



HONITON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

February 2023

INSIDE LOOK





As we head into the half term break, I would like to extend my thanks once again to the students and wider community of Honiton Community College. We have seen further positive improvements around the College since Christmas. These have been summarised in the series of well attended Parents/carers Information Sessions that have run throughout this half of term. Our literacy program has enjoyed resounding success, with Year 7 to 9 students engrossed in Crater Lake, 'Itch', and 'The Book Thief', respectively. The development of our booklet driven curriculum is gaining traction with the students, and the assessment week was received by them incredibly well. The new style reports which we will be distributing to students and parents/carers after half term will include estimated 'working at grades' from Years 7 to 10.

With recent college improvements, we have seen the popularity of Honiton Community College continue to rise, with projected figures indicating that we will be full again in September for Year 7, and Post-16 numbers will treble in Year 12. When we return from the half term break, much of our work will be directed toward supporting our Year 11 students in their final 10 weeks with us, through our 'Boost' program.

The staff are excited about the opportunities the next half of term offers, with brighter and longer days drawing a close to winter. I would like to wish you and your family a safe and happy half term break.

Mr Alex Kirkbride, **Principal**



This half-term has been another busy one for Governors at Honiton Community College. With the consultation process on joining the Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust underway I'd like to thank everyone that attended our Q&A session last Tuesday, and encourage anyone with questions about the process, or its effects, to get in touch. This is an important strategic move for the college and any scrutiny, no matter how trivial, is welcome.

We currently have an advertisement out for Parent Governors, this is an exciting opportunity to have a real impact on the direction of the college. We function as "critical friends" for the College's senior leadership team and hold them to account for the education they provide our children. With the consultation on joining a Multi-Academy Trust underway and the recent school improvements, now is a pivotal time to be a governor, both in terms of setting strategic direction and providing important oversight. The role requires no previous experience or qualifications save the ability to ask questions. If you are interested in the role, please see the Weduc posting.

Mr Chris Meek, **Chair of Governors**



Hello, my name is Mrs Rose and since January I have had the great privilege of being the Designated Safeguarding Lead for the College. I have really enjoyed my first half-term and have received a very warm welcome from students, staff, governors and parents alike. During the first few weeks Mr Kirkbride and I visited all students in their classrooms and explained the safeguarding role, how to access support and how to report a concern. I was very impressed with the level of knowledge the students displayed.

Each week I am providing the students with a safeguarding presentation covering a range of relevant topics, including ideas of how to keep themselves safe, where to access support and ways to report any concerns .

At the end of every half-term I will write to you and update you on the topics we have covered in our sessions and any other relevant information I may have.

This half term our presentations have covered the following topics:

- What is safeguarding and how can we report it at HCC
- Andrew Tate and thinking carefully about what views we follow online and how they can impact us
- Racism, racist bullying and hate crime
- Homophobia and transphobia.

Agencies who can offer support to our students

Please don't hesitate to get in contact if you have any questions. Cruse@honitoncollege.Devon.Sch.uk

I hope you have a restful half-term,

Mrs Clara Rose, **Designated Safeguarding Lead**

Term Dates & Mock Result Day



Term Dates 2023

First day back after Half-Term - Monday 20th February

Last day of Spring Term - Friday 31st March

First day of Summer Term - Monday 17th April

Bank Holiday May - Monday 1st May

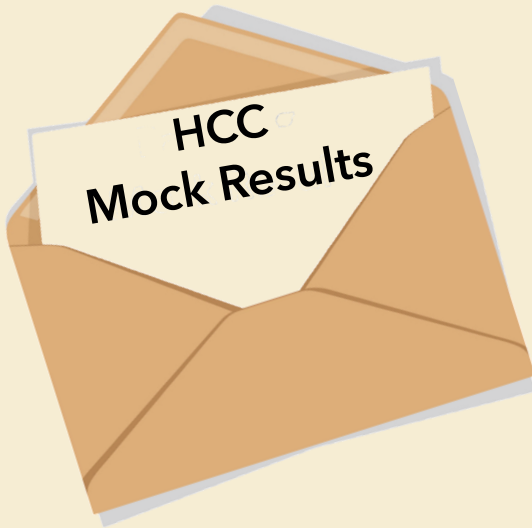
Bank Holiday Coronation Day - Monday 8th May

Half-Term Holiday - Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June

Activities Week - Monday 17th - Thursday 20th July

Last day of Summer Term - Thursday 20th July

INSET day - Friday 21st July



Year 11 this week experienced a Mock Results Day. Although understandably apprehensive they conducted themselves brilliantly throughout. In lessons, teachers have been sharing marks (not grades!), feedback and advice with students, however, we wanted give them a sense of how it will feel collecting their GCSE results. This is great preparation for the exam season as it helps to build resilience, is a powerful motivator and encourages students to make the most of the ongoing revision sessions and support materials offered by departments. Students were encouraged to go home, celebrate what they have learnt from the process, and set goals for the final phase of Year 11. We want all students to appreciate the significance of their GCSEs and feel supported to get the best possible outcome.

STEM Enrichment



**UNIVERSITY OF
PLYMOUTH**

On Friday 20th January we took 30 Year 10s on a STEM enrichment trip to Plymouth University.

The day started with a literal bang when one of the professors caused an explosion with nothing more than a bottle of liquid nitrogen, some ping pong balls and a bin! After this was a talk about university life before the main event, a marquee full of mini experiments and activities showcasing the latest research interests of the University.

It was a fun way to learn about the applications of what we learn in College.





Sixth Form Virtual Reality Centre Visit on January 24th



Year 12 Computing and Business Studies students combined forces to Visit a Virtual Really Centre (The VRVE.com) on the edge of Exeter.

Our students were given an overview of the technology. There was an introductory challenge which really showed the realism of this immersive technology. You really have to remind yourself that you are in a room on the edge of Exeter! Don't want to give it away in case you go for a visit.



Students then had two hours to explore a wide range of Virtual experiences and, of course, lots of game genres VR can be used in a wide range of situations and being able to explore all of these so quickly helps IT students gain an appreciation of the type of experiences available. They will then use this knowledge to design and in creating their own VR or AR experience for their Cambridge Technical Diploma in IT. The detailed rendering that some of the apps provided is astonishing and the interactive experience can be very realistic. Clearly going to be a big part of the future!



After the VR experience we headed for RAMM in Exeter. Another business experience – this time looking at how Museums curate and display their collections. Students need to develop their communication skills and seeing how professional organisations communicate helps them build a bigger repertoire of strategies, hopefully inspiring them to develop a high quality portfolio.

Mr Joshua Wright, Director of Computing

Celebration Breakfast



On Friday 13th January we had a celebration breakfast for students in Years 7-11 to reward hard work and commitment to learning throughout this term.

These awards are based on P2s which is a recognition of continuous hard work over the term awarded by teachers.





Students were **KINGS** and **QUEENS** for the day as part of a French Epiphany Celebration.

Galette des Rois Épiphanie

Children from the MFL club ate the “Galette des Rois” cakes on Thursday 12 January to mark Twelfth Night, a Christian holiday celebrated Twelve days after Christmas, typically on **January 6**.

This is a crisp, puff pastry tart with a buttery frangipane filling or apple sauce. Hidden inside is a “**fève**”. Whoever finds this in their slice has the honour of being king or queen for the day.

Well done to Poppy for being crowned queen!

Fève trinkets





Well done to Imogen Matthews (14th), Chloe Phare (39th), Hamish Terry (38th) and George Pemberton (8th) who competed at the Devon Schools Cross Country Championships at Exeter Arena on Saturday 21st January at Exeter Arena.



Congratulations to George Pemberton who competed in the South West Schools' Cross-Country Championships on Saturday 4th February at Blaise Castle.

The Devon team came 3rd overall. George may now be selected for the English Schools' Cross-Country Championships at Wollaton Park, Nottingham on Saturday 18th March.



U14 Football Team

Well done to the Year 9 football team for their first two matches in January. The U14 Exeter & East Devon Cup. They beat Sidmouth 4-0 (goals from H Terry and L. Symons) and lost 3-2 to Axe Valley (goals from J. Drew and H. Terry). Player of the match against Sidmouth was H. Terry and Axe Valley was M. Smith.



U16 Football Team

Well done to the Year 11 football team who on 25th January who beat Axe Valley 3-0 in the Exeter and East Devon Cup. Goals from A. Lane (1) and T Griffiths (2). Player of the match was awarded to D. Tratt-Skinner.



A great game from the Year 10 girls at the East Devon Cricket tournament considering having no practice.

The girls came 4th in their pool, beating Cullompton and losing to Colyton by only one point! The matches were extremely close games throughout the tournament.

Brilliant bowling by Abbie, Grace, Isabella, Charlotte, Bebe and great batting by Milly Sophie, Tilly and Tia. Joint players' player were Abbie and Charlotte and coach's player was Isabella.

A brilliant day out for everyone and thank you to Miss Meyer for taking the girls.

Match report written by Charlotte Maynard (Student)



Congratulations to the Year 8 Indoor Athletics team who competed against East Devon Schools in the Sports Hall Athletics competition at The King's School on Tuesday 31st January. Students had to compete as a team and the level of commitment, encouragement and focus was first-class throughout the afternoon. They participated in a number of relays (4 or 8 lengths of the Sports Hall), Speed Bounce, Indoor Shot Put, Standing Long Jump and a 1 lap team Hurdle Relay. Well done to all involved.



Some students received medals for their effort, commitment and performances, linked to the School Games values of Self-belief and Respect.



Ten Tors training continues through these winter months and we have seen plenty of snow and sunshine. We have one 45 miles team who are skilled in navigation and now preparing themselves for walking great distances. With outings onto Dartmoor regularly the two 35 miles teams are able to practice their navigation which is coming on in leaps and bounds.

The walks are starting to get longer each time and are really challenging. The students have shown great perseverance and determination in completing these walks.

After half-term we see the camping weekends commence where the students will be put to the test of two-day walks potentially in wintry conditions. Lets hope for an early Spring!



Honiton Boccia Team @ Health Ambassadors



Honiton Boccia team had a wonderful excursion to St Luke's on the 24th January 2023 to take part in the regional school games competition.

Honiton competed very well throughout the tournament, amassing a total of two draws three losses and two wins. All players involved competed fairly, and competitively, with the spirit of the School Games very much alive! Overall player of the tournament was Thomas.



What to expect from the Event?

Boccia is for everyone and loved by people of all ages and a great way to get the least active involved in sport. It can be adapted to include all disabled people. A game of precision, skill and tactics. The aim of the game is to get your ball as close to a white target ball as possible.

These are our mental health ambassador trainees who are doing an 8 week course after school.

Mental Health Ambassadors



WELLBEING CLUB
FRIDAY LUNCHTIME IN E5
A SAFE QUIET SPACE TO
COME AND RELAX.
SOMEONE TO TALK TO IF YOU
WANT.

ADVICE ON MENTAL HEALTH
AND WELLBEING.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN COMING
PLEASE LET YOUR HEAD OF YEAR KNOW

RUN BY MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING
STUDENT LEADERS
TORI, DION, AMELIE, SOPHIA AND ISAAC

The students will be working with Natalie Hunt as the senior mental health lead, to expand on the 'wellbeing club' at social times for students referred by Heads of Year, which is currently only running 1 day per week. They will help provide mental health and wellbeing advice to students and offer peer support.



An update and information from the Mathematics Department and the introduction of “Sparx Maths”.

The Mathematics department are delighted to have been able to introduce the “**Sparx Maths**” platform to our students this half-term. Year 7 have been using Sparx since the start of January and year 8 and 9 have recently been set up on the system. As we finish this half term we are rolling this out to Years 10 and 11.

Sparx Maths is an online platform that is used by over 1.8 million students in over 200 schools across 23 countries and has a proven track record in improving outcomes in mathematics for students. The algorithmic nature of the platform will provide your child’s mathematics teacher with valuable information regarding individual performance on key concepts and



will set a personalised homework for each student every week in line with their programme of study at Honiton Community College. The homework your child is set should be challenging but also achievable and will provide them with 1 hour a week of practice and consolidation of work they are doing in class as well as a review of previous work they have covered.

Parents will receive weekly email updates direct from the Sparx platform regarding their child’s progress with any set work. These are automated emails for information only informing parents when homework is set and when it has been completed .

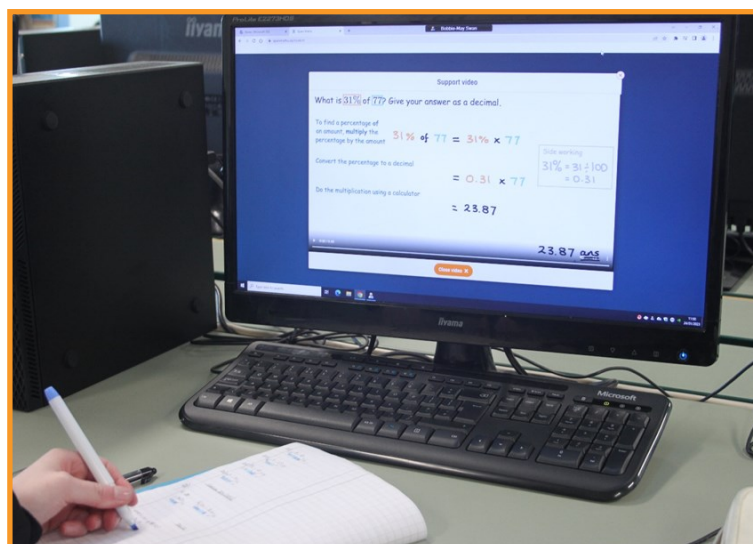
When your child logs on to the Sparx platform there will be set a compulsory homework set each week. This is their official homework and the task they should focus on as a priority. They will also be set 2 optional extra pieces of work, “XP boost” and “Target”. We are encouraging students to do these optional tasks but only when they have completed their compulsory piece of homework.

The “XP boost” is an opportunity for students to continue their learning by answering more consolidation and revision questions from topics they have previously covered in homework. The “Target” task is comprised up of up to 6 questions that the Sparx platform has identified as challenging from previous work that has been completed and is to assist students in improving specific areas and developing resilience.

Students earn XP points on the Sparx platform for every piece of work they do, generating rewards and moving up levels as they progress.

The more mathematics your child does the better they will be at it and it has been great to see the students in Years 7, 8 and 9 enthusiastically working on the platform in college during their introductory sessions

Feedback we have received so far has been very positive and we would like to congratulate all students for the positivity they have shown during this introductory phase. We look forward to introducing students to other aspects of the platform and celebrating further achievements next term and beyond.



"AS YOU LIKE IT"



Despite colds and Covid, Although the show must go on! So though not performed just before the holidays as originally intended, January's Shakespeare performance saw audience members transported back to Christmas with minced pies and hot drinks as they watched the story of 'As You Like It' unfold in the Forest of Warden. Spirits were high, the music joyful, and snacks aplenty as we watched the results of a large amount of dedication, hard work, and talent come to fruition. One wouldn't have guessed that rehearsals for this show had only just started after the October half term!

The cast, a combination of Year 9-13 students, beautifully brought to life this play's comedic twists and turns of love through acting and song, and any forgotten lines were skilfully improvised.



Though the story ended happily - with a double wedding - the final night was an emotional one, as this was Mr. Culwick's final production. And as final photos were taken and a parting gift handed over, the audience showed their appreciation to both staff and students with a standing ovation, making this a wonderful last school Shakespeare production for a wonderful teacher and co-worker: Mr. Culwick.



Reading skills are vitally important. To support our students in developing their reading skills, strategies and stamina, we've launched a new reading scheme this half-term throughout Key Stage Three.

Students will listen to recorded readings of their text during tutor time, quizzing on questions to check their understanding. Every two weeks, each year group is together in the hall for an hour of reading skills. Year 7 students are reading **'Crater Lake'** by Jennifer Killick, Year 8 are reading **'tch'** by Simon Mayo and Year 9 are reading **'The Book Thief'** by Markus Zusak.

As the reading sessions evolve, confident readers will be given more flexibility and freedom over their choice of text, while those readers needing greater support will be identified for intervention opportunities.





ARBEIT MACHT FREI

Going to Auschwitz-Birkenau was definitely an experience which is hard to forget. To be honest, it still doesn't feel real that we stood in the place where the prisoners of this Concentration Camp stood, and walked the paths that so many thousands of them walked to die.

Auschwitz was actually three separate camps and the first camp, Auschwitz I, feels very much like what you might imagine a prison to be like – large blocks with specific functions and massive lines of electric fencing, reinforcing the idea that even if you had imagined escaping, it would have been futile. The second camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau (or Auschwitz II, the Death Camp) was shocking due to the massive scale of it. The building complexes – most of which is now rubble – stretched on for miles. It was hard to comprehend where it ended, and the woods began. There is nothing left of the he third camp, Monowitz (Auschwitz III).



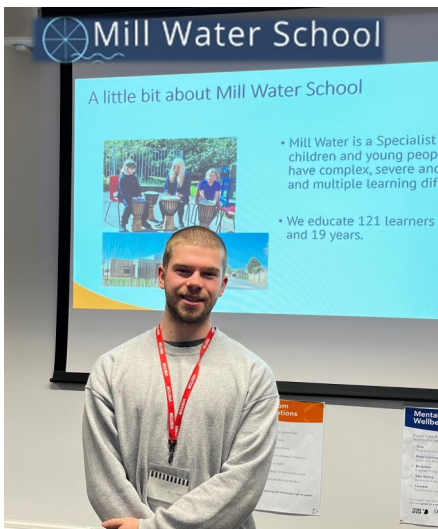
What I think hit us the hardest was the massive glass container, perhaps the length of the short side of the Post 16 Centre, filled with a massive 7ft pile of hair, from of all of the victims in Auschwitz I who had their hair shaved after death in order to reuse it. The Nazis wanted to recycle as much as they could. As well as this, there was a corridor as long as the playground with hundreds of pictures of the workers forced into labour. It felt as though their eyes were staring through into your soul. You could see their real faces, names, and previous occupations, and it truly reiterated the innocence and tragedy of the victims, most of whom, died within a month of arriving due to the conditions. Within that corridor you could see the beautiful paintings in the toilets workers did, in order to bring some joy to people, one of a horse and rider swimming was especially touching.



We ended with a beautiful remembrance service in which we heard the family story of a Rabbi who was in our Tour group and the ways in which the Holocaust had affected them. We lit candles and left them by the memorial of where the gas chambers were when most of the light faded, which was a wholesome final reminder that the victims will not be forgotten, and we will remember this and never let it happen again.



Year 12 and 13 students welcomed Mike from the Widening Participation Team at Bath University last week to compliment the Post 16 Personal Development Programme. The lectures in research and evaluation of sources as well as a great session on how to deliver a presentation are all transferable skills that the students need both for their continued success in their A-level and BTEC studies and in the next step in employment or university. Our partnership with Bath University allows our students to benefit from their wealth of knowledge as well as complete a residential at the end of Year 12 and experience a top university first hand. As well as Bath University, our students take part in enrichment programmes and visits to Plymouth, Exeter and Oxford Universities to help them see a range of offers and courses as an undergraduate.



We were delighted to welcome back Steven Thompson to Post-16 this week as part of National Apprenticeship Week. Steven who completed his A-levels with us in July 2019 secured his Apprenticeship at Millwater School starting his level 2 Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools and then quickly progressing to his Level 3 gaining distinctions in both levels. He now assists the teacher supporting the students in and outside of the classroom as he explained in the Post-16 assembly this week. Steven talked through the benefits of completing an apprenticeship and how this was the right route for him when he left HCC. Steven also gave a detailed insight into his role and how this opportunity became available for him after his Year 12 Work Experience.

National Apprenticeship Week #NAW2023

Anyone wishing to know more about Apprenticeships please visit this website <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>



I am delighted that Applications for Post-16 have risen significantly this year and it was a pleasure to recently meet with all of the students who have made an application for September to continue their education with us. Any students who still wish to make an application, please contact me by email on SBurroughs@honitoncollege.devon.sch.uk





The College joins the local 'Cost of Living Crisis' meetings that are held regularly at the Beehive. Through this forum we were able to raise our concerns about the financial difficulties many of our families are experiencing. Honiton Town Council very kindly agreed to fund an additional set of £15 vouchers for those families in receipt of **Free School Meals**.

Thanks to this generosity we are able to send out vouchers on Monday 13th February.

The Town Council also funded additional storage for us to use to support the **Swap Shop** event that we hold every half-term. This donation along with the storage containers and rails donated by the old Debenhams store, have meant we can improve the organisation of the event, reduce the workload for our volunteers and hopefully ensure it continues for years to come.



THE HONITON COMMUNITY SWAP SHOP

on

Saturday 11th March



Honiton Community College

The next Swap Shop will be held on Saturday **11th March** in the Drama Hall from 11am until 3pm. Despite being called a 'swap shop' we have so many clothes we are happy for families to simply come and take whatever they need. Food Save and Citizens Advice will both be joining us and offering their support and advice.

If you are having a clear out at home, we appreciate donations of good quality clothes for any age. Thank you

The Swap shop event last Saturday 4th February had a record attendance from families and local people. A well as being supported by our normal volunteers we were also joined by Citizens Advice, who were able to give out approx £1300 in electricity vouchers for people who have to pre-pay for their utilities.

Food Save also supported us and thanks to them and a large donation from Lidl's there were hundreds of pounds worth of bakery products to give away, including bread and lots of cake!

The next event will be Saturday 11th March and we hope you will be able to join us.





Sewing Club

with Helen Voysey

When: Every Thursday at 3 pm

Where: C2

Limited spaces available

For more details, please speak to Mrs Creed in Art





**THE HONITON COMMUNITY
THEATRE COMPANY**

PRODUCTION OF

Disney

**HIGH
SCHOOL
MUSICAL**

ON STAGE!

©Disney

INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED?

COME ALONG TO OUR **INFORMATION NIGHT AT THE BEEHIVE**
ON **THURSDAY 23RD FEBRUARY AT 7PM**. WE WILL BE HOLDING
OPEN AUDITIONS ON SUNDAY 5TH MARCH

FOR ANY FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT US
INFO@HONITONTHEATRE.CO.UK



Thelma
Hulbert
Gallery

- Starting on Wednesday 15th February with a Cyanotype **photography workshop** aimed at ages 7+ you do need to book and there a few places still available:
- [Half Term photography workshop | Thelma Hulbert Gallery](#)
- On Thursday 16th February we will be taking the **Creative Cabin** out for the first time this year – to Otter Valley Dairy, free creative fun for all the family, and a chance to sign up to a citizen science project. [Half Term Workshop - Make your own star map | Thelma Hulbert Gallery](#)
- On Saturday 18 th February we will be back at the gallery with the wonderful **Somerset Bodgers** – making things out of wood to take home and enjoy, you can also come inside and make your own seed bombs – to encourage the bees this summer. [Half Term Woodworking Activity and Seed Bomb Workshop | Thelma Hulbert Gallery](#)
- For the older ones we also have a session on Saturday 25th February that could be of interest, an opportunity to hear from **Sally Baldwin** whose work is currently on show in the gallery and see how she creates her beautiful structures [Artist Talk and Demo | Thelma Hulbert Gallery](#)



King's College TAUNTON

Rugby Development Day

Saturday 25 February, 10am - 1pm

King's College, South Road TA1 3LA

Years 7 and 8

FREE



Open to school and club players who would like specialist coaching to improve their skills.

Led by Ed Lewsey, Head of Rugby at King's.

Please bring boots and trainers, rugby kit, waterproofs and a water bottle.

To secure a place, please visit www.kings-taunton.co.uk/school-events
or email EAMLewsey@kings-taunton.co.uk