



HOT OFF THE PRESS



STOKE
DAMEREL

ISSUE 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

As this half-term draws to a close, it has been wonderful to see our school buzzing with energy and creativity. Our students have embraced every opportunity to learn, explore, and grow, both inside and outside the classroom.

Year 7 enjoyed an unforgettable Big Day Out, and across the campus there's been plenty to celebrate - from our lively clubs fair to welcoming our new Poet Laureate, Judith, and starting preparations for High School Musical Jr.

Our sports teams have continued to impress with their dedication and teamwork, earning praise from partners and making us very proud. We're also excited to welcome our new House Captains, who are already contributing to school life through activities like Fun Fridays.

This half-term has been a time for reflection too, with students engaging thoughtfully in World Mental Health Day and Black History Month activities. With so much accomplished, we look forward to another half-term full of learning, growth, and exciting opportunities.

Best wishes,

Anita Frier, Headteacher

HEAD STUDENT - MEET THEA!

Likes: Debating, music and international politics.

Dislikes: Unfairness - this is a big reason why I'd like to study of law!

Hobbies: I love to read and I am involved with Plymouth's Youth Parliament. I play the guitar and enjoying baking for family and friends!

As Head Student, I hope to strengthen the connection between Sixth Form and the lower school, fostering a united, supportive community. I want to inspire students to enjoy learning and give back to the school that has given me so much.



MEET OUR NEW POET LAUREATE, JUDITH!

Congratulations to Judith who has been named our new Poet Laureate for National Poetry Day 2025!

The announcement followed a lively poetry competition that invited students from all year groups to share their original and imaginative poetry.

Reflecting on her new role, Judith shared, "I am delighted to be the new Poet Laureate. Even more so, as other students voted for my poem as their favourite. I love writing and have always done it for fun, but now I have the opportunity to write for a purpose and for amazing events like Remembrance Day."

Congratulations to Judith on this well-deserved achievement! We look forward to seeing the creativity and inspiration she will bring as Poet Laureate throughout the coming year.

READ JUDITH'S STORY...



Play

Change is a powerful thing,
More powerful than it seems.
Strange is the thick of time as it takes away the dreams,
Of sandboxes and hopscotch, dolls and lullabies.
The set of swings that made me feel like I could fly,
Could I go back to before my naivety?
Was it stolen by teenage epiphany?
Or is there no remedy for teenage memory?

In the sun I played,
In the rain I played.
In the cold with a hat and coat, I stayed.
With the friends I made along the way,
Park adventures in early May.
I wish I would've known it was the last time
That I would hear those nursery rhymes.
What was once my childhood is now my desire,
The set of swings won't take me higher.
How I miss the simpler times, the pleasantries,
But alas, there is no remedy for fading memory.

Savour your life, you only have one.
Your childhood may be over, but your life has begun.
Nothing gold ever stays, it often turns to rust,
The memories of the playground crumbling to dust.
If you were to go back some day,
You'd see how things have really changed.
So hold on to what you can, never set it free,
At the end of the day, there's no remedy, just time for
making new memories.



CROSS-CAMPUS CLUBS FAYRE

Students from across the school came together for the much-anticipated Cross-Campus Clubs Fayre, filling the hall with energy and excitement.

The event celebrated one of the best parts of school life—exploring interests beyond the classroom. From sports and performing arts to academic challenges and creative outlets, students had the chance to discover new passions, meet like-minded peers, and develop skills in fun and meaningful ways.

Highlights included the ever-popular Crochet and Cooking Clubs, as well as the LGBTQIA+ Club, which continues to offer a supportive and inclusive space for connection.

Thanks to the efforts of staff and sixth form students, the fayre ran seamlessly, creating a welcoming environment for all. As clubs begin, the enthusiasm from the fayre promises an inspiring term filled with creativity, collaboration, and new friendships.

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

CAMPUS PRODUCTION OF 'HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL JR' ANNOUNCED

Rehearsals for our 2025/26 campus production of *"High School Musical Jr."* are well underway!

With over 80 talented students taking part both on stage and behind the scenes, this is shaping up to be one of our most exciting productions yet.

We can't wait to see the final show this February — stay tuned for more updates on how you can purchase your tickets and join us for the big performance!



KS3 STUDENTS SHINE IN VOCAL WORKSHOP

Our KS3 students hit all the right notes in an unforgettable Gabrieli Roar vocal workshop, hosted by our Music Department and led by brilliant choral directors Charles and Emily.

The room buzzed with energy as they tackled dynamic warm-ups, vocal percussion, and rich harmonies—all learned by ear! They rose to the challenge, performing confidently in four-part harmony and even adding creative drum-kit imitations!

We were thrilled to welcome singers from Lipson Co-operative Academy, whose collaboration showcased the unifying power of music across our city.

Now, our students are rehearsing *The Polar Express* with Legacy Choir leaders, ready to share their festive spirit at our upcoming holiday performances.



YEAR 7 STUDENTS BRING SAMBA TO LIFE

This half term, our Year 7 students have been exploring the rhythms of samba, playing instruments like the Surdo and Agogo, and learning to perform together as a band.

Many took turns leading the group with simple call-and-response phrases, and it's been fantastic to see so many stepping into the spotlight as soloists.

A big thank you to the Devon Music Hub for loaning these hard-to-find instruments and helping make this energetic musical experience possible!

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



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

This October, SDCC has been celebrating Black History Month, recognising the achievements, culture, and contributions of Black individuals, both past and present.

Throughout the month, students and staff have been engaging in learning, reflection, and community activities that emphasise the importance of diversity, equality, and inclusion. These initiatives aim to inspire understanding, appreciation, and positive action within our school community.

Black History Month provides an opportunity for everyone to celebrate, educate, and be inspired, highlighting the value of every voice and the richness of our shared history.



WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

In honour of World Mental Health Day, our staff and students showed their support by wearing yellow accessories as part of #HelloYellow — a symbol of hope, positivity, and togetherness.

Remember: There are always staff in school to talk to, however you are feeling - it matters. Talk 2 us is available for students to raise any concerns or worries.

talk2us@sdcc-smhc.net

You can also reach out to **YoungMinds** at www.youngminds.org.uk who are there to support young people and their mental health.



YEAR 7 BIG DAY OUT

Our Year 7 students had a fantastic time on their annual Big Day Out, filled with activities and opportunities to bond with their peers.

The day started with a scenic ferry ride to Mount Edgcombe, followed by beach challenges like rock-building and scavenger hunts. Students then enjoyed a coastal walk up to the historic Mount Edgcombe House and finished with team games, including a lively capture the flag.

The outing also gave students a chance to get to know their tutors and house leaders while making new friends. It was a fun-filled day of laughter, teamwork, and memories that will stay with them throughout their school journey.

[SEE MORE PHOTOS HERE...](#)

YEAR 12 EXPLORE THEIR FUTURES AT UWE BRISTOL AND UCAS FAIR

Our Year 12 students enjoyed an inspiring visit to the University of the West of England (UWE) Bristol, followed by the UCAS fair at Ashton Gate Stadium.

The trip offered a valuable insight into university life and future pathways, with students exploring UWE's Business, Engineering, and Medical departments before meeting university and apprenticeship representatives at the fair.

The trip proved both motivating and informative, helping our Year 12 students build confidence and clarity as they plan the next stage of their academic journeys.

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





CELEBRATING OUR NEW HOUSE CAPTAINS!

We're thrilled to announce the appointment of our new House Captains!

Each student delivered an impressive and heartfelt speech, showcasing their leadership qualities, enthusiasm, and vision for their house. Speaking in front of their peers and teachers was no easy task, but every candidate rose to the occasion with confidence and poise.

A huge thank-you goes to our House Leaders, whose guidance and encouragement have helped the new captains settle into their roles seamlessly.

Together, they've already begun launching exciting Fun Friday events—ranging from weekly House Football matches to Staff Netball games—bringing our community together through teamwork, energy, and friendly rivalry.

Here's to an inspiring year ahead, filled with collaboration, fun, and house pride!

HOUSE FOOTBALL COMPETITION BRINGS UNITY TO THE PITCH

Our House Competitions have already sparked excitement across the school, with the opening event setting the perfect tone for the year ahead.

Students gathered on our brand-new 3G pitch for a spirited game of House Football, where players from every house proudly represented their teams.

The matches showcased impressive skill, teamwork, and determination—from confident passes to hard-fought tackles—while cheers from the sidelines created a fantastic atmosphere throughout.

In the end, Saltram and Sutton finished level, each earning valuable house points. With more competitions on the horizon, this friendly rivalry is only just beginning.





House Captain
Julia
Year 12



Deputy House Captains


Anis Year 13


Charlie Year 9


Boris Year 8


Mathilde Year 7


Jack Year 7



House Captain
Alejandro
Year 12



Deputy House Captains


Adam Year 13


Alexiah Year 9


Zain Year 8


Sophie Year 7


Lizzie Year 7



House Captain
Sophie
Year 12



Deputy House Captains


Ava Year 13


Freddie Year 10


Olivia Year 9


Belle Year 8


Stanley Year 7



House Captain
Kezhal
Year 12



Deputy House Captains


Kaitlin Year 12


Mya Year 10


Noah Year 9


Jessica Year 9


Marley Year 8


Beth Year 7

KEY DATES

SDCC Remembrance Service
Tuesday 11th November

Year 10 Parents Evening
Thursday 13th November

Year 11 and 13 Mock Exams
Monday 25th November -
Friday 5th December

Sixth Form Parents Evening
Tuesday 16th December

SDCC SPORTS NEWS

FOOTBALL NEWS

U14 GIRLS FOOTBALL TEAM TRIUMPH IN ESFA CUP FIXTURE



Our U14 Girls' Football Team have made a fantastic start to their ESFA Cup campaign! After a 2–1 victory over Tavistock College in the first round, the team continued their winning streak with an impressive 4–1 win away at Launceston College.

The goals were shared across the squad, with Ruby, Olivia, Millie, and Sienna all finding the back of the net. A special mention goes to Ava L, who was named Girl of the Match for her brilliant crosses – assisting two goals – and her outstanding defensive play.

This superb result is a testament to the team's hard work, skill, and determination. Congratulations to all the players on a fantastic performance!

YEAR 10 FOOTBALL TEAM TRIUMPHS IN NATIONAL CUP

The Year 10 football team delivered an impressive 4-1 victory over Ivybridge in their recent cup match.

From the first whistle, the boys showed remarkable skill, teamwork, and determination, with goals from Kenyon, Cas, Jack and Harry. Every player contributed with energy and focus, highlighting the strength and unity of the squad.

With this win, they progress to the 3rd round of the National Cup—an exciting milestone in their season.

Well done, boys!



RUGBY NEWS

YEAR 7 RUGBY SQUAD IMPRESS IN FIRST FIXTURES



Our Year 7 team made a fantastic start to their rugby journey, drawing 15–15 in their opening match against Lipson before snatching a dramatic 20–15 win over St Boniface with the final play of the game.

The boys showed great teamwork, sportsmanship and determination throughout, with Rayane standing out for fearless tackling and outstanding effort.

YEAR 9 RUGBY TEAM START STRONG



Our Year 9 boys started their rugby season in style with a 30–5 win over Plympton, followed by a hard-fought 5–5 draw against Coombe Dean.

Alfie was named Man of the Match for outstanding tackling, with special mentions to Martyn and Dan for stepping up in their first-ever games. A strong start to a promising season!

YEAR 10/11 RUGBY TEAM STARTS SEASON IN STYLE

Our Year 10/11 rugby team made a fantastic start to their season with two strong performances. They opened with a dominant 30–0 win over Plympton, showing great teamwork and determination, before battling to an impressive 10–10 draw against DHSB.

Tries were shared across the team, with Kenyon earning special recognition for scoring two outstanding tries from their own half.

A brilliant beginning to what promises to be an exciting season ahead!



SDCC SPORTS NEWS

BADMINTON CLUB

BADMINTON CLUB SUCCESS!

There was a brilliant buzz around the sports hall earlier in the term as 28 students from across the campus came together for our Badminton Club.



With a fantastic mix of boys and girls from different year groups, it was wonderful to see so many students taking part and enjoying the game side by side.

From fast-paced rallies to friendly matches, the energy and enthusiasm on court showed just how popular the club has become. Even more exciting was seeing so many students eager to represent their school in upcoming fixtures – a true sign of their commitment and team spirit.

YEAR 9 DIAMONDS SHINE BRIGHT AT HELES

Our Year 9 Diamonds carried on their fantastic run of fixtures with an exciting match at Heles against Notre Dame. With another school withdrawing at the last minute, the team rose to the occasion and enjoyed an extended, exciting game against a strong opponent.

The girls, alongside Oscar, impressed with brilliant teamwork in new combinations, showing great promise for upcoming matches.

It's inspiring to see familiar faces returning each year alongside fresh talent, bringing energy, skill, and enthusiasm that make the Diamonds a real force on the court.



NETBALL NEWS

YEAR 8 DIAMONDS IMPRESS AT HELES

What an evening for the Year 8 Diamonds! The team's energy and passion lit up the court from start to finish.



In their opening game against a strong DHSG side, they fought hard and went into halftime just one goal behind. Despite a narrow loss, Fatima impressed with outstanding defence, earning Player of the Game.

The team came back stronger in their second match, securing a 5–0 victory over All Saints! Evie scored a superb goal from the edge of the D, while Lyla's consistent effort in both attack and defence earned her Player of the Game.

Well done girls!

YEAR 10 & 11 NETBALL TEAM FINISH STRONG!

The Year 10 and 11 Netball team finished their season with a series of standout performances. After early wins against Egguckland (11–1) and Torbridge (9–1), they continued their strong form with a recent 15–0 win over Lipson.

With Gracie moving from GD to Centre and Naomi switching from GK to Goal Shooter, the team showed excellent teamwork and versatility throughout.

Their final match against DHSG was a highlight. Leading 4–2 at halftime, the girls stayed focused under pressure. A last-minute injury saw Naomi step in as Goal Shooter, scoring a stunning final goal to secure a memorable 9–4 victory—their first-ever win against DHSG.

A brilliant end to a season full of skill, determination, and team spirit!



CLUBS

AUTUMN 2025



EVERYDAY

MORNING FOOTBALL

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

ENGLISH SPARX BREAKFAST CLUB

Who? KS3 | *Where?* EN1
When? Before school from 7.45am

BREAKFAST CLUB

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

CAMPUS RADIO CLUB

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

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY

STEAM

Who? All years | *Where?* Stoke -
CT1 (Tuesday)
Scott - FF03 (Wednesday)
When? After school

SIXTH FORM GYM

Who? Years 12 & 13 | *Where?* FT1
When? Wednesday Week A
Tuesday Week B 3.10- 4pm

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

SCHOOL PRODUCTION

Who? All years | *Where?* Theatre (Main
Space)/PA1 & PA2
When? 3-5pm

THURSDAY

KEYBOARD CLUB

Who? All Years | *Where?* PA2
When? After school

CROCHET CLUB

Who? All years | *Where?* MA9
When? After school

DofE CLUB BRONZE

Who? Years 9 and 10 | *Where?* KS3 Canteen
When? After school

DofE CLUB SILVER

Who? Years 9 and 10 | *Where?* KS3 Canteen
When? After school Week B

E-SPORTS

Who? All years | *Where?* CT3
When? After school

RUGBY

Who? All years | *Where?* Green Astro
When? After school

BASKETBALL

Who? All years | *Where?* Sports Hall
When? After school

FITNESS

Who? Years 9 & 10 | *Where?* FT1
When? After school

MEDIA CLUB

Who? Years 7-10 | *Where?* VA5
When? After school

CHESS CLUB

Who? All years | *Where?* Ma7
When? After school Week A

PARAGON MATHS

Who? All years | *Where?* MA5
When? After School Week B

MONDAY

ARGYLE COMMUNITY TRUST FOOTBALL (GIRLS ONLY)

Who? All years | *Where?* Green Astro
When? After school

TUESDAY

READING CLUB

Who? Years 7-9 | *Where?* Library
When? Break A

D.I.Y FASHION

Who? All years | *Where?* VA2
When? After school

FOOTBALL

Who? Years 7 & 8 | *Where?* Green Astro
When? After school

NETBALL

Who? Years 8 & 9 | *Where?* Sports Hall/
Courts
When? After school

FITNESS

Who? Years 9 & 10 | *Where?* FT1
When? After school

COOKING CLUB

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

TUESDAY & THURSDAY

LGBTQ+

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

WEDNESDAY

ART & CLAY ART

Who? All years | *Where?* VA3
When? After school

GIRLS FOOTBALL

Who? All years | *Where?* Green Astro
When? After school

FOOTBALL

Who? Years 9 & 10 | *Where?* Green Astro
When? After school

BADMINTON

Who? All Years | *Where?* Sports Hall
When? After school

NETBALL

Who? Year 7 | *Where?* Sports Hall/Courts
When? After school

EPQ DROP IN SESSION

Who? Sixth Form | *Where?* SF07
When? Break B

ROCK CLUB JUNIOR

Who? Year 7 | *Where?* PA2
When? After school

FRIDAY

CCF

Who? Years 10-13 | *Where?* Off site
When? PM

CHRISTIAN FAITH GROUP

Who? All years | *Where?* EB14
When? Break A

FURTHER MATHS

Who? Year 11 (top maths sets only) |
Where? Ma6
When? After school (3-4pm)

ROCK CLUB

Who? Years 8-11 | *Where?* PA2
When? After school

Aspire **ACHIEVE** Thrive

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

The Rising Problem of Moped Theft in Plymouth

Over the past year, Plymouth has seen a sharp increase in moped and motorbike thefts — with 195 bikes stolen between August 2024 and July 2025.

What's surprising is that only one person was charged in that time, meaning most of the thieves haven't been caught.

Police have warned about groups of riders using stolen bikes recklessly - sometimes speeding through neighbourhoods, carrying passengers without helmets, and wearing masks or balaclavas.

Many of those involved are young males aged 14–20, which makes this an issue that directly affects young people in our city.

What the Police Are Doing

Devon & Cornwall Police have been carrying out operations to recover stolen mopeds and target known offenders. One recent operation in the Plymouth North area led to several mopeds being recovered and a key suspect being arrested.

They've also shared important advice for bike owners:

- Use a strong chain or disc lock
- Lock the steering and secure it to a fixed object
- Cover your bike when not in use
- Fit a tracker or immobiliser if you can
- Always store mopeds in a locked garage or secure place

What Can We Do?

For Students and Families:

- Keep your bike secure with good locks or a tracker.
- Report any suspicious activity around mopeds or motorbikes.
- Look out for your friends — if someone seems to be getting involved in risky behaviour or drug use, encourage them to talk to someone they trust.

For Schools and the Community:

- More education about drug awareness and personal safety through our PSHE curriculum.
- Youth projects that offer fun, positive alternatives to crime.
- Continued police operations in hotspot areas. We share any information we receive with the police through their information sharing portal.

The Rise of Ketamine Use Among Young People

Alongside the rise in bike thefts, there's also growing concern about ketamine use across the UK - especially among young people.

Government reports show that ketamine use has risen by around 85% between early 2023 and early 2024. Among people aged 16–24, usage has more than doubled in some studies. Police have seized record amounts of ketamine - around 1.43 tonnes in one year.

The Risks

Ketamine is a powerful drug that can seriously harm your body and mind. Long-term use can lead to:

- Bladder and kidney damage
- Incontinence (loss of bladder control)
- Memory loss and mental health problems
- In some cases, death

Doctors are seeing more young people admitted for ketamine-related health problems than ever before.

Could the Two Problems Be Connected?

There's no proven link between ketamine use and the rise in moped thefts in Plymouth — but there are a few possible overlaps.

People struggling with addiction might steal to fund drug use, and both issues often involve the same age group (14–24).

Drug use can also lower inhibitions, making risky behaviour — like theft or dangerous riding — more likely.

Still, not everyone who steals uses drugs, and not everyone who uses drugs commits theft. These problems are complex and often linked to peer pressure, lack of opportunities, or social challenges.

A Final Thought

Plymouth is a fantastic city — but like many places, it faces real challenges.

With moped thefts on the rise and more young people turning to drugs like ketamine, it's important that we all stay aware, stay safe, and support each other.

By taking small steps — securing bikes, making smart choices, and caring for our friends — students can play a big part in keeping Plymouth's communities safe and positive for everyone. If you have concerns or worries about this please contact our designated safeguarding lead, Simon Kelly here: skelly@sdcc-smhc.net and he can signpost support.