



HONITON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ted
Wragg
TRUST

February 2025

NEWSLETTER





As we reach the halfway point of the term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the fantastic achievements of our students and the vibrant school community we continue to build together.

This term, we have seen countless examples of our school values—kindness, curiosity, and resilience—in action. Whether through students supporting one another in the classroom, embracing new challenges with enthusiasm, or demonstrating perseverance in their learning, it has been wonderful to witness their growth.

It has been an especially exciting few weeks across many areas of school life. Our music clubs are now up and running with Mr. Turner, bringing energy and creativity to lunchtimes. Our Year 10 students have been showcasing their incredible photography work, while Year 11 Art students recently visited St Ives, drawing inspiration from the beautiful surroundings. Meanwhile, our Year 11 Food and Nutrition students have wowed us all with their impressive three-course meal creations, demonstrating remarkable skill and dedication.

On the sports front, we have celebrated fantastic sporting achievements across various competitions, and our students training for the Ten Tors challenge continue to impress with their determination and resilience.

As we head into the half-term break, I encourage everyone to take time to rest, recharge, and reflect on all that has been accomplished so far. We look forward to welcoming students back, refreshed and ready for the exciting opportunities ahead.

Thank you for your continued support. Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable break.

Mrs C Brothwood
Principal



MOST ABLE STUDENTS

As Most Able Co-ordinator, I'm passionate about helping our Most Able students reach their full potential. This term, I've been running regular sessions at lunchtime for students in Years 7-10, giving them a chance to develop key skills, build confidence, and think about their future aspirations.

So far, Year 7 have explored their academic strengths and worked on study skills, whilst Year 8 have had a rapid fire introduction to confidence building and public speaking, giving them a chance to develop their oracy skills in a fun and fast-paced way. Year 9 looked at career pathways, using a careers quiz and a tailored resource to match their interests with the best GCSE subjects for their future ambitions, and Year 10 have been getting to grips with revision strategies and memory techniques to help them feel more prepared for their exams.

It's been fantastic to see students engaging so well, sharing ideas, and pushing themselves outside their comfort zones. I'm really looking forward to the rest of the year and seeing their progress!

Miss L Craig
Most Able Co-ordinator

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

FEB 2025



This half term in our safeguarding tutor assemblies we have looked at how to recognise when someone could be being groomed and what to do to help them. We have also discussed racism and hate crime and what we can do to stop this and support someone who is suffering. We finished the half term by focusing on Children's Mental Health Week and the importance of talking about how we are feeling to our friends and to trusted adults at home and in school. In each session we discuss who to speak to if you are worried about yourself or someone else and how to access support from school and from other external agencies offering support to young people.

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

Clara Rose
Designated Safeguarding Lead.



We were lucky enough to have a visit from Kooth this week in our Year 8 assembly. Lauren, a local Kooth Engagement Lead took some time to explain that Kooth is a freeway to access anonymous online Emotional Health and Wellbeing support.

Young people are able to sign up and access advice from fully trained staff. There are lots of different levels of support available to young people, including mini activities that boost emotional wellbeing, pod-casts and the ability to access a chat service.

A letter was sent to all Year 8 parents/carers via My Child At School (MCAS) with further information.

kooth Free and anonymous mental health support whenever you need it.

Free & anonymous mental health support

Start here kooth.com

NHS Providing NHS services

Virtual Sessions with Kooth

Book for free here

Monday 17th February Managing anxiety with self care Session for those aged 11-18 10:00am-11:00am	Tuesday 18th February What is Kooth? Session for parents & carers 2:30pm-3:30pm
Wednesday 19th February Managing anxiety with self care Session for those aged 11-18 11:30am-12:30pm	Friday 21st February Managing anxiety with self care Session for those aged 11-18 2:00pm-3:00pm
Friday 21st February Young People's Online Safety Session for parents and carers 4:00pm-5:00pm	

kooth kooth.com

Kooth provides free, safe, anonymous mental health support and counselling for all 11-18 year olds in Devon

Libraries Unlimited



On Tuesday 11 February a group of Year 11 Art, Photography and 3D Design students went on an organised visit to St. Ives in Cornwall to visit the Tate Gallery and The Barbara Hepworth Gallery.

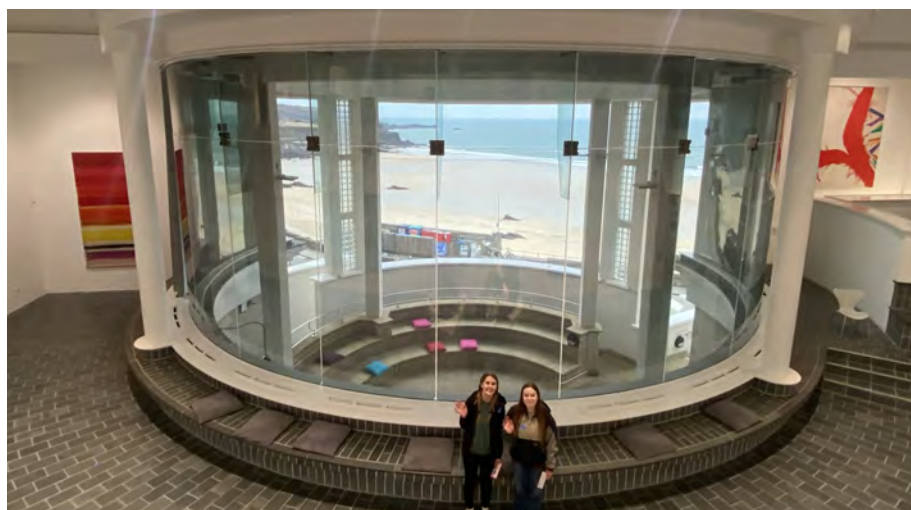
The visit was a great opportunity for students to witness first hand a collection of modern and contemporary art and gather information and inspiration for their own exam pieces on the theme of 'Gathering'. The students were able to learn about the work of major international and national artists, take photographs and make observations in their sketchbooks which will be a huge benefit to them in their exam process.



Although a bit chilly, the weather was on our side so we were able to enjoy a photoshoot walk on the stunning beaches, along the harbour, through the pretty streets of St. Ives and enjoy fantastic views of the landscape. The photographs the students took on the day can be used in their exam portfolios.



The staff and students really enjoyed the trip and Year 11 were great ambassadors for HCC. Huge thanks to all who made the trip a success.





EXCITING START TO YEAR 11 PRACTICAL FOOD EXAMS!

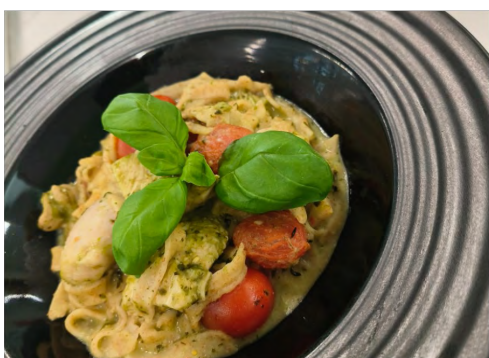
Over the last two weeks, our Year 11 Food & Nutrition students have completed their practical food exams.

From day 1, it was clear that they were ready to showcase their abilities in the kitchen. They displayed impressive attention to detail and an eagerness to refine their skills.

They have progressed so much in such a short space of time. Whether baking, grilling or preparing complex dishes, they did it with confidence and care.

They really have prepared delicious and creative dishes that demonstrated their growing knowledge of technique, presentation and flavour combinations .

Keep up the great work Year 11!
We're proud of all you've achieved so far.





Year 10 GCSE Photography students have been building upon their knowledge of contemporary portraits whilst developing their own creative skills in the medium.

Rupert merged two portraits together to form an almost surreal image below. He then added a third image to make his piece appear antique. Imanii gave her composite image a timeless quality by editing into black and white. Chloe has included elements of her own likeness into her portrait of a doll!

Their next project is just beginning and centres around 'The Journey'... We look forward to seeing where their journey takes them!



Rupert



Imanii



Chloe



Year 10 Design & Technology

Our Year 10 students have been busy developing their practical skills as they begin their coursework by crafting triple wood boxes. This project introduces them to key woodworking techniques, including precise measuring, cutting, and assembling.

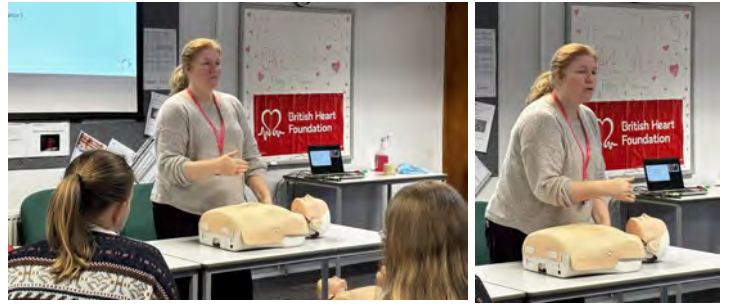
To start, students have been learning about laser cutting technology, allowing them to create intricate and accurate designs for their boxes. They are also developing their craftsmanship by carefully constructing and refining their work. This hands-on experience not only strengthens their technical abilities but also builds their confidence in working with different materials.



We are excited to see their final pieces come together and look forward to showcasing their creativity and skill!



Post-16 students are happily embracing National Heart Month; learning some valuable skills. On Wednesday 12 February students were instructed on how to perform CPR and use a defibrillator.



For many this was a refresher as they had completed the Emergency First Aid at Work qualification already, last year in Year 12 at the College. An absolute key skill for all to have.

On Friday 14 February Post-16 students will put their skills to baking and have a go at baking something with a 'love' theme for their own version of a "Bake Off" competition. I think some are hoping for the handshake from the judges but all are donating their time and effort to make some amazing cakes (hopefully!) to sell at break-time for all of the students at the College. All the proceedings will go to the British Heart Foundation who do astounding work to save lives.

THE LAST 24 HOUR CHALLENGE
70 TORS OF DARTMOOR = 365K

ROUTE IS HONITON --- EXETER SAMARITANS HQ --- DARTMOOR --- BACK

SAMARITANS EXETER

Thursday 27th & Friday 28th March 2025

Raising funds to help the SAMARITANS to be there, round the clock for 365 days a year in support of anyone who needs them.

Apart from all of the amazing academic achievements the Post-16 students have achieved in the 11 years I have been at HCC, one of the most humbling things they also achieve is their commitment to raise awareness and funds for many local charities and organisations.

Our 24hour challenge events have become a firm tradition and this year will be our last BUT probably most challenging.

Over the 11years the 100s of students who have passed through here have raised over a staggering amount of £25,000 for our community. Not bad for a small community like ourselves!

One of the students key messages to share is that it is 'ok not to feel ok' all of the time and to reach out for mental health support when its needed. With this in mind the final chosen charity to support for the 24 hour challenge is our local Exeter Branch of the Samaritans. They have been a huge support to the College for many years and we are very pleased and proud to be sharing message of support and to raise some funds for their work.

£10 could answer a life saving call for help; £25 could help with the ongoing training and support for an experienced volunteer for a year; £133 could help recruit and train a new listening volunteer to answer calls for help.

Parents of the Post-16 students are invited along to give us a hand but also a shout out to any **Alumni of HCC Sixth Form / Post-16** to come along and walk some steps for us and reminisce of your times here on the Thursday 27th from 6 -9pm . If you are up for the challenge please contact me at the College for further details.

Selena.burroughs@honiton.college It will be lovely to see you again in the Centre.

The Winner of Valentine's Bake Off



Curious Creatures Project

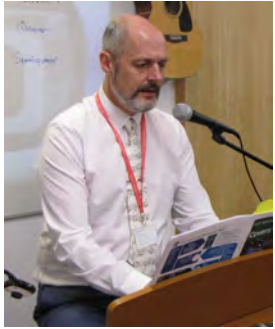
In Art, Year 8 are currently working on their 'Curious Creatures' project.

This week they have been making a maquette using the pinch pot technique. Creating a maquette is an opportunity for the students to experiment with working with clay in a 3D form and build skills in preparation for their final clay sculpture that they will start after half term.



Q&A

Each half term, the Post-16 students interview a member of the HCC staff team. This half term they were please to speak with Mr David Turner who is Head of Create and Music Teacher.



Background Career and History

I start teaching at 23 having attended the University of Reading. My first teaching post was at Exmouth Community College up until last year when I joined HCC. I have experience of being Head of year, Assistant Principal and Deputy Head as well as continuing teaching music.

Interview by Saffron Doble and Brooke Mason (Year 13)

Q. What made you want to become a teacher?

A. *I have always been passionate about music and taught music groups as a teenager prior to teaching. I was encouraged by an experienced teacher at University to go into teaching and to this day I really enjoy wanting to share my love of music to the new generation.*

Q. What has been your favourite thing about being at Honiton so far?

A. *The staff and students of HCC as well as the community have made me feel really welcome here. I loved being able to work with the students on the Christmas Concert where students were able to perform. This is an area that I am very keen to grow as it really can involve anyone who wants to have a go!*

Q. What is your proudest achievement to date? (Professional or Personal)

A. *On a personal note, I have 3 children who I am very proud of. Professionally- one of my music groups performed at the Royal Albert Hall in London at a national concert which was an amazing opportunity for the students.*

Q. What do you hope to achieve at HCC?

A. *vibrant music department which creates opportunities for everyone including students who have not had access previously to musical education, instruments or lessons. HCC has amazing facilities for music which is great for giving students opportunities to make music. Also, to bring back as many shows as we can and build a great vibe in the college for performing arts.*

In the wider community, I have started to work with the Devon Music Hub to put together opportunities for all youngsters in the Honiton Community to access instrumental lessons. We have also just arranged a visit by the Devon Youth Choir leaders in April to deliver a workshop with our singers which is very exciting!

Q. If you didn't become a teacher, what career path would you have taken?

A. *Musician, performer or a writer. All creative roles!*

Q. Outside of teaching, what are your main hobbies and interests?

A. *I like keeping active by cycling, sailing, playing music and I recently completed my compulsory basic training for riding a motorbike.*

Q. If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?

A. *I love Devon and was born in Devon but loved visiting Prague in the Czech Republic a couple of years ago. Maybe one day I will return there but Devon is where I am happiest.*

Q. Who is your favourite musician and why?

A. *I am really inspired by one of Britain's leading Classical Guitarists Gary Ryan who plays and writes innovatively. I'm learning a couple of his challenging pieces at the moment including 'Benga Beat' and 'Hot Club Francais'.*

Q. What is your favourite genre of music?

A. *Although I'm open to all genres of music, Jazz and Folk music and probably my go to's.*

Q. Name 3 instruments that describe you

- A.**
1. Classical Guitar – I have played since I was 7 and it shows my creativity
 2. Cello – another one of my main instruments which helps describes me as expressive
 3. Trombone – an instrument I aspire to play one day and shows me as Bold (in a good way!)

Music is part of the National Curriculum

Learning about music and having the opportunity to play musical instruments and make music together is a vital part of a rich and rounded education.

It has also been proven that music plays a key role in brain development. This is because it helps with the nurturing of language, motor skills, emotional intelligence and collaboration skills.



Music Groups available:
Monday lunchtime – House Band in Mu1
Tuesday- second break – String Group in Mu1
Tuesday lunchtime – Singing Group in Mu1
Wednesday lunchtime – Guitar Group in Mu1
Thursday lunchtime – Song Writing Group in Mu2
Friday lunchtime – Taiko Drumming in Mu1



Peripatetic Instrument lessons (fees apply)

We really want to give students the opportunity to have peripatetic music lessons. Mr Turner has talked to students about the opportunity to learn an instrument. You can sign up for lessons and find out further information through the following link. We are welcoming a new guitar teacher to the school in the near future and hope to expand instrumental teaching further over the coming months!

Apply for Instrumental lessons - <https://forms.office.com/e/n8AJsJsyb>

Girls Netball Team



Under 13/12 Netball Team

From the outset King's School took the lead but this didn't dampen the enthusiasm of our team. They kept their heads up and determined to score, they finally scored in the last quarter finishing with 2 goals.

Although King's did score more than we did, the team learnt a great deal from the experience. Player of the game – Darcy L



Under 14 Netball Team

The team played King's School U15 team. The first quarter the girls put up a fantastic start with a lead of 8-7.

Second quarter was a different game altogether with King's School taking a strong lead. Our U14's came back in the third quarter but couldn't do enough to equal.

They played with determination and flare – with consistent shooting from Chloe and Tilly. A strong performance playing a older team.

Player of the game – Layla D and Chloe A

Under 14 Girls Badminton Team



The under-14 girls badminton team delivered an unforgettable performance at the East Devon Badminton qualifier on Tuesday 21 January, claiming the tournament trophy in style.

The team showed incredible determination, skill, and sportsmanship throughout the day, including the final against Colyton which was decided by a single point.

Honiton have won the trophy two years in a row and will go to Paignton to compete for the Devon finals.

The boys' under-14 team put up a valiant fight at the Badminton however fell short of qualifying. Despite their defeat, the team's resilience, teamwork, and skill shone through.

Congratulations to the Year 8 Indoor Athletics Team



The Year 8 Indoor Athletics team, who competed against East Devon Schools in the Sports Hall Athletics competition at Uffculme School on Thursday 23rd January and came 2nd overall (6 schools).

Students had to compete as a team and the level of commitment, encouragement and focus was first-class throughout the afternoon. They participated in a number of relays (4 or 8 lengths of the Sports Hall), Speed Bounce, Indoor Shot Putt, Standing Long Jump and a 1 lap team Hurdle Relay. Well done to all involved.





Congratulations to Chloe P who represented HCC at the Devon Schools Cross-country at Exhibition Fields, Exeter on Saturday 18th January. The Junior Girls course was 3.3km and Chloe ran a great race. Chloe finished 26th in Devon.

Indoor Cricket Competition



Year 8s did fantastically well at the indoor East Devon Schools Cricket competition, qualifying for the Devon County Indoor round in March. Honiton won all their games, to set up a final with Exmouth Community College, in which they narrowly lost. Everyone played superbly on the day, being great ambassadors for the school.

Chloe bowled a consistent line and length, picking up regular wickets ably supported by Luke 'the nuke' Arcscott with so fantastic bowling.

The tone of the matches was set by Josh and Benji, with powerful range hitting, ensuring we always got off to a great start. Josh H was tremendous behind the stumps, picking up many plaudits from the other schools.

Well done all.

Under 12 Football HCC 2-2 Sidmonth College Win on Penalties



Honiton's under-12 football team showcased their grit and determination on Thursday 23 January, battling to a 2-2 draw against local rivals Sidmouth College before emerging victorious in a tense penalty shootout.

Succeeding some great penalties by the team and some impressive saves from keeper Alex Hall. The boys are through to the semi-finals where they will play Kings School or Exmouth Community College



Year 10 Football HCC 2-0 Uffculme

The first fixture of 2025 came to year 10 with a away fixture to Uffculme. With ice cold winds and an heavy muddy pitch students showed fantastic resilience to play superb football and were rewarded with a 2-0 win.

Special mentions go to Thomas E and Archie L who were superb at the back making some last ditch tackles and interceptions, and Owen and Josh W for fine midfield play and Ed N for a silky finish and great wing play.

Player of the match was tied between Josh L and Ollie B. Josh ran the show in midfield scoring a outrageous solo goal. Meanwhile Ollie B debuted the gloves for the school and was outstanding, producing some remarkable saves. Leaving up to the boys they settled on Ollie B to secure the award. **Well done all !**



TEN TORS 2025
9th-11th May

This year's Ten Tors challenge takes place over the weekend of the 9-11 May 2025, our Challengers have been taking part in training over the last few months leading up to the event.

The first full 2 days walk took place over the weekend of the 8-9 February in freezing temperatures nevertheless with positive vibes! Arriving in at camp at 5pm.

The Challengers set up tents and made hot drinks like pros and relished a proper dinner before retiring to their tents for the night experiencing harsh freezing temperatures.

The second day started clear and frosty, However the 2 days walking had been extremely demanding, covering over 27 miles along with carrying full packs.

They should all be very proud of themselves for doing this in the middle of February!



Ten Tors 55-mile route



Oliver Davis in year 13 who previously successfully completed 35/45 ten tors routes is to take on the 55 Challenge.

Three former HCC pupils; Billy, Charlie and Jacob have joined Oliver to make a team with Aude Sapere expedition society.

They trained with us this weekend covering 40 miles over the two days.

A fantastic effort in freezing and misty conditions.





Monday 17 February - Friday 21 February 2025 Half Term Holiday

Monday 24 February 2025 -Start of Spring Half Term 2

Wednesday 26 February

Year 11 Rugby 7s Devon Finals Tournament @ West Buckland School (09:-16:05)
Year 9 Football vs King's School @ HCC (10:05-17:00)

Thursday 27 February

U15 East Devon Netball Tournament @ King's School (13:30-16:30)
Year 8 Boys Football @ Cranbrook Educational Campus (15:0-18:00)

Monday 3 March

Year 11 Mock Exams (start)
Year 10 Football v Sidmouth @HCC (15:40-17:30)

Tuesday 4 March

Year 8 Indoor Cricket County Finals @Exeter University (08:30-15:45)

Thursday 6 March

U14 & U15 7 a-side rugby @ Blundells School (11:30-16:30)
U13 & U15 Netball Vs Exmouth @ HCC (15:05-17:00)

Friday 7 March

Year 11 Mock Exams (Finish)

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
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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
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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
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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
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YEAR 7 START ON WEDNESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2025

ALL OTHER YEAR GROUPS START ON THURSDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2025