

Coombeshead Academy Newsletter



Term 1 - October 2024

Dear families,

We have had a lovely start to the academic year, it's been very busy with open mornings, sports fixtures, visits to Normandy and a whole host of other exciting events!

Our new year 7s have settled in well and are thriving. They are excelling in lessons and have already joined and participated in numerous extracurricular clubs and events. They are an absolutely delightful group of young people and it has been a pleasure getting to know them.

Our new Year 12 students have also settled in quickly. They have stepped up to the challenge of level 3 courses and a more independent way of working. The amazing new sixth form facilities help support that step between school and university or the workplace and the food bar and pool table in the study café seems to be hugely popular.

Students have already taken part in a wide range of leadership events. Our student leadership team and student council reps have been nominated and initial meetings have already taken place. We have trained groups of anti-bullying ambassadors and mental health leads from the student population. More than a hundred students have volunteered to be guides who helped on our very busy Open Evening event and our Open Mornings. Feedback from families about our student guides has been extremely positive and we are delighted about the way in which they represent the school. Open mornings have been very popular again this year, with more than 400 families visiting us.

I must mention how incredibly proud we are of the mature and resilient way our year 11s have returned to school in very sad circumstances. They have been thoughtful, kind and have looked after each other. Their attitude to learning has been phenomenal and we are sure that if they continue to work as they are now, they will achieve outstanding GCSE results.

Staff have put on a wide range of extracurricular events for all year groups ranging from sports clubs, to performing arts, creative events, LGBTQ+, etc. Please encourage your child to take part in enrichment activities, these are advertised on year group boards, assemblies and social media and they change each term.

Just a reminder that our Student Support team are available each break time for students to "drop in" and discuss any issues or concerns they have. The Student Support Officers are:

- Year 7 – Ms Kim Routledge
- Year 8 – Ms Natalie Macfarlane
- Year 9 – Ms Ali Massey
- Year 10 – Ms Beth Griffiths
- Year 11 – Ms Lucy Donaldson
- Pastoral lead – Ms Natalie Beeks

Please see the latest communication leaflet for contact details of all key staff and what to do if you are encountering any issues or concerns. We hope everyone has a lovely half term and look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 4th November 2024.

Best wishes,

Helen Coulson
Headteacher

HALF TERM SAFEGUARDING CONTACTS

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

- MASH - 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 - 0845 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 really 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.

Sorry

No Trick, No Treat, No Thanks



Have Fun



PLEASE FOLD HERE AND DISPLAY IN YOUR WINDOW

A community campaign
promoted by Safer Communities Torbay

www.safercommunitiestorbay.org.uk

ANTI BULLYING AMBASSADORS TRAINING

On 26th September, 10 of our Post 16 students took part in a one-day anti-bullying training session run by The Diana Award at Devonport High School for Boys. Young people, aged from 11-18, worked together and acquired vital skills to enable them to change the attitudes and behaviours of bullying in their school by building their skills and confidence to address different situations, both off and online.

The Diana Award's free Anti-Bullying Ambassador Programme, which is available to schools across the UK, sees facilitators working with students and other young people to change the attitude surrounding bullying both across the UK and beyond. The Programme has a strong peer-to-peer focus, with facilitators giving young people the skills and confidence to become Anti-Bullying Ambassadors to tackle bullying in their schools long after the training has finished. The Diana Award's anti-bullying work is recognised as world-class thanks to this sustainable approach.

The training looked at bullying in different situations including face-to-face and online. At the end of the day, pupils made an action plan of how to approach bullying issues that may arise in their schools and committed to their roles as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.

Commenting on the training students said, "we've gained really useful skills in how to work as anti-bullying ambassadors to support students throughout Coombeshead Academy.

Watch this space for further updates about the roll – out of the anti-bullying ambassador roles.

About The Diana Award

The Diana Award benefits from the support of HRH The Prince of Wales and The Duke of Sussex and was founded as a lasting legacy to their mother, Diana, Princess of Wales' belief that young people have the power to change the world. The charity fosters, develops and inspires positive change in the lives of young people through four key programmes which include; a mentoring programme for young people at risk, a youth-led Anti-Bullying Ambassadors campaign, a collaborative Changemakers programme that aims to reimagine mental health support for young people from racialised communities and a prestigious award which publicly recognises young changemakers – The Diana Award.

About The Diana Award's Anti-Bullying Campaign

The Diana Award's Anti-Bullying Campaign involves several projects aimed at reducing bullying in schools. One of its main projects is the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors Programme, which has trained over 50,000 young people across the UK to lead on anti-bullying campaigns in their schools.

Social Media:

@DianaAward, @AntiBullyingPro
fb.com/thedianaaward, fb.com/antibullyingpro
twitter.com/dianaaward, twitter.com/AntiBullyingPro

HISTORY AND MFL TRIP TO NORMANDY

Mr Graham, Miss Mullen, Mme Riley and twenty-five year 8 to 10 pupils from Coombeshead Academy, had a super cross-curricular History and Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) trip to Normandy, France this October.

They travelled by coach, then ferry from Portsmouth - Caen to residential accommodation in Normandy. We had our own coach and guide and visited the regional historical sites of the Caen Memorial, the Bayeux tapestry, Mont-St-Michel abbey and the Arromanches 360 degree cinema.

They also immersed themselves in French language and culture by visiting a goats farm, a French supermarket and shopped for their lunch at the local market in Combourg. Pupils also had the opportunity to make bread and take part in aeroball and sports activities on site. Their guide spoke completely in French and delicious French food was served, including the delicacy of snails in garlic butter which the majority of our students were surprised to like!

For most pupils it was not only their first time abroad, but also their first time travelling away from home. We couldn't be prouder of how they represented our school.



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PERU EXPEDITION SUMMER 2024



The Coombeshead Peru Expedition took place this summer with 15 students flying out in early July, accompanied with Mr Stevenson. The student's spent four weeks exploring Peru's vast mountain range completing extensive projects and expeditions along the way. It was an adventure that the students will never forget and enjoyed thoroughly. Eva, now in year 11 was one of the students who signed up to the trip said 'I really loved all the project work and getting to know the communities, especially teaching young students English in their schools. The hardest but my most favourite part of the expedition was the trek to Machu Picchu because of the exciting challenge and learning about the history. It was rewarding to have amazing views in each and every camp to wake up to. I had the most amazing time, I would thoroughly recommend a trip like this to anyone eager to explore the world, I would most definitely do it all over again.

In week 1 the students began their camping adventure in Camp Moray, situated in the mountain Valleys of Moray, a whopping 3600m above sea level. The students very quickly settled into Peruvian lifestyle and, with time to acclimatise to the altitude we then began our project work. This week's work focused on building out buildings that would be used for bathrooms. The community only had three working bathrooms before the start of the project season. By the time we had left Camp Moray we had helped to build 3 more. A lifelong improvement for the local community. During this week the students learnt a huge deal about Peruvian life. We were shown how to build and cook food in mud ovens, how to speak the local language of Quechua and even explored an ancient Inca ruin where over 3600 different varieties of potatoes have been grown in their own micro-climate. We left Camp Moray learning so much about the culture and how the local people live. We were even able to share some of our own childhood experiences by teaching local children Duck Duck Goose!

PERU EXPEDITION SUMMER 2024

As we waved goodbye to Camp Moray, our second week saw the group move down to 2000m to Camp Sacred Valley. Sacred Valley was a much warmer and more western community and our project work involved creating a community garden where the local's could plant, grow and sell crops to the local market. The team helped dig and plant over 200 avocado trees which will help support the local economy and in turn provide an injection of money into the local area. Due to the more modernised community, the students were able to have a little more home comforts and spent some time in a coffee shop indulging in homemade cakes and sweet treats. Later in the week the team explored a waterfall. A short 3 hour walk up the mountains of Sacred Valley took the team to within touching distance of a natural waterfall which accompanied with some stunning views of the Sacred Valley was truly magical.

Week 3 very quickly came upon us and this meant going back up through the mountains to Camp Maras. Camp Maras is situated in the very small community of Maras, sitting at 3900m above sea level. Again, the students coped fantastically well with both the change in temperature (night time was around -7 degrees) and of course the altitude. In this camp we worked with a local school. The school site had a nursery, primary and secondary section for all students. The cost of which was 75 Solis per term. This equates to around £15 per student per term. Unfortunately, many families in the local community cannot afford this, or need the help of their children on the farm. With farming one of the most common sources of income, many families would de-value education in this area and in many families in this area only the eldest male would have the opportunity to go to school. As a group the team reflected on how their education back home is different to this. The team's project work for this week was to improve the nursery's play area. When we arrived it was very run down and quite unsafe for the pupils to play. So after many hours of digging, raking, mending and a quick lick of paint, the new playpark was re-opened after a week and the students were ecstatic with their new play area.



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Our final camp before our epic trek was Camp Tarawasi. This camp allowed us to again work in a school and in a very small community. The community was situated within a small valley and at the heart of the community was the local school. At this school, the students supported the school by washing up their dishes after lunch and even helping to clean the toilets! Some of the parents volunteered their time to cook the lunch food for the students and this strong sense of community was really clear to see. The project work here consisted of digging a great big area for a new irrigation system as well as sewing large sections of fabric together to create a shelter for new crops to be shielded from the intense sunshine. The students also were able to support the school and worked in the classroom teaching the local children English. This was such a great experience for the group and working so closely with the community provided a great sense of togetherness. And this togetherness was about to be tested in week 4 with our toughest challenge yet to come!

Finally, week 4 was our hardest challenge of them all. It was now time for our trek. The Salkantay trek to Machu Picchu consists of 5 long days of walking. Below you can see some of the statistics:

Days	Traveling to and from	Distance	Time	Highest Elevation
Day 1	Cusco – Soraypampa to Huoyrocmochoy	14km	7 hours	4,630m
Day 2	Huoyrocmochoy to Loreta	21km	7 hours	3,850m
Day 3	Loreta to Llastapato	12km	4-5 hours	2,800m
Day 4	Llastapato to Puente Ruinas	16.5km	4-5 hours	2,700m
Day 5	Puente Ruinas to Machu Picchu	1600 large stair steps	1-2 hours	2,430m

I am absolutely thrilled to say every single student completed the Trek and was able to visit one of the modern wonders of the world, Machu Picchu. On day 1, this was our highest elevation and we even passed the Salkantay glacier on the way. At 4630m above sea level this was the toughest mountain we had scaled so far and this was such a challenge for the students. They met this challenge head on I couldn't be prouder of their determination and resilience throughout the entire trip.

Overall, the trip was an absolute success and the students created lifelong memories that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. Not only this, the team supported many local communities in Peru and improved their living conditions, local economy and embraced the Peruvian culture completely.

Mr Stevenson would like to end by saying 'Thank you to all the students who were part of this fantastic adventure. Thank you to the parents for supporting the students on this epic four weeks. It was an absolute joy to spend these four weeks with you. I hope that you had a brilliant time. Finally, this trip showed that you can do anything if you put your mind to it and life can take you anywhere, even to the mountains of Peru!'

PERU EXPEDITION SUMMER 2024



GREAT LANGUAGE BAKE OFF

The 'Great Languages Bake Off' was again a success in school this year with some impressive cake entries. A special 'well done' to Emir in year 7 and Izzy in year 8 for being declared the joint winners of this competition.

The cake sale also proved very popular, with exactly £97.87 raised for the charity 'Macmillan Cancer Support'.

Thank you to all students and staff involved, brilliant effort!



GREAT LANGUAGE BAKE OFF



WORKING WITH YOUNG DEVON



Last year some Coombeshead students contributed to the peer research project 'Safer spaces, safer places' with the charity Young Devon, which was about making our local area safer and more inclusive for young people.

As a follow-up the same group of students are now involved in another collaborative workshop where they have started developing their ideas of police training by planning and scripting a video. It will be based around police officers learning how young people are perceiving them and how the trust and cooperation can be built. In the next session the video will be recorded in school and put together by a professional videographer, then shared with the local police.

STAND AGAINST VIOLENCE

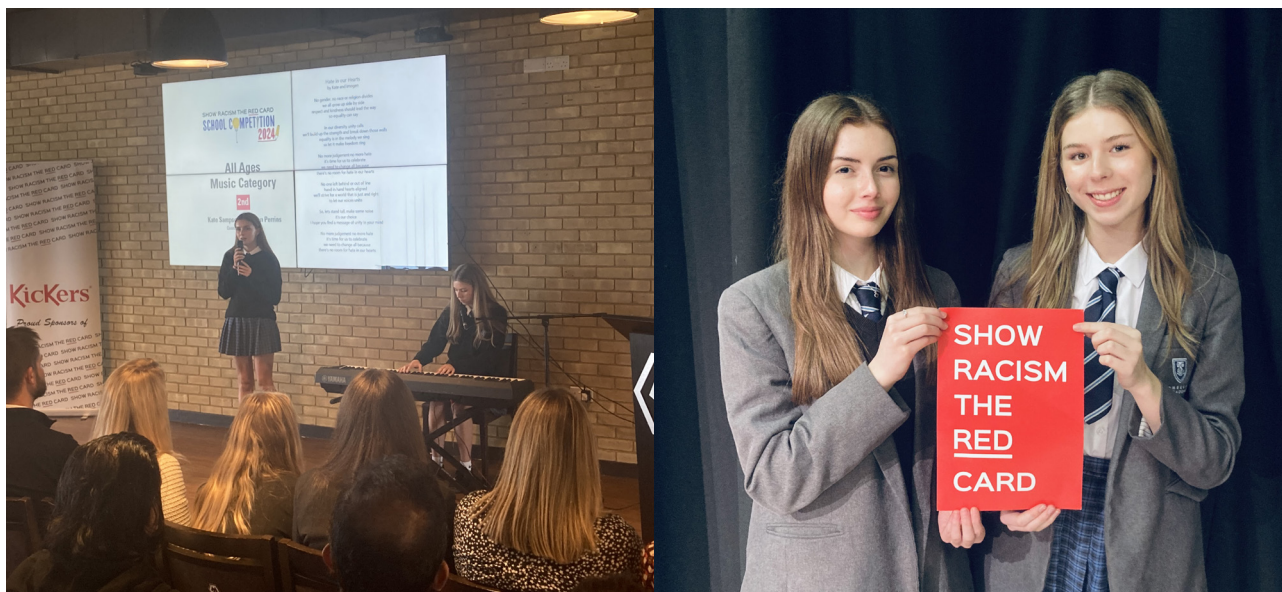


This week year 9 had a workshop delivered by Stand Against Violence highlighting the life changing consequences one bad decision can have.

Alex Cutler from SAV shared the story of a young man called Lloyd Fouracr, who was murdered in an unprovoked attack by two teens in Taunton on the eve of his 18th birthday. She spoke about the impact violence has on the victims and their families. Alex also shared an interview from one of the murderers and how it impacted his life. The final part of the talk was about how Lloyd's brother met with one of the murderers to grant him forgiveness.

We hope that this workshop will encourage the students to think about the consequences of violence and provide them with the tools they need to stand up against violence in the future.

SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD



Our trip to Wolverhampton kicked off at 7.30 am, where we met at the mini-bus at Coombeshead Academy. After driving for almost 4 hours, we were welcomed by the huge Molineux Stadium. We were able to explore the grounds for an hour before the awards ceremony. This also included seeing all of the other winners' art work and participating in the workshops being held. After a quick soundcheck, the awards ceremony began. The well-known hosts presented the prizes to the winners of each category, after their work had been shared to the audience. As we were in the music category, we had been asked to perform our song in front of a huge audience, which was very nerve-wracking. However, once we were up on stage, we were greeted with applause, which was very encouraging for us! It was a great opportunity for us to not only perform in front of a crowd, but also to spread a very important message through our song: show racism the red card.

After our performance, we were given goodie bags filled with football related prizes (including a top-quality football). We got a chance to speak with the hosts and even a few footballers at the end of the ceremony. However, it was time to leave as we had a long journey ahead of us, but we were so grateful for this experience! We're very thankful for Madame Farleigh for getting us involved and Mr Tyner and Mr Harbottle for their support with the music, and organising our trip up there.

-Imogen P and Kate S



QR code to song track



DUKE OF EDINBURGH - BRONZE AWARDS

We celebrated our wonderful Bronze D of E Cohort last week! This group of students have shown such positive effort, commitment and resilience to complete their Award. We are very proud of their achievements and hope they proudly display their certificates and badges.



RAISING MONEY FOR MACMILLAN



Mrs Goldsworthy thanked Stany and Dave for all their hard work in making this event happen, and a big thank you to all Sixth formers who gave up their time.

We had cake donations from RD Johns, Warrens bakery and Terri at Oak Yard cakes. Massive thanks goes out to those companies for their generosity.

YEAR 7 NETBALL

A fantastic start for our year 7 Netball team as they went to Teignmouth Community College yesterday for their first game of the season.

They played against both the A and the B teams where then won 9-0 against the A's and 5-1 against the B's.



YEAR 7 FOOTBALL

'Year 7s showed great potential coming together for the first time as a team and winning 3-1 in extra time to enter the next round of the Football National Cup. Well done to all involved.'



YEAR 9 FOOTBALL

Year 9 Football team played some great attacking football to beat Paignton 6-2 to go into the next round of the National cup. Well done to all involved



BRITISH OPEN LIFT ME UP COMPETITION

Abraxas in year 10 continues to impress in his chosen sport of weightlifting. He took part in the British Open Lift Me Up Competition in September.



BRITISH OPEN LIFT ME UP COMPETITION



CAKES WITH THE HEAD YEAR 7

Well done to the year 7s who were nominated for "Cakes with the Head" at the end of September! They have been nominated by their teachers for a really good start to Year 7.



CAKES WITH THE HEAD YEAR 10 - JUST SOME OF THE AMAZING COMMENTS FROM TEACHERS ABOUT OUR STUDENTS!

- Excellent start to the year in Food and Nutrition. Brilliant subject knowledge and practical skills.
- Excellent effort in Science- 100% engagement with Sparx Science
- Insightful contributions to class discussions on the poems we have been studying and well done on a positive attitude
- Excellent start to the year. Always demonstrates excellent subject knowledge and attitude. Well done
- Working hard and putting in the effort to make the right choices. Really positive start to year 10
- Thank you for always having a positive attitude and trying your best, even when you are finding things difficult
- You have made such a successful start to the year, Rhys, and your drive to do well and do your very hardest is going to set you in good stead going forward in school and life. Keep up the good work; you are such a pleasure to teach :-)
- Brilliant start to the year. Such an improvement from year 9! Keep working hard, it is definitely noticed.
- Attending additional rehearsals for the BTEC Pantomime, taking on the role of the Fairy Godmother in the production.

CAKES WITH THE HEAD YEAR 11 - JUST SOME OF THE AMAZING COMMENTS FROM TEACHERS ABOUT OUR STUDENTS!

- For his sensitive approach to creating fabulous 3D Art outcomes.
- For being a fantastic role model and helping the Year 7's settle into school!
- For working so hard and being so focused in Spanish. Bravo!
- For such beautiful reading during our cold read of An Inspector Calls, and focus and determination exhibited in every lesson. A pleasure to teach. Keep it up!
- It has been wonderful to see you start Year 11 Maths with so much focus and effort. Well done for your engagement.
- I've seen your confidence grow in class this year which has been really evident in your contributions and focus even through such tricky times; it does not go unnoticed. You are a pleasure to teach.
- Excellent effort in Science lesson, her homework is always completed on time and always gives every task as go.
- In the face of adversity you kept on going; it was and is inspiring to see you persevere through everything. You are an absolute pleasure to teach.
- For being resilient in GCSE History, taking pride in your work and always working to the best of your ability!
- 100% engagement with Science Sparx!
- Continuous commitment, enthusiasm and effort in Dance.
- Great attitude and really pushing herself to succeed!
- For being an all round super star in Spanish! Excelente!
- Excellent student - always polite, hardworking, determined.
- You are always so polite, punctual and thoughtful in the classroom. You are so considerate and it's lovely to see you become slowly more confident. Well done.

**140 NOMINATIONS WERE GIVEN BY TEACHERS AND
SUPPORT STAFF FOR STUDENTS IN YEAR 9, 10 AND 11.
WELL DONE. WHAT A GREAT START TO THE YEAR!**



VOLUNTEERING

On Tuesday 10th September Coombeshead Sixth Form hosted a volunteering event including representatives from local organisations including the Rotary club, Children's Hospice South West, Citizen's Advice Bureau and more including Teignbridge district council and the Mayor of Newton Abbot Alex Hall. The organisations had a chance to showcase their work to our sixth form students, who in return offered them support and ideas for marketing themselves to a younger audience. The aim of the event was to expose our students to the opportunities available to help in the local community and raise awareness of areas in which they can get involved.



ANTI BULLYING AMBASSADORS

On the 26th September, a group of 9 sixth formers travelled to Plymouth to take part in a day's anti-bullying ambassador training provided by the Diana Award. Our newly certified anti-bullying ambassadors will be working with students in lower year groups to provide support and a point of contact to improve the systems we already have in place to keep bullying at bay.



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TRAINING

This year we have been fortunate to be able to widen our training opportunities for student mental health support. Building on the success of training our 2 current mental health first aiders now in year 13, we hosted a training event from the local NHS Mental Health Support Team on the 4th of October and have now trained an additional 9 mental health support ambassadors. Watch this space for further information on how they will be supporting our students at Coombeshead.





CREATIVE ARTS ACADEMY

YRS 7-9

TERM 1 - PRINTMAKING

TUESDAY - AFTER SCHOOL - MISS CLIFFORD - CA5

TERM 2 - TEXTILES

TUESDAY - AFTER SCHOOL - MRS WILLIAMS - CA6

TERM 3 - COLOUR

TUESDAY - AFTER SCHOOL - MRS PARR - CA2

TERM 4 - DIGITAL ART

TUESDAY - AFTER SCHOOL - MR EYRE - CA1

YR 10 GCSE

THERE WILL BE A RANGE OF GCSE CATCH-UP
SESSIONS ON OFFER FOR

ART & DESIGN, PHOTOGRAPHY, TEXTILES
AND 3D DESIGN

PLEASE SPEAK TO YOUR TEACHER FOR DETAILS

CLUBS

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

Autumn Term 2024

PLANT CLUB	Picnic Area	Tuesday after school
DANCE CLUB	A3	Friday Break 2 (Y7, 8, 9)
FOOD COMMITTEE	F3	Mon B After School
SHOW BAND	A4	Mon B After School
FOLK GROUP	A5	Tues After School
MUSIC TECH DROP IN	A5	Mon/ Tues Break 1 (Y10, 11)
TOURING SHOW	A3	Mon after school, Fri Break 2 (Y9)
LGBTQ+	Library	Tues Break 2
FRENCH TRANSLATION BEE	L3	Mon Break 1 (Y8 , 9)
MEDIA CLUB	E3	Thurd After Schol
JOURNALISM./ CREATIVE WRITING	E2	After School
ART CLUB GCSE	CA1	Thurs After School
ECO COMMITTEE	G1	Tues After School
KS3 CHOIR	A4	Mon/ Tues Break 1 (Y7, 8, 9)
BUSHELL YOUTH ORCHESTRA	Theatre	Tues After School
GCSE MUSIC	A4	Wed Break 2 (Y10,11)
STUDIO WORKSHOPS	Rec Studio	Wed Break 1, 2
Musical Theatre Group	Theatre	Thurs After School
Soul Band	A4	Fri After School

