



DECEMBER 2024 | ISSUE 9
NEWSLETTER
Official newsletter of Devonport High School for Girls

HEAD LINES

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to the Autumn newsletter of the 2024-25 academic year.

During this term we have welcomed our new Year 7 students and also our new Year 12 students. Many Year 12s rejoin us from Year 11, but we also welcomed a number of external students making it our largest cohort of sixth formers. Both Year 7 and Year 12 students have settled well. Year 7s had their annual team building at Escot Park and Year 12 students made the most of an extended induction programme, including input from the RAF.

Expansion continues to go well with two new spaces created this year. A new science lab has been in operation this year as well as a new Nurture space, in the old textiles room. Thank you to all those parents/carers who donated furniture for the new Nurture Room.

Our new website launched in early December, which was in much need of a refresh. Please do take a look at this at www.dhsg.co.uk. We now have a dedicated Sixth Form website here for our current and prospective students.

The Carol Concert also took place in early December, which was a wonderful celebration of the musical talents of our students. There was an afternoon matinee performance, which Year 7 and 8 students attended, along with some of our local primary schools. Well done to all involved. A huge thanks to all parents/carers and friends of the school who supported this concert through buying tickets. We charged this year due to the increase in costs of hiring the church, candles and the coaches to transport our year 7 and 8 students there for the afternoon rehearsal. This ran into £1000s of pounds and without your support, this would not have been possible, so thank you!

My very best wishes,



*Lee Sargeant
Head Teacher*

CAR PARKING - LYNDHURST ROAD

Just a polite notice to please ask at drop off and pick up times, you do not block neighbours' driveways. Just a reminder that Home Park is free to park and students can use the footbridge to walk over. Many thanks.



END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

Last day of term: Friday 20 December. Students should wear mufti. There is a suggested donation of £1 for support with School Fund.



Early finish at 1.15pm. Students will be dismissed at this time. Please check the bus times, but contract buses are scheduled to arrive shortly after this time.

START OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

Tuesday 7 January
Usual start time of 8.50am.



MEET THE STAFF



Miss Hetty Uttley
Student Support Officer

When did you join first DHSG and what attracted you to the school?

I am the new Student Support Officer here at DHSG, and I joined just before the Summer holidays. Previously I was living in Exeter and was the Wellbeing Officer at Exeter College, managing the Wellbeing Team there. I loved the idea of being part of a school with a real clear sense of community and identity. I'm really enjoying supporting the students here with any concerns or challenges they come up against.

What is your favourite thing about DHSG?

The students have such a brilliant attitude towards their learning, it's lovely to see on a daily basis and to be a small part of their journey.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I spend a lot of time outdoors at the weekend, even in the rain and wind. I have two small children so will do anything to avoid the soft play!

What book are you reading at the at the moment?

I'm currently reading Tom Lake by Ann Patchett, and have the new Sally Rooney on my bookshelf ready to go! I love reading and wish I had more time to do it.

Who inspires you?

I'm inspired by women who do the tough work behind the scenes, getting things done for other people. I also love Dolly Parton...

What would you most like to do in the future, that you haven't had chance to do yet?

I'd like to get a dog at some point in the future, I just haven't been organised enough yet. One day...



CURRICULUM SPOTLIGHT

As parents, understanding the curriculum is crucial to support your child's learning and development. However, it can be challenging to keep up with what your child is learning and what the key areas of the curriculum are at each stage, leading to questions about assessment, content, and what constitutes a broad and balanced curriculum.

To help bridge this gap, we will regularly publish articles in our school newsletter that explain the curriculum and direct you to where you can find more information about your child's curriculum offer.

Our website has been recently updated with curriculum plans and information, so please do take a look for more information: www.dhsg.co.uk and click on the curriculum tab at the top of the page.

So, what do we mean by the curriculum?

Our curriculum is divided into three phases: lower years (7 and 8), middle years (9-11), and upper years (12 and 13). Each phase has many components including academic, pastoral, extra-curricular, physical and mental health and social and emotional elements.

We aim to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and competencies they need to progress and thrive in the next phase of their education or training. To achieve this the curriculum is carefully planned and sequenced. As students progress, they become more scholarly by developing competency in knowledge and skills. They acquire a deeper understanding of the subject matter and the ability to apply that knowledge to solve problems and think critically. Additionally, they develop essential skills such as research, writing, and communication, which are vital for success in their chosen careers.

This progression prepares students for the challenges they will face in their future careers, including the demands of the workplace, engagement in lifelong learning, and making meaningful contributions to society.

Extracurricular clubs and activities offer students additional opportunities to develop skills that complement their academic pursuits. These activities help students build leadership skills, develop teamwork, make a positive contribution to their community, and expand their social networks. They can also allow students to pursue their interests, explore new areas of knowledge, and cultivate a passion for learning beyond the classroom.

Overall, the combination of academic progression and extracurricular engagement is our measure of a broad and balanced curriculum that prepares students for success in their future endeavours.

If you want to learn more about our curriculum, you can visit the curriculum pages of our website. Here, you will find a clear idea of the subjects studied, how the work is sequenced in each phase, as well as details about assessment and examination boards. If you have any queries about the curriculum, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of House or Head of Sixth Form.

In each article, we will focus on a specific aspect of the curriculum, and this term's spotlight is on the English curriculum.



THE ENGLISH CURRICULUM

We believe that nurturing a lifelong love of literature and appreciation of the power of language is vital for students' social and moral development; sense of belonging and happiness.

The English curriculum is ambitious, sequenced, knowledge-rich and underpinned by the cumulative acquisition of skills.

Our Literature text choices from Y7 to Y13 are diverse and challenging to ensure all students build a body of knowledge that develops both their appreciation of literature and their cultural capital. The curriculum map shows the sequence through genres and time periods to enable students to apply and extend knowledge as they progress through the curriculum. Our curriculum covers 6 core areas of English Language and English Literature: prose, poetry, Shakespeare/Drama, writing (creative and non-fiction), wider reading and independent learning.

All core areas interleave the following 7 skills:

- structure and Coherence: this is the understanding that texts are put together with intent. Once students understand this about the texts they read, they think differently about the way they write;
- spelling, punctuation and grammar: this is taught as a fortnightly lesson in y7; decontextualised from the curriculum texts. This is to teach and embed the skills in the first year as grammatical rules and not attached in long-term memory to a specific text/task. Research shows that this approach is more robust in terms of retaining knowledge of SPAG. From y8 onwards, SPAG is reviewed throughout units to secure knowledge and introduce new vocabulary and sophisticated use of punctuation and sentence structures;
- awareness of impact: this is the understanding that writing is shaped by the priorities of a writer and the needs of a reader. This includes the teaching of genre, audience, purpose vocabulary, tone and style;
- understanding context: this is crucial to making sense of and appreciating texts. The knowledge of context of production and reception is an essential aspect of Literature changes the way students read and respond to a text. Our curriculum introduces the importance of context from y7 and the range of themes and context that our curriculum texts cover is diverse; shaping our students to have an insightful understanding of many aspects of pre and post-1900 society across cultures;
- using evidence: our students are taught the SQI (statement/quote/inference) method from Y7 in order to develop an academic style of writing that is about shaping a critical response by interpreting the writer's craft through signposted inference;
- analysing methods: this is understanding that writers use a variety of linguistic and structural techniques to achieve their intent;
- oracy: our curriculum aims to facilitate classrooms rich in talk in which questions are planned, and peer conversations are modelled and scaffolded to ensure students develop the confidence to effectively articulate their views and to work cooperatively.



THE ENGLISH CURRICULUM IN LOWER, MIDDLE AND UPPER YEARS

Year	Cycle	Content
Year 7	Cycle 1	Autumn 1: Prejudice and Greed in 'The Merchant of Venice' Writing focus: Fiction – character descriptions
		Autumn 2: Greed and Class in 'A Christmas Carol' Writing focus: Non-fiction – letter writing
	Cycle 2	Spring 1: Class and Gender in 'An Inspector Calls' Writing focus: Non-fiction – reflective journal writing Spring 2: Travel Writing Using Romantic poetry to inspire writing
Year 8	Cycle 1	Autumn 1: Religion and Gender in 'Macbeth' Writing focus: Fiction –
		Autumn 2: Writing in the War: letters and poems from the front line Writing focus: Non-fiction – Remembrance articles
	Cycle 2	The Power of Rhetoric in 'Animal Farm' Writing focus: Non-fiction – persuasive speeches
Year 8	Cycle 3	Summer 1: Gender and Race in 'Of Mice and Men' Writing focus:
		Summer 2: Class and Gender in 'Blood Brothers' Writing focus:

Year	Cycle	Content
Year 9	Cycle 1	Autumn 1: Dystopian Writing Autumn 2: Non-Fiction Writing
	Cycle 2	GCSE Poetry: Spring 1: Unseen poetry Spring 2: 'Love and Relationships' AQA poetry anthology ('Family' cluster)
	Cycle 3	GCSE Modern Text: 'Telling Tales': AQA Short Story Anthology
Year 10	Cycle 1	GCSE Shakespeare: 'Romeo and Juliet'
	Cycle 2	GCSE Poetry: 'Love and Relationships' AQA poetry anthology ('Romance' cluster; developing skills of comparison)
	Cycle 3	GCSE 19th Century Novel: 'Pride and Prejudice'
Year 11	Cycle 1	AQA English Language Paper 1 (plus Literature retrieval)
	Cycle 2	AQA English Language Paper 2 (plus Literature retrieval)
	Cycle 3	English Language - Q4 and Q5 consolidation (both papers) Rotation of Literature texts: consolidation of core knowledge, focus and timed writing skills Focused revision



THE ENGLISH CURRICULUM IN LOWER, MIDDLE AND UPPER YEARS

A Level English Language:		
Year	Cycle	Content
Year 12	Cycle 1	Unit 1 Autumn 1: Audience, purpose, genre and mode Autumn 2: Textual variations Unit 2 Autumn 1: Language levels Autumn 2: Language diversity – language and people (sociolect)
	Cycle 2	Unit 1 Spring 1: Textual representations Spring 2: Textual variations and representations Unit 2 Spring 1: Language diversity – language and people (dialect) Spring 2: Language diversity – language in the world
	Cycle 3	Unit 1 Summer 1: Children’s language development – spoken language Summer 2: Children’s language development – spoken language Unit 2 Summer 1: NEA coursework – original writing Summer 2: NEA coursework – original writing
Year 13	Cycle 1	Unit 1 Autumn 1: NEA coursework – language investigation Autumn 2: NEA coursework – language investigation Unit 2 Autumn 1: Language change Autumn 2: Language change
	Cycle 2	Unit 1 Spring 1: Children’s language development – written literacy Spring 2: Children’s language development – written literacy Unit 2 Spring 1: Language discourses Spring 2: Opinion articles

A Level English Language:		
Year	Cycle	Content
Year 13	Cycle 3	Unit 1 Focused revision Unit 2 Focused revision

A Level English Literature:		
Year	Cycle	Content
Year 12	Cycle 1	Unit 1: Great Gatsby Unit 2: The Handmaid’s Tale
	Cycle 2	Unit 1: ‘Love Through the Ages’ - pre-1900 Poetry Anthology Unit 2: ‘The Feminine Gospels’ - Poetry Anthology
	Cycle 3	NEA: Coursework Focus
Year 13	Cycle 1	Unit 1: Othello Unit 2: Top Girls Ongoing NEA work
	Cycle 2	Rotation of Literature texts: consolidation of core knowledge, focus and timed writing skills NEA submission deadline
	Cycle 3	Rotation of Literature texts: consolidation of core knowledge, focus and timed writing skills Focused Revision



SCHOOL FUND

School Development Fund

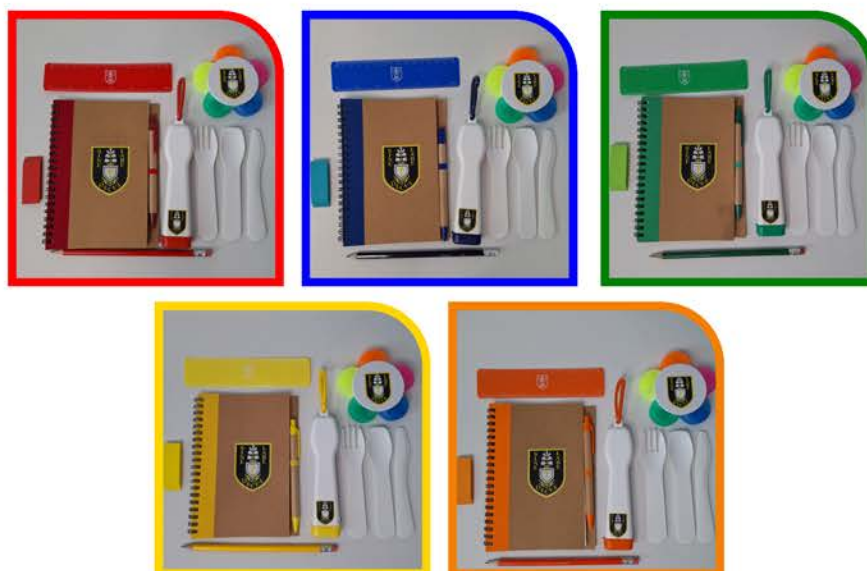
Devonport High School for Girls would like to welcome you to the School Fund and the exciting opportunities that this can provide for your child. We are so proud of Devonport High School for Girls and the progress we make during each academic year. We endeavour to create an enriching and enticing learning environment for the students and the School Fund is essential to this. School budgets, as you are aware, are tight and being increasingly squeezed and put under financial pressure. The School Fund is vital for income generation and enables us to support activities for our students that cannot otherwise be funded from public funds. It enables us to provide an inspirational education for the students beyond the fundamental curriculum with extra-curricular opportunities, including a variety of trips, sporting activities & competitions, cookery competitions, the Carol Concert, Celebration Days for Year 11 and 13, as well as our annual Speech Day.

We would like to take this opportunity to invite parents and carers to make a voluntary contribution to our School Fund. What will your donation be used for? We are sure that you would like to know where your contribution is going. Devonport High School for Girls is fortunate enough to be increasing in size, growing by 32 students each September over the next 4 years. We are ambitious in the plans that we have to upgrade our facilities in school – upgrading our Food Technology area, improve our Sports facilities and Science laboratories. We want to upgrade our dining facilities to provide more seating areas for students to enjoy all year round. The School Fund will continue to be used to help with whole school celebrations that will celebrate the success of your children. This all forms part of the enriched curriculum which brings our children's learning to life.

A gift to the school can make such a difference and if you are a UK tax payer and can donate under the Gift Aid scheme, the contributions increase considerably. A monthly contribution of £5 via Gift Aid means the School Fund receives £6.25 which over a year would amount to £150. Below are our Bank Account details and a Gift Aid declaration form for UK tax payers which we kindly ask you to return to the school.

We cannot emphasise strongly enough how important such contributions are to Devonport High School for Girls, allowing us to continue our journey to Outstanding.

As a thank you for your support, any student that sets up the standing order for the monthly donation to our School Fund will receive a special pack in their house colour – this includes various school branded stationery items and a re-usable cutlery set to support our continued drive to be eco-friendly.



WINTER FOOD COLLECTION A TRADITION OF GENEROSITY



For the past 22 years, our students and their families have shown incredible generosity by donating food to support Age UK Plymouth. This year, we are thrilled to share that 55 boxes were loaded into the Age UK van—equivalent to approximately 825 to 1,000 items!

Tara, representing Age UK Plymouth, joined our assemblies to personally thank the students for their efforts, and we couldn't be prouder of this heartwarming tradition.

A huge thank you to Ms. Nott for coordinating this year's collection and continuing the wonderful work started by Mr. Abbotts so many years ago. Your dedication ensures this legacy of kindness lives on!

We are extremely grateful to our students and their families for taking the time to make such a range of donations. We know AgeUK will be delighted and are sure that older people within the Plymouth community will be pleased to receive them.

Ms Nott would like to extend a particular thank you to our Year 8 students and Tutors.

"I took on the role of coordinating our AgeUK Winter Food Collection, which we have run for many years, after Mr Abbotts left our RS department in the summer," she says. "It is a big task to coordinate a whole-school food collection, but I couldn't have asked for a better team of helpers in our Year 8 students and their wonderful Tutors."

"Alongside compassion and thoughtfulness for people within the wider Plymouth community, they have shown initiative and determination in making sure that donations have been collected and sorted (which is a lot of work!). I hope they will feel very proud of themselves as we hand over our donations, as DHSG is very proud of them."

"More widely, I would like to express my thanks to our students, parents and carers who have donated to DHSG's AgeUK Winter Food Collection. I'm delighted that, with Year 8's help, we have been able to continue our commitment to giving to others during the winter season. Thank you, everyone!"



U16 AND U14 NETBALL

Miss Revell's netball teams have been extremely busy since the beginning of this academic year!

Both a U16 and U14 team were entered for "Sisters 'n' Sport" for this first time with great success! Here, our U16s making it to the final 16 against teams such as Exeter College, Truro College and Penrice - a huge achievement that our players should be really proud of!

The "Sisters 'n' Sport" program has allowed our students to play a higher level of netball alongside their commitments to local clubs and increase fixture participation. Our team selection has increased to 3 teams across Years 8 to 11, which is enabling more squad participation.

Elsewhere, our U14s team have made it to the Quatre Finals of the Plate Competition.

Our U19s also attended the Schools County Tournament at Exeter University in November. This was an amazing tournament, with our team - who don't typically train together! - coming third in their pool.

A few special mentions to some of our students who are excelling in their netball endeavors. Caitlin has been selected for the Junior Player Development Pathway for Team Bath. Caitlyn, Aimee and Phoebe have all been selected for and are now working with Team Bath on their Athlete Development Programme. We also congratulate Alice, Althea, Thalia, Charlotte, Daisy, Holly, and Amelie who represent West Devon County Netball.

Our Central Venue Teams in year 8, 9, 10, 11 are doing really well. These include some students who are playing their first matches representing DHSG.

Miss Revell is very proud of each of the students for their hard work, resilience and determination.

"Netball is not an easy sport," she says, "and the growth of each individual on and off court is evident."



HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

Recently, our 6th Form historians had an incredible experience visiting the heart of British democracy at the Houses of Parliament! They were granted access to the House of Lords and the House of Commons, immersing themselves in the historic halls of decision-making. The visit included a hands-on workshop on political elections, deepening their understanding of the UK's democratic processes.

Afterwards, they headed to the iconic Westminster Abbey, where they paid respects at the tombs of Tudor monarchs, including Henry VII, Elizabeth I, and Mary, Queen of Scots. A truly inspiring day bringing history to life!



GARDENING CLUB UPDATE

Mr Evans and the Gardening Club have just achieved the Level 4 award in the RHS School Gardening Awards. They built a hedgehog shelter out of logs and branches pruned from one of the trees on site, and that helped them to meet the 'supporting wildlife' criteria for the award. The other criteria were 'our gardening supports our curriculum' and 'we share our plants with others'. The rewards were a certificate, a collection of seeds, a school gardening book and £100 worth of vouchers to buy equipment and plants for our garden.



SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT



Amelia Cunningham, 7H, heard this week that she has been selected for the second year in a row, into the England Foundation DMT (Double Mini Trampoline) squad.

This year she represented England at the Finn cup; placing 9th out in Finland.

Amelia also performed two beautiful routines to win bronze in the U13's, at the Southwest Trampoline Championships in November.

MUSICAL SUCCESS

Well done to Charlize (Yr 7) has passed her grade 4 piano exam.



A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EXPERIENCE!

DHSG Students Met Companions at Sister School in Hangzhou

A group of 20 students from Devonport High School for Girls have met with their Chinese pals in their sister school in Hangzhou this October. This formed part of a 10-day trip, exploring the famous historic scenic spots such as the Great Wall, Forbidden City, the Summer Palace in Beijing, the West Lake in Hangzhou and the Bund and the Yu Garden in Shanghai, all alongside a taste of the school experience in China.



One of the Sixth Formers, Ruby has particularly enjoyed the Great Wall and the Yu Garden. She said, 'I loved every minute of this trip- it was so fulfilling and an amazing experience. I'm so grateful I was able to go, and it's definitely been my highlight this year! I found the Yu Garden in Shanghai a perfect harmony of tranquillity and peace. I am so honoured to have visited and walked along the Great Wall Of China, one of the beautiful 7 wonders of the world!'

Another student on this trip, Jess, has taken up a particular interest in the rich architectural history of traditional Chinese structures, such as, the Temple of Heaven. As a keen-eyed artist, there was a plethora of inspiration to be found in the beauty of Chinese landscapes, having created a series of works drawn from the spirit of China. We cannot help sharing one of her wonderful works here with you.



Nicola, a sixth form student, commented on her homestay experience with the students at Hangzhou: "It was a very welcoming and friendly environment with the HFELs students who hosted us, we had various plans throughout our stay with many activities to both learn and experience the traditional cultures and foods of Hangzhou. My favourite activity was when our hosts took us to a Hanfu rental where we all dressed as Hanfu flower girls and had professional pictures taken of us with full make-up, dress and props."

DHSG's very own Chinese teacher, Ms Yuemei Li who has just won IOE CI's Excellent Award this year, said, '...such a trip has provided ample opportunities to our students in multiple subject areas. The experience will live in their memory all the time to their future. I would recommend it to any schools, any students.'



By Mrs E Li



CHEMISTREE 2024

The reception advent and the school Chemistree with student and staff decorations with chemistry theme. Whole school competition to identify all the apparatus/equipment is going well and looking back to the first Chemistrees used in the 1940s as methods of teaching nomenclature of equipment.

The "purists" Chemistree is in S4, with the decorations being glass flasks, being used as a method to teach identification of transition metal complex ions by their colours.



GCHQ CHALLENGE



"#GCHQChristmasChallenge on Wednesday 11 December. DHSG students will be set the task of cracking seven fiendish puzzles and then using their answers to uncover a hidden message. You can have a go at home too! The challenge will be available for anyone to download on the GCHQ website from 11 December."



Kooth Digital Health offers free and anonymous therapeutic mental health and wellbeing support to young people in Plymouth aged 11-19. Our services remain available over the winter period, offering 'on the day' wellbeing support from the comfort of your own home, via any web-enabled device via the following website

Ages 11-19: www.kooth.com

Kooth offers free access to online text-based practitioner chats, self help tools and activities, journal spaces and advice from our non-judgemental, safe and moderated peer:peer communities. With no threshold, waiting list or referral process, young people in Barnsley can access support for ANY issues they may be experiencing. These may include; body image, self-esteem, loneliness, bereavement, academic pressures, stress, anxiety, friendships, sexuality, life changes etc.

The registration process is quick, anonymous and safe, simply by registering at www.kooth.com

If you have any questions regarding the service, please contact school. Or if you would prefer to contact Kooth directly, simply email parents@kooth.com. A selection of Parent/Carer resources can be accessed using this link: [Kooth. Parent & Carer resources](#)



EXCITING FUNDRAISING EVENTS AT OUR SCHOOL

JOIN THE FUN!

This term has been an exciting journey of fundraising events, all made possible thanks to the wonderful support from our school community. From movie nights to Halloween discos, each event has been a great success, raising vital funds for our school's activities and projects. Here's a recap of what we've achieved together and what's still to come!

Year 7 & 8 Movie Night - A Fantastic Start!

We kicked off our fundraising events with the much-loved Year 7 & 8 Movie Night. Students enjoyed a cozy evening with friends, popcorn in hand, watching a popular film. It was a great way for new students to bond and for everyone to relax while contributing to our school fund.

Santa Fun Run - Spreading Holiday Cheer!

With the holiday season fast approaching, we held our annual Santa Fun Run, where students and staff joined in a festive run around the school grounds, whilst also enjoying some hot chocolate, marshmallows and other sweet treats. Everyone was dressed in their Christmas best—some even wore Santa hats and reindeer antlers! and even an appearance from an inflatable gingerbread man. It was a wonderful way to get into the holiday spirit while raising funds for future school events and activities. A big thank you to everyone who participated and supported this event!

We Need Your Help!

As we continue to plan fun and engaging fundraising events throughout the year, we are always looking for volunteers. Whether you can spare an hour or help out for a full event, your support is invaluable. If you would like to get involved and help make our events even better, please reach out to the school office. Every bit of time you can offer is greatly appreciated.

Thank you once again to all of our students, parents, and volunteers who have helped make these events a success. Together, we are building a vibrant and supportive community at our school!

Looking Forward to More Fun!

Stay tuned for more exciting events in the new year. We can't wait to continue the fun and fundraising with all of you!

Warm regards,



Mrs. A Rowe
Teacher of PE

Spooky Halloween Disco - A Thrilling Success!

Our Halloween Disco was a frightfully fun evening, with plenty of fancy dress and spooky tunes filling the air. Students came dressed as ghosts, ghouls, witches, and more, showing off their creative costumes. The dance floor was alive with energy, and the event raised a fantastic amount for our school's activities. A huge thank you to everyone who joined in the fun and made it such a memorable night!

Christmas Disco - A Magical Finish!

We wrapped up our fundraising efforts with a Christmas Disco, and it was a festive night to remember! With twinkling lights, Christmas music, and everyone in their best holiday attire, the dance floor was packed with holiday cheer. The event was the perfect way to finish off the term, and the money raised will go towards enriching our students' experiences in the coming months.



CHEMISTRY WEEK

Chemistry Week was celebrated from 4th-10th November, with the theme "Chemistry is shaping the future".

The Chemistry Department has been highlighting the role Chemistry plays in many areas of modern life. These include reducing our carbon footprint, improving nutrition and creating sustainable materials.

Students have had the chance to examine real life career profiles in lessons and tutor time, giving them a taste of the diverse and interesting roles available to chemists. The Chemistry department has particularly focused on how careers in Chemistry can help to solve environmental problems.

This has included sharing short job profile clips from the Royal Society of Chemistry which link to a range of curriculum areas. The Royal Society of Chemistry virtual presentation has been shared with all our tutor groups, with an interactive opportunity for students to match their skills and aspirations to a potential career in chemistry.

As 5th November approached, the Chemistry department put on a rainbow flames demonstration and open lab for flame testing, to explore how we can make the celebrations more ecologically friendly and less polluting. Plus, the department ran their annual firework photography competition.

Our Chemistry teachers also ran a lunchtime session where some of our Year 9 students made some biodegradable polymers out of potato starch. There was also a session on microdistillation looking at the value of clean potable water as a resource.

A number of our Year 12 students attended a Chemistry Meet and Greet: Placements and Future Employers event hosted at the University of Plymouth in conjunction with the Royal Society of Chemistry. This was a great opportunity for them to find out about careers in Chemistry (over pizza!) and to connect with potential employers at the beginning of their academic journey. There was a wonderful mixture of insightful presentations, glimpses into industry-based placements and networking.

Chemistree in Chemistry

And of course, it wouldn't be a DHSG Christmas without the addition of our Chemistree!

"Avogadro" has been busy creating the Chemistry Department's annual "Chemistree" in the Chemistry Lab.

The Chemistry advent calendar is proudly on display in its entirety in the entrance hall along with our public "Chemistree", challenging our students and staff to make their own chemistry themed decorations to adorn it for years to come. Plus, there's a whole school competition (for House points, of course!) to spot and name each of the apparatus used to create the "Chemistree".

Our Year 13 Chemists also completed a standard organic chemistry practical, using Tollen's reagent when learning about aldehydes and ketones.

This time, instead of using a test tube, students completed their reaction in glass baubles depositing a silver mirror layer inside. They were gifted these for Christmas and as a special memory of Chemistry A Level at DHSG, which we are sure they will cherish for many years to come. A special silver bauble was also made to adorn both the "Chemistrees".



ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY'S "MEET THE TEACHER" AND MORE

It's certainly been an eventful term for the Chemistry Department's very own Mrs Pierce!

Mrs Pierce was notified by the Royal Society of Chemistry in August that she was nominated for this year's Royal Society of Chemistry's "Excellence in Secondary and Further Education Prize" by a mystery person(s) - Mrs Pierce says she is still not sure who! Though not chosen as the final winner, we are delighted that Mrs Pierce is so highly regarded in her work.



After completing her CREST assessor training in October, Mrs Pierce was asked by the Royal Society of Chemistry to take part in their "Meet the Teacher" feature. You may have already seen the Mrs Pierce's article, which is now available online and published in Education in Chemistry).

<https://edu.rsc.org/interview/meet-the-rock-pooling-teacher-who-works-at-the-school-she-attended/4020550.article>

Well done Mrs Pierce, what a spectacular and successful year 2024 has been!



UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH

UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH MEDICAL SCHOOL

DHSG A level Biology students recently visited the University of Plymouth Medical School and were wowed by their latest advanced human technology. Students were able to look beyond the surface of the body and dissect real cadaveric content using their Anatomage table. The students found this absolutely fascinating, saying that it allowed them to get really stuck in and deepen their understanding of human anatomy in both health and disease.



Students also had the opportunity to explore the in-depth anatomy of the heart using anatomically accurate heart models and virtually dissect the human heart in preparation for their real-life upcoming animal heart dissection. During this unique experience the students were able to study an ECG and strip back different layers of the heart to reveal the hidden intricacies of the muscle fibers, blood vessels and valves, whilst the heart continued to beat.

During the trip students were further exposed to career opportunities within the Medical and science sectors, inspiring them for the future.



THE PARENT TEACHER AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

The Parent Teacher and Friends Association has been in existence for many years and works hard to support the students and staff. The PTFA is very active and successful at raising money for the school.

Fundraising activities include:

- Second-hand uniform 'shop'
- Quiz night
- Christmas Shopping Trip
- Christmas Disco
- Selling refreshments at Parents' Evenings and events
- 11+ Practice

Recently the PTFA have raised funds in order to pay for:

- E-Book subscription for the School Library
- Delivery fee for the specialist transportation of a Piano for the Music department
- Specialist equipment for the Food Technology room
- Recycling bins for the School site
- Dressmakers dummy for the Textiles department
- Amazon vouchers for Mathematics Champions
- Railway sleepers for the Gardening Club
- A specialist Visualiser camera for the Geography department
- LED Par Can Lighting for the Drama department

There is a small but active committee headed up by a Chair, Secretary, Events Organiser and Treasurer. Meetings are held half-termly at 7.00 pm in the Sixth Form Centre. These meetings are open to all parents/carers and new faces are very welcome.

Please do get involved: we are here to help fund opportunities for our children and without volunteers this would be difficult. Please be assured that there is no pressure for regular commitment as we are happy for any help offered. If you can help in other ways, by perhaps supplying raffle prizes or selling tickets, please let us know.

Help us to achieve our aims, by helping us to support our students, the Head Teacher and his staff.

Please contact the PTFA at DHS ptfa@dhs.co.uk - we need and value your help and support. Thank you,

The PTFA

 DHSIPTFA

A Registered Charity No. 1130637



YEAR 8 ENTERPRISE DAY BUSINESS



On the 11th of October, Year 8 students took a stand against fast fashion by participating in a whole-school enterprise challenge in the hall. The day highlighted how well Year 8 students can use enterprising skills such as listening, speaking, problem-solving, creativity, positivity, ambition, leadership, and teamwork.

The challenge tasked Year 8's with collaborating in groups to come up with innovative solutions for making fashion more sustainable in the future, with a focus on science and technology. The students worked on a series of tasks throughout the day, each designed to enhance their skills and foster creativity. These tasks included; Innovation, branding marketing, promotion, and preparing a presentation. Through these tasks, students not only addressed real-world challenges but also developed valuable skills in entrepreneurship, teamwork, and problem-solving.

The students worked extremely hard in their groups throughout the day, demonstrating focus, collaboration, and dedication to their idea. Each group engaged in brainstorming, problem-solving, and refining their ideas, aiming to find creative and practical solutions for a sustainable future in fashion. Their efforts were reflected in their attention to detail and their commitment to addressing environmental and social issues through science and technology. The students embraced the challenge wholeheartedly, showing resilience and a positive attitude as they worked towards making a meaningful impact on both the fashion industry and the planet.

We saw a range of fantastic ideas and by the afternoon, twelve teams had advanced to pitch their concepts to our dragon style panel of judges. Well done to the winning team from 8F and the runners up from 8H.





Front cover designed by DHSG Year 7 Student Emilia



CAROL CONCERT Christmas 2024



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CHRISTMAS LUNCHESES 2024

Thank you to all the staff involved in setting up for the Christmas lunches



FREE PERIOD PRODUCTS AVAILABLE @ DHSG

Reusable products
available upon request
Menstrual Cups
Re-useable Pads
Period Pants



ACCESS TO PERIOD PRODUCTS

Our students have access to free disposable and reusable period products whilst at DHSG.

If any student would like any products to take home for the Christmas Holiday, please contact Miss Uttley or pop into the Heads of House office or the Nurture Base. You can take any period products you need for the 2 weeks at home.

If you have any feedback about that period products available in school or would like to help support/improve the initiative next year, please let Miss Crowther know.

PERIOD PRODUCT SCHEME

With thanks to the Period Product Scheme for Schools, DHSG is pleased that we can offer a wide range of sanitary products to all students which can be used in school or at home.

We have disposable period products available in toilets across the school, but ahead of the summer holidays we want to remind all parents and carers that students are welcome to stock up and take whatever products they will need at home for the break.

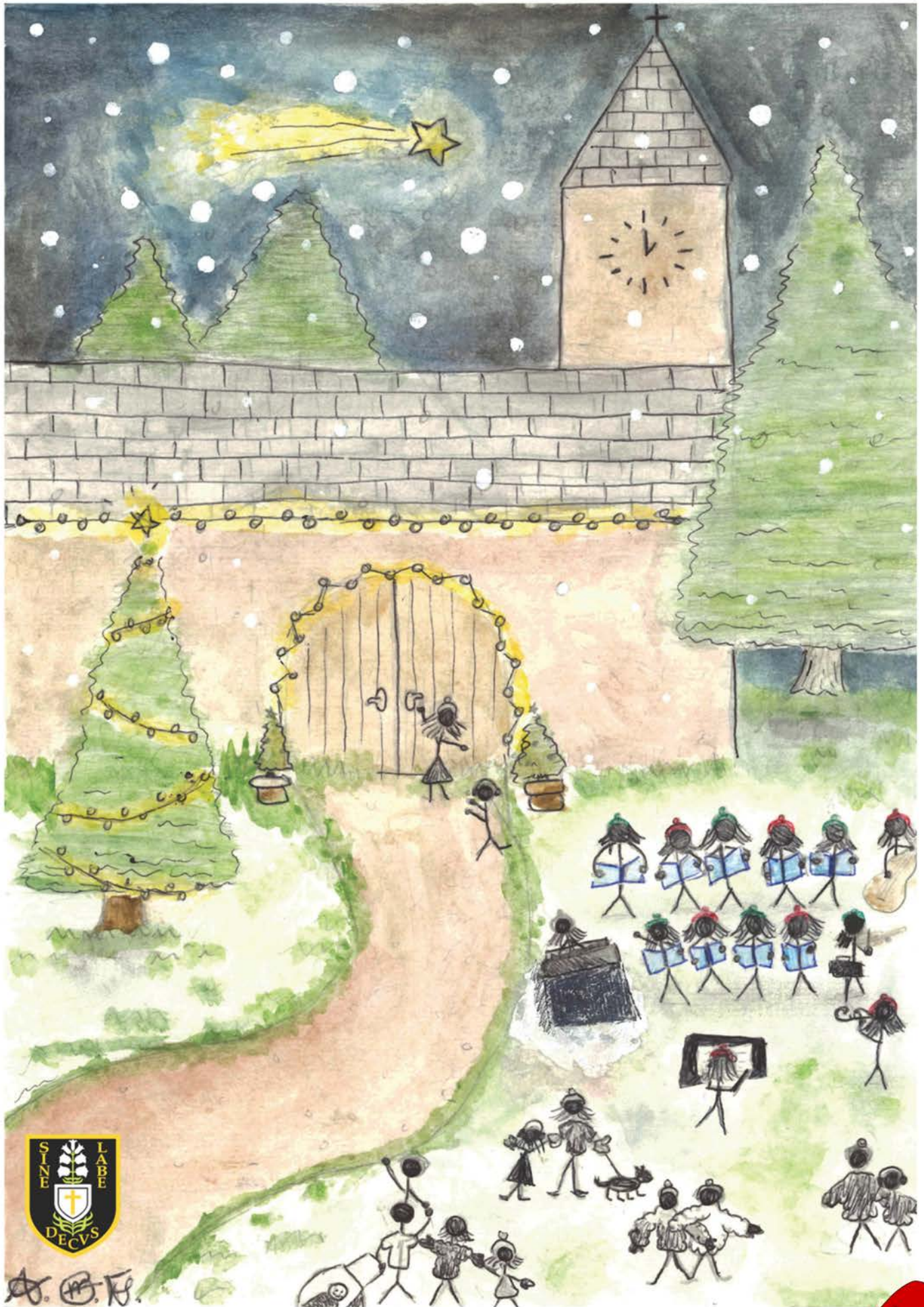
We also have a range of sustainable products available for students and their families including menstrual cups, reusable pads and period pants in a variety of sizes.

Students can access whatever they need for the holidays a couple of different ways;

- Drop by the Heads of House office
- Email Miss Crowther or Miss Uttley
- Order products using this form: <https://forms.office.com/e/CiVNRcz6jJ>

Please don't hesitate to use this service – we want to ensure none of our students experience concerns or anxieties around their periods.



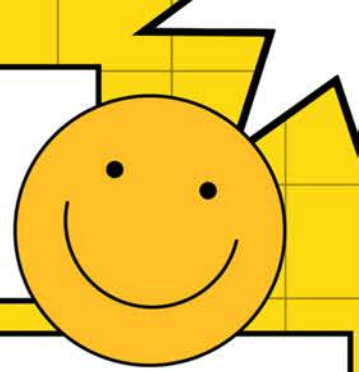


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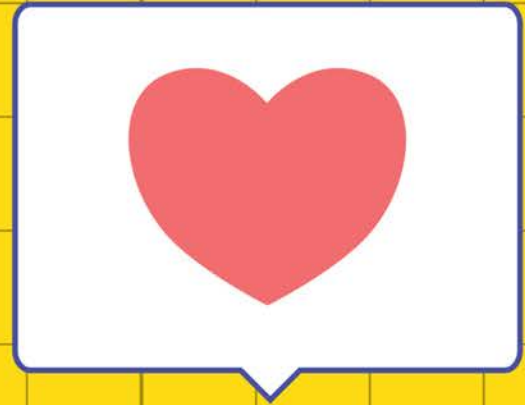
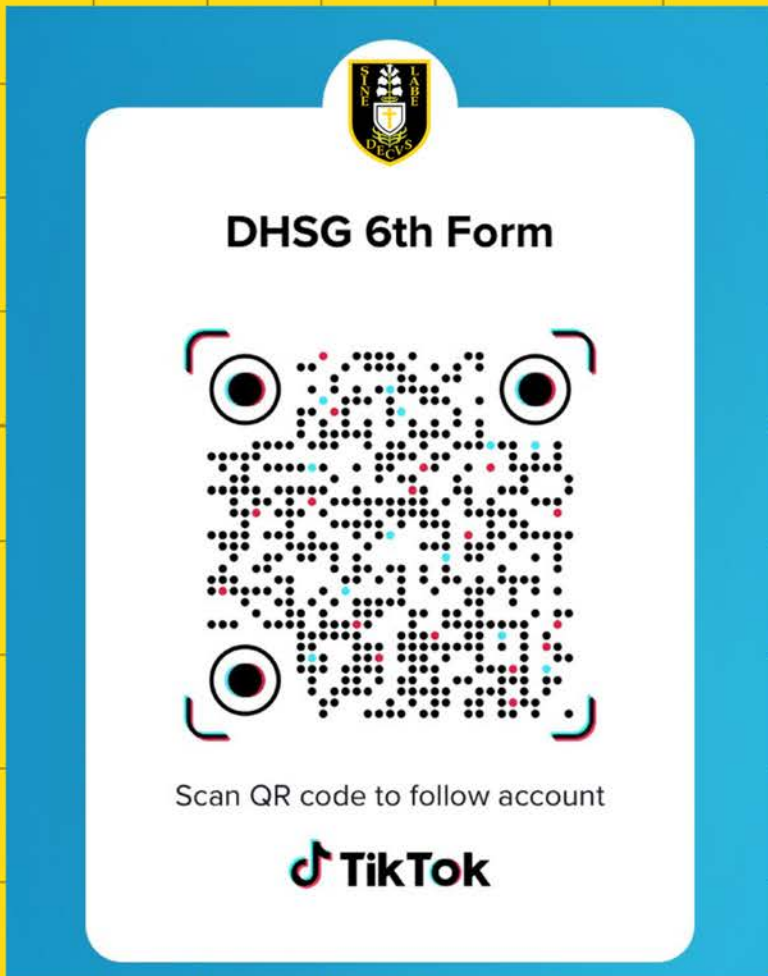
Created by DHSG Year 7 Students
Annabel, Millie & Faye



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