



DARTMOUTH ACADEMY

Secondary Newsletter

November 2024

Be your
Best Self

COURAGE · COMPASSION · AMBITION



Dates for the diary

December

- 2nd – Staff Training Day
School closed
- 4th – Primary Open Morning @ 9.30am
- 11th – Yr.10 Parents' Evening
- 13th – Academy Christmas Fayre @ 2.45pm
- 18th – Christmas Dinner
- 20th – School closing at 1.15pm

January 2025

- 6th – Back to school
- 22nd – Yr.9 Parents' Evening

February 2025

- 5th – Yr.8 Parents' Evening
- 5th to 11th – Yr.11 PPEs
- 17th – Half Term

As we reflect on the past month, we want to take a moment to thank you all for your support. It has been brilliant to witness the pupils applying themselves so diligently in their learning and recent assessments in Secondary. In our Primary phase, our recent writing monitoring has highlighted fantastic progress across the year groups. This is a testament to the hard work of our pupils, staff, and, of course, your encouragement at home.

We would also like to extend a huge congratulations to all of our sporting teams who have represented the academy in various local schools' events and tournaments. Their commitment, teamwork, and enthusiasm have been a joy to see, and they continue to make us incredibly proud, please look out for the pictures and write ups.

This month, we were thrilled to unveil two exciting new facilities. Our newly refurbished music room, equipped with state-of-the-art equipment generously funded by the Dart Music Foundation, promises to inspire creativity and musical excellence. Additionally, our brand-new fitness suite, fully supported by Sport England, offers a fantastic space for pupils to focus on their physical health and well-being.

As the festive period approaches, we are looking forward to a calendar full of exciting events. Be sure to check the dates section for updates so you don't miss any of the celebrations.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing partnership in supporting your child's education. Your involvement makes all the difference, and we're excited to see what the next term will bring.

Warm regards,

Paul Girardot and
The Dartmouth team

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

Thank you so much to everyone who was able to complete the parent survey sent out at the beginning of October, we had 71 responses in total. It is really helpful for us to understand what it is we can improve upon and how we can adapt what we do to support your child's education at Dartmouth Academy and reflect upon what is going well and celebrating this.

Below are the results along with information about what we do, and will do as a school to support points raised.

Question	Primary (16 responses)		What we do/ will do This is a summary of what we do as a school already and details of what we will aim to do following feedback to support your child's education.
	Agree /16	Disagree /16	
	Secondary (55 responses)		
	Agree /55	Disagree /55	
1) My child is happy at school	Agree 14/16	Disagree 2/16	We want all pupils to enjoy school as this is what enables them to learn most effectively. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Teachers are constantly refining and developing the curriculum to support pupil enjoyment and challenge in the classroom.Our House leaders and Pupil Leaders support pupil voice in the direction and development of the school. Regular and targeted opportunities are planned the enhance this feedback.Tutors/ Class teachers are on hand to support and guide for pupils in secondary and class teachers in primary provide a supportive point of contact. If you feel your child is unhappy, please talk to us so we can help solve the problem, communication information is detailed later in this letter. Extra-curricular opportunities are a focus of our offer to continually develop a broad and balanced curriculum. Information is periodically shared on this area.
	Agree 48/55	Disagree 7/55	
	87%	13%	
2) My child feels safe at school	Agree 15/16	Disagree 1/16	It is vital pupils feel safe at school and can talk about how they feel, teachers, tutors and our pastoral team are on hand to support. <ul style="list-style-type: none">We regularly have visitors in school to discuss safety and keeping safe is a large part of our PSHE curriculum. Through the planned curriculum and discussions with pupils we aim to provide even clearer feedback channels moving forward.
	Agree 51/55	Disagree 4/55	
	93%	7%	
3) My Child makes good progress at this school	Agree 15/16	Disagree 1/16	As a school we pride ourselves on the pupils making good progress in their learning, we work across schools and through expert colleagues to ensure what we are doing is supporting all pupils to achieve. If you are concerned your child isn't making progress, please do speak to us.
	Agree 49/55	Disagree 6/55	
	90%	10%	
4) My Child is well looked after in this school	Agree 15/16	Disagree 1/16	Safeguarding all pupils is paramount at Dartmouth, we have robust systems which ensure we fulfil our statutory duties which help make sure that we prevent and respond immediately to concerns raised. If you have any concerns about processes and procedures, please let us know: https://www.dartmouthacademy.org.uk/507/key-information/category/7/safeguarding-amp-esafety Contact can also be made via the safeguarding email safeguarding@dartmouthacademy.org.uk
	Agree 51/55	Disagree 4/55	
	93%	7%	

5) My child is well taught at this school	Agree 15/16	Disagree 1/16	<p>All our staff undergo rigorous and regular CPD to ensure they are teaching according to the most effective research-based methods.</p> <p>We are constantly refining and developing our curriculum and teaching methods to support the best learning opportunities for more information:</p> <p>Primary https://www.dartmouthacademy.org.uk/850/curriculum</p> <p>Secondary https://www.dartmouthacademy.org.uk/1137/curriculum-1</p> <p>Please let your child's teacher, tutor or the relevant school leader know immediately if you have concerns.</p>
	Agree 51/55	Disagree 4/55	
	93%	7%	
6) My Child receives appropriate homework for their age.	Agree 15/16	Disagree 1/16	<p>Homework is a vital element of a pupil's education which is used to reinforce and revise key elements learned in class. We have reviewed and simplified our systems in primary and secondary where the large majority of home learning is on Sparx, with a few in secondary being on Seneca. Class Charts details what homework pupils have and when it is due.</p> <p>If you feel your child is struggling or needs more help, please speak to the class teacher/ tutor who can support with this.</p>
	Agree 49/55	Disagree 6/55	
	90%	10%	
7) This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	Agree 14/16	Disagree 2/16	<p>At Dartmouth we have a robust behaviour policy which under regular review to ensure its effectiveness. We have high expectations and we focus on ensuring these expectations are upheld so our school community can 'be our best selves'.</p> <p>We aim to support everyone in the community to be their best selves and the policy to achieve this can be seen here: https://www.dartmouthacademy.org.uk/507/key-information/category/10/school-policies</p> <p>Please do talk to us if you have concerns around behaviour in school.</p>
	Agree 52/55	Disagree 3/55	
	93%	7%	
8) This school deals effectively with bullying	Agree 15/16	Disagree 1/16	<p>We are constantly aware of pupils' behaviour and the effects of bullying. We want pupils to feel empowered to speak out against bullying.</p> <p>Our Anti-bullying policy can be found here: https://www.dartmouthacademy.org.uk/507/key-information/category/10/school-policies</p> <p>As always please do speak to us immediately if you have concerns.</p>
	Agree 50/55	Disagree 5/55	
	92%	8%	
9) This school is well led and managed	Agree 13/16	Disagree 3/16	<p>It is important that parents and carers have trust in the school's leadership and that this secures the best education for all children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face to face, online or telephone meetings can be arranged using the communication channels highlighted below to discuss specific issues.
	Agree 48/55	Disagree 7/55	
	86%	14%	
10) The school responds well to my concerns	Agree 14/16	Disagree 2/16	<p>The procedures for raising concerns are listed below. It is vital you feel these are addressed appropriately which is why it is key to discuss these with the person most able to solve them.</p> <p>Communication is key to supporting productive home school links and this is something we understand need to be developed. We use the following methods to support with communication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsletter (information and updates) Letters (notification of events) Texts (important immediate information) Facebook (News/ updates) Website https://www.dartmouthacademy.org.uk/ Phone calls (emergency communication) Class Charts – (information) <p>In the event of specific issues or concerns these must firstly be raised with the class teacher/ tutor using their e-mail address which is on the school website or through admin@dartmouthacademy.org.uk</p>
	Agree 51/55	Disagree 4/55	
	92%	8%	

			<p>subsequently the relevant Senior member of staff: Primary Principal: Mrs Tierney jen.tierney@dartmouthacademy.org.uk SEND: Mrs Gorton bethan.gorton@dartmouthacademy.org.uk Teaching and learning: Mr Rule Ben.rule@dartmouthacademy.org.uk Behaviour & Attendance: Ms Darke bex.darke@dartmouthacademy.org.uk Principal Mr Girardot principal@dartmouthacademy.org.uk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Escalation procedures are listed in the complaints policy if you feel concerns aren't dealt with satisfactorily. https://www.dartmouthacademy.org.uk/507/key-information/category/10/school-policies We are always looking to improve so if there are methods, we haven't tried please do feel free to suggest them. </p>
11) I receive valuable information about my child's progress	Agree 12/16	Disagree 4/16	<p>Class Charts is a valuable method to support with communication around pupil progress and we are developing this system which will supply current information to you, this is due to be developed through primary in the new year. Parent/carer evenings will also support but as mentioned, if you have concerns about progress please do speak to your child's teacher/ tutor who will be able to give you more detailed information.</p>
	Agree 49/55	Disagree 6/55	
	86%	14%	
12) Would you recommend this school to another parent?	Agree 15/16	Disagree 1/16	<p>We all want parents to feel proud of the school and the standard of education we provide for the pupils, if there are things we could change or do better please do let us know either via e-mail: admin@dartmouthacademy.org.uk.</p>
	Agree 50/55	Disagree 5/55	
	92%	8%	



NEXT BINGO 10th JANUARY 2025 6.30PM IN THE VIEW

Massive thank you to Jon Pope, who's rowing crew donated £363 from the charity 8's race at Dartmouth Regatta.

Tickets are on sale for the Christmas raffle from reception to be drawn on the 13th of December, Borneo pupils would be grateful of any donations of prizes for their raffle.



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

What have we been up to:

Our Year 7 netball team played against 3 other schools in Paignton this afternoon. Some really close games and one win against Torquay Academy 🏆



On Wednesday afternoon the Y10 boys football team made the journey to Teign School for a match. The boys have been training hard every Monday afterschool. Oli P made some fantastic saves, Lewis LS made some great passes and Kai MB put in some great work in defence. All 14 boys played really well! Thank you to Mr Waller for coming with us and coaching the boys.



Cracking Victoria sponges made by our Yr.10. Mary Berry eat your heart out!



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

School Shines with Lantern-Making Workshops

Dartmouth Academy has held lantern making workshops this month as part of the preparations for Candlelit Dartmouth at the end of November.

The workshops were open to the whole community and all materials to make a lantern were provided at the events on the 9th and 10th of November. Donations were collected to help support next year's Candlelit Dartmouth.

The workshops were the final community-based sessions ahead of the Candlelit Dartmouth weekend on the 29th and 30th of November. Highlights over the weekend will include a spectacular procession with hundreds of beautiful, hand-made paper lanterns and Father Christmas' boat gliding silently through the moonlit waters of the river Dart.

Nicola Perrott, Assistant Principal at Dartmouth Academy, said:

"Everyone at Dartmouth Academy is delighted that Candlelit Dartmouth is returning after a five-year absence and I was so pleased to lead the lantern making workshops this month. It was wonderful to see children of all ages, and their family and friends come along and make their own lanterns so they can take part in the procession."

Matthew Shanks, CEO of Education South West said:

"It's great to hear that the lantern making workshops at Dartmouth Academy were so well attended by the local community. Many thanks to Ms Perrott for leading these over the weekend - I know how special the Candlelit Dartmouth event was to the town and it's lovely that the school is playing a central role in bringing it back."



CANDLELIT DARTMOUTH
A FESTIVE WEEKEND

Candlelit Dartmouth is back: 29-30 November 2024!

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

Grand opening of the school's new music facility.

The Mayor of Dartmouth, Cllr Graham Webb, along with the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Graham Evans and the Town Crier, Leslie Ellis all came along to the event, with the Mayor cutting the ribbon to declare the facility officially open.

The school received funding in order to develop the new facility, which includes, hardware and software. **The money was provided by the The Dart Music Festival Foundation, a charity which is dedicated to promoting music through study and education within the community.**

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. This is why we felt it so important to be able to support the pupils of Dartmouth Academy, we aim to inspire the musical performers of tomorrow.

The Deputy Mayor gave a speech at the opening in which she spoke about the power of music to help people develop motor skills, emotional intelligence and the role it has to play in supporting wellbeing.

There were musical performances during the afternoon, demonstrating the talents of many Dartmouth pupils. There will be an exciting auction, as the renowned singer and songwriter David Gray had provided the school with two tickets to his upcoming concert in London to auction.

The music curriculum at Dartmouth Academy is designed to teach pupils what makes a good performance. They learn about the elements of music, instruments of the orchestra and perform regularly as a class or as a small ensemble.

Pupils are also taught how to use word-setting when composing a piece of music. They then learn how familiar themes can be transformed using a variety of compositional techniques and study Concertos, Medieval Music and Reggae. Later in their music education, pupils compose their own Blues song, their own pop song and conclude their study by creating a mini musical or film scene as a small group.



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

— YOUR —
DEVON
— ESCAPE —

**FRIENDS OF DARTMOUTH ACADEMY AND BLACKAWTON
PRIMARY SCHOOL'S
PRESENT
CANDLELIT CHRISTMAS HAMPER AND VARIOUS OTHER
PRIZES RAFFLE**
SMALL LOTTERY LICENCE NUMBER SHSL0227
(KINDLY ORGANISED BY YOUR DEVON ESCAPE)

**WINNING PRIZE: A CHRISTMAS HAMPER WORTH
OVER £400**

VOUCHERS AT DUDLEYS, CAFÉ AL FRESCO, SEA KAYAK DEVON, CHINA BLUE, WHEELHOUSE,
PENNYWELL FARM, RARE BREEDS FARM, PEBBLE PANTRY, JACK SPEAK GIN, NASH AND DUFF T-SHIRT,
NAUTI CREW CLOTHING JACKET, SWEETS FROM SIMPLY SWEETS, FLAPJACKERY GIFT BAG, FRAMED
PAUL BARCLAY PRINT, DIFFUSER AND WAX MELTS FROM SOFT AND SCENTED, CANDLE FROM
DARTMOUTH CANDLE COMPANY, DRINKS FROM LUSCOMBE DRINKS, CHUTNEYS FROM JENNY KOOS
KITCHEN AND THE BAY TREE FOOD COMPANY, WELL-BEING GIFT BOX FROM SANDS AND SPARKLE AND
NOT FORGETTING THE SOFT TEDDY!

WITH RUNNERS-UP PRIZES

£40.00 VENUS CAFÉ VOUCHERS
TWO TICKETS TO EXETER RACECOURSE
£20 GUARDHOUSE CAFÉ VOUCHER (BERRY HEAD, BRIXHAM)

**TICKETS ARE £1 EACH AVAILABLE ON THE DAY OR IN ADVANCE FROM
WEDNESDAY 27TH NOVEMBER FROM DARTMOUTH ACADEMY
RECEPTION OR YOUR DEVON ESCAPE, 47 NEWCOMEN ROAD,
DARTMOUTH.**

**DRAW WILL TAKE PLACE AT 7.45PM AT CANDLELIT DARTMOUTH-ON
SATURDAY, 30TH NOVEMBER 2024.**

47 Newcomen Rd, Dartmouth TQ6 9AN or Dartmouth Academy

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

christmas Bauble Workshop
3RD of December 2024
3.30-5pm
Dartmouth Academy
£5 per Bauble
Refreshments will be
provided



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



EDUCATION
SOUTH WEST



Free NHS mental health support for parents across Devon

If you are struggling with low mood, anxious thoughts, sleep difficulties or aren't quite feeling yourself, help is available.

TALKWORKS is Devon's free and confidential NHS Talking Therapies service, here to help adults over the age of 18, living in Devon (outside Plymouth which is covered by Plymouth Talking Therapies), improve their mental and physical wellbeing. Treatment and support includes one-to-one sessions with a therapist, access to employment support, interactive group courses, wellbeing workshops and online self-help.

You do not need a referral from a GP to access TALKWORKS' services, you can refer yourself online or over the phone. For more information on the different treatment options and therapy services, please visit the TALKWORKS website or call 0300 555 3344.

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](#)



DAFC **YOUTH**



TRAINING TONIGHT

DARTMOUTH ACADEMY

JUNIORS - 4:45 - 5:30 HALL

U9'S 5:30 - 6:30 FIELD

U11'S / U12'S 5:30 - 6:30 FIELD

U13'S 5:30 - 6:30 HALL

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL:
dafcwelfareofficer@gmail.com

What You Need to Know to Dartmouth Swimming Club

All our sessions are coached by Senior Head Coach Mat



Junior Squad

For level 7 and above

We are a friendly competitive club and coach to a high standard. The next step to take your swimming aspirations and fitness to the next level is to join a swimming club.



Masters

For age 18 and over

This is a coached session for adults that can swim at a reasonable pace for one hour.



Dippers

For age 6 and over

This is a fun coached session for children not quite ready for the Junior Squad. Its about building confidence, water safety, games and water polo.

(should be able to swim 25m)



Rookies

For age 8-12

This is a lifeguard programme taught using fun and varied lifesaving activities to give children the skills they need to be confident in the pool and sea.



When

Junior Squad - Fri 4.15 and 5pm

Junior Squad Additional Sessions

Mon 7.15-8pm

Wed 6-7pm and 6-8pm

Sat 7-8.30am

Masters - Wed 7-8pm

Sat 7-8.30am

Dippers - Sat 8.45-9.30am

Rookies - Mon 6.30-7.15pm



Cost - Monthly

Junior and Masters

1 weekly session £25

2 weekly session £37

3 weekly session £50

4 weekly session £57

Dippers - £15

Rookies - £25

+ yearly membership fees

dartmouth.dsc@gmail.com

Contact us for a free try out

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



in partnership with
Devon
County Council

0800 538 5458

ADVICE
HELP
SUPPORT
INFORMATION

0800 538 5458

Our new Devon Family HUBS
**Advice & Guidance Line - open Monday to
Friday 10AM until 4PM**

CALL US
We're here to help...

Family HUBS Advice & Guidance Line
0800 538 5458



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