

Scott Medical & Healthcare College Newsletter



April 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we enter the spring term, we take a moment to reflect on a busy and fulfilling period filled with enriching activities and countless opportunities for our students to grow and excel.

This term, we had the honour of welcoming esteemed guest speakers from prestigious institutions like Oxford University, who shared invaluable insights and inspiration with our students. Additionally, our students had the chance to build meaningful connections through the Intergenerational Project with Millfies Inspired, fostering a sense of community.

Outside the classroom, our school community came together to celebrate special events. Red Nose Day saw students taking part in an exciting rowing challenge, while British Science Week ignited curiosity as they explored the fascinating adaptations found in nature.

One of the standout moments of this term was the achievement of First Aid qualifications by all of our Year 12 students. This significant accomplishment marks an important step in their preparation for careers in healthcare.

We also took great pride in celebrating the success of our DofE students during our annual Celebration Evening.

As we approach the Easter break, we wish you all a restful holiday and look forward to another term filled with new opportunities and experiences.

Best wishes,

Anita Frier,

Headteacher



DofE and CCF Celebration Evening 2025

This term we hosted our annual cross-campus Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) and Combined Cadet Force (CCF) Celebration Evening.

This event was a chance to celebrate the incredible accomplishments of our students over the past year. Filled with pride and unity, the evening saw students recognised for their exceptional efforts in a variety of areas, including physical fitness, skills development, volunteering, expeditions, residential experiences, and overall achievement. In addition, several special awards were given to those who showed outstanding commitment and excellence.

Throughout the evening, students reflected on their personal journeys. Silver awardee Lydia shared, "Overall, my DofE experience was incredible. While there were challenges along the way, there were also plenty of unforgettable moments. We shared countless laughs, from running through the woods with horses chasing us to watching our friends roll down hills and somehow getting lost without knowing how. My DofE journey was truly one to remember."

Similarly, CCF students expressed how the programme had pushed them to challenge themselves and develop invaluable skills, embracing the opportunity for growth.

To all our DofE and CCF participants, you represent the true values of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. We are incredibly proud of what you've achieved and look forward to seeing you continue to thrive as you embark on even greater challenges in the future.



Getting Exam Ready with the 'Fixup' Team

We were excited to host the 'Fixup' Team at our school for a motivating session designed to help our Year 11 students prepare for their mock and summer exams.

The team introduced practical revision strategies, emphasising the importance of organised planning, time management, and staying motivated. Their engaging and interactive approach made the session both enjoyable and valuable, encouraging students to take ownership of their revision. Many students reflected on their current techniques and identified areas for improvement.

A key takeaway from the workshop was that small, steady changes in revision habits can lead to lasting success. The team inspired students to believe in their potential, reinforcing that with the right mindset and dedication, they can achieve their academic goals.

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Year 12 Students Complete Emergency First Aid Award

Our Year 12 students have successfully completed their Emergency First Aid at Work certification. This one-day intensive training has equipped them with vital life-saving skills, including CPR, AED use, and managing emergencies like choking and burns.

We couldn't be more proud of their dedication and enthusiasm throughout the course.

Well done Year 12!

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Red Nose Day 2025

Our school was filled with energy and excitement as students took part in an epic House Rowing Challenge in support of Comic Relief.

Students competed in timed slots, racing to row their 1-mile as quickly as possible before passing the seat over to their teammates. Each house showed incredible determination, teamwork, and resilience, making it a thrilling competition from start to finish.

In the end, Nightingale House claimed the top spot, while Soheil in Seacole House rowed the fastest time with an impressive 7:28 minutes. As a school, we raised an outstanding £42.27. However, the greatest achievement was the collective effort—across campus, our students and staff rowed over 100 miles and raised £118 to support Comic Relief's vital work.

This event was a wonderful demonstration of our school's spirit, with everyone coming together to support such a meaningful cause. We couldn't be more proud of the effort shown by all involved.

A massive thank you to every student, staff member, and supporter who played a part in making the challenge such a resounding success!





Year 12 Students Foster Community Connections

A group of our Year 12 students took part in an Intergenerational Project with Millfields Inspired, bringing together local primary school children and care home residents for a day of creativity and connection.

Our students led interactive activities like biscuit decorating, card making, and necklace crafting, fostering meaningful conversations across generations. The day ended with a heartwarming sing-along before they helped serve lunch.

Millfields Inspired praised their efforts, highlighting their enthusiasm, inclusivity, and positive engagement:

"A big thank you to you all for your time and commitment. The organisation of your activities, setting up, delivery, and clearing up was fantastic. Moreover, the way you engaged with everyone was brilliant. It was lovely to see you joining in with the singing, and I know both the children and elderly individuals appreciated your positive and inclusive outlook!"

This experience allowed students to develop leadership and communication skills while making a real impact on the community.

Campus Radio Club

Our Campus Radio Club is off to a fantastic start with the arrival of brand-new equipment, paving the way for in-school broadcasts! To kick things off, members of the Radio Club participated in an interactive workshop with Max from Radioactive, where they explored the essentials of radio equipment setup, sound mixing, and broadcasting techniques.

This hands-on experience has equipped our students with the skills and confidence to further hone their radio talents. The excitement is building, and we're eager to see what's in store for our Radio Club next!

Stay tuned for more updates!

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

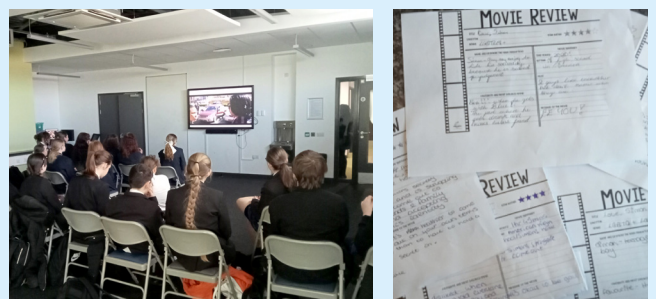


Celebrating LGBTQIA+ History Month

In celebration of LGBTQIA+ History Month, 25 students from across campus gathered for a special film screening of 'Love, Simon', sparking meaningful conversations about LGBTQIA+ representation in the media. The event provided a space for students to come together, share their thoughts, and reflect on the film's significance.

One Year 10 student shared, "It's so important to celebrate LGBTQIA+ and make sure our voices are heard." After the film, students had the opportunity to write reviews, allowing them to engage more deeply with the movie's themes.

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Silver / Gold DofE Training Expedition

Our Silver and Gold DofE students took on their first outdoor training day at the stunning Merrivale, Dartmoor. The day was packed with exciting activities, including navigating with paper maps, decoding six-digit grid references, cooking meals, and pitching tents.

As part of their journey, students explored Kings Tor and Fogginator Quarry, with many naming the quarry as a highlight. They were captivated by the breathtaking scenery and felt privileged to experience such a spectacular location.

The main challenge of the day involved navigating to various points to earn scores, sparking a competitive spirit among the students. It was inspiring to see them tackle the task with enthusiasm, showing impressive teamwork, independence, and problem-solving skills—all without staff assistance.

Beyond developing vital expedition skills, this training day also gave students a chance to bond with their peers while immersing themselves in Dartmoor's natural beauty. We can't wait to see how these experiences will benefit them in their upcoming adventures!

[CLICK HERE TO SEE MORE PHOTOS...](#)

Bronze DofE Practice Walk

44 of our Year 9 students have completed their first 7km practice walk around the breathtaking Burrator Reservoir as part of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award.

This walk was an opportunity for them to develop key skills, including navigation, teamwork, and problem-solving.

Throughout the hike, the students demonstrated remarkable resilience, determination, and exemplary behaviour, approaching the challenge with enthusiasm and focus.

With this practice walk under their belts, they are now well-prepared for the next stage of their adventure.

Well done, everyone!



DIARY DATES

Thursday 15th May
Year 10 Parents Evening



Step into the NHS: Year 9 Careers Event

Our Year 9 students had an exciting day of virtual NHS career workshops, gaining firsthand insights from healthcare professionals. Through interactive activities, they explored a variety of roles and learned about the skills needed in the healthcare sector.

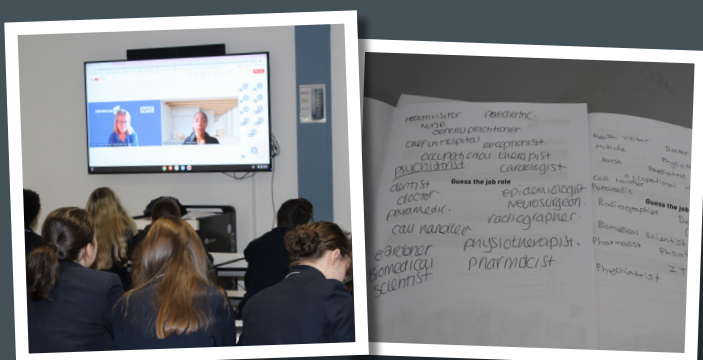
One highlight was the "Guess the Job Role" activity, led by NHS professionals Alicia and Paul. Students were surprised by the wide range of careers available and the salaries associated with them. Matilda commented, "It was so good to see different roles; I'm shocked by some of the pay when these people save lives."

Later, students heard from Paul, a cybersecurity specialist, and Salma, an orthotist, who shared their experiences and what a typical day in their roles looks like. Isla reflected, "I really want to be a Midwife, but it was great to explore other careers. They said no day is ever the same, but teamwork is key." Roberta added, "I really enjoyed today. I wouldn't change anything—it was really interesting."

Mrs. Chalmers praised the event, saying, "It is so important for our students to have career and medical experiences outside the classroom. This was a truly valuable opportunity for them."

Well done to our Year 9 students for making the most of this inspiring experience!

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British Science Week 2025

For this year's British Science Week, we embraced the theme "Adapt and Change," inspiring students of all years to explore evolution and adaptation.

Students enjoyed fascinating assemblies on nature's strangest adaptations, from blood-squirting lizards to zombie fungi. They also took on hands-on challenges like the sinking pot competition and investigated the effects of ocean acidification on marine life.

Throughout the week, students embraced experimentation and problem-solving. As one determined student, Mason, put it:

"I have to win this sinking pot competition! Trial and error is key—I'm using logic and repeated experiments to achieve the best results."

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE...](#)



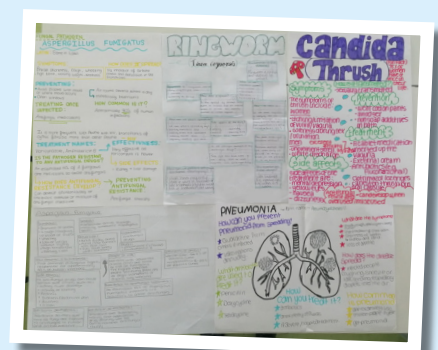
British Science Week Poster Competition

Over the past two weeks, Year 9 students at Scott College have been exploring the world of fungi as part of a national competition organised by the Microbiology in Schools Advisory Committee.

In celebration of British Science Week, students learned about human fungal diseases and the global issue of antifungal drug resistance. They conducted hands-on experiments using yeast, researched the topic, and created informative posters for the competition.

The top five posters will represent Scott College at the national level. Congratulations to the Year 9 students whose posters were selected, and we wish them the best of luck in the competition!

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HOUSE SYSTEM NEWS!



Nightingale Take the Victory This Term

The results are in, and it was a close race, with students working hard to earn house points. This term, Nightingale emerged as the winners with a total of 3,464 points!

All Nightingale students were invited to enjoy a special 'Movie and Munchies' afternoon in the main hall as a reward for their dedication and hard work, but the competition isn't over yet! The race is now on for the end-of-year House Champion, with all Houses vying for the top spot. Who will take the title?

Mrs. Harvey, Scott's House Leader, shared her excitement, saying:

"I have been blown away by our students' commitment and enthusiasm for our House system. They have consistently demonstrated our CARE values—Commitment, Aspiration, Resilience, and Empathy. Their healthy competitiveness, combined with teamwork and support for one another, has been especially evident in our Charity Challenge Tuesdays and other house activities. It's wonderful to see students taking pride in their achievements and enjoying the spirit of the competition!"

With such strong participation and enthusiasm, the final results for the year are sure to be exciting. Keep earning those points—every effort counts!



Year 11 Charity Challenge: A Huge Success!

This term, Year 11 students rose to the challenge of raising money for their house charities, showcasing great teamwork and enthusiasm. They planned, advertised, and ran a variety of events, including a Cake Sale, a "Guess the Weight of the Cake" competition, and a lively Karaoke session that had the whole school engaged.

Students across all year groups took part, praising the event's organization and fun atmosphere—setting a high bar for Year 10, who will take on Charity Challenge Tuesday next.

Nicole shared, *"I found the whole process delightful and exciting! I enjoyed taking the lead and raising money for a worthy cause."*

Rhianna added, *"It was fun, especially the competitive side—going up against the other Year 11 tutor groups to raise the most money."*

Well done, Year 11! We can't wait to see what Year 10 brings next.

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

SAFEGUARDING YOUR YOUNG PERSON OVER THE EASTER HOLIDAYS











Netflix's new series *Adolescence* uncovers a hidden truth every parent, educator, and mentor should know—the secret language of emojis.

In today's digital world, young people communicate in ways that often go unnoticed by adults. What seems like harmless emoji use can actually carry deeper meanings.

The series highlights how the digital communication habits of today's youth have evolved, and how emojis, once thought to be simple symbols, now serve as a covert method of expression that can mask their true intentions or feelings.

Many adults may overlook these subtle messages, but understanding them is crucial. What appears innocent online may have a far more serious meaning.

Here are some of the codes being used:

-  **Red Pill** – “I see the truth.” Used in toxic male spaces to mean waking up to supposed hidden ‘truths’ about women and society, often linked to misogynistic ideologies.
-  **Blue Pill** – Represents those who are “blind to the truth” or still believe in mainstream views about relationships and gender dynamics.
-  **Dynamite Emoji** – An “exploding red pill,” meaning someone is a radicalised incel.
-  **Kidney Bean** – A symbol linked to incel culture, sometimes mocking women.
-  **100 Emoji** – Tied to the “80/20 rule,” the belief that 80% of women are only attracted to 20% of men.
-  **Black Hole** – Used to express depression, hopelessness, or being sucked into negative online spaces.
-  **Tornado** – Represents chaos or feeling overwhelmed, sometimes used to indicate mental distress.
-  **Frog Emoji** – Associated with alt-right and extremist meme culture, often linked to Pepe the Frog, which has been co-opted by some toxic online groups.
-  **Eagle** – A symbol of extreme nationalism, sometimes used in far-right online spaces.
-  **Skull** – While often just slang for “that’s funny” or “I’m dead (from laughing),” in certain groups, it can signal darker themes like nihilism or self-harm.

Heart Colours – Not just about love!:



Love



Lust



“Are you interested?”



Interested but not in sex



“You’ll be okay”

So what should parents do?

- 1. Get Curious, Not Combative** – Ask open-ended questions: “I saw something about emojis meaning different things. Have you heard of this?” Keep the conversation light.
- 2. Create a Judgment-Free Zone** – If your child feels like they’ll be punished for opening up, they won’t. Make it clear you’re there to listen, not just lecture.
- 3. Decode Together** – Ask them to explain their digital world. What do different symbols mean? Who are the influencers they follow? Don’t assume—ask.
- 4. Teach Critical Thinking** – Help them question online content. “Why do you think some groups push this idea? Who benefits?” Arm them with questions, not just rules.
- 5. Monitor Without Spying** – Open conversations work better than secret surveillance. Make checking in on their online spaces a normal part of parenting, not a crisis move.
- 6. Be Real About Manipulation** – Explain how toxic online groups groom young people by making them feel special, included, or like they have ‘insider knowledge.’
- 7. Build Their Offline Confidence** – The more they feel valued and confident in the real world, the less they’ll seek validation in dangerous online spaces.

If you have a concern or worry about a student please contact the safeguarding team
safeguarding@sdcc-smhc.net

TALK 2 US Talk 2 Us is available for students to raise any concerns or worries.
talk2us@sdcc-smhc.net

BEHAVIOUR UPDATE

UPDATE TO OUR BEHAVIOUR AND REWARDS SYSTEM

At Scott Medical and Healthcare College we pride ourselves on having excellent standards of behaviour within our classrooms. We believe every student has the right to receive uninterrupted, disruption free learning as part of the educational offer that we provide, and as such the learning atmosphere within classrooms remains excellent.

Alongside this, homework is equally important and proven to increase a child's attainment and progress. We continue to offer several methods of support so that students can complete this work within the school day through lunchtime and after school clubs, tutor time dedicated completion time and pastoral team support.

However, we do recognise that on occasion children will make mistakes and our behaviour system acts as an opportunity to educate and support students to make better choices in their learning, both in and out of the classroom.

After Easter, several adjustments are being made to the behaviour process:

- Students who are removed from class will automatically be in **recovery until 4pm**, with parents/carers being informed at the earliest opportunity. This additional time afterschool provides class teachers the opportunity to hold a **restorative conversation**, the chance to build relationships and the time to address any issues raised - it also ensures students return to learning when they are fully ready to do so.
- **Students will have the opportunity to work on homework during Break A** to prevent the impending after school detention they would normally receive. Detentions will continue to be set, but will be removed should the student proactively attend at break time.
- Our current system requires students to **complete their Sparx Reader, Sparx Maths and Sparx Science by 4pm on a Friday**. If they miss this deadline, an after school detention is set for a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday respectively. Moving forwards, if they complete their outstanding work and that of the current week to 100% the day prior to this detention, the sanction will be removed.

Following feedback from student voice, we are thrilled to announce some exciting changes to our rewards and celebration systems. This will better recognise the vast majority of students who work hard and meet expectations every single day:

- We will be piloting a number of new 'rewards' for students across the Summer Term, such as the **'Golden Ticket'** which can be awarded for one off moments of student excellence or effort (for example, going above and beyond on a piece of homework). These can then be used as a queue jump pass for the canteen or placed into our weekly prize draw at Student Reception.
- Alongside this, we are also introducing a **Headteacher's Award** to recognise outstanding student commitment to their school, learning or wider community.
- To reward continued effort, our House Points system has also been developed. Students who achieve set milestones will be awarded **Bronze, Silver, Gold, Diamond or even Platinum certificates** - these will be awarded during weekly assemblies as a celebration.
- To further support our culture of success, every Friday will now be a **'celebration focus' in morning tutor periods**. During this we will share House Point totals, current attendance to school and House Competition updates.

During the Summer term we hope to create a culture of celebration and success that recognises achievements both in and out of the classroom and we're looking forward to celebrating the many successes of our students.