



APRIL 2025

News letter

24-HOUR CHALLENGE





Message from the Principal



As we come to the end of this busy term, I want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible energy, talent, and resilience of our school community. It has been a term full of achievements, challenges, and moments that truly showcase the spirit of our students.

Our **Spring Concert** was a real joy—our singers and House Band filled the hall with music, lifting our spirits and reminding us of the power of creativity and teamwork. A huge well done to everyone who took part!

This term has also seen our students shine in so many other ways. From impressive **debating performances**, where they tackled challenging topics with confidence and skill, to **sporting triumphs**, where teamwork and determination led to some fantastic results. Our **Ten Tors teams** have faced everything the weather could throw at them, showing real resilience as they prepare for the final challenge.

For our **Post-16 students**, it has been a focussed and energetic term for them with their **24-hour challenge**—what an incredible achievement! Their determination, teamwork, and positivity throughout were truly inspiring.

Through all of this, our school values—**Kindness, Curiosity, and Resilience**—have been at the heart of everything we do. I am so proud of the way our students live these values every day, and I want to thank our staff, families, and wider school community for the support that makes it all possible.

Wishing you all a happy and restful Easter break.

Mrs. Caroline Brothwood., Principal

Safeguarding Update



This half term our safeguarding sessions have moved to half termly year group assemblies. We focused our discussions on what safeguarding is, child on child abuse and verbal abuse/bullying both online and in person. We also explored how to look out for a friend who needs support and how to report any worries or concerns you may have either in person or via our online reporting form which students can access on the front page of our school website.

We celebrated Young Carers day on 12th March and looked at what makes someone a young carer. We are setting up a group for our young carers so please do let me know if you think your child would like to be part of this.

Our team are excited to welcome our new Early Help and Team Around the Family Co-ordinator Darya Stramentov. Please do make contact with us if you would like to access Early Help support for your family.

Please can I take this opportunity to remind you that if you are concerned about a child or young person's welfare during the Easter holidays, please contact Childrens Services **Front Door Service (MASH)** via their online form or **0345 155 1071** or contact The Police directly.

Clara Rose, Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Year 9 Sculpture Workshop



The semi-relief portrait workshop was designed to give the students an introduction to cardboard sculpture techniques. Throughout the day the students created a wonderful selection of 3D portraits and were thrilled with their outcomes.

James spoke to the students about his work as an artist, showed an animation he had produced and brought in some of his own very impressive sculptures. His work can be seen on his website www.jameslakesculpture.co.uk



Devon's Next Free Thinker - Year 10s Shine in Debating Challenge



On Wednesday 26th March, we were delighted to welcome a team of speakers and debaters from the University of Exeter to run *Devon's Next Free Thinker*, an initiative founded by Jack Barwell, Project President, to inspire debate among young people.

Twenty-two of our Year 10 students took part in a full day of competitive debating, tackling thought-provoking topics such as

mandatory voting, the future of oil and gas, and opportunities in politics and university life.



The day began with an **introduction and briefing**, where students learned the rules of formal debating before being organised into teams. After a judge briefing, the first round of debates got underway, with students confidently presenting their arguments. Following a short break, the second round saw them refine their skills further, responding to challenges from their opponents.



A **roundtable Q&A session** also gave students the chance to ask the university team about life at university, careers in politics, and the importance of debating skills. The morning results were then announced, leading to an exciting **competition final**, where the top teams went head-to-head before the day concluded with an

awards ceremony celebrating all participants. The winning team consisted of Felix, Quinn, Luke, Edward, Ollie and the debates were judged by Beau and Bilal.

All of our Year 10 students performed brilliantly, showing confidence, critical thinking, and teamwork throughout the day.

A huge thank you to the University of Exeter team for running such an engaging and inspiring event!





Coaches from the Devon Youth Choir visit HCC on Thursday 3rd April to work with our singers!



We have been delighted to welcome both Anthony Chamberlain and Hannah Stephenson (Musical Directors of the Devon Youth Choir) to HCC to work with our talented singers! They ran a two hour workshop with our singers who benefited a huge amount from the experience.

Mr Turner has started a Singing Group on Tuesday lunchtimes for any students who

wish to join and will be look to arrange further opportunities for more workshops in the future.

HCC has a fantastic Singing teacher, Sarah Ryan. Many of her students were involved in the workshop. If any students are interested in singing lessons at HCC (fees apply), please click on the link or scan the QR code <https://forms.office.com/e/n8AJsdJSyb>



Spring Term Exhibition Concert – Thursday 3rd April



Congratulations to all the musicians involved in the Spring Term Exhibition Concert. This was the first concert this academic year and featured the new music groups at HCC along with several soloists. Performances included 'Birds of a Feather', 'Living on a Prayer', 'Valerie and Everywhere' performed by HCC House Band.



Singing teacher Sarah Ryan prepared a number of her students who performed both solo pieces and a montage from 'Six Wives'.

Josh Buckley gave a solo piano performance and the Taiko Drummers performed two pieces. Guitar Group performed Smells Like Team Spirit and the concert concluded with the Singers.





Year 7 have been introduced to Brass Instruments



The students have complete Cycle 2 and Mr Turner has based the first part of Cycle 3 on Brass instruments to encourage students to take up the instruments. He reached out to the Honiton Band Musical Director Edward Mills who agreed to give up his time to come in and demonstrate the Cornet and Trumpet to students! Year 7 had a great time learning about the instruments and how to play them.

Mr Turner has managed to hire 15 Cornets from the Devon Music Hub for the first part of the Summer Term so students will have an opportunity to play them, learn five notes and hopefully be inspired to take up a brass instrument! Thank you to Edward Mills and the Honiton Band for their fantastic support and the help of the Devon Music Hub for loaning the instruments.



This has been an exciting term of significant progress for HCC on the literacy front. Outside of English lessons, our tutors and teachers have been busy reinforcing tier 2 and 3 vocabulary in lessons and via homework exercises. The tutoring programme has also undergone a significant transformation. Since September 2024, we have been enjoying our trial year with Sparx Reader for Years 7-9, and this term tutors have been busy promoting diversity and literacy through our four weekly morning reading tutorials. Indeed, our supportive TWA schools (Sidmouth College and St. James' Academy) have recognised just how swiftly our students and tutors are getting through our enriching literary canon, and we are now entering a very exciting collaborative phase sharing our resources and extending our current literacy programme.

Year 7:

We are currently looking to ensure that, in tutor time, our students are all supported in accessing up to 5 texts per academic year.

This term, our Year 7s have moved on from their adventures at 'Crater Lake' and 'Beyond the Bright Blue Sea' and are now on the brink of commencing their new shared venture into the magical world of the bestselling author Sophie Anderson's 'The House With Chicken Legs' – a 'coming-of-age' (Bildungsroman text) about family, identity and a magical mobile house...





Year 8:

Last term, Year 8 were reading Nicola Penfold's **'When The World Turns Wild'** - accompanying two heroic young children (Juniper Green and her little brother, Bear) on their escape from the confines of the city in search of their indigenous home, Ennerdale. Thwarted and tested by dangers along the way, Juniper and Bear's tale is a story which truly encapsulates HCC's core moral values of kindness, curiosity and resilience.

This term tutors have begun the new text, warmly received by all so far (Anthony Horowitz's **'The Devil and His Boy'**). This novel, published in 1998, has transported our students back to Tudor times in 16th century Elizabethan England alongside our orphan protagonist Tom Falconer on a personal quest not only to find his grandmother but which also, along the way, inadvertently leads him to save the Queen.



Year 9:

Meanwhile, Year 9, have nearly all finished their reading of the compelling Dystopian text, **'I Must Betray You'** - a 'fictional' novel which provides a rare insight into the youth-led revolution and rebellion that toppled Romania's Nicolae Ceausescu (the second and last communist leader of Romania). This is not only a fictitious story with its roots in reality, but also a powerful tale of love, rebellion and endurance. Already some have moved on to their next text: Terry Pratchett's **'Dodger'** - a whirlwind historical fantasy novel set in Victorian London. 17-year-old Dodger is a scavenger who rescues a young woman and subsequently finds that his life is changed forever. This is a book about social justice, the plight of the poor and moral and social responsibility.



Year 10:

Year 10 have begun reading the 2021 Costa Award Winning **'The Crossing'** by Manjeet Mann - a novel written in poetry from the perspectives of two teenage refugees - one British, one Eritrean. This is a profound and compelling fictional tale of hope, grief and resilience which also exposes the tragic reality behind the ongoing immigration crisis. Our next texts include **'The Book Thief'** and **'I Am Malala'**.

In summary, the Honiton Community College staff are incredibly proud to be working collaboratively to enthuse our students about reading and to raise the profile of literacy across the curriculum. Together, we aim to provide our students with a diverse range of texts to stimulate, inspire and provoke independent thinking and intellectual curiosity and, in turn, provide them regular opportunities to engage and empathise with the lives and experiences of others.



Honiton Community College



TEN TORS

TEN TORS
2025

9th-11th May

Ten tors training Continues as we draw closer to the event.
The teams are increasingly getting stronger and more confident!



On a very cold frosty weekend with clear blue skies ,
the teams walked extremely well on their day first
covering a huge distance.



Saturday night we observed the blood moon rise and
show off a beautiful starry night.

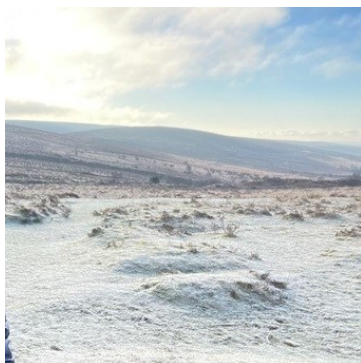
The teams set up tents and cooked in record speed
and settled in their tents early using their trained skills
to keep warm .

After a night of temperatures dropping to -8° and a
very heavy frost next morning. Breakfast was slow as
Trangia stoves took some time to heat up.

The teams set off as the sun rose on white frosty hard
ground and experienced a geographically challenging
day.

The students finished the
second day having walked
an remarkable distance
over the two days.

**Well done to everyone
for keeping going in
harsh condition !**





YEAR 7 NETBALL

DATE: 13/02/2025

OPPONENTS: Axe Valley

RESULT: 6 HCC 2 Axe Valley

SQUAD LIST: Ella (M), Grace (R), Freya (G), Sofia (H), Amelia (R), Mae (A), Bo (B), Ossia.

A very cold game outside on a late February afternoon but still in daylight. The girls have indeed come on with their netball.

A superb game with plenty of opportunities to score. The Defence remained really tight scarcely allowing the opponent team to get in to the Defence.

Well done to Ella for getting players player.

YEAR 8 NETBALL



DATE: 3/02/2025

OPPONENTS: Axe Valley

RESULT: 32 HCC 12 Axe Valley

SQUAD: Phoebe (W), Zara (D), Chloe (D), Isabella (B) Chloe (D), Isabella (B), Chloe (J), Darcey (L) Evie (C)

A convincing win from an ever improving squad of Year 8s. Top shooting from Darcey and Evie. A strong defence from Zara, Chloe and Phoebe.

The mid court players Isabella, Chloe (J) and Josie worked hard keeping possession and moving the ball up the court.

Players player was Darcey.

Well done girls a top performance!

DATE: 13/03/2025

OPPONENTS: Sidmouth College

RESULT: 12 HCC 8 Sidmouth College

SQUAD: Phoebe (W), Zara (D), Chloe (D), Isabella (B) Chloe (D), Isabella (B), Chloe (J), Darcey (L) Evie (C)

Superb game against Sidmouth on a wintery Thursday afternoon. The team has strengthened this term with the regular fixtures in preparation for the East Devon U13 league.

This competitive practice is paying off. They only conceded 2 and scored 9 goals in the second half of the game.



YEAR 8 FOOTBALL

DATE: 27/02/2025

OPPONENTS: Ted Wragg 6 a side tournament

RESULT: 6th Place

SQUAD LIST: Alex (H), Kahmali (M), Connor (C), Elliot (A), Ben (S), Thomas (W), Zach (A), Jack (G)

Honiton travelled to Cranbrook to compete in the under 13's Ted Wragg 6- a-side tournament. Students showed fantastic ability and skill in short sharp games which were all very competitive and close. Special mentions go to Alex in goal who made some great saves, Ben for tireless running and mazy dribbles, and Thomas for 2 goals in the tournament.

The player of the tournament went to Kahmali. Playing out of position Kahmali showed a real maturity to his game with outstanding performances at centre half making numerous tackles and goal saving blocks.

Year 8 now look ahead to their East Devon Cup fixtures in a couple of weeks time at Kings School

U13 Year 7 & 8 FOOTBALL



DATE: March 2025

OPPONENTS: East Devon Schools

RESULTS: 5-0 win V King's School, 2-1 win V Cullompton, 3-1 lost V Sidmouth College, 1-0 lost V Uffculme, 1-0 win V Axe Valley, 1-0 lost V Exmouth College.

SQUAD Year 7: Alexander (H), Freddy (L), Kahmali (M).

Year 8: Benjamin (S), Bobby (E), Connor (C), Edward (B), Elliot (A), Jack (G), Thomas (W), Toby (R) Tom (B), Tyler (C), Zachary (A).

Well done to the U13 (Year 7 & 8) football squad who represented HCC at the East Devon central venue league at King's. Over the course of the tournament we played Colyton, Uffculme, Exmouth, King's, Axe Valley, Cullompton and Sidmouth.

Great performances from Freddie L, Connor C and Alex H.

Player of the tournament was Ben S

WELL DONE ALL!

Honiton Community College



For the first time in the school's history, Honiton entered the Rosslyn Park Schools Sevens festival, the largest schools tournament in the world.

HOWDEN Rosslyn Park
National Schools Sevens

YEAR 11 RUGBY

After an overnight stay at the impressive Chessington Safari Hotel, the team were excited with what was to lie ahead.

With over 140 teams entered, and only around 15 of these being state schools, the boys were really up against it.

Nevertheless, the squad showed great resilience competing against a very high standard, punching above their weight throughout the day. Tries were scored by David S, Fin D, Matthew S and Harry E, with Harry being voted the Honiton player of the tournament.

Many thanks to Mr Hahue and Mr Leach for supporting the trip, an experience of a lifetime for the squad.



DATE: 26/03/2025

OPPONENTS: Rosslyn Park 7s Tournament

SQUAD: Harry (E) © Josh (D), David (S)), Fin (D), (Matthew (S), Miles (S), Kyle (M), Josh (L), Archie (L), Owen (W).



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

The Year 10 Sports Science groups had an inspiring visit to Bath University recently to understand just how Sport Science and other related courses are applied in the wider world.

The students took part in field testing, team building and sport science lab tests plus a tour of the university facilities and seeing campus life.

It showed the students what incredible opportunities are available should they choose to go on to university.



The last 24-hour Challenge!

POST 16



The Post -16 students over the last 10 years have raised in excess of £26,000 for many local charities in their various challenges and this being the last one – they did not disappoint!

This was always going to be a big challenge with just Year 13s to plan and take part, however from the start of the academic year they were determined to go out on a high and support their chosen charity of the Exeter, East and Mid Devon Samaritans.

Led by a wonderful and keen student committee, they stood committed to not only raise money to keep our local branch going but also to increase awareness of Mental Health and that there is always someone to talk to at this charity.

Mrs Brothwood and our friends from our local branch of the Samaritans set the pace when we started the 'walk' on Thursday lunchtime. It was absolutely lovely to see some Alumni return to the event from recent years and some from 35 years ago and to share many happy memories.

After being fuelled with slow cooked meals and snacks very kindly provided by Honiton TESCO we went into the night with students and staff continuously 'walking' for the whole of the 24-hours with the backing of music and intermittent karaoke.



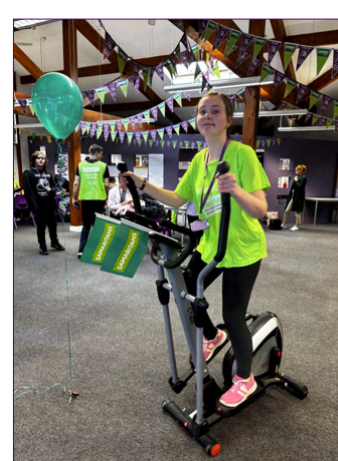
The last 24-hour Challenge!

POST16



Whilst legs and minds were tired when the daylight broke – they were rewarded with breakfast baps from our college kitchen as well as determined to walk the new route of an increased 480km resulting at the finishing time of 1.45pm on Friday of a total of 845km. We got the initial calculations incorrect again!

We were pleased to welcome our local MP – Richard Foord to help at the end of the event and witness the amazing effort of the students.



The last 24-hour Challenge!

POST 16

These events cannot ever happen without the support of the lovely staff that volunteer to stay overnight and join in throughout the day; the IT and promotional art work from Mrs Nicholls and Mr Sterry; the amazing generous community donations for the charity raffle and most of all the absolute kindness and resilience of the students themselves who not only did themselves proud but also their College and Head of Year .

To date the amount of money donated totals £2755.82.

Thank you all for making this a memorable last 24-hour challenge.





PE Clubs - Summer 2025

MONDAY				
ACTIVITY	TIME	YEARS	LOCATION	STAFF IN CHARGE
Sport and PE				
Cricket	1.30-1.55	All	LED Courts	MHA, AFO
Girls Neon Colour Run – Couch to 2K	1.30-1.55	All	Fitness Suite	PSA
Ten Tors	1.30-1.55	9-11	PE1	LRO
Get Active Gym* (See LED for details)	3.05-04.00	11-15 years	LED gym	LED instructors
Teen Circuits* (See LED for details)	3:15-04.44	11-15 years	LED gym	LED instructors
TUESDAY				
ACTIVITY	TIME	YEARS	LOCATION	STAFF IN CHARGE
Sport and PE				
Get Active Gym* (See LED for details)	3:05-04.00	11-15 years	LED gym	LED instructors
WEDNESDAY				
ACTIVITY	TIME	YEARS	LOCATION	STAFF IN CHARGE
Sport and PE				
Volleyball	1.30-1.55	All	Gym	ELE
Girls Rugby	1.30-1.55	All	College Field	Exeter Chiefs
THURSDAY				
ACTIVITY	TIME	YEARS	LOCATION	STAFF IN CHARGE
Sport and PE				
Tennis	1.30-1.55	All	LED Courts	ATA
Rounders	1.30-1.55	All	All Hallows	PSA / LRO
Athletics	3:05-04.44	All	College Field	ATA, PSA, ELE, LRO, AFO
Get Active Gym* (See LED for details)	3:05-04.00	11-15 years	LED gym	LED instructors
FRIDAY				
ACTIVITY	TIME	YEARS	LOCATION	STAFF IN CHARGE
Sport and PE				
Sports Leadership & A level/GCSE/BTEC revision/ D of E evidence logging	1.30-1.55	Relevant students	PE4 / PE3	ATA
Get Active Gym* (See LED for details)	3:05-04.00	11-15 years	LED gym	LED instructors
SATURDAY & SUNDAY				
ACTIVITY	TIME	YEARS	LOCATION	STAFF IN CHARGE
Sport and PE				
Get Active Gym* (See LED for details)	10.00-11.00 & 01.00-02.00	11-15 years	LED gym	LED instructors



Free School Meal Vouchers for Easter and May Half-term 2025 were emailed out to parents/carers of all eligible students on 1st April 2025, please check your inbox and spam folder if you are normally in receipt of these vouchers and have not yet received them. Contact Amy Alcock - Data Administrator (amy.alcock@honiton.college) for any FSM voucher queries.

What's on the first week of the Summer Term

Tuesday 22 April 2025 – Start of Summer

Thursday 24 April Year 7 Progress Evening (15:45 –19:00)

Thursday 24 April Bikeability (All day)

Friday 25 April Ten Tors Training (08:00-16:00)

You can visit our website: <https://honitoncommunitycollege.co.uk/> for all term dates and the College day

SUMMER 2025

START OF TERM

Tuesday 22 April

MAY BANK HOLIDAY

Monday 5 May

MAY HALF TERM

Monday 26 May – Friday 30 May

END OF TERM

Friday 18 July

SPRING TERM 2026

START OF TERM

Monday 5 January

FEBRUARY HALF TERM

Monday 16 February – Friday 20 February

NON PUPIL DAY

Monday 23 March

END OF TERM

Thursday 2 April

AUTUMN TERM 2025

START OF TERM

Wednesday 3 September

OCTOBER HALF TERM

Monday 27 October – Friday 7 November

NON PUPIL DAY

Monday 8 December

END OF TERM

Friday 19 December

SUMMER TERM 2026

START OF TERM

Monday 20 April

MAY BANK HOLIDAY

Monday 4 May

MAY HALF TERM

Monday 25 May – Friday 29 May

END OF TERM

Friday 17 July

YEAR 7 START ON WEDNESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2025

ALL OTHER YEAR GROUPS START ON THURSDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2025