

DARTMOUTH ACADEMY

Secondary Newsletter

October 2025

Be your
Best Self

COURAGE · COMPASSION · AMBITION





As we reach the end of this first half term, I want to take a moment to say a huge well done to every member of our school community. It has been a busy seven and a half weeks, and throughout it all our pupils have shown real dedication, enthusiasm and kindness, getting on with their learning, supporting one another and being their very best selves.

There have been so many highlights across the school, from wonderful examples of learning in every classroom to the energy and teamwork shown in our enrichment activities. One of the achievements we are particularly proud of this term is our exceptional attendance. Our pupils' commitment to being in school every day has meant our attendance figures are well above both the Devon and national averages for secondary schools, and an impressive 1.5% higher than the same time last year in primary. This is an outstanding improvement and reflects the collective effort of pupils, families and staff working together to make every day of learning count.

We are also delighted to share the amazing progress shown in the finalised outcomes for the last academic year. These results highlight a 35% increase in pupils achieving the expected standard or above in Reading, Writing and Maths at Key Stage 2, and a 20% increase in pupils achieving a good pass (Grade 5 or above) in their GCSEs. These outstanding improvements are a testament to the hard work and determination of our pupils, the dedication and expertise of our staff, and the continued support from families at home.

Looking ahead, next half term promises to be just as exciting. We begin with our Remembrance celebration at the Britannia Royal Naval College, a poignant and important moment for our school community. Alongside this, there are many other events and opportunities planned, all detailed in our diary dates shared with families.

Thank you all – pupils, parents, carers and staff – for your commitment and positivity this half term. Wishing everyone a restful and enjoyable break. We look forward to seeing you all refreshed and ready for another fantastic half term ahead.

Wishing you a wonderful break

Paul Girardot and

The Dartmouth team

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

Dates for the diary

October 2025

27th – Half Term

November

12th – Primary Open Morning @ 9.30am

12th – Y11 Parents' Evening

19th – Awards Evening

December

1st – Non-pupil day

4th – Primary Open Morning @ 9.30am

10th – Y10 Parents' Evening

12th – Xmas Fayre

17th – Xmas Dinner

20th – Xmas Holidays

January 2026

5th – Back to school

Attendance Matters

This year's attendance by Year Group:

Reception – 93.3%

Year 1 – 93.3%

Year 2 – 95.3%

Year 3 – 98.7%

Year 4 – 96.7%

Year 5 – 98.8%

Year 6 – 96%

Year 7 – 96.8%

Year 8 – 94.2%

Year 9 – 93.7%

Year 10 – 94.9%

Year 11 – 94.1%

School attendance for the year so far is currently

95.1 %

Thank you for supporting our target of 96%



What have we been up to:

We took our rugby squad (just 9 boys in the end!) to KEVICC for their first tournament playing KCC, KEVICC, Newton Abbot and South Dartmoor. The boys started off slightly nervous, with quite a few errors but by the final game they actually looked like pretty good rugby players! We scored a few tries and the team came away with their heads held high. Harry was a great captain and stayed positive throughout.

Please congratulate them for their courage and teamwork.



At Dartmouth Academy we have a range of exciting clubs!

One of them is karate. Over the past few months children from 6-11 have been learning a variety of skills linked to karate and have progressed in this sport. Their fitness, discipline and focus during this club is incredible.



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How to keep children safe this Halloween

Halloween can be an exciting time of year for children, dressing up and going out after dark. But, whilst Halloween is supposed to be spooky there are some horrors that families will want to avoid.

So, here are our top tips for a safe Halloween that you can remember for all the right reasons.



1. Remember Halloween costumes are highly flammable

Many fancy dress costumes are not manufactured to the same safety standards as normal clothing, meaning they can ignite almost instantly and burn far faster.

That's why it is crucial to ensure children wearing Halloween costumes are kept well away from naked flames and other heat sources at all times.

2. Teach children to Stop, Drop and Roll

Ahead of Halloween, make sure children know what to do if their clothes catch fire. The instinct is to run. So, encourage them to practice stopping, dropping to the ground, covering their face with their hands, and rolling over a few times to put out the flames.

Stop.



Drop.



Roll.



[Image credit: National Fire Prevention Agency]

3. Be visible

Visibility is important all year round. However, after the clocks go back, it gets dark much earlier. By Halloween it will be dusk by 5 o'clock, just when children are out trick or treating.

Reflective tape can make a fun addition to Halloween costumes and make children more visible to drivers at twilight, as it is picked up in car headlights.

Fluorescent glow sticks and glow jewellery can make good costume accessories and can also help make children more visible to drivers.

5. Stay safe near roads

Masks can make it harder for children to see or hear traffic. So, save the special masks for indoors and use face paint for trick or treating.

Encourage children to put mobile phones away when they are out trick or treating and crossing roads. Instead of using the phone as a light, carry a torch.

Children under 12 are best accompanied by an adult. Agreeing a pre-planned route for children over 12 and having a way of contacting a trusted adult if they need to offers freedom with less risk.

6. Carve carefully

Carving pumpkins has become a great Halloween tradition. If your child isn't old enough to handle a sharp knife safely there are plenty of 'no-carve pumpkin' ideas all over the internet. Just do a quick search on Pinterest. You will be amazed at the creativity.

7. Watch out for treats that might be a choking hazard for young children

Lollipops, hard candy and mini eggs in particular can pose a serious choking risk. Plus, remember it's best to avoid eating while walking or running, so you may want to save up all the treats to enjoy back at home.

We hope you have a safe and spooktacular Halloween!

How can our
community
help you and
your child
thrive?



Our next drop in is
Monday 24th Nov
9am - 10.30am in
The Cube at
Dartmouth Academy

Input from Beth
Gorton & The
Neurodiversity
Navigators

Pop into our Support &
Snacks drop-in sessions
where you can:

- Chat with other
parents and carers.
- Meet professionals
and staff who can
signpost support.
- Enjoy a cuppa and a
croissant.

There's no need to book –
just pop in, grab a snack,
and join the conversation.



Supporting your child to thrive in our community

Two 1 bed almshouse flats that will be available in January 2026.

If you could display the attached poster and circulate details, thank you.

Flat 1

1 bedroom almshouse flat

Victoria Road, Dartmouth

£505 pcm

Council tax band A

EPC rating C

Flat 2

1 bedroom almshouse flat

Victoria Road, Dartmouth

£520 pcm

Council tax band B

EPC rating E

(no deposit/fees)

Available Jan 2026

Applications are invited from individuals/couples age 55+ looking for low-cost almshouse accommodation.

Applicants must be residents of Dartmouth for the last two years or have strong local connections and satisfy the Charity's criteria.

Council/Housing Association tenants need not apply.

Living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom and shower room.

There are stairs at both properties and no lift. Sorry no pets.

Application form and details from:

Dartmouth United Charities

www.dartmouthunitedcharities.org.uk

01803 835006

info@dartmouthunitedcharities.org.uk

Application deadline Monday 27th Oct, 12noon

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

1st Nov
2pm
& 7pm

Dartmouth
Theatre
Company

2nd Nov
2pm
& 6pm

Proudly Presents



Book by
**THOMAS
MEEGAN**

Music by
**CHARLES
STROUSE**

Lyric by
**MARTIN
CHARNIN**

Live at

Scan here
for tickets



The Flavel

Call Box office on

01803 839530

Scan here
for tickets



Pumpkin Party

31.10.25

St Clement's Church, Dartmouth
games ~ crafts ~ sweet treats ~ fancy dress
4:00pm-5:30pm - ages 0-13 with parents



... with prizes for the best costumes !

info: youth@dartmouthanddittisham-anglican.org

parents must
stay with their
children

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†Benefice of
DARTMOUTH
& DITTISHAM

SUNDAYS

5:00 - 6:30pm



Family Board Game

Night

SOUP
AND
BREAD

Sign Up Now!

All ages are
invited!



**St Clements Church,
Church Road, Dartmouth** 