

Coombeshead Academy Newsletter



Term 5 - May 2025

Dear families,

It's that time of year where we are offering "Open Mornings" to our community where families in Year 4 and 5 (or any other) can visit and tour the school. We have had 90 students from Years 7, 8 and 9 acting as tour guides and we have had amazing feedback about them. Families have talked about how confident and friendly they were, how much knowledge they had about different curriculum areas and enrichment and extracurricular events. We are already full for Year 7 in September 2025 and am now looking at September 2026. The next Open Morning is Thursday 10th July 9.30am – 11am.

We are now fully into exam season for our Year 11 and 13 cohorts. Whilst it can be a difficult time, the amount of focus, effort and revision that students have completed has led to a wave of positivity and given them energy and strength to keep going. They have still been attending lesson 6, doing revision sessions and warm up sessions before exams start. Please encourage your children to continue to focus on revision over the half term, whilst ensuring they continue to get some fresh air, have regular breaks and a good sleep pattern. Please remind them it will all be over in a few weeks and they can look forward to the end of year celebrations including BBQs, Prom and a lovely long summer. Teachers and staff are here to support them throughout this so please get in touch asap if you have any concerns. We are incredibly proud of them and the effort they are putting in; their futures look very bright.

Looking forward, I wanted to remind Year 10 parents that from September 2025 their then Year 11 children will have an additional lesson each day, lesson 6. This is a normal timetabled lesson to support them to achieve their very best in their GCSE exams. For students who take the bus to Lpplepen or Denbury we will be in contact next term to talk about transport.

As usual students have been thriving with all our extracurricular activities such as sports clubs, performing and creative arts events and charity work. Some of the most recent are outlined in this newsletter.

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.

Another reminder to see the latest communication leaflet for contact details of all key staff and what to do if you are encountering any issues or concerns.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Have a lovely half term.

Helen Coulson



Inspiring Excellence

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.



HOLIDAY CLUB

27th, 28th & 29th May '25
from £40 / £45 per day
 Sibling Rate / Benefits Price £40/day
 Ofsted registered for universal credits.





- Travel by Canoe to our woodland basecamp
- Experience Kayaks and Paddleboards
- Bushcraft
- Nature art and craft
- Raft building
- Archery
- Wild swimming
- Fishing
- Campfire cooking
- Story telling
- Wildlife and River care

Activities may include



Where are we? From the quayside Stoke Gabriel



TO BOOK:
www.canoeadventures.co.uk
 Places are limited so please book early


 Our provision is delivered by Canoe Adventures Ltd, operating since 1999 with a proven, accredited safety track record.
 We are a registered child care provider with Ofsted (Reg. No. 2731749).
EMAIL:
hello@riverschool.org.uk
TEL:
 07706 343744
 www.facebook.com/riverschool.org







**COOMBESHEAD
ACADEMY PRESENTS**

LITTLE SHOP

OF

HORRORS

**Book and Lyrics
by HOWARD ASHMAN**

**Music by
ALAN MENKEN**

**8th, 9th and 10th July
Tickets on sale soon!**

Based on the film by Roger Corman, Screenplay by Charles Griffith
Originally produced by the WPA Theatre (Kyle Renick, Producing Director)
Originally produced at the Orpheum Theatre, New York City by the WPA Theatre,
David Geffen, Cameron Mackintosh and the Shubert Organization
This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI www.mtishows.co.uk

YEAR 10 LIFE SKILLS DAY

Coombeshead Academy recently hosted a successful Life Skills Day for Year 10, where students engaged in a series of informative and interactive workshops, all linked to their life skills curriculum. The day featured a range of expert-led sessions, offering valuable knowledge and practical advice for students' personal growth.

The Devon Fire Service delivered an essential workshop on road safety, teaching students how to stay safe on the roads. The Royal Air Force followed with team-building exercises, focusing on collaboration and problem-solving. RePhrase, sex education expert, provided a session on contraception. The NHS ran a workshop on looking after your mental health. Oddballs, a charity raising awareness of testicular cancer, taught students about self-examinations and early detection.

The students participated actively and behaved impeccably throughout the day, benefiting from each session and gaining important skills for their future. The event was well received by all and was a great success in empowering students to take charge of their health, safety, and wellbeing.



DIVERSITY AMBASSADORS

Diversity is about understanding and accepting that we are 'all different, all equal'. It is about respecting and valuing each other regardless of our differences in terms of skin colour, gender, religion, disability etc. It is about encouraging a positive and inclusive school culture and environment, where we feel that we all belong.

At Coombeshead Academy we want diversity to be promoted and celebrated with the help of students in every year group, who take on the role of Diversity Ambassadors. Students are involved in projects with external organisations, and they also help to support events in school. We have regular meetings to discuss ideas and make them happen. We believe that such student voice in action matters to make a positive change within our school community.



SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD

On Friday 2 May, Eloise T. (Year 8) and Holly J. (Year 10) attended the prestigious Show Racism the Red Card (SRtRC) School Competition for England Awards Ceremony at Nottingham Forest FC. A record 540 schools participated this year, with over 25,000 young people taking part.

Both students really enjoyed the experience with Eloise receiving the First prize for the Year 7-9 Artwork category and Holly performing their winning song 'Mercy on us' in front of a packed audience. She wrote this composition with Izzy S. (Year 10) - who couldn't travel to Nottingham unfortunately - as part of their GCSE Music course.

Congratulations again to our Coombeshead winners on such remarkable achievement and credit to them for showcasing their creative talents in support of the anti-racism message.

SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD

Below is the YouTube link for the song 'Mercy on us' and also the QR code:

<https://youtu.be/kvB7BE3k2Fc>



VE DAY



At Coombeshead, we have been discussing what VE day is and how it is incredibly important to remember all the military personnel and civilians who lost their lives or were injured during World War 2.

We have shown presentations about VE day to all students and have reflected on the sacrifices made by so many.

YEAR 7 FOOTBALL DEVON FINAL



The Coombehead Year 7 Football team have had huge success either side of the Easter break. They managed to beat Hele's School in the quarter final of the Devon cup on the Friday before the Easter break to go into the semi final of the cup. On Thursday this week they played Torquay Boys Grammar School in the semi final which the team won 3-1 in extra time to earn their place into the Devon final. Along the way the team have won games against Dawlish, Stover, Hele's and TBGS. Well done to all involved.

COUNTY FINALS TABLE CRICKET

On Wednesday 2nd April a group of students went to Exeter University to compete at the County Finals of Table Cricket. Table cricket is a simplified and compact version of cricket played on a Table Tennis table. It is typically played indoors and is designed to be a more accessible and fun variation of the traditional game of cricket.

Our Students consisted of Elliot and Peter from Year 7, Seth from Year 8 and Dexter and Ka-seem from Year 10. In total they played 5 games against schools from all over the County, From Cornwall-Dorset consisting of 13 teams in total and overall they won 4 games out of the 5. The boys worked together amazingly as a team and were all really supportive of each other.

At the end of the tournament it came down to runs of each team with it very close at the top. Coombeshead came out with the Silver medals and came 2nd in the County just missing out narrowly at the top. The boys were fantastic all day and made Coombeshead proud!



COOMBESHEAD ACADEMY SOUL BAND AND FOLK GROUP ROCK THE DEVON COUNTY SHOW!



The Coombeshead Academy Soul Band and Folk Group wowed the crowd at one of Devon's highest profile events on Friday 16th May 2025.

The ensembles were invited to play at the prestigious event by the Devon and Torbay Music Education Hub and managed to fit the event into their already packed performance diaries.

Upon arriving at the Exeter Westpoint Arena, the students were thrilled to discover that they were due to perform on the big main stage with a full PA system and space for a large audience.

As the time ticked to just before 3pm, the food court was already busy just as the Folk Group started. The 10 folk musicians filled the stage with great live music, performing original renditions of contemporary classics.

The Soul Band followed the on from the Folk Group and continued to impress and amaze the Devon County Show audience.

The Soul Band performed a 20-minute set which included some old soul classics and also soul versions of current pieces of contemporary music. As they started to play even more people gathered to enjoy the music.

Many members of the public commented on how professional, talented, and pleasing to the ear both bands were.

The students were a credit to Coombeshead Academy and really enjoyed the experience of performing for such a large audience.

The talented young musicians here at Coombeshead continue to challenge the distinction between 'school group' and 'professional working band'.

COOMBESHEAD ACADEMY SOUL BAND AND FOLK GROUP ROCK THE DEVON COUNTY SHOW!



COOMBESHEAD ACADEMY SOUL BAND AND FOLK GROUP ROCK THE DEVON COUNTY SHOW!

