

Scott Medical & Healthcare College Newsletter



May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we close another half term, we're proud of the fantastic experiences our students have had. A standout moment was our A-Level and Applied Science students' success in the British Biology Olympiad—an impressive achievement in a national competition. We also welcomed Baby Faye to support our Year 10 Child Development lessons, which was a wonderful learning opportunity.

This term also saw our Ofsted review, and we're delighted to share that Scott College continues to uphold its high standards. The report reflects the dedication of our staff, the drive of our students, and the strength of our community. It affirms our commitment to providing inclusive, high-quality education for futures in healthcare and beyond.

Our DofE Bronze students completed their expeditions, and our Silver and Gold participants have finished their practice walks—all showing great resilience. We wish them well for their qualifying journeys next term.

A special mention to Year 11 and Year 13 students sitting their exams. Their hard work will soon be celebrated at the Year 11 Prom and Year 13 BBQ.

We look forward to a busy and exciting final summer term ahead!

Best wishes,

Anita Frier,
Headteacher

Scott Medical and Healthcare College Maintains High Standards in Latest Ofsted Inspection

We are thrilled to announce that Scott Medical and Healthcare College in Plymouth maintained its high standards following a recent Ofsted inspection carried out on 11th and 12th March 2025. The inspection confirmed that the school has taken effective action to uphold the strong performance identified during its previous inspection.

The report highlights the **exceptional quality of education** provided at the College, with pupils consistently meeting the school's high expectations in both academic achievement and behaviour. Inspectors praised the school's calm, orderly environment and the positive attitudes of pupils, noting that many "achieve exceptionally well" and are "well-prepared" for the next stage of their education.

Inspectors noted that the College's **unique and ambitious curriculum** is a standout strength. From Year 9, students engage in a rigorous academic programme complemented by specialist courses in psychology, childcare, and health studies. Staff were commended for their excellent subject knowledge and effective teaching practices, which support all students, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), to succeed.

The report also praised the College's **sixth form, particularly the healthcare pathway, which combines academic study with real-world experience**. Students benefit from valuable work placements, talks, and workshops, and enjoy access to a broad range of A-level options thanks to the school's collaborative campus model.

In addition to academic success, the **school's vibrant co-curricular offer** was recognised, including its new house system, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Combined Cadet Force, and inclusive student-led initiatives. Inspectors also noted the positive impact of increased mental health support and a strong careers programme that helps students plan confidently for their futures.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL REPORT..](#)



DID YOU KNOW...

- **Scott College is the highest performing Free School in England, this includes all studio schools, UTC and CTC's.**
- **Scott College is the highest performing non-selective school in Plymouth - indeed only 1 grammar above.**
- **Scott College sits within the top 10 schools in the South West.**

These are amazing achievements for the college, which reflects the dedication of our staff, the ambition of our students, and the strength of our school community.



Special Visit from Baby Faye

Our Year 10 Child Development class enjoyed a heartwarming visit from Baby Faye and her mum, Kerry. At just four and a half months old, Faye charmed students with her bright smiles, cooing, and curiosity.

Kerry shared her 38-hour birth experience, offering students real insight into the challenges of childbirth. As part of their studies on infant development, students observed Faye demonstrating key milestones—grasping toys, responding to voices, and enjoying story time by exploring books in true baby fashion: by tasting the pages!

The session also included a practical look at infant care, including a nappy change and a discussion about breastfeeding, weaning, and the vital role of the placenta. Students were engaged and eager to learn, with Julia remarking, *"She's so bright, she wants to see everything—and she laughs, it's so sweet!"*

We're excited that Kerry hopes to return with Faye later this year so students can continue observing her development.

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



Year 10 Science: Investigating Chemical Reaction Rates

Over the past few weeks, our Year 10 students have been delving into the factors that influence the rate of chemical reactions. Through a series of hands-on practical activities, they have explored how different variables can impact reaction speed.

One of the key experiments involved measuring the amount of gas produced during a reaction within a set time frame. Using an upturned measuring cylinder, students collected the gas and tracked its volume, gaining insight into the relationship between reaction conditions and gas production.

In another experiment, students investigated the effect of concentration on reaction rates by observing a colour change. By mixing sodium thiosulphate with hydrochloric acid, the students timed how long it took for a cross beneath the reaction vessel to disappear, signifying the completion of the reaction. By using varying concentrations of hydrochloric acid, students were able to see firsthand how concentration affects the rate at which reactions occur.

These engaging experiments not only enhanced students' understanding of key scientific principles but also allowed them to develop important skills in conducting experiments and analysing results.





Outstanding Achievement in the British Biology Olympiad

We are proud to celebrate the achievements of our A-Level Biology and Applied Science students, who recently took part in the prestigious Biology Olympiad, a national competition that this year attracted an impressive 18,533 students from 1,053 schools across the country.

Throughout the competition, our students undertook two challenging 25-minute online tests, designed to assess a broad range of biological knowledge without any prior preparation. The tests pushed students beyond the curriculum, encouraging critical thinking and application of their scientific understanding.

We are delighted to share that our students performed exceptionally well:

- **Daniel** achieved a Bronze Award, placing him amongst the top 30% of all participants.
- **Ash** and **Angel** were both Highly Commended for their outstanding efforts — a fantastic accomplishment.

This success highlights the dedication, passion, and talent of our A-Level science students. Congratulations to all who took part — we are incredibly proud of everything you have achieved!

DIARY DATES

Thursday 19th June
Year 8 into 9 Transition Evening

Thursday 3rd July
Year 11 Prom

Thursday 10th July
Awards Evening

Oxford University Inspire Students Across Year Groups

Students from both Year 10 and Sixth Form had exciting opportunities to engage with Exeter College, Oxford University.

Year 10 welcomed college representatives for a fascinating talk that delved into the rich history of Exeter and the academic life at one of the world's leading universities, sparking meaningful conversations about future aspirations.

Meanwhile, Sixth Form students visited the college in person, exploring its stunning grounds, dining in the historic Jacobean hall, and interacting with scientific artefacts—including a chalkboard once used by Einstein.

It was an inspiring experience for all, igniting curiosity and enthusiasm for higher education.

[CLICK HERE TO READ ABOUT THE YEAR 10 TALK...](#)

[CLICK HERE TO READ ABOUT THE SIXTH FORM VISIT...](#)



Home Instead Visit Inspires Sixth Form Students

We were delighted to welcome Clare and Anne from 'Home Instead' to speak with our Year 12 and 13 students about the vital work their organisation does in providing high-quality, personalised domiciliary care.

During the session, Clare and Anne highlighted the importance of delivering care that is tailored to the unique needs of each individual. They also shared insights into the extensive training their care professionals receive to ensure they can offer compassionate and informed support.

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





Success on the Trail: Year 9 Complete Bronze DofE Qualifying Expedition

Congratulations to our brilliant Year 9 students who successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award qualifying expedition!

Following just four weeks of training, 40 students from across the campus set out on their final expedition, tackling the scenic but demanding route from Ermington to Mountbatten. Their journey took them along the Erme Valley Trail and along the South West Coast Path, where they showed impressive resilience, teamwork, and navigational skills throughout.

This expedition built on their earlier two-day practice hike from Mountbatten to Whitsands earlier this term. Their experience on the practice hike clearly paid off, with all participants stepping up to the challenge and showing significant personal growth and determination.

Well done to all involved – a brilliant accomplishment and a true reflection of their dedication and team spirit.



GOOD LUCK!

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

We look forward to hearing all about it!



Silver and Gold Practice Expedition Success

Our Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh students embarked on their first practice expedition across the stunning Dartmoor landscape. Battling through the moorland under sunny skies, they showed exceptional resilience and perseverance, pushing through the heat to successfully navigate their routes.

After a long day of walking, they pitched their tents and cooked their own evening meals, before winding down with card games and marshmallows around the campfire.

Each of the students who took part should be incredibly proud of what they have achieved. They tackled tough conditions with grit and teamwork, making this experience a true success. With the practice expedition now completed, it's time to look ahead to the next challenge—the qualifier!

Well done and good luck to everyone as they prepare for the next stage!



SPORTS NEWS

SPORTS FACILITIES OPENING EVENT

Pupils and residents have been celebrating the opening of Plymouth's newest community sports facility.

As part of the city's ongoing investment in sports facilities, the three multi-surfaced pitches at Stoke Damerel Community College and Scott Medical and Healthcare College will provide space for several different sports.

The new facilities include a brand new, 2G sand pitch, which whilst primarily suitable for hockey, is a multi-sports surface and can be used for a number of other activities.

Also completed is a smaller 3G pitch, specifically targeted at football and rugby use, which has been supported by a £250,000 grant from the Premier League, the FA and the Football Foundation. Other project funders include: Plymouth City Council, Stoke Damerel Community College and Greenshaw Learning Trust. The project has also received support from Devon Football Association.

A renovation and upgrade of an existing grass pitch, is also part of the works and will open next year.

The new additions will be for both school and community use with modern flood lighting to ensure that they can be used all year round.

The plans complement the work already underway to transform the former Brickfields Sports Centre into a new community wellbeing hub and pitches that are operated by the Argyle Community Trust.

Anita Frier, Principal of Stoke Damerel Community College and Scott Medical and Healthcare College, said: "These improvements are significant for the long-term ambitions of the College, allowing us to expand and develop the PE offering both for students of SDCC and SMHC, as well as local primary schools."

"Having been without on-site sporting facilities for six months, being able to have all-weather facilities will mean uninterrupted sporting activities for students and community all year."

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



Attendees from Plymouth City Council, Rugby Football Union, Centro Planning, Football Foundation, Devon County Football Association, England Hockey and Greenshaw Learning Trust, with Anita Frier, Headteacher at Stoke Damerel Community College and Scott Medical and Healthcare College.



Tim Rundell from Ocean City Hockey Club, who delivered a hockey session in partnership with Stoke Damerel PE department.



Steve Wherry, Hayley Russell, Liv Ellard, Joe and Tristan Andrews, players and Committee Members from Ocean City Hockey Club. Key Partner Club.



Joanna Hawley from England Hockey, Tarun Cheema from Centro Planning and Barbara Reynolds from England Hockey.



Councillor Sue Dann with Anita Frier, Headteacher at Stoke Damerel Community College and Scott Medical and Healthcare College.



Matt Ward and Liz Slater from Plymouth City Council, Dan Cole from Stoke Damerel Community College, Anna Pearce from Greenshaw Learning Trust, Jackie Keith and Simon Duke from Plymouth City Council.



Councillor Sue Dann, Brendan Dix from Football Foundation, Nick Garlick and Chris French from Devon County Football Association.



Pilgrim Pete.

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

THE HIDDEN DANGERS OF TOMBSTONING AND WATER SAFETY TIPS FOR SPRING AND SUMMER

As the weather warms and daylight stretches into the evening, young people are naturally drawn to the outdoors—especially to water. Lakes, rivers, canals, and the sea become appealing places for fun and relaxation. However, this seasonal draw to water can also come with significant risks, particularly the increasingly popular and dangerous activity known as tombstoning.

What Is Tombstoning?

Tombstoning is the act of jumping into water from a high platform, such as a cliff, bridge, pier, or building, often vertically like a “tombstone” falling. It may look thrilling and be popular on social media, but tombstoning is incredibly risky, and in recent years, it has led to numerous serious injuries and even fatalities.

Why Tombstoning is so dangerous?

Despite the excitement it might offer, tombstoning presents a host of hidden dangers, including:

- **Unknown Water Depths:** Water that looks deep can be deceptively shallow. Jumping into shallow water can result in broken bones, spinal injuries, paralysis, or death.
- **Hidden Hazards Below the Surface:** Rocks, debris, or discarded objects may be lurking beneath the surface, invisible from above.
- **Cold Water Shock:** Even in summer, water temperatures can be low enough to cause cold water shock—an involuntary gasp reflex and rapid breathing that can lead to drowning.
- **Strong Currents and Tides:** Rivers, estuaries, and coastal waters can have strong currents or tides that pull swimmers under or away from safety.
- **Lack of Exit Points:** Once in the water, there may be no easy way out. Cliffs, sea walls, and embankments can be impossible to climb back up.

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

The Role of Parents: Awareness and Prevention

As a parent, it's vital to talk to your children—particularly teenagers—about the risks associated with tombstoning and unsupervised swimming. Here's how you can help:

- **Start the Conversation:** Discuss the dangers of tombstoning and why it's not worth the risk. Make sure they understand that even experienced swimmers can get into trouble.
- **Set Clear Boundaries:** Establish rules about where and when it's safe to swim. Encourage swimming in designated areas with lifeguards and discourage risky behavior near cliffs, bridges, or abandoned structures.
- **Know Where Your Child Is:** Stay involved in your child's plans and know where they are spending time, especially during the spring and summer months when they're more likely to be outdoors and around water.
- **Educate About Water Safety:** Teach your child basic water safety principles, including never swimming alone, recognising the signs of cold water shock, and how to help someone in trouble without putting themselves at risk.
- **Lead by Example:** Show safe behavior around water yourself. Whether on a family outing or a beach day, demonstrate respect for the water and reinforce good habits.

General Water Safety Tips

- Always swim in supervised areas when possible, where there are Life Guards.
- Never dive or jump into unknown water.
- Avoid alcohol around water—it impairs judgment and coordination.
- Wear a life jacket when boating or paddling.
- Remember the CPR and first aid you have learnt about in school—it could save a life.

The excitement of warm weather should be about enjoying time with friends and family, not facing life-altering consequences from risky decisions. Tombstoning may seem like a thrill, but the danger is real and immediate. By staying informed and having open conversations, parents can play a crucial role in keeping children safe around water this spring and summer.

Let's help ensure that fun in the sun doesn't end in tragedy.

For more information: <https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/police-forces/devon-cornwall-police/areas/about-us/local-support-and-guidance/drowning-prevention-and-water-safety/tombstoning/>