

Principal's Post

Thursday 29 January 2026



Dear Families,
I hope this message finds you and your loved ones safe and well following the extreme weather we have experienced this week. With flooding affecting parts of our local area, we are very grateful for the support, patience and understanding shown by our community during this challenging time. Your kindness truly reflects the values we work so hard to nurture in our students – being kind, curious and resilient in the face of difficulty.

Despite the disruption, the weeks ahead promise to be full of opportunity and excitement. We are looking forward to welcoming families to our Year 9 Progress Evening and Year 9 Curriculum Preferences Evening, as well as our Year 10 Exam Information Evening, which will provide valuable guidance as students prepare for the next stage of their learning journey.

Alongside these important events, we are also incredibly proud of the students who will be representing the school in the Battle of the Bands competition. We wish them the very best of luck and look forward to cheering them on.

Thank you once again for your continued support. Together, we are building a community where young people thrive, even in challenging times. Warmest wishes,

Mrs. C Brothwood, Principal



As a SENCo, my commitment to inclusive practice is grounded in both my professional experience and my personal journey as a parent.

Supporting my own children has given me a deeper understanding of the challenges families can face, and it is this perspective that inspired me to pursue the role of SENCo. I'm really looking forward to the development of our Learning Support space, with a clear focus on creating an environment that truly meets the needs of our students. An important part of this process will be listening to pupil voice and welcoming feedback, ensuring the space is shaped by those who will use it most.

Mrs B Dupré, Senior Leader SENCo



It has been a great 2 weeks in my new role as Head of Year and meeting all the fantastic students. The keenness and willingness to help really shines through and are qualities you should be very proud of.

In our assemblies, we have spoken about kindness, which is one of our school values and a key part of the **HCC Way**. Please remember to be kind to both students and staff, and to show acts of kindness whenever you can—at school and at home. Keep this in mind during your day-to-day interactions.

A huge well done to all of Year 7 for their excellent behaviour and positive attitude. Thank you to parents and carers for your continued support,

Mrs. K Lynch, Head of Year 7



We are now halfway through the half term, and it feels—at least to me, and I'm sure to many of you, that it has gone far too quickly.

Year 8 continue to thrive in most aspects of school life, with notably high attendance, and were rewarded with a movie afternoon.

Last week the year group were lucky enough to be one of two-year groups selected to have an assembly run by an Exeter college staff member who spoke to them about vocational routes they could follow when they leave HCC. Although a few years in advance, I feel that this gave Year 8 a wider understanding of employers in the area and other routes they could pursue into a career.

Since September Year 8 have also been reading during tutor time four days a week. They have enjoyed 'Where the World Turns Wild' and most tutor groups are currently reading 'October, October'. Well done to 8A, Miss Southern's tutor group, who are already on the third book 'The Devil and his Boy'. This tutor reading is an important aspect of tutor time to help students improve their literacy skills and promote reading for pleasure.

Please keep doing your very best every day – just two more weeks until half term!

Mrs. C Kendall Head of Year 8



What a week! I hope that you are all well and were not too adversely affected by the wet weather.

Due to the adverse weather conditions, the College has rescheduled the Year 9 Progress Evening to Thursday 12 February.

The event will now take place **online**. This change has been made to ensure the evening can go ahead as planned while also saving parents/carers from needing to make alternative childcare arrangements.

Further details about accessing the online sessions will be shared in due course

Year 9 students had an assembly last week from Exeter College and have started to look at options beyond Year 11 in terms of Post-16 Education and training in Personal Development lessons. We have been looking this week at how our learning styles and personality traits might influence choices we make in our training and career pathways. Ask your Year 9 student to tell you all about this and they have been told to challenge parents to take the quiz to see which animal you are? Take the quiz here: <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/buzz-quiz>

Your support is invaluable in helping them make informed choices about their education, thanks for all you are doing!

Mrs. E Meek, Head of year 9

Year 9 Curriculum Preferences Evening
Thursday 5 February
17:00-19:00
Main Hall



This event is designed to support you and your child as you begin exploring subject choice for years 10 and 11.

The evening will begin with a brief introductory presentation from the Principal and Assistant Vice Principal. This will be followed by an opportunity to speak with staff from each subject area, allowing you to gain a clearer understanding of the courses on offer and to ask any questions you may have.



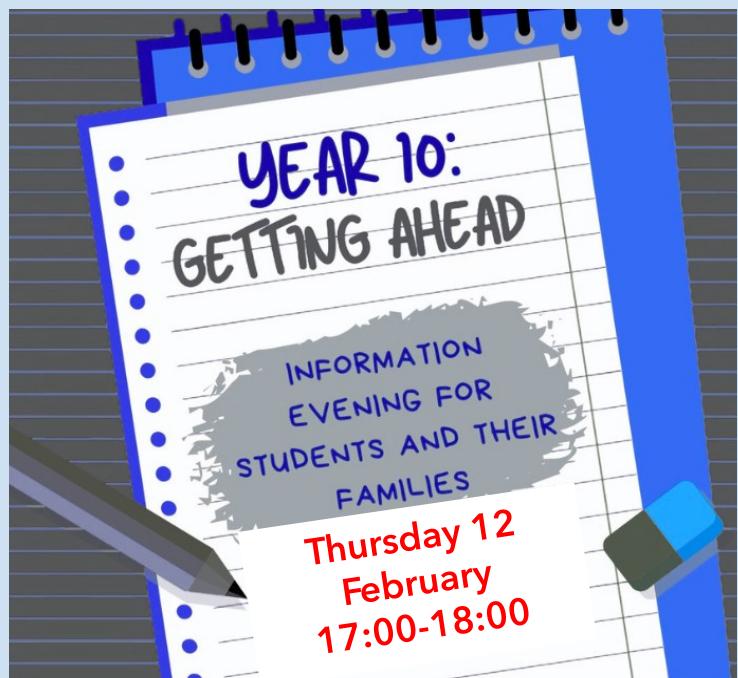
As we move through the Spring Term, Year 10 have been laying the essential groundwork for future success in their GCSE examinations and beyond.

We encourage you to reinforce the importance of consistent homework completion, well-organised revision habits, and maintaining a positive mindset when approaching challenging academic goals.

We know that many of our students are also busy with clubs, activities, and enrichment opportunities, and we would love to hear about these achievements. It is always impressive to see students successfully balancing their academic responsibilities alongside wider interests, and we enjoy celebrating these successes with you. Please do let us know if your child has something to celebrate.

We would also encourage you to look at Post-16 provision with your child. There are a number of taster days and open days approaching which may be of interest and can be very helpful in supporting future decision-making.

Mrs. L Roberts, Head of year 10



As we move closer to the summer English literature GCSE exam, we're pleased to offer our families the chance to learn how best to support their child with revision and exam preparation.

This practical, classroom-based workshop will share effective techniques and strategies to help students feel confident, organised, and fully prepared for their English literature exams.

We also recently launched our 'Getting Ahead' programme, designed to give students an extra boost as they prepare for the exams.



As we move through the Spring Term and approach the February half term, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on Year 11 and the important weeks ahead.

This half term is a crucial point in the academic year. Students will shortly be sitting their mock examinations in the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science. These mocks are designed to closely mirror the summer GCSE examinations and will provide valuable feedback on progress, strengths and areas that require further focus. We encourage all students to take these assessments seriously and to use the outcomes to inform their revision moving forward.

In school, students are continuing to work hard in lessons and are being supported with exam preparation, revision strategies and subject-specific guidance. We are also reinforcing expectations around attendance, punctuality and positive learning behaviours, all of which are vital as we move into this final phase of GCSE preparation.

At home, your support is invaluable. Please encourage your child to maintain a consistent revision routine, ensure they are well rested, and support them in managing their time effectively. Even small, regular periods of focused revision can make a significant difference.

E Lindsay, Head of year 11

Static Daydream enter the regional heat of Devon Battle of the Bands



At the start of the academic year, student band '**Static Daydream**' formed. They have been working really hard over the last term at break and lunchtimes developing their craft and performed twice at College events before Christmas.

Just before Christmas, Mr Turner entered them into the Devon Battle of the Bands competition, and they have been invited to play at the regional heat on the 12th February at Queen Elizabeth's School in Crediton. Only one band each year can represent the school in this competition. HCC have not entered a band for a few year's, so it is exciting to have an entry!



We wish Orla and Oscar, Elowen, Lily and Korin every success at the region heat in the next couple of weeks!

WEEK A

MONDAY 2 February

- ◆ DTP /ACWY Immunisations for Year 9 & catch ups (08:30-14:00)

TUESDAY 3 February

- ◆ HLC: Girls Futsal @ LED (10:15-12:00)

WEDNESDAY 4 February

- ◆ Theatre Trip to Richard Huish College (08:35-13:30)
- ◆ Climate Camp (Invited students only) @ Met Office
- ◆ U13 and U15 v Exmouth Community College Away (15:15-17:30)
 - ◆ Year 11 Rugby Vs Clyst Vale Home (16:45-18:00)

THURSDAY 5 February

- ◆ Year 9 Curriculum Preference Evening (17:00-19:00)

WEEK B

Monday 9 February

- ◆ Year 11 Mid-Cycle Assessments (start)
- ◆ U14 Exeter & ED Cup Football @ Cullompton (13:30-17:30)

WEDNESDAY 11 February

- ◆ Year 11 Mid-Cycle Assessments (Finish)
- ◆ Regional Table Cricket Qualifiers @ Devon Cricket Centre (09:10-14:10)
- ◆ U13, 7-aside Girls Football Round 2 @ Axe Valley (14:15-17:15)

THURSDAY 12 February

- ◆ Battle of the Bands Regional Heat @ Queen Elizabeth's School (14:15-17:15)
- ◆ Year 10 Getting Ahead Evening (17:00-18:00)
- ◆ Year 9 Progress Evening-on line format (Further details about accessing the online sessions will be shared in due course).