



## Summer Term 1 Newsletter – May 2026

Dear families,

As we reach the end of another incredibly busy and successful half term, I would like to take a moment to celebrate the many achievements, experiences, and opportunities that continue to make Coombeshead Academy such a vibrant and inspiring community. Across the school, our students have once again impressed us with their creativity, resilience, kindness, and willingness to embrace every opportunity available to them.

One of the standout moments this term has been the national success of our Year 10 GCSE Music students, who won the songwriting category in the prestigious 'Show Racism the Red Card' competition. Competing against more than 20,000 entries from schools across the country, this is an exceptional achievement and one we are immensely proud of. The students travelled to Manchester United Football Club to attend the awards ceremony, where they performed their winning song and represented Coombeshead brilliantly. Their talent, confidence, and commitment to promoting equality and inclusion reflect the very best of our school community.

We are also incredibly proud of the way our Year 11 and Year 13 students have approached their GCSE and A-level examinations this term. They have shown real determination, maturity, and resilience throughout what can be a demanding period. Their attitude towards revision, intervention sessions, and the examinations themselves has been exemplary, and they have conducted themselves with positivity and focus every day. Staff have been hugely impressed by the calm and purposeful atmosphere they have created, and we wish all our students the very best as they continue through the exam season.

Creativity has continued to flourish across our Creative Arts subjects this term. Our GCSE and A-level students have worked incredibly hard in completing their practical examinations, demonstrating real dedication and artistic skill. We are also delighted to celebrate the outstanding photography work of Harriet in Year 12, whose stunning wildlife and landscape images showcase both technical ability and creativity. Alongside this, students are already looking ahead to exciting enrichment opportunities, including the CREATE Bristol Art Trip, which promises to inspire the next generation of young artists.

We are equally proud of the way our students continue to engage positively with opportunities beyond the classroom. Our Year 10 students took part in an excellent Health and Wellbeing Day as part of their Life Skills curriculum, working with a range of external organisations on important topics including mental wellbeing, CPR training, healthy relationships, online safety, and teamwork. Visiting organisations commented on how respectful, engaged, and mature our students were throughout the day, which was wonderful to hear.

Sporting success has also been a real highlight this term, with both our Year 8 and Year 10 football teams progressing impressively in their South Devon cup competitions. We are also incredibly grateful to local companies TCS Controls and T Clarke for their generous sponsorship of our new football kits,



, which our students are proudly wearing as they represent the school.

It has also been fantastic to see our students engaging with the wider community. A group of students recently contributed thoughtful ideas and feedback to the Newton Abbot Town Centre Masterplan consultation, ensuring that young people's voices are part of shaping the future of the local area. Opportunities like this help our students develop confidence, citizenship, and a real sense of belonging within the wider community.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has shown support for our newly formed Friends of Coombeshead Academy group. This is an exciting opportunity to strengthen the partnership between home and school and create even more opportunities for our students and families to feel connected to school life.

As always, thank you for your continued support. It makes an enormous difference and helps us to create the positive, ambitious, and caring environment in which our young people can thrive. I hope you enjoy reading about the many successes and experiences shared throughout this newsletter.

Best wishes,

Helen Coulson  
Headteacher

## May Half Term Holiday Safeguarding Contacts

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

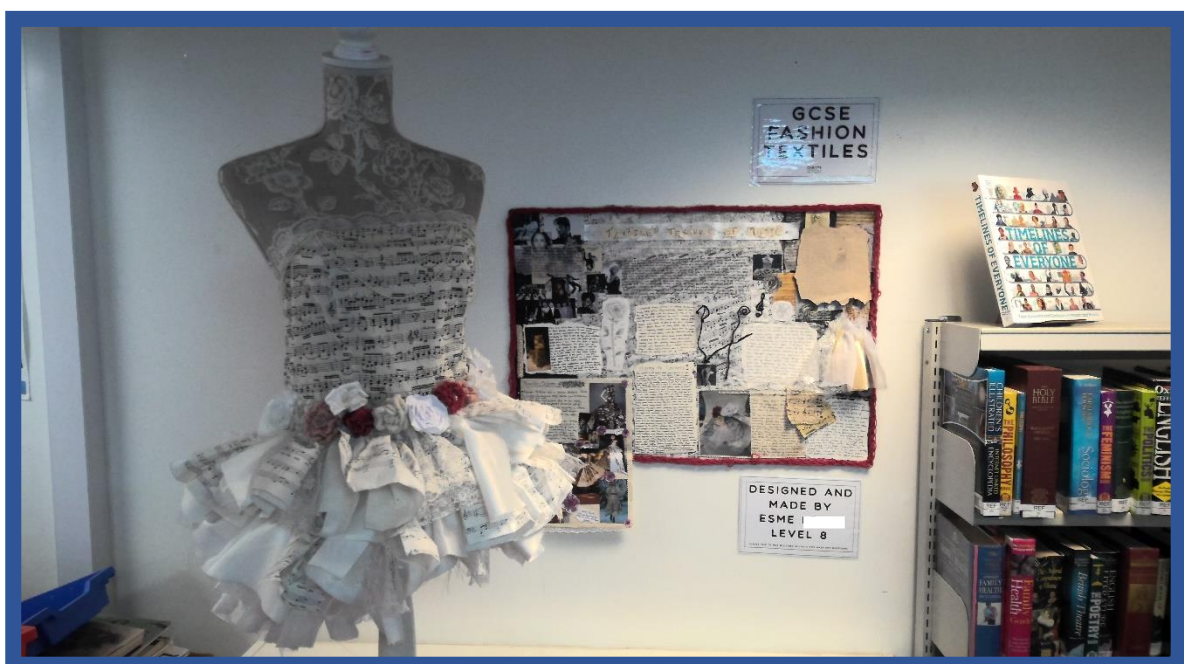
- **MASH/ Front Door referrals** - Devon County Council Safeguarding Hub. If you are worried about a child or young person in Devon and want to speak to someone, or if you are a child or young person worried about your own safety - 0345 155 1071
- [mashsecure@devon.gov.uk](mailto:mashsecure@devon.gov.uk)
- Outside of office hours contact Emergency Duty Team - 0345 6000 388
- **Childline** - 0800 1111 [www.childline.org.uk](http://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](http://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.



## Creative Arts Academy

A **massive well done to our Create GCSE and A-level students** for completing their exams — we are incredibly proud of your hard work, creativity and dedication.

It has been a busy and creative term in the Textiles, 3D Design and Art Department. Students across all year groups have produced imaginative work while developing their practical skills and confidence.



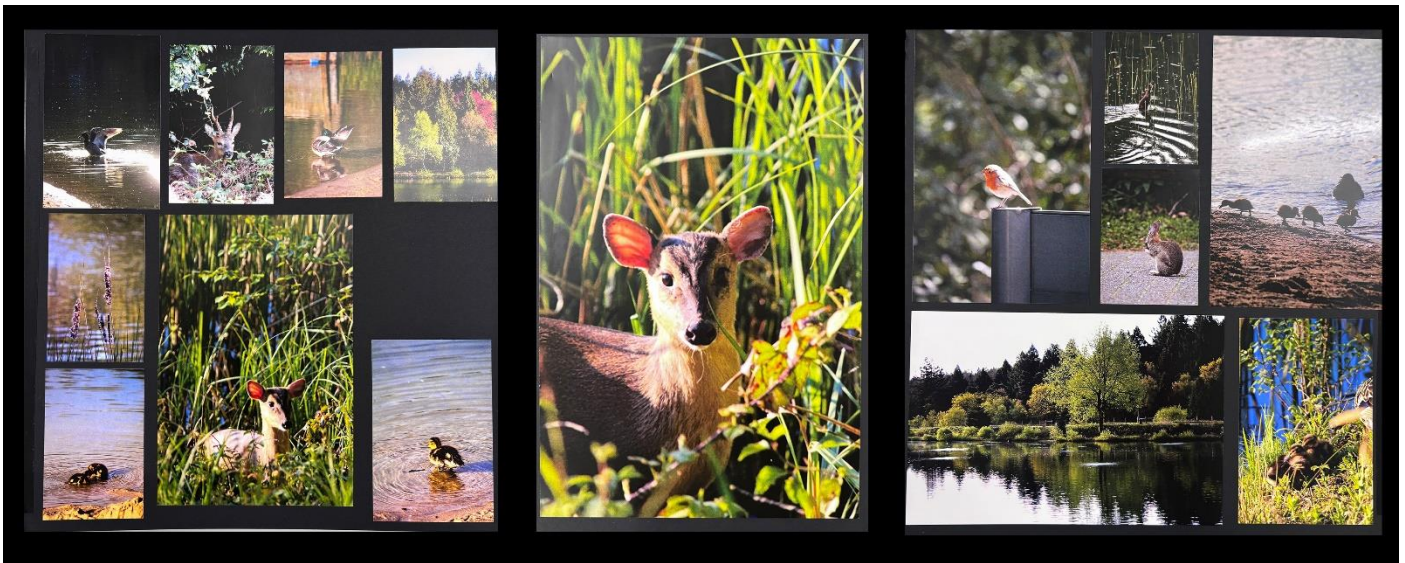


## Celebrating Student Success – Harriet's Photography

We are delighted to celebrate the outstanding work of Harriet in Year 12 Photography. Harriet has produced a stunning series of images capturing wildlife and natural landscapes, demonstrating a real eye for detail, composition, and the use of light.

Her photographs show patience and technical skill, with beautifully captured moments from nature, including close-up wildlife shots and tranquil landscape scenes. The vibrant colours and thoughtful framing highlight Harriet's growing confidence and creativity as a photographer.

A fantastic achievement – well done, Harriet! We look forward to seeing how Harriet continues to develop this exciting body of work.



## Enrichment Week 2026 – CREATE Bristol Art Trip

Looking for something exciting, creative and completely different? This year's Enrichment Week trip to Bristol is an unmissable experience — especially if you're thinking about choosing Art for GCSE.

From 14–16 July 2026, you'll step into the incredible world of 'Wake The Tiger' — a mind-blowing, immersive art space full of colour, strange worlds and interactive installations. This isn't your typical gallery — it's an experience you can explore, move through and become part of.

Across the three days, you'll take part in a hands-on workshop, experiment with creative ideas and get inspired by artists who think outside the box. It's the perfect chance to build sketchbook ideas, try new techniques and develop confidence in your creativity.

If you're considering GCSE Art, this trip will give you a huge head start — helping you understand how artists create experiences, tell stories and push boundaries. You'll come away with fresh ideas, photos, sketches and inspiration you can use in your future work.

### ✦ Why sign up?

- Experience art in a totally new, immersive way
- Get inspiration for your GCSE portfolio
- Build confidence in your creative skills



- Take part in a fun, practical workshop
- Spend three days being creative with friends

Spaces are limited, so don't miss out on this unique opportunity!

👉 To secure your place, sign up now via the Parent Portal — bookings close soon and places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

# Enrichment Week

## WITH CREATE

# 2026

14-16TH JULY

EXPLORE AND MAKE  
WITH OUR EXCITING  
TRIP TO BRISTOL'S  
'WAKE THE TIGER'  
A 3 DAY WORKSHOP  
AND TRIP TO BRISTOL  
READY TO HELP  
KICKSTART YOUR  
CREATIVE GCSE

£54

LIMITED AVAILIBILIY

**CREATE**  
CREATIVE ARTS ACADEMY





## Photography Competition – Get Involved!

Students are invited to take part in the Devon Gardens Trust Photography Competition 2026 – a fantastic opportunity to showcase your creativity and win prizes!

This year's theme is "Light in your Landscape", encouraging you to explore how light transforms the world around you. The competition is open to students in Years 9–11 and Sixth Form, with a £250 first prize in each category.

- 📅 Opening date: 1st April
- 📅 Closing date: 31st October


Don't miss this exciting chance to get creative, develop your photography skills, and have your work recognised. Get out there and start capturing!



**'Light in your Landscape'**

**Prestigious Photography Competition 2026**

**£250.00 1st prize in every category**



**Categories**

- School Year 9-11
- School Sixth Form
- Tertiary
- Adults 19 +

**Opening date - 1st April**

**Closing date - 31st October**

**For more details go to:**  
[devongardenstrust.org.uk/events/photography-competition](https://devongardenstrust.org.uk/events/photography-competition)



## Year 10 Life Skills Day

This half term, Year 10 students enjoyed taking part in a Health and Wellbeing Day as part of their Life Skills curriculum. The Life Skills curriculum aims to help keep our young people healthy, safe, and prepared for life after Coombeshead Academy. In lessons, students cover topics such as mental wellbeing, relationships, financial literacy, and personal safety.

As part of the event, the year group took part in a series of workshops delivered by a range of expert guests:

- rePHRASE – Sex and relationship education
- Jay's Aim – CPR and AED training
- Royal Air Force – Team-building activities
- Brook – Challenging online misogyny
- National Health Service – Mental wellbeing

It was great to see so many students actively involved in such important discussions and activities. Our guests commented on how the cohort were a credit to the school and that Coombeshead Academy is one of their favourite schools to work with.

The feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive. Some comments included:

"I liked how we could talk about anything and PJ (rePHRASE) could help you with it."

"It was fun, practical, and engaging!"

"Learning CPR was very useful."

"Working with the RAF was fun because everyone had to work together."

"I had the opportunity to speak to people I wouldn't normally get to speak to."

Thank you to all the guests who came in to deliver workshops. These sessions will have a long-term impact on the safety and wellbeing of our students.





## 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:

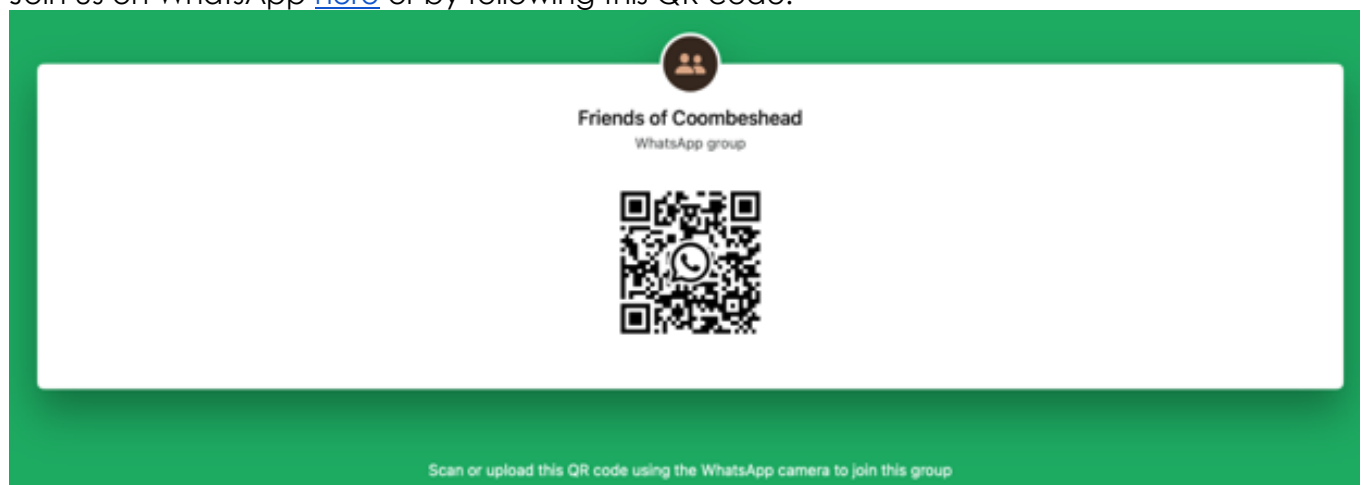
- Support the school and students in practical, helpful ways
- Build a welcoming community for families
- Raise a little extra money for activities and opportunities for students

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](mailto:friendofcoomb@gmail.com)

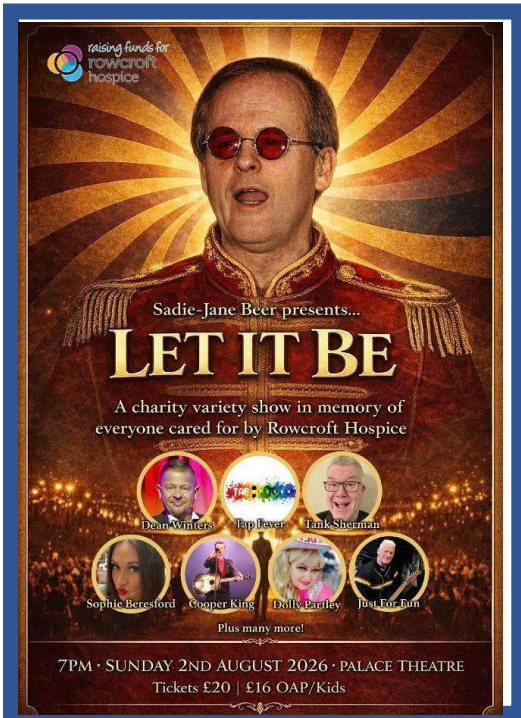
Join us on WhatsApp [here](#) or by following this QR code.





# COOMBESHEAD ACADEMY

'inspiring excellence'



## Raising money for Rowcroft Hospice

One of our students, Teagan is performing in this amazing charity show raising money for Rowcroft hospital and the amazing support they have offered many families. It's a great family friendly variety show. The event is on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2026 at 7pm. You can order tickets [here](#)



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!*

## Special shout-out year 11 student Ini

Special shout-out to Year 11 student Ini for her outstanding leadership skills, especially in promoting diversity and inclusion across our school community. Ini has shown incredible initiative and enthusiasm in organising fundraising events - most notably the staff vs. students volleyball games - which brought everyone together in such a positive way. Well done, Ini!



*Belong, Believe, Become*



# COOMBESHEAD ACADEMY

'inspiring excellence'

## Year 10 Music students win national song writing competition!



As part of our school's commitment to the 'Show Racism the Red Card', we were asked could we present some pupil's work to enter their School Competition. Alongside other subject areas, we presented a composition written by Year 10 GCSE Music students Rosie C, Will H, Aaliyah M, Molly N, Harrison S and Simon V.

In March, after 20,000 entries across all the different categories, we found out that the Year 10 entry had won the song writing category and the pupils were invited to attend the awards ceremony on the 5<sup>th</sup> May at Manchester United Football Club. This is a national competition and there were entries from schools all over the country.



We all travelled up to Manchester and attended the ceremony, where the pupils gave a performance of their winning song. The performance the pupils gave was excellent. The pupils received a selection of prizes and had the chance to meet ex-professional footballers, John Barnes and Viv Anderson.

A huge congratulations to our Year 10 GCSE Musicians



*Belong, Believe, Become*



## **Coombeshead Academy students engaging with New Abbot Town centre masterplan**

As part of the engagement and consultation process for the Newton Abbot Town centre Masterplan, some students from Coombeshead Academy were invited to share their views on what they like about the town centre, what could be improved and what changes they would like to see in the future. Well done to everyone who took part in the session for their thoughtful and valuable contributions. Gathering feedback from local voices - including young people across Teignbridge- is central to shaping a town centre that reflects the needs and aspirations of the whole community.





# COOMBESHEAD ACADEMY

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## Huge thank you to TCS Controls and T Clarke for sponsoring kit

Miss Dawe would like to say a huge thank you to Simon Cook from TCS Controls and Henry Starkey from T Clarke for generously sponsoring our two new school football kits.

Your support is truly appreciated and comes at a time when it was very much needed. The kits look incredibly smart and professional, and the pupils are so proud to wear them. They will make a massive difference to all the teams, both on and off the pitch, and we are extremely grateful for your kindness and generosity.

Thank you again for supporting the school and helping the school teams move forward.



*Belong, Believe, Become*



## Year 10 football

Coombeshead Year 10 Football team go into the South Devon Quarter final after a 6-1 win. Well done to all involved!



## Year 8 Football

Coombeshead Year 8 Football team pictured won their first South Devon Football cup game convincingly 7-0. The team played some great attacking Football and really capitalised on their set plays. They now go into the 1/4 final. Well done to all involved!





Coombeshead Year 8 team win 2-0 to progress to the South Devon semi-final. Well done to all involved!

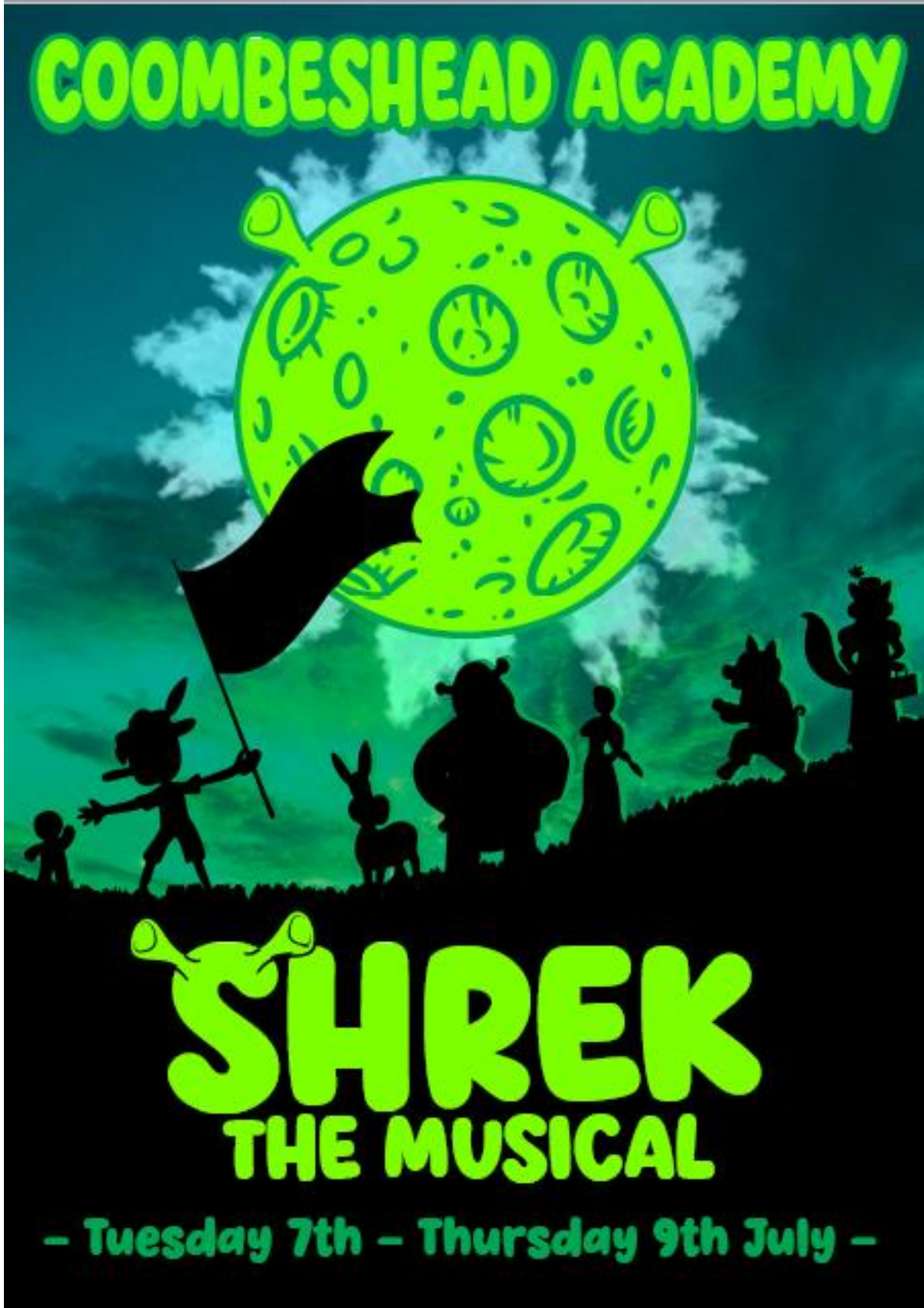


**Don't forget there are lots of opportunities to take part in sports and PE. Check out the Sports and PE Clubs timetable for Basketball, Football, Volleyball, Badminton and Netball.**



COOMBESHEAD ACADEMY  
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Save the date!



*Belong, Believe, Become*



## FUTURE COUNCIL: FREE MOVIE

KEVICC 6PM FOR 7 start – MONDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JUNE

Refreshments available – **COMMUNITY AND CONVERSATION:** time to chat about our beautiful planet. Following the movie, you are invited to a panel discussion.



***"This is a powerful film - full of youthful hope and leadership for the future, but not naive in its engagement with some of the major problems facing our planet today"***

Dr Alun Morgan, Lecturer in Climate and Sustainability, Plymouth University

***"An inspiring film that captures the lows and highs of trying to get meaningful engagement on environmental issues, and ultimately***

***demonstrates the ability of young people to make a difference."*** Dr Adrian Hines, Climate Scientist.

***"This incredible film does a fantastic job of showing just how powerful young people's voices can be in the fight against climate change when they are given the chance to make a difference, whilst demonstrating the support they need to do this effectively."*** Hayley Hill, Educator and Researcher, Cornwall Climate Care.

### WATCH TRAILER:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLPQxANfoxo>



### FREE TICKETS:

<https://buytickets.at/educationsouthwestacademytrust/2211253>





## 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 Balsdon our Deputy Headteacher or myself as we are very keen to support our students and their families.

Best wishes,

Mrs Helen Coulson





## Dates for the term 2025/26:

<b>June:</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Award Evening (6.00 – 7.00)
	16 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 13 Leavers celebration Year 11 Last Day and BBQ (11:00 – 11:45) Annual Awards Evening (6.00 – 7.00)
	18 <sup>th</sup> June	LGB Meeting (5.30-7.30) Year 6 Rising Stars Day Higher Ed Parents Evening with Plymouth University (Year 12)
	19 <sup>th</sup> June	Rising Stars Day (Year 6) Sixth Form Summer Celebration
	22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Year 6 Parent Transition Meeting (6.00 – 7.00)
	25 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 11 Prom (Dainton Golf Club)
	30 <sup>th</sup> June	Open Morning (09.30 – 11.00)
<b>July:</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Year 6 Step Up Day
	3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Year 6 Step Up Day
	6 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 10 Sixth Form Experience Day
	7 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> July	'Shrek' Summer Production
	9 <sup>th</sup> July	Open Morning (09.30 – 11.00)
	10 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 11 Sixth Form Induction Day
	13 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> July 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 12 Work Experience Last Day 1.30 finish
<b>August</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup> August	The Big Step (transition programme)



# COOMBESHEAD ACADEMY

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## Term Dates 2025-2026:

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

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## Key School Contacts:

Issue/Concern	Staff to be contacted	Contact details
General queries	Main Reception Linda Clark	01626 201800 <a href="mailto:welcome@coombesheadacademy.org.uk">welcome@coombesheadacademy.org.uk</a>
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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 <a href="mailto:attendance@coombesheadacademy.org.uk">attendance@coombesheadacademy.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:Nicola.Archard@coombesheadacademy.org.uk">Nicola.Archard@coombesheadacademy.org.uk</a>
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