



Autumn Term 1 – October Newsletter

Dear families,

As we reach the end of our first half term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been a really positive and exciting start to the year at Coombeshead.

It has been particularly lovely to see how well our Year 7 students have settled into secondary school. They have quickly become part of the Coombeshead community, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence growing, friendships developing and enthusiasm for learning. We are equally delighted to welcome such a large group of Year 12 students to our Sixth Form. They have made a fantastic start and are already an important part of our wider school community.

There is so much happening across Coombeshead at the moment, from trips, sporting opportunities and creative events to leadership, enrichment and experiences beyond the classroom. As you will see throughout this newsletter, there is a huge amount to celebrate. I am incredibly proud of all the students whose achievements are highlighted here, but also of the hundreds of other young people who quietly work hard, support their friends, contribute to our community and give their very best every day. They are all part of what makes Coombeshead such a special place.

It has also been really pleasing to see the atmosphere around school this half term. Lessons are calm, purposeful and focused, and our students are making excellent progress. Walking around the school, it is clear that students are increasingly taking pride in their learning and understanding the importance of making the most of every minute with their teachers.

As we look ahead to next half term, there are three areas where we would really appreciate your support in helping us maintain these high standards.

Firstly, litter. Sadly, there are some areas of the school where litter is becoming a problem. We want our students to take pride in their school and the environment we share. Please remind your child to put their rubbish in a bin rather than leaving it on the floor or around the school site. It is a small thing, but it makes a big difference.

Secondly, punctuality and being prepared for lessons. Every minute of learning matters. Students should move promptly between lessons, using the warning bell as their signal to make their way to their classroom. They should arrive on time, with the equipment they need and ready to learn. We do not want students missing valuable learning time because they have been slow to move between lessons or are not prepared when they arrive.



Finally, the use of toilets during lessons. We completely understand that some students have medical or individual needs which require more frequent access to the toilet, and these will always be supported. For others, we would encourage students to use the opportunities available before school, at break and between lessons. We are currently seeing up to 60 students an hour asking to leave lessons to use the toilet, with some students doing so several times a day.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. The partnership between home and school really does make a difference, and we are very grateful for everything you do to support your children.

We would really appreciate your support in encouraging your child to use the toilet at other times wherever possible, helping us to minimise interruptions to learning.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. The partnership between home and school really does make a difference, and we are very grateful for everything you do to support your children.

For now, I hope you all have a lovely half-term break. Please encourage your children to get some rest, enjoy time with family and friends, and come back ready for another busy and exciting half term.

Keep safe, enjoy the break, and we look forward to seeing everyone back on **Monday 2 November**.

Best wishes,

Helen Coulson



Coombeshead
Academy



Pre-loved School Uniforms — Needed —



Drop off at the **School Office**
for the **Friends of Coombeshead Academy**

Pre-loved uniforms will be **sold at affordable prices**,
raising money for our school.

Thank you for your support!



October Half Term Safeguarding Contacts

If you have any safeguarding concerns during the school holiday, please be aware of the following avenues of support:

- **MASH/ Front Door referrals** - Devon County Council Safeguarding Hub. If you are worried about a child or young person in Devon and want to speak to someone, or if you are a child or young person worried about your own safety - 0345 155 1071
- mashsecure@devon.gov.uk
- Outside of office hours contact Emergency Duty Team - 0345 6000 388
- **Childline** - 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk
- **KOOTH** - The Kooth team provide free, safe and anonymous online support and counselling. The whole team are made up of friendly and experienced individuals who want to help. www.kooth.com
- **SHOUT/ Crisis Text Line** - Shout is the UK's first 24/7 text service, free on all major mobile networks, for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. It's a place to go if you're struggling to cope and you need immediate help. Free text 85258
- **Police** - 999 (emergency)/101
- **Chat Health** - Young people aged 11-19 can text a school nurse for confidential advice and support. Text 07520 631722 for advice on things like relationships, bullying, mental health, self-harm, drugs/alcohol.

Halloween safety advice

Advice to help keep you safe over the Halloween festivities.

Halloween can be great fun for children, young people and grown-ups. It's spooky, it involves fancy dress, and it's an opportunity to eat lots of sweets (or other more healthy alternatives, like apples).

Halloween isn't great fun for everybody though. Some people can find Halloween and its traditions, like 'trick or treating', annoying and even frightening. For these reasons it's important to remember that the festivities are optional.

Here are some tips to follow to ensure that you and your family stay safer:

- Be sure that either you or another responsible adult accompanies your children.



- Encourage your child to stay with their friends and not to split up into smaller groups.
- Advise your children not to talk to strangers and not to go into anyone's house.
- Talk with your children about road safety, encouraging them to stick to areas that are well lit, to wear something bright so that drivers can see them and take extra care when crossing roads.
- Make sure that your child looks out for 'No Trick No Treat No Thanks' posters. Residents will put these up on their doors or windows if they don't want to be disturbed.

Friends of Coombeshead Academy – Everyone Welcome

Friends of Coombeshead Academy is a new group, just starting out, for parents, grandparents and carers who want to support the school community in simple, positive ways — and hopefully have a bit of fun along the way too.

As we're in the very early days, this is all about keeping things friendly, flexible and informal. There's absolutely no pressure to commit lots of time or take on a big role. Whether you can help once a year, once a term, or just stay in the loop, every little bit makes a difference.



Over time, we'd love to:

- Support the school and students in practical, helpful ways
- Build a welcoming community for families
- Raise a little extra money for activities and opportunities for students

Some people might help with small fundraising ideas, others might lend a hand at events, and many may simply enjoy being connected to what's happening at Coombeshead. However, you'd like to be involved, you'll be very welcome.

If you'd like to be part of this new, growing group — even in a very small way — we'd love to hear from you. It's a great way to support the school and feel part of what's happening there.

To find out more or join in, come and say hello on our WhatsApp group or drop us an email: friendofcoomb@gmail.com

Join us on WhatsApp [here](#)



Year 7 – What a great start!

Our year 7 pupils have made a brilliant start to life at Coombeshead!

Moving from primary to secondary school is a big challenge, bringing new routines, different teachers, new subjects and plenty of exciting opportunities. We are delighted with how positively our pupils have approached this new chapter.

It has been wonderful to see them getting to know their surroundings, making new friends and becoming more familiar with the day-to-day routines of life here at Coombeshead. Although starting a new school can feel daunting at first, Year 7 have embraced the experience and are beginning to find their feet.

In lessons, pupils have shown enthusiasm for learning and a willingness to get involved in new activities. This is reflected in the nearly 30 000 praise points they have received as a year group.

A massive shout out to Freya C, James W, Noah R, Poppy H and Phoebe B who are leading the way with over 170 praise points each, already.

All are enjoying exploring a wider range of subjects, meeting different teachers and discovering new interests. It has also been lovely to see friendships developing and pupils beginning to feel part of our school community.

There is, of course, lots for year 7 to learn as they adjust to secondary school life, from organising their equipment and managing their timetables to remembering classroom routines and expectations. However, they have made a very positive start, and it is encouraging to see them becoming increasingly comfortable and confident in their new environment.

We are proud of how well year 7 have settled in so far and look forward to supporting them as they continue to learn, grow and make the most of the opportunities available to them. Well done, year 7 — keep up the great work!





Year 7 – Cakes with the Head

We're incredibly proud of our Year 7 students at Coombeshead Academy!

Our fantastic Year 7s have been nominated by their teachers for their hard work, kindness, positive attitude and all-round amazing efforts. Our teachers had a lot to say for the 55 students who were nominated!

To celebrate their achievements, our Headteacher treated our nominees to some well-deserved cakes! The Year 7s are such a lovely year group and an absolute pleasure to teach and get to know. Their enthusiasm, kindness and positive attitudes make them a real joy to have around the academy.

A huge well done to every student who was nominated: you are all doing an amazing job and should be incredibly proud of yourselves.



WHAT TEACHERS HAD TO SAY:



For a fantastic, confident start in Spanish and for being so very helpful in class

Mila has already shown excellent commitment and skill during Performing Arts Extra Curricular Activities

For being such an enthusiastic and knowledgeable historian!

A fantastic start to Maths at Coombeshead! Well Done!

Poppy has made super start in life skills lessons, she is keen to share her thoughts and ideas, well done

For a great start in Spanish - lots of enthusiasm and effort - keep it up!

Malik has had a great start in Life skills, he has been keen to offer his ideas and participate in class discussions.





WHAT TEACHERS HAD TO SAY:



For a fantastic start in Spanish - hard working and already making great progress

For a super confident start in Spanish - keep up the good work

Working hard across the school and having a really positive start to his time at Coombeshead.

You have made a brilliant start to Geography - Well done :-)

Excellent effort in English- participating and meeting all expectations.

For his polite, kind and hard-working manner; exemplifying the Coombeshead way already!

An absolute delight to teach- diligent in her work and the kindest girl.





Student Success: Food And Nutrition

FOOD & NUTRITION MASTERCHEF

Amelia R



Year 7



Students in Years 7-11 have been working hard in Food and Nutrition lessons. This is what they have been up to:

In Year 7, students have been developing their cooking skills and have been exploring the use of batters to make a toad in the hole out of a Yorkshire pudding batter.

In Year 8, doughs have been the focus with a very popular pizza's being made by making their very own bread dough. Their final food lesson of this rotation is to make cheese straws.

In Year 9, students have been learning how to safely slice and dice vegetables and have made spaghetti bolognese as well as learning about the nutritional importance of fat, so a chocolate brownie was created to help develop their learning.

In Year 10, students have begun their GCSE pathway and have already completed a number of practicals such as sweet and sour chicken, chicken curry, sticky toffee pudding and in the next week or so, students will be learning how to make a meringue and as such a meringue roulade will be made in lessons.

Finally, in Year 11, students have begun their coursework element of their GCSEs and have been working really well in lesson time maximising their grade even though it is early in the academic year.

The Food department would like to finish off by shouting out 5 students for their hard work, dedication and excellent practical/ theory lessons, from each year group.

FOOD & NUTRITION MASTERCHEF

Lily H-T



Year 8



FOOD & NUTRITION MASTERCHEF

Jacob M



Year 9



FOOD & NUTRITION MASTERCHEF

Toby S



Year 10



FOOD & NUTRITION MASTERCHEF

Paige S



Year 11





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Football Team Success

A massive WELL DONE to our incredible Coombeshead football team, who have done it again!

The team put in a fantastic performance to beat Millbay Academy 5-1 and have secured their place in the NEXT ROUND OF THE NATIONALS!

What a brilliant achievement and a fantastic reward for all the hard work, teamwork and determination shown by the players.



Year 8 Football: National Cup Success!

The Year 8 football team continued their incredible form last week, securing their place in the next round of the National Cup!

The team faced a strong Plymouth side in a tense, closely contested match that finished 0-0 after some outstanding goalkeeping and resolute defending from both teams.

With nothing to separate the sides after normal time, the match went to a nail-biting penalty shoot-out. Our boys held their nerve to come out on top, winning 4-2 on penalties!

A fantastic achievement and a testament to the team's hard work, determination and teamwork.



Year 9 Football Team!



What a way to kick off the season!

The Year 9 football team got their season off to a flying start with a fantastic win against a strong Plympton side in their first National Cup fixture!

The boys played some brilliant attacking football, showing great teamwork, determination and commitment throughout. A fantastic performance from everyone involved and a great way to start their cup campaign!



Year 9 Rugby

Year 9 Rugby team achieve 2nd place in South Devon 10's Tournament. The team played 6 pool games and didn't concede a single point in those 6 games winning all 6 games guaranteeing them a top 2 finish. Unfortunately, the guys came second in a well contested final against Stover school. Well done to all involved!



Year 10 and 11 students reach for the stars

We were delighted to welcome Dorian Pascoe from the UK Space Agency to Coombeshead Academy for two inspiring masterclasses with a selection of our Year 10 and Year 11 Triple Science students.

Over the course of two hours, students explored their Physics curriculum through the exciting context of space, while also discovering more about the wide range of careers available within the UK space sector.

Students heard about inspirational individuals working in the industry and gained an insight into what their exciting jobs involve. They also got hands-on, making telescopes, learning about satellites and finding out more about the work and missions of the UK Space Agency.

It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to see how the science they learn in the classroom connects to real-world careers and the exciting future of space exploration.





Great languages bake-off 2026

The 'Great Languages Bake Off' in aid of Macmillan Cancer was a great success with so many fabulous entries.

A huge congratulations to our winners! 🎉

🥇 1st place – Darcie

🥈 2nd place – Sophia

🥉 3rd place – Annabelle

Our students celebrated European Day of Languages with a delicious twist!

Our wonderful MFL Department organised a 'Great Languages



Bake Off' to celebrate the diversity of languages and cultures across Europe, while raising money for the wonderful charity, Macmillan Cancer Support.

It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to showcase their creativity, enthusiasm, love of languages and, of course, their amazing baking skills!





A glimpse into the future of Fashion & Textiles at CREATE

Our Year 9 students had an inspiring day at the Torquay Sustainable Fashion Week Hub on Saturday, experiencing first-hand the opportunities available within the creative industries.

From creative workshops and industry talks to live demonstrations and a professional catwalk show, students explored how designers and makers are responding to some of today's biggest environmental challenges through innovative and sustainable fashion.

The visit is part of the launch of our brand-new GCSE Fashion & Textiles course, available as an option for students this year.

This exciting qualification will allow students to:

Develop practical making skills

Explore fashion and textile design

Work creatively with sustainable materials

Learn about real-world career pathways in the creative industries

We can't wait to see the next generation of CREATE designers bring their ideas to life.





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Year 10 Bronze DofE Achievers

We are incredibly proud of our wonderful Year 10 students who have successfully completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award! Throughout their DofE journey, our students have demonstrated fantastic commitment, resilience, teamwork and determination

As part of the award, they dedicated their time to volunteering in their local communities, developed their physical fitness and worked hard to improve a skill of their choice. They also took on the challenge of their expedition with Reach Outdoors, completing a two-day walk and an overnight camp in the local area! They approached every challenge with enthusiasm, self-belief and a brilliant attitude, showing just how much they are capable of achieving. Along the way, they have developed valuable life skills, grown in confidence and created memories.



Galapagos Islands Adventure – Summer 2028

Get ready for the adventure of a lifetime! In summer 2028, our Y10, 11, 12 & 13 students will have the incredible opportunity to explore the magical Galápagos Islands, discovering unique wildlife, spectacular volcanic landscapes and extraordinary marine life. From giant tortoises to sea lions and marine iguanas, this unforgettable trip promises adventure, discovery and memories to last a lifetime!



Interested in finding out more? Email Stanislava.LEZEMORE@coombesheadacademy.org.uk for more information.

Belong, Believe, Become



Sixth Form is back!

The summer silence didn't last long! The corridors are bustling once again, classrooms are alive with discussion, and the Sixth Form Centre is buzzing with activity. Coombeshead Sixth Form is officially back for another exciting year!

Mr Thomas would like to extend a huge welcome to all our Year 12 and Year 13 students. Whether you're returning for your final year or taking your first steps into Sixth Form, we are delighted to have you with us. A special welcome goes to our new Year 12 cohort, who have already made a fantastic first impression.

A Flying Start!

It's been brilliant to see students settling in so quickly and confidently. From day one, lessons have been packed with enthusiasm, curiosity and determination. Students have thrown themselves into their studies and are already embracing the independence, responsibility and opportunities that come with Sixth Form life.

There's a real sense of excitement around the Sixth Form Centre, and if the first few weeks are anything to go by, we're in for an incredible year!

Sixth Formers Leading the Way

At Coombeshead, Sixth Form is about much more than academic success. This year, our students will have even more opportunities to make a positive impact across the school community.

Many of our Year 12 and Year 13 students will be volunteering around the main school site, supporting younger pupils, helping in lessons and contributing to school activities. Their experience, encouragement and enthusiasm can make a huge difference, and they are perfectly placed to inspire the next generation of Coombeshead students.

Whether they're mentoring, lending a helping hand or simply setting a great example, our Sixth Formers play a vital role in shaping the culture of our school.

Looking Beyond Coombeshead

We're also excited to be helping students explore their next steps after Sixth Form. On **15th October**, students will travel to **Bristol** to attend the **UK University and Apprenticeship Search Fair**. This fantastic event will give students the opportunity to meet representatives from universities, apprenticeship providers and employers from across the country.

Whether students are considering university, degree apprenticeships or other career pathways, the fair will provide valuable information, expert advice and plenty of inspiration for the future.

A Year Full of Opportunity

The months ahead promise plenty of exciting opportunities. Alongside academic achievement, students will be developing leadership skills, taking part in enrichment activities, giving back to the



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community and preparing for the next stage of their journey, whether that's university, apprenticeships or the world of work.

One thing is certain: there's a lot to look forward to!

Mr Thomas Says...

"It has been fantastic to welcome everyone back. Students have made such a positive start and are already showing the hard work, enthusiasm and commitment we want to see. I am really looking forward to an exciting and successful year with everyone in Sixth Form!"

Here's to a year of success, ambition and new opportunities. Let's make it a great one!





Mental Health & Me

October 2026

The 10-a-day for Wellbeing ○○○

A bit like the 5-a-day for fruit & veg can help keep our diet healthy and varied, the 10-a-day for wellbeing can help look after our mental health!

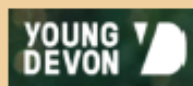
You don't have to do all 10x of the things every single day - sometimes that is impossible! And doing 1x of these things by itself isn't going to dramatically change how you are feeling - BUT the more you can do, the better!

Some of the things on the list might be easier for some people than others. And some things on the list might be easy some weeks and harder on other weeks. That's okay! Which ones do you think you sometimes struggle with?

'10 a day' choices towards balancing our mental health

- 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 best
- 10 Actively care for others

Signposting:



When things are feeling difficult, it can be harder to remember to do the things that we know make us feel good.



So, it is really important to try and plan in activities that we know will boost our mood - things like the 10-a-day! E.g. movie nights with family, going to the park with friends, clubs...

If you need further support for your mental health, please speak to a trusted adult in school. You could also contact 111 and select option 2 for mental health support and advice. In an emergency, call 999.



Attendance Matters:

Good attendance and punctuality are essential for students to make the most of their learning and achieve their full potential. We ask all parents and carers to ensure that students arrive at school on time every day and follow the procedures outlined below.

Arriving on Time

All students are expected to be in school by **8.45am each day**. Students arriving after 8.45am will be marked as late.

Any student arriving after **9.10am must report to Main Reception to sign in** upon arrival.

Reporting Student Absence

If your child is too unwell to attend school, please ensure that you report their absence **by 8.40am each day**.

Parents and carers must report the absence **every day that their child is absent**, unless advised otherwise. You can report an absence using either of the following methods:

- **Class Charts**
- **Attendance message system:** Call 01626 201800 and select option 2.
- **Email:** attendance@coombesheadacademy.org.uk

Regular communication regarding absence helps us maintain accurate attendance records and ensures that we know why your child is not in school.

Medical and Dental Appointments

Wherever possible, medical and dental appointments should be arranged outside of the school day to minimise disruption to learning.

If an appointment during the school day is unavoidable, or an emergency appointment is required, we expect students to attend school before their



appointment where possible. Students must sign out at Main Reception before leaving school and sign back in at Reception upon their return. Please provide a note or inform in advance of the appointment.

We would normally authorise a maximum of two hours for a medical or dental appointment, where appropriate.

Evidence of Medical Appointments

If a student arrives late or returns to school following a medical or dental appointment, parents and carers should provide evidence of the appointment, such as an appointment card or confirmation letter. This will help us ensure that the absence is recorded and coded correctly.

Thank You for Your Support

Good attendance, punctuality and clear communication between home and school are vital to student success. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that students attend school regularly, arrive on time and make the most of every learning opportunity.

Every day counts, and every lesson matters!



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Academy**

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

BE HERE. BELONG. ACHIEVE.

Every day in school
COUNTS!



**BE PART OF OUR COMMUNITY.
BE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER.**

WHAT YOU MISS WHEN YOU'RE ABSENT:



LESS LEARNING

Miss key lessons
and important
understanding.



MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

Miss out on trips,
clubs, events and
new experiences.



FALLING BEHIND

Gaps in knowledge
make it harder
to keep up.



IMPACTS YOUR FUTURE

Good attendance
leads to more choices
and better outcomes.

ATTENDANCE GUIDE



97%+

TARGET ATTENDANCE

Excellent foundations
for success



95%+

STABLE ATTENDANCE

Students remain
on track



92-94%

GAPS IN LEARNING

Gaps in learning
may begin to develop



90-91%

EQUIVALENT TO AROUND

20 SCHOOL DAYS
MISSED PER YEAR



BELOW 90%

PERSISTENT ABSENCE

Increased risk of
falling behind

Below 90% is severely
absent and will disadvantage
students overtime to create
habits and continued
learning pathways.

OUR VALUES SHAPE OUR COMMUNITY



READY

Be prepared.
Be on time.
Be focused.



RESPECTFUL

Respect yourself.
Respect others.
Respect our community.



SAFE

Keep yourself safe.
Keep others safe.
Keep our environment safe.



ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW.

WE ARE COOMBEHEAD. WE BELONG. WE SUCCEED TOGETHER.



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EHE Elective Home Education

Coombeshead Academy strongly believe the best place for students is in school, in front of expert teachers. This is not only the best option for their education but for their social skills, mental health and to help them understand the wider world and build resilience. Therefore, we strongly discourage students moving to EHE.

Are you considering EHE – Elective Home Education?

While home education can work for some families, it may not always be the best option for your child's secondary education. The number of students being placed on EHE is rising rapidly, both nationally and within Devon. In addition, we are concerned about the number of students from Coombeshead Academy who have been placed on EHE this year.

EHE is often a response to a short-term concern such as your child falling out with friends, anxiety issues, worried about being taken through the attendance procedure or bullying. Parents often take students out of school short term to relieve the immediate issue, however, do not always have the skills or resources to formally educate their child in the wide range of areas and subjects they get at school.

Parents often plan to reintegrate their child back into their current school or, at times, a different school later in the year. This makes things much more difficult for the child as they miss significant sections of learning and then struggle when they go back into lessons as they have fallen behind. These students never fully catch up on this missed work and research shows students who have had periods of home education often do not perform well in their GCSE or A level exams. They quickly lose friendships, spend more time on social media and as a result anxiety can increase and mental health deteriorate.

If you are considering EHE please contact us straight away. We will do all we can to resolve your concern and even if you eventually chose to move your child to another school, its important they keep attending right up until the move.

Here are some important reasons to consider before making a decision to move to home education:

- **Legal responsibility:** As a parent, you'll be responsible for meeting all of your child's educational needs. This means delivering a well-rounded curriculum and ensuring your child reaches their full potential across various subjects. This requires a significant amount of time, energy, and effort from parents. Parents may need to cover costs for textbooks, computer equipment, sports activities, and any additional tutoring that may be needed. Additionally, exam fees for GCSEs and A-Levels can add up quickly, often totalling hundreds of pounds and **finding a centre who accepts candidates for examinations can be very difficult.**
- **Gaps in knowledge:** As a parent, you might not have expertise in every subject area, leading to gaps in your child's education and difficulty covering all necessary topics. This is especially difficult when they return to a school or sit external examinations.
- **Social concerns and limited extracurricular opportunities:** Home educated children may miss out on opportunities such as extracurricular clubs, school events, work experience, school trips and rewards for achievements through assemblies and award events. Your



child might miss out on valuable social experiences with peers, which can impact their ability to interact in diverse environments and develop important social skills.

- **Long-term educational impact:** If you intend to home educate only for a short time, it could affect your child's readiness for future education and career opportunities. A traditional school setting often prepares students more effectively for higher education or the workforce.

Choosing the right educational path for your child is a big decision. We encourage you to consider all factors carefully to ensure you are making the best choice for their long-term success.

Please speak to us if you are worried, this can be your child's Year Team Leader, Student Support Officer, Mr Baldson our Deputy Headteacher or myself as we are very keen to support out students and their families.

Best wishes,

Mrs Helen Coulson





Dates for the term 2026/267:

November:	2 November 11 November 12 November 13 November	Students return after October half term Remembrance Assembly Year 11 PPE Results Issued Governor Engagement Day Year 11 Careers Event Launch
	19 November 26 November 27 November	Year 11 Parents Evening Governing Body meeting 5.30pm GCSE Music Solo Performance Assessment
December:	3 December	Careers Fair 10:00 – 17:00 CREATE Careers Fair
	4 December 7 December 8 December 16 December 17 December 18 December	School Closed- Teacher Training Day Post 16 Work Experience Launch CREATE WINTER Show 16:00 – 19:00 Year 11 Careers Event – Mock Interviews Christmas Fair 6 th Form Reward Trip – Cribbs Causeway Year 12/13 Parents Evening LAST DAY OF TERM - EARLY FINISH 1.30PM
January	4 January 14 January 21 January 26 January 27 January	Students return after Christmas holiday Year 9 Parents Evening Governing Body meeting 5.30pm Sixth Form National Apprenticeship Show Intermediate Maths Challenge
February	1 February 15 – 19 February	Year 9 Options Form deadline Half Term
March	4 March 6 – 7 March 8 March 11 March 15 March 17 March 19-20 March 20 – 21 March 23 March 26 March	Year 8 Parents Evening Year 11 PPE results issued World Book Day Year 8 Careers Event Silver DofE Training Year 6 Welcome Evening Governing Body 5.30pm School closed- Teacher Training Day UCAS Exhibition – Year 12 Trip DofE Bronze Training DofE Silver Training Spring Concert EASTER HOLIDAYS
April	29 March – 9 April 12 April 15 April 16-18 April 28 April 29 April	Easter Holidays Students return from Easter break Year 10 Parent Evening DofE Silver Training Practice Junior Maths Challenge Governing Body Meeting 5.30pm
May	1 – 2 May 7-9 May 11 May	DofE Bronze Qualifier DofE Silver Qualifier New Year 7 Welcome Evening



	13 May 24 May 31 May	Year 7 Parent Evening Sports Award Evening Bank Holiday
June	1 – 4 June 7 June 15 June 17 June 18 June 21 June 22 June 25 June 29 June	May Half Term Students return to school Annual Awards Evening Rising Stars Day Governing Body Meeting 5.30pm Rising Stars Day Sixth Form Celebration Year 6 Parent Transition Evening ESW Staff Awards Evening Open Morning 09:30 – 11:00 Year 11 Prom Open Morning 09:30 – 11:00
July	1 July 2 July 5 July 6-8 July 8 July 9 July 14 – 20 July 16 – 20 July	Year 6 Induction Step Up Day Year 6 Induction Step Up Day Year 10 Sixth Form Experience Day Summer Show Open Morning 09:30 – 11:00 House Olympics Year 11 Post 16 Welcome Morning Year 10 and Year 12 Work Experience Enrichment Activities year 7 – year 9
August	16 – 20 August	Big Step Induction Week



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Term Dates 2026-2027:

	School holidays
	Bank Holidays
	Non-pupil days - INSET
	Non pupils days from twilighted training
	Non-pupil days - occasional days

	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4		1.5	1.6	1.7		1.8	1.9	1.10	1.11		
	Sep-2026						Oct-2026					Nov-2026				
Monday		07	14	21	28			05	12	19	26	02	09	16	23	30
Tuesday	01	08	15	22	29			06	13	20	27	03	10	17	24	
Wednesday	02	09	16	23	30			07	14	21	28	04	11	18	25	
Thursday	03	10	17	24			01	08	15	22	29	05	12	19	26	
Friday	04	11	18	25			02	09	16	23	30	06	13	20	27	
Saturday	05	12	19	26			03	10	17	24	31	07	14	21	28	
Sunday	06	13	20	27			04	11	18	25		08	15	22	29	
	1.12	2.1	2.2				2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6		2.7	2.8	2.9		
	Dec-2026						Jan-2027					Feb-2027				
Monday		07	14	21	28			04	11	18	25	01	08	15	22	
Tuesday	01	08	15	22	29			05	12	19	26	02	09	16	23	
Wednesday	02	09	16	23	30			06	13	20	27	03	10	17	24	
Thursday	03	10	17	24	31			07	14	21	28	04	11	18	25	
Friday	04	11	18	25			01	08	15	22	29	05	12	19	26	
Saturday	05	12	19	26			02	09	16	23	30	06	13	20	27	
Sunday	06	13	20	27			03	10	17	24	31	07	14	21	28	
	2.10	2.11	2.12	3.1			3.2	3.3	3.4			3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	
	Mar-2027						Apr-2027					May-2027				
Monday	01	08	15	22	29			05	12	19	26	03	10	17	24	31
Tuesday	02	09	16	23	30			06	13	20	27	04	11	18	25	
Wednesday	03	10	17	24	31			07	14	21	28	05	12	19	26	
Thursday	04	11	18	25			01	08	15	22	29	06	13	20	27	
Friday	05	12	19	26			02	09	16	23	30	07	14	21	28	
Saturday	06	13	20	27			03	10	17	24		08	15	22	29	
Sunday	07	14	21	28			04	11	18	25		09	16	23	30	
	3.9	3.10	3.11	3.12			3.13	3.14	3.15			Aug-2027				
Monday		07	14	21	28			05	12	19	26	02	09	16	23	30
Tuesday	01	08	15	22	29			06	13	20	27	03	10	17	24	31
Wednesday	02	09	16	23	30			07	14	21	28	04	11	18	25	01
Thursday	03	10	17	24			01	08	15	22	29	05	12	19	26	
Friday	04	11	18	25			02	09	16	23	30	06	13	20	27	
Saturday	05	12	19	26			03	10	17	24	31	07	14	21	28	
Sunday	06	13	20	27			04	11	18	25		08	15	22	29	

Dates are not currently available for 2027 – 2028 academic year.



COOMBESHEAD ACADEMY

'inspiring excellence'

Key School Contacts:

Issue/ Concern	Staff to be contacted	Contact details
General queries	Main Reception Linda Clark	01626 201800 welcome@coombesheadacademy.org.uk
Pastoral Behaviour support	Student Support Team SSO Manager Andy Balsdon - Deputy Head	Year 7 – Collette.Luscombe@coombesheadacademy.org.uk Year 8 – Bethan.Griffiths@coombesheadacademy.org.uk Year 9 – Kimberley.Routledge@coombesheadacademy.org.uk Year 10– Natalie.Macfarlane@coombesheadacademy.org.uk Year 11 – Alison.Massey@coombesheadacademy.org.uk Natalie.beeks@coombesheadacademy.org.uk Andrew.Balsdon@coombesheadacademy.org.uk
Academic concerns or Tutor groups	Year Team Leaders Andy Balsdon - Deputy Head	Year 7 – Eleanor.Patrick@coombesheadacademy.org.uk Year 8 – Emily.Parr@coombesheadacademy.org.uk Year 9 – Ryan.Hanauer@coombesheadacademy.org.uk Year 10 – James.Doxford@coombesheadacademy.org.uk Year 11 – Lenita.Turk@coombesheadacademy.org.uk <u>Andrew.Balsdon@coombesheadacademy.org.uk</u>
Teaching and learning	Curriculum Team Leaders Tom Graham – Deputy Head	English – Lauren.Jacques@coombesheadacademy.org.uk Maths – Joanna.Williams@coombesheadacademy.org.uk Science – Ruth.Marsh@coombesheadacademy.org.uk History – Catherine.Joyce@coombesheadacademy.org.uk Geography – Clare.Kingscott@coombesheadacademy.org.uk PE -Jamie.Tripcony@coombesheadacademy.org.uk Food – James.Thomas@coombesheadacademy.org.uk Creative Arts- Sam.Eyre@coombesheadacademy.org.uk Performing Arts- Andrew.Tyner@coombesheadacademy.org.uk Languages – Anna.Stewart@coombesheadacademy.org.uk Computing/IT – Beth.Ousy@coombesheadacademy.org.uk Tom.Graham@coombesheadacademy.org.uk
Attendance	Nicky Archard – Attendance Lead	The best way to report absences is: 1. Class Chart 2. My child at school App 3. Phone call 01626 201800 and pick the attendance option attendance@coombesheadacademy.org.uk Nicola.Archard@coombesheadacademy.org.uk



COOMBESHEAD ACADEMY

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Issue/ Concern	Staff to be contacted	Contact details
SEN	Clare Bamford – Assistant Headteacher and SENDCo Charlotte Thomas - Deputy SENDCo Lisa Hughes – Assistant SENDCo	Clare.Bamford@coombesheadacademy.org.uk Charlotte.Thomas@coombesheadacademy.org.uk Lisa.Hughes1@coombesheadacademy.org.uk
Safeguarding	Student Support Team Jo Chappell – Assistant Head	See email details on page 2 Jo.Chappell@coombesheadacademy.org.uk
Exams	Dominica Sinclair	Dominica.Sinclair@coombesheadacademy.org.uk
Options Process	James Thomas – Assistant Head	James.Thomas@coombesheadacademy.org.uk
Sixth Form	James Thomas – Assistant Head Stani Lezmore – pastoral and attendance	James.Thomas@coombesheadacademy.org.uk Stanislava.Lezmore@coombesheadacademy.org.uk
Head's Office	Helen Coulson - Headteacher Caroline Battong – Head's PA	Helen.Coulson@coombesheadacademy.org.uk Caroline.Battong@educationsouthwest.org.uk



Keeping Children Safe

A parent and carer guide to our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy 2026-27

School: **Coombeshead Academy**

Our commitment

We want every child to feel safe, respected, valued and listened to. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and we work in partnership with children, families and other agencies to protect children from harm and provide help as early as possible.

What safeguarding means

Safeguarding is the action we take to promote children's welfare and protect them from harm. Child protection is the part of safeguarding focused on children who may be suffering, or be likely to suffer, significant harm.

- providing help and support as soon as difficulties emerge
- protecting children from abuse, neglect and exploitation, including risks online and outside the home
- supporting children's physical health, mental health and development
- helping children grow up with safe and effective care and achieve the best possible outcomes

What parents and carers can expect from us

- We listen carefully to children and take their concerns seriously.
- Staff receive safeguarding training and know how to report concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
- We teach children, in an age-appropriate way, how to keep themselves safe, including online.
- We recognise that some children may face additional barriers to seeking help and may need extra support.
- We act on child-on-child abuse and do not dismiss it as banter or part of growing up.
- We monitor patterns such as unexplained or persistent absence because these can sometimes indicate a safeguarding concern.

How the school responds to a concern

Step	What happens	In practice
1	Listen and record	Staff listen calmly, reassure the child and make an accurate record. They do not investigate or promise secrecy.
2	Share promptly	The concern is shared without delay with the DSL or safeguarding team.
3	Assess and support	The DSL considers the child's needs, wishes and circumstances, and may arrange school support, Family Help or advice from other agencies.
4	Refer when needed	Where a child may be at risk of harm, the school may contact Children's Social Care, the police or another appropriate service.
5	Follow up	The school records decisions, reviews the child's situation and escalates concerns if improvement is not seen.



If you are worried about a child

You do not need proof. Share what you have seen, heard or been told. If a child is in immediate danger, call 999. Otherwise, contact the school safeguarding team or the relevant local authority service.

School DSL	Name: Jo CHAPPELL Email: jo.chappell@coombesheadacademy.org.uk Telephone: 01626 201800
Deputy DSL(s)	Name(s): Andrew Balsdon Contact details Andrew.balsdon@coombesheadacademy.org.uk
During school closure	Safeguarding contact or arrangements: Jo CHAPPELL
Devon schools	Children's Front Door: 0345 155 1071 Out of hours Emergency Duty Team: 0345 6000 388
Torbay schools	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub: 01803 208100
Emergency	Police: 999 Police non-emergency: 101

Important

If you have a concern about the conduct of a member of staff or a volunteer, contact the Headteacher or member of the senior leadership team. If your concern is about the Headteacher, you can contact the Trust Inclusion and Safeguarding lead - Andy Goodwin – andy.goodwin@educationsouthwest.org.uk

Where to find more information

- The full Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is available on the school website: www.coombesheadacademy.org.uk
- Related school policies, including behaviour, online safety, attendance and complaints: www.coombesheadacademy.org.uk
- Family support and local services: [CFHD providing care and treatment for children and families in Devon - Children and Family Health Devon](#)
- [Family support in Devon](#)