

DARTMOUTH ACADEMY

Secondary Newsletter

September 2026

Be your
Best Self

COURAGE · COMPASSION · AMBITION





Welcome Back to a New School Year!

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to Dartmouth Academy for the start of another exciting academic year. I hope that all our families enjoyed a restful and enjoyable summer break and that everyone is looking forward to the opportunities that lie ahead.

I have been incredibly impressed by the positive start made by all our pupils, from our youngest children in Nursery through to our oldest pupils in Year 11. Across the Academy, there has been a real sense of enthusiasm, purpose and excitement as pupils have settled into their new classes, routines and learning. It has been particularly pleasing to see how quickly everyone has embraced the new term, demonstrating positive attitudes, kindness and a willingness to work hard.

I would also like to thank all our parents and carers for their continued support. Ensuring that children arrive at school ready to learn, equipped and prepared for the day makes such a difference. Your partnership with us is hugely valued, and the positive start we have enjoyed is very much a reflection of the support you provide at home.

Already, the first month has been a busy one! We have begun the exciting process of electing our new pupil leaders, providing children with opportunities to have their voices heard and take on responsibilities across the Academy. Beyond the classroom, pupils have been enjoying a fantastic range of experiences, including educational visits, kayaking adventures and participation in sporting events. It is wonderful to see our young people making the most of these opportunities, developing confidence, building friendships and creating lasting memories.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication of our fantastic staff, who have worked tirelessly to ensure such a successful start to the year.

As we look ahead, I am excited about everything this year has in store. Thank you to our whole school community for helping make Dartmouth Academy such a special place to learn and grow. I look forward to sharing many more successes and celebrations with you over the coming months.

Thank you
Paul Girardot and
The Dartmouth team

Dates for the diary

October 2026

13th – Y7 Netball tournament

7th to 14th – Y11 PPEs

16th – Primary Harvest Festival,
Class 2/3 Parents only

19th – Flu Vaccinations

20th & 21st – Primary Parents' Eve

22nd – Primary Disco 4 – 5.30pm

26th – Half Term

November

9th – Primary Open Morning @ 9.30am

10th – Y11 Parents' Evening

December

3rd – Awards Evening

3rd – Primary Open Morning @ 9.30am

4th – Non-pupil day

8th – Y1 – 6 Carol Service, St Clements 2pm

8th – Y10 Parents' Evening

8th – Y11 Art PPE

9th – Y11 Photography PPE

11th – Xmas Fayre 2.45pm

14th – EYFS Nativity

16th – Xmas Dinner

18th – Closing early
Primary 1pm
Secondary 1.15pm

19th – Xmas Holidays

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

Attendance Matters

This year's attendance by Year Group:

Year 1 – 90.2%

Year 2 – 97%

Year 3 – 97%

Year 4 – 97.5%

Year 5 – 89%

Year 6 – 88.2%

Year 7 – 97.1%

Year 8 – 90.2%

Year 9 – 94.8%

Year 10 – 91.7%

Year 11 – 89.1%

School attendance for the year so far is currently

93 %

Thank you for supporting our target of 96%

'Under the Weather' Form – Fill in form



What have we been up to:

Last Term, Dartmouth Academy Pupils Enjoy Rewarding Day at Woodlands Theme Park

Pupils from Dartmouth Academy enjoyed an exciting day at Woodlands Family Theme Park last term thanks to a special trip organised and supported by the local Rotary Club.

Twenty five year 6 and year 7 pupils took part in the reward trip, which recognised their positive contributions to academy life and commitment to the school's values.

Throughout the day, pupils enjoyed a range of rides, attractions and activities. Woodlands Family Theme Park offers a variety of attractions, adventure play areas and rides, making it one of Devon's most popular destinations for young people.

The visit provided pupils with an opportunity to celebrate their achievements outside the classroom while enjoying new experiences in a fun environment.

Dartmouth Academy would like to extend its sincere thanks to the Rotary Club and its volunteers for their generosity, support and commitment to providing enriching opportunities for local young people.

The academy remains committed to celebrating pupil success and offering a wide range of experiences that support personal development alongside academic achievement.

Paul Girardot, Principal at Dartmouth Academy, said:

"We are incredibly grateful to the Rotary Club for organising and facilitating such a fantastic day for our pupils. The children had a wonderful time and were a credit to the academy throughout the visit. Opportunities like this are invaluable in recognising pupils' efforts and helping them create positive memories with their peers."

Matthew Shanks, CEO of Education South West said:

"Experiences like this are a fantastic way to recognise and celebrate the positive contributions that young people make to their school communities. We are grateful to the Rotary Club for their continued support in creating opportunities that inspire, reward and motivate young people."



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

Class 5/6

Children in Class 5/6 were lucky enough to meet two children's authors at school on Friday 18th September as part of the exciting Dartmouth Literary Festival! Along with children from Stoke Fleming, they met Margaret Bateson Hill, author of Lao Lao of Dragon Mountain and she read her book out loud whilst wowing the children with beautiful paper cut patterns that brought the story to life. Then they met Emma Swan, author of The Cruise Ship Kid books although her presentation got interrupted by a very naughty (but very funny) character from her books, Silver! Emma Swan had the children joining in with funny rhymes, silly songs and other chaos which went down very well with everyone involved! Thank you to Erin Allgrove (also a children's author of the Bosun Bob books) for organising the event, it was such a treat!

Summer Reading Challenge

Over the Summer holidays, Dartmouth library set our children the challenge of reading as many books as they could. All of the children are doing so well with their reading at school and at home! Well done to those children who completed the reading challenge below - what book will be next?



Staffing Update

We are delighted to share the news that Mrs Bower is expecting a baby and will be taking maternity leave during the spring term.

We are very pleased for her and will, of course, support her as she prepares for this exciting new chapter. We will confirm the class structure and arrangements for the spring term in due course, once plans have been finalised.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!



Are you passionate about books and want to make a difference in our school community?



We are looking for volunteers to support and develop our secondary school library, working alongside staff and pupils to help make it an amazing space where everyone can discover the enjoyment of books.

YOU COULD HELP BY:

- ♥ Supporting day-to-day library activities
- ♥ Helping to organise and refresh our book collection
- ♥ Working with pupils on exciting ideas and projects
- ♥ Creating a welcoming and inspiring space
- ♥ Sharing your love of reading and recommending books
- ♥ Helping with displays, events and reading initiatives



INTERESTED? Please contact the **school office** for more information.



Let's Talk Safer Families

Teenagers
Keeping Connection
When It Matters Most
Supporting teenagers
through modern challenges.

16th September

Primary
Building Strong
Foundations
Creating strong family
connections from the start.

30th September

SEND(11-17)
Supporting Safety,
Celebrating Strengths
Helping SEND children and their
families develop resilience and
independence in a complex world.

12th October

23rd September

Pre-Teens
Staying Connected
Through Change
Supporting pre-teens through
a rapidly changing world.

7th October

SEND(5-10)
Supporting Safety,
Celebrating Strengths
Helping SEND children and their
families develop resilience and
independence in a complex world.

Dads
Campaign
Launch our Dads
campaign on socials/
through networks.



Let's Talk Safer Families events are now live and open for bookings -
[Events - Let's Talk Safer Families.](#)

Let's Talk Safer Families

The Manosphere
Webinar - Sav Vaid

5th October



Aug/Sept -
Start of term
Transitions
Podcast - panel

Healthy
relationships
Nick Gazzard
Podcast - October



13th October
Violent Porn
and NFS
Webinar -
Meena Kumari

Harmful Online
Narratives
Webinar - Lewis Nurtton

20th October



SPACE -
Dads, Social
media, Mid
October

Education
Against Hate
Webinar - Meena Kumari

9th November

Child Exploration
and Masculinity
Webinar - Meena Kumari

19th November

26th November

Teenage
Relationship
Abuse Session
Webinar - Meena + Sav
Pre-16 Days of Activism

12th November

Child Exploitation
Webinar - Junior Smart

4th November
AI and Deepfake
Image Abuse
Webinar - Meena Kumari



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

Love Island vegetable AI slop videos

What parents need to know

These AI-generated parody videos may look harmless, but they open a bigger conversation about what children are seeing in their feeds.



Kapwing study
(Dec 2025)
First 500 YouTube
Shorts on a
new account

104
AI slop videos
(21%)

165
brainrot videos
(33%)

Combined:
54%
— roughly 1 in 2 videos



Not just YouTube Shorts

Similar content is showing up on TikTok, Instagram Reels and WhatsApp. Many children cannot tell what is real.

Parent tips



Watch together
and ask: Does
this look real?



Explain that AI can
create fake people,
events and news.



Use safety
settings to reduce
low-quality content.



Talk about why
some videos exist
purely for clicks.



AI slop is not just harmless filler.

Some of it can include misinformation, harmful themes, or content that confuses younger children.

The Best Start Family Hubs Devon Newsletter

The latest news about family hubs, early help and partnerships



Welcome to the Best Start Family Hubs Devon Newsletter. This newsletter is your go-to source for the latest training opportunities, events and resources designed to support professionals working with families across Devon. We also share helpful signposting and family activities to help you connect the people you support with the right services at the right time.

If you have something to share—whether it's an event, a resource - or if there's anything we can do to support you and your community, we'd love to hear from you!

This newsletter is published weekly. The next edition will be sent out on 14 October 2026

Please submit your newsletter addition requests by 13 October 2026 at 12 noon to be included in the next edition.

 **Email us at:** business.earlyhelppartnership-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

[To sign up to receive The Family Hub Newsletter please click here](#)

★ DTC YOUTH THEATRE CIC PRESENTS ★
LIVE AT
THE FLAVEL, DARTMOUTH



FRI 9 OCTOBER
7PM

SAT 10 OCTOBER
2PM & 7PM

SUN 11 OCTOBER
3PM

Book, Music & Lyrics by Jim Jacobs & Warren Casey ★ Directed by Amanda Corbett
Grease Young@Part is presented by arrangement with Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW).
Authorised performance materials are also supplied by TRW.

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



**SOUTH DEVON'S
SENSORY-AWARE FESTIVAL SERIES**

**TOTNES • DARTMOUTH
KINGSBRIDGE • IVYBRIDGE
& SURROUNDING AREAS**

DISCOVER • CONNECT • TAKE PART

- ☀ Activities & workshops
- ☀ Arts, music & performance
- ☀ Support & community
- ☀ Sensory-aware experiences

EXPLORE WHAT'S ON
Scan the QR code



Cleaner – East Allington, Stoke Fleming, Blackawton Primary Schools

Working 3.30pm to 6.30 pm Monday to Friday (15hours per week) , 41 weeks per year -
£13.28 per hour

A cleaning job that really makes a difference? Why clean in a supermarket, or an office block, when you could put your skills to work in a school?

Where what you do is as important as the teacher at the front of the class.

There is no doubt that children coming into a school which is clean and ordered makes all the difference to how they feel, and how they perform through the day. It is fact!

It could be you who makes this difference!

With the added advantage of part time hours, towards the end of the day, giving you maximum flexibility to use your time earlier in the day as you wish.

For more information about the post, please contact Janet Sedgeman on: 01548 852461 Ext 1140 or to apply for the role, please email your CV to janet.sedgeman@educationsouthwest.org.uk

Education South West is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post. This includes checks with past employers, an online check of publicly available information, including social media, and an enhanced disclosure via the Disclosure and Barring Service



Primary & Secondary one year courses, leading to QTS & PGCE

- **Online Information Event | Tuesday 20 October 2026 | 1530 - 1600**
- Find out more about SWIFT Teacher Training, our route into teaching, courses and PGCE.
- **Who |** Educated to degree level; undergraduates, recent graduates, career changers, returners to work; teaching assistants, anyone interested in teaching in either a primary or secondary school setting.
- **To Book |** Booking form online at swiftteachertraining.org.uk or scan the QR code.



swiftteachertraining.org.uk info@swiftteachertraining.org.uk

01626 882828



Baby & Me

EVERY FRIDAY MORNING

A relaxed and friendly morning for you and your baby or toddler

10am – 11am

Baby Massage & Developmental Play

A gentle and nurturing session with Louisa from Bubbalou, including baby massage, developmental play and activities to support parent and baby wellbeing.



For **non-walking babies only**
(for safety, as the babies take part on the floor).

£3
per session
(massage session only)



11am – 12pm

Baby Weigh and Play

Come along to weigh your baby and enjoy a play and chat with other parents and carers.

Stay on after the massage session (or just come along for this session) if you'd like to.



Everyone welcome – you can bring along your **babies and toddlers**.

No charge



A friendly and supportive group for parents and carers



Coffee and a chat afterwards



Baby scales available



Toys and play for babies and toddlers (at the weigh and play session)



To book a space, please email us at **enquiries@dartmouthcaring.co.uk**
or call us on **01803 835384**

Including last minute on the morning if you'd like to come along.



Dartmouth Health & Wellbeing Centre,
Wessex Way,
Dartmouth, Devon,
TQ6 0JL

Fla♥el Church
the heart of the community



BRIGHT SPARKS

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

AT
THE FLAVEL CHURCH
DARTMOUTH
EVERY THURSDAY
3.30 - 5.00PM

TERM TIME ONLY

CRAFTS



MOVIES



PASTA



ACTIVITIES



FRIENDS, FUN & GOOD TIMES!

THE FLAVEL CHURCH • DARTMOUTH

Our future success will come on the night we are ready.

SOUTH DEVON > **Open Events** UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Year 12 Spaces Available Sept 2027

Open Day and Taster Sessions

Health

Wednesday 16th September

2.15pm – 4.15pm

Open Evenings

Health/Engineering

Thursday 24th September

Thursday 15th October

5.00pm – 7.00pm

Open Day and Taster Sessions

Health/Engineering

Wednesday 21st October

Thursday 5th November

2.15pm – 4.15pm



Please scan the QR code to book
your place or visit our website



Tel: 01626 248982

Email: studentrecruitment@southdevonutc.org.uk

Kingsteignton Road, Newton Abbot TQ12 2QA

OPEN EVENTS

Discover Exeter College

October 8th 4-8pm

November 18th 4-8pm

April 20th* 4-7pm

*(Suitable for Year 10s)

All city centre sites, plus our
Construction Centre and Technology Centre
(Engineering, Automotive and Aerospace)

Attend a variety of talks throughout
the evening

Speak to our subject specialist
lecturers

See our facilities

Find out about the support available

Meet our students

Scan for dates and to register

