In a challenging first-round match of the Devon cup, our resilient Year 9 football team faced Dawlish College amidst unfavourable weather conditions and a spirited home crowd.

Undeterred by the adversities, our lads delivered a stellar performance, emerging as 4-0 victors in a game that showcased both skill and determination.

Markuss, Oli, and Jayden emerged as the standout performers, commanding the game from start to finish. Their strategy and individual brilliance not only controlled the flow of the game but also contributed significantly to the team's impressive win.

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

NETBALL NEWS

SDCC GIRLS NETBALL TEAMS SHINE IN FINAL TOURNAMENT

The netball courts at Stoke Damerel were ablaze with energy and enthusiasm as the year 7 netball teams, the "Stoke Damerel Stars" and "Stoke Damerel Diamonds," played in their final netball tournament of the term.



From leading their own warm-ups to confidently approaching the opposing team's captains, the Stoke Damerel Stars and Diamonds have displayed maturity beyond their years.

SDCC SPORTS NEWS



STRONG GIRLS EVENT

In an empowering initiative, 13 enthusiastic students from across campus participated in a Strong Girls event held in Exeter.

The event offered the girls a unique chance to delve into the world of strength training, as they learnt three compound lifts. Adding to the excitement, they participated in interactive workshop sessions led by a distinguished GB female weightlifter, providing valuable insights into the sport and inspiring the students with her expertise.

The Strong Girls event proved to be an excellent opportunity for our students to explore new interests, enhance their physical skills, and build camaraderie.

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

RUGBY NEWS

YEAR 10/11 RUGBY TEAM SHINES IN PLYMOUTH SCHOOLS CUP



This term marked a momentous occasion at SDCC as the Year 10/11 rugby team took to the field to represent us in the highly anticipated Plymouth Schools Cup.

The team's performance was nothing short of exceptional, securing victories in three out of their four matches. However, it was their standout display against DHSB that truly captured the essence of their determination and skill.

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

YEAR 9 SPORTS LEADERS EXCEL IN PRIMARY FOOTBALL EVENT

In the spirit of community and leadership, eight Year 9 sports leaders recently lent their support to a primary inclusion football event held at Harpers Football Centre.

Throughout the day, these sports leaders exhibited unwavering dedication and high levels of confidence, as they facilitated and participated in the event.

Congratulations to these dedicated Year 9 sports leaders for their fantastic performance and their commitment to being role models in our community.



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



KS3 LEADERSHIP AWARD

Congratulations to our Year 8/9 Sports Leaders who completed the first stage of the KS3 Leadership Award!

The training kicked off with an theory session where the young sports leaders delved into the intricacies of planning and executing a warm-up routine. Discussions ranged from teamwork to discipline, setting the stage for a day of practical application.

Students then had the opportunity to plan their warm-ups, applying the knowledge gained earlier.

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