



Hot OFF THE PRESS



STOKE
DAMEREL

ISSUE 4

Dear Parents/Carers,

Our students have once again seized a wide range of exciting and challenging opportunities. The campus production of Oliver Jr. was truly outstanding, with our students rising to the occasion and delivering an unforgettable performance. At the same time, our skiing enthusiasts took on new challenges on the slopes in Italy, while we marked Holocaust Memorial Day with solemn reflection and remembrance.

We were thrilled to welcome prospective students to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday, January 31st. The event was a great success, with a fantastic turnout that offered valuable insights into our courses on offer.

We wish our students a well-deserved break and eagerly anticipate the next busy and exciting half-term ahead.

Best wishes,
Anita Frier,
Headteacher



OLIVER JR

Wow - What a show!

This half-term, our Performance Theatre was transformed into a spectacular stage for our dazzling production of Oliver Jr!



After months of dedication and rehearsals, our talented students delivered three unforgettable performances, captivating audiences with their energy and passion.

From Emily and Freddie bringing charm to the role of the persuasive Fagin to Albie and Belle capturing the spirit of the charismatic Dodger, every character was performed with enthusiasm. Special recognition to Phoebe and Iris as the songbird Nancy, Liam and Maisie as the formidable Bill Sikes, and of course, Ollie and Eonan in the title role of Oliver.

The audience laughed, clapped, and even gasped at the drama unfolding on stage, making it a truly immersive experience. A huge congratulations to everyone involved for making Oliver Jr such a phenomenal success!





STUDENTS HIT THE SLOPES IN ITALY FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE SKI TRIP!

Before the Christmas break, students from across campus embarked on an incredible ski trip to Italy, making memories that will last a lifetime. Whether they were beginners or experienced skiers, everyone enjoyed the thrill of learning new skills, tackling challenging slopes, and growing in confidence on the snow-covered mountains.

The trip was filled with laughter, teamwork, and unforgettable moments as students bonded over shared experiences—singing on the slopes, cheering each other on, and racing down hills on snow tubes!

With the excitement still in the air, students are already looking forward to the next school ski adventure, eagerly counting down the days until they hit the slopes again!

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



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Thirteen of our Year 12 students had the privilege of representing our school at the Holocaust Memorial Day Conference at Exeter University.

The event provided a profound learning experience, beginning with a powerful speech from Rosemary Schonfeld, a second-generation Holocaust survivor, who shared her family's moving story.

Students also participated in a thought-provoking lecture on how the Holocaust has been portrayed in art and cinema, gaining insight into its impact on cultural representation.

The conference was an invaluable opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of this crucial part of history and reflect on its lasting significance.

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



Winter SKI TRIP

December/January
2025/26

Includes?
Ski lessons, hotel with mountain views, food, travel, ski hire and much more!

CONTACT: Mr Beacham in EB12 for more info!

STEM SHOWCASE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH

Sixty enthusiastic young scientists from across campus had an unforgettable experience at the STEM Showcase at the University of Plymouth. The day was filled with hands-on activities, from holding giant snails to observing robotic dogs in action and competing in water pressure challenges.

Reflecting on the trip, one student shared, "I found it absolutely fascinating. I've always been curious about that massive building on the roundabout, and now I've had the chance to see the waves." Another added, "I wish the robot dog could come to our school so we could show it to our year group."

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

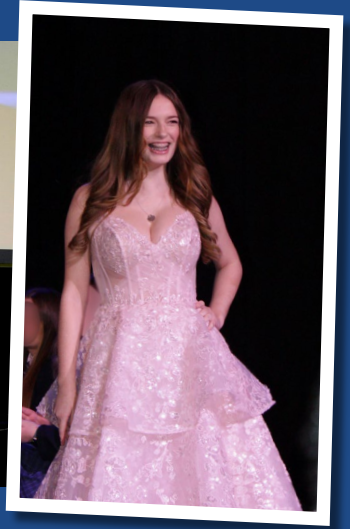
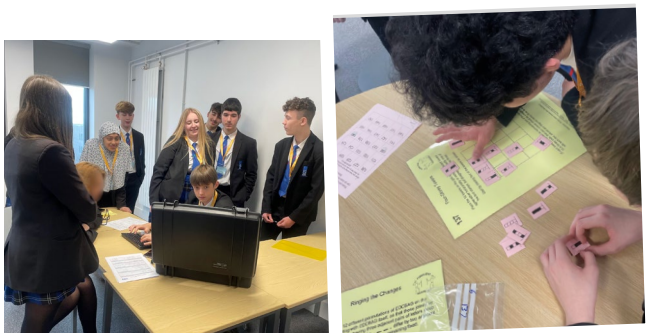


YEAR 10 MATHS MASTERCLASS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH

Year 10 students had an exciting day at the University of Plymouth's Maths Masterclass, tackling cybersecurity challenges, escape room puzzles, and exploring maths in film.

This enriching experience not only deepened their understanding of mathematics but also highlighted its importance in various careers. The day was both educational and inspiring, equipping students with valuable skills for the future.

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



YEAR 11 PROM LAUNCH

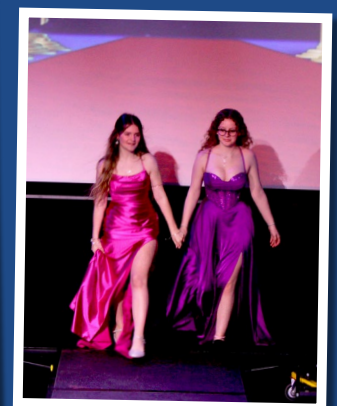
We were excited to officially launch the Year 11 Prom for the Class of 2025! The event kicked off in spectacular fashion with a dazzling catwalk show, setting the stage for what promises to be an unforgettable celebration.

Students took to the runway with confidence, showcasing a stunning selection of elegant suits and breathtaking gowns, generously provided by Bee Bee Gowns. Each student brought their own unique flair, making the show a true celebration of personal style.

This special event gave the Class of 2025 their first glimpse of the incredible celebrations awaiting them after their exams. It was the perfect way to begin this milestone moment in their school journey, and we can't wait for the main event!

Reflecting on the afternoon, Levi commented, "The Prom Launch was such an exciting and enjoyable event to be a part of. I performed to Michael Jackson's 'Dangerous,' and, in my opinion, it went really well! Everyone from my year seemed to thoroughly enjoy every second and every move I made. From the lights to the music, the whole stage came alive."

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





YEAR 7 STUDENTS EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF LIVE THEATRE

Our Year 7 students had an unforgettable experience at Theatre Royal Plymouth, where they watched this year's pantomime, Snow White. From catchy songs and dazzling costumes to a breathtaking flying sleigh, the show captured the magic of a traditional pantomime!

For many students, this was more than just a school trip—it was their first time experiencing a professional pantomime, and for some, even their first visit to a theatre. Their excitement was clear: *"It was great! I thought it was so funny!"* said one student, while another added, *"I loved the flying sleigh; I've never seen anything like it!"*

Mr Oakes, Head of School, praised the students saying, *"Their behaviour throughout the show was exemplary, and it was an absolute pleasure to see the joy in their faces throughout the performance. We continue to explore further enriching experiences for our students to support our commitment to be World Class."*

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

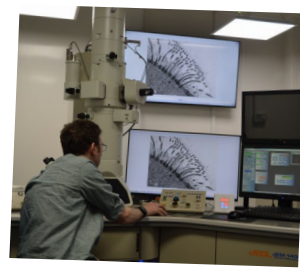


YEAR 12 BIOLOGY STUDENTS DIVE INTO THE WORLD OF ELECTRON MICROSCOPY

Our Year 12 Biology students visited the University of Plymouth's Electron Microscope Lab, where they learned how slides are prepared for Scanning and Transmission Electron Microscopes.

They were amazed by the detailed images of kidney biopsies, sheep ticks, and gum disease biofilm.

One student said, *"I can't believe how much detail you can see under these microscopes - it was fascinating."*



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

EXPLORING UNIVERSITY LIFE WITH REALISING OPPORTUNITIES

Seventeen Year 12 students attended the Realising Opportunities launch event at Exeter University. This prestigious programme, partnered with 12 leading Russell Group universities, offers students access to contextual offers and valuable support for higher education.

During the event, they explored the campus, attended academic workshops, and gained insights from current students, helping them better understand university life and future opportunities.



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

SPRING CLUBS LIST

CLUBS		SPRING 2025	
EVERYDAY DEBATE CLUB GARDENING CLUB GOLF CLUB JUDO CLUB KARAOKE CLUB NETBALL CLUB RUGBY CLUB TENNIS CLUB YOGA CLUB	TUESDAY ARTS CLUB CHESS CLUB COMPUTER CLUB COUNSELLING CLUB GARDENING CLUB GOLF CLUB JUDO CLUB KARAOKE CLUB NETBALL CLUB RUGBY CLUB TENNIS CLUB YOGA CLUB	TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY ARTS CLUB CHESS CLUB COMPUTER CLUB COUNSELLING CLUB GARDENING CLUB GOLF CLUB JUDO CLUB KARAOKE CLUB NETBALL CLUB RUGBY CLUB TENNIS CLUB YOGA CLUB	THURSDAY ARTS CLUB CHESS CLUB COMPUTER CLUB COUNSELLING CLUB GARDENING CLUB GOLF CLUB JUDO CLUB KARAOKE CLUB NETBALL CLUB RUGBY CLUB TENNIS CLUB YOGA CLUB
MONDAY ARTS CLUB CHESS CLUB COMPUTER CLUB COUNSELLING CLUB GARDENING CLUB GOLF CLUB JUDO CLUB KARAOKE CLUB NETBALL CLUB RUGBY CLUB TENNIS CLUB YOGA CLUB	MONDAY & FRIDAY ARTS CLUB CHESS CLUB COMPUTER CLUB COUNSELLING CLUB GARDENING CLUB GOLF CLUB JUDO CLUB KARAOKE CLUB NETBALL CLUB RUGBY CLUB TENNIS CLUB YOGA CLUB	WEDNESDAY ARTS CLUB CHESS CLUB COMPUTER CLUB COUNSELLING CLUB GARDENING CLUB GOLF CLUB JUDO CLUB KARAOKE CLUB NETBALL CLUB RUGBY CLUB TENNIS CLUB YOGA CLUB	FRIDAY ARTS CLUB CHESS CLUB COMPUTER CLUB COUNSELLING CLUB GARDENING CLUB GOLF CLUB JUDO CLUB KARAOKE CLUB NETBALL CLUB RUGBY CLUB TENNIS CLUB YOGA CLUB
MONDAY, TUESDAY & FRIDAY ARTS CLUB CHESS CLUB COMPUTER CLUB COUNSELLING CLUB GARDENING CLUB GOLF CLUB JUDO CLUB KARAOKE CLUB NETBALL CLUB RUGBY CLUB TENNIS CLUB YOGA CLUB	TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY ARTS CLUB CHESS CLUB COMPUTER CLUB COUNSELLING CLUB GARDENING CLUB GOLF CLUB JUDO CLUB KARAOKE CLUB NETBALL CLUB RUGBY CLUB TENNIS CLUB YOGA CLUB	TUESDAY & THURSDAY ARTS CLUB CHESS CLUB COMPUTER CLUB COUNSELLING CLUB GARDENING CLUB GOLF CLUB JUDO CLUB KARAOKE CLUB NETBALL CLUB RUGBY CLUB TENNIS CLUB YOGA CLUB	FRIDAY ARTS CLUB CHESS CLUB COMPUTER CLUB COUNSELLING CLUB GARDENING CLUB GOLF CLUB JUDO CLUB KARAOKE CLUB NETBALL CLUB RUGBY CLUB TENNIS CLUB YOGA CLUB

Our new spring clubs list is out!

[DOWNLOAD FROM OUR WEBSITE](#)

STUDENTS COOK UP A STORM WITH MUSSELS

We were thrilled to be one of 200 schools selected to take part in the Fish In Schools Hero Programme! Through this exciting initiative, our students have been exploring the benefits of cooking with fresh, rope-grown mussels while learning about healthy eating and sustainability.

Miss. Aldridge, one of our Food and Nutrition teachers and Subject Lead for Food Technology, expressed her enthusiasm, saying: *"We are thrilled that we have been selected to receive the free shellfish for our school. It means that our students can not only learn about wild fisheries and the different tastes, textures and usages, but also learn how to cook with shellfish."*

This hands-on experience is inspiring our students to think more about where their food comes from and how to make nutritious, sustainable choices in the kitchen.

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



HOUSE SYSTEM NEWS

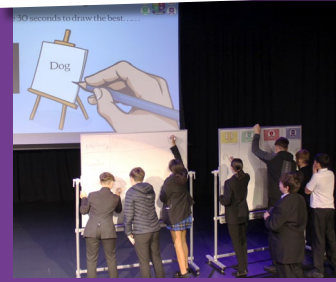
Over the past few weeks, our 'Fun Fridays' have been a huge success, bringing students together for exciting lunchtime activities.

Each week, our 'Reading & Hot Chocolate' session has provided a peaceful escape, with around 25 students diving into their favourite books while enjoying a warm drink. Many have shared how much they appreciate the chance to relax and unwind.

We also held a thrilling 'Draw My Thing' challenge, where 60 students competed in a fast-paced drawing showdown! Eight contestants at a time raced against the 30-second clock to sketch their best version of the word on the board. With each round, new participants stepped up, ensuring everyone had a chance to showcase their creativity. From dogs and cars to logos and eyes, the variety of artwork was impressive.

Smeaton claimed victory this time, but the competition isn't over yet!

It's fantastic to see so many students coming together and getting involved.



DIARY DATES

Thursday 27th February
Year 9 Parents / Options Evening

Thursday 27th February
Parental Drop-in 4-6.30pm

Supporting Young People's Mental Health

Tuesday 25th March
DofE Awards Evening

SDCC SPORTS NEWS

FOOTBALL

DOUBLE VICTORY FOR THE YEAR 8 TEAM

The Year 8 boys' football team secured an impressive victory in the second round of the Devon Cup, dominating KEVICC 5-0 in Totnes. Their performance was nothing short of spectacular, showcasing incredible teamwork and skill throughout the match.

A special mention goes to Fletcher, whose exceptional control and composure on the ball earned him the well-deserved title of Player of the Match.

The team continued their winning momentum with a hard-fought win over Tor Bridge in the Plymouth Cup Quarter Final. After an intense battle, the boys held their nerve in a dramatic penalty shootout, winning 9-8 to advance to the next round.



YEAR 9 BOYS TRIUMPH IN THRILLING COMEBACK

Our Year 9 boys faced off against local rivals, DHSB, in a highly anticipated match that kept spectators on the edge of their seats.

After trailing 1-0 at halftime, the team showed resilience and determination, making strategic adjustments and bringing on two standout Year 8 players who delivered when it mattered most.

The comeback kicked off with a crucial equalizer, followed by a stunning 25-yard strike to seal the win!

YEAR 13 FOOTBALL TEAM TAKES 3RD PLACE



A big congratulations to our Year 13 football team for earning 3rd place in the highly competitive U18 Plymouth Schools League!

We'd like to give special mention to Connor and Henry for their brilliant performances and leadership on the field, and to Lucas, whose incredible goal-scoring earned him the top scorer title.

YEAR 10 FOOTBALL TEAM OFF TO A WINNING START

The Year 10 football team has had a fantastic start to the season, securing two great wins in their first central venue tournament.

They triumphed 3-2 over Coombe Dean, with standout goals from Abdullah and Oli, then followed up with a solid 2-0 win against DHSB, thanks to key saves from goalkeeper Jacob.



GIRLS' FOOTBALL TEAM BOUNCE BACK WITH A WIN

The Year 7 and 8 girls' football team played against Plymstock School in a series of central venue fixtures. After a narrow 1-0 loss to Notre Dame, the girls bounced back with a 2-1 victory over All Saints.

Both Emi and Belle found the back of the net, and strong defensive play ensured the team held onto their lead. Belle earned Player of the Match for her exceptional work rate and contribution across the entire pitch.



SDCC SPORTS NEWS

DODGEBALL

YEAR 7 DODGEBALL SUCCESS!

Our Year 7 dodgeball team had a fantastic experience at their first tournament! They showed great enthusiasm, quickly picked up the rules, and gave it their all in every game.

Our Year 9 leaders played a key role in the success of the event by taking charge of organising and running the tournament. They did an outstanding job umpiring the games and helping the Year 7 students understand the rules, ensuring a memorable experience for all participants.



ATHLETICS

YEAR 8 ATHLETES SHINE AT INDOOR ATHLETICS

Our Year 8 athletes recently competed in an exciting indoor athletics event at Marjons! From shot put and speed bounce to long jump, javelin, and races ranging from 2 to 6 laps, they gave their best performance in every event.

Special mentions go to Logan and Izzy for their impressive speed bounce scores of 70 and 71, and to Lilly for leading her team from 3rd to 1st in the obstacle relay.

Thanks to all of their hard work, our team finished 3rd overall!



LEADERS

YEAR 9 SPORTS LEADERS SUPPORT INCLUSION FOOTBALL EVENT

Our Year 9 Sports Leaders had the opportunity to support a Secondary Inclusion Football event at Harpers. Their enthusiasm and dedication were impressive, demonstrating excellent organisation skills and providing ongoing encouragement to all participants.



Freddie and Ollie stood out for their exceptional leadership and communication, making a significant impact on the event's success.

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

NETBALL

NETBALL STARS EXCEL ON THE COURT

The Year 7 netball team showcased their incredible talent and teamwork in two exciting matches. Their performance on the court was nothing short of impressive.

In their first match, the team faced a tough challenge against Plymstock, but their determination and excellent teamwork saw them push through with great effort. In their next game against Torbridge, they truly shone, displaying sharp passing and perfect shooting. This combination of skills led them to a fantastic 8-1 victory, leaving everyone excited for what's to come next for the team!



SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

WHAT IS PREVENT?

Prevent focuses on safeguarding people who may be vulnerable to radicalisation. It works by:

- **Identifying individuals at risk** of being drawn into extremism or terrorism.
- **Providing early intervention** through education, mentoring, or community support.
- **Working collaboratively** with schools, youth groups, police, and community organizations.

Prevent is NOT about criminalising individuals but ensuring they receive appropriate support.

What can parents do?

Here are steps you can take to help your child stay safe:

1. Be Informed

- Know the signs of radicalisation, which may include sudden changes in behaviour, expressing extreme views, or withdrawal from usual activities.
- Understand the risks posed by online content, such as extremist videos, forums, or messaging apps.

2. Talk Openly

- Encourage your child to share their thoughts and feelings.
- Discuss current events and provide balanced information to help them develop critical thinking skills.

3. Monitor Online Activity

- Be aware of what websites, social media platforms, and apps your child uses.
- Use parental controls to restrict harmful or age-inappropriate content.

4. Stay Connected

- Take an interest in your child's friendships and activities.
- Encourage positive involvement in community and extracurricular activities.

5. Report Concerns

- If you're worried about your child or someone else, contact your child's school, local authority, or the police.
- You can make a referral to Prevent through Plymouth City Council or by contacting Devon and Cornwall Police at 101.

Who to Contact in Plymouth:

Plymouth City Council Prevent Team:

- Email: prevent@plymouth.gov.uk
- Phone: 01752 668000

Crimestoppers:

Report anonymously by calling 0800 555 111.

Devon and Cornwall Police (non-emergency):

Call 101 or visit www.dc.police.uk.

In an Emergency: Always call 999.



Support resources:

Educate Against Hate:

- Offers advice and resources for parents and schools. Visit www.educateagainsthate.com.

Thinkuknow:

- Guidance on keeping children safe online. Visit www.thinkuknow.co.uk.

The NSPCC Helpline:

- Call 0808 800 5000 for advice about safeguarding concerns.

By staying vigilant, fostering open communication, and accessing support when needed, you can help protect your children from harmful influences and ensure they grow up in a safe, supportive environment.

If you have a concern or worry about a student please contact the safeguarding team
safeguarding@sdcc-smhc.net

TALK 2 US

Talk 2 Us is available for students to raise any concerns or worries.

talk2us@sdcc-smhc.net