

Combe Pafford School



Sally Banfield
Headteacher

13th March 2026

Dear Parents and Families,

The term seems to be flying by, and it's been lovely to catch some glimpses of spring sunshine, however brief they may have been.

Our work with young people in school continues to be exciting, and we are delighted to see their achievements—both in the classroom and around the school—improving every day.

World Book Day

Our World Book Day celebration last week was a great success. Thank you to all of you who helped with costumes, props, and books for your children; your support helped to make the day truly special. One of the wonderful things about World Book Day is that it allows us to immerse the children in the world of reading and literature. We hope they came home with lots of stories and descriptions of their activities throughout the day.

Residentials

The first of our main residentials left today. Mr James, Mrs Mills and I are taking a group of Sixth Form students to Kenya for 11 days. During our visit, we will be supporting our partner school, The Imprezza Academy, by painting rooms and replacing windows in the children's dormitories. We're also hoping to fit in some wildlife spotting if we're lucky! Thanks to internet access, I'll remain in regular contact with the school, but in my absence, Mrs McVeigh will lead day-to-day operations at Combe Pafford.

After Easter, Mrs McVeigh will lead our next residential to Belgium for our Year 8 and 9 students. This promises to be another week full of rich experiences and excitement. If you have any questions about the Belgium trip—or any other visit—please contact the school office.

'Kids Online Safety' campaign

The UK government has launched the 'Kids Online Safety' campaign to help parents and carers support their children to navigate the digital world safely and confidently.

The campaign brings together practical, trusted guidance on how to start meaningful conversations about online life, understand the types of content children may encounter, and build critical thinking skills so young people can question what they see and make safer choices.

It also offers advice on using tools such as parental controls, recognising potential risks, and knowing where to seek help or report concerns. The overall aim is to make online safety an ongoing, open dialogue within families rather than a one-off conversation, helping children feel supported as they explore apps, games and social media.

You can find the resources here:

<https://kidsonlinesafety.campaign.gov.uk/>

Years 7 & 8 - Easter Service

We are excited to let you know that our annual Easter Service, for Year 7 and 8 pupils, will be taking place on Wednesday 1st April 2026 at 1.00pm at St Mary the Virgin Church, St Mary Church, Torquay. Please can all parents and family members arrive for a 1pm start.

Whilst on the subject of Easter, we will be an Easter Sale at school on Friday 20th March. Please see the poster below for details:



Turning Heads Saturday Club – Please see attached information in relation to the Turning Heads Saturday Club which starts on 14th March. Please contact Turning Heads directly if you are interested.

☀️ TURNING HEADS SATURDAY CLUB ☀️

Building Independence • Developing Skills • Creating Opportunities

Delivered by Turning Heads CIC

📅 Starting Saturday 14th March

🕒 10:00am – 2:00pm (Every Saturday)

📍 The Skills Centre
Lime Avenue
Torquay
TQ2 5JL

👥 Who Is It For?

This club is open to:

- ✓ Young people aged 13–19
- ✓ Those with an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP)
- ✓ Students in mainstream or special school
- ✓ Young people looking to build confidence and independence

We see this Saturday Club as a **progression step towards greater independence**, preparing young people for adulthood in a supportive and structured environment.

☀️ What To Expect

Each week follows a **specific theme of activities** and may include:

1. 🎨 Art-based activities
2. 💻 IT and technology opportunities
3. 🪚 Woodwork
4. 🍳 Cooking
5. 💆 Beauty and wellness
6. 🚶 Off-site volunteering and exploring

Sessions are designed to build practical skills, social confidence, and real-world experience.

👥 Staffing & Support

- Minimum of 4 experienced staff each session
- If your child has an **enabler**, they are welcome to attend to provide additional support where required

💰 Payment Options

Sessions can be funded through:

- ✓ Direct Payments
- ✓ Spot Purchasing (if your child is open to the SEND service in Torbay)
- ✓ Private payment (cost will vary depending on level of need)

✉️ For More Information & Sign-Up

Please contact:

Alan Tilley
✉️ admin@turningheads.org.uk
☎️ 07817 777739

Spaces are limited – early enquiry is recommended.



Tissues & Issues Table Top Sale - Please see below a post which has been shared from the Tissues & Issues Group regarding a table-top sale being held on 20th March.

TISSUES AND ISSUES CIC

Parent & Carer Support Group

TABLE TOP SALE

Friday 20th March
10:00am – 2:00pm

Everything for sale is donations unless otherwise stated.

Tea & Coffee – 50p
Cash, PayPal or Bank Transfer

23 Lucius Street, Torquay TQ2 5UW

Come along, grab a bargain, and support our
Parent & Carer Support Group

Keeping Children Safe Online - Please see the attached poster in relation to keeping your children safe whilst using AI. If you would like a printed copy of this poster, please let us know.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [thenationalcollege.com](https://www.thenationalcollege.com).

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING SAFE USE OF AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly woven into young people's digital lives. It can offer some educational benefits and day-to-day assistance; however, it also raises concerns about misinformation, privacy, fairness, and safety. This guide provides parents and educators with practical strategies to support young people to navigate AI tools responsibly, and to use them safely and with discernment.

- ### 1 DEMYSTIFY WHAT AI REALLY IS

Children encounter AI in most online places, including games, streaming platforms, and school tools. Explain that AI uses patterns from past data to make decisions, but it doesn't think or feel like humans. Use age-appropriate examples, like how recommendations on YouTube or Netflix work, to build understanding and prevent false beliefs about AI being all-knowing or alive.
- ### 2 TALK ABOUT RISKS OF MISINFORMATION

AI can create convincing false information, including deepfake videos, photos, and text. Encourage children to think critically about what they see and read. Teach them to double-check information using reliable sources, to look at images and videos carefully, and to ask an adult if something doesn't seem right.
- ### 3 DISCUSS DATA AND PRIVACY

Explain that AI systems learn by analysing lots of data, sometimes including personal information. Help young people to be mindful of what they share online and why protecting personal data matters. Model good habits like reading app permissions together or reviewing what's collected by voice assistants like Alexa or Siri.
- ### 4 ENCOURAGE CREATIVE USE OF AI

Support children, when using AI tools, to explore ideas, make art, or build projects. This fosters confidence, imagination, and independent thinking. When children use AI creatively, rather than just passively consuming it, they are more likely to stay engaged and make thoughtful choices.
- ### 5 USE AGE-APPROPRIATE AI TOOLS

Not all AI platforms are suitable for children. Choose tools designed for education or creativity, with clear safety policies. Review terms of use and privacy settings, and help children use them in age-appropriate ways. For example, some chatbot tools mimic conversation but should only be used with guidance and boundaries in place.
- ### 6 USE AI TOGETHER

Exploring AI tools together can help adults understand how they work and spot potential issues. Try co-writing a story with an AI writing assistant or experimenting with an AI art tool. This encourages curiosity, helps you stay informed about the latest AI tools, and allows you to reinforce safe and respectful use while modelling critical thinking.
- ### 7 SET BOUNDARIES FOR AI USE

Establish when, where, and how AI tools can be used, just as you would with any digital technology. For example, you might agree not to use AI tools to complete school assignments without permission, or to avoid unsupervised use of voice assistants. Consistent boundaries help manage screen and misuse.
- ### 8 WATCH FOR OVERRELIANCE

Some AI tools, like homework help apps, may be tempting shortcuts. Encourage children to use AI to support their thinking, not replace it. Celebrate effort and process over perfect answers. Reinforce that mistakes are part of learning and that relying too heavily on AI can limit real understanding.
- ### 9 TEACH DIGITAL ETHICS AND LITERACY

Help children explore how AI works, where it might be biased, and why ethical thinking matters. Building digital literacy alongside ethical awareness ensures children engage with AI critically, not just conveniently. Help young people to understand that not all people use AI for legitimate purposes; some use it for malicious reasons. Encourage questions about fairness, representation, and who benefits from certain tools; talk about algorithms, echo chambers, and the impact of automation on daily life.
- ### 10 STAY CURIOUS AND INVOLVED

AI is developing rapidly, and staying informed helps you support the young people in your care. Follow trusted sources for updates and keep the conversation going. If a child brings up a new AI trend or tool, take the opportunity to learn about it together. Showing interest builds trust and strengthens digital resilience.

Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

 @wake_up_weds

 /www.thenationalcollege

 @wake.up.wednesday

 @wake.up.weds

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Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

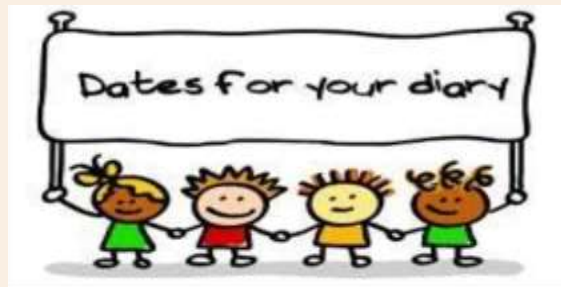
I hope you enjoy a relaxing weekend together.

Kindest regards

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

Sally Banfield

Headteacher



MARCH 2026

- 13th – 24th Residential to Kenya
- 16th Immunisations for Years 9, 10 & 11
- 17th KS2 Swimming
- 18th Sixth Form Swimming
- 20th Year 7 Swimming
- 20th Red Nose Day
- 24th KS2 Swimming
- 25th Sixth Form Swimming
- 27th Year 7 Swimming
- 30th – 2nd Work Experience for Year 10
- 31st KS2 Swimming

APRIL 2026

- 1st Easter Service at St Mary the Virgin Church, St Marychurch at 1.00pm
- 1st Sixth Form Swimming
- 2nd Rocksteady Concert
- 2nd **Last Day of Term**
- 20th & 21st **INSET DAYS FOR STUDENTS**
- 22nd **Students welcomed back to school**
- 24th Year 7 Swimming
- 28th – 1st Year 8 & 9 Belgium Residential
- 28th KS2 Swimming