

19th December 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of the Autumn Term, we wanted to share some reflections on what has been an excellent start to the academic year.

In the classrooms

This term has been busy in the classrooms with children making excellent progress as well as participating in a variety of clubs and experiences. We've been working hard at ensuring all students are attentive, they're listening and demonstrating their understanding in every lesson. To achieve this, we have been practising some key techniques such as 'whole class echo'. This is when the teacher wants all children to repeat an important fact or key word. It's really important that students can verbalise, pronounce and use key vocabulary in their work as this helps them when it comes to them writing a response or recalling prior knowledge. We've also been using mini whiteboards to quickly check students' understanding; turn and talk to promote focused discussion in pairs; reducing the cognitive load for students (how much we're asking them to think about at any given time) by focusing on the core knowledge they need; and many more strategies to ensure we maximise learning opportunities.

Our older students have just finished their mock examinations and we celebrated with a results assembly, as well as Christmas meals and activities. All other students are busy preparing for their exams in January too!

Congratulations to those who have achieved Excellence Awards, Head Teacher Awards and prizes over the past term. These awards are often nominated by staff who recognise those who consistently go above and beyond. It is always a privilege to meet with them and congratulate them over some breakfast and in assemblies.

Extra curricular activities

Alongside this, we have seen a record number of students engaged in extra curricular activities - from sports teams, to STEAM - there really is something for everyone. Our Sports provision is going from strength to strength and our new fitness suites are nearly ready to be opened - so there's no excuse to forget that New Year's resolution!

Anita Frier, Headteacher

Scott Medical and Healthcare College • Somerset Place • Plymouth • PL3 4BZ
Tel: 01752 987010 • info@sdcc-smhc.net • www.scottcollege.co.uk

Scott Medical and Healthcare College is proud to be part of the Greenshaw Learning Trust, which is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company number 7633694. Registered office: Greenshaw Learning Trust, ORU Sutton, Throwley Way, Sutton SM1 4AF.

We are now close to the end of our Countdown to Christmas - an exciting range of events and activities that brought the school community together (a Reindeer Run, Charity events, decorating the Christmas tree and a DJ'ing competition, to name just a few). We even had some brave teachers face the 'I am a Teacher Get me Out of Here Challenge' where students could enjoy watching them complete trials just like the TV show!

Looking ahead

There are some exciting changes coming though and you can read more about these in our curriculum newsletters which you received earlier this week.

We are making some changes to homework (responding to parent and student feedback); our maths curriculum and delivery is adjusting to ensure we maximise progress (rolling out from January).

We have been so impressed this term with how our students have demonstrated World Class values - they are working tenaciously, achieving great things and we are immensely proud of them.

Please remember, whilst jewellery (hooped earrings/bracelets etc), new trainers (not the ones they would want to wear for PE), and a jumper may be a lovely gift to give/receive - they're not part of our uniform policy. We want students to wear their full uniform with pride, saving their personal items for when they are outside of school. We hope you have an enjoyable break over the Christmas period and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 5th January.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Merricks
Head of School

Scott Medical & Healthcare College Newsletter



December 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

Throughout the Christmas term, our schedule has been packed with a wide variety of enriching activities that have enhanced our students' educational journey. From engaging talks, workshops and trips, every day has offered valuable learning opportunities.

This term was particularly festive thanks to our 12 Days of Christmas celebrations. Students and staff enjoyed decorating the Christmas tree with handmade baubles, lively DJ sessions, Christmas-oke, Reindeer Relays, festive films, silent discos, and staff competitions — bringing energy, creativity, and plenty of holiday cheer to our campus.

Among other highlights were our collective efforts in supporting Remembrance Day and Children in Need, demonstrating the compassion and community spirit that define our school.

As we close this term, we look forward to continuing these exciting events in the New Year, fostering a dynamic and enriching learning environment for all.

Best wishes,
Anita Frier, Headteacher

Rainbow Flag Award

We are delighted to announce that SMHC has been awarded the Rainbow Flag Award, recognising our commitment to creating a safe, inclusive environment where LGBTQIA+ young people can thrive.

Over the past year, staff and students have participated in workshops, training sessions, and a campus-wide inclusion audit, reflecting on how to embed inclusive practices across all subjects.

Rhianna and Kathleen, Year 12 students, said: "We have been part of The Power of Us inclusive lunchtime club for several years, and attending an open student discussion workshop is just perfect to hear our voices and support each other." They added, "We are an important team."

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



POET LAUREATE CHRISTMAS POEM

Christmas

Snow hushes streets in silver light,
Windows glow warm against the night.
A kettle sings, the fire hums low,
Old stories drift like falling snow.

Presents wait with patient cheer,
Wrapped in hope for those held dear.
Laughter spills, soft bells chime,
Love feels generous with time.

Outside, the world slows down its race,
Inside, hearts find gentler space.
And in this pause, both bright and calm,
Christmas leaves its quiet calm

By Sophie, Poet Laureate



Students visit Auschwitz

Six of our Year 12 and 13 students were selected for the Lessons from Auschwitz project, an incredible opportunity run by the Holocaust Educational Trust to help young people understand the history and impact of the Holocaust.

During the one-day visit, students toured both Auschwitz I and Auschwitz-Birkenau with guidance from a Holocaust Educational Trust expert and a local historian.

In the evening, students took part in a reflective ceremony, where Year 12 student Ben read a poem written by a Holocaust victim.

Rhianna reflected: "The ceremony was particularly my favourite part - lighting candles to shine light in the darkness of Birkenau is something I'll never forget."

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



12 Days of Christmas!

This year's 12 Days of Christmas brought a wonderful burst of festive cheer to the college community. Students and staff enjoyed a packed schedule of activities, from decorating our Christmas tree with handmade baubles to energetic DJ sessions, Christmas-oke performances, and a lively Year 9 Basketball vs Netball match.

Highlights included our fun-filled "Hide and Geese" challenge, the festive House Christmas Film, the Reindeer Relay, and a brilliant Christmas Just Dance! session in the Main Hall. Staff got competitive in a volleyball match, while Year 11 enjoyed their Christmas Dinner and Prom Launch. Christmas Jumper Day, silent discos, and fantastic musical performances from Richard Pinn added even more festive spirit.

We rounded off the celebrations with our Christmas assemblies, bringing everyone together to reflect on a busy term.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part — and to those who supported our charity buckets throughout the 12 days. It was a wonderful way to end the term!

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





Max's Royal Navy Journey

Former student Max has begun an exciting new chapter in the Royal Navy after completing a challenging 10-week basic training programme.

Max said, "I'm now studying basic Weapons Engineering theory at HMS Collingwood until September 2026 before moving to Scotland for Submarine training. Being on the Fast-Track programme, made possible by my strong GCSE results, gives me the opportunity for quicker promotion within the Royal Navy. I owe a lot to Scott College for helping me achieve this."



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

Remembrance Day 2025

Our school community came together for a heartfelt Remembrance Day commemoration, honouring the bravery and sacrifice of those who served in the World Wars. In the lead-up to the event, students and staff worked on creative projects to raise awareness, including a poppy display and a beautiful poppy dress from the Art Department. The Diversitas Team also crafted Black Poppy roses to recognise the contributions of Black, African, and Caribbean communities during the war.

On Friday, the whole school gathered on the blue astro pitch for a moving service led by Mrs Frier and Mr Oakes. Our Poet Laureate, Sophie, opened with an original poem, followed by the two-minute silence at 11:00 am. Head Student Ava, House Captains, and a CCF representative then laid poppy wreaths in remembrance.

A special highlight was the parade of students from the CCF, RAF, Army Cadets, Sea Cadets, St John Ambulance Cadets, and Scouts, standing proudly as symbols of courage and service.

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

Students Explore the World of Health and Social Care at the University of Plymouth

Our Year 10 students had an incredible opportunity to explore the world of Health and Social Care at the University of Plymouth's inspiring showcase event! From hands-on activities to eye-opening talks, they discovered the amazing variety of careers within the sector and learned about the many exciting pathways leading to university-level study. It was a day full of inspiration, curiosity, and future possibilities!

Johan said, "I am really interested in going into Radiography, so having the chance to use a Doppler to see all the muscles and tendons in my arm was incredible!"

Isla added "Getting the chance to deliver a baby on a training dummy was such an amazing experience! It's made me even more excited about becoming a midwife one day."

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



DIARY DATES

Year 11 Parents Evening
Thursday 8th January

Holocaust Memorial Day
Tuesday 27th January

Campus Sixth Form Open Evening
Thursday 29th January

High School Musical Jr Production
Tuesday 10th - Thursday 12th February

Alumni Spotlight: Matei – University College London



Former Scott College student Matei describes his medical degree at University College London as “challenging but enjoyable!” Now in his third year, he continues to thrive as he learns from leading experts, gains hands-on experience in whole-body dissection, and deepens his growing interest in neurology.

After meeting several neurosurgeons and discovering a fascination with the brain, Matei chose to extend his course to six years so he could study neurology in greater depth. He has also embraced life in London, joining societies, making new friends from around the world, and enjoying the diverse experiences university life has to offer.

Matei credits Scott College for helping him reach this stage in his journey. He explains that the support he received - particularly with the demanding admissions exams - played a key role in helping him secure a place on one of the most competitive courses in the country.

“I’m doing things I never dreamed I would do, and I’m living my best life. Studying medicine is tough, but it’s absolutely worth it — and I’m so grateful for the support that helped me get here.”

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

Reminder SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING THURSDAY 29TH JANUARY

Students Meet the Livewell Mental Health in Schools Support Team

Our Year 9, 10 and Sixth Form students recently met the Livewell MHS Team to learn about the vital support they provide for young people across Plymouth.

The team explained how they help students and work with schools to promote a Whole School Approach to emotional wellbeing. They also gave students an insight into careers in mental health.

Year 13 student Eva said, *“The talk highlighted the importance of recognising early signs of mental health issues and how the team supports young people in schools. I enjoyed learning about the work they do and how we can get involved.”*

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



Trangia training for our Silver DofE Students

Our Year 10 Silver Duke of Edinburgh students showed great skill and determination during a recent recapping session, cooking up delicious meals on the trangias.

A special mention goes to Henry, who impressed everyone by preparing a full eggs Benedict, complete with sauce – using his very own egg poaching kit!

The session highlighted not only the students’ cooking abilities but also their growth and teamwork since completing their Bronze Award last year. We are really proud of our young people and their continued development in the DofE programme.



CLUBS

SPRING 2026



Scott
Scott Medical and Healthcare College

EVERYDAY

MORNING FOOTBALL

Who? All years | *Where?* Green Astro
When? Before School

BREAKFAST CLUB

Who? All years | *Where?* KS4 Canteen
When? 7.45am

CAMPUS RADIO CLUB

Who? All years | *Where?* EB17
When? Break A & B

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

SCHOOL PRODUCTION

Who? All years
Where? Theatre (Main Space)/PA1 & PA2
When? 3-5pm

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY

STEAM

Who? All years
Where? SDCC - CT1 (Tuesday)
SMHC - FF03 (Wednesday)
When? After school

FITNESS

Who? Years 7 & 8 | *Where?* FT1
When? After school

SIXTH FORM GYM

Who? Years 12 & 13 | *Where?* FT1
When? Wednesday Week A
Tuesday Week B
3.10-4pm

THURSDAY

DofE CLUB BRONZE

Who? Years 9 and 10 (will have pre-signed up)
Where? KS3 Canteen
When? After school

DofE CLUB SILVER

Who? Years 9 and 10 (will have pre-signed up)
Where? KS3 Canteen
When? After school Week B

E-SPORTS

Who? All years | *Where?* CT3
When? After school

RUGBY

Who? All years | *Where?* Green Astro
When? After school

BOYS FOOTBALL

Who? All years 9 & 10 | *Where?* Blue Astro
When? After school

BENCHBALL

Who? Years 7, 8 & 9 | *Where?* Sports Hall
When? After school

FITNESS

Who? All Years | *Where?* FT1
When? After school

MEDIA CLUB

Who? Years 7-10 | *Where?* VA5
When? After school

eSPORTS (ROCKET LEAGUE)

Who? All years | *Where?* CT3
When? 3-4pm

MONDAY

BASKETBALL

Who? All years | *Where?* Sports Hall
When? Break B

ARGYLE COMMUNITY TRUST FOOTBALL (GIRLS ONLY)

Who? All years | *Where?* Green Astro
When? After school

TUESDAY

READING CLUB

Who? Years 7-9 | *Where?* Library
When? Break A

POWER OF US LGBTQIA+

Who? All years | *Where?* GF01
When? Break B

TEXTILES CLUB

Who? All years | *Where?* VA2
When? After school

NETBALL

Who? All years | *Where?* Sports Hall/Courts
When? After school

BADMINTON

Who? All Years | *Where?* Sports Hall
When? After school

WEDNESDAY

ART & CLAY ART

Who? All years | *Where?* VA3
When? After school

GIRLS FOOTBALL

Who? All years | *Where?* Green Astro
When? After school

DODGEBALL

Who? All years | *Where?* Gym Zone
When? After school

EPQ DROP IN SESSION

Who? Sixth Form | *Where?* SMHC SF07
When? Break B

BIOLOGY INTERVENTION

Who? Yr 13 Biologists | *Where?* SC13
When? 4-5pm

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

LIBRARY

Who? All years | *Where?* SDCC Library
When? Break A & B

FRIDAY

CCF

Who? Years 10-13 (Invite only)
Where? Off site
When? After school

FURTHER MATHS

Who? Year 11 (top maths sets only)
Where? MA6
When? 3-4pm

Care to Learn, Learn to Care

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

Online Safety Over Christmas: Important Guidance for Families

With the Christmas holidays approaching, many children will be spending more time online—whether through new devices, gaming, or social media. As the UK continues to strengthen online safety rules and age-verification expectations under the Online Safety Act, this is an ideal time for families to support safe and positive digital habits at home.

Talk About Online Expectations

Children often hear mixed messages from friends or social media. Remind them that many platforms have 13+ or 16+ age limits to protect wellbeing and privacy. Encourage open conversations about what they do online and reassure them that they can always talk to you if something worries them.

Set Up Devices Together

If your child receives new technology this Christmas, set it up side-by-side by checking:

- Privacy settings
- App downloads requiring parent approval
- Location sharing turned off
- Age-appropriate content filters
- Safe chat or messaging settings

This helps children understand how to protect themselves online.

Create Simple Family Rules

Agree on:

- No secret accounts
- Keeping social media profiles private
- Not chatting with strangers
- Thinking before posting photos or personal details

Consistency across siblings keeps expectations clear.

Be Aware of Online Risks

More holiday screen time can mean increased exposure to:

- Cyberbullying in group chats
- Fake accounts or strangers in games
- Pressure to share personal information
- Harmful or inappropriate content
- Online scams disguised as competitions or gifts

A simple message that can help build trust:

“If anything online makes you feel uncomfortable, tell me—you won’t be in trouble.”

Where to Get Support

If you need help or advice:

CEOP

Report serious online concerns

NSPCC

www.nspcc.org.uk

Childline

Support for children (0800 1111)

Report Harmful Content

www.iwf.org.uk

School Safeguarding Team

safeguarding@sdcc-smhc.net

talk2us@sdcc-smhc.net

A Positive Digital Christmas

By discussing online use, setting up devices safely, and staying connected to your child’s digital world, families can help ensure a safe, enjoyable, and confident online experience over the festive break.

Have a safe Christmas!

Mr Kelly and the Safeguarding Team

Remember: Talk 2 us is available for students to raise any concerns or worries.

talk2us@sdcc-smhc.net

PSHE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

PSHE FOCUS

HEALTH AND WELLBEING



In PSHE the focus for next term is all around health and wellbeing and relationships; including sex education. Students will be exploring elements around physical health, mental health and gain practical skills to live safe, healthy, productive lives to meet their full potential.

A large number of children and young people will experience behavioural or emotional problems at some stage. For some, these will resolve with time, while others will need professional support. It might be difficult to know if there is something upsetting your child but there are ways to spot when something is wrong. The NHS advises to look out for:

- Significant changes in behaviour
- Ongoing difficulty sleeping
- Withdrawing from social situations
- not wanting to do things they usually like

For advice on how to help support and look after young people's mental health from the NHS, [click here](#). The [NSPCC](#) also shares information and tips on how to start the conversation.

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION (RSE)

Relationships, Sex and Health education (RSHE) is the curriculum subject that gives young people the knowledge and understanding on how to have positive and healthy relationships. The Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum is taught throughout the school in every year group through PSHE/RSHE lessons and curriculum collapse sessions. The curriculum is monitored and reviewed regularly by the staff and governing body. Please click here for information on what your child will be covering within this unit.

PSHE LESSONS:

Year 9	Relationships and Families Sexual Consent FGM and the Law Relationships and Partners Why have sex? Delaying Sexual Activity
Year 10	Relationships and Families Pleasure and Delaying Sex Campaigning against FGM Sexting Online Pornography Pornography and its impact
Year 11	Health and Wellbeing Fertility Sexual Health STI's Contraception Alcohol, Parties and Bad Choices
Year 12	Health and Wellbeing Anxiety, Depression and Eating Disorders Maintaining Positive Mental Health Relationships and Families Types of Relationships Consent, Sexual Norms and Expectations Sexual Assaults Violence Against Women
Year 13	Relationships and Families Sexual Health Unintended Pregnancy Fertility Online Dating and Personal Safety Emotional Intimacy Toxic Friendships