

Scott Medical & Healthcare College Newsletter



May 2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we wrap up another half term, we look back at the incredible opportunities our students have experienced. One highlight was two days spent with Operation Live, where students engaged in a full-day, hands-on medical experience.

Our Year 9 students have been hard at work on a media competition called "Step into the NHS," creating advertisements about various jobs in the NHS. The students have thoroughly enjoyed this creative and educational project and we look forward to hearing the results in June.

DofE Bronze and Silver students also completed their expeditions this half term. These tough challenges were met with remarkable resilience and determination by our students.

A special mention goes to our Year 11 and Year 13 students who have been diligently taking their exams. There's still some work ahead, but the Year 11 Prom and Year 13 BBQ and Rounders games in July, will be a wonderful reward for their efforts.

We eagerly anticipate the final summer term, which promises to be the busiest and most exciting part of the year!

Best wishes,

Anita Frier,
Headteacher

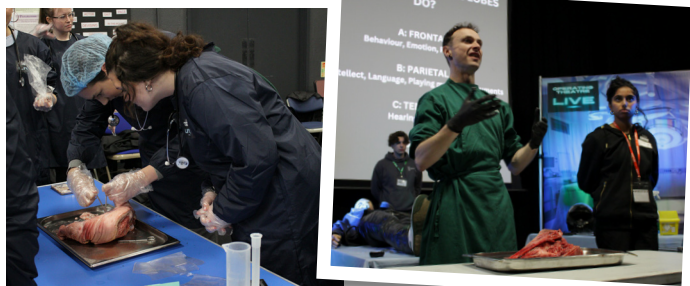
MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK



The theme this year was 'Movement' set by the Mental Health Foundation.

Being physically active is great for our mental health, we have plenty of activities for our students to get involved in at SMHC that promote being physically active.

There are endless possibilities when it comes to finding a movement that works for you. To learn more, visit: <https://mentalhealth-uk.org/help-and-information/movement/>



Operation Theatre Live deliver incredible medical workshop

Students recently took part in an extraordinary two-day event in collaboration with Operation Theatre Live, marking a significant milestone in hands-on medical education.

The heart of Operation Theatre Live lies in its day-long immersive experience. Students are invited to work alongside the clinical team, gaining first-hand experience in charting the treatment journey of a patient, from initial incident to trauma surgery.

The event was packed with interactive dissections of real organs, clinical interventions, and surgical procedures, meticulously aligned with GCSE and A-level specifications. This unique experience not only provides invaluable medical preparation for university applications but also awards students a Medical Work Experience Certificate for UCAS and interviews.

Rhianna from Year 10 described it as a "unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," while Nichole, also from Year 10, found it "amazing to be so hands-on, to touch and feel everything we were learning."

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Chemistry students conduct chemical tests

Our Year 12 Chemistry students recently completed their seventh Core Practical Assessment Component (CPAC), which challenged them to identify unknown substances using a variety of chemical tests.

This hands-on experiment provided an excellent opportunity for students to apply their theoretical knowledge in a practical setting, honing their analytical and observational skills.

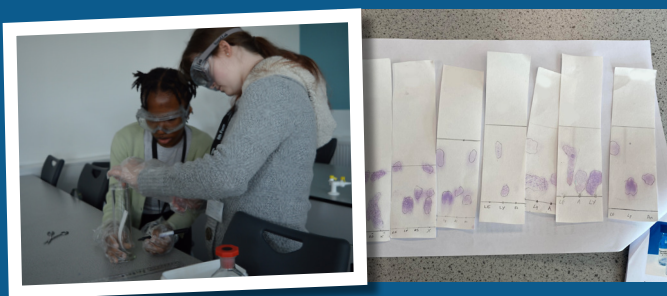
[READ THE FULL STORY HERE...](#)

Year 12's Identify Amino Acids

In a recent biochemistry laboratory session, students engaged in an experiment to identify amino acids within a mixture using a technique known as paper chromatography.

This hands-on experiment provided a clear demonstration of the principles of chromatography and the reactivity of amino acids with ninhydrin, solidifying the students' understanding of both the technique and the underlying chemical properties of amino acids.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE...](#)



DIARY DATES

Tuesday 11th June
Post-18 Information Evening

Thursday 4th July
Year 11 Prom

Wednesday 10th July
Awards Evening

NSSW helps students prepare for university life

Year 13 students enthusiastically participated in a thought-provoking session led by Next Steps South West, aimed at preparing them for the upcoming transition to university life.

All of those students who are planning to go on to Higher Education tackled a series of tasks designed to ensure they step onto campus fully equipped for the next stage of their exciting academic journey.

The students found the talk to be really helpful in getting them ready for life Post-18.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE...](#)



Year 10's take part in maths day at University of Plymouth

A cohort of Year 10 students recently visited University of Plymouth to take part in a day full of mathematics beyond the confines of the GCSE curriculum.

Representing various disciplines across the campus, these eager learners took part in workshops designed to showcase the multifaceted applications of mathematics in the real world.

The workshops and seminars also offered students a first-hand glimpse into the academic life of university. Students left with minds buzzing with newfound knowledge and a renewed appreciation for the boundless possibilities of mathematics.

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Local donation enhances Scott College library

A huge thank you to Mr Binns who recently donated some much needed books to Scott College's growing library.

Miss Cripps, who manages the Scott College library expressed her delight saying, *"It's great to be given more books for our students. More books equate to more opportunities for enrichment."*

Nichole, an avid reader, expressed her gratitude saying, *"I love reading, especially during busy lunch times when finding a peaceful corner can be a challenge."*



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Year 9 Students showcase creativity in NHS Career Project

The Year 9 tutor groups at Scott College have been immersed in an engaging project centered around the NHS, delving into various career pathways and honing their research and presentation skills along the way.

The "Step into the NHS," competition encourages students to pick a NHS career that interests them and create a job advertisement to tell their friends and other young people about it.

Reflecting on the project's success, Mrs. Chalmers expressed immense pride in her students' efforts. *"They worked hard in their tutor groups, supported by dedicated tutors, and remained focused and enthusiastic throughout the advert-making process,"* she remarked, adding, *"I have my fingers crossed for all the students, although they are all winners in my eyes!"*

As anticipation mounts for the final vote in June, the Scott College community eagerly awaits the outcome of the students' hard work and imaginations.

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Scott College celebrates Year 9's hard work

A huge congratulations to the Year 9 students here at Scott College on their effort and hard work in the "Step into the NHS" project.

Our Year 9 students gathered together in an extra long assembly to watch and celebrate the advertisements they created as part of the project.

Towards the end of the assembly, certificates were handed out by Mrs. Merricks, Head of School, and Miss Frier, Headteacher, to those involved in the project.

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Bronze DofE Qualifier Walk

Our Year 9 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh students set off on their first qualifying expedition. Led by their passion for adventure and very little assistance from staff, these young explorers set out from Ermington on Friday morning, beginning their adventure.

Throughout their expedition, these students proved themselves to be fantastic ambassadors, embodying the values of leadership, resilience, and teamwork. Their unwavering commitment to the DofE program is an example of youth engagement and outdoor education.

Their journey may have come to an end, but the memories created and lessons learnt will undoubtedly last, serving as a reminder of the incredible potential within each and every one of them.

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Silver DofE walk

Our amazing Silver DofE students embarked on a challenging 3-day practice expedition this half-term.

The route presented some tricky navigational challenges, but the pupils confidently applied their training and successfully navigated the terrain.

Students demonstrated their culinary skills by preparing a variety of nutritious meals, from home-made flatbreads to rice with chorizo. This hearty dinner was the perfect fuel for the adventures ahead.

Throughout the expedition, the pupils showed remarkable resilience and teamwork, learning valuable skills and building confidence in preparation for their qualifying expedition in June. Their determination and positive attitude made the experience a memorable success, earning them well-deserved pride and recognition.

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GOOD LUCK!

Good luck to our amazing Gold students who will be completing their final challenging expedition in July.

We look forward to hearing all about it!

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

UNDERSTANDING AND PREVENTING SEXTORTION: A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

In today's digital age, children and teenagers have unprecedented access to technology and the internet. While this connectivity offers many benefits, it also exposes young people to new risks, one of the most concerning being sextortion. Sextortion is a form of blackmail where someone threatens to distribute explicit images or videos of the victim unless they meet certain demands, which can range from providing more images to paying money. As a parent, understanding sextortion and knowing how to protect your children is crucial.

What is Sextortion?

Sextortion typically starts online, where perpetrators use social media, messaging apps, or gaming platforms to make contact with young people. They may pose as someone of similar age and gradually build a relationship, gaining the victim's trust. Once they have obtained explicit images or videos, they use these to coerce the victim into further actions under threat of exposure.

Signs Your Child Might Be a Victim

Children may be reluctant to talk about their experiences with sextortion due to fear, shame, or guilt. However, there are signs parents can watch for:

- Secrecy around online activities: Increased secrecy or reluctance to discuss online interactions.
- Emotional distress: Signs of anxiety, depression, or withdrawal from social interactions.
- Unexplained changes: Sudden changes in behavior, mood, or academic performance.
- Requests for money: Asking for money without a clear reason or explanation.

How to Protect Your Child

1. Open Communication: Foster a trusting relationship where your child feels comfortable discussing their online experiences. Regular conversations about internet safety can make a significant difference.
2. Education on Online Risks: Teach your child about the dangers of sharing personal information and explicit content online. Emphasize that once something is shared, it can be difficult to control where it goes.

3. Privacy Settings: Help your child set up strict privacy settings on their social media accounts and encourage them to only interact with people they know in real life.
4. Monitoring and Supervision: While respecting their privacy, keep an eye on your child's online activities. Use parental controls and monitoring software to help manage the content they can access and the interactions they have.
5. Encourage Critical Thinking: Teach your child to question the intentions of people they meet online. If something feels off or too good to be true, it probably is.

Responding to Sextortion

If you discover that your child is a victim of sextortion, it is essential to act calmly and supportively:

- Do Not Blame the Victim: Understand that the child is not at fault and needs your support to navigate the situation.
- Document the Evidence: Keep records of all communications and threats. This documentation will be useful for reporting the incident to authorities.
- Report to Authorities: Contact local law enforcement and report the sextortion. Many jurisdictions have specific units that deal with cybercrimes.
- Seek Professional Help: Consider counseling for your child to help them cope with the emotional impact of the experience.

Conclusion

Sextortion is a serious and growing threat in our increasingly connected world. By maintaining open lines of communication, educating children about online risks, and monitoring their digital interactions, parents can play a crucial role in protecting their children from this form of exploitation. Remember, the most effective defence against sextortion is a proactive and informed approach to online safety.

If you have a concern or worry about a student please contact the safeguarding team
safeguarding@scottcollege.co.uk

TALK 2 US Talk 2 Us is available for students to raise any concerns or worries.
talk2us@scottcollege.co.uk

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

SEXTORTION: A QUICK GUIDE FOR PARENTS



Sextortion is a serious online threat where predators blackmail victims using explicit images or videos. This has been widely publicised in the local and national media. Typically, the perpetrator gain the victim's trust online, then threaten to share these images unless demands are met, which can include more explicit content or money.

Signs of Sextortion:

- Secrecy about online activities
- Emotional distress
- Sudden behaviour or academic changes
- Unexplained requests for money

Prevention Tips:

1. Open Communication: Encourage your child to talk about their online experiences.
2. Online Education: Teach them the risks of sharing personal information and explicit content.
3. Privacy Settings: Ensure strict privacy settings on social media.
4. Supervision: Use parental controls and monitor online activity discreetly.
5. Critical Thinking: Encourage scepticism about online relationships.

If Your Child Is Targeted:

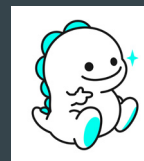
- Stay calm and supportive, avoiding blame.
- Document all evidence of threats.
- Report to law enforcement.
- Seek support for your child.

By staying informed and fostering open conversations, parents can help protect their children from sextortion.

For more information visit <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/nca-issues-urgent-warning-about-sextortion>

BE APP AWARE BIGO LIVE

What's the Purpose: Bigo is a live-streaming app. It is rated for teens 17 and up. Users can vlog about their lives, live stream video gameplay, and host their own shows.



Why Parents Should Worry: There is no age verification and users have to provide personal info like their age and location. This is a place where bullying, nudity, violence, and profanity are common.

THINK ABOUT USING: QUSTODIO

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WELLBEING SOLUTION.

Qustodio

Create a risk-free environment for your kids online. Qustodio provides peace of mind by allowing you to easily monitor and manage your kids' activity on all ..

Over 6 million parents trust Qustodio's parental control tools to keep their kids' screen time safe and balanced on every device - from one easy-to-use dashboard.

COLLECTION OF STUDENTS AFTER SCHOOL

Please be considerate when collecting your child from school.

Please abide by the following: If parking in the City Business Park car park, use the designated parking bays and the one-way system. This is a City Council-managed pay & display car park.

Please do not: park on double yellow lines, in front of driveways or obstruct bays.

Please be considerate and courteous of other people.
Thank you for your cooperation.