

DARTMOUTH ACADEMY

Secondary Newsletter

May 2025

Be your Best Self

COURAGE · COMPASSION · AMBITION





End of Term Newsletter – A Big Thank You!

As we bring this short but sweet half term to a close, we want to take a moment to say a huge thank you to our entire academy community. Pupils, staff, and families have all played a vital role in making these past few weeks such a success.

With GCSE exams now in full swing, our Year 11s are showing focus, resilience, and determination. Last week, our Year 6 pupils sat their SATs, and we are incredibly proud of the effort and maturity they demonstrated throughout. Their hard work and dedication truly reflect the values we strive to uphold every day.

Outside of the classroom, the academy has been a hive of activity. We've had an incredible line-up of sporting events recently, showcasing the outstanding talent and team spirit that exists across all year groups. Whether competing or cheering from the sidelines, our pupils have once again shown what it means to be part of our vibrant school community.

A particular highlight this term was the recent Dart Music festival, which featured stunning performances from across the academy. Our Primary pupils lit up the stage with their energy and enthusiasm, while Amber (Year 10) and Logan (Year 8) delivered truly memorable solo performances that left the audience in awe. Their confidence, skill, and passion for music were clear for all to see—well done to all involved!

Looking ahead, next half term promises even more excitement and enrichment. The long-awaited Paris trip will give pupils a taste of French culture and history, while the Borneo expedition offers an unforgettable adventure and learning opportunity. We also have Sports Day to look forward to, where school spirit and athletic talent will once again shine. Challenge Week is on the horizon too, filled with hands-on, creative, and collaborative experiences, and our Year 6 residential will provide a brilliant opportunity for exploration, independence, and fun.

As we head into the break, we encourage everyone to take some time to rest, recharge, and reflect on all that's been achieved so far this year.

Thank you again for your continued support, and we look forward to returning for a final half term filled with opportunities, celebrations, and success.

Paul Girardot and
The Dartmouth team

Dates for the diary

June 2025

2nd & 3rd – Y10 PPEs

**9th – Secondary Open Morning
@ 9.30am**

**12th – Y10 Girls Trip to Noss
Marina**

**16th – Y11 Leavers Assembly @
11.30am**

17th – Borneo vaccinations

18th – Y10 PPEs

**19th – Y10 Boys Trip to Noss
Marina**

20th – Y10 PPEs

24th – Y8 HPV vaccinations

27th – Y11 Prom

30th – Paris Trip

July

4th – Borneo Expedition leave

14th – Whole school Sports Day

**16th & 17th – Challenge Week
Trips**

**18th – School closing at
1pm – Primary
1.15pm Secondary**

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

Attendance Matters

This year's attendance by Year Group:

Reception – 83.8%

Year 1 – 91%

Year 2 – 94.5%

Year 3 – 93.8%

Year 4 – 92.1%

Year 5 – 95.2%

Year 6 – 91.8%

Year 7 – 94.7%

Year 8 – 91.7%

Year 9 – 89.5%

Year 10 – 89.3%

Year 11 – 90.2%

School attendance for the year so far is currently

91.8 %

Thank you for supporting our target of 96%



What have we been up to:

Year 9 Sailing - Prolific

At the end of April, 15 excited Year 9s joined a week's voyage from Southampton aboard Prolific!

The feedback from the Prolific staff was phenomenal and we are so immensely proud of our pupils who represented Dartmouth Academy wonderfully. They started with individual friendships but by the end of the week they had all come together as a team and it was one big group interacting together as friends. The staff really enjoyed having them all on board: they were an excellent group. They all appreciated the opportunity to learn outside a classroom.

We are so grateful for the continued and very generous support of the Royal Dart Youth Sailing Trust, who fund all of our adventures on the water.



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



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Please see below a roundup of this half terms sports events.

Y7 Girls Love Rugby

15 of our Year 7 girls signed up to a rugby event which was an introduction into the sport. On the day the girls took part in a carousel of activities led by the Exeter Chiefs academy and then played some mini T1 rugby games against other schools. The girls also showed the other schools how excellent they are at performing when they decided to sing Defying Gravity at the top of their voices during lunch time! Photos attached.



Y7 and Y8 Girls Neon Run

This was a fantastic event and our pupils made the most of the day, taking part in a 2k or 5k run around Okehampton park, designing a t-shirt, trying archery, doing Zumba and taking on other schools at tug of war. Special mention to Heidi, Connie, Amber and Sophie who ran the whole thing! Photos attached.



KS1 Multisport Event

Our PE Ambassadors organised and ran a fantastic sports event this afternoon for pupils from Dartmouth and Blackawton in Years 1-3. The sun did decide to come out and the pupils worked hard to keep the younger ones active. Ben H was proud of himself for supporting a pupil who didn't want to join in, to eventually take part. All of the ambassadors were a credit to our school so please do congratulate them when you see them. No photos yet but as primary took them but hopefully they will go in the newsletter.

Thank you as always for your continued support with sports events. National School Sports Week is the next date in the calendar!

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Spotlight on Careers: Dartmouth Academy Hosts Inspiring Alumni Including BBC's Ben Woolvin

Dartmouth Academy was delighted to welcome Ben Woolvin, Home Affairs Correspondent at BBC South West, and alumnus William Carver from Xpremedia, a leading media company, to the school for an engaging and inspiring careers assembly.

Ben, whose expertise in journalism and current affairs provides invaluable insight into the media industry, spoke to students about his career journey and the exciting opportunities within broadcast journalism.

William, who now works with Xpremedia, also returned to his roots to share his professional experiences with pupils. William spoke about his work delivering professional photography, videography, and podcast services. The assembly highlighted the importance of exploring career options, seeking opportunities for personal growth, and working hard to achieve career goals.

Dartmouth Academy is dedicated to offering pupils a wide range of opportunities to explore different career pathways through its comprehensive Careers Education, Information, Advice, and Guidance (CEIAG) programme. The school encourages alumni and local professionals to get involved in future career events, either by speaking at assemblies or providing valuable work experience opportunities.

Paul Girardot, Principal at Dartmouth Academy, said:

"We are incredibly grateful to these alumni for coming in to share their experiences and insights with our pupils. Our aim is to provide real-world inspiration and advice, helping our pupils understand the variety of paths available to them. We are committed to preparing our pupils for successful transitions into further education, employment, or independent living, and these career assemblies are a key part of that effort."

Nicola Perrott, Assistant Principal at Dartmouth Academy, said:

"It is so gratifying that our supportive alumni provide these meaningful employer encounters for our pupils. Our assemblies provide a vehicle for part of our careers provision to ensure we hit all the Gatsby Benchmarks, which are a framework of eight key principles that define world-class careers provision in education"

Matthew Shanks, CEO at Education South West said:

"It's fantastic to see alumni returning to inspire the next generation at Dartmouth Academy. The opportunity for young people to hear first-hand from professionals like Ben and William is invaluable in helping them make informed decisions about their futures. We are proud to



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continue supporting our schools and communities in preparing students for success in life and work."

For more information on how to get involved please contact Dartmouth Academy at:

Phone: 01803 839700

Email: admin@dartmouthacademy.org.uk

Young Voices, Bright Ideas: Dartmouth Pupils Share Hopes for Their Community

Pupils at Dartmouth Academy have been given the chance to have their voices heard in a meaningful way thanks to a new partnership with Dartmouth Community Chest.

In a thought-provoking session pupil from Years 7 to 11 sat down with Dawn Shepherd, local community advocate and representative of Dartmouth Town Council, to discuss what they value about living in and around Dartmouth and what they hope can be improved.

The session, facilitated by Dartmouth Academy assistant headteacher, Nicola Perrott, invited pupils to engage in open, aspirational conversation about the future of their town. After sharing her role in the community and council, Dawn encouraged the pupils to think boldly and creatively about what could make Dartmouth an even better place to live and grow up.

Ideas from the pupils ranged from more youth focused events and environmental initiatives, to improvements in public spaces and transport. Dawn promised to take their thoughts seriously and committed to meeting with the group again to explore how some of their suggestions could be taken forward in collaboration with local organisations.

This ongoing partnership marks the beginning of a wider initiative to strengthen links between young people and local decision makers, giving pupils the confidence and platform to become active participants in the future of their town.

Paul Girardot, principal at Dartmouth Academy, said:

"It was fantastic to see our pupils engaging so thoughtfully with real issues in their community. We are proud to be a school that encourages pupil voice and community connection. This is how we build confident, compassionate citizens."

Matthew Shanks, CEO at Education South West, said:

"Creating opportunities for students to connect with and shape their local communities is a powerful part of Education South West's mission to transform lives through education. We're delighted to see Dartmouth Academy leading by example."



We were again delighted to join the Patient Participation Group at Dartmouth Medical Practice yesterday evening.

Our pupil representatives were fine ambassadors of Dartmouth Academy and articulated the views of their age groups very well. Huge thanks to the pupils who gave up their evening.



The Flavel Dartmouth

Here at The Flavel, we are delighted to be working in partnership with the Academy and hope to see as many pupils, parents and carers as possible enjoying what the Centre has to offer. Over the forthcoming months, we will be developing our partnership even further with the following just some of the ways in which we will be supporting Academy pupils and families;

- Development of a Youth Choir
- Facilitation of Work Experience Placements
- Exhibition of pupil art work.
- 10% ticket reduction for all Dartmouth Academy pupils.
- A free monthly prize draw which will include a family ticket to the cinema for the lucky winner (2 adults and 2 children).
- Screening of films and plays which support understanding of texts delivered in the Academy curriculum.

As an organisation, we believe wholeheartedly in the positive effects that involvement in cultural and art-based activities can have and we are fully committed to ensuring that the Flavel is used by young people as much as possible. They are the future of our centre.



It was so lovely to meet you in person and to come and speak with your Key Stage 3 pupils; I was so impressed with the engagement of the group – thanks very much for having me in!

Jenny Rusk

ASK Apprenticeship Devon Team and Trainee Careers Adviser

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](#)



Lost property can be located at reception, any items not collected will be disposed of at the end of each term.



To enhance our community focus, we are contacting you from your local leisure centre to invite the staff and parents of your school to make use of a complimentary pass* at our Leisure Centre in Ivybridge, Totnes, Kingsbridge, Dartmouth, Okehampton or Tavistock. This is an excellent opportunity for staff and parents to engage in healthy activities and experience our facilities.

Whether it be a free Gym Session, Lane Swim, or Group Exercise class, we would be keen to welcome you and up to three guests. We believe this offer will provide a valuable chance for relaxation and fitness in our community.

Simply share this message along with the free pass link, and our team will respond to each request promptly. Alternatively, if you prefer, you may reply to this email with the names, email addresses, telephone numbers, and a preferred day, time, and desired activity for booking purposes.

We look forward to welcoming you and hope this initiative fosters greater community engagement.

*Adults only may apply

fusion-lifestyle.com/offers/free-pass/#:~:text=As a charity%2C Fusion Lifestyle are committed to,gym%2C or have a swim%2C entirely for FREE%21

The poster is blue with white and yellow text. At the top left is the Dartmouth Academy logo with the tagline 'Be your best self.' and 'Ofsted Good Provider' badge. The main title 'OPEN EVENTS' is in large yellow letters. Below it, 'Secondary Open Mornings 2025' is in white. The dates 'Monday 9th June' and 'Monday 7th July' are in yellow, followed by the time '9.30am to 10.30am' in white. A QR code is in the bottom right. At the bottom, contact information is provided: 'Tel: 01803 839700', 'Email: admissions@dartmouthacademy.org.uk', and 'www.dartmouthacademy.org.uk - Milton Lane, Dartmouth TQ6 9HW'. Logos for 'EDUCATION SOUTH WEST' and 'unicef UNITED KINGDOM' are also present.

Dartmouth ACADEMY
'Be your best self.'
Ofsted Good Provider

OPEN EVENTS

**Secondary Open Mornings
2025**

**Monday 9th June
Monday 7th July**

9.30am to 10.30am

EDUCATION SOUTH WEST
Tel: 01803 839700
Email: admissions@dartmouthacademy.org.uk
www.dartmouthacademy.org.uk - Milton Lane, Dartmouth TQ6 9HW

unicef UNITED KINGDOM
SILVER - RIGHTS AWARE

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



Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

We are writing to you with an update regarding youth-related anti-social behaviour in Teignbridge. We are pleased to report a significant reduction in the large gatherings previously seen on Friday and Saturday evenings, particularly in areas such as the Teignmouth Seafront, as the warmer weather brings more young people outdoors.

While the large gatherings of over 100 young people on Friday and Saturday evenings have significantly reduced in frequency since last year, we have still observed them on a few recent occasions. These instances have been associated with drug and noticeable alcohol use, with a high proportion of those involved being under the age of 18. This behaviour can lead to disruption within our local towns and surrounding areas, and we remain concerned for the safety and well-being of these young people.

We are very encouraged that, due to the strong partnership working and targeted interventions aimed at disrupting drug supply and reducing demand, we have had no reports of hospitalisations related to suspected illicit drug use this year, in contrast to multiple reports last year. This highlights the positive impact of our collaborative efforts.

While we recognise that the majority of young people enjoy our outdoor spaces responsibly, the disruptive behaviour of a minority necessitates a continued robust response. To this end, there will be an increased police presence in key areas throughout the spring and summer months. Our proactive patrols will focus on addressing anti-social behaviour, including underage alcohol and drug consumption, vandalism, fighting, excessive noise, and other disruptive actions. Any alcohol and drugs found will be seized by police, with positive action taken to assist individuals through follow-up visits to parents.

We believe that a strong partnership with parents and guardians remains crucial in addressing this issue. We ask for your continued support in the following ways:

- **Open Communication:** We urge you to have open and honest conversations with your child about responsible behaviour in public spaces. Discuss the potential consequences of anti-social behaviour, including the risks associated with drug and alcohol use and the impact on themselves and the community.
- **Setting Clear Expectations:** Please reinforce clear guidelines and expectations for your child's behaviour when they are out in the community. Emphasise the importance of respect, kindness, and empathy towards others and their surroundings.
- **Awareness of Location and Activities:** Please be aware of your child's whereabouts, particularly on Friday and Saturday evenings. Understand who they are with and what activities they are involved in.
- **Seeking Assistance:** If you have any concerns about your child's involvement in these gatherings or their behaviour, please do not hesitate to seek help. You can contact the details provided below or reach out to your child's school for support.
- **Understanding Consequences:** Please be aware that any young person identified as being responsible for anti-social behaviour will be subject to our Anti-Social Behaviour escalation process. This may include warning letters and acceptable behaviour contracts, implemented in collaboration with schools and the police. Criminal offences will be dealt with directly by the Police.

- Support Responsible Travel: We strongly advise against dropping your children off in Teignmouth or supporting their use of public transport to get there on Friday and Saturday evenings, as this can contribute to the large unsupervised gatherings.
- We also want to highlight that intoxication can significantly impair young people's judgment and awareness, unfortunately making them more vulnerable to individuals who may seek to take advantage of them.
-

If you need to report a crime, use our website: Report a crime | Devon & Cornwall Police ([devon-cornwall.police.uk](https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk)). If it is an emergency or if a crime is taking place, call 999 or 101 in non-emergencies.

Useful resources are available to help parents and guardians have conversations with young people about difficult topics. The 'Let's Talk' programme, aims to help parents and guardians understand more about the challenges young people are facing today, including drugs, alcohol, and mental health. The programme contains a mixture of resources that are completely free, including virtual toolkits and online sessions to support parents and guardians with young people aged 9-18. Resources are available here: Let's Talk Teenagers - Safer Devon..

We appreciate your continued understanding and cooperation as we work together to ensure a safe and enjoyable environment for all members of our community, especially our young people. Yours sincerely

Teignbridge Neighbourhood Policing Team

Teignbridge Community Safety Partnership

<https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/partners/partner-services/community-partner-intelligence/community-partnership-intelligence/>

Community Partnership Intelligence Form: This form is for the sharing of non-urgent information by partner agencies. This includes information that relates to: anti-social behaviour, child abuse, community tension, cyber crime, general crime, hate crime, knife crime, serious Organised Crime, sexual offending, vulnerability, gang activity, modern slavery or trafficking

<https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/ro/report/mp/v2/report-missing-person>

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



YOUTH RECRUITMENT

WE'RE RECRUITING

OUR U12'S NEED YOU!! DO YOU HAVE A CHILD THAT ENJOYS PLAYING FOOTBALL AND IS CURRENTLY IN YEAR 6 OR 7? BRIXHAM TOWN U12S ARE STEPPING INTO 11 ASIDE NEXT SEASON AND NEED 5/6 MORE PLAYERS TO KEEP THE TEAM GOING. ALL OUR COACHES HOLD FA QUALIFICATIONS AND OUR CLUB IS DEDICATED TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF EVERY CHILD! WHETHER YOU ARE A COMPLETE BEGINNER OR AN EXPERIENCED PLAYER THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU AT BRIXHAM TOWN! CONTACT KURT ON THE INFORMATION BELOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING!

U12S - 07806475783 - KURT



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