



# *Hot* OFF THE PRESS



STOKE  
DAMAREL

ISSUE 5

Dear Parents/Carers,

Throughout this half-term, our students have been immersed in a whirlwind of enriching experiences, from captivating trips to engaging workshops and beyond. Among the highlights, students embarked on an inspiring art excursion to London. Additionally, they looked into the intriguing world of criminology and were treated to several enthralling theatre performances.

Amidst the academic pursuits, our school community came together to celebrate key social events, including Red Nose Day and British Science Week. Furthermore, we hosted our own internal careers fair, providing invaluable insights for our students' future pathways.

We also take great pride in recognising the achievements of our DofE and CCF students in our annual Presentation Evening.

Moreover, our students showcased their exceptional talent and commitment on the sports field, securing significant victories in Football, Rugby, and Netball.

As we welcome the Easter break, we fondly reflect on these positive memories and eagerly anticipate more exciting opportunities in the upcoming term

Best wishes,

Anita Frier,  
Headteacher



## DOFE AND CCF CELEBRATION EVENING 2024

This term we again hosted our prestigious cross-campus Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) and Combined Cadet Force (CCF) Celebration Evening. The event served as a platform to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our students over the past year.

Bronze awardee Sophie said, "I found that the bronze Duke of Edinburgh experience was an overwhelmingly positive one that I enjoyed thoroughly and that I would highly recommend. It is clear to see that the Duke of Edinburgh Award program is not just about completing a set of activities, but about developing lifelong skills and qualities"

Silver recipient River, beamed "My Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) experience was a rollercoaster of emotions! However It's a journey I'll never forget, filled with challenges that shaped me into a stronger and more resilient person."

Faith, our Gold awardee said, "The main difference between Gold DofE and the other levels is the residential section. This personally turned out to be my favourite section to complete. I chose to do mine at a respite centre for people with disabilities in London."

CCF student Georgia said, "Being a cadet has given me so many great life experiences, I have met a whole range of different people and experience amazing things.





## RED NOSE DAY 2024

The main hall was filled with excitement and applause as students showcased their incredible talents in celebration of Red Nose Day this year.

With courage and flair, a selection of our talented students stepped onto the stage during Break A and B to deliver unforgettable performances for their peers and staff.

In exchange for a small entry fee of 50p, students and staff were treated to a dazzling array of acts that left them thoroughly entertained. Through their collective efforts, the college community has raised over £225 and counting!

### List of performers:

Jake – Sung and played Guitar to Summertime Blues by Eddie Cochran

Levi - Michael Jackson Dance Act

Vance, Sophia and Matilda sang to Riptide by Vance Joy

Max – Taylor Swift Impersonator to Shake it off

Phoebe and Phoebe - She's Electric by Oasis

Iris , Electra , Charlotte, Izzy and Amelia and Amelia sang ex wives from the musical The Six

Sisters, Iris and Edith – Voila by Barbara Pravi

Iris and Izzy performed Wicked song, For Good

Ezelley - Rubix Cube Challenge

The Band - Mya on drums, Amelia on guitar and Inga on vocals singing Wonderwall by Oasis

Amelia - Performing an original song

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Presenter Freddie with Mr Bullard

## EXAM PREPARATION WORKSHOP

Year 11 students received an extra boost of motivation and encouragement as Jay and Rory from the 'Fixup' team visited our school.

With the GCSE exams just around the corner, their presence couldn't have come at a better time. The energetic duo brought with them a message of empowerment, urging students to give it their all in the final stretch leading up to the exams.

Charlie said, *"It was great to be motivated by Jay and Rory to make the final push towards my GCSE exams."*

Their words had a real impact on the students, igniting a renewed sense of determination amongst the students.



## CLIMATE CHANGE WORKSHOP

A group of Year 8 students learnt more around climate change this term, thanks to a captivating workshop hosted by Dan Larn of Regen Farm.

Theo remarked, *"It was good because it was very practical, and I learnt a lot about making the desert more habitable."* Kenyan said, *"I learnt about global warming and greenhouse gases, which was interesting."*

Freddie appreciated the engaging approach, noting, *"It was really interesting, especially learning through games."* Ruby found a connection between food production and sustainability; *"I liked finding out the process of how food gets to our table, it was so interesting."*

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## STUDENTS VISIT PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY'S CRIMINOLOGY DEPARTMENT

In an experience that bridged academia with real-world applications, Year 12 students recently looked into the world of criminology at Plymouth University's Criminology Department.

Keira beamed, *"The day was very informative but also so fun! I really enjoyed how interactive it was. I definitely left the university considering their Criminology and Psychology course as an option for the future, and it was good to see where my A-level options could potentially take me."*

Another student said, *"The trip really showed how criminology students like me can apply their knowledge to real-life situations. It was also extremely informative, learning about university life."*

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## ART TRIP TO LONDON

The art department went on an enriching trip, taking 40 enthusiastic students from years 10 through 13 to the vibrant heart of London.

Their destination: the renowned V&A Museum and the captivating Natural History Museum.

As the group wandered the halls of these iconic institutions, they were greeted by a treasure trove of artistic wonders and historical artifacts. From intricate sculptures to mesmerising paintings, the students were immersed in a world where creativity knows no bounds.

The purpose of the trip extended beyond mere sightseeing; it served as a vital component of the students' GCSE and A Level coursework research. It was also a journey of personal growth and discovery. For many students, it was a chance to broaden their horizons and explore new perspectives.

The benefits of such excursions extend far beyond the classroom walls. They instill a sense of curiosity, a thirst for knowledge, and a lifelong love for the arts. They inspire creativity, foster critical thinking, and nurture a deeper understanding of the world around us.



## AMELIA TRIUMPHS AT TENCREEK TALENT SHOW

Congratulations to Amelia, our rising star in the world of music, who recently won the grand prize at the Tencreek Holiday Park Talent show.

Facing stiff competition from 20 other talented contestants, Amelia said, *"I am so happy and flabbergasted that I won such an incredible prize! I am looking forward to enjoying a holiday with my friends in a luxury lodge!"*

Well done Amelia!

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## NATIONAL LIVE THEATRE SCREENING OF "VAYNA"

Our Year 12 students visited the Vue cinema to witness the National Live Theatre screening of "Vayna," a one-man adaptation of Anton Chekhov's timeless masterpiece, "Uncle Vanya."

Isaac said *"The production exceeded expectations due to the variety of personalities expressed through just one actor."*

For the A-level literature students attending, this experience was more than just a cinematic outing; with their curriculum spanning from 1603 to 1947, understanding the historical context of literary works is paramount.

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## CAMPUS CAREERS FAIR

We welcomed a record number of education providers and employers to our annual Careers Fair this week.

Students in Years 9-13 had the invaluable opportunity to interact with local employers and colleges to explore the diverse range of exciting prospects available to them.

Students found the fair to be an invaluable resource for gathering information, exploring different career paths, seeking advice, and discovering the multitude of college options available to them.

Employers were impressed by the students' enthusiasm and thoughtful questions, which reflected their genuine interest and readiness to explore future career opportunities.

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## ROYAL NAVY'S READY, STEADY, COOK WORKSHOP

Our aspiring Year 10 chefs welcomed two esteemed members of the Royal Navy Catering Services Branch for a one-of-a-kind culinary experience this week.

The students embarked on a Master Chef-style challenge, armed with nothing but a box of ingredients for two dishes. With ingredients generously provided by the Royal Navy, the students cooked a range of delicious meals.

Thank you so much to the team for coming in, the students thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

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## AMAYA TAKES PART IN BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE FILM COURSE

Amaya took part in the prestigious British Film Institute (BFI) Film Course residential this term, after finding out about it from her Media teachers.

It was an opportunity to work with seasoned professionals, producing a short animated film in a week. Not only that, Amaya explained that 'the course includes a mentorship which means I can keep in touch with industry professionals who will help me to get started in working in the film industry'.

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## PSYCHOLOGY ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR YEAR 12 TALK

Year 12 students took part in an interesting psychology workshop during a session led by Associate Professor Dr. Hazel Bending from Plymouth Marjon University.

Dr. Bending's expertise shed light on the intricacies of memory and its practical applications in everyday life.

With a keen focus on the significance of eyewitness testimony and working memory, Dr. Bending captivated the students, providing them with a variety of valuable insights. The session served as a bridge, connecting theoretical concepts with real-world scenarios, enriching their understanding of the subject.

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## BE APP AWARE MONKEY RUN

Created by teens, for teens, Monkey Run video chat describes itself as being like speed dating for friends. After pairing you with another user at random, the video chat starts as a 15-second face-to-face call to see if they "vibe with you." If both users tap the Time button on the screen, the video chat will continue. Otherwise, they're automatically reconnected to a new user for a new 15-second chat.

Apps similar to Monkey include Chatroulette, but Monkey differs in that it's specifically targeted at Gen Z users. Developed and launched by five Californian teens, Monkey combines social media features that teens know and love — such as filters, stories, and card swiping — alongside profile data including your username, age, gender, and location.



## STUDENTS DIVE INTO BIODIVERSITY DAY

Students recently had an engaging session with the 'Green Communities Team' from the National Trust and Plymouth City Council, looking deep into the world of biodiversity.

This initiative workshop, aimed at promoting environmental education, has been making waves across schools in the city, with SDCC being amongst one of the first schools to embrace it.

Matilda said, *"The experience was fun and creative. I felt like I learnt a lot, and it was nice to make a really positive change to the school environment."*

Finley beamed, *"I found the planting activities to be calming and therapeutic and I can really see the benefits of gardening. I will definitely be trying to do more outside of school."*

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## YEAR 10'S VISIT BODMIN JAIL

Guided by knowledgeable Heritage Guides, 80 history students and 8 Criminology Sixth Form students went on a captivating tour of the historical site.

Throughout the tour, the students looked into the intricacies of the Bloody Code and explored the evolution of prisons from the 1800s to the 1900s. They gained insight into the utilization of various punishments and the societal shift in attitudes towards crime and punishment, including the role of public executions.





## LIFE OF PI THEATRE TRIP

Drama students were treated to an unforgettable theatrical experience as they attended The National Theatre's production of "The Life of Pi" at the Theatre Royal Plymouth. Their collective verdict? Immersive, fascinating, and utterly captivating!

Central to the production's success was its innovative use of puppetry, particularly in bringing the story's animal characters to life. As students watched in awe, they marvelled at the lifelike movements and expressions of the puppets, unable to believe that these creatures were not real. The mastery of the puppeteers blurred the lines between reality and illusion, drawing the audience deeper into the narrative with each passing scene.

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## WOLFERSTANS SOLICITORS CAREERS TALK

Our Year 11 and Year 12 students recently had the privilege of meeting Rebecca, an Associate Chartered Legal Executive, and James, a Trainee Solicitor from Wolferstans Solicitors.

Rebecca and James shared invaluable insights into the legal profession. They emphasised that a Law Degree isn't the only route into law, showcasing their own educational journeys.

The students were able to ask questions and gain high quality feedback. It was inspiring to meet representatives from the industry that they are interested in working in.

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## BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

SDCC celebrated British Science Week during this half term, with a range of different exciting events and activities.

This year's focus for British Science Week is on the fascinating concept of time. Students dived into various activities and experiments aimed at unraveling the mysteries of time, from building pendulums to participating in the Big Plastic Count.

"T-Rex-Tastic" assemblies focused on the main theme of time, blending entertainment with education, providing students with a fun yet informative way to learn about various aspects of time.

Stu Higgs from the National Marine Aquarium joined us to shed light on climate change from various perspectives.

The entire Year 7 cohort participated in this special event, where Stu encouraged active participation from the students. Through engaging discussions and thought-provoking questions, he sparked curiosity and inspired critical thinking amongst our young minds. Thank you so much for taking the time to come in and deliver such a fantastic presentation.

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## STUDENTS WATCH BILINGUAL THEATRE PERFORMANCE

In a display of linguistic fusion and historical intrigue, students in all year groups were treated to a captivating performance of "Le Château".

The play, skilfully enacted by two talented actors – one native French and the other English – transported audiences to the year 1540, amidst mediaeval France.

Spoken French, meticulously tailored for young audiences, ensured that students could effortlessly follow the unfolding tale. This linguistic consideration not only sustained their enjoyment but also bolstered their confidence in understanding a foreign language.

Students eagerly volunteered for roles in various sections of the play. This not only added an element of excitement but also provided an opportunity for students to showcase their linguistic skills and cultural knowledge.

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## YEAR 12 STUDENTS COMPLETE EMERGENCY FIRST AID AWARD



Congratulations to Geri, Anna and Daniel who have successfully completed their Emergency First Aid At Work qualification.

This accomplishment marks a crucial milestone in their educational journey, equipping them with essential life-saving skills that will prove invaluable in various facets of their future endeavours.

Our students underwent an intensive one-day course, culminating in the attainment of a recognised FAA Level 3 Award.

Well done!

## LEGO LEAGUE ROBOTICS CHALLENGE

Nine of our talented students ventured to Exeter to showcase their skills in the First LEGO League Robotics Challenge.

After engaging in a series of matches, the group successfully secured a commendable 2nd place finish out of 8 strong competitors!

Their standout performance included an impressive 140-point run and they earned themselves a "Rising All-Stars" award for their innovative ideas in robot design and presentation!

Imogen beamed: *"I definitely think we had the most creative presentation here."*

Joanna said:  
*"The event was really cool."*

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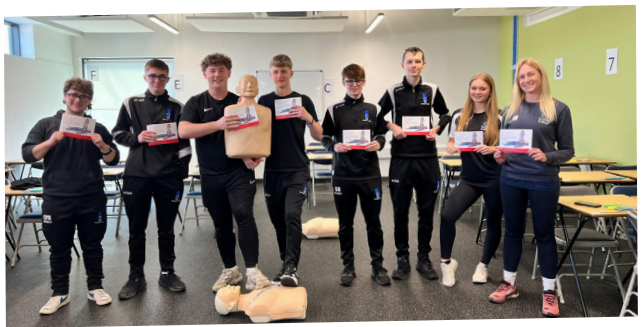


## CURRENT VACANCIES

We have a range of vacancies currently open:

Administrator  
Teaching Assistant  
Transition Mentor  
Minibus Driver

**[TO APPLY, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND FOLLOW THE LINK](#)**



## SPORTS STUDENTS ACHIEVE ACTIVITY FIRST AID

Our year 12 and 13 Sports Students proudly achieved their Activity First Aid Level 3 Qualification this half term.

Throughout the two-day course, our students delved into an array of units covering critical aspects of first aid. From CPR and AED training to handling wounds, bleeds, seizures and burns, they have equipped themselves with the knowledge and techniques necessary to respond effectively in emergencies. Additionally, they learnt to address bone, joint, and muscle injuries, as well as head and spinal injuries, chest injuries, eye injuries, anaphylaxis, strokes, heart attacks, diabetes, and other major illnesses.

As they venture into their post-18 journeys, whether pursuing higher education, entering the workforce, or exploring other avenues, the skills they have acquired will undoubtedly prove invaluable.

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## CCF CADETS TAKE ON CLIMBING CHALLENGE

Located at the YMCA climbing wall, the cadets embraced the opportunity to confront their fears and push their limits. Under the watchful eye of their mentors, they embarked on a journey of personal growth and discovery.

The ethos of the session was "challenge by choice," - there was no minimum requirements other than a willingness to push oneself beyond comfort zones.

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## OXFORD UNIVERSITY TALK

We recently had the honour of hosting the University of Oxford for a special presentation to talk about some key topics involved in going to one of the top universities in the world.

Ex-students covered everything from the Oxford student experience to living in the historic city itself!

This visit is part of our mission to ensure all students know about the amazing opportunities awaiting them at university. No matter where you're from or what your background is, top universities like Oxford are within reach!

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## DIARY DATES

Thursday 25th April  
Year 7 Parents Evening

Thursday 9th May  
Year 8 Parents Evening

Friday 24th May  
Year 12 visit to University of Exeter





## SILVER DOFE PRACTICE WALK



Blessed with favourable weather conditions, the students embarked on an adventure, encountering diverse terrains that tested their resilience and navigational skills. From challenging uphill climbs to navigating through bogs, streams, and even prickly bushes, the students embraced every twist and turn with enthusiasm and determination.

Throughout the expedition, students delved into the intricacies of map reading, mastering the use of six-digit map codes, employing sticks to pinpoint detailed locations, and employing techniques such as hand railing, check features, catch features, and contouring. These skills not only enhanced their confidence but also equipped them with essential tools for their main expedition.

[CLICK HERE TO SEE MORE PHOTOS](#)

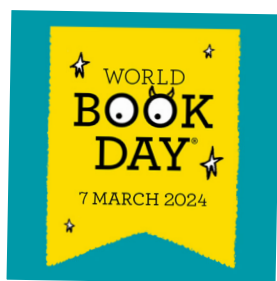


## WORLD BOOK DAY

In celebration of World Book Day our students took part in various activities throughout the day.

Students took part in an edition of The Masked Reader, the drama department performed a wonderful performance from 'Revolting Rhymes' and the English department delighted with readings from 'Dirty Beasts'.

Students have also engaged in some English World Book Day themed lessons focusing on female writers due to International Women's Day falling this week too.



## BRONZE DOFE WALK

52 of our enthusiastic Year 9 students took on an exciting adventure as they participated in their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) practice walk. The walk aimed to instil valuable skills and foster a sense of adventure among our young explorers.

Starting the journey from SDCC, students set off on foot towards Cremyl, boarding the ferry to Mount Edgecombe. Divided into 8 groups, the students had to use their new found skills to cook their own food using a Trangia and navigate their way around the Mount Edgecombe loop.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



## GOLD DOFE STUDENTS EMBARK ON DARTMOOR ADVENTURE

Gold DofE students went on an exhilarating journey during their first practice walk across the Tors in Merrivale.

Amidst the stunning backdrop, the students showcased their exceptional navigation skills and meticulous planning, ensuring a smooth and successful journey across the Tors. Their unwavering determination and teamwork were evident at every turn, as they tackled challenges with resilience and positivity.

We are confident that these young adventurers will be absolutely fine in their final expedition!

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# SDCC SPORTS NEWS

## FOOTBALL NEWS

### YEAR 8 BOYS FOOTBALL TEAM SUCCESS

The Year 8 boys football team has emerged as a force to be reckoned with, demonstrating remarkable resilience and skill.

Their triumph over Lipson with a 3-2 victory displayed their strategic prowess and teamwork, while their 5-3 win against Sir John Hunt highlighted their offensive capabilities. Even in the face of a challenging match, they held their ground, securing a commendable 2-2 draw against St Boniface. Well done boys!



### YEAR 7/8 FOOTBALL TEAM MAKE COMEBACK!

Our Year 7 and 8 girls' football team recently concluded their series of central venue matches with an impressive display of resilience and determination.

In a closely contested match against Devonport High School for Girls, the team demonstrated their fighting spirit despite facing a loss. However, it was their amazing comeback against Tor Bridge High that truly highlighted their skills.

Well done girls!



### SDCC FOOTBALL TEAMS SHINE BRIGHT!

As the term draws to a close, we reflect on the outstanding achievements of our Year 7, 8 and 9 football teams.

With stellar performances and remarkable results, it's a moment to extend our heartfelt congratulations to each and every member for their unwavering hard work, dedication, and commitment.

Here's to many more victories and memorable moments in the seasons to come!

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### YEAR 9 FOOTBALL TEAM SHINES IN FINAL TOURNAMENT

In a thrilling display of skill and determination, the Year 9 football team concluded their central venue tournament at DHSB with flying colors last week.

From the outset, the team showcased their prowess on the field, securing victories in four out of seven matches and securing a commendable 3rd place overall!

Amongst the standout highlights of the tournament was the team's resounding 5-0 victory against Plymstock, a testament to their exceptional teamwork.

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# SDCC SPORTS NEWS

## CRICKET NEWS

### YEAR 8 CRICKET TEAM SHINE IN TOURNAMENT

Congratulations to our Year 8 Cricket club team who played their very first tournament at Plymouth Active this week.

Even though they were unlucky to come out on the wrong side of two very close games, in their final match they really showed how good they are, with a convincing win over Devonport to finish 3rd in the group. Well done boys!



## NETBALL NEWS

### NETBALL TEAMS SHINE AT TOURNAMENTS

Amidst cheers and a real sense of achievement, our Year 7, 8, and 9 netball teams recently showcased their prowess and resilience at the end-of-season tournaments held at the Plymouth Life Centre.

We couldn't be prouder of the outstanding performances delivered by our Year 7, 8, and 9 netball teams. Their hard work and sportsmanship have been exemplary, and they have truly done themselves and SDCC proud.



## RUGBY NEWS

### YEAR 7 RUGBY TEAM SHINE!

In a display of raw talent and unwavering determination, the Year 7 rugby team took to the field at the Cunningham Cup held at Devonport playing fields.

Their grit and tenacity on the field saw them secure an impressive joint third-place finish out of eight competing teams! Winning four out of their seven matches, the team's achievements were a testament to their dedication and commitment to the sport.

Despite their relative inexperience, the Year 7 team showcased remarkable skill and teamwork throughout the tournament. Well done boys!



## BASKETBALL NEWS

### BASKETBALL CLUB PLAY FIRST TOURNAMENT

Our Year 10/11 Basketball Club students recently played their first tournament game against Coombe Dean School

The game was a testament to the dedication and spirit of our young athletes. Even though they were narrowly beaten, our players showed exceptional performance and determination throughout the match. Well done!



# SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

## SAFEGUARDING YOUR YOUNG PERSON OVER THE EASTER HOLIDAYS

### IN PERSON

**Supervision:** Always keep an eye on your children, especially in crowded places or unfamiliar environments.

**Establish boundaries:** Make sure children understand boundaries, such as not wandering off alone or accepting gifts or invitations from strangers.

**Communication:** Have open conversations with your children about safety rules and what to do in case of emergencies.

**Buddy system:** Encourage children to stay with a friend or family member when in public places.

**Designated meeting spots:** Agree on meeting spots in case anyone gets separated.

**Teach assertiveness:** Teach children to assert themselves in uncomfortable situations and to seek help from trustworthy adults if needed.

**Emergency contact information:** Ensure children know how to reach you or another trusted adult in case of emergency.

### ONLINE:

**Parental controls:** Set up parental controls on devices to restrict access to inappropriate content and limit screen time.

**Educate about online risks:** Teach children about online dangers such as cyberbullying, phishing scams, and online predators.

**Privacy settings:** Review and adjust privacy settings on social media accounts and other online platforms to limit exposure to strangers.

**Monitor online activity:** Regularly check your child's online activity and discuss any concerns or red flags.

**Establish trust:** Foster an environment where children feel comfortable discussing their online experiences with you without fear of judgement.

**Encourage critical thinking:** Teach children to critically evaluate online information and to be cautious when interacting with strangers or sharing personal information.

**Model healthy online behaviour:** Lead by example by demonstrating responsible and respectful online behaviour.



### GENERAL TIPS:

**Stay informed:** Keep yourself updated on current safety guidelines and trends both in the physical and digital worlds.

**Stay connected:** Maintain open lines of communication with your children and encourage them to share any concerns or experiences with you.

**Teach empowerment:** Empower children to trust their instincts and speak up if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe, whether in person or online.

**Plan activities together:** Participate in Easter activities together as a family to strengthen bonds and ensure safety in numbers.

By implementing these strategies, parents can help safeguard their children during Easter festivities, both in person and online.

We also recognise that the Easter period is difficult for some of our families with the loss of access to hot school lunches and the increasing cost of living food and nutrition may be difficult to provide for our growing young people. If you are struggling for food over the Easter period please contact the Safeguarding Team on [safeguarding@sdcc-smhc.net](mailto:safeguarding@sdcc-smhc.net) where we will be able to sign post support.

*Best wishes and a Happy Easter.*

*Mr Kelly*

If you have a concern or worry about a student please contact the safeguarding team  
**[safeguarding@sdcc.net](mailto:safeguarding@sdcc.net)**

**TALK 2 US** Talk 2 Us is available for students to raise any concerns or worries.  
**[talk2us@sdcc.net](mailto:talk2us@sdcc.net)**