

School Development Plan Update March 2025

A reminder that our school strategic priorities can be found here:

<https://www.dhsb.org/school-strategic-priorities>

An overview of our current school development plan and updates on previous plans can be found here:

<https://www.dhsb.org/sdp-update>

1 Students achieve their highest academic potential

Expectations for excellence in the classroom and outside the classroom

Excellent Work

We continue to publish Excellent Work in the Head's Blog each week to show the diversity and excellence of what students are doing. The example below is from January.

Thank you to Mr Alsop who has shared this example of Excellent Work written by Kieran Brookes 12RNC.

He said, "A number of Economics students entered the London School of Economics Politics Review essay contest. In total they had around 200 entries and Kieran's essay was shortlisted to the final 18 which is a great achievement".

Kieran's essay shows great evidence of his wide reading around the topic and was very well received by the judges who said, "The calibre of responses to this year's questions exceeded our expectations, displaying outstanding analytical depth and writing flair. We extend our gratitude to every entrant who shared their insights through their essays".

Selfishness and morality: An investigation into Greenspan's view on corruption

Greenspan believes the natural state of humans is rooted in our primitive desire for self-preservation, interpreted as corruption. He posits that humans are fundamentally selfish, competitive and innately immoral (leading to this corruption). This sentiment can be interpreted as a realist acceptance of innate human depravity or on the other hand, as an excuse for specific individuals' degeneracy.

[Read more here](#)

DHSB Spelling Bee

The 2025 DHSB Spelling Bee was held in February and was a resounding success, with students from Years 7-10 showcasing their impressive spelling skills.

Each year group held its own final, with two students from each house representing. The atmosphere was electric, with enthusiastic support from the audience.

Individual Winners

- Year 7: Leo Samuel 7L and Stanley Ramsden 7W
- Year 8: Isaac Manata 8S

- Year 9: Finbar Steven 9F
- Year 10: Neel Shivane 10S

The competition was fierce, with students tackling some very tricky words. The audience even learned the spelling and the meaning of triskaidekaphobia - the fear of the number 13!

In the end, Windsor House emerged victorious, taking home the Spelling Bee trophy. Congratulations to all the participants, and we look forward to another exciting competition next year!



2 All staff seek to become even better

Teaching and learning and continuous professional development

Here at DHSB, we firmly believe that the best education is delivered by passionate, knowledgeable teachers who are continually developing their expertise.

This term, we launched an exciting CPD programme dedicated to subject mastery. This initiative gave our teaching staff the opportunity to delve into areas of their academic disciplines that inspire them, enhance their teaching, and enrich the curriculum we offer to our students.

Over several weeks, our teachers engaged in a variety of sessions, from mastering advanced physical demonstrations in Physics to exploring local history for cross-curricular opportunities, a behind the scenes guided tour of the National Marine Aquarium and even learning new skills like welding in Design Technology. Some sessions, such as 'Trauma-Informed Creative Arts Teaching' and 'The Psychology Behind Mastery Learning' focused on innovative strategies to support student success and wellbeing.



This programme was not only about equipping our teachers with the tools to deliver exceptional lessons but also about fostering their love for learning within their disciplines. The benefits of this approach ripple through our classrooms. Students are taught by teachers who are confident, energised, and deeply informed about the topics they teach.

For example, the English department focused on high-quality student outcomes through guided practice in their 'First Go, Best Go' session. Meanwhile, the Computer Science department explored how new physical computing sets, such as Lego Spike, could enhance GCSE and A level lessons.

We hope that learning from teachers who are inspired and continually improving their practice, helps to generate an enthusiasm and love of the subject in the students at our school.

We're excited to see the impact of this programme unfold and look forward to sharing further updates.

Subject Mastery

Spring 2024-5



All staff (teaching and support staff) are free to join additional sessions that are open to others and that don't clash with your own subject offer. Please use this [Form](#) to sign up to the session (s) that you are attending so session leaders know who to expect.

Can the lead please ensure there are pictures taken from each session and uploaded to the [Subject Mastery Google Folder](#)

Making The Most of Kerboodle Lead: Helen Brookings Location: C15 Date: Wednesday 8th January	Time: 3:30pm - 4:30pm Open to others: Yes	Session Info: Learn about setting up groups, assigning tasks and assessments. Generic so relevant for other Kerboodle deployments.	
The New RE Syllabus 2024 Lead: Kerry Wardle Location: C16 Date: Tuesday 7th January	Time: 3:30pm - 5:30pm Open to others: Yes	Session Info: Review and embedding of the new KS3 agreed syllabus. Completion of online courses and discussion for impact in department to amend schemes of learning.	
New Languages GCSE Lead: Helen Brookings Location: B15 Date: Thursday 8th January	Time: 4:30pm - 5:30pm Open to others: Yes	Session Info: AQA on-demand webinar about the new GCSE.	
Local History at The Box Lead: Pam Minforth/Rachel Green Location: The Box Date: Tuesday 7th January	Time: 4:00pm - 5:30pm Open to others: Yes	Session Info: A chance to develop further understanding of local history and more cross-curricular links.	
Learning to Weld Lead: A/Morris Location: A11 Date: Tuesday 7th January	Time: 3:30pm - 5:30pm Open to others: No	Session Info: A chance for the DT team to learn to weld.	
Google Gemini for Student Feedback Lead: Nick Berryman Location: Upper Learning Commons Date: Tuesday 23rd January	Time: 3:30pm - 5:30pm Open to others: Yes	Session Info: The session will explore using Google Gemini to provide feedback on essays and then mail merging individual feedback.	
Assessing A* at A Level Business Lead: Gemma Pyle Location: A21 Date: Tuesday 7th January	Time: 3:30pm - 5:30pm Open to others: Yes	Session Info: A focus on supporting students to achieve at the highest level in A Level Business through high quality feedback.	
Excellence in Food, Preparation and Nutrition NEA Lead: Abi Ware Location: DHSG Date: Wednesday 22nd January	Time: 8:00pm - 5:30pm Open to others: No	Session Info: Work with colleagues to gain a wealth of expertise in a similar context and moderation to take place after school.	
Leading Practical PE Lead: Rick Ormsley Location: Sports Centre Date: Tuesday 7th January	Time: 3:30pm - 5:30pm Open to others: No	Session Info: In house inset regarding practical activities.	
Aquarium Backstage Tour Lead: Annelise Widdicombe Location: NMA Date: Tuesday 7th January	Time: 4:00pm - 5:30pm Open to others: No	Session Info: One hour tour of the behind the scenes working of the aquarium led by one of the biologists.	
Advanced Physics Demos Lead: Roy Oakley Location: D22 Date: Tuesday 23rd January	Time: 3:30pm - 5:30pm Open to others: Yes	Session Info: Join the Physics department who will be working out how to use their more complex practical equipment.	
LEGO SPIKE & Trinket Lead: Paul Scott Location: A22 Date: Tuesday 7th January	Time: 3:30pm - 5:30pm Open to others: No	Session Info: Looking at the best way to incorporate the new physical computing sets into GCSE and A-level Computer Science.	

Subject Mastery

Spring 2024-5



Understanding Tech for Media Production (NEA) Lead: Julie Wilkinson Location: F10 Date: Tuesday 7th January	Time: 3.30pm - 5.30pm Open to others: Yes	Session Info: A session looking at ensuring all staff are fully skilled in using the technology and equipment needed to support students to excel in GCSE and A level media.	
"First Go", "Best Go" - Assessment in English Lead: Clare Johnson/Jo Nelly Location: FBC Date: Tuesday 7th January	Time: 3.30pm - 4.30pm Open to others: Yes	Session Info: A focus on supporting students to produce high quality work through structured modelling and guided practice.	
Maths Problem Solving Lead: Andy Guy Location: B06 Date: Thursday 9th January	Time: 4.00pm - 5.30pm Open to others: Yes	Session Info: A chance to solve some problems: SA of a Sphere (and why it's 4 circles), The Napkin Ring Problem, Geometry Puzzles, Geogebra Constructions.	
University Entrance Tests - STEP, MAT, TMUA Lead: Simon Coombe Location: B06 Date: Thursday 9th January	Time: 4.15pm - 4.45pm Open to others: Yes	Session Info: An opportunity to learn more about Oxbridge and Russell Group University entrance testing for mathematics.	
Creeks and Romans at The Box Lead: Karen Stearns Location: The Box Date: Tuesday 7th January	Time: 4.00pm - 5.30pm Open to others: Yes	Session Info: In opportunity to evaluate the Classical collection of The Box to assess its utility in teaching at KS3 and 4.	
Windrush in the South West at The Box Lead: Graham Madood Location: The Box Date: Tuesday 7th January	Time: 4.00pm - 5.30pm Open to others: Yes	Session Info: Review and embedding of the new KS3 agreed syllabus. Completion of online courses and discussion for impact in department to amend schemes of learning.	
Trauma Informed Creative Arts Teaching Lead: Emma Luing Holmes Location: Theatre Date: Thursday 16th January	Time: 3.30pm - 5.30pm Open to others: Yes	Session Info: Taking trauma informed approaches in the Creative Arts classroom, and understanding neurodiversity under this context.	
The Psychology Behind Mastery Learning Lead: Kevin Sinclair Location: C12 Date: Thursday 9th January	Time: 3.30pm - 4.30pm Open to others: Yes	Session Info: Kevin will lead a session looking at how we can teach students to gain fluency in a discipline. This is the point at which their understanding becomes naturally accessible, seemingly without effort.	

3 Embracing inclusion and diversity

Embedding our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Plan

Prayer Room

We officially opened our school multi-faith prayer room recently. The space is a designated area for Salah, Mincha, Prayer, and Meditation, and is open for any student of any faith to use at break and lunch.

The space is a room called A14 and features several prayer mats, prayer beads, dimmed lighting and religious texts including a Qur'an, Bible and Torah, a place to stow shoes, a sink with running hot and cold water, cups, two small towels and dimmed lighting and blinds.

The room is open from 8:00am today, the World Day of Prayer. If any parents would like to contribute any religious or spiritual art, items or texts for this room we would warmly welcome this, please get in touch.



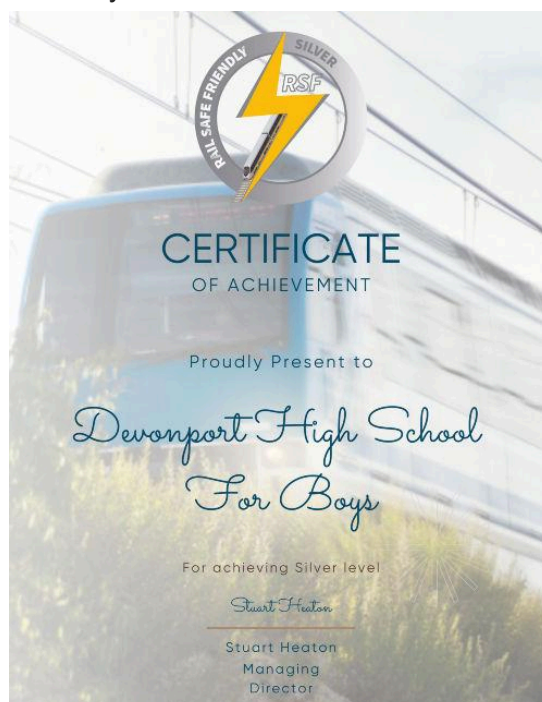
Rail Safety Award

We are pleased to announce that our school has achieved the Silver Rail Safe Friendly Award, building on our earlier success at bronze level. This recognition highlights our commitment to educating students about the importance of rail safety.

Mr Scott said, "A key contributor to this success was our Year 8 PSHE programme, which incorporates interactive lessons about how to be safe on and around our railways. These sessions equip students with vital knowledge and skills to stay safe near railways, reflecting our whole school focus on fostering awareness and responsibility".

The Rail Safe Friendly team commended our efforts and encouraged us to aim for the gold award. To achieve this, we will involve students in creative projects such as videos, podcasts, and posters to promote rail safety across our school community and beyond.

Congratulations to everyone involved – let's continue our journey to Gold!



Primary Scholars

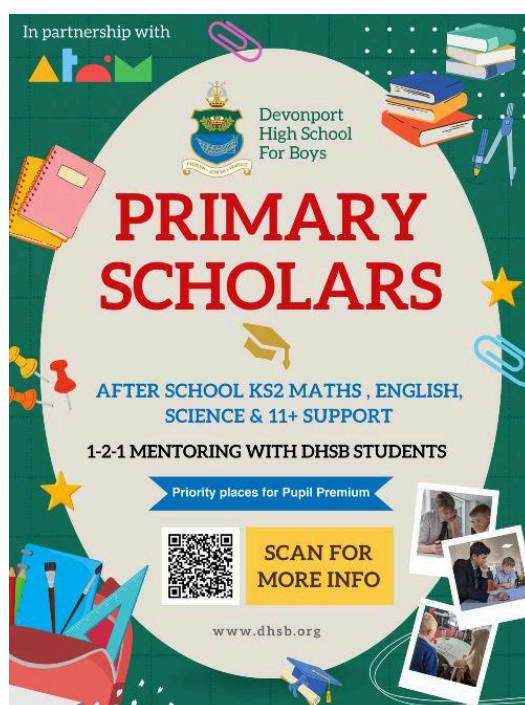
In January the first 2025 session of DHSB Primary Scholars took place with our newest young recruits. What a pleasure it was to see them all engaging so brilliantly with the resources. We are now taking bookings for March. All sessions are free!



Please complete the form to express your interest in your child attending our next [Primary Scholars](#) block.

Also, please follow the link if you would like to know more about the [Atom Learning](#) online learning platform (free for Pupil Premium students).

[Link to form](#)



4 Leadership and communities

All students get diverse cultural experiences

Holocaust Memorial Day

Our Holocaust Memorial Day whole school assembly on Wednesday 29th January was a poignant and moving event for the entire school.

I am pleased to share the assembly slides and a summary from Miss Cunningham to give you an opportunity to discuss the theme at home as a family with your child.

The assembly, held across two locations with a live link to the Sixth Form in the Edgcumbe Theatre, and Years 7 - 11 in the Sports Hall, brought together students and staff to reflect on the atrocities of the Holocaust and genocides around the world.

The assembly featured a series of impactful elements designed to educate and inspire. Hard-hitting facts about the Holocaust provided a stark reminder of the scale of the tragedy.

Oliver Elford 9S delivered a mature and powerful reading of 'Auschwitz' by Charles N Whittaker, bringing a personal and emotional dimension to the incredibly thought provoking poem.

The atmosphere was further enriched by outstanding musical performances from Will Wooller 13ALG and Tristan de Rochefort-Roper 12CMC, offering a moment of reflection and solace.

A highlight of the assembly was the inspiring guest speaker, Arezoo Farazhad, chair of trustees from the Plymouth Centre of Faiths and Cultural Diversity who we welcomed to DHSB for the first time.

Her insights and message of hope resonated deeply with the audience, encouraging everyone to remember the lessons of the Holocaust and work towards a more inclusive and tolerant future. The combined elements of historical accounts, personal stories, artistic expression, and thoughtful reflection made for a truly memorable and impactful event.

[Link to assembly slides](#)



Plymouth's Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration

Many thanks to Oliver Elford 9S who has written this account of the Plymouth Holocaust Commemoration event.

On Tuesday 28 January, a day after Holocaust Memorial Day, five students, Oliver Elford 9S, Henry Davis 7J, Jakub Jones 7J, William Wooller 13ALG and Annah Ishimwe 13RWO, attended Plymouth City Council's Holocaust commemoration event. In addition to the annual marking of Holocaust Memorial Day, the event marked eighty years since the liberation of Auschwitz and thirty year since the Bosnian genocide.

Initially, a civic reception was planned, followed by a public commemoration at The Peace Garden on Plymouth Hoe. However, because of the weather both events took place in the Council Chambers. The students were accompanied by Mrs Luing-Holmes, Mrs Wardle and Mrs Davidson.

Oliver, Henry, and Jakub attended in recognition of their commitment to the 80 Acts of Kindness programme; William performed his A level music composition which musically expressed his reflections on Holocaust Memorial Day and his Jewish heritage, and Annah read the first verse of the poem 'Auschwitz' by Charles N Whittaker with the Young Poet Laureate for Plymouth and another guest. The commemorations started with the Lord Mayor welcoming us into the Council Chambers and speaking on her thoughts and views about the Holocaust and why it should be remembered and never forgotten or distorted. After this the Holocaust Memorial Candle was lit by the Lord Mayor and a relative of a concentration camp survivor who themselves had fled from Europe to the UK at the outbreak of World War Two.

As well as the genocide and atrocities of Auschwitz and other concentration camps of World War Two, thought was given to the Bosnian, Rwanda and Dafur genocides. After the speeches there were a succession of videos and images of each of the atrocities as well speeches from survivors.

Personally, I found the event very thought provoking and moving, especially listening to the survivor testimonies. The musical elements complemented by montages of images and videos were very poignant.

Thank you to Mrs Luing-Holmes and Mrs Wardle for enabling us to attend and to Mrs Davidson who drove the minibus.

Oliver Elford 9S



Create a DHSB Arts Award to encourage engagement with extra capacity for creative performance and clubs

Festive Music

Many thanks to Mrs Luing-Holmes and students who have been spreading Festive Cheer by sharing their music in and around Plymouth.

All the information you need is available at this link.



Dazzle

We had a company of 23 students appear in a large-scale light and performance festival that took place in Devonport.

The festival was part of the Devonport 200 years celebration and our students performed on and around Devonport's iconic buildings.

The event was called Dazzle and was engineered by the Real Ideas Organisation.

Our company of DHSB musicians and actors not only performed every half an hour live outside the Guildhall, but they wrote and devised all the music and theatre themselves (with some great direction from Mr Webb).

This really was a stunning site specific performance work featuring both Music and Drama.

[More information at this link](#)



Embedding and enhancing the extensive leadership opportunities for students with a focus on raising the ambition of younger students to become active citizens and problem solvers

Key Stage 4 Physics Challenge Competition

Eight Year 10 & 11 students travelled by train to Exeter for the annual KS4 Physics Challenge competition in January.

Dr Colvile said, "Twelve teams of top students from schools across south-west England were there in a buzzy atmosphere answering estimation questions, a practical challenge, and six very hard questions (which were very hard)".

He added, "Well done to all involved and especially the DHSB Blue Team who won the prize for best performance in the Estimation Round".

As examples of Excellent Work here are the team's answers to some of the very hard questions.

Blue Team

Team members Luke Madgett 11S, Harry McCulloch 11L, Rohan Linden 11S, Jianyu Wang 11F.

[Link to answers](#)



Red Team

Team members Tom Rickard 11W, Ben Urbans 11A, Neel Shivane 10P, and Ayaan Chattergee 10W.

[Link to answers](#)



Ten Tors

This year's DHSB Ten Tors training commenced in January for all teams with minibuses leaving school before dawn with a forecast of rapidly melting snow. Dr Colville has provided an update.

We were pleasantly surprised to find the snow-free ground at our start was not too muddy, the rivers not too high to cross, and beautiful snow still on the higher parts of our walk.



The snow did slow the teams down a bit, which we would expect when it's knee deep and every step sinks into a drift, but there may have been other reasons for delay at a couple of points where teams passed each other...



Special thanks to Year 13 students who helped including checkpointing from an igloo, as well as to the hardy parents of current and former team members who augmented DHSB staff to ensure we had sight of all the groups for most of the day.

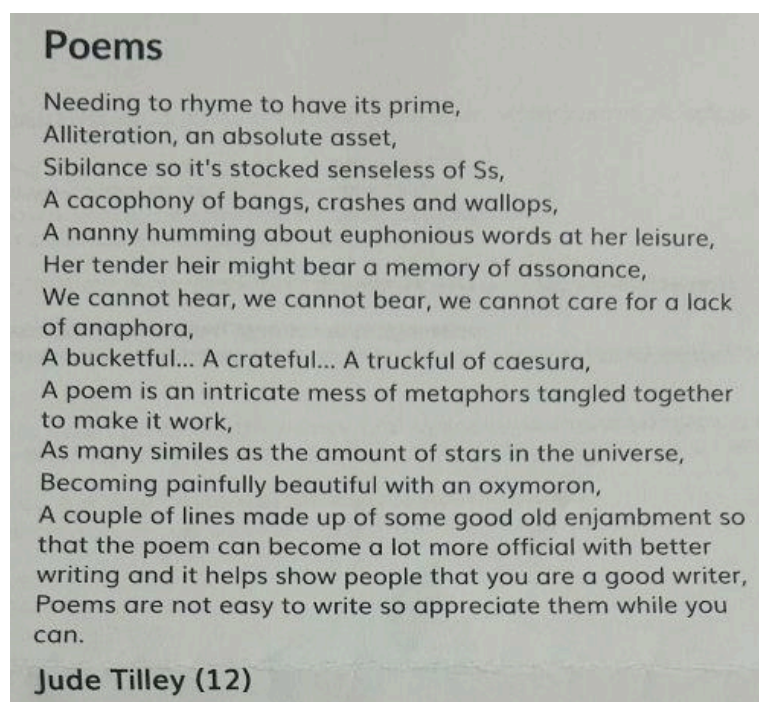
We currently have 31 students training for our allocation of four teams of six students, so there's also still an element of selection taking place on this walk and our next on Saturday 1 February.

Creative Writing Club

Well done to Jude Tilley 8F who produced a poem in creative writing club for a national competition

The poem was selected to be published in their book!

Jude's writing very cleverly refers to language and structural devices used in poetry - he has made a poem of the devices and we think it's fab!



Bar National Mock Trial Competition

On a Saturday at the beginning of February, a DHSB team of Sixth Form and Year 9 students took part in the Bar National Mock Trial Competition held at Plymouth University. This is a unique opportunity for students to be able to play the roles of barristers, witnesses, court officials, and jurors. It allows students to see how a Crown Court functions, and it is great preparation for those who wish to go on to study law at university.

This year, the cases involved an overzealous security guard who had manhandled a rather stropky individual outside an amusement arcade and a track cyclist who was caught with performance enhancing drugs. Our students, who played the defendants, were both found guilty!

We didn't win the competition but the performance of everybody who took part was exemplary. We have a lot of potential barristers studying at DHSB and some magnificent actors!

I would also like to single out Noah and Conrad who stepped in at the last minute to play the roles of the court usher and the court clerk and performed their roles perfectly.

Our next foray into the legal world will be the Magistrates Court Mock Trial Competition for younger students which will be held in Cardiff at the end of March.



SWAT Challenge Day

Thank you to Finbar Steven 9F who has written this account of the SWAT Challenge Day held in Bournemouth at the end of February.

The South West Academic Trust is a group of selective secondary schools from across the region.

The Team Challenge Day held in Bournemouth was an exciting and memorable experience for all the students who participated, including several from DHSB. Designed to promote teamwork, problem-solving, and leadership skills, the day was filled with engaging activities that encouraged collaboration and friendly competition.

Despite an early start, we all managed to arrive on time and spent about three hours locked up together on the minibus, which actually helped bond the team quite a bit.

Once we got to the grammar school it was hosted in, we started off with a rousing talk and conversation with former paralympian, David Wetherill. Then students were grouped into teams made up of students from different schools. Each team was given a series of tasks to complete throughout the day. As we were mixed up with other schools, the real challenge was working with strangers towards a common goal and we did that excellently.

Each challenge was uniquely designed to test different skills, ranging from building structures to strategic thinking. Activities such as the escape room and the blindfold maze required us to communicate effectively and work together to achieve our goals.

My favourite activity was the escape room the hosting school had set up as the students had to delegate tasks to solve many puzzles scattered about the room as we brainstormed the ultimate solution.

At the end of the day, we had to make a presentation about what challenge means to us. I believe that challenge means continuing with a task after failure or setbacks.

The event was not just about competition but also about fostering friendships and building confidence. Many students stepped out of their comfort zones, taking on leadership roles and supporting their peers in ways they hadn't before.

Big thanks to Mr Coombes and Mr Webb for taking us!

Finbar Steven 9F



House Assemblies

The beginning of March marked a significant milestone as all seven house teams delivered their first live assemblies of the academic year. The central theme, 'Finding Your Inner Strength: Building Healthy Confidence', was executed with remarkable success by the House Captains and Vice Captains.

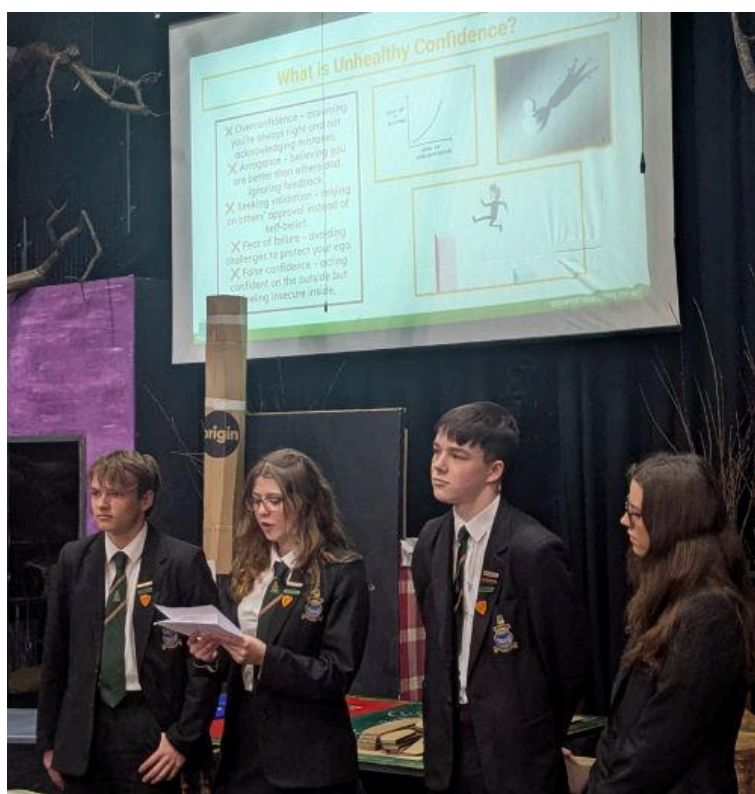
Each assembly, delivered to an audience of approximately 150 students and tutors, showcased the dedication and preparation of the student leaders. The captains and vice captains took ownership of the entire process, from content creation to delivery, effectively embodying the theme they presented.

Notably, many of these student leaders were presenting to a large audience for the first time. This act of stepping outside their comfort zones and facing their fears was a testament to their courage and commitment. The assemblies were engaging and well-received, fostering a sense of community and shared learning.

The successful delivery of these assemblies is a source of immense pride for the school. The House Captains and Vice Captains demonstrated exceptional leadership, resilience, and public speaking skills. Their achievement in delivering such impactful assemblies is highly commendable and sets a positive precedent for future house events.



Scott



Turing

Duke of Edinburgh update

In February 150 students across two sessions received valuable expedition training from Dynamic Adventures' instructors in preparation for their expeditions later in the year. These sessions focused on tents, stoves, first aid, packing techniques, and appropriate kit selection.



The Duke of Edinburgh Award also requires participants to dedicate at least three months to each of the Volunteering, Physical, and Skills sections. Our students have been taking part in a wide range of volunteering experiences. Here are a few highlights:

Dartmoor Rangers (Bronze, three months): Alec Leonard-Williams learnt about access rights and environmental impact, contributing to footpath maintenance, vegetation removal, and habitat restoration. This experience provided practical skills, ecological knowledge, and valuable connections with like-minded individuals.

Plymstock Albion Oaks (Bronze, three months): Joseph Wotton shared his passion for sports by volunteering with the U12s rugby team. He attended every training session, helped develop the boys' rugby skills, particularly in set plays and rucking. His positive influence was greatly appreciated by the team, and Joseph wants to continue volunteering with them.

Derriford Hospital (Gold, 12 months): Jayden Chiam volunteered at the hospital in various roles, from gathering patient feedback and assisting with medication delivery to providing a friendly welcome and helping with patient transport. Comprehensive training in safety, safeguarding, and manual handling enhanced his confidence, communication skills, and understanding of the healthcare setting. Jayden's dedication undoubtedly benefited the NHS.

Charities

Christmas Jumper Day

Festive cheer was once again plentiful at DHSB when the students had the opportunity to show off their dazzling array of Christmas jumpers and they really did not disappoint! You couldn't fail to feel the spirit of Christmas with so many colourful offerings.

The money raised from the mufti money all goes towards our chosen house charities. Our team of House Captains have the privilege of selecting three charities for each house to support and among the choices

this year are Devon and Cornwall Food action, Jeremiahs Journey, Surfers Against Sewage, Dartmoor Search and Rescue, Cancer Research and many more.

Check out the full lists on the house dashboards at houses.dhsb.org.



In the run up to Christmas we were also raising money for Shekinah mission through our carol service performances and supporting St Lukes Hospice as well as collecting food for two local food banks.



St Luke's Light up a Life Services

"Just a quick email to say how well your choir performed tonight at the St Luke's Light up a Life Service. They did your school proud"

"We just wanted to send our heartfelt thanks for your attendance at Light up a Life on Tuesday, and for the wonderful performance you gave"

UK Youth Parliament

Students were queuing through first break and lunchtime yesterday to cast their vote in an election to decide who should represent Plymouth in the Youth Parliament for 2025/26. The turnout has been impressive and it has been wonderful to see so many students take this first opportunity to participate in the democratic process.



Mr Macleod said, "It would be wonderful to see many of those who voted today standing in future elections... especially with the examples of Eden Hingston 13ESM and Rocky Travers 12ATW, Plymouth reps for this year, who have just come back from an amazing experience at the House of Commons where both were able to speak in the chamber, a huge privilege which very few people have enjoyed".

This is how Eden and Rocky described their experience.

As the member of Youth Parliament for Plymouth, one of my responsibilities would be to represent young people annually at the House of Commons. Last year, I spoke from the back benches. This year, I decided I would set my sights at the dispatch box - an honour only gifted to the elected debate leads.

Eden

See Eden here: <https://youtu.be/zSfSoTHUDbw>

[Read more from Eden here](#)

My experience was one of a lifetime.

I was emboldened to speak amongst people so passionate about what they do and what they were speaking about. My opportunity was perfect. I was so proud to represent the youth of Plymouth when talking about the links between all debates and poverty and how we can use political literacy as a tool to break that barrier to education to ensure those who need it most get the quality of education they have the right to.

I was able to meet so many lovely people whilst doing Youth Parliament and would absolutely recommend it to any politically wired young mind.

Rocky

See Rocky here: <https://youtu.be/bFNFVuY6XEU>

Increase and revitalise the extracurricular offer and trips/experiences.

Chess update

Many thanks to Mr Butland for this chess report.

We decided at the start of the term to run two teams in the adult Torbay Chess League to allow our pros some better opposition and give us the chance to blood some new talent

Both teams are unbeaten at the end of 2024. We also eliminated Stover School by a tidy 5 - 1 in the league's knockout competition.

We also entered a Rapidplay division designed to give the students some slightly faster competitive chess which brought the side's only loss by a single point against an experienced Newton Abbot side.

With Torquay not hosting a qualifier for the national schools knockout this year, we offered hospitality. Ultimately, our only visitors came from Exeter Mathematical School, who were despatched in fine style 5 - 1.

The team commenced their season against league newcomers Plymouth University. Here we see Oliver, Neel, Ayden and Caleb as they battled their way to a 2 - 2 draw.

In addition, we have several players active within Plymouth club (too early for scores). James Allen was third in the Devon U13 Championship in December.

Caleb Caleshu was presented with a trophy by the league for being its highest placed performer (joint third) at the Torbay Congress.

Well done to everyone involved.



Cricket

Very well done to the Year 8 Indoor Cricket team who won the Plymouth Schools tournament on Monday and went on to play in the County Finals the following day!

Mr Bunney said, "Huge congratulations to the team who won the Devon Cricket Indoor Cricket Devon Schools finals day held on Tuesday at Exeter University. The team was brilliant all day and were chuffed to win this. Well done to everyone".



Holiday Club

Our holiday club offer for the wider community continues to go from strength to strength. Here are the details for the February half term holiday club; the next one will be over Easter.



Devonport High School for Boys

Feb Half Term Holiday Club

2025

Monday 17th - Thurs 20th February

Our holiday club is aimed at 8-13year olds and anyone from the wider community is welcome.

We have lots of amazing sessions and workshops planned for the week which you wouldn't want to miss out on! For more information please click on the link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/muajhy8v>









email: dan.campbell@dhsb.org Tel: 01752 208787

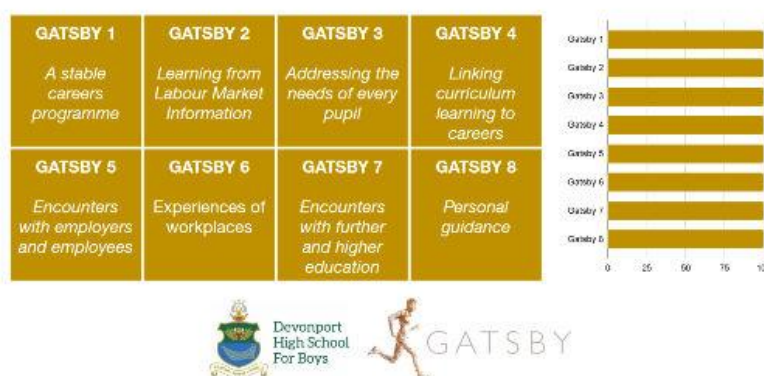
5 Shaping our futures

Careers Update

We are proud to share that our recent Compass evaluation shows Devonport High School for Boys has once again achieved 100% across all eight Gatsby Benchmarks. This success highlights our unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional careers education and guidance for our students. With a stable careers programme, meaningful employer encounters, and tailored personal guidance, our provision ensures that every student is supported in their career journey.

Our next step is to undertake the new Careers Impact internal leadership review, collaborating with other schools to further enhance our careers support and maintain the highest standards for our students' futures. My thanks to Mr Scott, Miss Millman, Mr Manley and Mr Pickersgill for their unending support of our programme.

DHSB remains Gatsby Benchmarks - 100% compliant



Alumni

Thank you to Mrs Kinsella for the update below:

I start this piece with the very sad news of the passing of presenter Craig Rich. He started at DHSB in 1948, leaving in 1953 to join the School of Navigation which was situated not far away - in A Block.

Craig then did a four year apprenticeship for the Merchant Navy where he had a very successful career as a navigator. He went on to become the first, and longest running, regional weather presenter - starting with the BBC in 1978 and retiring 25 years later.

I never had the pleasure of meeting Craig but we had a lovely chat on the phone in the summer and were hoping to meet. He was very proud of being a DHSB 'old boy' and especially proud too that his son, two grandsons and more recently his granddaughter, for her A levels, also attended DHSB.

DHSB was very proud of you too Craig! We send our condolences to Craig's family and friends at this sad time.

[Read more here](#)

Word reached us of news of another alumnus who has reached his 100th birthday! Happy Birthday Dennis from DHSB!

Dennis remembers being evacuated to Penzance with DHSB in 1941, when he was 16 years old and his accommodation taking a hit.

'A Torch in Flame' by Henry Whitfeld gives us more details about this scary incident. 'In the very early morning of 26th September 1942, enemy planes made a deliberate and prolonged attack on one of the school hostels, Tredarvah, and, after ringing it with bombs, finally scored a direct hit.' Six boys were missing and the worst was assumed as the shelter they were in had collapsed. The inevitable conclusion was that they were buried under the debris. A rescue party, including blood stained survivors, was soon at work, excavating for the missing boys.'

Headmaster Mr Buckley recounted what a tremendous relief it was when a shout came out of the silence, 'the six boys are safe!' Amazingly, on the collapse of their shelter, they had managed to crawl out of the debris, walk across the fields (some in bare feet) and find cover in a nearby institution - a girls boarding school!

More than 80 years later Dennis is still here to tell the tale! Is Dennis our oldest 'old boy' or do you know someone who can beat this? If so, please get in touch.

[Read more here](#)

Finally, some amazing old cine footage has come to our attention this week - DHSB boys off on a train journey. Based on the fashions, it looks like the 1950s era to me. Does anyone recognise faces or can throw any light on the trip?

A big thank you to Stephen Johnson of Cyberheritage and Anne Chamings for sharing this:

[Link to cine footage](#)

6. Creative spirit and innovative thinking

PTFA

Just before Christmas we held our popular Christmas disco. Over 650 students braved the cold and came along to Fever Nightclub.



A big thank you to all our volunteers - we really couldn't do it without you! Thank you too to Fever nightclub for having us.



Fitness Suite Transformation: An Exciting Update!

As you may recall, last summer we launched a crowdfunding campaign to revitalise our school gym facilities. Following a thorough planning phase, we are thrilled to announce that the deposit for the new equipment has been paid, and internal renovations are now underway. We anticipate a grand opening of the refurbished facility early in the Summer term.

The transformation will be remarkable. The current 'bicycle back room' will become a state-of-the-art strength and conditioning room. This space will be fully equipped with new dumbbells, a rack, fixed barbells, a Smith Machine, Olympic bars and weights, and a dual cable Inspire FT1 Functional Trainer workstation. New commercial-grade flooring and internal decoration will complete the room's impressive overhaul.

In the main gym area, the existing cardio equipment will be serviced and enhanced by the addition of a Concept2 SkiErg. Originally designed for cross-country skiers, the Concept2 SkiErg has become a popular fitness tool, engaging the legs, core, and arms in a smooth, continuous motion. The current strength machines will be replaced with five brand-new, commercial-grade, dual-use machines, enabling a comprehensive full-body workout. This space will also benefit from new flooring and decoration.

We are incredibly excited about these improvements and the enhanced fitness opportunities they will provide for our staff and students. Stay tuned for further updates as we progress towards the grand opening!

Pictured here are examples of the new equipment.

