

DHSB Sixth Form Handbook 2025-26

Contents

		Page
Introducti		
_	Sixth Form Team	2
•]	The Sixth Form Centre	2
Administr	<u>ation</u>	
• (<u>Contact</u>	3
• (Controlled Assessment & Non Exam Unit (NEA)	3
	<u>Diary dates</u>	3
• <u>E</u>	Examination Fees	3
	<u>Forms</u>	4
	<u>Learning Commons</u>	4
	MCAS (MyChildAtSchool) and the Student Portal	4
• 1	6 to 19 Bursary Fund	4
Curricului	m	
• <i>E</i>	Level timetable changes	4
• E	Enrichment: Tutorial, Games and Activities (E-Time)	4
• [ndependent Study	6
• 5	Sixth Form Study routine	7
•]	Target Setting and FFT	7
• <u>F</u>	<u>Partnerships</u>	7
• <u>L</u>	JCAS & Oxbridge	7
Expectation	ons	
	Attendance	8
	Behaviour and School Rules	8
	HEIR week	8
	eaving school with a profile	8
	Part-time work	8
• V	Vork Experience	9
• [Jniform .	9
• [<u>Jnifroq</u>	10
• <u>L</u>	Jse of vehicles	10
Wellbeing	and Support	
	Careers advice	10
_	Pastoral support	10
Links to P	Procedures and Codes of Conduct	
	Code of Conduct	10
	DHSB Learning Agreement (example)	10
	Sixth Form Attendance Code of Conduct	10
_	School Policies	11
- 5		
Map of D	OHSB Site	11

1

Introduction

As you prepare for independence, we will generally direct our communications to you and expect you to act responsibly in sharing information with your parents/carers. From time to time however, we will communicate with your parents/carers and may require the return of consent forms. Copies of such correspondence will be available on www.dhsb.org in Letters and Documents - Sixth Form.

We are an experienced Sixth Form Team with your interests at heart and shall look forward to working with each one of you to ensure that you have an enjoyable, productive and happy experience throughout your time at school. Should you have concerns regarding your timetable, please go to the Sixth Form Office in the first instance. If you wish to seek advice on matters of a more personal nature, please come and share your concerns with one of us in the Pastoral Team. We are here to help, advise and mediate on your behalf.

The relaxed and happy atmosphere of the Leavers Assembly and the Prom, marking the end of school for Yr 13, continue to be a credit to our Sixth Form community. We will miss our leavers; who in so many ways have contributed to the wider school community. We aim to make our new Yr 12 feel very welcome and also foster supportive Sixth Form contributions to their Houses. This is the start of something new for all of us. Make the most and the very best of all the opportunities afforded throughout the next 20 months. Our KS5 students are deservedly valued by staff and pupils throughout the school, as well as employers in and beyond the city. Let's ensure that our aspirations are high enough and that each one of you sparkles!

Welcome back everybody! Ms Davidson.

The Sixth Form Team

Pastoral and Curriculum Sup	port
-----------------------------	------

Ms Davidson	Assistant Head - Post 16	sharon.davidson@dhsb.org
Mr Alsop	Deputy Head of Sixth	dan.alsop@dhsb.org
Miss Wilkinson	Deputy Head of Sixth	julie.wilkinson@dhsb.org

Administration

Mrs Evans	Sixth Form Administrator	sixthform@dhsb.org
Miss Burt	Sixth Form Attendance	sixthform@dhsb.org

Form Tutors

12ALG	Mr Guy	Maths	andy.guy@dhsb.org
12SEF	Ms Franklin	Food Prep and Nutrition	sarah.franklin@dhsb.org
(Mrs Ware when in Yr 13)		Food Prep and Nutrition	abigail.ware@dhsb.org
12KLG	Ms Glastonbury	English	kayleigh.glastonbury@dhsb.org
12ESM	Mrs Merren	Business	liz.merren@dhsb.org
12KPS	Mr Sinclair	Psychology	kevin.sinclair@dhsb.org
120NR	Mr Roberts	Maths	oliver.roberts@dhsb.org
12KAL	Dr Little	Biology	katherine.little@dhsb.org
13ATW	Mr Widdecombe	Biology	ainsley.widdecombe@dhsb.org
13CMC	Mrs McConnell	English	clare.mcconnell@dhsb.org
13KRB	Mr Braun	Physics	karl.braun@dhsb.org
13NGW	Mr Granville-West	Science	nicholas.granville-west@dhsb.org
13RNC	Dr Colvile	Physics	roy.colvile@dhsb.org
13TGF	Mr Guy-Fierens	Physics	thom.guy-fierens@dhsb.org

The Sixth Form Centre

The Sixth Form Centre is an exclusive space for the Sixth Form, with areas for group work, private study and relaxation. All students are expected to take care of the Sixth Form Centre. Please remember that this is a shared space, that it is your space, and that we would like to benefit from its availability at all times. It is the responsibility of each individual to respect the Sixth Form Centre and to respect this shared space.

Administration

Contact

DHSB Main Reception: 01752 208787

Sixth Form Office: 01752 206173 / sixthform@dhsb.org

Please check the school website www.dhsb.org regularly for:

Term Dates & School Calendar / Latest School News and letters / Head's Blog

Controlled Assessment & Non Exam unit (NEA)

Please remember that all internal deadlines should be carefully monitored. These are set to allow the school sufficient time to provide ongoing feedback and also to process the coursework. It is your responsibility to meet the school deadlines. The consequences of missed deadlines are clearly outlined in the Non Examination Assessment Policy.

Diary Dates

There are a number of important diary dates and deadlines relevant to you throughout the Sixth Form. Please check the school website for coursework deadlines.

Please check www.dhsb.org for exact 2025/26 dates to be published

July – September Yr12 & Yr13 students must meet with identified referees to discuss <u>UCAS</u> applications.

October 6th Internal <u>UCAS</u> Oxbridge deadline

October 15th Official Oxbridge Medicine/Dentistry/Vet Science <u>UCAS</u> application deadline

November 10th Internal <u>UCAS</u> applications deadline (Tutors will not be involved in submissions after this deadline)

November 19th Yr13 Parent Consultation Evening
November Data capture Yr12 completed

November 20th <u>Learn2Live</u> event (compulsory for Yr12)

December Yr12 Interim Report home (TLP reports produced in TLP school cycle of reporting)

January (mid) Y12 & Yr13 Mock exams

March 6thInterim Report home Yr12 & Yr13March 18thYr12 Parents Consultation EveningMarch 16/17thExeter Higher Education Fair

May <u>Ten Tors</u> event

May Yr12 Internal end of year exams (tbc)
May Yr13 Exam study leave begins (tbc)

June 22nd - 26th Higher Education & Industry Research Week (HEIR - during whole school Enrichment Week

collapsed timetable)

Examination Fees

Entry fees for Sixth Formers sitting GCE external examination for the first time, for subjects taught at DHSB in the same curriculum year, are funded by the school. The school will require payment for entry in the following circumstances:

- A resit even if recommended by the school
- For a subject that they do not study as part of their timetable
- A Sixth Former decides to surrender a subject or leave school when an entry has already been made on their behalf and there has been insufficient written warning for their withdrawal without penalty
- A Sixth Former automatically disqualifies themselves through failure to meet coursework deadlines
- A Sixth Former fails to present themselves for an examination
- Irregular attendance at school or neglect of work
- A Sixth Former's work is of such poor quality that a subject department predicts failure (at A level, pass grades are at grade A-E)

Forms

To reduce our paper consumption the majority of our forms will be sent to students, parents/carers as online forms for completion.

Learning Commons (LC)

The Learning Commons is primarily a teaching space, however the Sixth Form may access this space for IT support at any break or lunch session. It is also where the Academic Mentors are based.

MCAS (MyChildAtSchool) and the Student Portal

My Child at School (MCAS) is a portal enabling parents/carers to view their child's academic performance and information in real-time via a web browser www.mychildatschool.com or via a mobile app which can be downloaded onto an Android or Apple mobile device. MCAS is also the online payment system for student uniform, meals, resources and trips.

This facility allows exclusive access to attendance, timetable and classes at any time. It also provides useful information about the school such as the academic calendar and announcements. Documents and letters will also be published via the MCAS portal.

We strongly advise that parents/carers regularly check their child's attendance via MCAS

The Student Portal allows students to view their homework, attendance, behaviour records, and more. It can be accessed through the <u>website</u>, or via the app by <u>logging in</u> with their DHSB Google account.

16 to 19 Bursary Fund

Please be advised that there is a 16 to 19 Bursary Fund available for students who meet the criteria. Application forms and guidance can be found on the school website in Sixth Form letters & documents or from the Sixth Form Office. Bursary forms will also be sent to students via their school email.

Please note: A new application must be made for each academic year.

Curriculum

A Level Timetable subject changes

Procedure: Students are asked to contact the Deputy Head of Sixth (<u>KS5Progression@dhsb.org</u>) for discussion and direction. Students **must attend all lessons** until the 'dropping/changing subject' form has been completed, returned to the Sixth Form Office, processed and a new timetable produced.

Yr13 students who decide to surrender subjects must ensure that HE Institutions, who have made conditional offers through UCAS, are prepared to accept the change. The completed UCAS form, once submitted, does constitute a contract. It could be argued that a change of circumstances invalidates the offers made!

Yr12 students are reminded that all students have joined DHSB Sixth Form to study a minimum of 3 chosen A levels during the course of the year. Subject choice in September should have been very well considered and explored through communicating difficulties with teachers, Form Tutor or Head of Year. We invite students to act swiftly to communicate difficulties to prevent mole-hills turning into mountains!

It is now a statutory requirement that ALL students sign an 'ILR <u>Learning Agreement</u>' to confirm their individual learning aims (this form will be completed during tutorial in the first few weeks of term).

Enrichment Time (E-Time), Games and Activities - See E-Time Handbook for more detail

Activities: Games

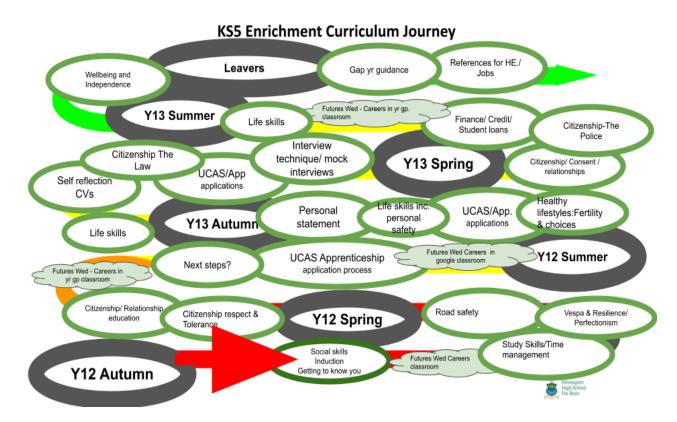
On Wednesdays our Sixth Form has timetabled provision for sporting fixtures. Representative team sport will take place during p5. There will be additional physical activities offered which might include badminton, gym, table tennis, netball or whatever the majority of students are keen to commit to. The school based teams on offer may vary throughout the year. Students may prefer to pursue their own physical activity offsite but this will only be authorised upon completion of the 'Games' section of the 2025 Activities Google Form.

Activities: WRL (Work Related Learning)

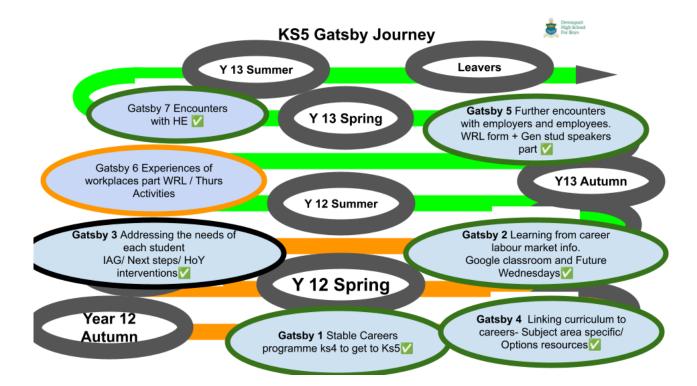
We expect all students to volunteer or complete work related learning in their time in the Sixth Form. We have allocated Thursdays p1 & p2 for students to complete voluntary work or work related learning through the year. This is an aspect of personal enrichment which affords our busy students the opportunity to enhance their future prospects. It allows our students to commit to such activities without compromising other obligations they have towards their studies or to responsibilities they may have for paid employment outside of school hours.

Enrichment and Tutorial Mondays p3 and p4, as well as morning registrations 8:50-9:10am

At the start of the year, students are invited to a calendar appointment which when accepted allows them to view a dynamic spreadsheet showing what is planned for the two periods each week on a Monday. Additional PSHEE information can be found in the <u>curriculum</u> area of the website.



At Tuesday morning registrations, year group assemblies run in the Theatre and in the Sixth Form Centre so that information can be shared, student achievement and contributions can be celebrated, and also to allow further enrichment. These sessions are led by the Sixth Form Leadership Team. On all other mornings Tutors work through a planned selection of activities relating to personal development and careers. When not on study leave, all students are expected to attend registrations before lessons.



Independent Study (see here for Independent study resources and guidance as well as review and revision techniques)

This use of the Sixth Form Centre during lesson time is intended to provide students with an area where they can focus on their studies. We ask that all students are considerate of the fact that their fellow students need to concentrate and a less distracting environment is most conducive to this. Students should respect their peers, and we encourage groups to work together to support each other too.

In a world where adults have to adapt to flexible working (e.g hot desks, headphones on / internet cafes and the like) we encourage students to set up for work in the Sixth Form Centre spaces as well as taking advantage of the free rooms available or Refuel (generally available to be used as a working environment outside of break times).

Please check Independent Study guides for wider reading material. A student may take advantage of empty classrooms, this must be to pursue legitimate and quiet study (see list displayed in the Sixth Form Centre).

- During lesson hours, the Sixth Form Centre is for study so should be quiet if at all possible
- We have a small lending library of Chromebooks in the Sixth Form Office. Students are to respect
 the privilege of use and to plug the chromebooks into the charging unit when returned. In all cases
 computers are to be used for individual, purposeful and silent work. All students are to respect the
 acceptable use policy agreement for ICT.
- Yr 13 students only are permitted to study off site for 'guided self-study/'free' periods during teaching blocks A - D. Check department guides to Independent Study (also found in revision@dhsb). This trusted privilege will be extended to Yr 12 students from March after mock exams, and only to those who have achieved a minimum grade descriptor of 'C or above'* in their first Independent Study data report.

*In recognition of growing maturity and ability to take responsibility for their own learning, students who have demonstrated a strong capacity for independent learning will be offered the privilege of 'Guided Self-Study Leave' from March of Yr 12. Yr 12 students may choose to study at home at times when they have a block of non-contact periods. Such offsite Independent Study will be offered to students who demonstrate investment and competence in learning in the periodic independent study reviews which take place each term. This will

only be authorised for students gaining a minimum commitment grade of a B. Students who have not yet developed these skills will remain onsite.

Independent Study is appraised and reported to parents at each data capture. Grade descriptors are reported as:

- A Excellent evidence of regular, high value, independent study to support progress
- B Good evidence of regular independent study to support progress
- C Some evidence of independent study provided, though evidence does not show a routine and/or may not be the most useful independent measure. Please speak to teachers for ideas of how to improve
- D No evidence of independent study provided

Sixth Form Study Routine

100% attendance is compulsory for ALL timetabled sessions and lessons. This includes; Tutorials, E-Time and morning registrations (excluding those morning assembly and registrations immediately before offsite guided self-study periods).

The timetabled week typically comprises **25 x 1 hour sessions** in addition to morning registrations, with 5hrs of contact time for each A level subject as well as additional contact times with Tutors and Enrichment sessions.

Independent Study / Homework - we advise Sixth Formers to match every taught lesson with the equivalent hours of independent Study / Homework. This may include homework assignments, guided self-study and any independent learning. No student can ever claim that they manage to cover their workload during school hours thereby obviating the need for study at home!

Most significant point:

A successful A level is completed through at least as much time on independent learning as contact time with the teacher. Google Classroom provides a useful contact medium for such work as well as the independent study resource guides for each subject. Students are guided as to how to evidence their independent study at key points by their subject teachers and also in year group assemblies.

Target Setting and use of FFT

Targets give students something to aim for, should be realistic and challenging, yet attainable. At DHSB we base our target grades on FFT targets.

FFT is linked to the Fischer Family Trust. It provides data and analyses to all schools in England and Wales. The estimates we receive are used by teachers to inform the setting of ambitious and aspirational targets for students.

FFT does not make predictions. It shows that a student has a certain level of ability and that, in previous years x% of students with similar level of ability got this grade. Given this information, it is not unreasonable to expect this individual student to get this grade and this may be used as a target setting tool. FFT does not produce targets. Estimates simply say 'if what happened in tests and exams last year was mirrored this year, these are the most likely outcomes'. Every student is unique so individual targets are based on a whole range of information - including a student's personal circumstances, their teacher's knowledge of them, their performance in school tests, their own aspirations and the support they've received at home. FFT estimates are only one element of this. Target grades (alongside end of year exam performance) form the basis for reporting the UCAS grades used in the Autumn of Yr 13.

Partnerships

We are founder-members of The Link Partnership (TLP): <u>Devonport High School for Girls</u>, <u>Plymouth High School for Girls</u>, and <u>Notre Dame</u> and also work with other local schools to provide an extended curriculum, sharing our good facilities and benefitting from the expertise of our diverse and successful partner schools. We aim to place all of our students in subjects at our home-school but where there are difficulties in timetabling some options, we work with our partner schools to allow such students the breadth of subjects that they require. **Partnership places are negotiated in September through a clearing meeting of the Heads of Sixth Form.**

UCAS and Oxbridge

Oxbridge and Medical UCAS applications must be completed and submitted **before Monday 6th October 2025.** All other electronic UCAS applications are advised to be completed and submitted **before December 2025.** The UCAS deadline is Wednesday **January 14th 2026** but applicants are best served by our internal deadline of **November 10th 2025** as any applications submitted after this deadline will not be checked by Form Tutors. Please allow 3 weeks for the school submission process to be completed and an application to be sent off.

Expectations

Attendance

Please see our Sixth Form Attendance Code of Conduct for full information.

- 100% attendance is compulsory for ALL timetabled sessions and lessons, Monday Tutorials, E-Time and morning registrations. If guided self study is permitted (after January mock exams for Yr 12, this requirement will exclude those morning registrations immediately before offsite guided self-study periods).
- Registration will be taken in tutor bases for tutorial sessions and via lanyards using *Inscribe* for assemblies.
- We now have a system in place for reporting attendance concerns to parents/carers and students. Parents and students will receive an email alert which can also be viewed on MCAS.
- We strongly advise that parents/carers regularly check their child's attendance via My Child At School (MCAS). https://www.mychildatschool.com/MCAS/MCSParentLogin (School ID: 12277).
- For any planned absence please complete a <u>Leave of Absence form</u> and return to the Sixth Form Office.
- III health Students must report to the Sixth Form Office in order that a parent/carer may be informed prior to you leaving the premises.
- Lanyards with ID badges will be issued to all Sixth Form students on their first day in September. These must be on their person at all times when on the school premises. When arriving (outside of morning registration time) or leaving the school premises (outside of end of school day), these cards must be tapped on the signing in/out Chromebooks that are located in the Sixth Form Centre. These cards can also be used for the loan of Chromebooks from the Sixth Form Office. Any issues with these cards or any lost cards need to be reported to the Sixth Form Office immediately.

Behaviour and School Rules

The rules can be found in the School <u>Behaviour for Learning policy</u>, published on the school <u>website</u>. These are framed for the safety of students or their possessions or for the general good order of the school. *Conduct:* Although Sixth Form students are over the age of consent in several areas, the school would like to state explicitly that activities involving vaping / smoking / alcohol or sexual conduct are not permitted in school or during any school trip.

HEIR week & Challenge Period

There are opportunities for 'Next Step' planning and arranging Work Experience placements - **Higher Education Industry Research Week** (June/July) and Challenge Period (November).

This time provides opportunities for Sixth Formers to arrange University Open Day visits; pursue career interviews; organise work-related learning; or to investigate further potential career choices. Students MUST complete a Google Form outlining their arrangements for the week. Students who do not make arrangements will be expected to work in a designated private study venue in school.

Leaving School with a Profile

Throughout your career you will be expected to present a profile of yourself to prospective employers and others. This profile is generally in the form of Curriculum Vitae (CV) and a Personal Statement (your HE personal statement). At DHSB, students write an initial CV and Personal Statement at the start of Yr 12 with the help of their Tutor. These can be used for future references by the school. Students are expected to engage fully with <u>Unifrog</u> where such documents as well as activities and skills can be accessed.

Part-Time Work

Part-time work is **not** authorised during school hours. The benefits of a sensible amount of employment on a part-time basis are undoubted and in most cases encouraged, but you must not lose sight of the purpose of being in the Sixth Form, which is investing in yourself and your future. During term time the school recommends

no more than 8-10 hours per week paid employment. Hours beyond this should be notified to the Deputy Head of Sixth Form for discussion and guidance.

We ask that students log their employment on the <u>Unifrog Placements tool</u> leaving the 'Placement end date' blank if it is ongoing. This will enable students to recognise skills and contribute towards their career log and their work experience days.

Work Experience (see KS5 Gatsby Curriculum journey road map above)

Work experience is a statutory requirement as part of the 16 - 19 study programme.

In the Sixth Form we encourage students to seek such experiences.

A work experience placement can include; volunteering (incl. the volunteering element of DofE); work shadowing; a visit to a workplace; 'take your son / daughter to work day'; a placement over a week or a more sustained experience over a term (often the case in medical environments). Practical contact with employers offers invaluable experiences and we encourage all of our students to undertake such experiences during their time in the Sixth Form. The local community, employers / mentors and students alike can all benefit from such placements. Students may gain transferable skills which interest future employers and benefit university and apprenticeship applications, such as; motivation; organisation; time management; communication skills; working within a team; and demonstrating initiative.

All forms of Work Experience placements will complement UCAS / Apprenticeship / job applications.

How - The student will approach their chosen work placement to discuss opportunities.

When - Preferably to be arranged during;

HEIR week (Higher Education Industry & Research week in June/July);

Wednesday afternoon Enrichment Time (for longer-term placements e.g. in a hospital environment and also for involvement in partnership and community based projects).

Procedure - The student must:

Log the event on <u>Unifrog Placement tool</u>; direct link: www.unifrog.org/student/placement

Complete a Leave of Absence Form if the placement is during school time.

Please note: The working arrangement will be a private agreement between the placement, parent/carer and the student; the school is not involved in any way.

Uniform and Appearance

School uniform is to be worn when travelling to and from school and whilst off the premises during the school day. It may be required at some official school functions.

- Black blazer with school badge to be worn at all times outside the Sixth Form Centre
- Sixth Form tie
- Black trousers (not jeans or similar) with black belt, if worn
- Black skirt worn with thick tights no shorter than mid-thigh ('no tights' permitted -if skirt is knee length).
 Skirts should not be 'tubular' / 'jersey' or very fitted styles that ride up.
- Plain black or grey v-neck pullover
- Plain black or dark grey socks
- Plain black polishable shoes, no trainers or canvas shoes
- White shirt / blouse



<u>Top</u> 9

- Anoraks, hoodies and similar outerwear must not be worn on the premises during the school day
- Extremes of hairstyle and colour are not acceptable (including a shaved head! Grade 2 is acceptable, but no shorter)
- Jewellery should be minimal and in line with a professional appearance

Ultimate decisions as to whether any aspect of KS5 uniform complies with the school's expectations of smart appearance will be determined by the Head of Sixth Form. Students who regularly do not meet our expectations of uniform standards will be sent home.

Unifrog

In keeping with our commitment to provide students with outstanding careers guidance and tailored support when choosing their next steps after school, we now use <u>Unifrog</u>; an award-winning, online careers platform. All students have access to this platform.

Unifrog brings into one place every undergraduate university course, apprenticeship, and college course in the UK, as well as other opportunities, such as School Leaver Programmes, MOOCs and every college at Oxford and Cambridge. This makes it easy for students to compare and choose the best university courses, apprenticeships or further education courses for them. They can also explore exciting opportunities further afield by looking at English taught undergraduate programmes available in Europe and the USA. Additionally, the platform helps students successfully apply for these opportunities by using Unifrog to write their personal statement, applications and CVs and guiding them through the process, allowing teachers to give live feedback.

Students access the platform by clicking a link in their welcome email, where they create a password and can begin using the platform. They login to Unifrog using their email address and password and they can do so from any computer, tablet or smartphone. We would encourage you to use the platform with your child so you can support them through the process of deciding their next step.

Use of Vehicles by Students

There is no vehicle parking on site for students. There are limited marked bays for motorcycles outside the main school gates (be advised that owners park at their own risk).

Wellbeing and Support

Careers Advice

<u>Careers Plymouth</u> (previously CSW Group) provide impartial advice, guidance and other support services for young people. Careers Plymouth can help with career decisions and can provide labour market information to ensure the choices you make are realistic. Advice may include guidance regarding careers, education courses, higher education, training, and employment. Careers Plymouth also offer a charged service for psychometric assessment.

Devonport High School for Boys receives support from Careers Plymouth. We have a link advisor who is regularly in school and available for one-to-one interviews on request. Please email sixthform@dhsb.org to arrange an interview.

Pastoral Support / Problems & help

Contacts:

Deputy Head of Sixth Form - Mrs Wilkinson <u>julie.wilkinson@dhsb.org</u> SENDCO - Mrs Weaver <u>jo.weaver@dhsb.org</u> Family Support Advisor - Ms Taylor <u>lorna.taylor@dhsb.org</u>

Additional external providers - sessions / workshops will be offered throughout the year.

We are a large Sixth Form, but always aim to be a friendly one. If you have a problem, ask someone for help - please talk to anyone in the Sixth Form Team, we are here to help.

<u>Top</u> 10

Remember: none of us are perfect, we own our mistakes and a problem shared is a problem halved!

Links to Procedures and Codes of Conduct

- Code of Conduct
- DHSB Learning Agreement (example)
- Sixth Form Attendance Code of Conduct
- School Policies

Map of DHSB Site

Devonport High School for Boys



<u>Top</u> 11