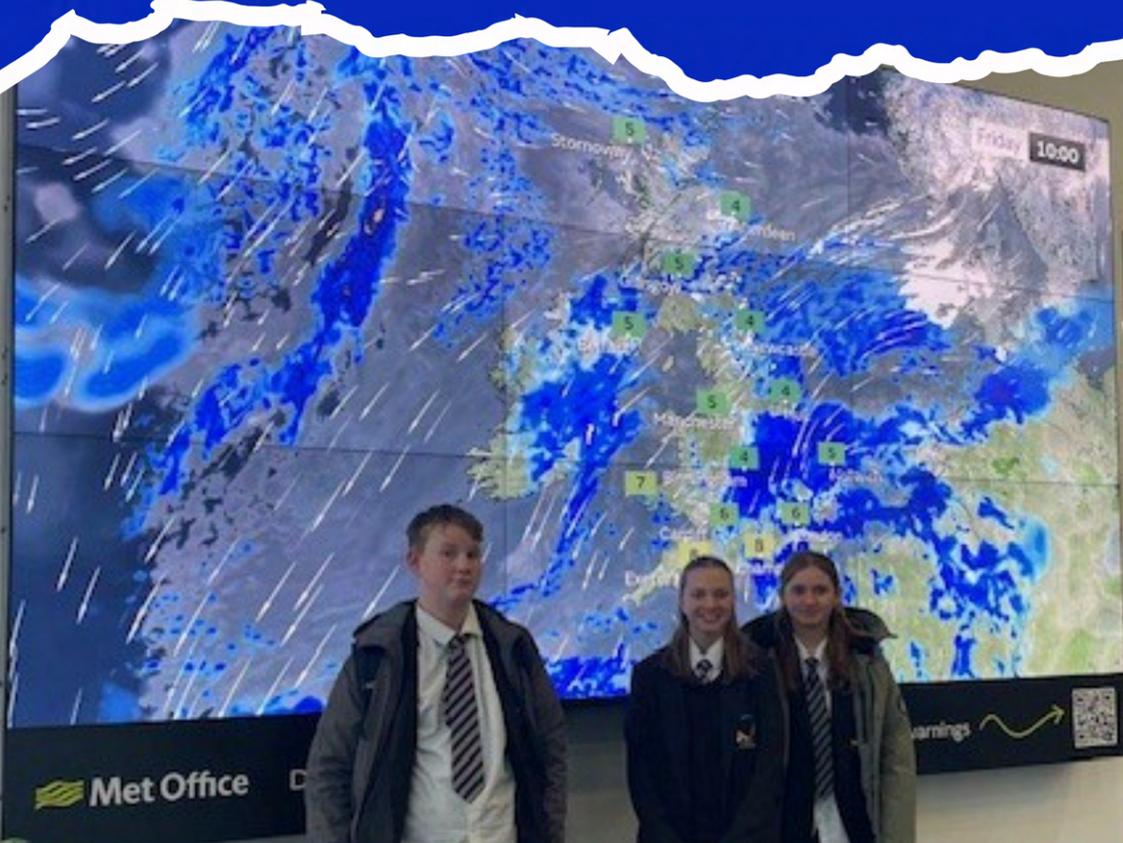




HONITON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Newsletter

February 2026





Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

A very warm welcome to our first half term of the Spring. As we move through the heart of winter, school has been full of energy, enthusiasm and purpose, and it has been a joy to see our community living out our core values of being **kind, curious and resilient** each and every day.

This half term has had a wonderfully sporting feel, inspired by the Winter Olympics. Across PE lessons and extracurricular clubs, students have embraced new challenges, shown determination and supported one another with real sportsmanship. Whether trying something unfamiliar or pushing personal limits, they have demonstrated exactly what resilience looks like in action.

Our curiosity has also been celebrated in other ways. Marking **Chinese New Year**, students enjoyed themed food and cultural activities, learning more about traditions from around the world. It was fantastic to see such open-mindedness and enthusiasm, and of course, plenty of smiling faces at lunchtime.

We are equally proud of the opportunities our students are taking to look **beyond HCC**. Recent trips to Exeter College and the Met Office have given valuable insight into further education, careers and the many exciting pathways ahead. These experiences help our young people to ask big questions, raise aspirations and imagine their future selves with confidence.

A special mention must go to our students involved in the **Duke of Edinburgh's Award**, who continue to show commitment, independence and perseverance. Their willingness to step outside their comfort zones is admirable and speaks volumes about their character.

Finally, I am incredibly proud to share some truly wonderful news. Hallie has been selected for the **England Acrobatic Gymnastics team** – an outstanding achievement that reflects years of dedication, discipline and hard work. We are all thrilled for Hallie and look forward to following this exciting journey.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I wish everyone a positive and energising half term ahead.

Warm regards,

Caroline Brothwood, Principal



Safeguarding and well-being update

Last half term our safeguarding topics have included how to spot if someone is being groomed online, how to recognise and respond to harmful sexual behaviours, the dangers of sending and sharing images, understanding different types of abuse, how to recognise and report misogyny and discrimination.

We have also reminded students about who to speak to if you they are worried about themselves or someone else and how to access a wide range of agencies offering help and support to young people.

Our highly successful Thursday lunchtime Wellbeing Club has continued this half term under the supervision of Mrs Kedward and is open to all students. The club offers a safe and supportive environment in which students can access advice and support, as well as engage in informal social activities such as conversation, colouring, or games.

Our lunchtime support sessions for our students who are young carers have continued this half term too, allowing us to offer additional support to those students who support others in their family.

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.

Clara Rose, Designated Safeguarding Lead and Well-being Lead.

Wellbeing Support for Young People

Action East Devon

HAPPY HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Action East Devon offers free peer support groups and 1-to-1 mentoring for young people aged 11-25 who may be struggling with their mental health or wellbeing.

We currently have groups running in Seaton, Ottery St Mary, and Axminster, with new groups planned for Sidmouth and Honiton. Referrals can be made by parents/carers, professionals, or by young people themselves.

Find out more here: <https://www.actioneastdevon.org.uk/>

HEADlight
An Action East Devon Service

HEADLIGHT HONITON
Supporting our young people's mental health

COMING SOON

Peer Support Groups & 1-2-1 Mentoring

Building resilience & confidence to manage **mental health symptoms**

For further information and to make a referral
01404 549045
info@actioneastdevon.org.uk
www.actioneastdevon.org.uk

11 - 18 year olds

Headlight is delivered by Action East Devon



A Triumph for U13 Netball Team



The U13 team's recent success over King's School was a testament to their exceptional talent and cohesion. Despite being a young squad, composed of both U12 and U13 players, their performance was nothing short of spectacular. It was a display of sheer skill, relentless determination, and exemplary teamwork that led them to victory.

Each player played a pivotal role in this success, contributing their unique strengths to the match. Notably, **Ella** stood out with her remarkable plays, and **Kayleigh** dazzled everyone with her outstanding shooting skills. This victory not only highlights the team's current capabilities but also hints at a promising future for these young athletes.

Outstanding Team work by U15 Netball Team



The U15 team displayed remarkable resilience and teamwork despite the challenges they faced. Playing with only seven players and no substitutes is no small feat, and it's commendable that the team managed to keep the game competitive until the final quarter.

This kind of determination and spirit is what builds strong teams and prepares players for future successes. Even though King's School ultimately took the win, the effort and perseverance shown by each team member are truly worth celebrating. Keep up the hard work and continue supporting each other on and off the field!

Congratulations !



Imi and Sophie's participation in the Devon Championships on Saturday 31 January was truly commendable. Representing Exeter and East Devon, they faced not only a highly competitive field but also navigated through difficult conditions, including very muddy terrain.

Their resilience and determination shone through at the North Devon Schools Cross-Country Championships, hosted at West

Buckland School in Barnstaple. Their impressive performance is a testament to their hard work and dedication, making HCC proud and embodying the spirit of perseverance. Congratulations to both athletes for their outstanding achievements!





Students were recognised for their outstanding effort, commitment, and performances, all of which embodied the School Games values of Self Belief and Respect.

Year 8 Indoor Athletics



Congratulations to the Year 8 Indoor Athletics team who competed against East Devon Schools in the Sports Hall Athletics competition at Uffculme School on Thursday 22nd January and came joint 3rd overall (7 schools).

Students had to compete as a team and the level of commitment, encourage-

ment and focus was first-class throughout the afternoon.

Participants took part in a variety of exciting events, including relay races (four or eight lengths of the Sports Hall), Speed Bounce, Indoor Shot Putt, Standing Long Jump, and a one-lap team Hurdle Relay. A fantastic effort from everyone involved.

Well done to all!



Chinese New Year 2026

On Thursday, 12 February, the school canteen came alive as we celebrated the Chinese (Lunar) New Year 2026, the Year of the Fire Horse. Students enjoyed a festive lunchtime, sharing their experiences while tasting a delicious selection of Chinese dishes specially prepared by our canteen staff. The celebration added colour, flavour, and excitement to the school day!





Taster Day

exeter college

Some of our Year 10 students recently had the exciting opportunity to attend a Hospitality Taster Morning at Exeter College.



During the visit, they gained valuable insight into what a career in the hospitality industry involves and learned more about the skills and qualifications needed to enrol on the course.

As part of the hands-on experience, students prepared a vegetable curry and made flatbreads completely from

scratch. They then enjoyed tasting their own creations - a well-deserved reward for their hard work and teamwork in the kitchen!

It was a fantastic experience for everyone involved and a great way to explore future career pathways.

Engaging Assemblies



A big thank you to Exeter College for delivering Inspiring assemblies in the last half term for Year 8 & 9 students, sparking curiosity about the many pathways available beyond HCC, from A-levels and T-levels to apprenticeships and vocational courses.

Students were especially interested to learn that Stormzy was once an engineering apprentice a brilliant reminder that there are many different routes to success, and that career journeys don't all look the same.

We are so proud that HCC students continue to show what it means to be **kind, curious and resilient**. Opportunities like these help empower them to explore their ambitions with

confidence and excitement for the future.

Thank you, Exeter College, for the inspiration!



A huge congratulations to Evie, Tom & Thomas! Last year, they all successfully completed their **Silver Award** with the The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

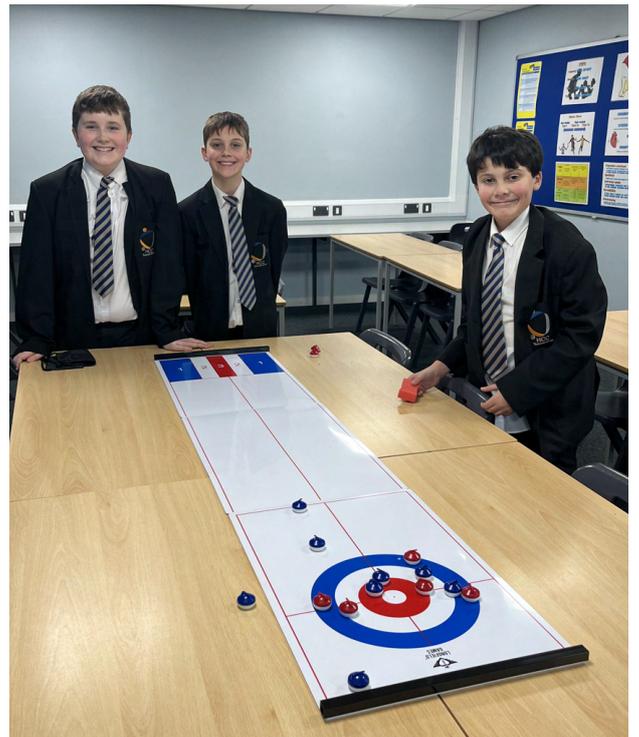
This fantastic achievement included completing their Physical Activity log, Skills log, and Volunteering within the community over a set period of time.

The students first completed a three-day, two-night expedition in Dorset, which proved to be exceptionally wet and tested their resilience and teamwork in challenging conditions. They then went on to undertake their assessed three-day expedition in East Devon in June, just before the end of term. In complete contrast to Dorset, this expedition took place during the hottest weekend on record, providing a very different, and equally demanding, set of challenges.



Students have been learning about the Olympic Winter Games during tutor time and in their PE lessons.

They have particularly enjoyed exploring different winter sports and understanding the history and values of the Olympics.



Many students have also been taking part in curling activities at lunchtime with Mr Taylor, which has been a great opportunity to practise teamwork and develop new skills.

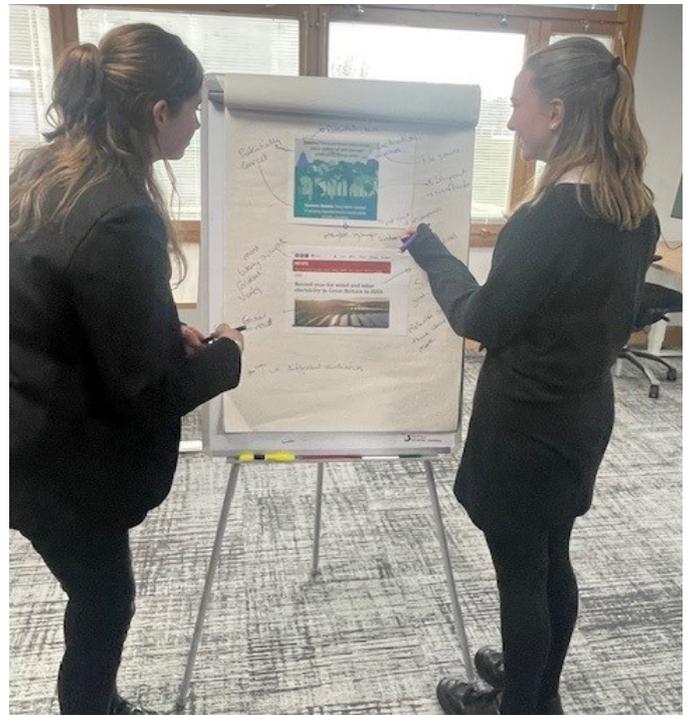
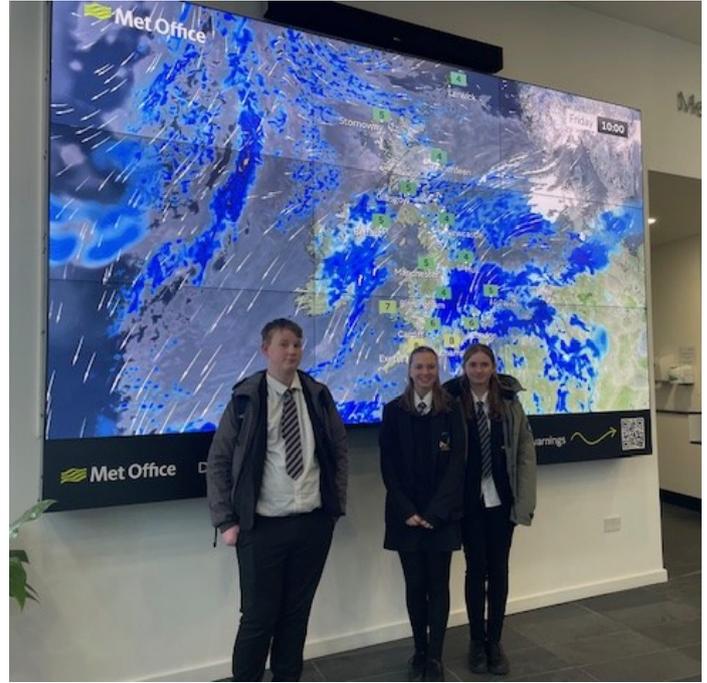


It's not just about weather!

During their recent visit to the **Met Office**, our students discovered the vast range of work carried out behind the scenes.

Students explored a wide range of career journeys into the Met Office, discovering that there isn't just one pathway into the organisation. They learned about routes including apprenticeships, degree-level entry, internships, and opportunities beyond purely science-based backgrounds.

By meeting a variety of employees, from climate scientists and weather forecasters to content creators, press officers, photographers and other media professionals. Students were able to ask questions, gain insight into different roles, and better understand the diverse career



The students participated in workshops exploring climate change, examining where we get our information, and discussing actions our school can take to support the fight against climate change. A fascinating insight for our students giving them lots to think about and to take with them back to school for our sustainability policy.



Year 10 Band 'Static Daydream' visited QE School in Crediton on Thursday evening (12th February) with Mr Turner to take part in the regional heat of **Devon Battle of the Bands**.

Only one band can enter from each school every year. The band was up against 5 bands from other school and performed superbly and with great confidence, impressing the judges with their authentic performance of 'Zombie' by the Cranberries.

The overall standard was extremely high with only 2 bands going through to the final. Despite not reaching the final this time, the band can feel extremely proud of their achievement having only formed 6 months ago. Mr Turner said he was so proud of their performance and admired the way they

worked on their performance over a number of weeks, using break and lunchtimes to ensure their performance was ready.

Well done Static Daydream!

Next year, Mr Turner will be launching HCC's very first **Battle of the Bands** during the Autumn Term 2027! This exciting competition will decide which band will go on to represent HCC at the **2027 Regional Heat**. All HCC bands – it's time to start rehearsing, refining your setlists, and getting performance-ready. The stage is waiting...

Get practicing and get ready to rock!



Celebrating Success at Honiton Gymnastics Club



Congratulations to the talented gymnasts from Honiton Gymnastics Club who have recently represented the club with outstanding success at competitions in Bristol and Stoke-on-Trent.

Hallie and her partner delivered a fantastic dynamic routine to win **gold** at the Bristol International Acro Cup on Sunday 1st February, an incredible achievement against strong competition.

Continuing their impressive winning streak, the pair struck gold again just five days later at the Pat Wade Competition in Stoke-on-Trent on Friday 6th February, showcasing their consistency, skill, and dedication.

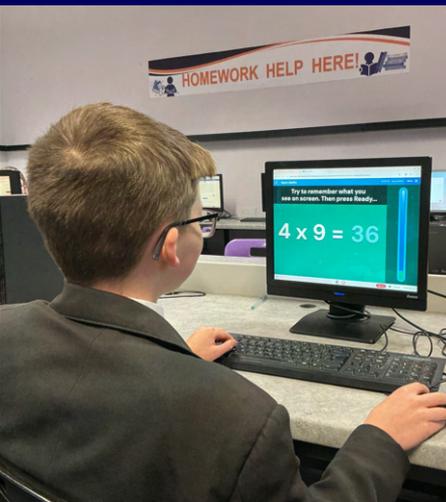
Adding to the excitement, Hallie and her partner Lana have received the amazing news that they have been selected for the **England Acrobatics Performance Pathway programme** from March.

A tremendous honour and a testament to their hard work and commitment.

The New Library is Now Open at Lunchtime!



- Need a quiet place to focus?
- Want to catch up on homework?
- Looking for a calm study space?



- A quiet study area is now available for all students.
- Location: Blackbury Building



Upcoming Events & Key Dates

WEEK A

Thursday 26 February

Fixture: U15 East Devon Netball Tournament

SPRING TERM 2026

Monday 16 to Friday 20 February

Half Term Holiday

Monday 23 February

Start of Spring Half Term 2

Monday 23 March

NON PUPIL DAY

Thursday 2 April

Last day of Term

WEEK B

Monday 2 March

◆ Immunisations (08:00-13:30)

◆ Fixture: Netball vs Colyton Grammar (16:00-17:30)

Tuesday 3 March

◆ Year 11 Food and Nutrition Practicals

Wednesday 4 March

◆ Year 11 Food and Nutrition Practicals

◆ Fixture: U15 East Devon Netball Tournament

◆ Trip: Year 11 CreATE Visit to St. Ives (07:00-19:00)

Thursday 5 March

◆ Year 11 Food and Nutrition Practicals

◆ Parent Engagement Group (18:00-19:00)

Friday 6 March

◆ Parent Engagement Group (18:00-19:00)

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