

11 December 2023



Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of term, I wanted to take the opportunity to mention some of the term's events. As ever, it's been a busy term and for our new Year 7s and Years 12s, this has been a period of transition as they have been finding their feet in the next stage of their education. It certainly seems that all of the students are now settling in well and understand what they need to do to get the most out of their time at the College.

Students have been busy collecting for, and decorating the reverse advent calendars, which provide food and gifts to those in most need, as well as the Chocolate Orange appeal for care home residents. Many thanks to you at home for supporting our students' generosity and community-mindedness. Last week we enjoyed the Dance Show. All our dancers danced beautifully and with a real aura of confidence, even if they were hiding their nerves! A huge thank you to Miss Worden and Mrs Veale for putting on the event. On Sunday, our Sixth Form and several members of staff completed a sponsored walk in aid of Cancer Research. They walked 21km, from Brixham to Meadfoot, through terrible weather conditions. At the time of writing they have raised over £1200 which is a brilliant achievement; a big thank you to Mr Blacklock for organising it. Earlier this term the Music Department once again sold out the Griffin Bar in Torquay with some of our many College bands performing to an audience of over 200 people. The History Department ran a thought-provoking trip to Berlin and Poland. All of Year 7 have now visited Torquay library to teach them how to use this important resource. Our Year 8 team came second in Torbay at the Dragon's Den careers competition. We have also seen many sports fixtures, with our students competing against schools from Torbay and Devon in rugby, basketball, cross country and netball.

We still have lots to look forward to before the end of term. Many of our students have successfully applied for leadership roles at the College this term, and it's also been great to see students earning plenty of merits. They need to remember to wear the merit and/or leadership badges and find Santa at lunchtimes this week so they can collect raffle tickets from him (or her!) to be entered into the prize draw. Friday 15 December is the last day of term. Don't forget that's our Christmas Jumper day. Students can pay £1 to wear non-uniform, preferably something festive! Please don't feel you have to buy a Christmas jumper; students find lots of creative ways to create their own Christmas outfits each year. We will be having our annual Christmas Fair at lunchtime on that day, where students will be able to buy treats, enter competitions and play games. They may wish to bring some change for this: all proceeds go to charity and it's a lovely way to end the term. Many thanks to all of you who have been strong-armed into baking or donating for the stalls, too. We'll finish the day with the College Christmas Quiz, in which the students compete against the other tutor groups. College will finish at 2.50 pm as usual.




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On the theme of the end of term, we sadly say goodbye to two long-serving teachers this Christmas. Both Mrs Veale and Ms Deekes are heading off to exciting new ventures. We will miss them very much and I'm grateful to each of them for the contribution they have made to the College over the years.

Whilst we want all of our families to have a brilliant Christmas break, I'd like to make my perennial plea to not allow students to have facial piercings done over the holiday. They are not permitted to wear them in school and so this just causes issues at the start of a new term when everyone needs to be focused on their learning. Please also use the break as an opportunity to ensure uniform and equipment are correct for the term ahead and let us know as soon as possible if you need support with this.

Term starts again for students on Wednesday 3 January at 8.25 am. In the meantime, I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a happy, healthy new year. Thank you for all of your support this year.

With warmest wishes



**Alex Newton**  
**Principal**

