



HONITON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

October 2024

NEWSLETTER





Dear Families and Friends,

We are excited to welcome you to the very first newsletter of this academic year! This is a wonderful opportunity to share the many highlights and achievements that have already taken place in our school community. Moving forward, we'll be producing this newsletter half-termly to keep everyone updated on key events, activities, and the fantastic progress our students are making.

This year, we continue to celebrate the values that define us: kindness, curiosity, and resilience. These values shine through in the way our students embrace learning, support one another, and tackle challenges head-on. From inspiring classroom projects to acts of kindness that strengthen our community, we are thrilled to see these qualities in action every day.

Our students continue to amaze us with their resilience, whether they are facing academic challenges or showing determination in extracurricular activities. Let's celebrate these moments together and look forward to more as we grow, learn, and support one another.

We hope this newsletter keeps you informed and connected, as we embark on this exciting year together.

Mrs. Caroline Brothwood. Principal



It has been lovely getting to know our new year seven students and those who have joined other year groups this half term.

All year groups have been busy learning about how to keep themselves safe in the community, at home and online. Safeguarding assembly topics have included; What is safeguarding? 'Who to speak to if you are worried about yourself or someone else,' What is radicalization? 'Dangers of sharing images', How to look out for county lines and not be drawn in, mental health support and agencies offering help to young people.

Please can I take this opportunity to remind you all of our online reporting form where students can report safeguarding concerns and also discrimination of any form, this can be found on our website.

Mrs Clara Rose, Designated Safeguarding Lead

Safeguarding concerns over the Half-Term holiday

If you are worried about the safety or wellbeing of a child or young person in Devon, please use the [request for support form](#). If you think a child is at risk of significant harm or want to discuss options of early help, you can ring [0345 155 1071](tel:0345 155 1071).

If outside of working hours or at weekends or bank holidays, please call the Emergency Duty Service on [0345 6000 388](tel:0345 6000 388).

If you have concerns that a child or young person is at immediate risk of harm, you should contact the Police on [999](tel:999).

In each of our half termly newsletters, Post-16 students will be doing a question and answer interview featuring a member of Honiton Community College.

This half term they were please to speak with our new Principal:

Q&A

with

Mrs Caroline Brothwood

Principal, Honiton Community College

Background Career & History

Originally from the West Midlands, I obtained a degree in Zoology from University of Aberystwyth, followed by a Masters in Wildlife Management and Conservation from Reading University. I did my teacher training in Twickenham and, after teaching in a few schools around London, moved down to Devon in 2006. Prior to moving to Honiton, I worked at West Exe School.



Q. What made you want to become a teacher?

A. I had some very inspiring school teachers, particularly in Chemistry and History, which made me love learning. Whilst I was doing my Masters at Reading University, as part of a six-month placement, I assisted a student on work experience which also inspired me to pursue a career in education. In a broader sense, I wanted to make a difference to students and help them achieve their own 'light bulb' moment. This also motivates me as a Head, because I am constantly looking for ways to improve education and students' experiences.

Q. What has been your favourite thing about being at Honiton so far?

A. The staff, the students and the families. Everyone has been so welcoming and supportive to me and the school has a real warmth and friendliness about it.

Q. What is your proudest achievement to date?

A. Personally, becoming a mother to my two boys, which has increased my passion for teaching and made me want the best for every single child at this school. Professionally, coming to Honiton as Head Teacher, which was a brave decision to make for me but one I am very glad I made.

Q. What do you hope to achieve as Head Teacher at HCC?

A. I want the school to develop a reputation for kindness. I want all of the staff and students to love being here and for everyone to leave here feeling successful and able to achieve what they wish.

Q. If you didn't become a teacher, what career path would you have taken?

A. I would've either gone into law or become a wildlife photographer/presenter working in conservation.

Q. Outside of teaching, what are your main hobbies and interests?

A. I really enjoy learning about the natural world. I also love sewing, including the Great British Sewing Bee, particularly the process of turning something flat into 3D. In my free I love walking on Dartmoor.



The Interviewers:
Hannah Empson and Harry Kent

Q. If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be and why ?

A. *I would love to live in Scotland because of its remote, beautiful landscapes. I also have a bucket list of places I'd love to travel to, including India to see wild tigers, Alaska to see polar bears and the Galapagos Islands.*

Q What is your favourite animal and why?

A. *Tigers. They are beautiful and I love the way that no two tigers have the same stripes, reflecting how clever nature is. They are also strong and powerful but equally delicate, and I love how they are completely adapted to different environments.*

Q. If you had to be stuck in a lift with someone – who would it be and why?

A. *David Attenborough. He is my ultimate hero and I am so inspired by his work as one of the main advocates for conservation and for introducing nature and wildlife programming to TV.*

Q. Name 3 words that describe you?

A. *kindness, honesty and determination*

Open Evening



Thank you to all the prospective students and families who attended our open evening on Thursday 26th September. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces and have the opportunity to show off our amazing school.



There was variety of things to see and do across all departments including exciting Science experiments and in Food and Nutrition department making melon pizzas or trying insects as alternative proteins !



Well done! to all those who took part in the treasure hunt trail and the where's Poppy the dog activity.

Prizes will be winging their way to Primary schools after half-term.





World Mental Health Awareness Day

Wear yellow on 10 October

#HelloYellow

to show young people how they feel matters.



The Post -16 students have started their fund-raising activities already this year, with a strong message to support Young People's Mental Health by raising an amazing £347.12 for the charity Young Minds on the national Hello Yellow Day.

#HelloYellow
YOUNG MINDS



The students made some beautiful mouthwatering treats to sell to staff and students. They would like to thank everyone who took part and especially to Otter Valley Ice Cream and Field Kitchen for donating the lovely Strawberry and Cream Sandwich Cake. A great start to the year!!





&Art &Culture

A great day was had by all GCSE Art, Photography and Design Technology students investigating culture in Exeter.



Our create students had a unique opportunity to explore the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM), the Phoenix Gallery and Exeter Cathedral recently.

This was a stimulating spring-board for ideas towards their exams in November.

Some students have never had the opportunity to visit a gallery before and they found the experience very inspirational.





Student of the Month *September*

Nominations

- Brooke
- Maicey
- Will Tucker
- Freya
- Oliver
- Amelia
- Elsa
- Dom
- Rebecca



Our worthy winner is Fay

Nominated for her kindness shown towards our Year 7 students; the student she mentors and also to her peers in the Post-16 Centre . She does this always with a natural smile and totally unprompted.

Thank you Fay 😊



On Thursday 19th October we had the privilege of attending the Ted Wragg Trust Awards having been nominated for the 2nd year in a row for the Student Community Leadership Award. Whilst we did not bring the trophy home with us this year (another well deserving school won!) we had a great night with Fin Lowman and Fin Ferris , Alumni Year 13

students, representing the Student Union and all the AMAZING things the Post-16 students achieved for the College and wider community last year.

This years' committee have lots of plans for the year ahead to carry on this legacy, including a plan for the 24hour event which if it comes off is probably going to be the biggest and best.



Everyone in the team feel enormously proud of everything they have and will continue to achieve to this year.

Our Innovation Team were nominated for the Trust Awards. Poppy, Emily, Kaitlyn, Kiera and Ella, our winning team had a fantastic evening joined by staff and students from across the trust.

There was music from the trust choir and bands and a delicious three-course meal. It was lovely to be part of such a special occasion celebrating all those who are making a difference and changing lives.

A special congratulations to Mrs. Clara Rose who won an award on the evening for her hard work and dedication to the school community





East Devon Under 13's Rugby

Year 8 kicked off the first fixture of the HCC year starting against King's School playing sublime rugby. Standout performances from Ben, Will, and George, allowing Honiton to cruise to a well-deserved win with tries coming from Ben, Matei, Luke and Will.

The 2nd game the team showed lots of resilience to keep pace with an impressive Exmouth side. Dan and Bobby were vital cogs in another good team performance with Ben getting another try.

The final game with Colyton Grammar School the team continued playing imposing rugby with Ben scoring Honiton's try of the game and drawing with Colyton. Standout performers were Will for a try saving tackle and a commanding performance.

Well, done to all and we are looking forward to more fixtures!

Results (Number of tries) Kings: 7-0 Win, Exmouth 5-1 Loss, Colyton 1-1 Draw

Boy's Football Year 10



A tough opening fixture saw Year 10 lose to a strong Uffculme side. Honiton started slow with Uffculme scoring in the opening minutes before steadying themselves and having some

chances with Josh.L. and Josh.G. coming close. Uffculme regained a hold of the game with 2 fast goals which left Honiton stunned at half time.

In the second half Honiton found much more joy creating lots of chances however it wasn't their day with shots being uncharacteristically missed or brilliantly saved by the opposition goalkeeper. Pushing on for equalisers left Honiton vulnerable to the counter which Uffculme exploited furthering the score. Special mentions would go to Josh for keeping standards high and working until the end and Ed whose tricky wing play was a brilliant outlet for the team.

Result: 5-0 Loss

However, player of the match would go to Luke whose skill shone throughout the game, including a *Cruyff turn which Ronaldo would have been proud of!

Massive thanks to Uffculme for hosting, year 10 will be looking to bounce back later in the year.



***The Cruyff turn is an evasive dribbling move used in football, and named after Dutch player Johan Cruyff.**

Girls football kicked off at Honiton



The Year 8s travelled to Uffculme to take part in a coaching session and round robin tournament friendly 7-a-side football against Uffculme.

Students showed lots of kindness and fantastic skill and teamwork, playing short sharp matches which were end-to-end providing entertaining football. Special mentions go to Amelia and Lacey for superb goalkeeping, Zara for relentless midfield play and Chloe for determined defending.

Player of the match would go to Sophia for a sublime goal and great passing.

Girl's Football Year 10/11s



The team travelled to Uffculme for an 8-a-side match. Honiton started briskly with a curious pass from Layla running to Isabella who scored the first of the game. Uffculme quickly hit back with a sublime strike levelling the game. With the first half coming to a close, Honiton showed real resilience defending Uffculme's attacks and were rewarded with a fast

break allowing Layla to comfortably finish.

The second half Honiton made an impressive start, with Layla and Isabella showing their positive relationship on the pitch interchanging and scoring comfortably. Uffculme brought the score closer before a cultured finish from Mya and a quality first time finish from Bria confirmed Honiton winning.

Special mentions go to Holly and Mya for superb defensive play, Reese great clear communication which allowed the team to keep their shape and Annie for relentless pressing of the opposition.

Result: 9-2 Win

Player of the match would be shared between Honiton's midfield with Layla and Isabella showing their class once again.

Thanks to Uffculme for showing kindness hosting Honiton for another fixture. Looking forward to more !



Congratulations!

Both Maicey and Hallie Bennett have had a busy eventful summer holiday.



Hallie competed in the South West Aerial Competition in Wadebridge. This is only her 2nd time competing at aerial and she came away with 3rd. She then went onto the British Championships the week after in Telford and also bringing home bronze in the 11-16 Women's Pairs category.



Maicey also has been very active with various tug of war competitions including Honiton Show and the Young Farmers National competition in Tenbury.

Whilst competing for YFC she was asked to trial for the England junior team and was selected to be on the Junior B Team.

They competed together in Leicester at the British and Irish Championships and proudly came home with gold beating all teams including the England A Team!

Ski Trip

A group of students are getting excited about their ski trip in December to La Thuile which is located in the Alps at the extreme north-west of Italy, close to the French alpine town of La Rosière.

On Tuesday 18th October the beginners had their first dry slope lesson at Exeter Ski Centre. Great fun was enjoyed learning how to walk with two planks attached to their feet and stay upright.



By the end of the hour, they were turning and stopping!

Considerably amount of progress was made in the first lesson and we look forward to two more lessons before heading off to the slopes in La Thuile.

Ten Tors & Rewards



TEN TORS
2025
19th - 21st May

It's was such a privilege to take a great group of students out for Ten Tors on the weekend of 19th October for a training session.

They were engaged in developing their leadership, teamwork, problem solving, resilience, hill walking skills, navigation skills and camp craft skills.

Up on one of the highest points of the moor, we got the storm shelters out and did some emergency procedure training. With the dreaded Dartmoor mist coming and going; students were able to learn another valuable skill about how to handle varied weather conditions.



It has been an exciting half term, with many students reaching 50 and 100 praise points thresholds and being able to choose a reward from the reward menu.

Students have been able to skip the lunch queue for a week, make pancakes with Mrs. Hunt, been on walks with Poppy the dog, taken part in archery with Mr. Forsyth, and had movie afternoons.

It has been lovely seeing so many students enjoying their rewards for demonstrating our school values.





Our local Honiton Tesco Superstore recently made a very generous donation of school uniform to the College to help our students. A huge range of sizes were donated and the Post-16 students kindly helped sort it out for our local Primary Schools who also benefit from this generous contribution of community spirit.

Thank you to Duncan and his Team.



Honiton Community College has been chosen by Tesco for their in store community funding vote.

Honiton Community College have been chosen by Honiton Tesco for their in store community funding vote. When shoppers spend money in Tesco they are given blue tokens which they can put in the relevant slot to select our school as their vote for funding.

There are 3 charities to choose from and we will receive either £500, £1000 OR £1500 depending on where we place. This will run from now until mid-January 2025.



HONITON NETBALL CLUB

Honiton
Netball Club

Junior Netball for Year 7

Wednesdays @ 5.30-6.30pm

Honiton Leisure Centre

**FIRST 3 SESSIONS FREE
COME and TRY**

To register contact: Jenny
secretary@honitonnetballclub.com
07967496168





A Ted Wragg Trust Competition

Mental Health Support Team

Unleash Your Creativity:

Join Our Poster Redesign Competition

Send your design to: ede@tedwraggtrust.co.uk

SUBMIT BEFORE **FRIDAY 15TH NOVEMBER**

Primary and Secondary prize winner

Open to all students



- 1 Talk about your feelings
- 2 Do something you enjoy and are good at
- 3 Keep yourself hydrated
- 4 Eat well
- 5 Keep active in mind and body
- 6 Take a break
- 7 Stay connected to those you care about
- 8 Ask for help
- 9 Be proud of your very being
- 10 Actively care for others

As part of launching our new Emotional Literacy and Wellbeing Strategy, we're inviting creative minds to help redesign our "10-a-Day" poster. Whether you're a seasoned designer or just getting started, this is your chance to showcase your talent and make a positive impact!

What We're Looking For:

We need a fresh design that incorporates the 10 key recommendations from the original poster and appeals to a younger audience, specifically children. Your design could play a vital role in helping children understand emotional wellbeing.

Who Can Enter:

This competition is open to all students within our Trust of Schools. The Mental Health in Schools Team (MHST), along with our Senior Mental Health Leaders, will select two winners- one from the Primary category and one from the Secondary- on 19th November at their network meeting.

How to Submit:

Submit a photo or PDF of your poster design to ede@tedwraggtrust.co.uk by Friday 15th November. Winners will collaborate with MHST to integrate their designs into the new poster, which will be officially launched across Devon!

Judging Criteria:

Entries will be judged on: •Creativity •Relevance to the theme •Visual appeal •Originality



**HRFC U13s Yr8
Rugby Training**

**EVERY TUESDAY
6:00-7:30PM**



**CALLING ALL YEAR 7
FOOTBALLERS !**

Honiton Town Football Club under 12s team is looking for new players to join them.

Training takes place on a Thursday evening, 6.00pm -7.00pm and games are on Saturday mornings.

If you would like to play football or are interested in finding out more about the club, you can contact us using the contact page on the Website or contact Ben on 07717687696



Inspiring self-care whilst supporting the mental wellbeing of others



ONLINE SUPPORT

-  Phone calls
-  Text messages
-  WhatsApp messages
-  WhatsApp groups
-  Drop-in online hubs
-  1:1 support online
-  Low cost counselling
-  Monthly skills workshops

ONLINE SKILLS WORKSHOPS

- Expressing Emotions
- Managing Emotions
- Meltdowns & Shutdowns
- Being Curious around Communication
- Caregiver Burnout
- Supporting someone who causes harm to themselves
- Navigating Change (Year 6-7)
- Supporting a Loved One with an Eating Disorder
- The Teenage Brain
- Children Not Engaging in School
- Elective Home Education
- Listening Well

SIGN UP WITH US

-  07907 614 516
-  [facebook/PPSHUB](https://www.facebook.com/PPSHUB)
-  hello@parentalminds.org.uk
-  www.parentalminds.org.uk





Top tips on how to talk to your children about their feelings

It can be so tricky to bring up difficult topics, and talking about emotions with your children can sometimes feel more than a little daunting for parents and carers. You may worry about saying the wrong thing, making your child feel uncomfortable, and even worry about making them feel worse. But the fact you want to explore emotions with your child is enough, even if sometimes it doesn't go as you planned!

Here are some handy tips on how you could begin talking to your children about their feelings.

Ask them what they need

It can be tough to talk about how you feel, and when we want to talk about things as parents, children don't always want to or feel ready. Asking what a child needs from you can help them feel more in control, heard, and respected.

Children might also not know what they need, so suggesting a few options can be a good starting point. For example, do you need some space right now?

Name it

Sometimes it can be hard for children to identify their feelings. Naming what you observe can help them to do this. For example, when talking to a young child, you might say, "You seem really angry today. I can see you are clenching your hands, and you don't have a happy face. I wonder if anything has made you angry or upset?"

Practice asking open questions (rather than closed ones)

Closed questions usually encourage yes or no type answers. Open questions, on the other hand, go a bit deeper and encourage more thinking and exploration. This simple difference in style might help your child consider their own thoughts and feelings a little more and encourage them to share more of their story or problem with you.

Listen carefully

This sounds pretty straightforward, but sometimes, when we care, we may jump into problem-solving mode a little too hastily. And while it might come from a really good place, it's not always helpful.

Choose your timing wisely

Talking about feelings, or any difficult subject, can be quite sensitive. Choosing a time when you are both calm and relaxed can be more useful than choosing a time when there are any heightened emotions already at play.

Think about the setting

Talking about feelings can be really sensitive, so making sure the space is private, comfortable, and feels safe for your child can be key to a positive outcome.

Model it

Being more open and honest about how you yourself feel (in an age appropriate way, of course) can normalise the idea of talking about emotions. Children who see that adults also have big feelings, doubts, get scared or anxious, get frustrated with others at work, etc. might feel more comfortable opening up themselves.

Think about whether your child feels ready to talk

Just because you want to talk doesn't mean they feel ready to. Look out for the things they say, and their body, too, for indicators on whether they really want to talk about their feelings.

Get creative

We might feel a pressure to have all the answers and say the right things, but sometimes, we just need to think a little differently. Helping our children express their feelings through play or using art materials can be just as important and useful, especially for much younger children whose natural language is often play.

Take away the intensity

It can be pretty daunting (on both sides) to sit down to talk about something as important as feelings. But decreasing some of the intensity can sometimes reduce the pressure and make things a little less stressful.





AUTUMN TERM 2024

- Monday 28 October to Friday 8 November 2024 (Two week Half-Term)
- Monday 11 November 2024 – Start of Autumn (Half Term 2)
- Thursday 14 November 2024 –Year 8 Progress Evening (15.45-19.00)
- Monday 26 November –Friday 6 December 2024 Year 11 Mock Exams
- Thursday 28 November 2024 –Parent Engagement Group (18.00-19.00)
- Monday 9 December 2024 – Non Student Day

SPRING TERM 2025

- Monday 6 January 2025 – Start of Spring (Half Term 1)
- Monday 17 to Friday 21 February 2025 (Half-Term holiday)
- Monday 24 February 2025 – Start of Spring (Half Term 2)
- Monday 24 March 2025 – Non-Student Day
- Friday 4 April 2025 – Last day of Term

You can visit our website: <https://honitoncommunitycollege.co.uk/> for all term dates and the timings of the school day



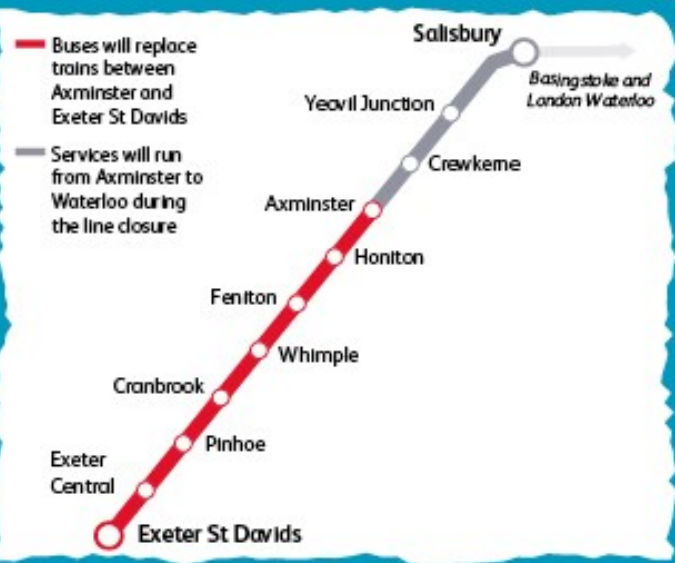
14 Day Line Closure

Axminster to Exeter St Davids

Saturday 9 to Friday 22 November 2024

Buses will replace trains as we carry out engineering work on the West of England line.

Go to networkrail.co.uk/west-of-england to learn more about our work and alternative travel options.



— Buses will replace trains between Axminster and Exeter St Davids

— Services will run from Axminster to Waterloo during the line closure

