

DARTMOUTH ACADEMY

Secondary Newsletter

December 2024

Be your
Best Self

COURAGE · COMPASSION · AMBITION





Dates for the diary

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

Celebrating Our Sporting Stars!

A huge congratulations to our netball and rugby teams for their exceptional efforts in recent tournaments! Your hard work, dedication, and teamwork have been truly inspiring to everyone at Dartmouth Academy. Whether you were on the court or the pitch, your sportsmanship and determination shone brightly, making us all proud. A special thank you to the coaches, staff, and families who supported our teams along the way.

A Festive Thank You to DAF

We'd also like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Dartmouth Academy Friends (DAF) for hosting a magical Christmas Fair. The fair was filled with festive cheer, bringing the whole school community together for a day of fun, creativity, and holiday spirit. The Christmas lunch was another highlight of the season—thank you to everyone who contributed to making it such a warm and memorable occasion.

December Festivities

This month has been brimming with excitement, from talent shows and festive games to Candlelit Dartmouth. Our pupils showcased their incredible creativity, humour, and knowledge, making each event a joy to behold. Be sure to check out the later pages for photos and stories from all these wonderful activities!

Celebrating Learning and Growth

We also want to applaud all our pupils for their continued efforts in their learning. This term has been full of challenges and achievements, and we are so proud of the resilience and determination shown by everyone. Whether in the classroom, on stage, or in sports, you have all demonstrated what makes Dartmouth Academy so special.

Wishing You a Merry Christmas

As we wrap up a fantastic term, we wish all our pupils, families, and staff a joyful Christmas break. Take time to relax, recharge, and enjoy the festive season. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Monday, 6th January**, for another exciting term at Dartmouth Academy. Thank you for being part of such a vibrant, supportive community. Have a wonderful holiday!

Paul Girardot and
The Dartmouth team



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



Celebrations

Attendance Matters

This year's attendance by
Year Group:

Reception – 83.8%

Year 1 – 89.7%

Year 2 – 94%

Year 3 – 93.8%

Year 4 – 90.1%

Year 5 – 95.5%

Year 6 – 92.8%

Year 7 – 94.6%

Year 8 – 93.8%

Year 9 – 89.1%

Year 10 – 89%

Year 11 – 89.3%

School attendance for
the year so far is
currently

91.8 %

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

Primary celebrations

'Stars in our eyes'

Chester W & Malachi D – Nursery

Come B & Leon N – Reception

Mahnoor S & Imogen P – Class 1

Scarlett W & Lilly C – Class 2/3

Robyn H & Leila C – Class 3/4

Dylan S & Liam W – Class 5

Isaac H & Whole Class – Class 6



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Pupils have been busy fundraising leading up to the Christmas period with raffles, Christmas Fayres and Bingo's – well done everyone!!



NEXT BINGO 10th JANUARY 2025
6.30PM IN THE VIEW

What have we been up to:

14 enthusiastic year 7 boys travelled to Churston for their biggest tournament yet! Spirits were high, as was the singing on the bus, and the team, along with their team's signature trademark of a 'watermelon' (thank you Reuben), arrived to face a series of 7 matches!

The boys from Dartmouth Academy worked incredibly well together and kept their heads high against some very strong opposition. Our rucking was fantastic; we had some great runs both through the middle of the opposing team's forwards and some great tactical passing out to the wings, which resulted in a number of tries. Captain, Harry and Vice-Captain Max, did a brilliant job and leading the team. The team's resilience was great, every member of Dartmouth Academy's rugby team came away feeling battered and bruised but positive that they had given it their all. These boys have a lot of potential. If any other year 6, 7 or 8 children would like to come to training, it runs every Monday 3:15 to 4:15 (Gum shields and boots required). Dartmouth Rugby Football Club is currently recruiting new players too and meets every Sunday at Norton Park at 10am. david.bradley3691@gmail.com



It was a pleasure to take our pupils from Class 2/3 along to sing carols to the residents at Fleet Care Home today. We also met some rather festive alpacas who were very much in the Christmas Spirit!



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Suit Up for Success: Dartmouth Rotary Conduct Mock Job Interviews for pupils

Year 11 pupils from Dartmouth Academy have taken part in mock job interviews.

Members of the Rotary Club of Dartmouth came along to the school to act as interviewers. Pupils brought along CVs they had prepared on Unifrog - an online platform that helps pupils explore their interests, compare opportunities, and apply for courses- to discuss with them. Pupils were encouraged to attend the mock interviews in smart clothing, just as though they were the real thing.

The event was part of the school's extensive Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) provision which ensures that students are provided with comprehensive information to make the best choice regarding their next steps. All Year 11 pupils have also met with the school's Assistant Principal, Nicola Perrott, to go through their college or sixth form applications and they will also be interviewed by a Level 6 qualified careers adviser to discuss their post 16 progression route.

Career focused assemblies take place weekly at the school and recent speakers have included Dr Wilson Lau, a former Dartmouth Academy student originally from Hong Kong. He contacted the school as he was keen to return to speak to pupils about his job in paediatric medicine. Ben Woolvin, the Home Affairs Correspondent at BBC South West, has also spoken at an assembly this term, telling attendees all about his work in politics and the media.

Dartmouth Academy is committed to providing the appropriate activities and experiences to enable pupils to make well-informed decisions and successful transitions in life and work. They support pupils to prepare for their next step whether that is to continue with further education, employment, training or living independently.

<https://www.dartmouthacademy.org.uk/472/news/post/109/suit-up-for-success-dartmouth-rotary-conduct-mock-job-interviews-for-students>



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The Primary Phase have been truly getting into the Christmas spirit over the past week with our Carol Service held at St Clements Church. Pupils read their readings and sang beautifully. It was a wonderful event to share with our community: thank you to Heidi and Father Andrew at St Clements for hosting us.

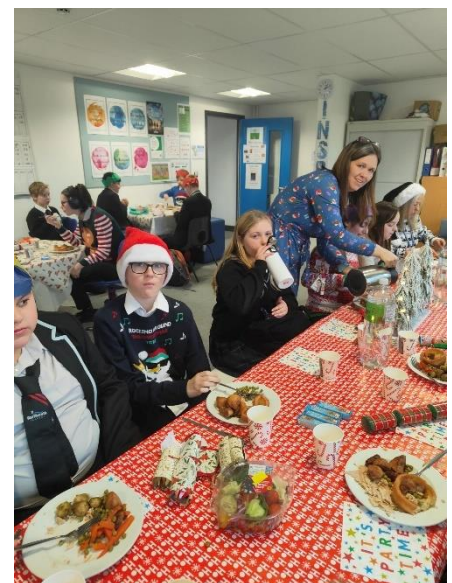


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We have lots of keen geographers in class 5 at Dartmouth Academy! This term we have been learning all about the different biomes on our planet, how flora and fauna adapt to their environment and how climate change impacts different ecosystems. We were so impressed with the effort and the detail the pupils demonstrated in their dioramas of their chosen biome for their home-learning – they truly are fantastic! Here is a small selection of the work the children produced. Thank you, grown-ups, for your support at home; it really is appreciated.



On Wednesday 18th December pupils at Dartmouth Academy enjoyed a wonderful hot Christmas dinner in the View, served by members of staff and governors, and were entertained with live music courtesy of members of Year 8. There were crackers, paper hats and jokes galore, all donated by DAF, for which we are extremely grateful. Thanks, too, for all the support from DAF over this Christmas season this year. The spirit of Christmas has really been flowing here at the school and pupils are extremely excited for the Christmas break. Thanks also to the catering staff and Mealtime Assistants for preparing such a super dinner for us, which was delicious and a fantastic change of pace to the week; pupils commented on how great it was to sit down together and eat communally at this time of year with their friends and staff alike. An event like no other in the year's calendar!



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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](#)

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DO YOU HAVE A CHILD AGED 8-17 WHO IS STRUGGLING WITH THEIR MENTAL HEALTH?

Anxiety, depression, self-harm and other mental health struggles are on the rise in children, particularly following the Covid-19 Pandemic.

As parents, we can be left feeling overwhelmed and helpless, not knowing where to turn for help.

THIS GROUP AIMS TO SUPPORT YOU TO:

- ✓ Meet other parents who understand your situation for mutual support.
- ✓ Learn strategies to help you support your child, with no judgement!
- ✓ Help you to prioritise your own well-being as a parent.

WHEN? Find out more at our **Information Session** for parents at 7.15pm on the last Tuesday of every month in 2025.

WHERE? We meet using Zoom and you'll get the link when you register for our Information Session below.

To attend register at <https://calendly.com/ymhf/information-session-zoom>



To get more information contact:

Joel Sutton (YMHF) on 0300 302 0285

or email joel@Youthmentalhealthfoundation.org



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DAFC YOUTH

✨ Exciting news for all the young talents out there!! ✨

Dartmouth AFC Youth is offering an incredible opportunity to all individuals aged 14-24! 🎉

Are you passionate about football? ⚽
Do you dream of becoming a tactical
mastermind or a skilled referee? 📱
Dartmouth AFC Youth has got you covered!

Here's the best part - we are offering limited
places for fully funded FA referee or coaching
courses!

Want to know more?
Reach out to us today via email at
dafcwelfareofficer@gmail.com today 🇪🇺

DAFC YOUTH TRAINING NIGHTS

JUNIORS - THURSDAYS 16:45 - 17:30 DARTMOUTH ACADEMY

U9'S - THURSDAYS 17:30 - 18:30 DARTMOUTH ACADEMY

U11 / U12'S THURSDAYS 17:30 - 18:30 DARTMOUTH ACADEMY

U13'S - THURSDAYS 17:30 - 18:30 DARTMOUTH ACADEMY

U14'S - TUESDAYS 18:00 - 19:30 BRNC
THURSDAYS 18:30 - 19:30 DARTMOUTH ACADEMY

U16'S TBC

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE DROP US AN EMAIL:
dafcwelfareofficer@gmail.com

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We are delighted to announce that all Under 16s can get free tickets to our Festive fixture when our Women's Team take on Gloucester-Hartpury on Saturday 21st December at 3pm. Bring your family and friends together for

a Christmas Party with a visit from Santa, Carol Singers, Face Painting and Dancers and zorbing on the pitch! [Please pre-book all Adult and Child tickets here.](#)



Exeter Chiefs v Gloucester-Hartpury
THE FESTIVE FACE-OFF
SAT 21 DEC 15:00

KIDS GO FREE!

VISIT FROM SANTA | CAROL SINGERS | CHRISTMAS FACE PAINTING
HALF TIME ZORBING | RIVER DART KID'S ZONE | DANCE SHOW

Thinking about becoming a teacher? **Earn £1275** by completing a paid teaching internship to gain hands-on experience in school and discover if teaching is for you.

- **When** | Internships last 3 weeks, start on 16 June 2025 and you'll be paid **£425 per week**
- **What** | Gain classroom experience, support pupils, shadow experienced teachers, observe lessons
- **Who** | You'll need to be studying for a related degree or masters and interested in teaching either: Chemistry | Maths | Computing | Physics | Modern Languages



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