



Sally Banfield

Headteacher

14th November 2025

Dear Parents and Families,

Consultation

As you all know, the Local Authority has asked the school to work towards becoming a school for young people with autism. I am extremely grateful to everyone who has contacted me to ask questions and express their thoughts and views. Throughout the period of consultation, this can be done via this email address: Enquiriescps@combepafford.torbay.sch.uk.

You can also find additional information on the consultation page on our website here:

[Combe Pafford School - Consultation](#)

I do understand that for some parents and families this proposed change is worrying, and I hope that by reaching out to me, I will be able to answer every question personally. If you do email in, please be assured that I will contact you within 24 working hours.

The decision to stop placing children with MLD at Combe Pafford is one that sits with the LA and is not under the control of the school. The most important job for me, as your Headteacher, is to ensure that the school continues to be as brilliant moving forward as it has always been, serving the community of Torbay.

I have received several questions about the 4 areas below, and it is important to say again that for our existing your person;

- The curriculum offer will not change
- The vocational offer will not change
- Every young person will stay at Combe Pafford until the end of Year 11 **and**

- The LA has confirmed that the process we currently have for moving into the 6th form, **will not change**. This means every young person will have the same opportunity that they have now to move into our 6th form. I know this has been a question from many of you and I am very pleased to share this.

Currently our school has places for 244 young people. As I have already shared, the LA have told me they will no longer place students with MLD at Combe Pafford. They have however confirmed that by moving into the period of change our numbers will remain as they are now, which will allow Combe Pafford to continue to be amazing for many decades to come.

Dates:

Tuesday 18th November at 3.30pm (Parent Consultation Queries at Combe Pafford)

Thursday 20th November at 5.00pm (School Leadership, LA and Special Partnership Trust on Teams)

Tuesday 25th November at 9.00am (Representatives from the Local Authority at Combe Pafford)

Dates for Christmas

As you will be aware, Christmas is fast approaching, and we have lots of exciting things going on next month. See below a list of dates to get excited about:

Monday 1st December - Non Uniform Day - please bring Donations/Raffle Prizes for Christmas Fayre

Tuesday 2nd December – Christmas Fayre 3.30pm - 5.15pm

Wednesday 3rd December – Riviera Brass Concert at 7.30pm (£6 per ticket – children free)

The Riviera Band are holding their annual Christmas concert in school this year. They will be very generously donating the proceeds of the event to the school. If you would like to purchase a ticket, please do this on Arbor under “Trips- Christmas Concert” where you can pay for tickets (£6 multiples).

Wednesday 10th December - Nativity at St Mary the Virgin Church, St Marychurch – 11.15am start

Wednesday 10th December – Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch

The Christmas lunch at Combe Pafford is without doubt the best I have eaten in any other school. We are very much looking forward to another wonderful feast. It is always lovely for our young people to wear a Christmas jumper if they have one on this day. Please do not feel that this is essential, however, as they can be expensive, and I know that there is a lot of financial pressure on everyone at this time of year. A piece of tinsel or another Christmas decoration is perfectly fine. It is the day of the Headteacher ‘elf’ outfit, which I always look forward to.

Thursday 11th December – Rocksteady Christmas Concert at 2.00pm

If your child is part of a Rock Steady group, please do come along for the festive concert.

Friday 12th December – Sixth Form Christmas Lunch at the Willow Tree

Information for this will come out via the 6th form team.

Monday 15th December – School Christmas Nativity

This will begin at 2pm for parents and families of children in the nativity.

Tuesday 16th December – Christmas Pantomime at Princess Theatre at 10.30am.

All transport will be arranged from school. A letter has been sent out today in relation to this, and payments can be made on Arbor for the contribution of £8.50. The school is subsidising the rest.

Wednesday 17th December – Silent Disco for Lower and Middle (AM) and Upper (PM) - Please bring in party clothes for your child to wear at the disco.

The last day of school is Wednesday 17th December.

Facebook and Instagram

You will be aware that following feedback from many of you, we have launched school Facebook and Instagram pages. We will share news from school and events with you all and hope that this is another way that communication and sharing of information has been improved. I am grateful to everyone who requested this and am grateful to Mr Slingsby for leading this work in school.

Facebook link is: <https://www.facebook.com/combepaffordschool>

Support and Information for Families

Please find below support and other opportunities for you and your family.



TORQUAY UNITED FC
DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

TORQUAY UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB
125 YEARS

Trinity School, Buckeridge Road, Teignmouth, Devon, TQ14 8LY
U9s and U10s | 6.30-7.30pm | £6.00 per session
U11s and U12s | 7.30-8.30pm | £6.00 per session
6th NOVEMBER TO 18TH DECEMBER 2025

TO BOOK YOUR TRIAL, SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT:
U9S AND U10S
<https://torquay-united-cst.classforkids.io/info/866>

U11S AND U12S
<https://torquay-united-cst.classforkids.io/info/867>



TUCST are pleased to announce that their Development Centre's are returning!

The sessions take place on a Thursday evening at the amazing facility over in Teignmouth at Trinity School on the AstroTurf. All sessions will include high levels of detail and technical information given by TUCST coaching staff, these sessions can act as a feeder into their Academy Teams.

Details are as follows: -

Venue: Trinity School, Buckeridge Road, Teignmouth, Devon, TQ14 8LY

Price: £6.00 per session

Online Booking Link: <https://torquay-united-cst.classforkids.io>

U9s and U10s

Time: 6.30 to 7.30

U11s and U12s

Time 7.30 to 8.30

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to email admin@tucst.co.uk.

Keeping your children safe online

All National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

WHAT TRUSTED ADULTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT: SOCIAL MEDIA & MENTAL HEALTH

Social Media is often scrutinised as having a negative impact on children's mental health. Children and young people are now growing up in a technology dominated world, and social media plays a major role in their social lives. This balanced guide focuses on both the positive and negative impacts that social media can bring to young people and their mental health.

POSITIVE IMPACTS

EASY ACCESS TO SUPPORT AND HELP

Due to delays in young people getting help for their mental health, such as experiencing low mood, or suffering from anxiety, they may sometimes reach out to access support from others online. Sharing problems or issues with friends, peers and broader social networks can be met with positive reactions, with nearly 7 in 10 teens reporting to receive support on social media during tough or challenging times. Where there are moderated communities which offer support and guidance, children can be provided with a great source of support.

NEGATIVE IMPACTS

SELF-ESTEEM & BODY IMAGE

There are 18 million new photographs uploaded to Facebook alone every hour, providing an almost endless potential for young people to be drawn into appearance-based comparisons whilst online. The aim is the more we have they portray themselves online as we tend to only show the best part of ourselves. The pressure to fit in and conform is huge, which can become a driving force for children to replicate what they see from friends, celebrities and sponsored adverts. This pressure may contribute to anxiety, low mood and a feeling of inadequacy. As a result, it can lead to a feeling of low satisfaction with their own lives.

SUSTAINING FRIENDSHIPS AND MAKING CONNECTIONS

There is evidence to suggest that young adolescents' friendships can be enhanced by social media interaction, allowing children to create stronger bonds with people they already know. Online relationships can actually make children more relationship-oriented, thoughtful, and empathic. By sharing comments on photos, videos and posts, it can create long-term friendships as they can continuously keep in touch, even with a distance between them.

HARMFUL ADVICE

The online world provides the opportunity for anybody to upload and share photographs, pictures, edited videos, fake news and even unvetted advice. Children may stumble upon this, which could potentially encourage them make wrong decisions and not get the help that they need. It's important that you teach your child to differentiate between what is true and useful information and what is fake.

ADDICTION AND COMPULSIVE CHECKING

Social media addiction is thought to affect around 3% of teenagers. The Office for National Statistics found that children who spend more than 3 hours a day on social media are more than twice as likely to report poor mental health. Furthermore, compulsive checking due to 'Fear Of Missing Out' has been linked to poor and disturbed sleep, as well as difficulty to relax during evenings. One in five young people say they wake up during the night to check messages on social media, leading them to be three times as more likely to feel constantly tired at school than their classmates who don't use social media during the night.

A SENSE OF BELONGING

Support can be found in various photo circles, sometimes this is known as "hooking your foot". Online platforms and groups can provide a wonderful sense of belonging for children. They can find peers with similar interests and circumstances which can sometimes be difficult to find in real-life. As a result, this can create stronger connections and help to build confidence.

CYBERBULLYING

One recent large-scale UK study showed that cyberbullying is one of the biggest challenges for young people. Other studies suggest that cyberbullying has a bigger effect on wellbeing and mental health than other types of bullying. 7 in 10 young people have experienced cyberbullying, with 25% of young people saying they experience cyberbullying on a high-frequency basis. Young people are twice as likely to be bullied on Facebook than on any other social network.

National Online Safety #WakeUpWednesday

Meet our expert
This guide has been written by Anna Bateman. Anna is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school, integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture and systems. She is also a member of the advisory group for the Department of Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.

HELPFUL APPS:

- Hub of Hope - <https://hubofhope.co.uk/>
- MindShift
- Smiling Mind

SOURCES OF HELP:

- Childline, 0800 1111 or visit their website
- Bullying UK, 0800 880222
- Young Minds Parents Line, 0800 882 5544

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @nationalonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

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Remember that all letters that are sent out are also available on the school website in a dedicated place for easy navigation. The link for this page is here: [Combe Pafford School - Letters to Parents](#)

I hope by the time this newsletter reaches you the rain has started to ease off, and we all enjoy some better weather for the weekend. We look forward to seeing the children again on Monday

My best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sally Banfield', written in a cursive style.

Sally Banfield
Headteacher



NOVEMBER 2025

- W/C 17th Year 11 Work Experience Week 1
- 18th Parents and Families Consultation (in person) 3.30pm
- 18th KS2 Swimming
- 20th Community Consultation with School Leadership Team (Teams) 5.00pm
- 21st Children in Need
- 21st Year 7 Swimming
- W/C 24th Year 11 Mock Week
- 25th KS2 Swimming
- 25th Community Consultation with Reps from the Local Authority (in person) 9.00am
- 28th Year 7 Swimming

DECEMBER 2025

- 1st Non Uniform Day (Bring Raffle Prizes and Donations for Christmas Fayre)
- 2nd Christmas Fayre from 3.30pm
- 3rd Riviera Brass Concert
- 10th Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch
- 10th Christmas Nativity at St Mary the Virgin Church, St Marychurch at 11.15am
- 11th Rocksteady Christmas Concert
- 12th Sixth Form Christmas Lunch at the Willow Tree
- 15th School Christmas Nativity
- 16th Christmas Panto at Princess Theatre
- 17th Silent Disco - Lower and Middle School – AM / Upper School - PM
- LAST DAY OF TERM

JANUARY 2026

- 5th INSET DAY
- 6th CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL