



HONITON COMMUNITY COLLEGE Newsletter

April 2026





As we come to the end of a full and vibrant half term, I would like to reflect on the many moments that have brought our school community together. It has been a pleasure to see our students live out our values of being kind, curious and resilient in such meaningful and memorable ways.

Our celebration of World Book Day was a wonderful example of curiosity and creativity in action. The effort and imagination that went into students' costumes were truly inspiring, and it was a joy to see their enthusiasm for stories and reading shine through.

This spirit of curiosity has also been evident beyond the classroom. Students embraced opportunities to explore and experience new ideas during visits to Bath University and through the St Ives art experience, while our RS students engaged thoughtfully and respectfully during a visit from a Buddhist speaker—demonstrating both curiosity and kindness in their approach to learning about others' beliefs.

Resilience has been a defining feature of this half term, particularly in the commitment shown by our Duke of Edinburgh participants as they prepare for their expeditions next term. Their determination and teamwork have been impressive, and I know they will carry this forward into their upcoming challenges.

In sport, we have seen all three of our values come together. Our girls' rugby team showed remarkable resilience and teamwork at the Rosslyn Park tournament, reaching the Plate final on their first appearance—an outstanding achievement. Their support for one another and their determination throughout the competition were a real testament to the strength of our school community.

Kindness and collaboration have also been at the heart of our creative endeavours, most notably in the Spring Music Concert. It was a fantastic celebration of talent, dedication and mutual support, with students encouraging one another to perform with confidence and pride.

We now look forward to finishing the term with our 24-hour challenge—an event that will no doubt bring out the very best of our students' resilience, teamwork and good spirit as we round off a busy and successful half term together.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support,

Caroline Brothwood **Principal**



Safeguarding and well-being update

This half term our students have enjoyed looking at a range of topics in our tutor time safeguarding and well-being sessions. We have explored the dangers of drug and alcohol use, understanding racism, what makes a healthy and unhealthy relationship or friendship and the importance of forming our own identity. In our sessions we look at the dangers and risks as well exploring how to support someone who may be struggling and agencies who can help young people. Our students are always encouraged to seek support from us and parents/carers if they are worried about themselves or somebody else.

We celebrated Young Carers Day on 11th March, where we explored what it means to be a young carer and the important role they play. Our Young Carers group meets once each half term on a Wednesday lunchtime, providing additional support for students who help care for family members at home.

We are pleased that a large number of our students are accessing our very successful Thursday lunchtime well-being club with Mrs Kedward. The sessions are open to all students. Students can use this time to access support and advice or just to meet in a supportive environment for a chat, to colour or to play a game.

Please can I take this opportunity to remind you all of our online reporting form where students can report safeguarding concerns, this can be found on the front page of our school website.

Over the holidays however please report any urgent safeguarding concerns directly to Childrens Services via The Front Door Service (MASH) 0345 155 1071 or to the Police directly.

Clara Rose
Designated Safeguarding Lead and Well-being Lead.

Coffee and Connect

We warmly invite all parents and carers to join us on **Tuesday 21st April at 09:00 -11:00**

This is a relaxed opportunity to enjoy a coffee, meet other families, and have informal conversations with staff in a friendly and welcoming environment.

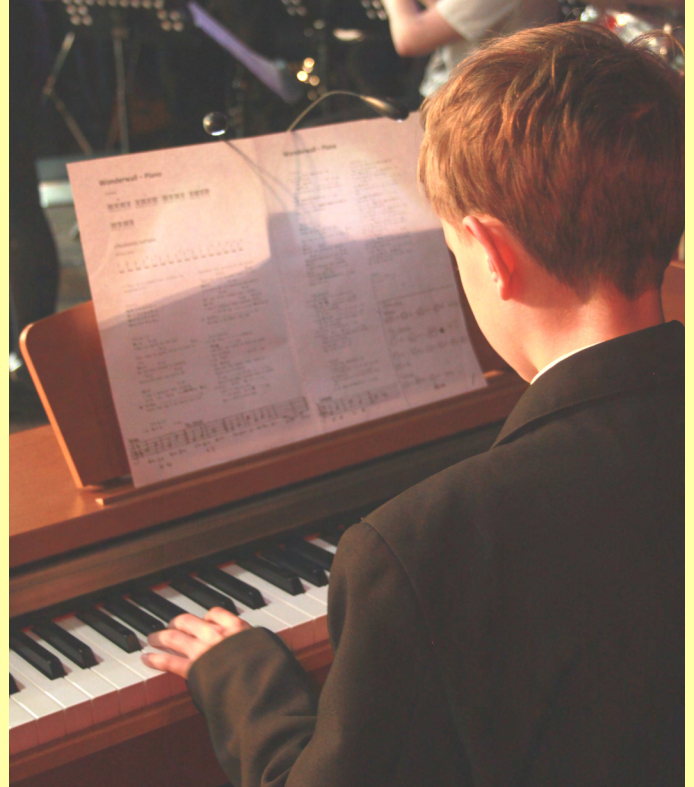
Whether you're new to the school or have been part of our community for years, we'd love for you to come along—ask questions, share ideas, or simply connect with others.





SPRING CONCERT

On Tuesday 31st March, HCC hosted another fantastic concert showcasing the talent of its musicians. The evening featured a wide-ranging programme, beginning with the House Band's performance of "Wonderwall" and including a debut from the Honiton Music Centre.



Highlights included vocal performances from M. J. and L. R., a drum solo by Harley T, and a piano piece by Josh B. The Singing Group, led by Sarah Ryan, impressed with their energetic performances, while Rock School brought excitement with classic rock hits.

The first half concluded with a lively finale from the Singing Group, featuring "Cup Song" and "Killer Queen", with Mr Turner joining on guitar.

The second half opened with an energetic performance by the Taiko Group, followed by the Cello Trio performing "Jamaican Song" and "Sky Boat Song". Soloists Charlie R. (piano) and Jessica F. (vocals) impressed with "Labyrinth" and "Somewhere Only We Know".



The Balalaika Ensemble shared their folk pieces before the Singing Group performed "Free Your Mind and Earth Song". The House Band then played "It's So Easy to Fall in Love."

The concert concluded with a lively, all-inclusive performance of "Is This the Way to Amarillo" in tribute to Neil Sedaka.



We were delighted to welcome former student and musician Cole Stacey, whose song "Fade to Grey" reached No. 8 in the UK charts last year.

Thank you to Sarah Ryan for inspiring our vocalists and to Mrs Creed for excellent stage management.

All proceeds from the concert will support repairs to the Music Department amplifier and replacement of bass guitar strings.

The concert photos were captured by Year 10 students.
Eden.W and Martha.W

OPPORTUNITIES IN THE SUMMER TERM AT THE HONITON MUSIC CENTRE

Calling all young musicians in Honiton!

We're on the lookout for more budding young musicians of primary and secondary school age to join the vibrant and welcoming Honiton Music Centre!

Big news! We're expanding our instrument line-up...

Guitar and **viola** are joining us from the start of the **Summer Term** and we can't wait to get started!

Whether your child is picking up an instrument for the very first time or already loves to play, this is a fantastic opportunity to learn, grow, and make music with others in a fun and supportive environment.

Forthcoming performances

Thursday 21st May - All HCC groups performing for 30 minutes at 12:20am at the Devon County Show on the Devon Music Education Hub stage.

Wednesday 3rd June - CreATE Summer Showcase.

Thursday 18th June - 'Honiton Future Musicians' at the Beehive to include HCC musicians and Primary Schools.



Honiton Music Centre

Join our music programme!

For just £4 a week, you'll get:

- 30-minute group lesson
- 30-minute musicianship session
- 30-minute ensemble rehearsal

When: Every Wednesday after school from 4pm

Where: HCC Music Department

Starts: Wednesday 22nd April



Sign up through scanning the QR code





On Thursday 5 March students and staff at HCC had the opportunity to dress up as a favourite book character for World Book Day.



During the day, students also enjoyed a series of bite-sized reading sessions featuring a short story, and our Big Book Swap took place. Students were invited to bring in a pre-loved book they had already read and exchange it for a new one.

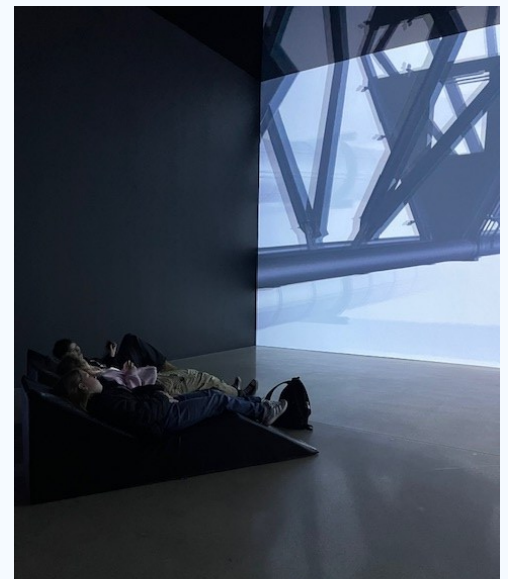




The Create department took 46 students on a gallery tour of St Ives. Art, Photography, and 3D Design students had the opportunity to visit the Tate gallery, where they experienced an immersive installation by artist **Emilija Škarnulytė**. (filmmaker whose work explores deep time, ecological collapse, and the intersection of science and myth).

The students set out to explore the local area, soaking up the charm and beauty of the sun-drenched Cornish town, sea air, and coastal views created a truly picturesque scene.

Their journey continued to the Barbara Hepworth Museum and Sculpture Garden, where they were immersed in a unique artistic experience, encountering striking large-scale sculptures thoughtfully positioned throughout a tranquil walled garden, where art and nature blend seamlessly in an inspiring and atmospheric setting.



The students gained first-hand experience of creating artwork for a gallery setting, alongside producing research, drawings, and photographs to enrich their exam unit and support their GCSE work.

It was a fantastic day, and we are incredibly proud of the way the students represented both themselves and HCC.





UNIVERSITY OF BATH
TEAMBATH™

On Wednesday 11th March 2026, Mr Taylor, Mrs Roberts and Mr Lane took 37 Year 10 GCSE PE and BTEC Sport students to the University of Bath (Department of Sport Development and Recreation) where the students experienced a Sports Performer day.

The students experienced a full day consisting of a tour of the top-level facilities, team building activities, fitness testing and time in the laboratory



In the lab we had 6 volunteers who all performed fitness tests including the treadmill test which involved running at increasing speed and then incline until fatigued.

During this test, the students heart rate, oxygen and carbon dioxide levels were measured through the HR monitors and face masks that they ran in. The second lab test was testing maximal strength and power.



The timing of the trip was ideal, as they are about to begin a piece of coursework that involves testing fitness and designing individual programmes to improve performance.

During the field events, all the students performed a 20 metre speed and acceleration test, a hand grip test, jump test, back/leg strength test, sit and reach test and the standing long jump. The student's enjoyed the opportunity to push themselves and one or two became very competitive!



Throughout the day we were very well looked after by the university staff, many of which were students themselves. Several of our HCC students mentioned how inspiring the facilities at Bath University were and how, for some, this confirmed that they wish to attend university in the future.

All staff were incredibly proud of our students who conducted themselves impeccably all day and really made the most of the opportunity, **well done all.**



Honiton Girls Rugby delivered a resounding victory, showcasing skill, teamwork, and determination on the pitch.

On Tuesday March 3rd Honiton Girls Rugby achieved victory over Uffculme School.

The Year 11s have trained diligently since September and fully deserved their win, demonstrating exceptional teamwork and skill to score 12 tries in a remarkable display of rugby.

The entire squad performed admirably, with particular recognition for **Mya P** in her first ever rugby game who scored two tries and **Holly R** for putting in the biggest hit since Taylor Swift's latest album dropped.

The girls eagerly anticipate the Rosslyn Park National 7s tournament at the end of the month where they competed against private schools from around the world. They are also grateful to Cool Heat South West for sponsoring them with new playing shirts.

HOWDEN

Rosslyn Park 23-27 March 2026
National Schools Sevens



Under 16 Girls Rosslyn Park Plate Runners-Up
Played: 8 Won: 6 Lost: 2
Points scored: 205
Points conceded: 87
Points difference: +118
Tries scored: 33



A truly spectacular couple of days of rugby in March saw our girls deliver an outstanding performance at the Rosslyn Park National 7s tournament, narrowly missing out on silverware after reaching the final of the Plate competition.

With 64 teams starting in our competition on Thursday 26 March and over 16,000 pupils participating over the whole week from countries all over the world. The odds were heavily stacked against us. However, in true underdog spirit, consisting of hard tackles, astonishing tries and big wins, Honiton topped their pool leading us to a last 16 elimination round match to finish the day off and determine our route for day 2. A narrow loss to Blundell's, meant the girls were entered into the Plate tournament for the following day. A panicked hotel booking and a flurry of smiling faces

ensued, excited for what Friday had to offer.

On Friday, the girls dominated their group with three big wins, including one against neighbours Taunton School (33-5) and an almighty defensive effort against Ysgol Calon Cymru (24-0), setting up a winner takes all clash in our final pool game against Thorpe Hall School. A 33-22 victory, secured a Plate final spot and the chance to be live-streamed across the world (cue a mad rush for make up and hairspray)! Unfortunately, after superb efforts, the girls suffered a 19-12 loss to Queen Elizabeth HS, Hexham of Northumberland in the final. The girls kept their heads held high and should be so proud of their achievements, resulting in them being the 9th best team in the UK.

Written by one of the players: Annie Bright Year 11

HOWDEN

Rosslyn Park

National Schools Sevens

We packed a real punch at the Rosslyn Park School Sevens tournament! Thursday was filled with hard tackles, astonishing tries, and big wins, as we topped our group. A narrow loss to Blundell's meant we entered the Plate competition for the following day, but spirits were far from dampened.

A panicked hotel booking and a flurry of smiling faces followed, with excitement building for what Friday had in store.

On Friday, we absolutely dominated our group with three impressive wins, including a standout victory against our neighbours, Taunton School. We were well prepared for the final, thanks to excellent warm-up routines and fantastic coaching from Honiton Director of Rugby, Mr Hague, and Assistant Director, Miss Marriot.

Despite a superb effort in the final, we narrowly lost the Plate final 12-19. Nevertheless, we kept our heads high and are incredibly proud of our achievements, finishing as the 9th best team in the UK.

We made Honiton history at Rosslyn Park this week, becoming the first team ever to win a match there—let alone reach a final. We are immensely proud of ourselves for our team spirit and the hard work we put in throughout the tour.

Also a big thank you to Mr Hague and Miss Marriot who worked tirelessly making these few days feel so unbelievable. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed and we cannot thank them enough for the kind and enthusiastic spirit shown throughout and making these achievements possible.

HOWDEN

Rosslyn Park

The Year 9 boys also travelled up to London, to participate in the National Rosslyn Park Rugby 7s tournament. With

other 200 schools competing throughout the day with a mixture of state and private school, it was a very competitive tournament with high skill and resilience shown throughout the day.

The boys equipped themselves well, showing great determination and competitiveness throughout their 3 fixtures. Special mention to **Noah L**, **Dan R** and **Oscar S** for scoring some excellent tries. A great experience for the boys.



Well done to the U13 football team



who competed in the East Devon Central Venue competition at King's over three evenings in March. Results of the tournament were a 5-1 win versus Uffculme with goals coming from **Barnie N**, **Kahmali M**, **Noah L**, **Freddie H** and **Cassius W**. 4-0 win V Sidmouth (goals from **Cassius W** and a hattrick from **Barnie N**). 2-1 win V King's (goals from **Barnie N & Kahmali M**) Player of the tournament went to **Freddy L**. Well done to all involved.



We are now fast approaching expedition time, just under month to go! Students have been attending regular after-school sessions throughout this month, all as part of their preparation and planning for their



Students have learnt basic campcraft skills, including pitching tents, using gas Trangia stoves, an introduction to basic first aid, and map reading. This training concluded with students planning their own routes using grid references and completing route card descriptions.

They have also had the opportunity to attend support sessions in the library on Monday and Tuesday lunchtimes to ask questions or get help with any issues.

BRONZE

The Year 9 Bronze group will undertake a two-day, one-night qualifying expedition across the East Devon countryside.

SILVER

The Year 10 Silver group will complete a more challenging three-day, two-night expedition in a similar East Devon area. They will then go on to complete their official qualifying expedition during the first week of June in Dorset.

The student will have a kit check of their own equipment on the first Tuesday back on the 21 April, after the Easter holidays to ensure they are ready to go that weekend, Kit should be brought into school for tutor time- where it will be checked by staff in the library- Bags can be left in the Library until end of day when they must go home.



Buddhist Visit



Many thanks to Laurie and Pippa, visitors from the Nichiren School of Buddhism in Exeter, who kindly shared their time and knowledge with us during a recent visit. They offered a fascinating insight into Buddhist practices, demonstrating how rituals are performed and introducing us to the objects found within a traditional shrine.

We were particularly captivated by the chanting of teachings from the Lotus Sutra, which was performed beautifully and created a calm, reflective atmosphere.

Their explanation of the meanings behind these practices helped deepen our understanding of Buddhist beliefs and traditions.

Laurie and Pippa were warm and welcoming throughout, encouraging us to engage with the chanting and ask questions. It was a truly enriching experience, leaving us with a greater appreciation for the wisdom and traditions within Buddhism.



Written by Tekka M. and Zoe D. Year 10

Axiom Maths

How many different routes are there in the diagrams below



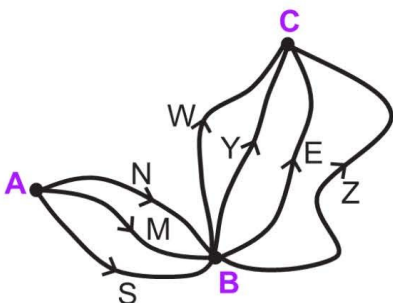
A big well done to those students who have just completed their second term as Axiom mathematicians!

This term we have grappled with lots of problems that use tree diagrams to discover how many different outcomes we can find for a given question.

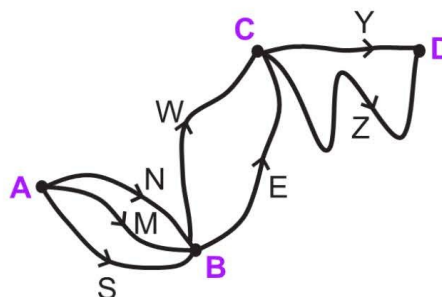
See how many solutions you can find for the question below!

Please bring your answers to Miss Southern in BL9

a) How many different routes are there from **A** to **C**?



b) How many different routes are there from **A** to **D**?






Upcoming Events & Key Dates

SUMMER TERM 2026 
Monday 20 April Start of Summer Half Term 1
Monday 4 May Bank Holiday Monday
Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May Half Term Holiday
Monday 1 June Start of Summer Half Term 2
Friday 17 July Last day of Term

AUTUMN TERM 2026 
Thursday 3 & Friday 4 September Non-Student Days
Monday 7 September Start of Autumn Half Term 1
Monday 26 October to Friday 6 November Two-week Half
Monday 9 November Start of Autumn Half Term 2
Monday 14 December 2026 Non-Student Day
Friday 18 December Last day of Term

WEEK A
Monday 20 April ◆ Bikeability (All Week) ◆ Paris Trip information evening (17:30-18:30)
Wednesday 22 April ◆ Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
Thursday 23 April ◆ Spanish Speaking Exams (1 days) ◆ Year 7 Progress Evening (15:45-19:00)
Friday 24 April ◆ Year 10 Exeter College Digital Taster Day (8.30-14:30) ◆ Silver DofE practice starts early afternoon and finishes on Sunday
Saturday 25 April ◆ Swap Shop @ HCC (09:00-15:00) ◆ Bronze DofE practice starts 10.00 and finishes on Sunday

South West Junior Chef of the Year 2026



Recognising the region's budding young chefs

Young cooks, aged 11-16, are invited to send us their recipe for a main course dish for two, using principally locally-produced ingredients, as their entry for South West Junior Chef of the Year 2026


Our judges will invite selected entrants to prepare their dish, in 90 minutes, at a county final, initially, and the winners in each county will meet at the grand final in the Autumn to compete for the overall title.

All county winners will be supported by one of our judges, who will act as their mentor, helping them to enhance their dish and providing a fantastic opportunity to develop their skills and experience life in a working kitchen.


Devon County Final

Tuesday 7th July 3.30pm
Exeter College

Judges
Scott Paton
Head Chef, Acleaf, Plympton
Paul Carne
Hospitality Curriculum Manager, Exeter College




South West and Devon Junior Chef of the Year 2025, Jessica Klapsia, and head judge, Michael Caines MBE



Jessica's winning dish, confit cod fillet with dashi beurre blanc and oyster

Entry closing date: Tuesday 26th May 2026

The South West Junior Chef final will be held at Exeter College, Devon, on Saturday 10th October 2026. Competitors must be aged 11-16 and still at school in year 11 or below on the date of the South West final

South West Junior Chef of the Year is sponsored by  **Springboard FUTURECHEF**. Thanks to our partnership with Springboard FutureChef, our South West finalists will be invited to take part in the FutureChef regional final to compete for a place in their national final in 2027

If any students are interested in applying and would like to find out more, please speak to Mrs Milford or Mr White.



DISCOVER APPRENTICESHIPS

AN INFORMATION EVENING FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS & SCHOOLS

Come along and learn how apprenticeships really work - including pay, qualifications, career progression, and more.

This event is designed especially for parents and carers who want to confidently support their young person's next steps.



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Parents and guardians of:

- Year 10 - Year 13 students
- Students who are unsure about university
- Students who prefer practical learning
- Students wanting to earn while they learn

WHAT YOU WILL FIND OUT:

- What an apprenticeship actually is
- How much apprentices earn
- What the apprenticeship levels mean
- How students apply and secure a vacancy
- Live Q&A session at the end

 Online Webinar

 29th April 2026

 6 PM - 7 PM

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER YOUR SPOT!



FREE TO ATTEND

Follow the link to book or scan the QR code:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/discover-apprenticeships-aimed-at-parents-guardians-and-schools-tickets-1983528717790>

WOULD YOU LIKE MORE INFORMATION? CONTACT US
APPRENTICES@EXE-COLL.AC.UK | 01392 400800



FREE
Family Advice
& Guidance

For Parents/Carers of children aged 0-19 and Young People aged 13 –19 (25 with SEND or Care Leaver)

Single Session Appointments available in person, via phone or online

CALL:

Advice & Guidance Line
0800 5385458
Mon-Fri 10am—4pm

SCAN



Request for Contact





Family Hub Advice &
Guidance Line, 0800
5385458

Mon-Fri 10am—4pm

'Connecting Moments'- Digital SEND Support for Families

Are you a parent or carer of a child with **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**?

Join us for **Connecting Moments** – a friendly online space designed just for you.

What's it all about?

- Connect with other families in a small, welcoming group
- Share experiences and ideas
- Build a peer support network

Please join us on the **last Tuesday of the month at 12noon**, for a **1 hour session**—to book a space please fill in the form using the QR code below, places are limited and the session will be run



The Ambassador Volunteer Programme
Supporting Families with SEND

**BEST
START
IN LIFE**

Devon
County Council

