

School Development Plan Update March 2026

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 Food Technology

Year 11 Food GCSE Technical Skills

For their Year 11 Food GCSE practical, students made pastries, fruit tarts, chicken dishes, whereby they jointed the chicken themselves, and some interesting flavoured breads. There were some really creative ideas and it was fantastic to see their level of professionalism and execution of some excellent technical skills to create these dishes.



2 All staff seek to become even better

Teaching and learning and continuous professional development

Subject Mastery

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

This half term, our Subject Mastery CPD cycle was again well underway, with staff engaging in a rich programme of subject-specific professional learning designed to deepen expertise and strengthen curriculum delivery.

Sessions already delivered have included science colleagues taking part in a local brewery visit and exploring university-based X-ray simulation and Anatomage facilities, PE staff preparing to introduce Flag Football into the curriculum, and geography teachers analysing A-level training materials and examiner feedback to inform planning for 2026. Humanities colleagues have also focused on subject mastery through History sessions exploring NEA assessment guidance and the US political system, alongside RS discussions on extending the effective use of AI to enhance planning, assessment and student engagement.

Later this half term, staff will continue to engage in further high-quality subject mastery opportunities, including behind-the-scenes creative arts workshops exploring professional theatre production and our maths staff are set to tackle the Professor Level Mathematical challenges at Hidden Valley.



3 Embracing inclusion and diversity

Embedding our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Plan

Holocaust Memorial Day Commemorations

As part of Plymouth's Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations, Year 9 student, Hugh Taylor, shared his great-grandfather's World War II diary entries with local dignitaries, local councillors and members of the public. The hidden messages, which had been written in a secret code, were deciphered through a collaborative effort with school staff and the use of cutting-edge AI technology. This lost history of powerful insights demonstrates how modern technology can preserve the voices of the past for future generations.

Hugh said "For a long time, my grandfather's diary was a mystery, locked away in a secret code that no one could read. To us, those pages were like a wall standing between his past and our present. By working to translate these words, our family has finally built a bridge across that gap. We aren't just reading history in a textbook; we are listening to his voice, his fears, and his hopes. This diary reminds us that the responsibility of 'never forgetting' isn't just a phrase—it's a choice we make to keep a person's story alive. Today, we unlock his message so that my generation can carry it forward, making sure his light, and the lessons of his time, are never lost in the dark."

Mrs Wardle, Joint Head of Religious Studies said "Oh my goodness, the boys were so brilliant this morning! They absolutely made the school proud. So many people came up to them afterwards to commend them on their participation in the Holocaust Memorial Day Commemorations."

The event which took place at the Council House, involved the Lord Mayor and Leader of the Council who, with invited guests, listened to passionate speeches, emotional poems and contributions from local schools. If you are interested in watching the commemoration or seeing our students perform, please follow this [link](#) to Plymouth City Council's You Tube channel where it has been published. Regrettably, you can't hear the cello or keyboard parts very well. Hugh's presentation starts at 36 minutes and Errol Cawaing, Henry Gilmore, Alex Boghian & Ralph Haydn-Davies' performance leaves people blown away from 59 mins.



Westminster Abbey Trip

The students attending the Commonwealth Service at Westminster Abbey had an amazing time. They participated in a wonderful service filled with thoughtful words and prayers, readings, music, dance and a parade of flags from around the world. The students enjoyed watching a host of celebrities arrive, and saw HRH the king, Queen Camilla, Prince William and Kate Middleton, Keir Starmer, Kemi Badenoch and many others pass within five meters of where they were standing! The message of unity, of acceptance and of positivity was abundant.

The students were exceptional, as commented on by members of the public, and the experience was once in a lifetime. We are all grateful to Mrs Cunningham for entering the ballot to win these tickets.



4 Leadership and communities

Continue to enhance the extracurricular offer and trips/experiences

DHSB band 'Mantis', performed at the Regional Heat Battle of the Bands 2026.

Our phenomenal band Mantis, consisting of Year 10 and 11 students Oliver Elford, Oliver Morton, Joseph Kua, Zachary Methven and Adam Young, competed at the regional heat of Battle of the Bands 2026 which was held at Plympton Academy and organised by Devon Music Education Hub.

They performed Iron Maiden's 'The Wicker Man' number brilliantly with extraordinary authenticity, stage presence, professionalism, musicianship and ensemble skills. The panel of highly experienced judges from the Music industry: Anthony Chamberlain (DMEH Music Development Lead), Jo Loosemore (BBC Devon) and Dave Meadows (Pushed Studios Ltd), unanimously praised their enthusiasm, energy and skill. The judges complimented exceptional frontmanship and vocals by Oliver Elford (Year 10) and impressive lead guitar and solo by Joseph Kua (Year 11), also recognising that Oliver and Joseph would not be able to do what they did without an extremely solid and tight rhythm section. This year saw an extremely high level of competition and Mantis enjoyed the experience wishing to compete again next year.

We are extremely proud of their performance and manner on the day and throughout the process and look forward to hearing them perform in future events and opportunities. Mantis are a true credit to the college and our community.



Little Shop of Horrors

Described as 'fantastic' and 'extremely entertaining', we're delighted to share photos from our musical theatre production of 'Little Shop of Horrors', staged the last week of Spring Term 1 in the Edgcombe Theatre.

A huge well done to all staff and students involved in the cast, crew, stage band and technical team, led by Mrs Luing-Holmes.

Mrs Luing-Holmes, Creative Director said "In this production, you see the succinct, honed talent of our Leads and Ronnettes, some of whom have journeyed through three shows together, developing skill and stage presence through each show. This community, this family affair and

sharing of role model behaviour is fostered in an exceptional climate in this school and in our partner schools. I'm so proud to see our students perform, play in the exceptional band, manage backstage, lights and sound, and business enterprise stalls. The community and passion to be exceptional is the beating heart of our productions at DHSB and in 'Little Shop of Horrors'. I am particularly gobsmacked, in awe and amazed at the talent of our young people."

You can view the programme by following this [link](#).



Embedding and enhancing the extensive leadership opportunities for students with a focus on the house system and community action through various projects such as school food, sustainability and social justice

Duke of Edinburgh Award

100 Year 9 students attended the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award (D of E) training day at DHSB, led by instructors from Dynamic Adventures. The boys were preparing for their practice and final expeditions later this year, where they will journey in small groups, self-supported over the course of a weekend.

The students took part in a round robin of activities: familiarising themselves with the school expedition tents and stoves; basic first aid training; map skills; teamwork and making informed decisions about what to pack in their expedition rucksacks.

Alongside training for their expeditions, students are making progress with their D of E sections, where they volunteer in the community, develop a skill or hobby and take part in physical activity for a minimum of one hour a week each. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) is a youth achievement program in the UK and worldwide, designed to build confidence and resilience. Founded in 1956, it offers Bronze, Silver, and Gold levels, encouraging self-development outside the classroom. Our Bronze DHSB cohort is the largest in recent years and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents, friends, coaches and teachers who are supporting these young people to expand their comfort zones and achieve a well-recognised and hard-earned award.

A special word also for our older students, who were completing training for their Silver and Gold expeditions. We had two groups training for either a walking or canoeing expedition. The instructors were very complimentary about these groups, especially how they handled the wet and windy weather, and worked together to achieve their aims.

The Silver walking and cycling expeditions will take place in north Devon and the Gold expeditions will take place in Switzerland, canoeing the River Wye or walking in Eryri National Park.

Please see the photos for a glimpse of Saturday's activities at DHSB.



House Assemblies

Our House Captains led their first live, face-to-face House Assemblies, all built around the inspiring theme of "The Power of Curiosity." Students drew on the lives and achievements of well-known figures such as Albert Einstein, Alexander Fleming and Michael Faraday to demonstrate how curiosity has the power to drive discovery, creativity and progress. The assemblies explored the different types of curiosity and encouraged students to question the world around them, reminding their house teams of the importance of asking "why?" in both learning and everyday life.

Presenting to a live audience for the first time can be a daunting experience, but every House Team rose to the challenge superbly, delivering thoughtful and engaging assemblies with

confidence and enthusiasm. It was a fantastic week for our House Captains, and I am very much looking forward to the next round of assemblies.

House News

The corridors were buzzing as the termly round of judging for the House Boards officially wrapped up. I was incredibly impressed by the effort on display, it was an excellent standard and probably the hardest to judge as the overall quality was fantastic.

In a display of impressive consistency, Attenborough defended their crown from the first round, securing the top spot once again. They were followed closely by Johnson in second place and Scott in third, both of whom delivered standout boards that made the final decision incredibly difficult for me.

Congratulations to the Attenborough team for keeping their winning streak alive, and a massive shoutout to all the Houses for making the school look so vibrant. The bar has officially been raised, let's see if anyone can topple the champions in the next round!



Spelling Bee

The atmosphere in the hall was electric when Devonport High School for Boys hosted the annual Spelling Bee. Two elite spellers from every house across Years 7 to 10 stepped up to the microphone, all eyeing the coveted title of 2026 Year Group Winner. From deceptive silent letters to complex linguistic traps, the word list was particularly formidable, yet our students navigated the challenge with impressive composure and skill.

A huge congratulations to our 2026 champions:

Alfie Nicholson (7A), Jack Redgrave (7J) and Edward Borthwick (7T) who secured a rare joint victory for Year 7; Rufus Brokenshire (8F) for Year 8; Britto Rajesh (9S) for Year 9; and Jason Robbilliard (10S) for Year 10.

The overall winning house, after taking all placings into consideration, was Attenborough. Well done to all finalists for representing their houses with such diligence and "orthographic excellence", they've certainly proven that even in the age of spellcheck, the art of spelling is thriving at DHSB.



Ten Tors training Day January 2026

Saturday 17 January was the first day walk of this year's DHSB Ten Tors training programme, after last term's Abbot's Way pre-selection walk and night navigation exercise. In training are one year-10 45-mile team and one year-12 team. Most of the rain showers missed the walkers by a couple of kilometres, leaving them in cold, sunny conditions perfect for walking, and with crystal clear visibility. The rivers had subsided low enough to practice crossing them on some routes that have been reintroduced to Ten Tors this year (anyone who did Ten Tors pre 2015 may remember Killer Valley...). The photo shows the year-12 team showing how to walk safely through the shallowest point on the West Okement River at Sandy Ford, as well as showing how tough they are putting up with water barely above freezing point getting into their boots. We are grateful to the volunteers, trustee, and staff who give up weekends to enable our students to have this experience.



SWAT Challenge Day

A group of year 9 students had a fantastic trip to Parkstone Grammar School, Bournemouth, to participate in this year's SWAT Challenge Day. SWAT stands for the South West Academic Trust. Teams of students from each of the grammar schools between Plymouth and Bournemouth came together for the event. The day began very early, departing from DHSB just after 6 o'clock in the morning. On arrival, there was an inspirational talk from Jo Bradshaw, who had climbed the highest mountain on each of the world's continents. She set the tone of 'challenge' as a key theme for our students to consider, and how they can overcome challenges with patience and perseverance. The boys were then split into mixed groups with other students from different schools and took part in several challenges: escape rooms, creating digital animations and various team-building activities. To conclude the day, students presented what they had learned about the challenges and the new friendships they had made. It was a really collaborative event that promoted connectivity between the schools and their young people. A tired minibus crawled back into DHSB that evening with a group of students who had wholeheartedly thrown themselves into the spirit of challenge throughout the day.



Students awarded Gold and Silver in Round 1 of the British Physics Olympiad

At the end of the Autumn Term, students from DHSB took part in the British Physics Olympiad. In total, 1811 students from 475 schools in the UK and from a few schools overseas, participated in this national competition (and a further 3,700 students in China).

The Olympiad which is not an A level test, challenged the students' range of knowledge, preparation and ability and stretched and challenged the top young physicists in the country.

The problems set were not easy and every question required a different perspective to get the measure of it. Fluency in recognising topics and linking ideas is, in part, what develops a physicist's confidence and mastery so this competition was a good opportunity for all of the students taking part to improve theirs.

Student Results

Caleb Caleshu Gold

Iwan Sanders Silver

Luke Madgett Silver

Noah Reid Bronze 1

Omar Alkanhoush Bronze 1

Thomas de Wilde Bronze 2

Tom Rickard Bronze 2

On receiving news of the awards, Dr Colvile, Head of Physics, said "Silver in Y12 is phenomenal. Gold is phenomenal"

Well done to all students that took part, including those that didn't receive a medal.



5 Shaping our futures

Improving our internal and external environment through investing more resources and energy into achieving an excellent environmental and sustainable ethos towards a net-zero strategy.

Careers

Year 11 Mock Interview Preparation

A group of 23 Year 11 students took part in an interview preparation workshop led by Callum from the Babcock External Engagement Team. The session was designed to support students as they begin thinking seriously about their next steps and potential apprenticeship pathways.

During the workshop, students learned how to prepare effectively for interviews, including researching employers, understanding the role they are applying for, and presenting themselves confidently. Callum shared practical advice on answering common interview questions, communicating clearly, and making a positive first impression, helping to demystify the interview process.

The session came at a perfect time, as students will be putting these skills into practice during their mock interviews later this month. These mock interviews will play an important role in preparing students for real apprenticeship applications, building confidence and giving them valuable experience in a formal interview setting. We would like to thank Callum and the Babcock team for supporting our students and helping them develop essential employability skills.



Year 11 Mock Interviews with Babcock

We were delighted to welcome five members of Babcock to Devonport High School for Boys. They spent the morning conducting mock interviews for our Year 11 students who are currently applying for apprenticeships.

The students had the opportunity to experience the interview process in a realistic, professional setting. Each student received individual feedback from our Babcock visitors, helping them to refine their answers, improve their confidence, and understand what employers are looking for.

The session was a fantastic chance for our students to practice communication skills, professionalism, and self-presentation - all essential for succeeding in the apprenticeship application process.

Reece (11S) said "Mr Hurrell was very helpful today and I appreciate him taking his time out of his day to interview me and advise me what to do and get the best from me out of the interview."

Ashley (11W) found the opportunity "very helpful as some of the questions asked in the interview I didn't expect so I hopefully will be able to answer some of them much better in the real thing."

We are extremely grateful to Babcock External Engagement team for taking the time to support our students and for providing such valuable insights into the world of work. Experiences like this play a vital role in preparing our young people for life beyond school.

Year 11 Mock Results

Our Year 11 students reached an important milestone as they received their mock examination results earlier this term. The results morning was a genuinely lovely occasion and provided a valuable opportunity to pause, recognise the effort students have put in so far, and look ahead with confidence to the summer exam series.

By sharing results in a supportive and familiar setting, we were able to mirror the experience of a summer results day while keeping the focus firmly on next steps. Students had time to talk with friends and staff, celebrate successes, and reflect thoughtfully on where they are now and how they can continue to make progress. The "Next Steps" assembly helped to frame the day positively, reinforcing the message that mocks are not an endpoint, but a key moment for learning and growth.

Mr Scott, Leader of Careers & PSHE, said the "assembly focused on perspective, planning and purpose. Students were reminded that mock grades are not a measure of potential, but a checkpoint on the journey to GCSEs. With 53 school days until exams begin, the emphasis was firmly on what happens next: making informed post-16 choices, surrounding yourself with the right people, and taking action early. Students explored options including sixth form, colleges, apprenticeships and the support available through Unifrog and one-to-one careers meetings. The message was clear: start now, stay focused, and keep your options open."

At lunchtime, we were delighted to see so many students take advantage of the drop-in support session, using the opportunity to discuss their results, clarify strategies, and think carefully about how to achieve their potential in the months ahead. These conversations were purposeful, mature, and a real credit to the cohort.

The following week we shared further details about the range of in-school support available to help students with their revision and heading toward the exams and as always, we will be encouraging a little-and-often approach from this point onwards, as this remains the most effective way for students to feel confident, prepared, and ready when the exams come around.



Next Steps Evening

DHSB were delighted to welcome parents and students to our Next Steps Evening, held in the Edgcumbe Theatre. The event was extremely well attended and provided an invaluable opportunity for families to explore the wide range of pathways available to students as they plan for life beyond school.

The evening opened with an introduction from Mr Scott, Leader for Careers & PSHE, who set the context for the importance of informed decision-making at key transition points. He highlighted a striking reality for today's young people: many of our students will not retire until the 2080s and are likely to have 30-40 different jobs across their working lives. In such a rapidly changing world of work, developing transferable 'soft' skills - such as communication, teamwork, adaptability, resilience and problem-solving - is just as important as gaining qualifications. These skills are not something to worry about later; they start being built today, both in and beyond the classroom.

This was followed by engaging presentations from our local partners, including Dominic White (City College Plymouth) on apprenticeships and T-levels, alongside contributions from Gareth Geen (Building Plymouth), Chiara Buckland-Davis (Cornwall College Group), and Callum Earl and Beke Blakeman (Babcock International). Parents and students also had the opportunity to speak directly with presenters at the end of the evening.

We are extremely grateful to all our speakers and to the families who attended and engaged so positively.

Presentation slides from the evening can be accessed [here](#).



6. Creative spirit and innovative thinking

Raising Digital Engagement

DHSB Awarded CyberFirst Gold

Devonport High School for Boys reached a major milestone by gaining CyberFirst Gold recognition - an accomplishment that places the school among a select group of UK schools delivering excellence in cyber security education.

Our school's commitment to digital excellence in education, computing and cyber-related skills development strongly aligns with the rigorous requirements of the CyberFirst Schools Programme, run by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) - part of GCHQ in the UK.

The CyberFirst Schools and Colleges programme recognises educational institutions that demonstrate high-quality cyber education provision and opportunities for students. Awards are given at three levels:

- Bronze - aspiring to cyber excellence
- Silver - strong provision with plans to grow
- Gold - outstanding commitment to developing cyber skills and digital resilience

Being awarded Gold means our school has shown leadership in areas such as:

- A broad, engaging computing curriculum
- Activities that extend learning beyond the classroom
- Initiatives that build real-world digital and cyber skills
- Support and opportunities that inspire students toward cyber careers

Gold status is awarded for a three-year period, after which schools can renew their recognition through continued excellence.

DHSB has a long-standing commitment to technology that supports both teaching and learning. For many years, DHSB has been:

- A Google Reference School, using technology to enhance learning and collaboration across all subjects
- An early adopter of 1:1 Chromebooks and Google Workspace for Education, fostering independence, digital literacy and real-world technology skills

DHSB's digital strategy has also been recognised nationally and internationally:

- We were a Silver Winner in the Pearson National Teaching Awards for Transformational Use of Digital Technology in 2025
- We won the Global EdTech Best School Digital Transformation Award in 2024 - a testament to how deeply technology is woven into the fabric of school life
- This strong foundation lays the groundwork for excellence in cyber education, making the school well aligned with the expectations of the CyberFirst Gold criteria.

Achieving CyberFirst Gold signals a vibrant future for students, families and the local community.

Students benefit from cutting-edge computing lessons that go beyond basic computer skills, covering cyber security, digital problem-solving and safe online practices. These are essential in a world where cyber threats and digital career opportunities are rapidly growing.

CyberFirst programmes encourage schools to develop clubs, workshops and hands-on activities - such as coding clubs, cyber challenges and real-world problem solving - which enrich learning and spark student curiosity.

Gold recognition also connects DHSB students with national networks, industry partners and opportunities that can open doors to apprenticeships, university courses and careers in technology and cyber security.

Cyber security is now a core part of life - from personal safety and business operations to government and national infrastructure. The UK government and industry partners are investing heavily in developing the next generation of cyber talent, with demand far outstripping the supply of skilled professionals. The CyberFirst programme enables schools like DHSB to play a vital role in closing the cyber skills gap by inspiring young people early in their education.

The importance of Computer Science education will only continue to grow in the years ahead. As the use of artificial intelligence, automation and data-driven technologies expands across every sector, the opportunities available to students with strong computing and digital skills are increasing rapidly. At the same time, this growing reliance on technology brings heightened risks, with cyber attacks becoming more frequent, sophisticated and disruptive to individuals, organisations and national infrastructure. A high-quality Computer Science education equips students not only to access exciting future careers, but also to understand how systems work, how data can be protected, and how technology can be used responsibly and securely. CyberFirst Gold recognition reflects DHSB's commitment to preparing students for both the opportunities and challenges of an increasingly digital world.

Whether it is Computer Science lessons in the classroom or cyber challenges beyond it, Devonport High School for Boys is helping ensure its students are not just consumers of technology, but thoughtful creators and safe, savvy digital citizens ready for tomorrow's world.



Google for Education Premier Reference School Status

We received excellent news from Google, that DHSB was awarded Premier Reference School status as part of the refreshed global Google for Education Reference Program. This award

recognised that our school represents the highest level of innovation with Google for education tools.

Receiving this designation, highlighted our commitment to shaping the future of learning by deploying next-generation tools and creating personalised learning environments where every student and educator can reach their full potential.

We are very proud of everyone in our community and look forward to continuing our partnership with Google, by championing dynamic teaching practices that engage and inspire.

DHSB eSports Team Success at SW Showcase Tournament

Thirteen students from Years 8-12 proudly represented Devonport High School for Boys at our very first eSports competition - the South West Showcase Tournament, hosted at Teignmouth Community School.

Competing against ten other schools from across the region, our students took part in a series of high-energy challenges across multiple titles. The tournament began with a fast-paced 3 vs 3 competition in Rocket League, followed by the precision-based F1 Hot Lap Challenge in F1. Students then showcased their football gaming skills in EA Sports FC 26 before finishing the day with the ever-popular Fortnite.

The standard of competition was incredibly high, and our students represented the school with maturity, teamwork and resilience throughout the day. We are especially proud to celebrate the following trophy winners:

F1 Hot Lap Challenge – 1st Place
George Cavanagh (10F)

EA FC26 – 2nd Place
Sid Seip (9T)

Fortnite – 3rd Place
Bodhi Ward (9A)

Their achievements are a fantastic testament not only to their gaming skill, but also to their focus, preparation and ability to perform under pressure. One student even logged in to his Sparx Reader assignment when the Fortnite connection failed!

The Benefits of eSports

Competitive gaming offers far more than entertainment. eSports helps students to develop strategic thinking, rapid decision-making, communication skills and teamwork. Games such as Rocket League and Fortnite require players to analyse situations in real time, adapt tactics, and collaborate effectively - skills that strongly align with computational thinking and problem-solving in Computer Science.

Furthermore, the eSports industry is one of the fastest-growing sectors globally, offering a wide range of career opportunities beyond professional gameplay. Students interested in eSports might pursue careers in:

- Game design and development
- Software engineering
- Event management and tournament operations
- Broadcasting and shoutcasting
- Marketing and content creation
- Data analytics and performance coaching
- Cybersecurity and IT infrastructure

As a school, we are excited to be working with local providers to further develop eSports opportunities within the Computer Science department over the coming year. Our aim is to create structured pathways for students to explore both the competitive and career-focused aspects of the industry, ensuring that gaming becomes not just a hobby, but a gateway to future opportunities.

This first tournament marks the beginning of what we hope will be a successful and growing eSports programme at DHSB. Well done to all 13 students who represented the school so brilliantly - we are incredibly proud of you.

Year 8 are currently engaged in an eSports unit in their Computer Science theme in Digital Enterprise lessons.



ACE Cyber Security Competition Bristol

Four Year 10 students proudly represented Devonport High School for Boys at the prestigious ACE Cyber Security Competition, held at the University of the West of England in Bristol.

The ACE Cyber Security Competition is a national initiative supported by CyberFirst, designed to inspire students to explore the exciting and rapidly growing world of cyber security. The competition is delivered in partnership with institutions recognised by the National Cyber Security Centre.

The competition ran from 0900 through to 1530 and featured two challenging activities designed to test students' cyber knowledge, logical thinking and teamwork.

The morning began with a fast-paced, time-based cyber quiz, requiring teams to apply their understanding of key cyber security concepts under pressure. After lunch, students tackled a second activity designed to stretch their technical skills and problem-solving abilities even further. While scores were being finalised, students also had the opportunity to hear from experts in the field, gaining insight into pathways and careers within cybersecurity.

This event was particularly significant for DHSB as we are proud to be recognised as a CyberFirst Gold School. This national accreditation reflects our ongoing commitment to excellence in cyber and computing education. Achieving CyberFirst Gold status places us among a select group of schools across the UK that demonstrate outstanding provision, enrichment opportunities, and clear pathways into cyber-related careers.

Participation in competitions like this provides students with invaluable experience beyond the classroom. Cyber security demands resilience, collaboration, analytical thinking and ethical awareness - all skills that align closely with our curriculum and wider school values. The cyber sector continues to experience significant growth, offering diverse career opportunities ranging from penetration testing and digital forensics to security analysis, software engineering and national security roles.

The students performed well in round one, ranking 3rd from the 20 teams competing. During the huge cyber attack challenge the students competed against Y10-13 students and ranked in 5th place! Well done boys for your hard work and superb effort in an incredibly challenging completion.

We are incredibly proud of the four Year 10 students who represented the school with maturity, focus and enthusiasm throughout the day. Events such as this demonstrate not only the talent of our students, but also the strength of DHSB's growing reputation in Computer Science and cyber education.

We look forward to building on this success as we continue to expand our CyberFirst provision and provide students with access to nationally recognised opportunities in this exciting and vital industry.



Enterprise

It has been a pleasure this term to see enterprise, creativity and community spirit come together in such an inspiring way.

To coincide with our school production of 'Little Shop of Horrors', a group of students from Year 7 through to Year 10 have been working behind the scenes — not on stage, but in the role of young entrepreneurs. Rather than simply enjoying the show as audience members, they set themselves the challenge of designing, producing and selling their own merchandise inspired by the production.

Working in small business teams, students developed their own product ideas, carefully considering branding, pricing, target audience and sustainability. From concept sketches through to final packaging, every stage of the process was student-led. Before production began, each team organised and completed their own fundraising activities to generate the start-up capital needed to bring their ideas to life — an impressive demonstration of initiative and teamwork.

Once the curtain rose on opening night, our young business owners were ready with their ideas ranging from very popular candy floss, fudge, brownies and sweets to coasters, tote bags, key rings, notepads and Audrey stitched figures. Each evening they have been selling their merchandise to audiences, confidently engaging with customers and managing stock and finances with professionalism well beyond their years. It has been wonderful to see students from different year groups collaborating, supporting one another and learning practical skills that extend far beyond the classroom.

What makes this project even more special is its commitment to giving back. Each student business pledged to donate a proportion of its profits to a local charity here in Plymouth, ensuring that their success also benefits the wider community.

