

# SHEBBEAR COLLEGE





We See it
Shebbear College
School Film



We see it.

It's not always easy,

Not always staring you in the face.

But we see it.

That Individuality
That Spirit
That Promise
The Confidence to get it wrong...
and get straight back up again.
That 'I can', 'I am!'
That Curiosity,
Fascination,
Persistence,
Fearlessness.
That larger than life,
Happy in my skin,
True sense of self.

We see it Because we're always looking for it.

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# ISI INSPECTION 2021

Following a full Inspection with the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI – the Ofsted equivalent for Independent Schools), we are delighted to have been graded 'EXCELLENT' - the highest possible grade – in both key outcomes: the pupils' achievements; and the pupils' personal development.

This places us as the top Independent School in the local area based on ISI ratings and is testament to everything that we are achieving both inside and outside of the classroom.

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The Quality of the pupils' personal development is Excellent.

ISI Inspection Report 2021

The Quality of the pupils' academic and other achievements is Excellent.

ISI Inspection Report 2021







# DISCOVER SHEBBEAR

Situated in 85 acres of beautiful Devon countryside, Shebbear College is a thriving day and boarding school for boys and girls aged 4 - 18.

Life here is busy, filled with academic purpose, co-curricular activity, creative discovery and outdoor adventure. We believe in a broad, extensive education and our pupils are encouraged to challenge themselves, take risks, overcome mistakes and have the confidence to try new things.

### What makes us different?

As a smaller school, we are proud of the fact that we know every pupil as an individual. We can focus on each child, teaching them in the way that they learn best.

We are not an academically selective school, but the individual attention that we can offer our pupils means that they consistently excel in all aspects of school life - in the classroom, on the stage or on the sports field.

At Shebbear, we are not a 'one size fits all'. We are warm, inviting, open and individual. Come and have a look around and our pupils will welcome you with open arms!



Our buildings are a mix of traditional and modern with a continuous programme of investment ensuring that we remain at the forefront of education and opportunity. Our state-of-the-art Music School is a theatre of creative opportunity, a plethora of instruments for anyone to try. The Art Studios ooze character, creativity and self-expression. The Sports fields are competitive yet supportive and the classrooms are friendly, relaxed and open.









## **OUR PEOPLE**

People often comment on the 'happy feeling' you get when you come to Shebbear College. But what defines that feeling, what is it that makes us unique? When you try and put your finger on it, you realise that this feeling isn't about our physical environment, but our people.

Our teachers are dedicated and inspirational. They recognise that every child should have the chance to shine instead of getting lost in a large, impersonal system which stifles their individuality. They support each individual pupil in the way that is best for them. They care!

Our pupils are motivated, confident and happy. These are children who have been nurtured and guided to be comfortable with who they are. Compassion, kindness and courtesy are all ingrained in a Shebbearian and they encourage each other, celebrate others' successes and help each other with problems.

# OUR HISTORY

Initially founded in 1829 and established as Shebbear College in 1841, we are one of the world's oldest Methodist schools, belonging to a group of independent boarding schools that form the Methodist Independent Schools Trust (MIST). Our campus still includes many of the original buildings and features, blended with new site developments.

Having been an all-boys school since it was founded, Shebbear became co-educational in 1993. Today we welcome girls and boys of all religious and non-religious beliefs.

Our School Values of Confidence, Courage, Courtesy, Creativity, Compassion and Curiosity stem from our Christian foundations. These core values permeate everything we do and reinforce our strong Shebbear community. Our pupils are ambitious, achieve highly and embrace every opportunity available to them.





### **OUR FUTURE**

We are a forward thinking school with traditional roots, working together to develop our young people and their passions.

Our world is changing fast and we recognise that we must continue to revolutionise our teaching and learning and adapt our academic community, whilst retaining our individual focus and our community values. Our five year Strategic Development plan focuses on four key areas, which we will continue to develop and improve:



Learning & Curriculum



Growth & Sustainability



People & Wellbeing



Resources & Facilities

As a member of the Methodist Independent Schools Trust (MIST), we maintain operational control of the school, with MIST offering support, advice and investment centrally.













# OUR PRE-PREP

Our friendly, happy Pre-Prep is home to our youngest children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 (aged 4 - 7 years old), where many of our pupils start their Shebbear College education.

In the Pre-Prep we keep our class sizes small. The children are taught by a full-time teacher and have a teaching assistant in each class, meaning that each pupil is given the individual time and attention that they need. We follow a rich and varied curriculum (EYFS for the Reception Class and KS1 for Prep 1 and 2) including English and Maths in the mornings with Topic work – encompassing Science, History and Geography - in the afternoons.

In addition to this our children enjoy Art, French, ICT, Music, Drama, RE, PHSE, Games, PE, Outdoor Education, Swimming and Gymnastics lessons, many of which are taught in bespoke facilities by specialist subject teachers from across the school. We make the most of our beautiful surroundings by taking learning outside whenever we can, giving the children hands-on experience of nature, science and the environment. They also have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of co-curricular clubs and activities after school including a range of academic clubs, art, dance, drama and various sporting activities.







Our Prep School caters for pupils in Years 3 - 6 (aged 7 - 11 years old). Housed in its own building, close to both the Senior School and the Pre-Prep, it is a big part of the Shebbear College community.

From the moment you walk into the Prep School, you immediately feel the Shebbear spirit - warm, friendly and welcoming!

Our commitment to small class sizes means that our pupils are confident and not afraid to express their thoughts and feelings. They are secure and happy and as a result are enthusiastic and fully engaged in lessons.

Throughout the Prep School children are taught by a full-time class teacher for core subjects such as English and Maths, with specialist teachers for some areas including PE, Outdoor Education, Art, French, Computing, Science and Music.

We enhance the curriculum through trips, visits and inspirational guests as well as our wide range of co-curricular clubs and activities.

Our teachers encourage everyone to pursue their strengths, but also to work hard at the things that don't come so easily. Pupils are eager to take on new and exciting challenges, to give everything a go and to get stuck in!

# OUR SENIOR SCHOOL

We welcome pupils aged 11 - 16 into our Senior School from Form 1 (Year 7) upwards. Life is busy, creative, challenging and fun.

We believe in setting high standards for our pupils. Our small class sizes, experienced teachers and individual approach means that we are able to work with each child to achieve things that they may not think are possible! Our broad subject base, including separate and combined Sciences, the Performing and Creative Arts, Humanities, Sport and Outdoor Education, retains flexibility for the future and keeps as many opportunities open as possible for our pupils, whether they plan to go on to university or take a different path. Learning is active and pupil-centred, with trips, projects, coursework and activities reinforcing and illuminating what is learnt in the classroom.

At GCSE, pupils usually study nine subjects with the opportunity to follow more if desired. Teachers and tutors help and guide them with subject choices and combinations to ensure that each pupil chooses the path that is right for them.

Our personalised learning approach means that our pupils consistently achieve excellent exam results year-on-year. Every pupil can excel here, and we help them to identify their strengths and to develop them, whilst at the same time encouraging them in the areas they find more challenging, building confidence and resilience.





# OUR SIXTH FORM

The Sixth Form at Shebbear College blends academic achievement and exam success with fun and friendship. We are welcoming and unpretentious, developing the strengths and aspirations of every pupil in a supportive environment.

In the Sixth Form our pupils are taught in small groups, enabling them to focus on their studies whilst providing them with the right amount of support, care and communication. There is an emphasis on independent study, aimed at developing invaluable skills for higher education and later life.

Sixth Formers enjoy their own dress code and are based in our modern Sixth Form Centre, located in the heart of our rural campus and very much part of the school community. The Sixth Form Centre is an adult environment in which pupils can both develop their academic potential and relax with their friends. There are a number of rooms for quiet individual study and group study, classrooms, meeting rooms, a Careers Office and a common room with kitchen.

We offer 17 A-Level subjects as well as BTEC options with a free choice of combinations. Sixth Formers also have the opportunity to complete the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), as well as benefiting from the close support of our excellent Horizons Department which includes university pathway programmes, work experience, apprenticeships mentoring and one-to-one careers guidance.

Every year our pupils achieve excellent results, going on to study a wide range of degree courses at prestigious universities, including Medicine, Veterinary Science, Architecture, Engineering, Law, Humanities, Sciences and the Arts at Russell Group and other top universities. Others go on to do foundation degrees, internships or apprenticeships and some take a gap year or go straight in to the workplace. We strongly support each pupil's career ambitions and help them to achieve their dreams.

Today, Universities and employers look for more than just good examination results. They are interested in students who have challenged themselves by travelling abroad, taking on meaningful work experience, developing their interests and improving their communication and leadership skills. Enrichment opportunities like these, and many more, are available in our Sixth Form.

Sixth Formers have the opportunity to take part in charity work and overseas exchange programmes as well as being involved in an extensive range of co-curricular activities including Ten Tors, Duke of Edinburgh, Eco-Schools and overseas trips. Pupils also enjoy a calendar of fun and exciting social events throughout the year, including the formal Rounsefell Dinner, ceilidhs, social events and outings.





#### **& CAREERS**

**97**%

OF PUPILS GAINED PLACES AT THEIR
CHOICE OF UNIVERSITY
(2020, 2021 & 2022)

Horizons, our innovative careers department, prepares our pupils from Form 1 (Year 7) through to Upper Sixth (Year 13) for their lives beyond school, guiding them through those all important decisions for their future.

Pupils participate in regular tutorial sessions and careers workshops, covering topics such as personality types, business ideas, careers skills & decision making strategies.

In the Sixth Form, Horizons is a crucial resource for our pupils and forms part of their regular timetable. We have a programme dedicated to university applications, which includes advice on writing personal statements, choosing courses and universities, links to international universities and talks from specialist speakers.

Sixth Formers benefit from workshops on study skills, pupil finance, gap year opportunities, CV writing and interviews, as well as taking part in regular debating sessions. They are encouraged to organise their own study time outside of lessons and take on responsibilities, developing the management and leadership skills needed to prepare for life at university and beyond.

#### **RECENT UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS**



## ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

At Shebbear, we believe that all of our pupils should be given the opportunity to excel in whatever they choose to do. Our Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Faculty is a busy and thriving part of the school which offers opportunities to pupils, enabling them to reach their academic potential, whether they have been identified as accelerated or high ability learners, have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND), or are studying English as an Additional Language (EAL).

The ALN is a visible department in school and works closely with the academic departments and faculties to ensure the needs of every pupil are catered for. Our specialist teachers provide specific and structured support in a non-pressured environment.

#### **HIGH ACHIEVERS' PATHWAY**

Our personalised High Achievers' Pathway programme caters for the needs of our bright and talented pupils, identified as accelerated or high ability learners.

Pupils placed on the programme benefit from extensive opportunities within each faculty to stretch their academic development and reach their potential. We provide access to personalised mentoring, enrichment opportunities and academic talks and lectures to further enhance their knowledge and develop a passion for learning beyond the constraints of the curriculum.



I'm a mum of four children, all completely different to each other! Shebbear College's individual approach gives each one of them the motivation and courage to learn, grow and be challenged. Now they are achieving academically to a greater depth than I could have ever imagined.

Bridget Down, Paren

#### **ACADEMIC SUPPORT & EAL**

The aim of the Academic Support Department is to provide all of our pupils with the best possible teaching and support in the areas of literacy, numeracy and study skills. The department is small enough to be able to individualise the nature of the support we give, and large enough to be able to deliver that support as and when it is required.

Pupils studying English as an Additional Language (EAL) do so in smaller class sizes and with specialist teachers who deliver the courses to supplement learning in mainstream lessons. Lessons are set by ability and pupils work collaboratively towards a goal to improve their English.



# Boarding

Boarding at Shebbear builds confidence, independence and friendships – as well as being a lot of fun! We offer full, weekly and flexi boarding to girls and boys aged 8 - 18 and welcome pupils from across the UK and all over the world.

We have a lively community of full boarders, who stay at school at weekends and return home for the holidays. Some pupils are weekly boarders, going home each weekend and many choose our flexi boarding option, staying at school for one or more nights during the week.

We have two boarding houses - Pollard and Ruddle. Each house has its own unique identity but both have the same warm, friendly atmosphere, which you can feel as soon as you walk in. Pupils feel happy, safe and secure and there is always someone to turn to for help, advice or just a chat.

Each boarding house has a friendly team of Houseparents who are responsible for our boarders' academic, pastoral and social welfare, giving them the security of a family environment whilst at the same time enjoying the freedom to grow and mature. Our boarding staff are very much part of the family, and our pupils form close bonds with them.

The weekend activities programme is full and varied, meaning that there is rarely a moment where boarders can feel lonely or bored. Trips are planned regularly and include horse riding, surfing, water sports, theatre trips, day trips, climbing, go-karting, paintballing, cinema trips, bowling, shopping, ice skating and camping.



You feel quite lost when you join a new school but at Shebbear this feeling didn't last long! The teachers and pupils here are so kind and friendly and I feel like I have known them forever. It's a great environment too with amazing facilities. If I wanted to, I could go to the gym at 5am but I'm not very good at that!

Achilles,
Lower Sixth Boarder

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Creativity is one of our school values and we see it in bucketloads in our pupils across the school! The Creative, Digital and Performing Arts are very much part of life at Shebbear College. In addition to being popular curriculum subjects, we offer a varied programme of co-curricular activities, giving all pupils the opportunity to find something to suit them.

With two Performance Halls equipped with light and sound systems, our pupils have the chance to develop and excel as Performers, Directors, Lighting Engineers, Sound Technicians and Set Designers in our various productions and concerts, boosting their confidence and learning new skills. From Whole School Musicals, Performing Arts Showcases and Pantomimes to Gig Nights, Informal Concerts and Drama Performances - we cover all genres of music and drama so that whatever our pupils are into, they have the opportunity to develop their talent.





#### MUSIC

All of our pupils are encouraged to develop an appreciation of music, and there is a wealth of opportunities on offer with our numerous choirs, instrumental ensembles, bands and orchestras allowing pupils to experience all aspects of music. We provide options for pupils who wish to enjoy making music as a pastime as well as opportunities for those who want to take their skills to the highest level. In recent years we have seen our pupils gain places at Music Conservatoires, study Music degrees at university, perform at festivals and release pop singles!

At whatever level pupils choose, they all benefit from the exceptional facilities we provide. Our dedicated Music School is superbly equipped with the latest resources including our music tech suite, teaching classrooms and numerous practice rooms, performance areas, a sound-proofed recording studio and a suite of computers with editing software. We also have an excellent selection of instruments including Steinway pianos and keyboards.

Pupils from Reception upwards enjoy specialist music lessons in the Music School, making the most of everything on offer from an early age.











# SPORT

Sport is a huge part of life here, and all of our pupils are encouraged to take part in as many sporting activities as possible, whatever their ability or aspirations. Everyone gets stuck in, gives it their best and cheers each other on!

Although we are a relatively small school, we achieve extremely highly in the sporting arena, regularly winning school tournaments in our main sports - in 2022 our U14 Rugby Sevens squad were crowned National Champions at the ISA Schools Tournament. Many of our pupils play for local academy squads with others having been selected for county or even national teams. We are quick to spot potential and positive character attributes, giving our pupils every opportunity to develop and grow their strengths and ability.

In games lessons, we focus on the main sports of rugby, hockey, netball, football, basketball, cricket, tennis and athletics, with a wide range of other sports and activities included in our co-curricular programme. Pupils have the opportunity to try sports such as swimming, golf, dance, gymnastics, surfing, horse riding, hiking, rowing and trampolining among many others.

Our sports facilities include a fitness suite, weights room, dance studio, 5 grass sports fields, netball & tennis courts, cricket nets, an all weather floodlit pitch and a sports hall. We have specialist coaches for our key sports and our fixture list is extensive with competition encouraged at all levels.









# outdoor education

We are big on Outdoor Education here at Shebbear College and are committed to teaching both inside and outside the classroom, showing children that learning is not just about sitting at a desk but that it happens everywhere, at all times.

Outdoor Education is built into our curriculum and pupils across the school take part in regular lessons whatever the weather. Our extensive wild nature trail includes an outdoor classroom and Forest School area where our younger pupils can enjoy the natural world, allowing them the freedom to experience new challenges and take controlled risks.

Our Senior School pupils take part in a wide range of opportunities in their Outdoor Education lessons including bushcraft, leadership, orienteering and Duke of Edinburgh activities. Some lessons are held on-campus whilst others take place at various locations across North Devon - in the forest, on the beach, on the moors - the list of opportunities is endless.







# ADVENTUROUS LEARNING



Learning outside the classroom through adventurous activities is known to have significant educational benefits, helping children develop technical, intellectual and social skills and overcoming fear, anxiety and physical stress as they venture out of their comfort zones.

We are lucky to have Dartmoor, Exmoor and the beaches of North Cornwall and North Devon on our doorstep, a brilliant opportunity for outdoor learning and adventure. We encourage pupils to experiment with different outdoor activities, challenge themselves, fuel their adrenaline and explore pathways that are not fully predictable.

Activities on offer as part of our curriculum enrichment programme include hiking, sailing, climbing, kayaking, rowing, surfing and mountain biking among many others and we are always looking for new ideas from our pupils!

In addition, each year our pupils take part in the Ten Tors Challenge, hiking 35, 45 or 55 miles over Dartmoor, and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, which involves planning, training for and taking part in a three day exhibition. Both challenges promote teamwork and resilience as well as enabling pupils to use the key skills learned in their Outdoor Education lessons.

# BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

At Shebbear, we place a great emphasis on our varied and extensive Co-Curricular programme, offering over 70 different clubs each year.

Activities change each term but the opportunities are endless and there is always something to suit every pupil. From sports teams to music ensembles, eco-warriors, surfing, drama clubs, film-making, cookery, pottery, Ten Tors, Duke of Edinburgh, coding and a long list of others, everyone is encouraged to join in!

Activities take place as part of the school day, which finishes at 4.45pm to accommodate this. Our boarders also enjoy a rich variety of activities and trips at weekends and in the evenings.



# Trips & Expeditions

We offer a number of enrichment trips within the UK and abroad, both as part of the curriculum and in our co-curricular offering. Recent destinations include Poland, New York and a ski trip to Italy.

Sporting pupils have the opportunity to take part in our biennial Sports Tour to various international destinations including Barbados & St Lucia, Sri Lanka, Dubai and South Africa. These tours run during the holidays for the school sports teams and provide pupils with an opportunity of a lifetime, combining training and matches against local sides with the chance to experience the country's sights and culture.

Sixth Form pupils have the opportunity to undertake a two week cultural expedition to Asia or Africa. We also work closely with schools in Australia and South Africa to provide reciprocal exchange opportunities for our older pupils.

# PASTORAL CARE & WELLBEING

At Shebbear College, the social and emotional wellbeing of our pupils is at the heart of everything we do and our supportive, secure and caring environment remains central to our community.

In 2022 we achieved The Wellbeing Award for Schools. This award, run in partnership with the National Children's Bureau, looks at the depth of mental health and wellbeing provision for both pupils and staff at the school.

As a small school, all of our teachers know all of our pupils, so if someone seems upset or not themselves, this will be picked up very quickly and a support system put in place. Our Health and Wellbeing Centre (HAWC) serves as a nurturing space for day and boarding pupils to go, either if they are feeling physically unwell or just need time to reflect.

As part of HAWC, we have a trained and experienced team including our Pastoral Lead/DSL, School Doctor, Chaplain and team of Matrons and Wellbeing Advisors. They are always on hand to listen and to talk things through whenever our pupils need support, with many being Mental Health First Aiders.

All of our pupils from the Pre-Prep right up to Sixth Form take part in weekly PSHE lessons, covering topics such as emotional wellbeing, mental health, digital resilience, exercise, healthy lifestyles and kindness. We also hold regular sessions with our pupil groups - the Mental Health Champions, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Group and the Allies (LGBTQIA+ group).





OUR

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School meals matter! At Shebbear, we receive feedback almost every day about our healthy, fresh and delicious food. We work with a bespoke catering company, Thomas Franks, using local suppliers and fresh ingredients wherever possible to provide our pupils with nutritious, exciting options.

As well as a Chef's Special and a Vegan/Vegetarian option each day, our lunch spreads include freshly homemade bread to accompany meals, daily soup options, amazing salad bars and fresh fruit. There is also a daily 'Street Food' offering for our Senior School pupils, which includes tasty options such as Louisiana Hot Wings and 'Slaw, Pulled Pork Burgers and Fish Tacos!

Our boarders enjoy exciting breakfast options, including breakfast specials, which the chefs adapt each day to add variety to the morning offerings. In the evenings, they have a choice of a hot meal or a lighter option, and enjoy regular themed nights at the weekend, not forgetting our traditional Sunday brunch and roast!

All our pupils, from Reception through to Sixth Form, also enjoy two healthy snacks every day which range from fresh fruit smoothies to ham and cheese paninis, seeded flapjacks and mini muffins. There is also fresh fruit available every day.

All of our meals and snacks are included in our school fees for both day and boarding pupils.

## OUR HOUSE SYSTEM

At Shebbear College we operate a pastoral House System. All of our pupils are organised into four Houses, Pollard, Ruddle, Thorne and Way, each named after an important member of the past school community. The colour of each pupil's school tie represents their House.

Our House system creates a sense of community and evokes healthy competition amongst pupils, enhancing team building and leadership skills and giving everyone a sense of belonging. Each House has a Housemaster or Housemistress (HsM) and a House Captain who is a member of the Sixth Form Prefect Team. A pupil's House becomes their extended family during their time at the school.

Each pupil is given the opportunity to represent their House in a wide range of activities including numerous House sports competitions, the annual House song competition, the Inter-House bake-off and various academic competitions. We recognise and celebrate pupils' accomplishments through awarding house points for achievement, effort and school values. We also hold House charity events and formal dinners throughout the year.







## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Reducing our carbon footprint and raising awareness about environmental sustainability is high on our agenda here at Shebbear and we are proud to be the leading MIST School in this area.

Our Estate Decarbonisation Plan is well underway which includes:

- Two biomass boilers producing heating for the school from recycled materials
- A solar panel field working to reduce our electricity consumption and carbon footprint with further roof panels planned
- Any additional gas and electricity sourced from renewable resources
- The reduction of single-use plastics
- LED and movement sensitive lighting to save energy
- Food sourced locally
- Dedicated green and wildlife areas across the campus

These initiatives, as well as our ongoing drive to reuse and recycle and our culture of getting outdoors and appreciating nature, have helped to raise awareness within the pupil body about the environment, decarbonisation and the benefits of renewable energy sources.



### **ADMISSIONS**

Choosing the right school for your son or daughter is not an easy decision. Every school is different, but so is every child - it's about finding the right fit.

Children join us at Pre-Prep (Reception - Year 2), Prep (Years 3 - 6), Senior School (Years 7 - 11) or Sixth Form (Years 12-13). Depending on place availability, pupils can join us at any stage of their school life and at any time during the school year. We offer full, weekly or flexi boarding to pupils from the UK and overseas aged 8 and above.

#### JOINING US

If you are interested in your son or daughter joining Shebbear College, the first thing to do is to come and visit us for a tour of the school and a meeting with our Head. We also strongly encourage one or more Taster Days, which are a great opportunity to meet the other children and get a feel for the school. During the Taster Day our teachers will be able to informally observe your child in order to make sure that our school would be a good fit for them and ensure that they would be happy here.

We usually ask prospective pupils joining the Senior School to sit an entrance assessment before they join us. This is simply designed to help us establish the academic ability and level of each child; there is no pass or fail mark and children should not feel at all worried about this. For pupils looking to join our Sixth Form, we would also invite them in to meet any relevant Heads of Departments to discuss A-Level or BTEC options.

#### INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS

We welcome pupils from all over the world. To apply for a place, you can either register with one of the many agents that we work with globally, or approach the school directly. Overseas pupils will need to take a CAT4 Cognitive Ability Test, provide supporting references and undertake an interview either at school or online with a member of staff.

#### OFFERING AND ACCEPTING A PLACE

If you decide that Shebbear College is the right school for your son or daughter, and we are in a position to offer them a place, we would then guide you through the joining process. This involves a reference/report from the child's current school, the completion of our Registration and Acceptance forms and the payment of a deposit and acceptance fee.

#### WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO SHEBBEAR COLLEGE SOON!



#### www.shebbearcollege.co.uk











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Shebbear College is a member of the Methodist Independent Schools Trust (MIST).

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