



HOT OFF THE PRESS



STOKE
DAMEREL

ISSUE 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our students have once again embraced a wide range of exciting and challenging opportunities. The campus production of High School Musical Jr. was truly outstanding, with students rising to the occasion and delivering an unforgettable performance.

We were also delighted to welcome the Army for hands-on military training and marked Holocaust Memorial Day with an engaging VR learning experience. Our Year 11 students attended the University of Plymouth STEM Showcase in recognition of their excellent science mock results, whilst our sports students performed very well in recent fixtures, showcasing skill, teamwork, and determination.

It was wonderful to welcome prospective students to our Sixth Form Open Evening. The event was a great success, with a fantastic turnout and valuable insights into the courses we offer.

We wish all our students a well-deserved break and look forward to another busy and exciting half-term ahead.

Best wishes,

Anita Frier, Headteacher



HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL JR!

Our students delivered a spectacular performance of High School Musical Jr. this week, showcasing months of hard work in singing, dancing, and acting. The story followed Troy and Gabriella as they challenged the status quo at East High, opening the door for others to shine.

Many Sixth Form students worked behind the scenes, supporting choreography, staging, publicity, and directing, while staff managed sets, costumes, and lighting.

One student said, *“Being part of the show was amazing, seeing all our hard work come together on stage was incredible.”* Another added, *“Helping behind the scenes was challenging but so rewarding. Seeing the audience enjoy the show made it all worth it!”*

We are incredibly proud of all students and staff for creating such an amazing theatre experience!

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE...](#)





ROYAL NAVY INSTRUCTORS BRING MILITARY TRAINING EXPERIENCE

Pushing Limits: Royal Navy PT Instructors Visit!

Students got a taste of life in the @royalnavy when four PTIs from HMS Raleigh visited for the day. PE lessons turned into full-on PT sessions, including drill, fitness challenges, and strength & conditioning exercises.

Younger students also tried games played at sea, while older students pushed themselves to their limits - with lots of red, sweaty, and smiling faces!

One Year 10 student said: "That was so hard but I loved it! I didn't know I could do so many push-ups and burpees!"

We can't wait to welcome HMS Raleigh back later this year for more students interested in this exciting career path.

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



YEAR 11 STUDENTS EXCEL AT UNIVERSITY MATHS CHALLENGE

Seventeen of our Year 11 students recently attended the Higher Level Maths Achievement Programme at Plymouth University.

The event gave students the exciting opportunity to explore higher-level mathematics in a university setting while competing against schools from across the country.

Our students performed exceptionally well, securing second and third place overall. Even more impressively, their scores were among the strongest recorded nationally at this event.

The Maths Department is extremely proud of the students' focus, effort, and outstanding achievements.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE...](#)



REALISING OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAMME

13 of our Year 12 students have been accepted onto the Realising Opportunities programme in partnership with University of Exeter.

The programme provides a fantastic opportunity to gain insight into university life, with the added benefit that completion can lead to reduced offers from nine Russell Group universities.

They enjoyed a campus tour, expert advice, and a taste of life at a top-class university.

Tarka said, "It was amazing to see the campus and get a real feel for university life. I feel so motivated now!"

Dawid added, "The advice from the university expert was really helpful — I learnt so much about how to prepare for studying at a Russell Group university."

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE...](#)



KEY DATES

Thursday 26th February
Year 9 Parents & Options Evening

Thursday 5th March
World Book Day

Friday 20th March
Red Nose Day

Tuesday 31st March
DofE Presentation Evening



STEM SHOWCASE AT PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY

A group of our Year 11 students were recently invited to the University of Plymouth's STEM Showcase in recognition of their excellent science mock results. They explored cutting-edge research and technology, toured the campus, and spoke with current students about university life.

Nabeelah said, "Seeing the research and technology in action really opened my eyes. It made me realise just how many opportunities there are for a future in STEM."

The visit was an inspiring experience that helped raise aspirations and motivate our students for the future.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE...](#)

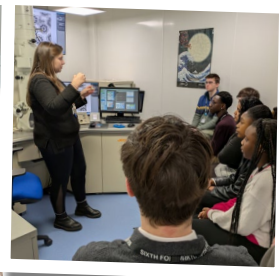
HOLOCAUST EDUCATIONAL TRUST TESTIMONY 360 WORKSHOP

Year 9 students recently took part in the Holocaust Educational Trust's Testimony 360 workshop, an immersive session using virtual reality to hear the testimony of a Holocaust survivor.

Students were fully engaged, asking thoughtful questions and exploring life in concentration camps. One student said, "The virtual reality made it feel so real. I'll never forget it." History staff praised the students for their focus and respect throughout the session.

This unique experience helped students deepen their understanding of the Holocaust and the persecution of minority groups, bringing their classroom learning to life.

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



ELECTRON MICROSCOPY AT UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH

Our Year 12 A Level Biology students had an incredible opportunity to visit the Electron Microscope Lab at the University of Plymouth, where they explored scanning and transmission electron microscopes and observed fascinating specimens including macrophages, biofilms, and bacteriophages.

Oliver, Year 12 student said, "Seeing the specimens at such a high resolution really helped me understand the content we've been learning in class."

A brilliant experience bringing classroom learning to life and inspiring future scientists!

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

AQUARIUM VISIT

Year 8 students recently visited Plymouth Aquarium as part of their Geography studies on oceans. They took part in workshops on climate change and sustainability and explored marine life up close. Kye said, "I loved seeing all the sea creatures and learning how we can protect the oceans."

The trip gave students a unique chance to connect classroom learning with real-world experiences and think more deeply about the future of our oceans. A truly engaging and memorable experience!

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE...](#)



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

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 - FF03 (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, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

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

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 & 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

EPQ 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

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

DoE 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 9 & 10 | 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 P3

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

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

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

BRONZE DOFE STUDENTS PITCH IN

Our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh pupils took part in a practical workshop, focusing on tent pitching in the school's gym zone. The session gave students the opportunity to develop key expedition skills in a supportive environment.

Year 9 student Sam said, *"It was challenging but really fun! I didn't realise how important teamwork is when putting up a tent."*

The workshop provided valuable hands-on practice, helping students build confidence and teamwork ahead of their upcoming expeditions after half term.

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



PROM 2026 LAUNCH!

Our students stole the show at the Prom Launch, rocking stunning gowns and sharp suits from Bee Bee Gowns at Faraday Mill. The hall was alive with music, lights, and cheers as students strutted the catwalk, inspiring everyone with outfit ideas for next June.

"It was so exciting to see everyone walking the catwalk!" said one Year 11 student. *"I've already started planning my own outfit - there are so many ideas! I can't wait for Prom!"*

We can't wait to see all our Year 11s shine at the Prom 2026!



SDCC SPORTS NEWS

FOOTBALL NEWS

DEVON CUP THRILLER

Our Year 7 boys kicked off their Devon Cup campaign in dramatic style against local rivals DHSB. Trailing 2-0 at half-time, the team showed incredible resilience to fight back and level the game at 2-2.



The match went to penalties, where the boys held their nerve, scoring every single one to win 9-8! Special mention to Nate, our Player of the Match, who led the attack brilliantly.

In the next round, the boys went on to produce a fantastic performance against Colyton grammar school, showing great quality and resilience in very wintery conditions to secure an 8-2 victory! There were standout performances across the team and Player of the Match honours going to the ever-present Teddy.

Onto the next round now for our amazing boys!

YEAR 8 GIRLS' FOOTBALL: SKILL, SPIRIT, SUCCESS!

Our Year 8 girls' football team travelled to Plymstock School for their annual fixtures, facing DHSG and Coombe Dean School. After a tough 1-0 loss to a strong DHSG side, they bounced back with a brilliant 3-1 win against Coombe Dean.

The team also showed fantastic sportsmanship, rotating positions to help out the opposition. Special shout-outs to Ivy, who made her debut, and Ella, who delivered great crosses and scored a goal!

Well done to all - a brilliant display of teamwork, effort, and respect. More to come from this amazing squad!



RUGBY NEWS

YEAR 10 RUGBY SECURES WIN AT IVYBRIDGE

Our Year 10s had one of their best performances yet, winning 33-22 away at Ivybridge in the cup!



After conceding a try in the first minute, the team showed amazing resilience and scored some fantastic tries.

Special shoutouts to Fin & Kenyon for their strong runs, and Albie & Oscar for their relentless tackling - even while playing a year up!

We're so proud of our boys for their teamwork, determination, and sporting spirit. A well-deserved win!

YEAR 9 SPORTS LEADERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Our Year 9 Sports Leaders recently attended the Secondary Leadership Conference at the Life Centre, hosted by the Plymouth School Sports Partnership. Their confidence and leadership skills shone so brightly that they were invited to help run a Primary Leadership Conference the following week!

Their contribution was truly impressive, earning glowing feedback from one of the attending primary school teachers: *"Their professionalism, enthusiasm, and genuine passion for helping younger pupils were evident throughout the day. Each student conducted themselves with maturity and politeness, and they worked together confidently and respectfully. They were a real credit to your school and PE department."*

We're so proud of our Year 9s for inspiring younger pupils and making a real difference!

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



SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

Misogyny and Radicalisation

Misogyny and Harmful Online Content

Misogyny refers to prejudice, hostility, or harmful attitudes towards women and girls. Unfortunately, some online platforms promote content that encourages disrespect, controlling behaviour, or the belief that women are inferior.

Young people can be exposed to:

- Influencers promoting harmful gender stereotypes
- Content that blames women for social or personal difficulties
- Language that normalises harassment or violence

Over time, repeated exposure can shape beliefs and behaviour. We actively address these issues through PSHE, assemblies, and pastoral support.

There is some useful information for parents and young people on this webpage <https://weareluna.app/parents/guides/mental-health-and-wellbeing/manosphere-and-online-misogyny>

The 764 Group and Online Exploitation

The 764 network is a harmful online group linked to coercion, exploitation, self-harm encouragement, and extreme content. These groups often operate through social media, gaming platforms, and messaging apps.

They may:

- Target vulnerable young people
- Build trust before encouraging harmful actions
- Use threats, manipulation, or shame to control victims

This is a safeguarding concern being monitored by schools and law enforcement nationally.

The extent of this was raised in a BBC Radio Podcast, Creation of a Teenage Satanist (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/p0m97kfc>).

Radicalisation – What This Means

Radicalisation is when someone is gradually influenced to adopt extreme or harmful beliefs. This doesn't only relate to terrorism — it can also include:

- Hatred towards women or certain groups
- Violence being justified or glorified
- Online communities that encourage harm

This process often happens slowly and subtly through online content and peer influence. If you are concerned that your child may be being radicalised contact ACT Early Support Line on 0800 011 3764

Signs Parents May Notice

Some possible warning signs include:

- Sudden changes in language, attitudes, or behaviour
- Increased secrecy around devices
- Obsessive viewing of certain influencers or online groups
- Extreme views about gender, relationships, or society
- Withdrawal, low mood, or anger

These signs do not always mean harm is occurring, but they are worth exploring with your child.



How You Can Support at Home

- Talk openly about online content and influences
- Encourage respectful conversations about relationships and gender
- Monitor apps, gaming chats, and social media use
- Reassure children they can talk to you if something feels uncomfortable
- Report concerning content to platforms and the school if needed

Our School's Approach

We continue to:

- Educate students on respectful relationships and online safety
- Monitor safeguarding concerns closely
- Provide emotional and pastoral support
- Work with external agencies when appropriate

If we ever have concerns about a student's safety, we will contact families promptly.

Need Support or Have Concerns?

If you are worried about your child or would like advice, please contact the school safeguarding team safeguarding@sdcc-smhc.net. No concern is too small — early conversations help keep children safe.

Thank you for working in partnership with us to support the wellbeing and safety of our students.

Kind regards,

The Safeguarding Team