



JULY 2025 | ISSUE 11

# NEWSLETTER

Official newsletter of Devonport High School for Girls

## HEAD LINES

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to the Summer newsletter.

This term has been packed with activity. The exam season for Years 11 and 13 recently concluded and we wish them all the very best with their summer results. I know recently students have enjoyed Enrichment Week and the many activities/trips that were on offer for them.

The Multi-Sports Friday activities for new Year 7 students has been well attended, and our new cohort is beginning to become part of DHSG. It was lovely to meet all of the families and start to get to know them.

Apologies for this next paragraph being a bit gloomy, but I feel I need to make sure you are all aware that many schools and Trusts are really struggling with their financial picture as current funding from government is not increasing in line with our rising costs. Our electricity bill alone in the school is approximately £70,000 more than what it was 3 years ago and the recent increase in costs such as the National Insurance payments for employers and staff pay rises, have only added pressure on an already tight budget. Whilst there has been some additional funding to help with this, it only covers about 65% of it. The ongoing increase for living costs, such as those utility bills, food prices and other resources are continuing to add pressure. We have had to scale back some support in the school and make cuts to certain areas, but with the aim not to compromise students' educational experiences. The staff have been amazing and many have gone above and beyond what is expected without any additional pay, which they may have received previously.

## END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS



Last day of term: **Friday 18 July**. Students should wear mufti or PE Kit. There is a suggested donation of £1 for support with School Fund.

Early finish at 12.45. Contract buses have been arranged to pick up early.

## RESULTS' DAYS FOR YEAR 11 & YEAR 13

**Year 13: Thursday 14 August**. Collect results from the Sixth Form Centre from 8.30am.

**Year 11: Thursday 21 August**. Collect results from the Sixth Form Centre from 8.30am.

## START OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS



### YEARS 8 - 11 & 13

Monday 8 September – Usual start time of 8.50am.

### YEARS 7 & 12

Friday 5 September – Usual start time of 8.50am.



Also, I wanted to thank you for your donations to the school this year. Unlike previous years we have had to ask for support for various events throughout the year to ensure that they could still run. Your generosity has been amazing and this has helped us continue many things we may have had to stop, such as having a 2nd school mini-bus, the annual Carol Concert and celebration days for Year 11 and 13, to name some. Whilst this year has been difficult financially and the coming years will be too, I know working together, we can still support our students at DHSG.

This year, we say farewell to the following staff:

Mr Evans (Teaching Assistant), Mrs Bolwell (Attendance Officer) and Miss Ricks (SENDCO). We thank them for their service over many years and wish them all the very best in their future endeavours.

We are fully staffed for September and I look forward to writing to you in the new term to introduce these new members of staff.

Finally, I wish you a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer. I look forward to welcoming back students on their first day back in September.

My very best wishes,



*Lee Sargeant  
Head Teacher*

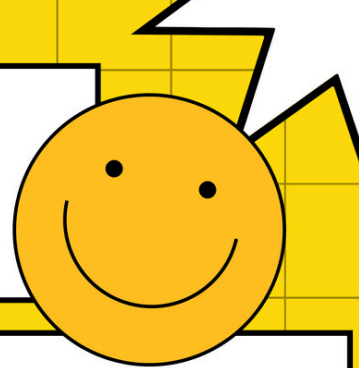


## PEANUT FREE SCHOOL

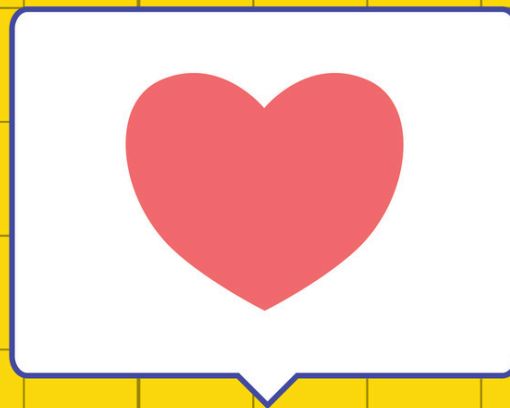
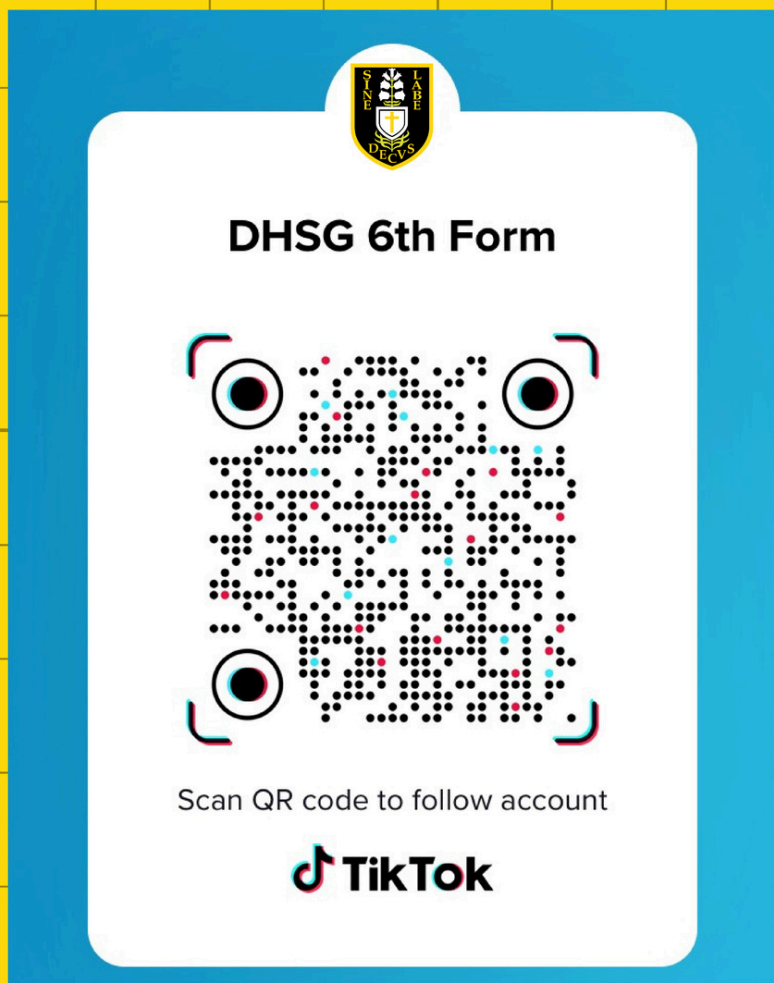
From September, we are going to be a peanut free school. Due to increasing numbers of students with allergies to peanuts, please can we ask that you do not allow your child to bring in anything with peanuts in. This does not apply to other nuts.



# Follow Us



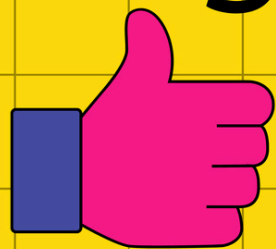
# On Tiktok!



@ dhsg \_6th

- Study Tips
- Days in the Life
- Student Takeovers
- Answering Your Questions
- Meet the Staff
- And more!

## Scan



## QR Code



# 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](http://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.

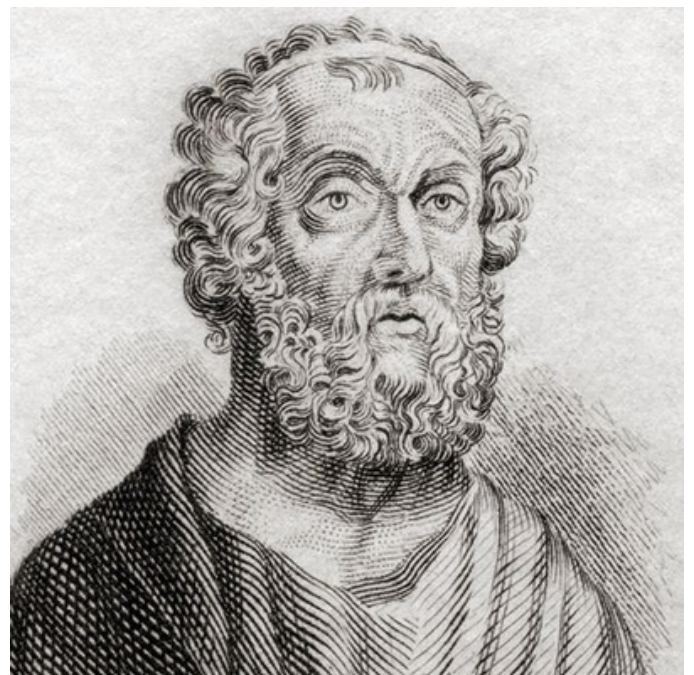
We aim to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and competencies they need to progress and thrive in the next phase of their education or training. To achieve this the curriculum is carefully planned and sequenced. As students progress, they become more scholarly by developing competency in knowledge 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.



# THE CLASSICS CURRICULUM

Classical Civilisation speaks to us from a distance of around 5000 years ago, however its influence on our law, culture, society, politics and literature are just as strong as ever. It helps to provide a strong moral dimension to students' learning, as well as making them more well-rounded scholars in terms of the social, political and economic dimensions of our world.

Our curriculum is carefully planned, implemented and reviewed so that students have the knowledge rich approach of building component knowledge, which is assessed along the way, culminating in composite knowledge reflective of the high standards and ambitions we set for our learners towards their journey of being critical scholars.

In Unit 1, students will study Myth and Religion from 3000 BC to 500 AD, drawing comparisons between both Greek and Roman society. The unit looks at the importance of myth and religion across both the Greek and Roman worlds, and human's relationship with the divine. Many people have a fascination for the mythological stories of the Ancient World, and as such, our syllabus is designed to draw on the narratives that shape much of western literature, like Shakespeare, today.

Students also explore the role of myth and religion in everyday life for Greeks and Romans. Here students will engage with visual and literary sources, and will look at artwork, temples and other religious sites, but also draw on contemporary writing from the likes of Homer and Virgil to understand the topicality that myth and religion had for Greeks and Romans.

Students can explore an ancient time from all aspects of written and visual stimuli to engage with a narrative on a very personal level, and find a level of appeal and engagement to engender inquisitiveness and curiosity for the classical world.

In Unit 2, students look at War and Warfare again from the both Greek and Roman times. It looks at wars that were fought for the supremacy of Greece, but also the rise of the Roman civilisation as well and how warfare developed as time went on as much an integral part of Greco-Roman life as myth and religion, and often how the two were intertwined. For Unit 2, students engage with a range of classical literature from the likes of Homer and Virgil to pavilion their understanding of the topical issues about war and warfare that many of the time faced.

The curriculum for Classical Civilisation has been carefully planned to build component knowledge to a composite whole, allowing students to engage in a captivating narrative over a 3500 year period. On the way, students will develop their knowledge in both a component and composite way, building expertise through recall and disciplinary language, but also developing essential skills in analysis and evaluation of sources, as well as structuring extended answers in a dispassionate and argumentative way. It serves as an excellent companion in terms of cross-curricular skills to subjects such as English, History and Religious Studies, as well as Drama and Art, making it a subject worthy of the most serious of scholastic students.



# THE CLASSICS CURRICULUM IN MIDDLE YEARS

Year	Cycle	Content
Year 9	Cycle 1	Unit 1 - Myth and Religion The Gods of Greece and Rome Universal Hero - Heracles/Hercules
	Cycle 2	Religion and the city Myth and the City - Foundation Stories
	Cycle 3	Festivals Myth and Symbols of Power
Year 10	Cycle 1	Death and Burial Journeying to the Underworld
	Cycle 2	Unit 2 - Literature and Culture -(War and Warfare) Culture section Sparta at war in 5th Century BC Athens at war in 5th Century BC
	Cycle 3	Roman military in the Imperial Period The Romans at war
Year 11	Cycle 1	Literature Section Students will study the selected works of Homer, Tyrtaeus, Horace and Virgil
	Cycle 2	Literature Section Students will study the selected works of Homer, Tyrtaeus, Horace and Virgil
	Cycle 3	Literature Section Students will study the selected works of Homer, Tyrtaeus, Horace and Virgil



# THE CLASSICS CURRICULUM IN UPPER YEARS

Year	Cycle	Content
Year 12	Cycle 1	<p>Unit 1</p> <p>The World of the Hero</p> <p>Homer's Odyssey</p> <p>Literary techniques and composition</p> <p>Structure and Plot</p> <p>Use of language</p> <p>Literary context – from oral tradition to written work</p> <p>Heroic World: characterisation and themes</p> <p>Heroism, Time and Kleos (Honour and Reputation), Nostos (Homecoming)</p> <p>Society, Characterisation, Disguise and Recognition. The Supernatural</p> <p>Unit 2</p> <p>Imperial Image</p> <p>Divi filius (Son of God)</p> <p>Augustus' association with Julius Caesar</p> <p>Military prowess, ancestors of the Julian Clan, association and distance from Julius Caesar's public image</p> <p>Imperator</p> <p>Augustus victory in wars propaganda and reality, role of Marcus Agrippa, significance of the triumph and the triple triumph of Augustus. Victory against provinces.</p>
	Cycle 2	<p>Unit 1</p> <p>The World of the Hero</p> <p>Homer's Odyssey</p> <p>Social, cultural and religious context</p> <p>Fate, the immortals, relationship mortals and divine, justice, xenia, family, relationships men and women, role of women in Homeric epics, role of slaves.</p> <p>Unit 2</p> <p>Imperial Image</p> <p>'Augustus'</p> <p>Augustus as religious leader, restoration of practices, temples, altars. Augustus closeness to the Gods, Apollo, and his semi-divinity.</p> <p>Culture hero</p> <p>Secular games, peace and Roman society. Saturnian Golden Age</p> <p>Pater Patriae (Father of the Country)</p> <p>Augustus as father of the Roman state, morality, marriage, modest living.</p> <p>Imperial family as role models.</p>



# THE CLASSICS CURRICULUM IN UPPER YEARS

Year	Cycle	Content
Year 12	Cycle 3	<p>Unit 1</p> <p>The World of the Hero</p> <p>Homer's Odyssey and reading of Virgil's Aeneid</p> <p>Bringing together key topics of Homer's Odyssey</p> <p>Virgil's Aeneid</p> <p>Literary techniques and composition</p> <p>Composition, structure and plot. Language of the epic, Homeric influence.</p> <p>Heroic World: characterisation and themes</p> <p>Concepts and values of Greek/Roman heroes. Major themes: Roman destiny, war, portrayal of Trojans, Greeks, Italians and Carthaginians.</p> <p>Unit 2 and Unit 3</p> <p>Imperial Image and Greek Religion</p> <p>Later representations</p> <p>Effectiveness of Augustus Imperial Image, source reviews.</p> <p>Greek Religion</p> <p>The nature of the Olympian Gods</p> <p>Nature, anthropomorphism, relationship of mortals with Gods, roles of the Gods, hero cults, Panhellenic and localised worship</p> <p>Personal experience of the Divine</p> <p>Mystery cults, Eleusinian mysteries, cult of Asclepius, Oracle of Dodona</p>
Year 13	Cycle 1	<p>Unit 1</p> <p>The World of the Hero</p> <p>Virgil's Aeneid</p> <p>Social, cultural and religious context</p> <p>Morals and notions of pietas (duty), contrast pietas with concepts of furor, relationship of mortals and immortals, family, relationships of men and women, role of women.</p> <p>Unit 3</p> <p>Greek Religion</p> <p>Religion and Society</p> <p>Levels of participation, politics and religion, Panathenaea and Athens, Places of worship</p> <p>Layout and functions of Acropolis in Athens, Delphi, Olympia, the games and Panhellenic significance.</p>



# THE CLASSICS CURRICULUM IN UPPER YEARS

Year	Cycle	Content
Year 13	Cycle 2	Unit 1 The World of the Hero Virgil's Aeneid Historical and political background Augustan context of Aeneid, background of the civil war, Augustus rise to power, Virgil's relationship with Augustus, promotion of Roman Empire Unit 3 Greek Religion Rituals and Priests Roles of priests and priestesses, role of women, blood sacrifices, libations, votive offerings. Religion and philosophy Rise of philosophical thinking, critique of Homeric Gods by Xenophanes Socrates and impiety
	Cycle 3	Unit 1 The World of the Hero Homer's Odyssey and Virgil's Aeneid Analysis of key themes Exam Preparation Unit 2 and Unit 3 Exam Preparation



# MEET THE STAFF

## Mr Freddie Ayles - Teacher of History



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

I first joined the school during my PGCE year, it was my second and longer placement, and was blown away by the culture of the school and students alike. When a position for Teacher of History came up last year, I jumped at the chance. I've been so happy with how the pupils have approached learning in my lessons, which makes the job so worthwhile.

### ***What is your favourite thing about DHSG?***

The work ethic and humour of the pupils – and the wonderful History trips organised by Miss Matthews...!

### ***What do you like to do in your spare time?***

I'm a lover of learning, so spend a lot of my time reading up on unfamiliar parts of History. I also like to keep fit by playing football (badly) and swimming. I'm a self-taught guitar player, although my guitars are just gathering dust at the moment!

### ***What book are you reading at the at the moment?***

I'm currently reading Crusaders by Dan Jones, a period of History that I find fascinating, especially considering current world events. I also just finished Killing Thatcher by Rory Carroll, which I found incredibly gripping.

### ***Who inspires you?***

Mr. Meikle – for continuing to make jokes when no one laughs.

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

I'd love to go travelling – maybe South America. I'd also like to learn another language!



# SCHOOL FUND

Devonport High School for Girls would operate a School Fund to assist with paying for the exciting opportunities we offer our students. We endeavour to create an exciting learning environment and provide enriching opportunities 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 and competitions, cookery competitions, the Carol Concert, Celebration Days for Year 11 and 13, and our annual Speech Day. We would like to take this opportunity to invite parents, carers and friends 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 few years. We are ambitious in the plans that we have to upgrade our facilities in school – such as upgrading and improving 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. We cannot emphasise strongly enough how important such contributions are to Devonport High School for Girls, allowing us to continue our journey to provide exceptional opportunities for our students. We ask for a small contribution of £5 per month, but of course you can donate more if you wish. To donate you can either:

- Use the direct debit form below (print, sign and return to the School Office or via email [dhsg@dhsg.co.uk](mailto:dhsg@dhsg.co.uk)). If you do not have a printer at home, then please let us know and we can post one to you. When you return this, please indicate if you wish to donate more than £5 and we will amend the Direct Debit.
- Set up a standing order using these bank details: DHSG School Fund,
  - Sort Code: 308037
  - Account No: 64417862

For parents/carers with a child at the school, 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.

The pack includes a Pencil, Rubber, Cutlery Set, Flower Highlighter, Hague Notebook and Pen and a Flexible Ruler.



<https://www.dhsg.co.uk/page/?title=Finance+and+payments&pid=111>



# 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
- 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 DHSG [ptfa@dhsg.co.uk](mailto:ptfa@dhsg.co.uk) – we need and value your help and support. Thank you,

The PTFA

 DHSGPTFA

A Registered Charity No. 1130637



Devonport High School for Girls

# Advertise with us



The DHSG Termly Newsletter is shared with over 8000 people (parents, carers, alumni, friends of DHSG) and widely online on our Facebook, X and LinkedIn pages. The newsletter is also placed on our website that is visited, on average, by 180 people everyday.

The newsletter has an impressive reach of over 10,000 individuals in the Plymouth and East Cornwall region, thanks to strategically targeted promotional advertising.

Your business has the opportunity to be featured in this publication. If you're interested in including an advertisement, please contact Claire our Print & Design Assistant at [crigby@dhsge.co.uk](mailto:crigby@dhsge.co.uk) for further discussion.



Devonport High School for Girls

## Price:

Quarter page: £100

Half page: £150

Full page: £200

Double page spread: £380



# ENRICHMENT WEEK

## MUSICAL THEATRE WORKSHOP

A selection of DHSG students have spent Monday and Tuesday at the Barbican Theatre engaged in a musical theatre workshop, a drama performance, and a lighting technical challenge - rigging up the theatre.

We'd like to thank the Barbican Theatre, Molly, Nathan, Claire, and Dulcie for an amazing and inspiring couple of days



## WATERSPORTS

As part of Enrichment Week, students took to the water at Mount Batten for an unforgettable water sports experience! With glorious weather and top-notch facilities, our students had a blast trying out kayaking and stand-up paddleboarding in the beautiful surroundings.

It was inspiring to see everyone get involved and challenge themselves, showing teamwork, confidence, and resilience on the water. Even better, we were joined by several parents on Friday, who took to the water alongside their daughters - a brilliant way to round off the week.

Huge thanks to the staff, students, and families who made this experience so special. It was a week of adventure, laughter, and learning new skills in the sunshine!



## FRANCE

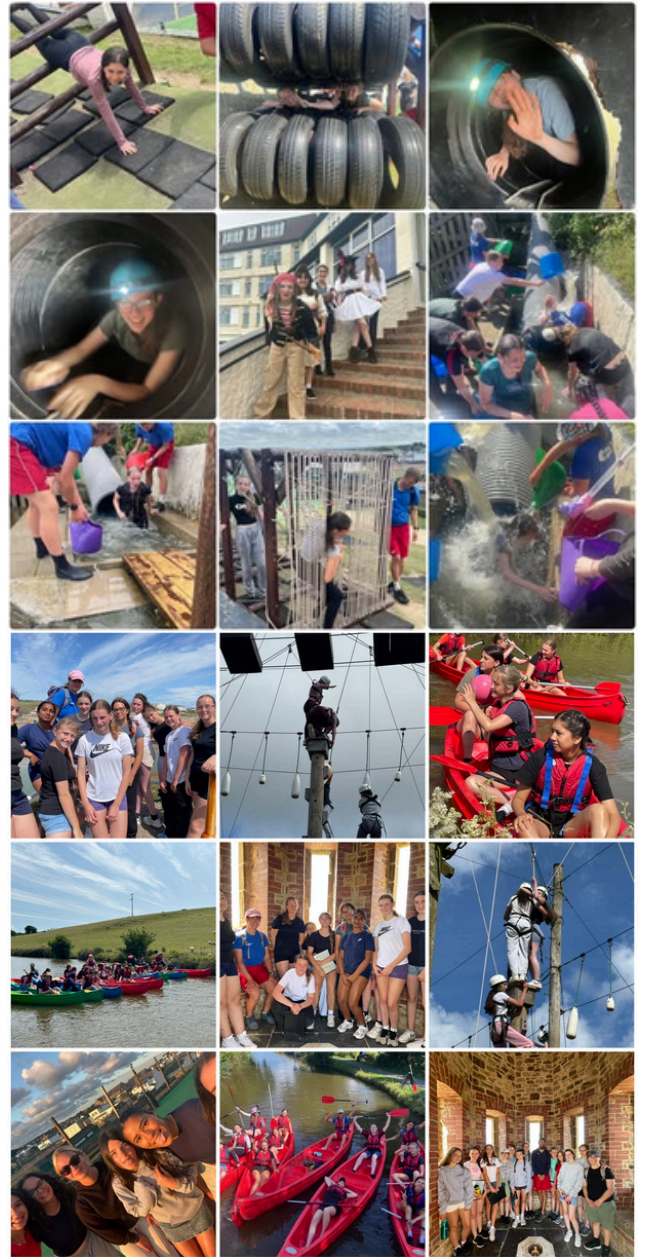


# ENRICHMENT WEEK

## BARCELONA



## BUDE



## MORWELLHAM QUAY

During Enrichment Week, Year 7 visited Morwellham Quay for a Victorian experience. They had the opportunity to encounter a Victorian school room, dress up in clothing from the time, tour the cottages and learn about domestic life, and visit the mine. We had a great and immersive day!



# STAFF VS SIXTH FORM NETBALL

Netball Match Report:

Staff vs 6th Form

In an exciting netball clash between DHSG staff and the 6th Form, both teams brought energy and determination to the court.

The first third was a tightly contested battle, with both sides displaying strong defensive work and sharp movement. The staff edged ahead, finishing the third with a narrow 3-1 lead.

As the game progressed into the second third, the staff began to find their rhythm. Their experience and teamwork allowed them to extend their lead and dominate possession. The final third saw the staff continue their strong performance. Despite the 6th Form's continued effort and resilience, the staff pulled away to secure a commanding 13-3 victory.

A fun and competitive match, played in great spirit and thoroughly enjoyed by players and spectators.



# PGL NETBALL TOUR

PGL Netball Tour 2025 – What a Weekend!

What a fantastic weekend we had on our PGL Netball Tour 2025 – a huge well done to all 7 teams who represented us so brilliantly!

A special congratulations to these teams on their achievements:

Year 7 Team 'Thunder' – who competed in the Year 8 age group and still came away with an amazing 3rd place!

Year 8 Team 'Thunder' – who played in a combined Year 8/9 category and also secured a well-earned 3rd place!

Year 9 Team – who fought hard and finished 3rd in their category!

Year 9/10 Team – who made it all the way to the final, taking 2nd place overall!

Our Year 9/10 team had an especially intense semi-final that went into extra time AND golden goal – and they triumphed! The final was a true nail-biter, and they narrowly missed the win by just one goal.

Beyond the court, we've had non-stop fun, loads of belly laughs, and made incredible memories along the way.

A heartfelt thank you to all the staff who gave up their weekend to make this trip such a special and unforgettable experience for our students!



## M SHED HISTORY TRIP BRISTOL



Year 9 historians visited the M Shed in Bristol.

They took part in a thought-provoking museum workshop exploring Bristol's involvement in the trafficking of enslaved Africans. Students also had the opportunity to explore exhibits highlighting how the city has been shaped by migration over the centuries. The visit provided valuable context and insight to support their upcoming GCSE studies.

## EPAS

Eight of our EPAS students had a fantastic opportunity yesterday to attend the Europe Day celebration at Europe House in London. They met other Junior Ambassadors from schools across the UK, engaged in thought-provoking discussions, and took part in activities focused on democracy.



# YEAR10 PHYSICS CHALLENGE

Outstanding Success in the Junior Physics Challenge!

We are incredibly proud of our y10 students for their exceptional performance in the British Physics Olympiad Junior Physics Challenge!

9 Gold

42 Silver

61 Bronze

These results reflect the dedication, curiosity, and talent of our students in the field of physics. A huge congratulations to everyone who took part—you've done yourselves and the school proud! Showing remarkable resilience and problem-solving skills. Special mention to the year 9s, who were a year younger than most of the participants across this country and China.

A selection of our brilliant achievers can be seen here—future scientists in the making!



# YEAR 7 AND 8 PHYSICS CHALLENGE

Outstanding Achievement in the Year 7/8 Physics Challenge!

A huge congratulations to our 47 students who participated in the British Physics Olympiad's Year 7/8 Physics Challenge. Their exceptional performance earned them 27 Gold, 19 Silver, and 1 Bronze awards. With 57% achieving Gold—more than double the global average of 25%—their dedication and hard work truly stand out.

This international competition saw participation from students worldwide, including those from China, Singapore, and India. Our students' success highlights their commitment to excellence in physics.

Learn more about the British Physics Olympiad:

[bpho.org.uk](http://bpho.org.uk)



# DEVON SCHOOLS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Devon Schools County Championships  
The girls had a fantastic time at the Devon Schools County Championships! It looks like there were some brilliant performances from all the DHSG athletes –well done, everyone!

Here is a lovely photo of Araliya, Orla and Anya!



# ANNUAL CHARITY SOAKING EVENT

SOAKED FOR A GOOD CAUSE!

In June, our brilliant teachers bravely volunteered to be pelted with wet sponges – and in some cases, whole buckets of water – all in aid of charity!

Thanks to the incredible organisation by our student-led group, The Wonderful 10K, we raised an amazing £234.40 for Cancer Research UK.

This marks our third annual sponge-throwing event, and it was another huge success – full of laughter, cheers, and plenty of soggy teachers! Thank you to everyone who took part, helped organise, or donated.

Roll on next year!



# INCLUSION FOOTBALL

Inclusion Football Team - Final Citywide Tournament!

Check out the team photos from today's final citywide tournament at Harpers Park! A huge well done to all involved and a big thank you to Claire and the School Sports Partnership for organising a fantastic year of tournaments.



## SUMMER FAYRE - A HUGE SUCCESS!

What a fantastic day we had at this year's Summer Fayre! The sun was shining, spirits were high, and the school grounds were buzzing with excitement. From thrilling inflatables and the sizzling BBQ to our traditional stalls and an impressive array of homemade crafts, there was something for everyone to enjoy.

A heartfelt thank you goes to all our wonderful parents and carers who generously donated items, we couldn't have done it without you! The students had an incredible time, and the atmosphere was one of community, celebration, and summer fun.

A special mention must go to the brilliant student committee, who I had the pleasure of working with their hard work, creativity, and enthusiasm truly made the event shine. Together, we raised a fantastic total of £1,647, which will go towards enhancing school resources and experiences for all students. Well done, everyone!

Before the Summer Fayre officially began, our Young Carers and Students with a Parent in the Services enjoyed a private session with the zorbs and inflatables – and what a fantastic time they had! This thoughtful idea came from our dedicated Forces Club students, who wanted to celebrate summer with a free, fun-filled get-together exclusively for Services children and Young Carers. Their initiative brought plenty of smiles, laughter, and unforgettable memories. A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this special moment happen – your support means the world!

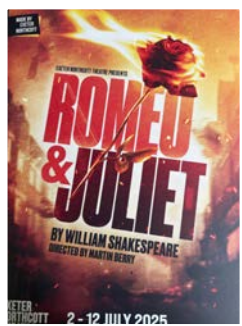


## YOUNG CARERS AND SERVICE CHILDREN EVENT



# ROMEO AND JULIET

Year 9 saw a modernised production of Romeo and Juliet at Exeter Northcott theatre on Wednesday. This was an introduction to their GCSE Shakespeare text and hopefully made them excited to study it next year!



## SPORTS DAY A CHAMPION'S FINISH TO THE YEAR!

What a way to end the PE department's year - Sports Day 2025 was a phenomenal success! After weeks of preparation and training, our students came together to compete, support each other, and celebrate their house spirit in style.

The morning kicked off with a variety of sports including football, table tennis, rowing, and dance. After a well-earned break, we moved to some fast-paced indoor athletics-based events, before heading back out for a classic afternoon of traditional track and field.



Energy and excitement were high throughout the day, especially during the much-anticipated staff vs. sixth form relay, which brought cheers and laughter from the crowd! A colourful parade of mascots helped debut our new house mascots, with students and staff proudly sporting their house colours.

Congratulations to Kitley, our overall winners this year! A huge well done to every student for your effort, determination, and sportsmanship.



# SPORTS DAY 2025



# TEN TORS

Our brilliant leaders have been presented with long service awards. Rocky- Bronze Award for 10 years. Annie and Rob for 15 years. Sally and Bob for 20 years.



Congratulations to all of the DHSG students who took part in the Ten Tors competition. A massive well done our Ten Tors Teams what an amazing achievement from each and every one of you.



## DofE Gold Presentation Buckingham Palace

We are incredibly proud of Riya, one of our outstanding Year 13 students, who has successfully completed her Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award!

Riya was recently invited to Buckingham Palace to receive her award – a truly special recognition of her commitment, resilience and all-round excellence.

Balancing the demands of A-level Chemistry, Biology and Maths, Riya still found time to complete every section of the award with passion and dedication:

Volunteering – help coach young children at a local tennis club (1 hour/week for 12 months)

Physical – Sharpened her tennis skills through weekly training (1 hour/week for 12 months)

Skill – Developed her drama and acting abilities (1 hour/week for 6 months)

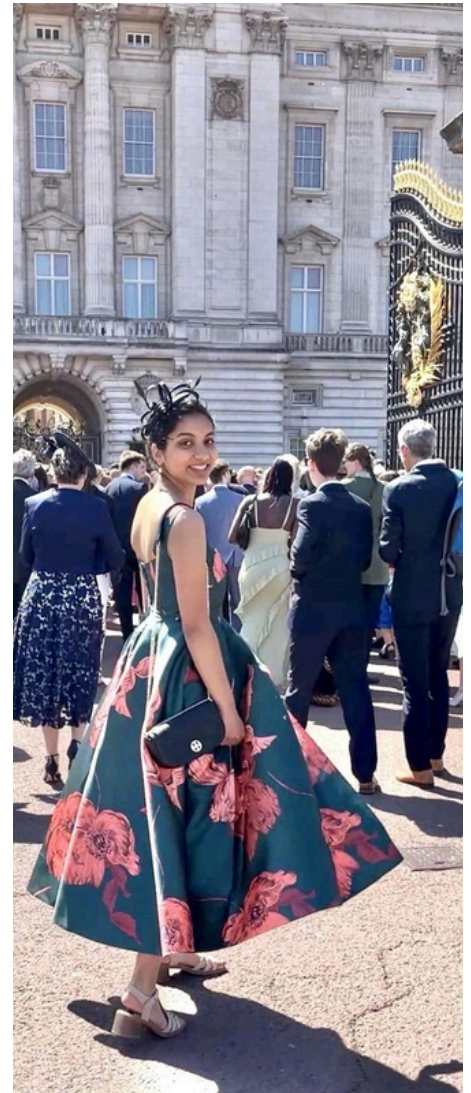
Expedition –

- Practice: Dartmoor – 3 days, 2 nights, 60 km
- Qualifying: Brecon Beacons – 4 days, 3 nights, 80 km

With a creative twist: a “Where’s Daniel?” photo series, inspired by “Where’s Wally?”

Residential – Took part in an Introduction to NHS Professions, hosted by Hampshire County Council at Basingstoke & North Hampshire Hospital (5 days, 4 nights)

Riya is a shining example of a student who has embraced every opportunity DHSG offers. We couldn't be prouder!



## DoE Bronze Practice Expedition

Glorious sunshine called for plenty of sun cream as our teams set off from Cadover Bridge, navigating their way to Princetown with the expert support of H5 Adventure's brilliant outdoor instructors.

Our students showed incredible teamwork and resilience throughout the day – from navigating tricky terrain to setting up camp, cooking meals, and still finding the energy for a lively game of rounders and a few competitive rounds of Uno!

Spirits were high as they headed into Day 2: Princetown to Burrator.

Well done to everyone that took part – you're did brilliantly and make us proud!



# SUMMER READING CHALLENGE



Get a house point for reading as little as one book, or go for the full six!

Bring your completed card to the library 8th - 19th September and tell us about your books. Every book you read gives you an entry in the prize draw!

Teachers can earn points for their house too so encourage them to join in!

Can you help enrich reading at DHSG? We invite parents and carers to sponsor our Summer Reading Challenge. We would like to offer books/book tokens as raffle prizes as part of the fun. If you feel you could kindly contribute financially to support the purchase of books, please contact [jsharp@dhsg.co.uk](mailto:jsharp@dhsg.co.uk) for more information.

# 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.



# ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY'S OLYMPIAD

Year13 Chemists took part in the rigorous and challenging 2025 Royal Society of Chemistry's Olympiad; an opportunity for students to push themselves further and excel in the chemistry field whilst developing their critical problem-solving skills, thinking more creatively, and having a chance to test their knowledge in new, real-world situations.

The 2025 paper covered topics such as:

Team GB's success in the 2024 Olympics, looking at nitrocellulose – the fast-burning powder used in clay pigeon shooting cartridges.

The compound BrAt, containing Astatine, the rarest naturally occurring element in the Earth's crust, with a total of 30g mass estimated at any point in time. Due to astatine's radioactive decay rate, like Charlie XCX's Brat Summer of 2024, BrAt doesn't last forever.

The technique of Raman spectroscopy in nanotechnology, developed by Indian physicist C.V. Raman, the first Asian to win any science Nobel Prize

A total of 16,216 students from 1502 schools participated this year. We are very proud of all who took part showing determination and resilience and are pleased to share their achievements of:



57th annual  
**Chemistry Olympiad** 2025  
UK Round One

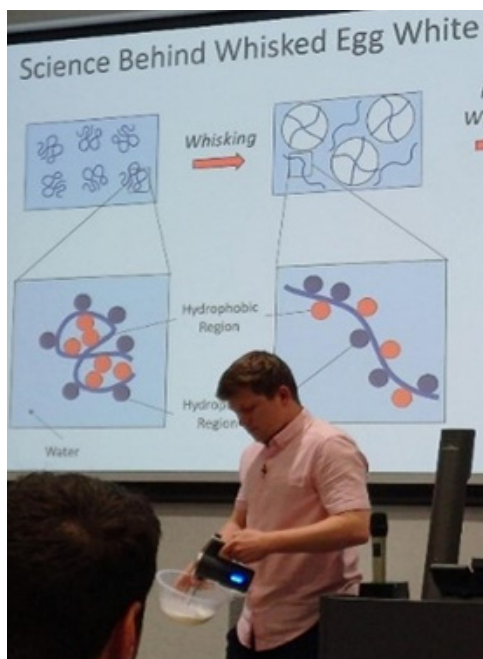


**5 SILVER AWARDS**



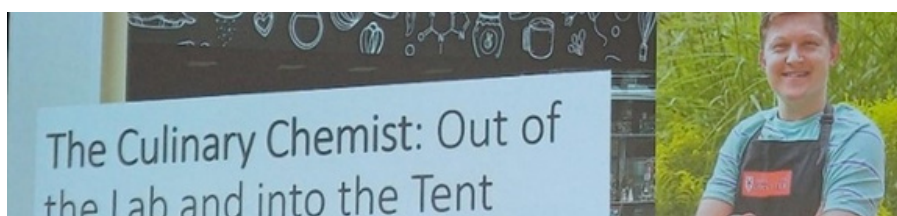
**10 BRONZE AWARDS**

## CULINARY CHEMISTRY!



Culinary Chemistry! 25 Year10-13 students attended an RSC supported after school lecture by Dr. Josh Smalley at Plymouth University. They were treated to an insight into his research work within chemical biology, the many overlaps between baking and chemistry, transferable skills in chemistry, the chemistry behind making meringues and what being in the Bake Off tent was like! The lecture ended with a beautiful and delicious fruit, cream and meringue treat for all!

Dr. Josh Smalley is a passionate science communicator, presenter and baker, with a doctorate in chemical biology. He was a finalist of the 2023 series of The Great British Bake Off, being renowned for his impressive showstopper bakes and steadfast attention to detail. In 2024 Josh founded the Science Kitchen at the University of Leicester, where he brings together the worlds of science and baking to deliver lectures, demonstrations and videos to enthuse the public and inspire the next generation of scientists. @joshpsmalley



## RSC INFOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

In April we ran the Royal Society of Chemistry's regional KS3 infographic competition in school. The brief was to design an infographic to be used to explain how chemistry can be used to help determine if there is or has ever been life under the ice on Europa, one of Jupiter's moons.

Among the many entries, Tasnia in Yr8 was awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place and a cash prize by the RSC regional office. The judges were very impressed with her knowledge of science and the creative way that the information was displayed.

We are all very proud of Tasnia and the eye-catching and informative infographic that she produced.



A huge congratulation to DHSG Yr10 students who volunteered to take part in the 2025 National Scientific Thinking Challenge.

DHSG Year10 students were placed in the top 10%, 25% and 40% of the 15,663 from 266 schools in 10 countries, including Singapore, Canada, Poland, Portugal, Germany, Thailand, Abu Dhabi and Qatar.

Our students achieved a mean score of 74% compared to the overall competition mean of 57%.

An amazing achievement, as in the words of the organisers "some of the questions were REALLY hard!".

The challenge aims to encourage and assess students' ability to apply scientific principles to unfamiliar situations and interpret data, rather than simply recalling factual knowledge. It emphasizes critical thinking skills like analysis, deduction, and hypothesis formation. By encouraging our students to critically think about scientific information, current scientific research and development, the challenge contributes to a more scientifically literate population and provides a glimpse into how scientific thinking is used in various fields. Ultimately, the challenge seeks to foster a deeper appreciation for the practical applications of science and its relevance to the world of work.



**13 GOLD AWARDS**



**15 SILVER AWARDS**



**20 BRONZE AWARDS**



## 2025 Schools' Analyst Competition

DHSG was very lucky to have been one of the 400 schools selected at random to take part in the 2025 Schools' Analyst Competition run in conjunction with The Analytical Chemistry Trust Fund, Royal Society of Chemistry, The Analytical Science Community and delivered by Northumbria University.

This challenge enables Yr12 students to demonstrate and expand on their existing chemistry knowledge, skills and aptitude for analytical science through practical analytical experiments based on relevant societal or industrial problems. The competition provides some tasks which are relatively familiar to Yr12 students, such as titrations and others which are unfamiliar, such as chromatographic separations or atomic and molecular spectroscopy.

In this year's competition our students took on the role of analytical chemists assisting the Department of Housing to evaluate the suitability of an old industrial area for building new houses. They were provided with samples taken from the soils and waste heaps of the proposed development site to analyse. Nine committed teams each consisting of 3 Yr12 chemists took part in 3 practical sessions and completed their supporting research, associated complex calculations, inferences and conclusions over 6 lunchtime sessions before submitting their finished report. The aim was to use their skills as analytical chemists to determine whether the ground was suitable for building houses on, and if not, to suggest how developers might make the area safe.

The teams below were awarded certificates by the assessors at Northumbria University and received the following feedback from Dr. Graeme Turnbull, the RSC Schools' Analysts Competition Coordinator.

"The quality of titrations was excellent, and you've done yourselves proud working through complex calculations. You also had good eyes on the flame tests, particularly as some of the metals give rather similar colours."



**1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE -  
HANNA, LILY  
AND SOPHIA**



**2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE -  
BEN, ISAAC  
AND JAMES**



**3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE -  
ELLIE, ERIN  
AND ROSE**

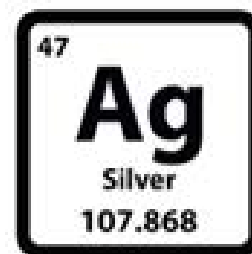


# CAMBRIDGE CHEMISTRY CHALLENGE

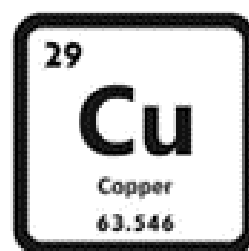


Cambridge Chemistry Challenge Lower 6th

Another record-breaking participation in the annual Year12 Cambridge Chemistry Challenge; a competition that aims to stretch and challenge students interested in Chemistry and being an excellent opportunity to take students significantly beyond the A level syllabus to encourage them to think about science in the way they would at University. We are pleased to announce the following certification; 5 Silver and 7 Copper certificates. Congratulations to everyone who took part demonstrating great strength of character and resilience 😊.



This year there was a question entitled "This is a non-boring question about boron!". Where students learnt about the worlds' largest single boron mine in the town Boron in California where the compound borax is mined and despite its rarity, boron and its compounds have many uses, from the production of fibreglass to the synthesis of novel drugs designed to treat cancer or overcome resistance of some bacteria to antibiotics.



## DURACELL BIG BATTERY HUNT



We continue to be part of the Duracell Big Battery Hunt, a nationwide recycling challenge inspiring our students to power change across our school and community.

Did you know that it is estimated that only 27% of batteries are recycled in the UK and that we throw away approximately 600 million batteries every year! Laid end-to-end that would reach from the UK to Australia and back again!

We have collected 1500 batteries this year, which unfortunately isn't enough to be collected this year, so please keep hunting!



# REMINDER - PE KIT

As previously communicated, our former PE kit will be phased out by the end of July 2025. All students in all year groups will be expected to be wearing the VX3 kit on their return to school in September 2025. We have partnered with VX3, a local sportswear brand based in Torbay. Their motto is Veni Vidi Vici which translates to I came, I saw, I conquered. They have ethical trade, environmental and sustainability policies and are providing us with a kit which is modern, practical and above all affordable. The new kit does not need to be purchased immediately. It is available to purchase when you need to buy new items, using the link below:

<https://vx-3.com/collections/devonport-high-school-for-girls>

There is a mix of compulsory and optional items. The compulsory items of our PE kit are: Fortis Black/Amber Tee or Fortis Black/Amber Polo Fortis Black/Amber Hoodie or Fortis Black/Amber HZ Sweat Black Ludus Shorts.

Plain (no logo) black leggings/jogging bottoms and black Playing Socks White Sports Socks are also required but these do not need to be purchased from VX3.

All students must wear PE uniform for health and safety reasons. The schools PE Kit is supplied directly by the sportswear company VX3. Please find below a list of both compulsory and optional items:

## Compulsory items (from VX3)

Fortis Black/Amber Tee or Fortis Black/Amber Polo  
Fortis Black/Amber Hoodie or Fortis Black/Amber HZ Sweat  
Black Ludus Shorts  
Black Playing Socks

## Optional items (from VX3)

Black Primus Baselayer  
Fortis Black/Amber FZ Rain Jacket  
Black Solum Tracksuit Pants or Black Braca Trackpants  
Black Baseball Cap  
Black/Amber/Antique White Bobble Hat  
Black Performance Boot Bag  
Black Performance Backpack  
Black Performance Kit Bag

## Other Compulsory Items

(can be purchased from any supplier)

- Shin pads.
- Trainers suitable for sports, not fashion-wear
- White Sports Socks



## TERM DATES - 2025/26

Term 1	Friday 5th September 2025 Year 7 & 12 Students only Monday 8th September 2025 to Friday 24th October 2025
Holiday	Monday 27th October 2025 to Friday 7th November 2025
Term 2	Monday 10th November 2025 to Friday 19th December 2025
Holiday	Monday 22nd December 2025 to Friday 2nd January 2026
Term 3	Monday 5th January 2026 to Friday 13th February 2026
Holiday	Monday 16th February 2026 to Friday 20th February 2026
Term 4	Monday 23rd February 2026 to Thursday 2nd April 2026
Holiday	Friday 3rd April 2026 to Friday 17th April 2026
Term 5	Monday 20th April 2026 to Friday 22nd May 2026
Holiday	Monday 25th May 2026 to Friday 29th May 2026
Term 6	Monday 1st June 2026 to Friday 17th July 2026

Bank Holidays	Thursday 25th December, Friday 26th December, Thursday 1st January, Friday 3rd April, Monday 6th April, Monday 4th May, Monday 25th May and Monday 31st August
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