

DARTMOUTH ACADEMY

Secondary Newsletter

February 2025

Be your
Best Self

COURAGE · COMPASSION · AMBITION





February Newsletter

As we come to the end of another busy month, we want to take a moment to celebrate the dedication and hard work of our Year 11 pupils. Throughout February, they have been fully engaged in their Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs), demonstrating resilience and determination in their studies. These exams are an important milestone in their academic journey, and we are incredibly proud of their efforts. Keep going, Year 11 – your commitment will pay off!

Beyond our exam pupils, it has been fantastic to see all pupils embracing the learning opportunities and activities throughout the school. February has been a month filled with enthusiasm, growth, and achievements across all year groups. From academic successes to extracurricular involvement, the energy and commitment of our pupils have been inspiring.

We are also thrilled to announce that the fitness suite is now up and running! This fantastic addition to our school facilities provides pupils with an excellent opportunity to engage in physical activity, promote well-being, and build healthy habits. A huge thank you to our dedicated staff members who have generously volunteered their time to supervise the suite, ensuring that it runs smoothly and safely. The timetable has been shared with pupils.

Looking ahead, we are excited to share more details about our 11 by 11 programme over the coming month. This initiative is designed to provide pupils with a wide range of enriching experiences before they leave school. From cultural activities to personal development opportunities, the 11 by 11 programme aims to broaden horizons and inspire all pupils. Keep an eye out for more information soon!

Finally, we want to extend a huge thank you to our incredible pupil leaders who represented the school at the first ESW Leadership Conference yesterday. Their enthusiasm, confidence, and commitment to leadership were truly commendable. They continue to be fantastic ambassadors for our school, and we are incredibly proud of them.

Thank you to all pupils and staff for making February such a positive and productive month. We look forward to another great month ahead!

Paul Girardot and
The Dartmouth team

Dates for the diary

March 2025

4th & 5th – Primary Parents' Eve

6th – World Book Day

12th Y9 Options' Evening @ 5pm

21st – School Closed
Staff training

26th – Y11 Parents' Evening

April 2025

28th – Y9 Prolific sailing week

7th to 21st – Easter Holidays

May 2025

2nd – Silver DofE Expedition

7th – Y7 Parents' Evening

9th – Bronze DofE Expedition

12th – KS2 SATS week

12th – Y11 GCSEs commence

16th – Music Festival

June 2025

27th – Y11 Prom

30th – Paris Trip

July 2025

4th – Borneo Expedition

4th – All through Sports morning

16th & 17th – Challenge Days

Attendance Matters

This year's attendance by Year Group:

Reception – 83.8%

Year 1 – 90.2%

Year 2 – 94.2%

Year 3 – 94.4%

Year 4 – 91.4%

Year 5 – 95.1%

Year 6 – 91.1%

Year 7 – 94.6%

Year 8 – 92.7%

Year 9 – 89.3%

Year 10 – 89.6%

Year 11 – 89.5%

School attendance for the year so far is currently

91.8 %

Thank you for supporting our target of 96%





We would like to send a massive thank you to the Old Dartmothians for their generous donation of £1100 to the Borneo team!



What have we been up to:



The Dart Music Festival Foundation provides financial support for music lessons.

Dartmouth Academy students are not limited by financial barriers, as parents have the option to apply for assistance to pay for music lessons.

The Dart Music Festival Foundation was set up in 2011 and is a registered charity dedicated to promoting music through study and education within our community.

Music moves us, it inspires us and can be therapeutically beneficial to all. It is especially important to the Foundation to support our younger demographic in their studies, whether this be through lessons, music therapy or provision of instruments, in order to enable them to be a part of the ongoing success of the Dart Music Festival.

Music, as a subject, is under threat nationally in our schools and by helping children discover their music potential, we hope to keep the ethos of 'music for all' at the heart of Dart Music Festival.

So if you, or someone you know, would benefit and love to learn how to play an instrument, or indeed are interested in any musical related learning, apply for a grant from the Foundation now. It is a simple process and the Foundation are a friendly and welcoming group of people committed to assist wherever we can. All we ask in return for any applications received is an update on how it has helped and improved the student. We love to hear how we have helped through the Foundations support given.

You can request an application form by emailing
foundation@dartmusicfestival.co.uk

Dartmouth 11 by 11

Here at Dartmouth Academy, we educate children so they can live great lives.

We inspire children to develop the knowledge and character that enable them to leave school ready to lead rewarding lives in a rapidly changing world. Cultural, sporting and artistic experiences help them discover their full potential. They further develop character through a resilient, determined and positive response to challenge. We want students to leave with the academic qualifications, skills and personal attributes that open doors to a fulfilling future.

Character Education is the wider personal development of a child beyond the academic education they receive in school. It aims to instil in pupils a number of key characteristics and values such as resilience, honesty, motivation and humility, all of which will help them in their adult lives.

At Dartmouth Academy, we deliver Character Education through our Eleven-by-Eleven programme of opportunities and experiences.

Overview

Eleven by (age) Eleven – all pupils in ESW primary schools will have opportunities and experiences across the following areas by the time they move onto secondary school at the age of eleven.

Eleven by (year) Eleven – all pupils in ESW secondary schools will have opportunities and experiences across the following eleven areas by the time they end year eleven.

The Eleven areas are...

1. Leadership - Our children are the leaders of tomorrow and we create rich opportunities for pupils to work in teams and learn by leading both in their schools and across the trust.
2. Performing Arts - The performing arts encourage children to explore their emotions, expand their imagination and helps them develop their own, unique voice. Children experience a wide range of performing arts opportunities throughout their time in our school, both as a performer and as a member of an audience.
3. Wellbeing/Mental Health/First Aid – We give pupils the skills to look after themselves and their friends and families so they can stay mentally and physically fit and strong.
4. Local Community Involvement - As schools we value our position in our local communities. Through our strong links and community programmes we promote connection, belonging and responsibility.
5. Sports – In our schools, we give pupils the opportunities to take part in a range of sports, represent their schools in tournaments and matches and make links with local sports clubs in the community.
6. Environmental Activities/Awareness – Through discussion, debate and direct action, we help our children to understand how to look after and improve the natural environment and how they can improve the world in which we live.
7. Cultural Visits - We organise a range of visits and trips to cities, museums and galleries to help children to understand and appreciate the rich heritage and cultural diversity both locally and beyond our immediate community
8. Careers/Preparation for the world of work – We help our children to gain the basic knowledge and skills they need to begin navigating their way successfully through career choices and changes.
9. Outdoor Education – Through our work in our forest school and through our trips and residentials, we give children regular opportunities to experience outdoor activities and explore the natural world in an exciting and inspiring way.
10. Wider World Culture – Through meaningful links with organisations, schools and charities we help our children to develop an understanding of and respect for the ways that people live across the world.
11. Learning a New Skill/After School Clubs – Through our extra-curricular activities we give our children the opportunity to develop their skills and learn new ones.

Over this term we will be sharing this offer more widely so you will be able to see your child's entitlement over their time with us.

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

ESW Student Leadership Conference

Our pupil leaders were lucky to be invited to speak at Education South West's first Student Conference at King Edward VI Community College on Thursday 27th February.

The event was a celebration of the roles of pupil leaders across our schools. Pupils presented their achievements to peers and had opportunities to share ideas and make links with pupils from other schools. This was an opportunity to improve their communication skills as well as update their CV. Sam, Edison, Olli, Miya and Nella were fantastic and such great ambassadors for Dartmouth Academy. They spoke very eloquently and with confidence about their chosen subjects. They should all be very proud.



Building Bridges to the Future: Dartmouth Students Learn about Apprenticeships from South Devon College

Dartmouth Academy has planned an exciting week of activities for students as the school celebrates this year's National Apprenticeship Week. This year's National Apprenticeship Week runs from Monday 10 February to Sunday 16 February.

This year's National Apprenticeships Week is the 18th annual celebration of apprenticeships and skills and the contributions they make to businesses and communities. Apprenticeships and skills programmes are a key element of the government's aim of boosting opportunities for young people.

<https://www.dartmouthacademy.org.uk/472/news/post/114/building-bridges-to-the-future-dartmouth-students-learn-about-apprenticeships-from-south-devon-college>



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

School Support & Snacks



Where: Dartmouth Health & Wellbeing Centre, TQ6 0JL

When: Monday 24th March 9-10.30am

Who: **ALL** parents/carers/families of children at Dartmouth Academy

What: A coffee morning (with pastries!)



We will be joined by an **Educational Psychologist** who will be providing a short input on the **EHCP process** and the **Mental Health Support Team** who will be presenting on 'understanding your child's mental health'

Followed by time to informally chat with professionals



We may be joined by:

- SEMH Team
- Educational Psychologist (EP)
- Communication & Interaction Team
- Dartmouth Caring
- The Police
- Dartmouth GP Representative
- Action for Children
- Mental Health Support Team
- Early Help
- Dartmouth Food Bank
- Neurodiversity Navigator



How can we help?



- ✓ **I think my child is dyslexic**
What should I do?
- ✓ **I'm going through a divorce**
I'm worried about the impact on my children...
- ✓ **I'm new to the area**
What community groups are out there?
- ✓ **My child keeps biting me**
How can I get them to stop?
- ✓ **I think my 14 year old has a boyfriend...**
How can I talk to her about relationships?



Request a call back



Fill in your details

and one of our friendly, knowledgeable practitioners will call you back.

Or, if you prefer, give us a call...



0800 538 5458
MON-FRI 10AM - 4PM



No question is off limits...

Devon Family Hubs



Got a question...?

We can help!

Whether you're having a parenting issue or you're feeling overwhelmed with the pressures of family life, a member of our friendly, supportive team will be able to give you guidance and signpost you to information and advice and help you with understanding and accessing relevant services and information.



Upcoming Webinars

Scan the QR code to view more details

DATE	TIME	TITLE
FEBRUARY 12	10AM - 11AM	The importance of PLAY Webinar
FEBRUARY 24	7PM - 8PM	Supporting your child with SEND with SEMH Webinar
FEBRUARY 25	10AM - 11AM	How to support children to recognise their EMOTIONS & FEELINGS Webinar
MARCH 5	7PM - 8PM	SEND - Communicating & Learning Webinar
MARCH 10	10AM - 11AM	SEND - Sensory or Physical needs Webinar
MARCH 19	1PM - 2PM	SEND - Cognition & Learning Webinar

Scan the QR code to book

Information and support for parents / carers



For post 16 progression and Careers guidance please visit our website by clicking on these links:

[Careers - Dartmouth Academy](#)

Particularly useful for parents/carers: [Parents-resources](#)

puffins training ltd



WE ARE LOOKING FOR APPRENTICES!

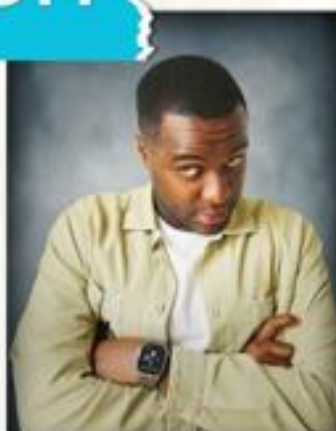
STARTING JULY 2025
APPRENTICESHIPS IN:
LEVEL 2 EARLY YEARS PRACTITIONER
LEVEL 3 EARLY YEARS EDUCATOR



Contact us on 01392 496017 or email us on train@puffinsofexeter.com



JUNIOR BAKE OFF



JOIN THE CLASS OF 2025!

JUNIOR BAKE OFF

... IS LOOKING FOR BRILLIANT BAKERS, AGES
9-15 FOR THE NEXT NEW AND EXCITING
SERIES!

APPLICATIONS CLOSE
SUNDAY 23RD MARCH

APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK

