



## HEAD LINES

Dear parents and carers,

The Autumn Term is always the busiest term of the year, and this one has been no exception. Our new year 7 students have settled well. The annual team building day at Escot Park took place in late September and helped students get to know one another and start to form their friendships. We also welcomed new Year 12 students who have also had a positive start to their time at DHSG. Much is packed into 14 weeks such as open evenings, concert rehearsals, clubs, parents' evenings, mock examinations and training days, to mention but a few. There have also been some fantastic sporting achievements at the school, which are featured later in this newsletter.

We held our annual Charity Week event in October. This was pavilioned with the usual fantastic atmosphere of community and fellowship that DHSG is known for, and throughout the week we had a range of brilliant events, wonderfully conceived and brilliantly planned. From cake sales, to locker bingo, movie sessions, raffles, soak the teacher and a homage to the Hunger Games where teachers fought for survival in the tennis courts, using water pistols as the weapons was one of the highlights. It was also lovely to see Mrs Tuckwell's tutor group bring back their now famous drive-through, which again served as a brilliantly imaginative way of raising money.

The events raised a fantastic £4015.17, and showed once again as a school that we take our charity and community work very seriously. It was wonderful to see the leadership and teamwork on display across the year groups. and how so many of our students were taking part. The tutor group that raised the most money was 7E led by Mademoiselle Dupas.

*continued...*

## END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

Last day of term: **Tuesday 19 December.** Students should wear normal school uniform.

**Early finish at 1.30pm.** Students will be dismissed at this time. Please check the bus times, but contract buses are scheduled to arrive shortly after this time.



On 4 December, we had our annual Carol Concert at St Andrew's Church. This was a fantastic celebration of student talent. There were two performances, with year 7 and 8 students watching in the afternoon and parents and carers in the evening. My thanks go to all of those involved with the concert, both for the many rehearsals and their performances.

On behalf of DHSG students, staff and Trustees, Happy Christmas and New Year. I look forward to welcoming all students back on Thursday 4 January at the usual time.

My very best wishes,



*Lee Sargeant  
Head Teacher*





# MEET THE STAFF

*Mrs McLeod – Deputy Office Manager/Administrative Assistant*

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

I first became a member of the DHSG staff last year, joining the office team in September 2022. As a previous student of DHS, I was thrilled to be coming back to my alma mater knowing that I would be part of the community that gave me such fond memories. I had not worked in a school before this one but did experience a variety of different job sectors including publishing, theatre and film, and corporate law in client relations.

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

One of the greatest things about the school is how the students are really celebrated; in their achievements and in themselves. They are given many wonderful opportunities to highlight their talents and explore their interests through events and trips. The staff in every department put so much effort into making the students' experiences memorable and remarkable.

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

My spare time is usually spent outdoors with my family and our dog, Jet. We are lucky that the area has so many wonderful places to explore, wintry beach walks or woodland wanders are regular favourites. Our two children (aged 7 and 3) love learning about nature, and after collecting shells or searching for fossils, they are always keen to try new hot chocolate spots. On rainier days, I can usually be found in my kitchen. I am a big foodie and love to bake; I often make celebration cakes for events, family, and friends.



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

I am currently reading "If I Had Your Face" by Frances Cha. Four parallel stories set in contemporary Seoul, Korea, follows four young women struggling to navigate a world defined by consumerist ideals and impossible standards. The novel is about female strength, resilience and finding solace in friendship.

***Who inspires you?***

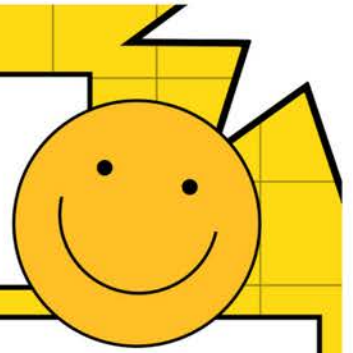
I find inspiration in many places, but I am constantly inspired by my children. I find myself truly invested in their interests and love learning new things with them, whether that be dinosaur fossils, outer space, or Peppa Pig characters. Their enthusiasm and excitement about something they are learning inspires me to find new ways to engage with them.

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

I would love to travel more with my family. We have some great plans to visit Norway, Hungary, and Australia (to name a few) in the next couple of years. Should the opportunity ever arise it would be a wonderful experience to live abroad and be fully immersed in another culture.



# Follow Us



# On Tiktok!



DHSG 6th Form

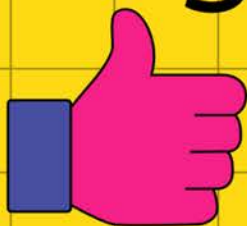


Scan QR code to follow account



@ 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.

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



# THE GEOGRAPHY CURRICULUM IN LOWER, MIDDLE AND UPPER YEARS

Year	Cycle	Content
Year 7	Cycle 1	<b>Our Plymouth</b> Settlement OS map skills Demographics Weather Rock cycle Rivers
	Cycle 2	<b>Their Plymouth</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atlas skills</li> <li>• Population density and distribution</li> <li>• Climate</li> <li>• Coasts</li> <li>• Earthquakes</li> </ul>
	Cycle 3	<b>Past Plymouth</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biomes</li> <li>• Tropical Rainforest</li> <li>• Volcanoes</li> <li>• Hurricanes</li> </ul>
Year 8	Cycle 1	<b>Reimagining Russia</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location, locale and sense of place</li> <li>• Resources</li> <li>• Development</li> <li>• Population policy</li> <li>• Geopolitics</li> </ul>
	Cycle 2	<b>Global Garments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Globalisation</li> <li>• Transnational Corporations</li> <li>• Fair trade fashion</li> <li>• Ethical consumers</li> </ul>
	Cycle 3	<b>Climate challenges</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change</li> <li>• Hindu Kush regional study focusing on glacial retreat</li> <li>• Sahel regional study focusing on desertification</li> <li>• Mitigation and adaptation</li> </ul>

Year	Cycle	Content
Year 9	Cycle 1	<b>Paper 1:</b> Rivers
	Cycle 2	<b>Paper 2:</b> Changing Economic World
	Cycle 3	<b>Paper 2:</b> Changing Economic World <b>Paper 1:</b> Coasts
Year 10	Cycle 1	<b>Paper 1:</b> Natural Hazards
	Cycle 2	<b>Paper 1:</b> Natural Hazards <b>Paper 2:</b> Urban Issues and Challenges
	Cycle 3	<b>Paper 2:</b> Urban Issues and Challenges <b>Paper 3:</b> Human Fieldwork
Year 11	Cycle 1	<b>Paper 3:</b> Physical Fieldwork Paper 1: Living World
	Cycle 2	<b>Paper 1:</b> Living World <b>Paper 2:</b> Resources Management
	Cycle 3	<b>Paper 3:</b> Pre-release and revision Revision and Examinations





# THE GEOGRAPHY CURRICULUM IN LOWER, MIDDLE AND UPPER YEARS

Year	Cycle	Content
Year 12	Cycle 1	<b>Paper 1: Hazards</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The concept of hazard in a geographical context</li> <li>Plate tectonics</li> <li>Volcanic hazards</li> <li>Seismic hazards</li> <li>Storm hazards</li> </ul> <b>Paper 2: Changing Places</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The nature and importance of places</li> <li>Changing places- relationships, connections, meaning and representation</li> <li>Relationships and connections Meaning and representation</li> <li>Quantitative and qualitative skills</li> <li>Place study of a local place</li> <li>Contrasting place study of a distant place</li> </ul> Fieldwork Trip
	Cycle 2	<b>Paper 1: Hazards</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fires in nature</li> <li>Case study of a multi hazardous environment beyond the UK</li> <li>Case study at a local scale of a specified place in a hazardous setting</li> </ul> <b>Paper 1: The Carbon Cycle</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water and carbon cycles as natural systems</li> <li>The water cycle</li> <li>The carbon cycle</li> </ul> <b>Paper 1: Coastal Systems and Landscapes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coasts as natural systems</li> <li>Systems and processes</li> <li>Coastal landscape development</li> <li>Coastal management</li> </ul> Fieldwork Trip
	Cycle 3	<b>Paper 1: Water and Carbon</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water, carbon, climate and life on Earth</li> <li>Quantitative and qualitative skills</li> <li>Case study of a tropical rainforest setting</li> <li>Case study of a river catchment(s) at a local scale</li> </ul> <b>Paper 1: Coastal Systems and Landscapes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quantitative and qualitative skills</li> <li>Case study of a coastal environment at a local scale</li> <li>Case study of a contrasting coastal landscape beyond the UK</li> </ul> Non- Exam Assessment

Year	Cycle	Content
Year 13	Cycle 1	<b>Paper 2: Global Systems and Global Governance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Globalisation</li> <li>Global systems</li> <li>International trade and access to markets</li> <li>Global governance</li> </ul> Non- Exam Assessment <b>Paper 2: Population and the Environment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment and population</li> <li>Environment, health and well-being</li> <li>Population change</li> <li>Principles of population ecology and their application to human populations</li> </ul>
	Cycle 2	<b>Paper 2: Global Systems and Global Governance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 'global commons'</li> <li>Antarctica as a global common</li> <li>Globalisation critique</li> </ul> Quantitative and qualitative skills <b>Paper 2: Population and the Environment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global population futures</li> <li>Case study of a country/society experiencing specific patterns of overall population change</li> <li>Case study of a specified local area to illustrate and analyse the relationship between place and health</li> </ul>
	Cycle 3	Revision and public examinations Revision and public examinations



# THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees are made up of a range of stakeholders who contribute a wide range of skills and experience and provide an independent viewpoint. All Trustees want to make a positive contribution to students' education and to ensure that the school is run to promote student achievement.

The Trustees are a corporate team and have three key functions. We work with the school's senior leadership team to:

- Ensure that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school are clearly defined;
- Ensure the sound, proper and effective use of the school's financial resources.

In addition, the Trustees will:

- Hold the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its students and the appraisal of staff.

The running and management of the school is done by the Head Teacher and Senior Leadership Team. The Board's role is to provide effective challenge and support to the Head Teacher and Senior Leadership team to ensure excellence in all areas of DHSG.

The Board of Trustees consists of the Head Teacher together with a number of other trustees, some elected from the parent body.

The Board is led by a Chair and Vice Chair. Trustees come from a wide range of backgrounds and are chosen to ensure a balance of skills across the Board. Trustees are generally in post for four years with the option to be reappointed for a further four years with a cap of eight years' service in total. The combination of experienced trustees and new recruits ensures both continuity and a fresh approach.

The Trustees meet once a month in which the strategic work of the Board takes place.

We are currently looking for more Trustees. If you feel you could give up some time to support the work of the school as a Trustee, please email an expression of interest to [governance@dhsg.co.uk](mailto:governance@dhsg.co.uk)





## MISSION STATEMENT



The Trustees and Head Teacher are currently reviewing the mission statement and ethos of the school. We would like to have your input as parents and carers into this and would ask that you offer 3 words that you believe describe DHSG's ethos using the form below. Please could you aim to complete this by 11 January 2024. Many thanks.

<https://forms.office.com/e/4nK5aYv6Ju>

## GARDENING CLUB UPDATE

This term we became the latest member of the RHS Campaign for School Gardening and upon signing up we were awarded levels 1-3 of their school gardening awards. The gardening club were rewarded with 3 gardening books, an array of seeds ready for the spring and vouchers to spend at our local garden centre. With these vouchers we bought ourselves a new raised bed, a selection of herbs to grow in it and an olive tree, now named Oliver. We're now working hard towards achieving level 4 and preparing for the growing season ahead. Mr Evans.





## SPARX UPDATES



At DHSG, students are now using Sparx for their Maths, English (called Sparx Reader) and Science homeworks. Sparx is a digital platform which enables students to revise and work on their subjects, as part of a homework package. 1000s of schools and their students take part in this and each week we receive the leaderboard for each of the subjects, in terms of performance. DHSG students constantly top this leaderboard which is very impressive! We have recently started using Sparx Science, this academic year.

Last year, DHSG was one of the top performing schools for Sparx Reader and Sparx Maths for the academic year 2022-2023.

For Sparx Reader, we have won the gold award for highest achiever; the gold award for greatest progress and the bronze award for most SRP collected.

For Sparx Maths, we have won the gold award for highest achiever.

Additionally, DHSG was one of the top performing schools across all Sparx Learning systems, winning gold for highest achiever.

Receiving a gold award requires being within the top 5 schools using Sparx Learning systems, silver requires being within the top 10 and bronze requires being within the top 15.

We would like to say a huge well done and congratulations to our students for their dedication to their learning and progress across Sparx Maths and Sparx Reader.





# SCHOOL FUND

Our school fund is a really important way of fundraising for activities and financial support that cannot be otherwise funded from public funds. Each year, we request a minimum donation of £10 for each student. We use the money raised through the School Fund for the following:

- Prizes and Decorations for the annual Christmas lunch in the main hall
- Activities for the Year 11 and Year 13 Celebration days
- Sporting activities and competitions
- Cookery competitions
- Financial support for students experiencing financial difficulties who are not eligible for pupil premium, enabling them to attend trips and visits
- Our annual Carol Concert
- Our annual Speech Day

Payment for School Fund can be made via your cashless account on ipayimpact.

We would really appreciate your support in donating to this fund, these enriching activities are vitally important post- Covid lockdowns





# SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS



## Netball

Our under 16 Netball Squad took a trip to Churston Ferres Grammar School this term. It was great to see the students on court. Well done to all those involved.



## Netball

We would like to extend our warmest congratulations to the Year 7 Netball Squad who participated in the PSSP End of Season Tournament at Hele's School yesterday. We're thrilled to announce that we were able to enter two teams, with the Dolphins coming third in their pool winning four games and narrowly losing the other two by one goal. The Diamond were unbeaten in their pool, winning all six matches and beating a strong Stoke team in the final. Every single student played brilliantly throughout the tournament, and as a school, we are immensely proud of them. A massive thank you to Mrs Cole and Miss Revell for all their time and effort this year in developing Netball here at DHSG.



## Football

Our under 13 footballers showed incredible teamwork and skill at the EFL Utilita Girls Cup! On Tuesday, we battled through exciting matches and reached the final against Plymstock. Despite a nail-biting game, the Y7 and 8 students narrowly lost 1-0, securing a fantastic 2nd place out of 12 teams from schools across Plymouth!



## Central Venue Inclusion Football Event

Our school's football team truly shone on the field, representing us with pride and team spirit. Kudos to the team for not only showcasing their skills but also supporting players from other schools who needed a helping hand.

A big shout-out to the SSP for organising this fantastic event. We can't wait for the next one coming up in January 2024!



## Cross Country

Our cross country runners braved the elements this term, showcasing incredible effort and determination! Fantastic results across all school years – big congratulations to everyone!

## Table Tennis

Our Year 7 and 8 table tennis students participated in the 2023 Devon Schools Table Tennis Association Team Championships. DHSG secured both the 1st and 2nd positions in the U13 competition. As a result of this success, they have advanced to represent Devon in the upcoming South West final, scheduled to take place at Eggbuckland Community College on Sunday 4th February. Congratulations to all the students who participated!







### **Football**

Recently, we saw another first for DHSG, we had our first boy's fixture. The boys played a 5 a-side match against Plymouth High at Harpers Park. Thank you to everyone involved in making this happen.



### **Netball**

Well done to the Year 7 B Team that represented the school for the first time at the PSSP Netball Central Venue tournament at Heles School yesterday afternoon. They won both matches against ASAP & PHSG.



### **Sports Leadership**

Our Year 9 students recently took part in the Plymouth Schools, Sports Partnership Leadership Event at the Plymouth Life Centre.



### **Basketball**

This term, we have been hosting taster sessions for Basketball at the Life Centre, which is a new after-school club introduced this year. We feel fortunate to have had Maddie and Matt from @Unitythroughbasketball join us as coaches during these sessions, and they have generously contributed 10 brand-new basketballs to the school. We express our sincere gratitude for this generous donation. Our basketball club will continue to meet every Wednesday after school in the Gym.



### **Netball**

This term we saw the opening netball fixtures of the season for the school. It started with our year 10s playing the year 11s and then games against PHSG and Lipson. The year 10s had a flying start and won all of their games. The year 11s improved over the evening and took the win against Lipson. Both teams looked great in the new VX3 dresses, showed great skill on the court and represented the school excellently off the court. Well done DHSG!

### **Netball**

Our under 16s took part in a pre-season Netball Tournament this term. The students gave their all in each game and really stepped up on court. The teams are due to play another fixture in the battle for 1st and 2nd place, between DHSG A and Ivybridge CC, and 3rd and 4th place between DHSG B vs PHSG. A shout-out to VX3... we are loving the new netball dresses! Well done all.





# PTFA UPDATE AND FUNDRAISING

Thank you to all of you who filled out the Microsoft Form about fundraising ideas and also to those who expressed an interest in helping.

Dates for your diary:

PTFA meeting – Wednesday 10th January Sixth Form Centre 6.00pm - 7.00pm

PTFA meeting – Wednesday 28th February Sixth Form Centre 6.00pm - 7.00pm

We've got a lot of exciting events coming up, such as:

QUIZ NIGHT- Dining Hall - Friday 2nd February £5 pp teams of 6. Bring your own nibbles and drinks. Prizes for best dressed table and winners on the night. More details to follow.

RAFFLE – Could we please request donations of any unloved Christmas presents or if you have an excess of chocolate, bottles or Smellies. These make ideal prizes.

MOVIE NIGHT – Year 7 and Year 8 - Thursday 18th January 3.45pm - 6.30pm We'll send a Microsoft Form out for those that wish to attend.

Lunch time clubs, competitions and talent shows.

Summer Fayre Plus many more!



DHSGPTFA





# CAROL CONCERT

*Christmas 2023*





# RECENT INSTRUMENTAL AND SINGING EXAM RESULTS

A huge well done to everyone who participated in music exams at DHSG recently.

## WOODWIND

Sofie Haycock	Flute	Grade 3 Merit
Sofie Easterbrook	Clarinet	Grade 2 Distinction
Lowenna Cawrse	Saxophone	Grade 6 Merit
Bethany Longdon	Saxophone	Grade 4 Merit
Izzy Cartwright	Clarinet	Grade 4 Merit
Keira Browne	Clarinet	Grade 8 Distinction
Lily Becker	Flute	Grade 1 Distinction
Sophie Weemys	Flute	Grade 1 Distinction
Beatrice Jenkins	Flute	Grade 4 Distinction
Sophie Weemys	Flute	Grade 2 Distinction

## CELLO

Jessica Tang	Grade 6 Merit
Clara Spake-Urwin	Grade 5 Distinction
Marguerite Dauteuille	Grade 1 Distinction

## BRASS

Felicity Pahdi	Trombone	Grade 2 Distinction
Felicity Pahdi	Trombone	Grade 3 Distinction

## DRUMS

Eva Marie-Hughes	Grade 2 Merit
Katriona Graham	Grade 3 Merit

## VIOLIN

Esther Wooldridge	Grade 3 Merit
Lottie Mackey	Grade 4 Pass
Megan Woock	Grade 5 Pass
Nieve Gristed	Grade 2 Merit
Lola Payne	Grade 3 Pass

## MUSICAL THEATRE

Lily Grimes	Singing	Grade 5 Merit
-------------	---------	---------------

## THEORY

Megan Woock	Grade 5 Pass
Beatrice Jenkins	Grade 5 Distinction

## SINGING

Isobel Thomas	Grade 1 Distinction
Talitha Price	Grade 1 Merit
Katie Etheridge	Grade 1 Merit
Bella Andrews	Grade 1 Pass
Louisa Adams	Grade 3 Merit
Imogen Rossiter	Grade 3 Merit
Freyja Pither	Grade 6 Merit
Ingrid Feliu-Morstang	Grade 7 Merit
Zoe Bigham	Grade 1 Distinction
Kutaila Masikini	Grade 1 Distinction
Helena Mackey	Grade 1 Merit
Elowen Reeve	Grade 1 Merit
Isobel Thomas	Grade 2 Distinction
Jess Koshti-Richman	Grade 2 Merit
Katie Etheridge	Grade 3 Merit
Freyja Pither	Grade 7 Distinction

## PIANO

Martha Beard	Grade 2 Merit
Ayanti Ekpoiffong	Grade 1 Merit
Thalia Reynolds	Grade 1 Merit
Naya Smith	Grade 1 Awaiting results
Molly Harris	Grade 3 Awaiting results
Ara Rahman	Grade 3 Pass
Inayah Rahman	Grade 1 Pass
Michele Ajao	Grade 3 Merit
Isabelle Percy	Grade 2 Merit
Alexis Hutton	Grade 1 Distinction
Jasmine Bull	Grade 4 Merit
Ada Fiteri	Grade 2 Merit
Darcie Carey	Grade 1 Pass
Evie Tucker	Grade 2 Merit
Cicely Cox	Grade 2 Distinction
Olivia Oakes	Grade 3 Merit
Katherine Wilson	Grade 3 Pass
Ella Whitford	Grade 4 Pass
Molly Harris	Grade 2 Merit
Eryn Tucker	Grade 1 Pass
Elizabeth Pestrige	Grade 3 Merit
Rianna Wong	Grade 1 Pass
Lily Grimes	Grade 4 Pass
Katie Mann	Grade 6 Merit

*Congratulations*





# REWARDS

With new House Captains being appointed in Yr 12 our team has grown and an upcoming artistic challenge has been set, in the desire to offer multi-skill events across the House Competition calendar. We look forward to showing you the amazing work we know our students will produce and seeing which House will take the lead in the new year.

Results so far:

<b>Edgcumbe</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>Fleet</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>Saltram</b>	<b>280</b>
<b>Hartland</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>Kitley</b>	<b>277</b>		

## PERIOD PRODUCT SCHEME

With thanks to the Period Product Scheme for Schools, DHSG is pleased to be able to offer a wide variety of sanitary products to all students for their use both in and out of school.

Disposable period products can be found in every toilet block around the school, as well as the Nurture Base and Main Reception and can be collected discreetly.

In addition, we also offer a range of sustainable sanitary products available throughout the entire year to students, and their families should they need them. The re-useable products include;

- Menstrual Cups
- Re-useable Pads
- Period Pants in a variety of sizes.

These can be provided upon request via Miss Crowther or students can order products by completing the online form using the link below, also found on the Year Group Team.  
[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=fjDyFJKbRUmBukGB\\_06W24KLxC1nPlhPmHLmr3-1nvJURDU3QzFDMzdSRlpISEISSUJIMVgxTktFSi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=fjDyFJKbRUmBukGB_06W24KLxC1nPlhPmHLmr3-1nvJURDU3QzFDMzdSRlpISEISSUJIMVgxTktFSi4u)

Please keep this service in mind as the holidays approach and contact Miss Crowther should you wish for any supplies to be brought home.

**FREE  
PERIOD  
PRODUCTS  
AVAILABLE @ DHSG**

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





# A YEAR IN THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

## 2023 - 2024

The Science Department has been very busy this academic year providing many opportunities for enrichment, cross-curricular work and stretch and challenge for our students.

### September

Staffing news – We were pleased to have Dr M Morley and Mr D Prideaux join the Science team as Head of Science and Head of Biology respectively.



*"I grew up in Torquay before attending Cambridge University as an undergraduate and going on to complete my PhD in the Cavendish Laboratory. After completing the PGCE at Exeter University I started my teaching career in Plymouth*

*before moving to Newton Abbot and it's great to be back in Plymouth again. I've loved every minute of my time at DHSG since starting as Head of Science in September. Now, more than ever, Science is vital in the education of our next generation and I am excited to be able to work with the next generation of future female scientists!"*

**Dr M Morley**



*"As a proud Plymothian it is a real privilege to be working at such a prestigious school and I am excited about becoming part of this fantastic community. I have been blown away by the students' behaviour to learning and their enthusiasm towards all*

*aspects of their school life. I am very much looking forward to getting stuck into developing the biology curriculum and continuing the great work that has already been done by Mr Blackford and his outstanding team."*

**Mr D Prideaux**

### Science in the holiday transition project.

We welcomed another new cohort into DHSG and were completely blown away by their transition science work. There was huge participation in this activity and both the quality and creativity was impressive; ranging from a model brain, a study of fungi, solar system models, a project on the Periodic Table, models and explanations of the life cycles of caterpillars and a model of the hydrological cycle, to name but a few!

Our first extracurricular activity took place in September, with Yr8 students taking part in the IET Faraday© Challenge Day. We were the first school this academic year to take part in the challenge and so the details were secret until the end of the competition. The students were given the opportunity to research, design and make prototype solutions for real-life engineering problems and to learn about careers in STEM. The teams raced against the clock to solve a problem, putting their engineering and technology skills to the test.



*"I enjoyed doing the Faraday challenge. It was very fun having a new experience and trying out engineering and to see how engineering can help people with their everyday lives."*





October



The Royal Institution  
Science Lives Here

## Masterclass network

2021-22

Fifteen Yr12 Physicists and Mr Moore attended a training day hosted at Kingsbridge College by the Royal Institution ([rigb.org](http://rigb.org)). The Royal Institution are famously known for their Christmas lectures and work to promote science and science education worldwide. The aim was to train students to develop a series of lessons for primary school children to further promote liaisons between DHSG and primary schools, as well as teaching younger students about Physics and Maths. Students had a fantastic experience and were fully engaged and inspired to think imaginatively about their subject, jumping on the opportunity to exercise their creativity

*"I really enjoyed building my teaching skills and learning how to share things that I am passionate about. I am looking forward to the summer and helping to enthuse primary children about Physics."*

Biology week was celebrated via an inspirational assembly delivered by Mr Thomas to celebrate the remarkable life and work of Primatologist Dame Jane Goodall. The overarching message from this was a powerful one, "Have dreams, be curious, and be passionate about something." Mr Thomas challenged all of us to channel our passion and curiosity to make a positive impact on the world and for those who already have a passion to deepen their knowledge and commitment.



Mr Moore was proud to share the success of Lowenna in Yr12 who formally received her Arkwright Engineering Scholarship at the Headquarters of the Institute of Engineering and Technology at Savoy Place London. Lowenna's application went through a rigorous process with various stages, including a formal interview whilst taking her GCSE'S in June. She had to present a concept design of which she impressed the judges with a one-handed apple core implement for people with limited strength. Lowenna firstly generated many designs on paper, considering the initial purpose of the implement, she then considered its mechanics and practical forces, before generating a working design

after mastering a 3D CAD software package. Lowenna was also fortunate to attract sponsorship from a specialist 3D printing company to produce a working prototype.

Nationally there were just 328 Arkwright Engineering Scholarships awarded this year, of which 121 were presented to girls. The awards strive to break down the barriers and misconceptions preventing young people, particularly girls and students from underrepresented groups, from engaging with engineering, by providing them with the confidence, skills, and real-world learning to thrive in STEM. Lowenna will now receive mentoring from an engineering company and have the opportunity to attend national lectures and events whilst studying her A levels at DHSG.

*"There were three parts of the Arkwright application, for the first I designed with a CAD software and constructed a single-handed apple cutter, getting the parts generously 3D printed by Xometry UK, Chelmsford as a sponsorship. The second was an aptitude test in which certain*



*problems were posed and we were tasked with designing and displaying our solutions in a set amount of time - definitely the hardest part of the application. The third and final was an interview with Arkwright and Smallpeice Trust representatives. Once I found out I got the award in mid-September, I looked forward to the ceremony in London and a number of opportunities to find out more about engineering career possibilities - with the help of a provided mentor - and meet people in the industry. As well as experience and connections - like one I'm hopefully attending at Cambridge University in the new year. The award also provides a monetary prize which can be spent on many enriching events and equipment, to help my A-level studies."*





Mr Prideaux ran an Invertebrates in Autumn photography competition and we had some wonderful entries from Yr7 all the way up to sixth form and staff. It was great to see how engaged the students were and it reinforced how, given the opportunity, our students will go above and beyond. He also took our students on a Moss Safari. 18 enthusiastic young biologists delved into the microscopic world to discover the wonders of moss! They enthusiastically hunted for the 'big 5' which included nematodes, moss mites, rotifers, gastotrichs and the ever-elusive tardigrade. This event was such a success that we needed to put on a second date!



The Chemistry Department got involved with a spooky Halloween experiment, the famous elephant's toothpaste demonstration carried out in a pumpkin!

## November

Chemistry week was celebrated with a virtual presentation from Mrs Pierce about careers in Chemistry to tutor groups and the vast array of opportunities open to our students and links to the Royal Society of Chemistry careers game. Middle school and Upper school students had some thought provoking and maybe eye-opening career opportunities shared via their year group Team, to inspire them about where a qualification in Chemistry could lead and different routes into them. The big screen in reception was also full of inspirational women working in Chemistry today. She also shared our annual firework and bonfire safety message alongside some chemistry, so that everyone could enjoy a safe and informed evening. We also held an open lab for students and staff to carry out some flame testing of their own and to see the rainbow flames demonstration.

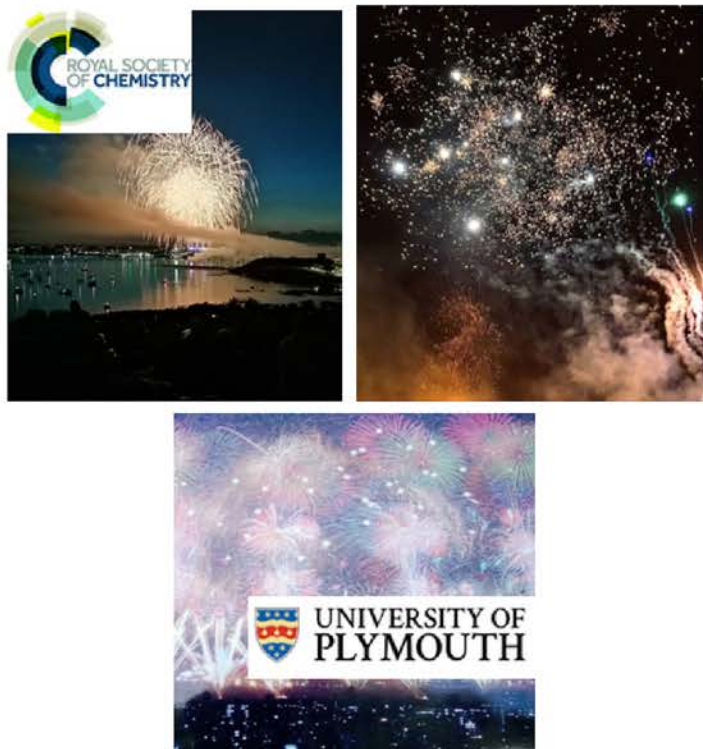


*"I very much enjoyed reliving elements of my A-Level Chemistry and trying to remember what colour each flame would be."*





Another photography competition was launched with a bonfire night theme, and we were inundated with superb images awarding competency merits for creativity and a small prize for our winning entries from lower, middle and upper school.



The Chemistry department also facilitated Yr12 students attending a Chemistry Meet and Greet: Placements and Future Employers event hosted at the University of Plymouth in conjunction with the Royal Society of Chemistry. A number of our students attended this event that 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 mixture of insightful presentations, glimpses into industry-based placements and networking.



*"I really liked learning about the different research projects companies were working on. It made me realise a small group of people could create something that can affect so many people positively. It was really worth going to."*

Towards the end of the month, the Chemistry Department also entered the Regional Top of the Bench competition in conjunction with the Royal Society of Chemistry and the University of Plymouth. The competition involves a Team consisting of two Yr9 students, one Yr10 and one Yr11 student working collaboratively on a variety of Chemistry challenges and engaging with a remote practical investigation: Laboratory based spectrophotometric determination of nitrate in river water. This was an undergraduate level practical that involves fieldwork and provided an introduction into the practical skills and approach required by environmental analytical scientists to measure and assess environmentally important ions in river water using relevant instrumental methods of analysis and to assess the environmental significance. Our Team consisting of Lulu, Evie, Beatrice, and Lily did incredibly well in the regional final, a fantastic achievement and we are incredibly proud of them.



Five Yr12 students have signed up to the ongoing Dirt is Good, peer coaching project run by Dr Little and attended their online training delivered by Future Foundations, to become DHSG changemakers and continue the good work of previous years. This is a global programme encouraging Yr12 students to coach younger years in delivering a social or environmental project. They have already started applying coaching skills to guide Green Team through the Woodland Trust's Green Tree Award. They helped produce an assembly for National Tree Week which was delivered virtually and seen by over 400 students.

*"The programme is about developing our skills as young leaders whilst encouraging sustainability within our school. We have hopes to either: plant more trees on site to make our school greener, create a bug hotel + more wildflower planting within the school or work with gardening club to evolve the ecology area."*



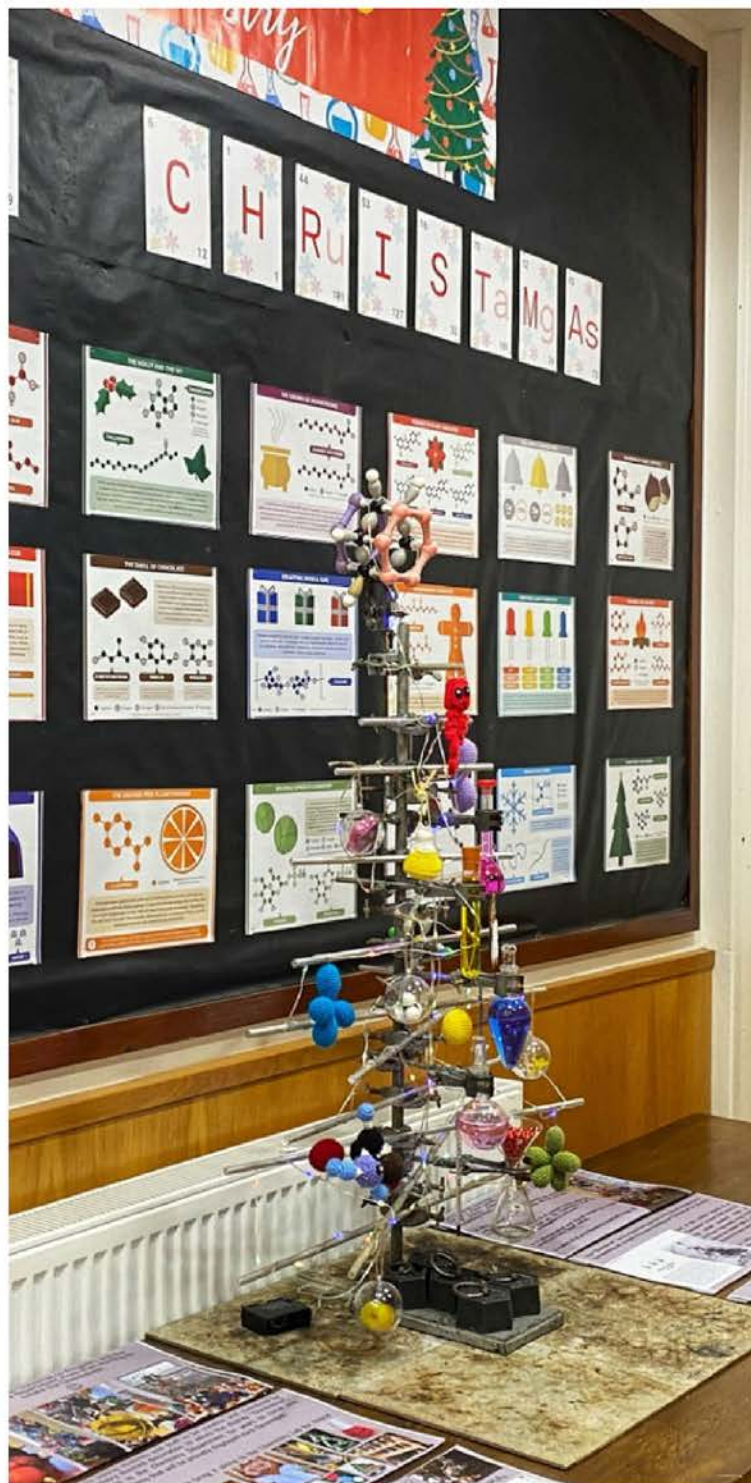




National Tree Week was celebrated by Dr Little and the Green Team, who continued with their work towards gaining the Bronze Woodland Trust's Green Tree School Award, a prestigious award where schools are rewarded for doing environmental projects, such as tree planting, reducing carbon dioxide emissions and recycling, all of which DHSG are committed to. They shared a virtual whole school assembly to enthuse everyone about trees and how important they are. Dr Parry monitors our fuel bills and is delighted to share that the school has saved approximately 13000kg of CO<sub>2</sub>, that's approximately 3 hot air balloons worth! We are in the process of collating the final evidence for the Bronze level Green Tree award and will be working on future sustainability campaigns to progress to the next level!

### December

Avogadro ably assisted by Mrs Pierce was busy creating the Chemistry Departments annual "Chemistree" in the Chemistry Lab and this year the Chemistry advent calendar was proudly on display in its entirety in the entrance hall along with our public "Chemistree" challenging students and staff to make their own chemistry themed decorations to adorn it for years to come. There was a whole school competition for house points to name all of the apparatus used to create the "Chemistree". Congratulations to Immy and Aoife in Yr13 who got involved and identified everything correctly.





**DHSG FEBRUARY PERFORMANCE DATES:**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> - Friday 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Tickets available on 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 2024**



# *The Addams Family*

A NEW MUSICAL  
COMEDY



# LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

## New Staff

3 new members of staff have joined the Languages department this term. Miss Lethbridge has joined us at Head of Languages and teacher of French and German, Miss Dupas has joined as a teacher of French and Miss Tao as a Chinese language assistant.



I have had a wonderful first term at DHSG. I went to a grammar school in Devon myself, first visiting France on a school exchange in Year 9 and then discovering Germany on an exchange in Year 10. These experiences gave me a

fascination for other cultures and led to me studying French and German at University. I love to organise trips to enable students to have those same experiences and am looking forward to taking Year 7 and 8 to France in July!

**Miss Lethbridge**



"Bonjour, my name is Miss Dupas and I am now teaching French at DHSG. I am a French teacher and I grew up in Paris, France. However, I travelled a fair bit before settling down here in Plymouth! I have lived in France

(both North and South), Scotland and Italy. I have had a passion for languages for a very long time, and I hope to inspire students to develop one as well!"

**Miss Dupas**



I am a master's student majoring in teaching Chinese to speakers of other languages. I have been a trainee teacher and helped international students at my university. I'd love to support DHSG students in language learning and cultural understanding.

**Miss Tao**

## Languages Week

To mark European Day of Languages on 26th September and International Translation Day on 30th September, we celebrated a week of Languages Events! A great European bake-off was held, German students made traditional, Austrian Vanillekipferl biscuits, Years 7 and 8 took part in a languages treasure hunt around the school and European Ambassador Programme Students in the sixth-form designed a languages quiz for tutor time. Year 7 were invited to a Zoom held by Routes into Languages while Year 11 also participated in a Zoom hosted by GCHQ, where they learnt how German is the language of engineering and innovation and how learning European languages lays the groundwork for learning non-European languages later.



## Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival

Students enjoyed making traditional lanterns to celebrate the Mid-Autumn festival





## GCHQ Code-Cracking Competition

Year 9 took part in the GCHQ languages code-cracking competition. Following a super effort from all teams over the competition week, despite not winning the competition nationally, we are thrilled to announce that the team who scored most points out of all the Yr. 9s in the GCHQ's National Language Competition 2023 is .... Team Electric Fierce Meerkat! (AKA Annabella, Maria, Susu and Jessica)

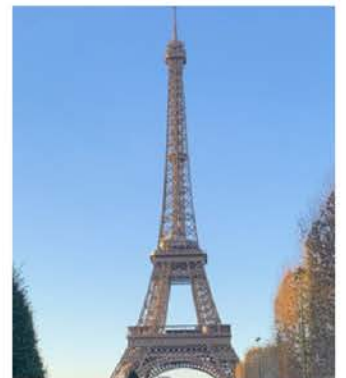
There was fierce competition all week with over 1500 teams from more than 500 schools across the UK putting their language skills to the test and battling it out for the top spot on the leaderboard. It was a closely fought race right up to the very end with teams pulling out all the stops to crack those codes and solve those language puzzles! We hope that this inspired language learning by encouraging the students to discover their aptitude for learning languages outside the classroom.

## International Carols

All Year 7s have been preparing a performance of an international carol in their language lessons, ready for the International Carol Assembly on Friday 15th November. Here is a Year 7 French class performing their rendition of 'Rudolphe le renne au nez rouge'



The students also had the chance to stay in Paris for just over a full day and experience the attractions, cuisine, culture, and other aspects of the city, including the shopping centre and the Eiffel tower!



In addition to being the official seat of the European Parliament, Strasbourg had many Christmas markets scattered across the city's centre that provided a wide variety of food and beverages, including crêpes, pretzels, and hot chocolate, along with souvenirs and handmade items. Infused with its warm, festive atmosphere, students were able to experience the Christmas celebrations that are somewhat different to what is offered back in Plymouth.

by Marty Dobrogowska

We would like to give a special thanks to Miss Marcos and Mrs Stacey for taking the time and effort to organise the trip, and for ensuring that things ran smoothly throughout the week-without you all of this wouldn't have been possible! - Students of EPAS.

## Euroscola France trip 2023



From 27th November - 1st December, students within our EPAs program travelled to France to visit the official seat of the European parliament (located in Strasbourg) and experience what it is like to be a member, and have also had the opportunity to explore the country's iconic attractions.



"I am grateful to have had the opportunity to partake in the EPAs programme, as I currently study A-Level Spanish. The trip to Strasbourg and Paris was a useful experience to truly see how communicating in different languages helps to break barriers between people." (Philippa, Year 12 student)

During the visit to the European Parliament, the students had the opportunity to demonstrate their leadership skills, through sharing their opinions and views on topics raised; accompanied by Vice President of the European Parliament, Marc Angel, students were able to ask questions regarding international affairs and issues which are occurring today.





# TERM DATES 2023-2024

	September 23					October 23					November 23					December 23				
Monday		4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25
Tuesday		5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26
Wednesday		6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27
Thursday		7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28
Friday	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29

	January 24					February 24					March 24					April 24				
Monday	1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26		4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29
Tuesday	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27		5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30
Wednesday	3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	
Thursday	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	
Friday	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23		1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	

	May 24					June 24					July 24					August 24				
Monday		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26
Tuesday		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27
Wednesday	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28
Thursday	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29
Friday	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30

## The school year comprises:

Teaching days

Training Days (22 & 23 July School Closed)

Term 1	Wednesday 6th September 2023 to Friday 20th October 2023
Holiday	Monday 23rd October 2023 to Friday 27th October 2023
Term 2	Tuesday 31st October 2023 to Tuesday 19th December 2023
Holiday	Wednesday 20th December 2023 to Wednesday 3rd January 2024
Term 3	Thursday 4th January 2024 to Friday 9th February 2024
Holiday	Monday 12th February 2024 to Monday 19th February 2024
Term 4	Tuesday 20th February 2024 to Thursday 28th March 2024
Holiday	Friday 29th March 2024 to Friday 12th April 2024
Term 5	Monday 15th April 2024 to Friday 24th May 2024
Holiday	Monday 27th May 2024 to Friday 31st May 2024
Term 6	Monday 3rd June 2024 to Friday 19th July 2024
Bank Holidays	Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th December 2023, Monday 1st January 2024, Friday 29th March 2023, Monday 1st April 2024, Monday 6th March 2024, Monday 27th March 2024 and Monday 26th August 2024.

