

Principal's Post

Thursday 4 December 2025



As we approach the final two weeks of term, I would like to begin by thanking our whole school community for the way our shared values of **kindness, curiosity and resilience** continue to shine through daily life at school. This week has been Assessment Week, and I have been enormously impressed by the calm focus and determination shown by students across all year groups as they worked hard to demonstrate their learning.

A special mention must go to our Year 11 students who have now completed their mock examination season – they have truly done us proud with their maturity, effort and perseverance.

Alongside this academic focus, it has been wonderful to see our students living out the value of kindness so powerfully through our recent Foodbank project, led by Year 9. Thanks to the generosity of families and students across the school, over **16 crates of food** were collected for local families in need – a remarkable achievement and a real reminder of the strength of our community spirit.

As we look ahead, there is a great deal to look forward to in the final weeks of term, with a range of festive activities planned that will allow students to come together, celebrate their achievements and enjoy the season in a positive and inclusive way.

Finally, I would like to remind parents and carers that **Monday 8th December is a non-pupil day**, and the school will be closed to students on that date.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Mrs. C Brothwood, Principal

Year 7 - End of First Term Celebration



As we reach the end of our first term at HCC, I want to express how incredibly proud I am of our Year 7 students. Transitioning to secondary school is a big step, yet our students have approached every challenge with enthusiasm, resilience, and a real commitment to our school values. Their positivity and eagerness to get involved have truly set the tone for a fantastic year group.

A particular highlight has been the outstanding effort shown during our Food Bank Competition. Year 7 came together with generosity and teamwork, contributing an impressive number of donations to support families in our community. This reflects exactly the kind of compassion and responsibility we encourage at HCC—well done to everyone who took part.

As we move into the final weeks of term, we're looking forward to some festive fun, including the Christmas Door Competition. I can already feel the excitement building, and I can't wait to see the creativity and teamwork shine through once again.

Thank you, Year 7, for a brilliant start to the year. Let's finish the term with the same energy, kindness, and community spirit you've shown so far.

Well done—keep it up!

Mrs. B Dupré, Head of Year 7



It has been a truly inspiring time for our Year 8 students, and I am incredibly proud of their generosity, compassion, and sense of community. Our recent **Foodbank**

Appeal has been a tremendous success, with outstanding donations from all tutor groups. The sheer volume of contributions reflects the kindness and social responsibility that Year 8 consistently shows.

In addition, students have been learning about the vital work of **Jay's Aim**, a powerful charity dedicated to teaching CPR and preparing young people to confidently support any citizen in distress. Their engagement with this initiative has been exceptional, and it is heartening to see our students developing both life-saving skills and a strong sense of civic duty.

Year 8 continue to do us all proud - not only in their learning, but in the way they support and care for others.

Mrs. C Kendall Head of Year 8



Year 9 students have been doing an amazing job showing resilience in completing their end of cycle assessments. They are due to have their first attempt at an English Literature mock exam in the Drama

Hall this Friday, 5th December. I hope that they all have the opportunity for a well-earned rest over the weekend.

In assemblies over the last two weeks, we have been having presentations from teachers about the available GCSE subjects for Curriculum Preferences. Students have so far heard about Health and Social Care and Sport Science BTECs, and GCSE's in; 3D Art and Design, Fine Art, Photography, Music, PE, Statistics. These assemblies will continue until Christmas.

There will be an open evening in the new year to further investigate all the subjects on offer

Mrs. E Meek, Head of year 9

Activities Week

Year 8 Activities Week - Looking Ahead

Communications for Year 8 students have been sent home this week with details about Activities Week 2026. On their allocated days, students will be able to choose between attending the ever-popular **Haven Banks Watersports** or taking part in a **Clip and Climb Adventure** followed by a session of bowling.

First payment of £30 is due by the 16th January. If you have any issues around funding for this, please contact hardship@honiton.college. If you have any questions around the trips following receipt of the letter, please contact Alister.Forsyth@Honiton.College.

- Please complete the Google Form included in the accompanying letter you received as soon as possible. This will allow us to finalise numbers with the venues and arrange groups appropriately.



Year 10 have made a great start to their GCSE courses. They have demonstrated great perseverance and resilience, and should be highly commended for the mature and determined way they approached

their English mock and other assessments. Throughout the term, they have been fully involved in all areas of school life and are now busily preparing their tutor-room doors for the Christmas competition.

Please support them in securing a work placement for the summer term. The earlier they begin this process, the better. Also remind them that they receive a great deal of information about career opportunities, placements, and different career sectors via email. Some students are excellent at keeping up with their inbox, while others may need a gentle reminder.

Wishing all the Year 10s a restful and happy Christmas.

Mrs. L Roberts, Head of year 10



Our Year 11 students have now completed their mock examinations, and we are incredibly proud of the focus and resilience they have shown throughout the process. It has

been a demanding couple of weeks, but their attitude and determination have been commendable. We hope they enjoy a well-earned breather as teachers begin reviewing papers and preparing feedback.

As we move towards the Christmas break, students have settled back into lessons and routines. Thank you to families for continuing to support good attendance and punctuality at this busy point in the term.

A reminder too that we are continuing to gather responses for the Year 11 Prom, scheduled for **Friday 3rd July 2026 at Honiton Golf Club**. If students haven't yet completed the interest form, we would encourage them to do so; this information helps us keep ticket prices as affordable as possible for families.

We look forward to celebrating the end of term with Year 11 and guiding them into the important months ahead.

Miss E Lindsay, Head of year 11



**AXIOM
MATHS**

It has been wonderful to see students grow as Mathematicians this half term in Axiom Maths

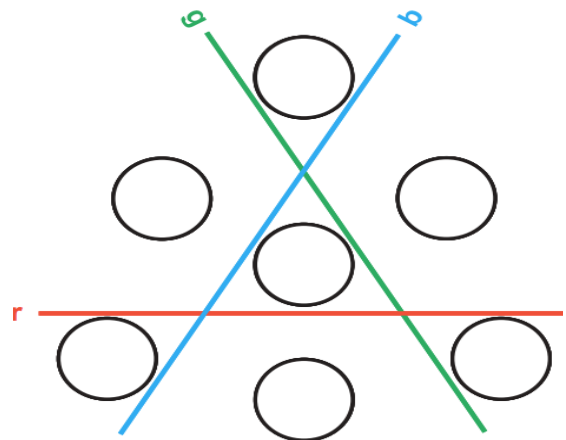
Circles. We are coming to the end of Cycle 1 and students have been grappling with a range of different problems and being adventurous in exploring different approaches to work through them. We had a visit from Lorraine from Axiom who was very impressed with the work that the students were doing and how articulate they were in explaining their approaches to the Maths.

Well done!"

Here is an example of one of the mathematical problems we have looked at:

Write the numbers **1 to 7** in the circles so that

- there is the same total on each side of the **blue** line
- there is the same total on each side of the **green** line
- there is the same total on each side of the **red** line



Parent Engagement Group



Thank you to all the parents/carers who attended our Parent Engagement Group on 20th November. We gained some valuable feedback on college reports and mobile phones.

A follow-up survey regarding mobile phones will be sent to parents before the Christmas break. Our next session will take place next term, and further details will be shared closer to the time.

Resilience focus week



Resilience is one of our college values, and this week we have been celebrating it as part of our Assessment Week. Throughout the week, students have been

challenged to demonstrate perseverance, a positive mindset, and determination—especially when tasks became difficult. To recognise these efforts, staff have been awarding resilience tokens, which students collect for their House.

The winning house will be rewarded with a non-uniform day before Christmas.

Attendance update

Whole school attendance continues to remain a worry.

The school remains in the bottom 10% of schools nationally for attendance suggesting that in Honiton students attend school less than in other places across the country. We are working hard to make sure every learner is in school every day because every day does matter. Well done to those that continue to have attendance above 95% and for those who have seen an improvement in attendance across this half term.

Our first Parent/carer Attendance and Wellbeing session 'Coffee and Connect' happened this week. The next one is **Tuesday 13th January at 9.15am**. We would love for as many parents/cares concerned about their child's attendance to come along and discuss attendance concerns with us.

Everyone has a stress bucket - how does attendance help?

We all carry an invisible "stress bucket" that fills up with worries, pressure, and everyday challenges. For young people, that might include:

- * Barriers to learning
- * Homework and exams
- * Friendships and social media
- * Family changes or responsibilities
- * Health worries or tiredness
- * Time away from school



When our bucket fills faster than it empties, it can overflow – leading to anxiety, irritability, or feeling overwhelmed. Non-attendance at school can make a young person's stress bucket fill more quickly. Even short periods of absence can lead to falling behind in lessons, creating extra pressure to catch up. Time away can also increase worries about returning – such as missing friendships or feeling out of the loop – and disrupt daily routines that support sleep, motivation, and confidence. In addition, spending more time alone reduces opportunities to share worries or receive support from teachers and friends, all of which can heighten anxiety and make it harder to cope. These pressures add more "drops" into the bucket, so even small stresses can start to feel too much.

* Regular attendance helps "empty" the bucket

Being in school every day supports young people's wellbeing in several ways:

Predictable routine - regular structure helps reduce uncertainty and anxiety.

Achievement and progress - keeping up with learning builds confidence and prevents the stress of catching up.

Connection - friendships and trusted adults at school give emotional support and belonging.

Early help - teachers, tutors and pastoral staff can spot signs of stress early and help before the bucket overflows.

Healthy distractions - school provides positive focus, purpose, and success experiences.

In short: **Regular attendance helps young people keep their stress bucket from overflowing.**

* How parents can help at home

Talk about the bucket: "What's filling your bucket today? What could help empty it?"

Build calming routines: consistent sleep, healthy meals, outdoor time, limited screen use before bed.

Praise effort, not just attendance: notice and celebrate small wins (getting up on time, attending one tricky day).

Stay connected with school: if anxiety or stress is affecting attendance, talk to the pastoral or attendance team early.

Encourage "taps": hobbies, music, sport, pets, friends, creative outlets – whatever helps release stress.

Every day in school gives your child more "taps" to let stress out – through learning, friendship, and support. Staying home may feel like relief in the moment, but it often makes the stress bucket fill faster.

Next Fortnightly Events

WEEK A

Monday 9 December

◆ **Non-Student Day**

Tuesday 9 December

◆ Autumn Term Concert @ HCC (18:30-21:00)

Wednesday 10 December

◆ School Christmas Dinner

◆ Year 11 Rugby Vs Clyst Vale (16:45-18:30)

◆ Year 7 Christmas Football @LED (15:05-16:30)

Thursday 11 December

◆ Visiting Theatre: A Xmas Carol Eng Dept @ HCC (15:15-17:00)

◆ Year 8 Boys Christmas Football LED (15:05-16:30)

WEEK B

Monday 15 December

◆ Year 9 Boys Christmas Football @ LED (15:05-16:30)

Wednesday 17 December

◆ U13/U15 Badminton Girls & Boys Finals (13:00-17:30)

Thursday 18 December

◆ Years 9/10/11 Girls Christmas Football @ LED (15:05-16:30)

◆ Year 11 Graduation Celebration (18:00-19:00)

◆ Carol Services at St Paul's Church for **Years 7-9 students only.**

Friday 19 December

Last day of Term - **Student finish at 14:00**



CORRECTION

Christmas Dinner Wednesday 10th December

- * Cost: £2.88
- * Free for students eligible for free school meals

We recently sent out a letter about the Christmas Dinner, but unfortunately the wrong day was listed.

Please note that the correct day is **Wednesday, 10th December.**

We apologise for any confusion and appreciate your understanding.



DEPARTMENT



**Tuesday 9
December
at
18.30
in the Drama Hall**

AUTUMN TERM CONCERT

Featuring

The HCC House Band

Singing Group

Taiko Ensemble

Rock School

Balalaika Ensemble

And other ensemble and solo performances!

Come and support our talented students!

Please scan this QR code to register your attendance:



**Donations on the door –
(supporting the repair of Music
Department amplifiers)**

FOUNDATION HUBS

**TASTER SESSION
9 DECEMBER 2025
YEARS 7 - 9 | 6 - 7:30PM
YEARS 10 - 12 | 7:30 - 9PM**



EAST DEVON GIRLS' HUB

**FRIDAYS
9 JANUARY – 6 MARCH 2026
& 27 MARCH 2026**

YRS 7 - 9 6-7:30PM | YRS 10 - 12 7:30-9PM

Open to all state school girls Years 7 - 12*

*Players in the Devon Cricket Performance Pathway are **not** eligible.

Sign Up



For more information contact
chris.brown@devoncricket.co.uk
01392 262509 / 07498 751676
or visit www.devoncricket.co.uk/mccf-hubs

VENUE

West Exe School
Hatherleigh Road
Exeter
EX2 9JU