



# HOT OFF THE PRESS



STOKE  
DAMEREL

ISSUE 5

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of this half-term, we reflect on a fantastic few weeks filled with enriching experiences for our students. From hands-on workshops to inspiring guest speakers, they've had incredible opportunities to learn and grow. They also explored the fascinating world of virtual reality and enjoyed some exciting cooking sessions.

Beyond academics, our school community came together to study key events. Red Nose Day saw students take on an intense rowing challenge, while British Science Week sparked curiosity as they explored some of nature's strangest adaptations.

We were also proud to recognise the achievements of our DofE and CCF students at our annual Celebration Evening. Meanwhile, on the sports field, our students demonstrated outstanding dedication and skill, securing impressive victories in football and showcasing their talent in netball and basketball.

As we head into the Easter break, we cherish these wonderful moments and look forward to more exciting opportunities in the term ahead.

Best wishes,

Anita Frier,

Headteacher



## DOFE AND CCF CELEBRATION EVENING 2025

This term we hosted our annual cross-campus Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) and Combined Cadet Force (CCF) Celebration Evening.

This event was a chance to celebrate the incredible accomplishments of our students over the past year. Filled with pride and unity, the evening saw students recognised for their exceptional efforts in a variety of areas, including physical fitness, skills development, volunteering, expeditions, residential experiences, and overall achievement. In addition, several special awards were given to those who showed outstanding commitment and excellence.

During the event, students took the opportunity to reflect on their journeys. Gold awardee Oscar shared, *"The Duke of Edinburgh Award has been an incredible opportunity for me to discover and develop various aspects of my character while gaining new experiences. Performing the song we created for the event was a fantastic way to showcase that growth, and I couldn't be more grateful for this opportunity."*

The same sense of accomplishment was echoed by CCF students, who also relished the opportunity to push themselves and gain valuable skills.

To our DofE and CCF students, you truly embody the essence of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Your determination and perseverance inspire us all, and we couldn't be prouder of everything you've achieved.





## RED NOSE DAY 2025

Our school was buzzing with energy and excitement as students took part in an epic House Rowing Challenge in support of Comic Relief. The atmosphere was electric as teams went head-to-head, pushing themselves to the limit to rack up as many miles as possible—all for a great cause.

Students competed in 10-minute slots, racing to accumulate as many miles as they could before passing the seat over to their teammates. Each house showed incredible determination, teamwork, and resilience, making it a thrilling competition from start to finish.

In the end, Saltram House claimed the top spot, rowing an outstanding 27+ miles! However, the true achievement was the collective effort—across campus, our students and staff rowed over 100 miles and raised £118 to support Comic Relief's vital work.

A massive thank you to every student, staff member, and supporter who contributed to making the challenge such a resounding success!

# DIARY DATES

Thursday 1st May  
Year 7 Parents Evening

Thursday 15th May  
Year 8 Parents Evening

## WORLD CLASS: VIRTUAL REALITY

Mr. Henson's Year 7 Art class took their creativity to new depths with a virtual reality experience that transported them to the ocean's wonders. Exploring vibrant coral reefs, sea anemones, and diverse marine life, students gained a unique perspective on the use of colour in nature.

This exciting experience is just one example of how we are bringing innovative technology into the classroom to enrich learning and expand creative possibilities for our students.

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



## CAMPUS RADIO CLUB

Our Campus Radio Club is off to an exciting start with the arrival of new equipment, setting the stage for in-school broadcasts!

To kick things off, Campus Radio members took part in a hands-on workshop with Max from Radioactive, where they learned the ins and outs of radio equipment setup, sound mixing, and broadcasting techniques.

This invaluable experience has provided our students with the skills and knowledge to continue developing their radio expertise.

The excitement is building, and we can't wait to see what's next for our Radio Club!

Stay tuned for more updates!





## ROYAL NAVY CHEF VISIT

Our Year 10 students had an incredible opportunity to work alongside the Royal Navy Catering Team for a day of hands-on learning and teamwork.

Under the guidance of professional Navy chefs, students collaborated to prepare a delicious meal of burgers and chips, followed by cookies and ice cream for dessert. Throughout the experience, they developed their cooking skills while gaining valuable insight into the importance of teamwork in a fast-paced kitchen environment.

The day wrapped up with an inspiring talk about life in the Navy and the exciting career paths it offers.

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



## YEAR 11 STUDENTS GET EXAM-READY WITH THE 'FIXUP' TEAM

We were thrilled to welcome the 'Fixup' Team to our school for an inspiring session aimed at helping our Year 11 students prepare for their mock and summer exams.

The team shared effective revision strategies, focusing on the importance of structured planning, time management, and maintaining motivation.

Their interactive approach made the session both enjoyable and impactful, inspiring students to take charge of their revision. Many students reflected on their current methods and recognised areas for improvement. One student shared, *"I now realise I need to change some of my current revision habits to ensure I achieve success in my upcoming exams."*

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



## FISH HEROES SCHEME

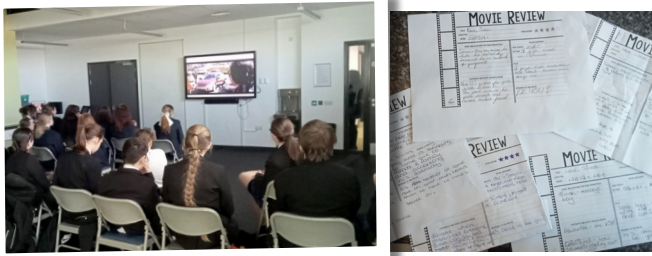
Our Year 7 students had another exciting chance to sharpen their cooking skills, thanks to the generous support of the Fish Heroes scheme.

This time, they worked with sustainable pink Alaskan salmon to create delicious spicy Thai fish cakes, paired with a sweet chili dipping sauce.

Along the way, students not only explored new flavors but also learned about Alaska's sustainable fishing practices and how they help protect wild pink salmon for future generations.

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





## CELEBRATING LGBTQIA+ HISTORY MONTH

In honour of LGBTQIA+ History Month, 25 students from across campus came together for a special film screening of *'Love, Simon'*, sparking meaningful conversation about LGBTQIA+ representation in the media. The event offered a space for students to unite, share their voices, and reflect on the film's significance.

The screening was so well-received that one Year 11 student enthusiastically suggested, "Can we do this every Friday, please?" After the film, students were invited to write reviews, providing them with an opportunity to delve deeper into the movie's themes.

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

## NEW SUTTON HOUSE CAPTAINS

We are excited to announce our new Sutton House Captains! After our first-ever re-vote, two outstanding leaders were selected for Sutton House. Both candidates presented strong ideas, earning them their new roles. We can't wait to see what they'll bring to the team this year.

Mr. Hatherley, Sutton's House Leader, shared his thoughts: "This is an exciting time for Sutton as we nearly have the first all female House team. With events such as Comic Relief and Fun Friday's they have been thrown in at the deep end but, these are the challenges they wanted to get themselves involved in. Welcome to the new age of Sutton."



## BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK 2025

For British Science Week this year, we embraced the theme "Adapt and Change," inspiring Years 7-10 to explore evolution and adaptation.

The week featured exciting assemblies on nature's strangest adaptations, from the blood-firing horned lizard to the cordyceps zombie fungus. Students also took on hands-on challenges like the sinking pot competition and investigated the effects of ocean acidification on sea life.

Additionally, eight students tackled 800-word essays for the Young Science Writer of the Year Award.

The event was a huge success, sparking curiosity and enthusiasm for science!

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



## STUDENTS ENGAGE IN LESSONS FROM AUSCHWITZ TO HONOUR HOLOCAUST MEMORY

Four students from across our campus are visiting Auschwitz-Birkenau as part of the Lessons from Auschwitz project, organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust.

This powerful program helps young people keep the memory of the Holocaust alive. Our students will meet a survivor, visit a former camp, participate in a memorial service, and create projects to share their experiences with others.

This is an invaluable opportunity to deepen their historical understanding.

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





## YEAR 9 STUDENTS EXCEL IN BRONZE DUKE OF EDINBURGH PRACTICE WALK

44 of our Year 9 students have successfully completed their first 7km practice walk around the stunning Burrator Reservoir as part of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award. The walk was designed to help them develop essential skills such as navigation, teamwork, and problem-solving.

The students showed impressive resilience, determination, and excellent behaviour throughout the hike, tackling the challenge with great energy and focus. Having successfully completed this practice walk, they are now ready for their next adventure.

Well done everyone!

## SILVER AND GOLD PRACTICE DOFE EXPEDITION

Our Silver and Gold DofE students embarked on their first outdoor training day at the beautiful Merrivale, Dartmoor. The day was filled with exciting challenges, including navigating with paper maps, mastering six-digit map codes, cooking meals, and setting up tents.

Students had the opportunity to explore Kings Tor and Fogginator Quarry, with many highlighting the quarry as a standout. They were in awe of the area's natural beauty and felt fortunate to experience such a remarkable location.

The objective of the day was to collect points by navigating to various locations, with students competing for the highest score. It was inspiring to see how well they rose to the challenge, demonstrating impressive teamwork, independence, and initiative as they worked without staff assistance.

This training day not only helped our DofE students develop essential skills but also allowed them to build connections with their peers while experiencing the beauty of Dartmoor. We look forward to seeing how these skills will support them in their upcoming expeditions.



# SDCC SPORTS NEWS

## FOOTBALL

### YEAR 7 STORM INTO DEVON CUP QUARTER-FINALS

Our Year 7s are through to the Devon Cup quarter-finals after a dominant 5-0 win against Kings Ottery!

The team faced a long journey but put in a dominant performance from start to finish, showcasing their growing confidence and teamwork.

Toby was in exceptional form, scoring his second hat-trick in two games, while Frankie and Kai also found the back of the net to complete the impressive win.

Well done, boys!



### YEAR 9 REACH QUARTERFINALS OF THE DEVON CUP

Huge congratulations to our Year 9 boys, who have joined the Year 7 and 8 teams in reaching the quarter-finals of the Devon Cup!

In a thrilling “trilogy” match against DHSB, the boys showed incredible resilience and team spirit, winning 2-1 to secure their spot in the next round.

We couldn't be prouder of their achievements and can't wait to see them continue to shine.

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

### IMPRESSIVE WINS FOR YEAR 7 & 8 FOOTBALL TEAMS IN EXETER

Our Year 7 and Year 8 boys' football teams showcased exceptional skill and determination during their matches in Exeter, securing impressive victories. The Year 7 team claimed a 6-2 win, while the Year 8s dominated with an 8-3 triumph.

A special mention goes to Oscar, who put in a stellar performance playing out of position in defence for the Year 8s.

Football at Stoke Damerel continues to flourish, and we eagerly anticipate more success in the upcoming rounds.

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



### YEAR 8 BOYS DELIVER STELLAR PERFORMANCES IN LEAGUE MATCHES

The Year 8 boys were in top form in their latest league matches! They played fantastic counter-attacking football, securing a 3-1 win over St Boniface and a 3-0 victory against Sir John Hunt.

Every player gave their best, and the team's hard work and determination were clear to see on the field.

Well done, boys!

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



# SDCC SPORTS NEWS

## NETBALL

### IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE FROM OUR NETBALL TEAM

Our Year 10 Netball team, joined by Year 11 student Jess and Year 9 student Paula, delivered an outstanding performance in their latest tournament. Facing teams that were a year above them, they played some of the best netball we've ever seen.

The team secured an impressive 5th place out of 8, narrowly missing out on 4th by just one point. Jess complemented the team perfectly and made a huge impact across all three positions she played.

Well done to everyone involved!



## BASKETBALL

### YEAR 7 STUDENTS SHINE AT BASKETBALL FESTIVAL

Our Year 7 students had an exciting time at the basketball festival at the Life Centre! From tip-off to the final whistle, they showed incredible perseverance, teamwork, and a positive attitude.

Their passing, shooting, and defensive skills developed throughout the evening, and it was wonderful to see their confidence grow with each match.

A huge shoutout to Yobile, our Player of the Evening, for his outstanding effort across the court!

The team is already looking forward to more basketball fun when the new school year starts in September.

Well done, Year 7!



## BOXING CLUB SUCCESS

For the next six weeks, our school's Boxing Club is excited to welcome former professional boxer and coach, Paul Carr! With his wealth of experience, Paul is here to inspire and train our young athletes, giving them a rare opportunity to learn from a top-level competitor.

During the most recent club session, students showed incredible dedication and passion, giving their all in every activity.

What's even more exciting is that so many of our students are getting involved in a sport that isn't as widely practised as others, like football or rugby. Boxing provides a unique set of physical and mental challenges, and it's wonderful to see our students embracing this opportunity with such enthusiasm.

We can't wait to see their progress under Paul's guidance—stay tuned for more updates!



# SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

## SAFEGUARDING YOUR YOUNG PERSON OVER THE EASTER HOLIDAYS











Netflix's new series *Adolescence* uncovers a hidden truth every parent, educator, and mentor should know—the secret language of emojis.

In today's digital world, young people communicate in ways that often go unnoticed by adults. What seems like harmless emoji use can actually carry deeper meanings.

The series highlights how the digital communication habits of today's youth have evolved, and how emojis, once thought to be simple symbols, now serve as a covert method of expression that can mask their true intentions or feelings.

Many adults may overlook these subtle messages, but understanding them is crucial. What appears innocent online may have a far more serious meaning.

*Here are some of the codes being used:*

-  **Red Pill** – “I see the truth.” Used in toxic male spaces to mean waking up to supposed hidden ‘truths’ about women and society, often linked to misogynistic ideologies.
-  **Blue Pill** – Represents those who are “blind to the truth” or still believe in mainstream views about relationships and gender dynamics.
-  **Dynamite Emoji** – An “exploding red pill,” meaning someone is a radicalised incel.
-  **Kidney Bean** – A symbol linked to incel culture, sometimes mocking women.
-  **100 Emoji** – Tied to the “80/20 rule,” the belief that 80% of women are only attracted to 20% of men.
-  **Black Hole** – Used to express depression, hopelessness, or being sucked into negative online spaces.
-  **Tornado** – Represents chaos or feeling overwhelmed, sometimes used to indicate mental distress.
-  **Frog Emoji** – Associated with alt-right and extremist meme culture, often linked to Pepe the Frog, which has been co-opted by some toxic online groups.
-  **Eagle** – A symbol of extreme nationalism, sometimes used in far-right online spaces.
-  **Skull** – While often just slang for “that’s funny” or “I’m dead (from laughing),” in certain groups, it can signal darker themes like nihilism or self-harm.

*Heart Colours – Not just about love!*

-  **Love**
-  **Lust**
-  **“Are you interested?”**
-  **Interested but not in sex**
-  **“You’ll be okay”**

*So what should parents do?*

- 1. Get Curious, Not Combative** – Ask open-ended questions: “I saw something about emojis meaning different things. Have you heard of this?” Keep the conversation light.
- 2. Create a Judgment-Free Zone** – If your child feels like they’ll be punished for opening up, they won’t. Make it clear you’re there to listen, not just lecture.
- 3. Decode Together** – Ask them to explain their digital world. What do different symbols mean? Who are the influencers they follow? Don’t assume—ask.
- 4. Teach Critical Thinking** – Help them question online content. “Why do you think some groups push this idea? Who benefits?” Arm them with questions, not just rules.
- 5. Monitor Without Spying** – Open conversations work better than secret surveillance. Make checking in on their online spaces a normal part of parenting, not a crisis move.
- 6. Be Real About Manipulation** – Explain how toxic online groups groom young people by making them feel special, included, or like they have ‘insider knowledge.’
- 7. Build Their Offline Confidence** – The more they feel valued and confident in the real world, the less they’ll seek validation in dangerous online spaces.

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

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

# BEHAVIOUR UPDATE

## UPDATE TO OUR BEHAVIOUR AND REWARDS SYSTEM

At Stoke Damerel Community College we pride ourselves on having excellent standards of behaviour within our classrooms. We believe every student has the right to receive uninterrupted, disruption free learning as part of the educational offer that we provide, and as such the learning atmosphere within classrooms remains excellent.

Alongside this, homework is equally important and proven to increase a child's attainment and progress. We continue to offer several methods of support so that students can complete this work within the school day through lunchtime and after school clubs, tutor time dedicated completion time and pastoral team support.

However, we do recognise that on occasion children will make mistakes and our behaviour system acts as an opportunity to educate and support students to make better choices in their learning, both in and out of the classroom.

### *After Easter, several adjustments are being made to the behaviour process:*

- Students who are removed from class will automatically be in **recovery until 4pm**, with parents/carers being informed at the earliest opportunity. This additional time afterschool provides class teachers the opportunity to hold a **restorative conversation**, the chance to build relationships and the time to address any issues raised - it also ensures students return to learning when they are fully ready to do so.
- **Students will have the opportunity to work on homework during Break A** to prevent the impending after school detention they would normally receive. Detentions will continue to be set, but will be removed should the student proactively attend at break time.
- Our current system requires students to **complete their Sparx Reader, Sparx Maths and Sparx Science by 4pm on a Friday**. If they miss this deadline, an after school detention is set for a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday respectively. Moving forwards, if they complete their outstanding work and that of the current week to 100% the day prior to this detention, the sanction will be removed.

### *Following feedback from student voice, we are thrilled to announce some exciting changes to our rewards and celebration systems. This will better recognise the vast majority of students who work hard and meet expectations every single day:*

- We will be piloting a number of new 'rewards' for students across the Summer Term, such as the **'Golden Ticket'** which can be awarded for one off moments of student excellence or effort (for example, going above and beyond on a piece of homework). These can then be used as a queue jump pass for the canteen or placed into our weekly prize draw at Student Reception.
- Alongside this, we are also introducing a **Headteacher's Award** to recognise outstanding student commitment to their school, learning or wider community.
- To reward continued effort, our House Points system has also been developed. Students who achieve set milestones will be awarded **Bronze, Silver, Gold, Diamond or even Platinum certificates** - these will be awarded during weekly assemblies as a celebration.
- To further support our culture of success, every Friday will now be a **'celebration focus' in morning tutor periods**. During this we will share House Point totals, current attendance to school and House Competition updates.

During the Summer term we hope to create a culture of celebration and success that recognises achievements both in and out of the classroom and we're looking forward to celebrating the many successes of our students.

# CLUBS

## SUMMER 2025



### EVERYDAY

#### MORNING FOOTBALL

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

#### BREAKFAST CLUB

*Who?* All years | *Where?* KS4 Canteen  
*When?* 7.45am

#### CAMPUS RADIO

*Who?* All years | *Where?* EB17  
*When?* Break A & B

### MONDAY

#### SIGN LANGUAGE

*Who?* All years | *Where?* GF01  
*When?* Break A

#### ROCK CLUB - KS3

*Who?* KS3 | *Where?* PA2  
*When?* 3-4pm

### MONDAY & FRIDAY

#### GUITAR/DRUM LESSONS

*Who?* KS3/4/5 | *Where?* TBC  
*When?* ALL DAY

### MONDAY, TUESDAY & FRIDAY

#### TABLE TENNIS

*Who?* All years | *Where?* FT1  
*When?* Break B

### TUESDAY

#### ROUNDERS

*Who?* All years | *Where?* Astro  
*When?* 3.10-4pm

#### CRICKET

*Who?* All years | *Where?* Astro  
*When?* 3.10-4pm

#### POKEMON

*Who?* All years | *Where?* CT1  
*When?* Break B

#### ECO COUNCIL

*Who?* Years 7-13 | *Where?* EB15  
*When?* Break B

#### MODERN BRITAIN DEBATING CLUB

*Who?* Years 7-13 | *Where?* EB10  
*When?* 3.10-4pm

#### COOKING CLUB

*Who?* Years 7 & 8 | *Where?* FN1  
*When?* 3-4pm

#### LGBTQIA+ CLUB (SPRINKLZ)

*Who?* All years | *Where?* EN2  
*When?* Break B

#### TEXTILES: DIY FASHION

*Who?* All years | *Where?* VA2  
*When?* 3.10-4pm

#### STEAM

*Who?* All years | *Where?* CT1  
*When?* 3.10-4pm

### TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

#### FITNESS SUITE

*Who?* Years 9 & 10 | *Where?* Fitness Suite  
*When?* 3.10-4pm

### WEDNESDAY

#### FITNESS (FT1)

*Who?* Years 7 & 8 | *Where?* FT1  
*When?* 3.10-4pm

#### YEAR 7 & 8 ROUNDERS

*Who?* Years 7 & 8 | *Where?* Astro  
*When?* 3.10-4pm

#### YEAR 7 & 8 FOOTBALL

*Who?* Years 7 & 8 | *Where?* 3G  
*When?* 3.10-4pm

#### YEAR 7 & 8 FITNESS

*Who?* Years 7 & 8 | *Where?* FT1  
*When?* 3.10-4pm

#### ESPORTS

*Who?* All years | *Where?* CT3  
*When?* 3.10-4pm

#### PARAGON MATHS

*Who?* All years | *Where?* MA5  
*When?* 3.10-4pm

#### NEEDLE POINT

*Who?* All years | *Where?* Ma9  
*When?* 3-4pm

#### PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

*Who?* All years | *Where?* VA1  
*When?* 3.10-4pm

#### ART AND CLAY CLUB

*Who?* All years | *Where?* VA3  
*When?* 3.10-4pm

#### MUSICAL THEATRE CLUB

*Who?* All years | *Where?* Theatre  
*When?* 3-4.30pm

#### BRONZE DofE CLUB

*Who?* Year 9 - those that signed up to the award in September |  
*Where?* EB17 and EB18  
*When?* After school (Week B)

#### SILVER DofE CLUB

*Who?* Year 10 - those that signed up to the award in September |  
*Where?* EB17 and EB18  
*When?* After school (Week A)

### THURSDAY

#### YEAR 9 & 10 FOOTBALL

*Who?* Years 9 & 10 | *Where?* 3G  
*When?* 3.10-4pm

#### ALL YEARS TENNIS

*Who?* All years | *Where?* Courts  
*When?* 3.10-4pm

#### STEAM

*Who?* All years | *Where?* CT1  
*When?* 3.10-4pm

#### LGBTQIA+ CLUB (SPRINKLZ)

*Who?* All years | *Where?* EN2  
*When?* Break B

#### CHESS CLUB

*Who?* Years 7-11 | *Where?* Ma7  
*When?* 3.05-4pm

#### KEYBOARD CLUB

*Who?* All years | *Where?* PA2  
*When?* 3-4pm

#### MEDICS AND DENTISTS

*Who?* Any Year 12 looking to apply to Medicine/Dentistry | *Where?* TBC  
*When?* 3.05-4pm

#### ACTING CLUB

*Who?* All years | *Where?* Theatre  
*When?* 3-4.30pm

#### MEDIA CLUB

*Who?* Years 7-10 | *Where?* VA5  
*When?* 3.10-4pm

#### KEYBOARD LESSONS

*Who?* KS3/4/5 | *Where?* TBC  
*When?* ALL DAY

#### CREST SCIENCE CLUB

*Who?* KS4 | *Where?* SC1  
*When?* 3.10-4pm

#### BOXING

*Who?* KS3/4/5 | *Where?* FT1  
*When?* 3-4pm

#### BOXING

*Who?* KS3/4/5 | *Where?* FT1  
*When?* BREAK B

#### BEATMAKERS

*Who?* All years | *Where?* PA4  
*When?* Break B

### FRIDAY

#### FURTHER MATHS

*Who?* Year 11 set 1s only | *Where?* FF05  
*When?* 3-4pm

#### BOOK CLUB

*Who?* KS4/5 | *Where?* GF02  
*When?* Break A

#### ROCK CLUB - KS4

*Who?* All years | *Where?* PA2  
*When?* 3-4pm

Aspire **ACHIEVE** Thrive