



STOKE
DAMAREL

ISSUE 3

Hot OFF THE PRESS



Dear Parents and Carers,

This Christmas term has been a truly festive and memorable one, filled with a wide range of activities that have brought our school community together. Our 12 Days of Christmas celebrations were a particular highlight, from decorating our Christmas tree with student-made baubles, to lively DJ sessions, Christmas-oke, Reindeer Relays, festive films, silent discos, and staff competitions. These events brought energy, creativity, and plenty of holiday cheer to every corner of the school.

The Drama Department has also been busy, launching our campus production of High School Musical Jr with a sneak peek performance, showcasing the remarkable talent and dedication of our students.

Our sports teams have continued to shine, celebrating impressive victories across a range of tournaments and demonstrating fantastic teamwork and commitment.

As the term draws to a close, we reflect on a period of learning, laughter, and festive fun, and we look forward to another exciting year ahead.

Best wishes,

Anita Frier, Headteacher

RAINBOW FLAG AWARD

We are delighted to announce that SDCC has been awarded the Rainbow Flag Award, recognising our commitment to creating a safe, inclusive environment where LGBTQIA+ young people can thrive.

Over the past year, staff and students have participated in workshops, training sessions, and a campus-wide inclusion audit, reflecting on how to embed inclusive practices across all subjects.

Year 10 student Corey said, "Sometimes LGBTQIA+ individuals are not represented in a positive light, and this gives younger people a negative view of people in their communities." Sam, in Year 9, added, "It is so important for everyone to understand the Equality Act and know that individuals are supported in being themselves."

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POET LAUREATE CHRISTMAS POEM

Story of Love

The story begins in love
and that love grows every year
From a baby in a manger
To a sleigh led by reindeer
That same love transforms
From carols to trees
exchanging gifts
between you and me.

The winter wind whistles for all to hear
To tell them Christmas time is near
Simply a scene they cannot miss
The sound of festivity, the feeling of bliss
From nation to nation, coast to coast
We cherish the magic of love the most
A time of joy that stirs the spirit
A story of love we all inherit

Christmas serves an everlasting cause
lighting up Decembers that come and go
eggnog, hymns, angels and stars
It may be the same, but it never gets old
A Christmas that is red, white or green
An ephemeral season creates a perpetual
dream

Christmas time is a reminder
that it is not the presents that bind us
But the love that fills the streets
there's enough for you and me.

By Judith, Poet Laureate

SIENNA REPRESENTS PLYMOUTH AT THE UK YOUTH PARLIAMENT



This term, Year 12 student Sienna had the incredible opportunity to represent Plymouth at the UK Youth Parliament's annual sitting in the House of Commons.

Joined by over 400 Members of Youth Parliament from across the country, she took part in debates on key issues affecting young people, including housing, health, crime, and sustainability.

Sienna proudly spoke in the Chamber on the topic of violence towards girls, emphasising early education, teacher training, and the importance of safe spaces for young people. She also introduced her work on bringing the Pink Pineapple Project - a safety initiative for children - to Plymouth.

Meeting Sir Lindsay Hoyle, sharing ideas with other young people, and speaking in the historic Chamber made the day truly unforgettable for her. Sienna described the experience as inspiring, empowering, and a powerful reminder of the difference young people can make.



STAFF NETBALL TOURNAMENT

Our Staff Netball Tournament was a standout event this term, drawing huge crowds and showcasing brilliant House spirit. In the final, Smeaton's strong teamwork saw them defeat Sutton 7-4 to claim the title. The sports hall was packed with enthusiastic students, creating an electric atmosphere. Staff and students alike enjoyed the fun and friendly competition, with plenty of laughter and memorable moments throughout. Smeaton lifted the trophy, but the real highlight was the sense of unity and community across the school.



12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS!

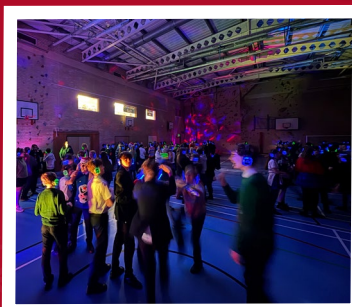
This year's 12 Days of Christmas brought a wonderful burst of festive cheer to the college community. Students and staff enjoyed a packed schedule of activities, from decorating our Christmas tree with handmade baubles to energetic DJ sessions, Christmas-oke performances, and a lively Year 9 Basketball vs Netball match.

Highlights included our fun-filled "Hide and Geese" challenge, the festive House Christmas Film, the Reindeer Relay, and a brilliant Christmas Just Dance! session in the Main Hall. Staff got competitive in a volleyball match, while Year 11 enjoyed their Christmas Dinner and Prom Launch. Christmas Jumper Day, silent discos, and fantastic musical performances from Richard Pinn added even more festive spirit.

We rounded off the celebrations with our Christmas assemblies, bringing everyone together to reflect on a busy and successful term.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part — and to those who supported our charity buckets throughout the 12 days. It was a wonderful way to end the term!

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





A MUSICAL TREAT FROM RICHARD PINN

Our Year 7 students were treated to an exciting live performance from SDCC Alumni, Richard Pinn, who returned to share his fantastic vocal talents. Richard wowed the audience with an energetic set featuring a mix of rock and pop classics.

The session ended on a high note as the entire Year 7 cohort joined together in song, showcasing their enthusiastic and confident voices as one big ensemble.

As a special surprise, Richard continued his set outdoors as students made their way home, giving the whole school community a chance to enjoy one final performance. It was fantastic to see so many students singing along, and one of our talented Year 7s even took the mic for an impromptu performance of an Ed Sheeran song!



REMEMBRANCE DAY 2025

Our school community came together for a heartfelt Remembrance Day commemoration, honouring the bravery and sacrifice of those who served in the World Wars. In the lead-up to the event, students and staff worked on creative projects to raise awareness, including a poppy display and a beautiful poppy dress from the Art Department. The Diversitas Team also crafted Black Poppy roses to recognise the contributions of Black, African, and Caribbean communities during the war.

On Friday, the whole school gathered on the blue astro pitch for a moving service led by Mrs Frier and Mr Oakes. Our Poet Laureate, Judith, opened with an original poem, followed by the two-minute silence at 11:00 am. Head Student Thea, House Captains, and a CCF representative then laid poppy wreaths in remembrance.

A special highlight was the parade of students from the CCF, RAF, Army Cadets, Sea Cadets, St John Ambulance Cadets, and Scouts, standing proudly as symbols of courage and service.

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

EMPLOYABILITY WORKSHOP

As part of our ongoing commitment to preparing students for life beyond school, sixty Year 10s took part in an Employability Workshop delivered by Cecile and Tim from Young Enterprise. The programme was designed to help pupils develop vital workplace skills and build career confidence.



DRAMA STUDENTS GAIN INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE AT THE BARBICAN THEATRE

A group of Year 10 Drama students recently took part in an exciting Work Experience placement at The Barbican Theatre. Through the Mission Accomplished programme, they were given a unique opportunity to gain hands-on insight into the performing arts industry.

Over the course of the week, the group devised and performed original pieces, developed a professional funding bid, and worked alongside theatre producers and industry experts. This gave them a deeper understanding of the creative and technical processes that bring performances to life on stage.



TAIKO DRUM WORKSHOP

Our Year 9 students had the exciting opportunity to take part in a Taiko Drum workshop led by Taiko South West.

During the workshop, students were introduced to the basics of traditional Japanese drumming. They learnt powerful stances, practised synchronised beats, and worked together to create a strong, unified sound. Along the way, they discovered that taiko is about far more than music – it promotes teamwork, discipline, and deep cultural appreciation.



STUDENTS EXPERIENCE LIFE AT KPMG

Two of our Year 13 students were given a fantastic opportunity to complete work experience with KPMG, one of the world's leading professional services firms specialising in audit, tax and advisory work.

Year 13 student Julia said: *"It was inspiring to be surrounded by people with similar aspirations who are determined to succeed. I'm so grateful to have been given this opportunity. It has motivated me to network more and build my knowledge so I can achieve my goal of becoming a chartered accountant."*

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



STUDENTS VISIT AUSCHWITZ

Six of our Year 12 and 13 students were selected for the Lessons from Auschwitz project, an incredible opportunity run by the Holocaust Educational Trust to help young people understand the history and impact of the Holocaust.

During the one-day visit, students toured both Auschwitz I and Auschwitz-Birkenau with guidance from a Holocaust Educational Trust expert and a local historian.

In the evening, students took part in a reflective ceremony, where Year 12 student Ben read a poem written by a Holocaust victim.

Rhianna reflected: "The ceremony was particularly my favourite part - lighting candles to shine light in the darkness of Birkenau is something I'll never forget."

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



YEAR 10 OXFORD UNIVERSITY TRIP

Our Year 10 students recently enjoyed an inspiring and memorable visit to Oxford University, spending the day at Exeter College taking part in a series of academic activities designed to challenge their thinking, spark curiosity, and give them a real insight into university life.

During the visit, students explored the stunning campus on a guided tour and enjoyed lunch in the impressive, Hogwarts-style dining hall. They also worked with an Oxford graduate to tackle problem-solving tasks, giving them a taste of the intellectual curiosity and collaboration that defines study at Oxford.

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



KEY DATES

Year 11 Parents Evening
Thursday 8th January

Holocaust Memorial Day
Tuesday 27th January

Campus Sixth Form Open Evening
Thursday 29th January

High School Musical Jr Production
Tuesday 10th - Thursday 12th February

CARLA REPRESENTS ROMANIA

Congratulations to our fantastic Year 7 Carla for representing Romania at the flag-raising ceremony in Plymouth! Carla introduced the event and took part in a performance, reading a poem, sharing interesting facts about Romania, and discussing the importance of a Christmas carol – all in both English and Romanian. Such a wonderful achievement. Well done, Carla!

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



KEZHAL'S INSPIRING COURT EXPERIENCE

Year 12 student Kezhal recently undertook an exceptional work experience placement at a law firm inside Duhok District Court in Kurdistan. The placement gave her firsthand insight into the legal profession, allowing her to observe real cases, support lawyers with case preparation, and learn about courtroom practice.

She witnessed a range of sensitive cases, gaining a deeper understanding of the emotional and human side of legal work. Kezhal was especially inspired by the tradition of Kurdish lawyers wearing black satin capes with green and red sashes to symbolise their stand against injustice.

Describing the experience as "unforgettable," she shared that it strengthened her passion for justice and confirmed her desire to pursue a future career in law.

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



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CLUBS

SPRING 2026

EVERYDAY

MORNING FOOTBALL
Who? All years | Where? Green Astro
When? Before school

ENGLISH SPARK 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

MONDAY

BASKETBALL
Who? All years | Where? Sports Hall
When? Break B

ARGYLE COMMUNITY TRUST FOOTBALL (GIRLS ONLY)
Who? All years | Where? Green Astro
When? After school

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

LIBRARY
Who? All years | Where? SDCC Library
When? Break A & B

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY

LANGUAGES CLUB
Who? All years | Where? EB6
When? Monday Week A, Wednesday Week B

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY

STEAM
Who? All years
Where? SDCC - CT1 (Tuesday)
SMHC - F03 (Wednesday)
When? After school

FITNESS
Who? Years 7 & 8 | Where? FT1
When? After school

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

TUESDAY

READING CLUB
Who? All years | Where? Library
When? Break A

TEXTILES CLUB
Who? All years | Where? VA2
When? After school

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

NETBALL
Who? All years | Where? Sports Hall/Courts
When? After school

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

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

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

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

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

DODGEBALL
Who? All years | Where? Gym Zone
When? After school

TURN UP AND PLAY NETBALL
Who? All years
Where? Sports Hall/Courts
When? After school

ROCK CLUB JR
Who? Year 7 - 8 | Where? PA2
When? 3.15-4.15pm

EPO DROP IN SESSION
Who? Sixth Form | Where? SMHC SF07
When? Break B

BIOLOGY INTERVENTION
Who? Yr 13 Biologists | Where? SC13
When? 4-5pm

THURSDAY

KEYBOARD CLUB
Who? All years | Where? PA2
When? After school

CROCHET CLUB
Who? All years | Where? MA7
When? After school

DofE CLUB BRONZE
Who? Years 9 and 10 (will have pre-signed up)
Where? KS3 Canteen
When? After school

DofE CLUB SILVER
Who? Years 9 and 10 (will have pre-signed up)
Where? KS3 Canteen
When? After school Week B

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

BOYS FOOTBALL
Who? All years | Where? Blue Astro
When? After school

BENCHBALL
Who? Years 7, 8 & 9 | Where? Sports Hall
When? After school

FITNESS
Who? All years | Where? FT1
When? After school

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

eSPORTS (ROCKET LEAGUE)
Who? All years | Where? CT3
When? 3-4pm

CHESS CLUB
Who? All years | Where? MA9
When? After school

DIVERSITAS
Who? All years | Where? KS4 Canteen
When? 11.30-1.30 PM

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

FRIDAY

CCF
Who? Years 10-13 (Invite only)
Where? Off site When? After School

CHRISTIAN FAITH GROUP
Who? All years | Where? EB14
When? Break A

FURTHER MATHS
Who? Year 11 (top maths sets only)
Where? MA5
When? 3-4pm

ROCK CLUB SR
Who? Years 9 - 11 | Where? PA2
When? 3.15-4.15pm

Aspire

ACHIEVE

Thrive

REMINDER

SIXTH FORM
OPEN
EVENING

Thursday 29th
January 2026

SDCC SPORTS NEWS

RUGBY NEWS



BENEFIT ELITE COACHING WORKS WITH STUDENTS

Over the past six weeks, our Year 7 and 8 students have been taking part in rugby coaching sessions with Ben Russell from Benefit Elite Coaching. Ben, a former professional rugby player, brought great knowledge and enthusiasm to each lesson, helping students to build skills, confidence, and teamwork.

"Ben helped me learn how to play rugby properly. It was great for someone so talented to coach us."

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

YEAR 10/11 RUGBY TEAM SHINE AT PLYMOUTH SCHOOLS TOURNAMENT

Our Year 10/11 rugby team showed outstanding determination and teamwork at the Plymouth Schools Rugby Tournament, despite challenging weather. Captain Finley kept spirits high as the team delivered strong performances, scoring impressive tries and making key defensive plays. Their hard work paid off with a well-deserved Bronze medal!



FOOTBALL NEWS

VICTORY IN THE NATIONAL CUP!

Our Year 9 boys' football team delivered a superb performance in their away fixture at Hayle Academy, showcasing excellent teamwork and skill to claim an impressive 6–1 victory. Their confident display highlighted the talent and determination that have driven their success throughout the competition.



U14 GIRLS FOOTBALL TEAM IN ESFA CUP

The U14 girls football team has enjoyed an impressive ESFA Cup run, showing determination and strong teamwork throughout. In their recent match against Ivybridge, they defended well and created some great attacking chances, with Ivy earning Player of the Match for an excellent performance out of position.



YEAR 7 BOYS SECURE WIN ON HOME 3G PITCH

The Year 7 boys put in an outstanding performance on the 3G pitch, securing an impressive 8–2 win over Coombe Dean with six different players on the score sheet. Abdul and Charlie made excellent debuts, settling into the team with ease, while Teddy earned Player of the Match for his two goals and strong midfield leadership. A brilliant result and a confident step into the next round - well done, Year 7!



SDCC SPORTS NEWS

NETBALL NEWS

YEAR 8 DIAMONDS IMPRESS

The girls delivered an excellent performance against Lipson, securing a 7-3 victory.

Belle stood out for her leadership and play, helping to guide her teammates throughout the matches.



YEAR 7 STARS NETBALL TEAM TRIUMPH!

Our Year 7 Stars Netball team smashed it with two incredible wins: 8-2 and 13-0! The team has really gelled and played brilliantly together.

Special shout-out to Immy, who played on her birthday – what a way to celebrate!



EXCITING GYM UPDATE!

Exciting news for our school community: the brand-new gym set to open in 2026 has taken a major step forward, with all the new equipment arriving this week.

From top-of-the-range cardio machines to new strength and conditioning gear, this investment will significantly enhance student wellbeing, sport, and fitness opportunities.

We can't wait to see everyone making the most of the new space in the near future.



BASKETBALL NEWS

YEAR 9 BASKETBALL TEAM SHINE

Our Year 9 basketball team has been in excellent form, delivering two strong performances during their recent visit to DHSB. The boys opened with a convincing 26–10 win against St Boniface, showing confidence and control throughout the game.

A special mention goes to Ruben, who set the standard on court and contributed an impressive 80% of the team's total points.



BADMINTON NEWS

U14 BOYS DEBUT!

Our U14 Boys Badminton team kicked off their season with a tightly contested match against Egguckland. The result came down to the final game, and although the win slipped away, the boys showed great persistence and determination.



U14 GIRLS SHINE ON COURT

Our U14 Girls Badminton team showed fantastic progress and determination against a strong Torbridge side this week. Despite a 4–1 loss, everyone played brilliantly, with a special shoutout to Martha and Kennedy in Year 8 for their hard-earned doubles win. Great teamwork, great spirits, and a festive sing-along on the way home!



SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

Online Safety Over Christmas: Important Guidance for Families

With the Christmas holidays approaching, many children will be spending more time online—whether through new devices, gaming, or social media. As the UK continues to strengthen online safety rules and age-verification expectations under the Online Safety Act, this is an ideal time for families to support safe and positive digital habits at home.

Talk About Online Expectations

Children often hear mixed messages from friends or social media. Remind them that many platforms have 13+ or 16+ age limits to protect wellbeing and privacy. Encourage open conversations about what they do online and reassure them that they can always talk to you if something worries them.

Set Up Devices Together

If your child receives new technology this Christmas, set it up side-by-side by checking:

- Privacy settings
- App downloads requiring parent approval
- Location sharing turned off
- Age-appropriate content filters
- Safe chat or messaging settings

This helps children understand how to protect themselves online.

Create Simple Family Rules

Agree on:

- No secret accounts
- Keeping social media profiles private
- Not chatting with strangers
- Thinking before posting photos or personal details

Consistency across siblings keeps expectations clear.

Be Aware of Online Risks

More holiday screen time can mean increased exposure to:

- Cyberbullying in group chats
- Fake accounts or strangers in games
- Pressure to share personal information
- Harmful or inappropriate content
- Online scams disguised as competitions or gifts

A simple message that can help build trust:

“If anything online makes you feel uncomfortable, tell me—you won’t be in trouble.”

Where to Get Support

If you need help or advice:

CEOP

Report serious online concerns

NSPCC

www.nspcc.org.uk

Childline

Support for children (0800 1111)

Report Harmful Content

www.iwf.org.uk

School Safeguarding Team

safeguarding@sdcc-smhc.net

talk2us@sdcc-smhc.net

A Positive Digital Christmas

By discussing online use, setting up devices safely, and staying connected to your child’s digital world, families can help ensure a safe, enjoyable, and confident online experience over the festive break.

Have a safe Christmas!

Remember: Talk 2 us is available for students to raise any concerns or worries.

talk2us@sdcc-smhc.net