



HOT OFF THE PRESS



STOKE DAMEREL

ISSUE 6

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we wrap up another half term, we're proud of the fantastic opportunities our students have embraced. A big congratulations to our Netball teams for their success at the PGL Tournament—their talent and dedication were truly impressive.

We're also celebrating the achievements of our A-Level and Applied Science students in the British Biology Olympiad, and our STEAM team's involvement in the FIRST LEGO League. Meanwhile, our House system continues to thrive, with Mayflower House recently completing the Ice Bucket Challenge in support of their chosen charity, Devon Mind.

Our DoFE Bronze students completed their expeditions, and Silver and Gold students have finished their practice walks—all showing great resilience. Best of luck to them for their qualifying journeys next term.

A special mention to our Year 11 and 13 students working hard through exams. With the Year 11 Prom and Year 13 BBQ ahead, there's much to look forward to as a reward for their efforts.

We're excited for the final summer term—sure to be the busiest and most exciting yet!

Best wishes,

Anita Frier,
Headteacher

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK



This year's Mental Health Awareness Week theme, set by the Mental Health Foundation, is community.

We're celebrating the vital role it plays in supporting mental health and wellbeing—offering connection, support, and a sense of belonging. As a school, we encourage everyone to get involved—whether by volunteering, supporting our house charities, or simply connecting with those around you.

To learn more, visit: <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/our-work/public-engagement/mental-health-awareness-week>



Year 8 Stars



Year 9 Team



Year 8 Diamonds

PGL NETBALL WEEKEND

A huge congratulations to our Year 8 Stars, who made history this weekend by winning our first-ever PGL netball tournament at Barton Hall in Torquay! They went unbeaten in their group, triumphed in a dramatic semi-final, and sealed the win with an outstanding final performance.

Our Year 10 team also impressed—reaching the semi-finals and earning bronze medals after a strong third-place finish. The Year 8 Diamonds and Year 9 team narrowly missed out on the semis but showed fantastic spirit, teamwork, and determination throughout.

Our staff were incredibly proud of all the players for their talent, effort, and support for one another.

Roll on PGL 2026!

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



Year 10 Team





CELEBRATING SUCCESS IN THE BRITISH BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD

We're thrilled to celebrate the success of our A-Level Biology & Applied Science students who participated in this year's Biology Olympiad, competing against 18,000+ students across the country!

During the Olympiad, students completed two challenging 25-minute online tests, designed to assess a wide range of biological knowledge without any prior preparation. These tests encouraged students to think critically and apply their scientific understanding beyond the standard curriculum.

Our students rose to the challenge and achieved fantastic results:

- **Obada** earned a Bronze Award, placing him within the top 30% of participants.
- **Oscar** was recognised with a Highly Commended award for his fantastic effort.

Huge congratulations to everyone who took part!

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

YOUTH PARLIAMENT SUCCESS!

Students across campus have had the exciting opportunity to take part in the Youth Parliament elections for Plymouth. Pupils from all year groups across campus joined peers from 22 schools across the city to cast their votes and make their voices heard.

We are delighted to share that we had two students successfully elected to the Youth Parliament:

Faith was elected Deputy Member of Youth Parliament following her campaign to reduce bus fares.

Sienna was elected as a Youth Parliament Member for Plymouth City Council, advocating for action against violence towards women and girls.

Huge congratulations to both on this incredible achievement—and thank you to everyone who voted!

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



STEAM TEAM SHINES AT FIRST LEGO LEAGUE

A dedicated team of 12 STEAM students proudly represented our school at this year's FIRST LEGO League competition in Exeter. Inspired by the 'Submerged' theme, they spent months designing and refining a LEGO robot to tackle underwater-themed challenges, competing against nine other schools.

In addition to their robotics success, the team impressed judges with a detailed research project focused on the Abyssal Zone.

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



DIARY DATES

Thursday 19th June
Year 6 into 7 Transition Evening

Thursday 3rd July
Year 11 Prom

Wednesday 9th July
Awards Evening



EXPLORING THE FUTURE WITH EXETER COLLEGE

We were excited to welcome representatives from Exeter College to our campus for an inspiring talk with our Year 10 students! They learned about the rich history of Exeter College, the incredible opportunities at Oxford, and what life as an Oxford student is really like.

Our students engaged in insightful discussions about their future aspirations and academic paths, sparking new excitement for higher education.

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



AN INSPIRING DAY AT EXETER COLLEGE, OXFORD UNIVERSITY

Our Sixth Form students also had the incredible opportunity to experience life at Oxford University—exploring the stunning college grounds, dining in the historic Jacobean hall, and even handling an astrolabe at the History of Science Museum! They also got a rare look at a chalkboard used by Einstein himself!

A truly inspiring day filled with learning and discovery!

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



KEY STAGE 3 REWARD TRIP TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

Our Key Stage 3 students took part in an unforgettable reward trip to the heart of UK democracy. After their journey from Plymouth to the bustling streets of Westminster, they immersed themselves in the rich heritage of British Values and gained first-hand insight into how the UK's democratic system operates.

They witnessed a live debate in the House of Commons on the Ukraine-Russia conflict, explored the grandeur of the House of Lords, and engaged in a hands-on workshop on the Rule of Law. The day ended on a high as students developed their own petitions and presented them directly to local MP Luke Pollard—an experience that brought politics to life in a truly inspiring way.

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



VIRTUAL REALITY BRINGS SHAKESPEARE'S WORLD TO LIFE

This term, Miss Burroughs' 7Y5 English class had the opportunity to step into Shakespeare's world. Using our new Virtual Reality headsets, students explored the Globe Theatre and the streets of Renaissance London.

This immersive activity allowed them to observe period artifacts and gain a deeper understanding of the setting, helping to inspire creative descriptive writing. The session also served as a historical context for their next topic:

'exploring love in Shakespeare's plays'

It was a brilliant blend of literature and technology!

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



THEATRE EXPERIENCE WITH THE ONATTI THEATRE TROUPE

After the success of last year's performance, French students from all year groups had the exciting opportunity to attend another captivating French play, *'Ticket pour l'Espace'*, performed by the talented Onatti Theatre Troupe.

This year, students followed Jack on a space adventure with a French girl who speaks very little English. The play was performed in both English and French, with the French sections incorporating vocabulary and phrases students had already learnt in class.

The show was a big hit, and students are already looking forward to next year's performance!

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



REHEARSALS IN FULL SWING FOR 'SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER 2025'

Excitement is building as rehearsals for our School's Out for Summer 2025 variety show are now well underway! We've had a fantastic turnout from our Performing Arts clubs, with enthusiastic participation from Rock School, SDCC Singers, Musical Theatre, and the Acting Club.

Students have been hard at work learning lyrics and choreography for *Revolting Children*, while one of our student bands has been rehearsing during most break times to perfect their set. Meanwhile, our dedicated young actors are already blocking scenes with the final performance in mind.

In the coming weeks, our team will be fine-tuning every act to deliver an unforgettable showcase of student talent. We're so proud of the creativity and energy our students have shown, and we can't wait to share it with you all.

Tickets will be on sale soon — stay tuned for more details!



COLLECTION OF STUDENTS AFTER SCHOOL

Please be considerate when collecting your child from school.

Please abide by the following: If parking in the City Business Park car park, use the designated parking bays and the one-way system. This is a City Council-managed pay & display car park.

Please do not: park on double yellow lines, in front of driveways or obstruct bays.

Please be considerate and courteous of other people.
Thank you for your cooperation.

HOUSE SYSTEM NEWS



SMEATON HOUSE TAKES THE WIN WITH AN EPIC ARCADE ADVENTURE!

Congratulations to Smeaton House for winning last term's house competition! Over 30 top students celebrated with an unforgettable afternoon at 'Continue Arcade', enjoying everything from classic arcade hits to high-energy dance simulators.

Whether setting high scores on Pac-Man, shredding on Guitar Hero, or dominating air hockey, the excitement never stopped!

A huge shoutout to Smeaton House for their hard work and team spirit this term!

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



MAYFLOWER HOUSE FREEZES FOR A GOOD CAUSE!

There was plenty of excitement as students in Year 7 and Year 8 watched Mr Oakes and Mr O'Brien take on the SDCC Ice Bucket Challenge—all in support of a fantastic cause.

The event was organised by Mayflower House as part of their ongoing fundraising efforts for Devon Mind, a charity that works to promote better mental health across Devon.

Nominated by tutor group 7.2, the team behind the challenge created a fun and lively atmosphere, with cheering students and icy water flying!

Thanks to the generosity of our school community, the event raised over £100 for Devon Mind.

A huge thank you to everyone who donated and helped make the challenge such a brilliant success.





DOFE BRONZE QUALIFYING EXPEDITION

Congratulations to our brilliant Year 9 students who successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award qualifying expedition!

After just four weeks of training, 40 students tackled a challenging route from Ermington to Mountbatten via the Erme Valley Trail and South West Coast Path demonstrating impressive self-organisation, teamwork, and resilience throughout.

This final trek followed a two-day practice expedition earlier in the term, which saw students journey from Mountbatten to Whitsands. Their experience on the practice hike clearly paid off, with all participants stepping up to the challenge and showing significant personal growth and determination.

Well done to everyone involved!



GOOD LUCK!
Good luck to our amazing Gold students who will be completing their final challenging expedition in June.
We look forward to hearing all about it!



DOFE SILVER AND GOLD PRACTICE EXPEDITION

Our Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh students embarked on their first practice expedition across the stunning Dartmoor landscape.

Navigating through the moorland under the warm sunshine, they demonstrated impressive resilience and determination, overcoming the challenges of the heat to successfully complete their routes.

Once at the camp, the students not only set up their own tents and cooked their evening meals, but also found time to unwind, enjoying card games and toasting marshmallows around the campfire.

All of the students who participated should feel incredibly proud of their achievements. They faced tough conditions and handled them with great strength and teamwork. With the practice expedition now behind them, the focus turns to the next challenge—the qualifier!

Best of luck to all involved!



SDCC SPORTS NEWS

ROUNDERS

YEAR 7 HIT THE GROUND RUNNING IN THEIR FIRST ROUNDERS FIXTURE

The Year 7 girls made a strong start to their rounders season, playing three back-to-back matches and securing two impressive wins.

Their powerful batting led to several well-earned half and full rounders, while their sharp, coordinated fielding showed great teamwork and communication. A special shout-out goes to Ivy for her outstanding bowling—a tough role she tackled with skill and resilience.

Well done to the whole team on a fantastic opening performance!

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



STRONG START FOR THE YEAR 10 ROUNDERS TEAM

The Year 10 rounders team got their season off to a strong start at Eggbuckland Community College. With new players and Year 9s stepping up, the team showed great teamwork and improvement throughout.

Joy stood out with powerful hits and strong fielding, while Lilia and Oliwia impressed with consistent batting. Captain Milan, alongside Naomi & Ella used their experience and leadership skills to bring the team together and act as role models to the younger students.

Well done girls!

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



DOUBLE WIN FOR OUR YEAR 8 ROUNDERS TEAM

The Year 8 rounders team had a stellar start to their season, securing two impressive victories in their opening fixtures. Facing tough competition from Sir John Hunt and Notre Dame, the team showcased remarkable skill, determination, and exceptional team spirit throughout both matches.

Several players stood out, with brilliant fielding from Lily, whose exceptional catches kept the opposition on their toes, and a nearly flawless bowling performance from Vicky, which proved crucial to the team's success.

The girls played with high energy and excellent sportsmanship from start to finish, maintaining their enthusiasm long after the final whistle.

A huge well done to all the girls involved.



FOOTBALL

YEAR 9 BOYS REACH PLYMOUTH CUP FINAL

We're thrilled to announce that our Year 9 boys' football team has reached the final of the Plymouth Cup after securing a superb 2-0 victory over Lipson in their most recent match.

Their form throughout the season has been exceptional, and it's clear that their hard work has paid off. Good luck to the team as they prepare for this exciting match!

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



SDCC SPORTS NEWS

SPORTS FACILITIES OPENING EVENT

Pupils and residents have been celebrating the opening of Plymouth's newest community sports facility.

As part of the city's ongoing investment in sports facilities, the three multi-surfaced pitches at Stoke Damerel Community College and Scott Medical and Healthcare College will provide space for several different sports.

The new facilities include a brand new, 2G sand pitch, which whilst primarily suitable for hockey, is a multi-sports surface and can be used for a number of other activities.

Also completed is a smaller 3G pitch, specifically targeted at football and rugby use, which has been supported by a £250,000 grant from the Premier League, the FA and the Football Foundation. Other project funders include: Plymouth City Council, Stoke Damerel Community College and Greenshaw Learning Trust. The project has also received support from Devon Football Association.

A renovation and upgrade of an existing grass pitch, is also part of the works and will open next year.

The new additions will be for both school and community use with modern flood lighting to ensure that they can be used all year round.

The plans complement the work already underway to transform the former Brickfields Sports Centre into a new community wellbeing hub and pitches that are operated by the Argyle Community Trust.

Anita Frier, Principal of Stoke Damerel Community College and Scott Medical and Healthcare College, said: *"These improvements are significant for the long-term ambitions of the College, allowing us to expand and develop the PE offering both for students of SDCC and SMHC, as well as local primary schools."*

"Having been without on-site sporting facilities for six months, being able to have all-weather facilities will mean uninterrupted sporting activities for students and community all year."

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



Attendees from Plymouth City Council, Rugby Football Union, Centro Planning, Football Foundation, Devon County Football Association, England Hockey and Greenshaw Learning Trust, with Anita Frier, Headteacher at Stoke Damerel Community College and Scott Medical and Healthcare College.



Tim Rundell from Ocean City Hockey Club, who delivered a hockey session in partnership with Stoke Damerel PE department.



Steve Wherry, Hayley Russell, Liv Ellard, Joe and Tristan Andrews, players and Committee Members from Ocean City Hockey Club. Key Partner Club.



Joanna Hawley from England Hockey, Tarun Cheema from Centro Planning and Barbara Reynolds from England Hockey.



Councillor Sue Dann with Anita Frier, Headteacher at Stoke Damerel Community College and Scott Medical and Healthcare College.



Matt Ward and Liz Slater from Plymouth City Council, Dan Cole from Stoke Damerel Community College, Anna Pearce from Greenshaw Learning Trust, Jackie Keith and Simon Duke from Plymouth City Council.



Councillor Sue Dann, Brendan Dix from Football Foundation, Nick Garlick and Chris French from Devon County Football Association.



Pilgrim Pete

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

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

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

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

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

FITNESS SUITE

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

MONDAY, TUESDAY & FRIDAY

TABLE TENNIS

Who? All years | *Where?* FT1
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

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

THE HIDDEN DANGERS OF TOMBSTONING AND WATER SAFETY TIPS FOR SPRING AND SUMMER

As the weather warms and daylight stretches into the evening, young people are naturally drawn to the outdoors—especially to water. Lakes, rivers, canals, and the sea become appealing places for fun and relaxation. However, this seasonal draw to water can also come with significant risks, particularly the increasingly popular and dangerous activity known as tombstoning.

What is Tombstoning?

Tombstoning is the act of jumping into water from a high platform, such as a cliff, bridge, pier, or building, often vertically like a “tombstone” falling. It may look thrilling and be popular on social media, but tombstoning is incredibly risky, and in recent years, it has led to numerous serious injuries and even fatalities.

Why is Tombstoning so dangerous?

Despite the excitement it might offer, tombstoning presents a host of hidden dangers, including:

- **Unknown Water Depths:** Water that looks deep can be deceptively shallow. Jumping into shallow water can result in broken bones, spinal injuries, paralysis, or death.
- **Hidden Hazards Below the Surface:** Rocks, debris, or discarded objects may be lurking beneath the surface, invisible from above.
- **Cold Water Shock:** Even in summer, water temperatures can be low enough to cause cold water shock—an involuntary gasp reflex and rapid breathing that can lead to drowning.
- **Strong Currents and Tides:** Rivers, estuaries, and coastal waters can have strong currents or tides that pull swimmers under or away from safety.
- **Lack of Exit Points:** Once in the water, there may be no easy way out. Cliffs, sea walls, and embankments can be impossible to climb back up.

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

The Role of Parents: Awareness and Prevention

As a parent, it's vital to talk to your children—particularly teenagers—about the risks associated with tombstoning and unsupervised swimming. Here's how you can help:

- **Start the Conversation:** Discuss the dangers and why it's not worth the risk. Make sure they understand that even experienced swimmers can get into trouble.
- **Set Clear Boundaries:** Establish rules about where and when it's safe to swim. Encourage swimming in designated areas with lifeguards and discourage risky behavior near cliffs, bridges, or abandoned structures.
- **Know Where Your Child Is:** Stay involved in your child's plans and know where they are spending time, especially during the spring and summer months when they're more likely to be outdoors and around water.
- **Educate About Water Safety:** Teach your child basic water safety principles, including never swimming alone, recognising the signs of cold water shock, and how to help someone in trouble without putting themselves at risk.
- **Lead by Example:** Show safe behavior around water yourself. Whether on a family outing or a beach day, demonstrate respect for the water and reinforce good habits.

General Water Safety Tips

- Always swim in supervised areas when possible, where there are Life Guards.
- Never dive or jump into unknown water.
- Avoid alcohol around water—it impairs judgment and coordination.
- Wear a life jacket when boating or paddling.
- Remember the CPR and first aid you have learnt about in school—it could save a life.

Warm weather should be about fun with friends and family—not life-changing risks. Tombstoning may seem exciting, but the danger is real. Parents can help keep children safe by staying informed and talking openly about water safety this spring and summer.

Let's help ensure that fun in the sun doesn't end in tragedy.

For more information: <https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/police-forces/devon-cornwall-police/areas/about-us/local-support-and-guidance/drowning-prevention-and-water-safety/tombstoning/>