

Combe Pafford School



Sally Banfield

Headteacher

27th March 2026

Dear Parents and Families,

It is almost impossible to believe that we have reached the end of term. The past 12 weeks, in many ways, have flown by and so much wonderful work and achievements have been made by our young people.

There is a huge amount of detail in the newsletter that you will have received, and I hope you enjoy reading this and enjoy all the articles and pictures.

Years 7 & 8 - Easter Service

I was very disappointed to miss this yesterday but have heard from several staff what a wonderful event it was for our community. Thank you to all the staff for their support in preparing such a super performance and to all of you who were able to come and watch it in the church.

Upcoming Residential

Following the first residential to Kenya, the rest of our year groups have their residential to look forward to in the summer term. The first of these is for Year 8 and 9 who will be leaving on 28th April.

Residential are a very exciting time for all our young people, whether they are traveling away or staying in Torbay for day trips. Can we ask that parents and families check their email boxes for all the information they need.

Start of term dates

Please remember that the summer starts, for students, on **Wednesday 22nd April**. We look forward to welcoming the children back on this day.

New Parent Trustee

As you will know, I recently sent out information about recruiting a new parent Trustee. I am delighted to inform you all that Mrs Victoria Price-John has been elected as the new parent Trustee moving forward.

Communication over the holidays

Please continue to use CP emails over the holiday period for any communications you need to make. Please be advised though that the response time to this won't be as quick as it is in term time. It is important that all staff can have a good break from work and come back refreshed. All non-urgent messages will be answered by staff from 20th April, when we return.

Staff Updates

Miss Moore, Phase Leader for Lower and Middle school is leaving us today to begin her maternity leave. We wish Miss Moore all our best wishes for the holidays and will wait, excitedly, for news!

Mrs Evans has just returned from maternity leave as our Art teacher. It is lovely to have her back in school.

I would like to thank all our staff for their continued hard work and dedication in school. Combe Pafford is a wonderful place, and this is only true because of the fantastic staffing team that we have.

The 'Walking Headteacher'

On a personal note, I would like to let you know about 2 charity walks that I am completing in the next couple of months. First, at the end of the holidays, there is a 50km ultra challenge walk. The second is in May and is a continuous 100km walking challenge.

The 50km takes about 12 hours of walking and the 100km (a challenge I haven't ever attempted) should take about 33 hours of continuous walking.

I am walking to raise money for the Motor Neurone Foundation. MND is a terrible disease that, without a cure, leaves little hope for people who are diagnosed. It has touched former colleagues of mine, our Combe Pafford Community, and the rugby community across the country. Many of you know that my daughter plays rugby and I am also a coach, so MND seemed like a very good charity for me to try and help.

If anyone would like to contribute to the MND association and would like to do this via my Just Giving page, the link is below. Hopefully one day it will help find a cure to help the MND community.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/sally-banfield-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/sally-banfield-1#sharePage>

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Our working partnership with you all only strengthens and supports our work with the students. Everyone working together makes our community stronger and I am always grateful for your feedback, engagement and support for the school.

I hope you enjoy a wonderful Easter break with your families and loved ones. Hoping the sun makes an appearance whether you are in Torbay or further afield.

Kindest regards

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

Sally Banfield
Headteacher

Disability Football Holiday Club

Please see below a Disability Football Holiday Club which has been set up by Select Soccer. If you are interested in signing up for this, please contact the club direct.

SELECT SOCCER
Est. 2007

DISABILITY FOOTBALL HOLIDAY CLUB

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

WE ARE THRILLED TO INTRODUCE OUR DISABILITY FOOTBALL HOLIDAY CLUB! DESIGNED TO BE ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL ABILITIES, OUR SESSIONS FOCUS ON PROVIDING A SUPPORTIVE AND INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT WHERE EVERY PLAYER CAN SHINE. TO ENSURE EVERYONE GETS THE MOST OUT OF THE DAY, JUNIOR AND SENIOR PLAYERS WILL BE GROUPED SEPARATELY INTO AGE-APPROPRIATE SESSIONS.

JOIN US FOR 2 HOURS OF ACTION-PACKED, ENGAGING MINI GAMES THAT GUARANTEE BIG SMILES AND NEW SKILLS. WHETHER YOU ARE AN EXPERIENCED PLAYER OR TRYING FOOTBALL FOR THE FIRST TIME, OUR GOAL IS TO KEEP THINGS FUN AND ACTIVE!

WITH A JAM-PACKED SCHEDULE OF GAMES AND EVENTS PLANNED, PLEASE CONTACT A MEMBER OF THE TEAM TO BOOK YOUR PLACE.

MONDAY 13th APRIL 5 - 11 YEARS OLD | 10:00 - 12:00
11 - 16 YEARS OLD | 13:00 - 15:00

COMBE PAFFORD SCHOOL
STEPS LANE, TORQUAY TQ2 8NL

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL

CALL - WHATSAPP - TEXT 07966 055740
INFO@SELECTSOCCER.CO.UK
WWW.SELECTSOCCER.CO.UK

The Big Bash Event 2026

Last year they welcomed over 300 people with learning disabilities, their families, Carers and over 50 different organisations. This inspirational community event promotes Being Active Safe and Healthy and is a fun, informative day for everyone.

If you would like to be part of this amazing opportunity, please contact Devon Link Up on 07808 053992 and they will reserve a place.



It's back!



The Big Bash event 2026



Torbay Leisure Centre. Paignton.TQ4 5JR



Tuesday 16th June

10 - 2pm



**For people with learning disabilities,
Carers, family and friends.**



Free Entry!



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 [nationalcollege.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 fake 'facts'. 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 analyzing 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 overuse 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. Realize 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. Sharing interest builds trust and strengthens digital resilience.

Meet Our Expert

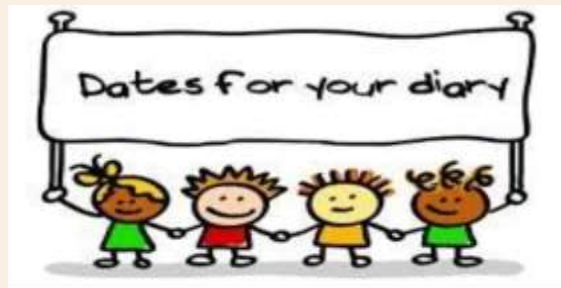
Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforce and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture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

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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APRIL 2026

- 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

MAY 2026

- 1st Year 7 Swimming
- 4th **BANK HOLIDAY**
- 5th KS2 Swimming
- 8th Year 7 Swimming
- 8th Ten Tors
- 11th In School Residential Week
- 11th – 13th KS2 Bideford Activity Centre Residential
- 11th – 15th Year 7 Llain Activity Centre Wales Residential
- 13th HPV Immunisations for Years 8, 9, 10 and 11
- 14th GCSE Maths Paper 1
- 18th GCSE Chemistry Paper 1
- 19th KS2 Swimming
- 21st GCSE English Literature Paper 1
- **21st Last day of Term**
- **22nd INSET DAY FOR STUDENTS**
- **1st Students welcomed back to school**