

DARTMOUTH ACADEMY

Secondary Newsletter

November 2025

Be your  
Best Self

COURAGE · COMPASSION · AMBITION





November has been a month of reflection, community and shared purpose at Dartmouth Academy. One of the most significant moments in our calendar was our Remembrance Service at the Royal Naval College. Standing together in such a historic setting reminded us not only of those who sacrificed so much in past conflicts, but also of the continuing impact of war on communities around the world today. Our pupils showed exceptional maturity and compassion throughout the service, and we are immensely proud of the way they represented the Academy.

A particularly moving part of the morning was the reading of a poem written by our own member of staff, Valentyna Iliana, whose powerful words captured the meaning of peace in a way that resonated deeply with all who attended. Her poem invited us to reflect on the everyday freedoms we often take for granted, and on the strength and resilience of those living through conflict. Valentyna's voice brought a human truth to our act of remembrance, reminding us that peace is not simply the absence of war, but the presence of hope, unity and the chance to live freely.

Alongside this important moment of collective remembrance, November has also been a month where our partnership with families has continued to grow. Thank you to all parents and pupils who took the time to share their views in our recent surveys. Your feedback is invaluable in shaping the direction of the school, and we are already using your comments to guide our next steps. Over the coming weeks we will be sharing the developments arising from your suggestions, as well as the actions we are taking to improve the experience of every child at Dartmouth Academy.

As we head into the final weeks of term, we remain grateful for the continued support of our families and the dedication of our pupils. November has shown, once again, the strength of our community and the values we hold at the heart of our school.

Paul Girardot and  
The Dartmouth team

*Our future successes are built on the work we do today,*



## Dates for the diary

### December

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Non-pupil day
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Primary Open Morning @ 9.30am
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Y10 Parents' Evening
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Xmas Fayre
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Xmas Dinner
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Xmas Holidays

### January 2026

- 5<sup>th</sup> – Back to school
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Y11 Sleepover
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Y9 Parents' Evening
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Y11 PPE Week

### February 2026

- 9<sup>th</sup> – Y6 Mock SATs
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Y8 Parents' Evening
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Y8 & 9 Sleepover

### March 2026

- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Y9 Vaccinations
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Y9 Options Evening
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Silver DofE training weekend
- 16<sup>th</sup> – School closed, staff training day
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Bronze DofE training weekend

## Attendance Matters

This year's attendance by Year Group:

**Reception – 93.7%**

**Year 1 – 94.8%**

**Year 2 – 96.3%**

**Year 3 – 95.3%**

**Year 4 – 95.1%**

**Year 5 – 93.4%**

**Year 6 – 93.8%**

**Year 7 – 93.8%**

**Year 8 – 94%**

**Year 9 – 90.9%**

**Year 10 – 92.6%**

**Year 11 – 93%**

School attendance for the year so far is currently

**93.4 %**

**Thank you for supporting our target of 96%**



# Parent survey results:

Question Secondary (Year 7-11) 30% response rate.	Agree %	Disagree %
Q1 – My child is happy at this school	95%	5%
Q2 – My child feels safe at this school	99%	1%
Q3 – My child makes good progress at this school	96%	4%
Q4 – My child is well looked after at this school	96%	4%
Q5 – My child is taught well at this school	96%	4%
Q6 – My child receives homework appropriate for their age	89%	11%
Q7 – This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	94.1%	5.9%
Q8 – This school deals effectively with bullying	92%	8%
Q9 – This school is well led and managed	93%	7%
Q10 – This school responds well to concerns I raise	92%	8%
Q11 – I receive valuable information about my child's progress	94%	6%
Q12 – I would recommend this school to another parent	94%	6%

The key areas and feedback we are working on in school at the moment are around the following areas and will be shared before the end of the term.

- Behaviour & Bullying
- Homework & Curriculum
- Communication
- Uniform
- Toilet Access
- Careers & Employability
- Mobile phone usage

Thank you so much for your time to complete the survey and the feedback with this, in some areas we are already making changes and will communicate these and there may be more we need to look into further and work more closely with you to understand and work on together.



# What have we been up to:



## Peace

For people who have never known war,  
the word **PEACE** is just a word.  
A simple entry in a dictionary, abstract, distant,  
something you cannot touch, or truly understand.  
An ordinary, almost invisible word.

But for those who know what war is,  
this word carries an entirely different meaning.  
Peace means being free to speak your own language, on your own land.  
It's the sky traced with white lines left by passenger planes - not by missiles.

Peace is when fireworks mean celebration, not fear.  
When you can walk beneath the stars without a curfew.  
When you spend money on little things, not on donations for the army.

Peace is reading novels, not scrolling through endless news.  
It's a whole family gathered for the holidays, around one table -  
not through a lonely video call.

Peace is when, to the question "How are you?",  
you truly expect to hear "I'm fine," and not silence in return.

Peace is when planning tomorrow, or even next year,  
is not a privilege - but simply life as it should be.  
It's the most precious thing in the world, when you live not in pauses between alarms...  
but truly live.

And for Ukraine - the word peace means even more.  
We did not choose war, but we had to become strong.  
Our artists and musicians, our business owners and farmers,  
our violinists, tractor drivers, doctors - all stood together to defend our home.

Because peace never comes on its own.

It must be fought for - with bravery, faith, and unity.

This fight is not only for victory over evil, but for the right of every Ukrainian to wake up in a peaceful home.

And perhaps the truest words about peace, belong to a child;  
for only children can feel the world with pure hearts, without fear or conditions.



Y7 and Y8 netball teams played KEVICCs after school on 27<sup>th</sup> November. For our Y7s this was their first match as a team. Some of our pupils are very new to netball having only recently learnt how to play.

Both teams won!



*Our future successes are built on the work we do today.*

Our latest Careers assembly saw seventeen international officer cadets from the BRNC arrive in their national dress uniform and explain their career journey from secondary school to where they are now. Their petty chief officer, Jason Wallace, explained that all were of different ages, genders, religions and from different cultures, but all would remain lifelong friends through their shared experiences at BRNC.

We hold weekly careers assemblies to improve pupil knowledge about post 16 choices and potential careers to research further.

## Making Christmas Manageable

### Citizens Advice

#### Simple ways to enjoy the festive season without overspending

Christmas can be a great time to relax and spend time with family, but it often comes with extra costs and pressure to spend more than we'd like. With household budgets already stretched, a bit of planning can make a real difference.

##### 1. Set a Realistic Budget

Work out what you can comfortably afford to spend and stick to it. It's easy for small extras to add up, so keep a list of what you need — and what you don't. If you can, set aside a small amount each week to spread the cost.

##### 2. Keep Gifts Simple

Children often remember the fun and attention more than what's under the tree. Low-cost or homemade gifts, or pooling together for a "Secret Santa" within the family, can keep things fair and affordable for everyone.

##### 3. Plan Food Carefully

Christmas dinner doesn't need to be over the top. Planning meals in advance helps avoid waste, and sharing the cooking with friends or relatives can save both time and money.

##### 4. Make the Most of What's Local

There are plenty of free or low-cost events in Teignbridge over the festive period — from school fairs to community activities. These can be a great way to get into the Christmas spirit without spending much.

##### 5. Don't Feel Pressured

It's fine to say no to things that stretch your budget. A walk to see the lights, a film night at home, or a board game with family can make just as good memories as anything that costs money.

### Need a Bit of Advice?

If you're worried about money or would like some support with budgeting, benefits, or local services, the **Citizens Advice Schools Project** can help. You can speak to your school for a direct referral.



# flu: 5 reasons to have the vaccine

## 1. Protect yourself

The vaccine will help protect you against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia

## 2. Protect your family and friends

Having the vaccine will help protect more vulnerable friends and family

## 3. No injection needed

The nasal spray is painless and easy to have

## 4. It's better than having flu

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions worldwide and has an excellent safety record

## 5. Avoid lost opportunities

If you get flu, you may be unwell for several days and not be able to do the things you enjoy



For more information visit  
[www.nhs.uk/child-flu](http://www.nhs.uk/child-flu)

Most children have the nasal spray vaccine which is the preferred vaccine. A vaccine injection is also available which does not contain gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine).

## Flu **i**mmunisation

Helping to protect you against flu

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## School aged vaccinations

# Did you know children will be offered these routine vaccinations at school?

- ✓ **FLU** - Reception - Year 11
- ✓ **MMR** - Catch-up
- ✓ **HPV** - Year 8 - Year 11
- ✓ **Meningitis ACWY** - Year 9 - Year 11
- ✓ **Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio (DTP)** - Year 9 - Year 11

**FLU**

**MMR**

**HPV**

**MENINGITIS  
ACWY**

**DIPHTHERIA  
TETANUS  
POLIO (DTP)**

## Did you miss us?

We also have community clinics across Devon for:

- ✓ Home educated children
- ✓ Anxious children
- ✓ Children who missed the session at school

SCAN  
HERE



For further information scan the QR code or please speak with a member of the team

Call us on

**01392 342678**

[Kernowhealthcic.schoolimmsdevon@nhs.net](mailto:Kernowhealthcic.schoolimmsdevon@nhs.net)

CHILDREN OF ALL AGES ARE WELCOME AT ANY OF OUR SERVICES  
BUT THE SERVICES LISTED HERE WILL BE PARTICULARLY  
SUITABLE FOR FAMILIES TO ATTEND TOGETHER.

## DECEMBER

**Sunday 7th December**

### Christingle Service

11am, St Clement's, TQ6 9SN

Join us to make a Christingle and to celebrate the start of the Christmas season

**Sunday 21st December**

### Nativity Service

11am, St Clement's, TQ6 9SN

Chance to wear a Nativity costume once again, and to join in with this improvised retelling of the traditional Christmas story - bring your own costume, borrow one of ours, or simply come as you are...

followed by...

## POSADA PARTY

11:45am - 1pm, St Clement's, TQ6 9SN

Join us for this festive treat at the start of the Christmas Holiday



## CHRISTMAS EVE

**Wednesday 24th December**

### Family Carol Service

3pm, St George's, Dittisham TQ6 0HS

A popular village tradition as we bring together the Nativity Characters and retell the story of the first Christmas Eve



## CHRISTMAS DAY

**Thursday 25th December**

### Christmas Celebration with Communion

8am, St Clement's, TQ6 9SN

Festive pyjamas and jumpers are essential on 'the BIG day' so come as you are!

Service will finish in plenty of time to get home to prepare Christmas Lunch.

## JANUARY

**Sunday 4th January**

### Epiphany Service

11am, St Clement's, TQ6 9SN

Join us for our New Year's Service as we reflect on the story of the Wise Men. Followed by a shared meal.



"Clements Coffee".

"The United Benefice of Dartmouth and Dittisham"

*Our future successes are built on the work we do today.*



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of Devon's libraries.  
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[devon.cc/devon-libraries](https://devon.cc/devon-libraries)



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