

Coombeshead Academy Newsletter



Autumn Term 1 - October 2025

Dear families,

It has been a wonderful start to the new academic year at Coombeshead Academy. The energy, enthusiasm, and commitment shown by both students and staff have made for a truly positive beginning, and the atmosphere around school has been one of purpose, pride, and belonging.

We began the term by celebrating another exceptional set of GCSE and A Level results. Our students achieved outcomes that reflect their incredible hard work, determination, and the dedication of our staff team. These results have opened doors to exciting next steps, whether in further education, apprenticeships, or employment, and we couldn't be prouder of what they have achieved.

Our new Year 7 students have settled in beautifully. They have embraced The Coombeshead Way with enthusiasm—turning up ready, working hard, and being kind. It has been lovely to see them growing in confidence, making new friendships, and engaging so well with lessons and enrichment opportunities. They are already very much part of the Coombeshead community. We have also been delighted by the huge success of our Year 6 Open Evening and Open Morning events. Hundreds of families came through our doors to experience the vibrant life of our school. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with many commenting on the warmth of our welcome, the impressive work on display, and the passion of our staff. A special mention must go to our student ambassadors, who guided families around the site. They were confident, knowledgeable, and a credit to the Academy—living proof of our values: **Belong. Believe. Become.**

Our Year 11 students have made a particularly impressive start to the year. Their focus and maturity during their PPE (mock) GCSE exams this week have been outstanding. They have approached their studies with real determination, making the most of revision sessions, Lesson 6, and every opportunity to improve. This attitude sets a fantastic tone for the year ahead.

As you read through this newsletter, you will see many examples of the rich and varied opportunities that make Coombeshead such a special place to learn and grow. From creative arts and sport to community projects and academic achievements, it is wonderful to see our students thriving in so many different ways.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. It makes such a difference to what we are able to achieve together. I hope you enjoy reading about everything that has taken place this half term, and I wish you all a restful and enjoyable break.

Best wishes,

Helen Coulson
Headteacher

Together We Grow, Together We Achieve. Belong. Believe. Become

FOCUS ON SAFEGUARDING

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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.

FOCUS ON SAFEGUARDING

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

LIFE SAVING SKILLS DAY - YEAR 9

Year 9 students at Coombeshead Academy took part in a practical life-saving skills workshop as part of their life skills lessons. From learning how to perform CPR to understanding how to use a defibrillator and EpiPen, every student showed great enthusiasm, teamwork, and engagement.

These valuable sessions equipped students with essential knowledge that could one day help save a life. We're incredibly proud of their positive attitude and willingness to learn such important skills.

All students who took part received a Certificate of Participation to recognise their effort and commitment. Well done Year 9!



GREAT LANGUAGES BAKE OFF

Well done to everyone who took part in the 'Great Languages Bake Off'. It was a great success with so many impressive cake entries.

Joint winners: Izzy Yr9 and Lily Yr7

2nd: Valeria Yr9

3rd : Meg Yr7

The cake sale also proved very popular with almost £80 raised for the charity 'Macmillan Cancer Support'.

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



LGBTQ+

The LGBTQ+ Club is a safe place for LGBTQ+ students and allies in school. It runs every Wednesday at Break 2 in L4. Hollie Wright, who is the Devon schools support worker for Intercom Trust, will also assist on a regular basis.

[Home - Intercom Trust](http://www.intercomtrust.org.uk) (www.intercomtrust.org.uk)



YEAR 8 RUGBY

The Coombeshead Year 8 Rugby team won all of their games in their local central venue tournament. They played some great offloading rugby. Well done to all involved.



YEAR 8 RUGBY

Pictured below are the Year 8 Coombeshead Football team. They connivingly won 7-0 in their National Cup game to go into the next round. Well done to all involved!



'Coombeshead Year 8 rugby team that played in the South Devon Tournament on 13 October. The team ended up scoring 23 tries in total and only losing one game by 1 try finishing in 3rd place overall. Well done to all involved.'



YEAR 10 FOOTBALL

The Year 10 Football team had a early start to their National Cup game. An action shot from the game! Well done to all involved.



YEAR 7 NETBALL

Year 7 had their first Central venue league of their Coombeshead career and boy did we take it by storm. With some very tough competition the girls were in no way phased by this. First game against Churston started off slow with the score at half time being 1-0 to us, after a team talk and a few switches we came back fighting and won the game 7-2, player of the match went to Ruby. Second game we were warmed up and ready for action winning against spires 9-1 in which player went to Jess S. last game and nothing was stopping them as they took to the court against Paignton. A tough game but the girls pulled off a very satisfying win, 8-3, against Paignton. Player of the match again going to Ruby S. this is certainly a team to watch out for!! Well done girls.



UNDER 14'S NETBALL

U14 girls entered the national schools competition recently. They were up against some tough competition from local schools with girls who play regional netball. They played 7 games in total winning two and losing 5. They played their best game against stover winning 9-3. Player of the tournament went to Georgia S who was a year younger than most of the players. She showed determination and put her all into each game. A fantastic performance by all. Well done ladies.



UNDER 13'S FOOTBALL

The team faced a tough challenge in their first ever game together, drawn against a strong Torquay Academy side. Despite the pressure, they played extremely well and showed real promise for the future.

There were fantastic saves from goalkeeper Izzy Murch, along with brilliant defending by Reneseme Bowden, helping keep the game tight throughout. Unfortunately, the team narrowly lost 1-0, but considering it was their first match together, the performance was full of positives.

I'm really excited to see what the future holds for this amazing team!



UNDER 13'S FOOTBALL

The Coombeshead Under 15 team were drawn against a very strong Ivybridge side, whose players also play together outside of school—so we knew it was going to be a tough challenge.

Ivybridge took an early lead, going 1-0 up at the start of the game. However, with plenty of attacking pressure and numerous shots on goal, we always believed an equaliser was coming. Fortunately, Jasmine L delivered with a fantastic long-range strike into the bottom corner to level the game at 1-1.

Then, in the final 10 minutes, a Coombeshead corner led to Dolly S finding the net with a knee finish, securing a thrilling 2-1 win!

This victory puts the team into the third round of the cup, where they'll face Torquay Girls' Grammar on Friday, 7th November. A brilliant performance—well done, girls!



YEAR 8 RUGBY

Pictured are the Year 8 Rugby team that won the latest South Devon CVL rugby Tournament. The team played some great attacking rugby and really stepped forward in defence. The team managed to score at least 4 tries in every game. Well done to all involved.



RED BELT SUCCESS



Following a three hour panel grading, at a sports venue, near Glastonbury, on Sunday 12th October, Simon was awarded his MF Martial Arts Red Belt.

Huge congratulations to Simon for this amazing achievement reflecting all the

STAND TOGETHER AGAINST RACISM

As part of our diversity and inclusion work in school, we are supporting the charity 'Show racism the red card' by inviting all students to wear a red item alongside their normal school uniform on Friday 24 October. Donations are voluntary but very welcome, helping to fund this important educational cause. It was great to see our school community wearing red on 24 October.

Diversity ambassadors collected donations during tutorial and everyone enjoyed the fundraising volley-ball game (staff vs students) at Break 2!

WEAR RED DAY

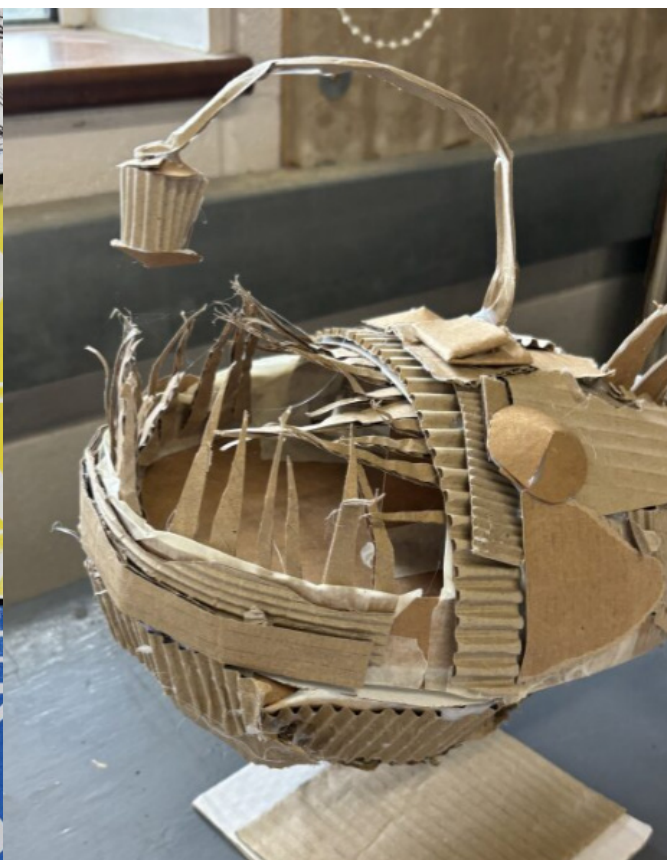
FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER
COOMBESHEAD ACADEMY
STAND TOGETHER
AGAINST RACISM



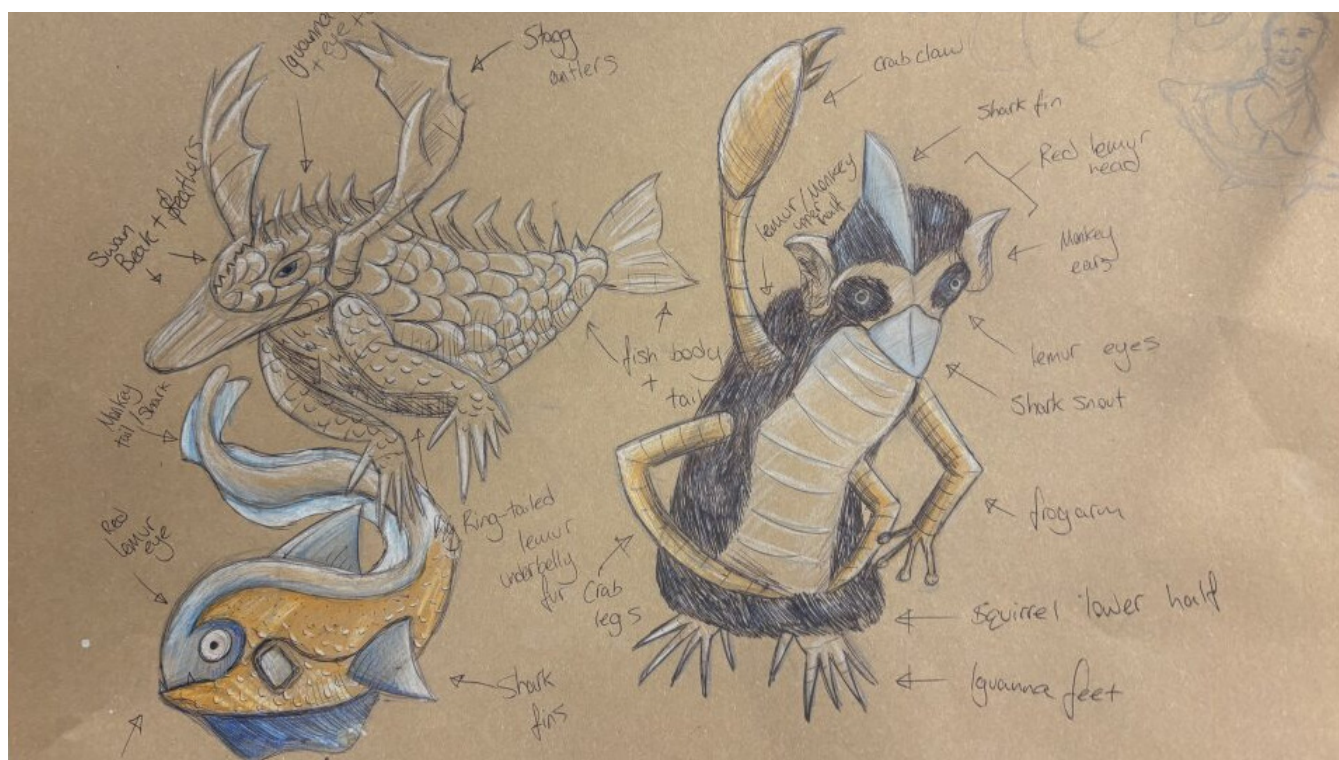
DONATIONS WELCOME FOR THE CHARITY
SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD

www.theredcard.org

CREATIVE ARTS WORK SAMPLES



CREATIVE ARTS WORK SAMPLES



BRAND NEW TO

CREATE

CREATIVE ARTS ACADEMY

Level 2 Art & Design Course

Unleash your artistic potential with
our **BRAND NEW** creative course!

Designed for all skill levels, to help you
refine your talent and prepare you for the
next step in your creative journey.



You will have the opportunity to work in a range
of different media and processes for example,
**PAINTING, DRAWING, SCULPTURE, CERAMICS,
PRINTMAKING TEXTILES AND GRAPHICS.**

**You will need 5 GCSEs at grade 3 or above
(including Maths, English & Science)**

Please see Mrs Parr or Mrs Williams for more information!

CREATE

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 2025

BASKETBALL Y7/Y8 Sports Hall 2 **Monday Break 2**

DANCE CLUB A3 **Monday after school (Y8, Y9)**

RUGBY Y9 Astro **Monday after school**

RUGBY Y8 Astro **Tuesday after school**

VOLLEYBALL Sports Hall 2 **Tuesday after school**

MUSIC TECH DROP IN A5 **Wed Break 1 + 2, Fri Break 1 (KS4)**

TOURING SHOW Theatre **Mon after school,
Tues A -Break 2 (Y9),
Thurs B - Break 1**

LGBTQ+ L4 **Wednesday Break 2**

NETBALL Sports Hall 1 **Tuesday after school**

MEDIA CLUB E5 **Thurs After School (Key Stage 3)**

RUGBY Y7 Astro **Thurs After School**

GIRLS FOOTBALL Astro **Thurs After School**

PHILOSOPHY CLUB H2 **Tues A Break 2**

BOYS ROCK BAND A4 **Monday Break 1**

MUSICAL THEATRE GROUP A4 **Monday After School**

**BUSHELL YOUTH COMMUNITY
ORCHESTRA** Theatre **Tuesday After School**

Folk group A5 **Wednesday After School**

School Band A5 **Thurs After School**

Girls Rock Band A5 **Fri Break 2**



Coombeshead Academy Performing Arts Department

Extra-Curricular Timetable 2025 – 2026

	BREKETIME 1/2	AFTERSCHOOL
Monday	BOYS ROCK BAND <i>Mr Tyner</i> A4 / REC STUDIO <i>Breaktime 1</i>	KS3 DANCE CLUB <i>Miss Lum</i> A3 (3.15 – 4.15pm) TIE <i>Touting Show</i> <i>Miss Hughes</i> A2 (3.15 – 4.30pm) MUSICAL THEATRE GROUP <i>Mr Tyner</i> A4 (3.15 – 4.15pm)
Tuesday	GCSE EXTRA MUSIC <i>Mr Tyner</i> A4 <i>Breaktime 1</i> TIE <i>Touting Show</i> <i>Miss Hughes</i> A2 <i>Breaktime 2</i>	BUSHELL YOUTH COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA <i>Mr Tyner</i> Theatre (4.00 – 5.00pm)
Wednesday	STUDIO WORKSHOPS BTEC & GCSE <i>Mr Harbottle</i> REC STUDIO <i>Breaktime 1 + 2</i>	SHOW REHEARSALS <i>Performing Arts Staff</i> (3.15 – 4.45pm) FOLK GROUP <i>Mr Harbottle</i> A5 (3.15 – 4.30pm)
Thursday	GCSE EXTRA MUSIC <i>Mr Tyner</i> A4 <i>Breaktime 2</i> TIE <i>Touting Show</i> <i>Miss Hughes</i> A2 <i>Breaktime 1</i>	BAND SHOW REHEARSALS <i>Mr Tyner + Mr Harbottle</i> Theatre (3.15 – 4.45pm) SHOW REHEARSALS <i>Performing Arts Staff</i> (3.15 – 4.45pm)
Friday	STUDIO WORKSHOPS BTEC & GCSE <i>Mr Harbottle</i> REC STUDIO <i>Breaktime 1</i> GIRL ROCK BAND <i>Mr Harbottle</i> A5 <i>Breaktime 2</i>	SOUL BAND <i>Mr Tyner</i> A4 (3.15 – 4.30pm)



CLUBS TIMETABLE



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BREAK 1	ASTRO	ASTRO	ASTRO	ASTRO	ASTRO
BREAK 2	ASTRO	ASTRO	ASTRO	ASTRO	ASTRO
				Y 7 & 8 Basketball-SH1	
AFTER SCHOOL	Cricket -Astro	Yr7/8 Rounders-Astro BTEC Sport C/W-LH2		Yr9/10 Rounders- Astro	