



Orchard Manor School News

The Apple Press Orchard Manor School Updates and Communications

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“Ne'er cast a clout till May be out' - Old English Proverb

(Which means don't take your winter coat off until: a) the end of May or b) the Hawthorne hedges are in bloom!)

Hello Everyone!



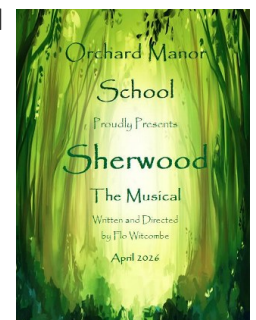
Welcome back to our Summer term! I hope you all had a fantastic Easter holiday and are ready to move into one of our busiest and exciting times of the year. Today of course, is the First of May, and some of our students are getting into the spirit of things on our lawn and learning the traditional Maypole Dance with a pole and ribbons. This dance celebrates the renewal of life after winter, and apparently originated as early as the 14th century.

As some of our parents will know, GCSE exams start next week. We would like to wish all our students the very best of luck as they approach this important milestone. It can feel like a challenging period, but staying organised, getting plenty of rest, and taking time to eat well and recharge between exams can make a real difference. Simple strategies such as reading questions carefully, managing time effectively during each paper, and checking answers thoroughly are all valuable habits. Above all, students should feel confident in the hard work they have already put in - we are incredibly proud of each and every one of them. And we would like to wish lots of luck to the brothers and sisters of our students who may also be doing exams this summer.



Ten Tors is quickly coming up too - Our Ten Tors team has stepped up their preparation significantly, most recently taking part in an overnight camping experience as part of their training. This marks a new level of commitment and resilience, with many hours of walking, planning, and teamwork already invested in getting ready for the challenge ahead. It has been fantastic to see their determination and perseverance throughout. Do make sure to put the date in your diary if you would like to come along and support the team as they cross the finish line - it promises to be a truly proud and memorable moment for all involved. Ten Tors takes place from Friday 8th to Sunday 10th May 2026 on Dartmoor

We are also delighted to celebrate the success of our recent school production “Sherwood the Musical” this week. It was a Hunger Games themed Robin Hood musical written by our very own Big Flo. The performance was a great success - running on three consecutive afternoons. It combined a politically relevant and thought-provoking storyline with outstanding performances from our students. The acting was superb, showcasing both talent and confidence, and the production as a whole was a credit to everyone involved, both on stage and behind the scenes. It was a wonderful reminder of the creativity and dedication within our school community, how teamwork is fundamental to success, and most importantly, just how fantastic our students are! We are all looking forward to the next production, because I'm sure it will be phenomenal! Well done to EVERYONE involved and thank you to our lovely parents who came to see it too. Do keep an eye out on social media for a montage of photos from the play.



And finally - thank you to all our parents who have taken the time to fill out our yearly Parent Survey already. If you haven't done so yet, please click here: [Parents and Carers Voice Survey Summer Term 2026](#) We will post the results when we have them!

All that's left to say now, is have a great Bank Holiday Weekend - we will see you all back in school on Tuesday 5th of May at the usual time! **Nicola Jones, Headteacher**