

Combe Pafford School



Sally Banfield

Headteacher

24th April 2026

Dear Parents and Families,

I hope you all enjoyed a restful and happy Easter break, spending time with family and friends and making the most of the spring sunshine. It has been wonderful to see smiling faces return to school, and we are really looking forward to an exciting half term ahead filled with learning, challenges, and achievements.

It is with great sadness that I need to share the news that Mrs Cheakley, a teaching assistant at Combe Pafford for the past 14 years, has passed away following a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Mrs Cheakley was a wonderfully enthusiastic member of our school community who truly loved working at Combe Pafford and supporting our young people. Although I was never privileged to work closely with her, on the occasions we met she spoke passionately about how much she loved and missed the children she worked with. That passion, care and commitment epitomised Mrs Cheakley throughout her career at our school.

The warmth and kindness she showed to others were returned to her many times over, and she will be deeply missed by both children and staff alike.

We send our heartfelt thoughts and condolences to her family and friends at this very sad time.

Ten Tors

The annual 10 Tors challenge takes place over the weekend of the 8th and 9th of May. Our participants have been practicing hard and have already completed a number of practices walks on Dartmoor in preparation. Fingers crossed the weather is kind to us on the weekend.

Upcoming Residentials

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

Residentials 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.

Staff Updates

Miss Moore and Mr James welcomed the new addition to their family during the Easter break. Sonny Arthur is the new member of the Combe Pafford family and we can't wait to meet him soon.

Mrs Evans has also returned from maternity leave as our Art teacher. It is lovely to have her back with us.

We have a very short half term before we break up again on Thursday 21st May. Please don't forget the Bank Holiday on 4th May and the extra inset day on 22nd May.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school community. We value the strong partnership between home and school and appreciate all that you do to help our children flourish. We look forward to a positive and successful half term ahead.

Kindest regards

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

Sally Banfield
Headteacher

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!

NHS CARE

local mencap Torbay

Devon Link Up

Torbay Learning Disability Partnership

Free Courses from Shekinah Endeavour House Learning Exchange

Please find attached a link to a brochure containing the information relating to free courses available to all parents and carers who may be interested.

<https://www.combepaffordschool.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=951&type=pdf>

Tissues & Issues Parent and Carer Support Group

Please find attached a new service which is now available from Tissues & Issues. Should you have any queries in relation to this, please contact Ann Earl on 07928 743348.



TISSUES AND ISSUES CIC

Parent & Carer Support Group

**61 Market Street,
Torquay, TQ1 3AW**

Opening Hours:
Monday - Friday, 10am - 2pm

Drop in for coffee & a chat!

Drop in for coffee & a chat
Appointments available for assistance with forms and advice. Please contact Ann through our Facebook page.

- ♥ We offer support, advocacy & guidance for parents & carers of children with additional needs.
- ✓ Help with completing forms & accessing services
- ✓ Advice & support with school, EHCP, & health appointments
- ✓ Outreach visits for those who can't travel to our office

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.

All The National College, our WakeUpWednesday public engagement group and early 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 well-being, and climate change. Turnkey delivered by National Crime Agency. These guides now address cyber topics and themes. For further guides, tips and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI-GENERATED VIDEOS

AI-generated videos are increasingly difficult to spot and easy to share. From fake news clips to deepfake abuse, children and young people face new risks every day online. These videos can imitate real people, spread false narratives or even generate harmful content from scratch. Understanding these dangers is crucial for schools and families who want to protect children in a fast-evolving digital world.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

DEEPAKE ABUSE CONTENT

Increasingly, artificial intelligence is being used to create deepfake content, which is a realistic but false image or video of a person. These deepfake images and videos are often used to spread false information, including fake news, fake social media posts, and fake news stories. Deepfakes can be used to spread false information, including fake news, fake social media posts, and fake news stories. Deepfakes can be used to spread false information, including fake news, fake social media posts, and fake news stories.

EMOTIONAL MANIPULATION

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DISINFORMATION

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IMPERSONATION AND SCAMS

With just a few photos or video clips, AI is now able to create a realistic impression of a person. This makes it easier for scammers to impersonate real people and trick them into giving up their money or other personal information. Deepfakes can be used to spread false information, including fake news, fake social media posts, and fake news stories.

BLURRED REALITY

Regular exposure to false content can make it difficult for children to tell the truth from the lies. Everything can be false, so it's important to teach children to be critical of what they see online. Deepfakes can be used to spread false information, including fake news, fake social media posts, and fake news stories.

USED FOR BULLYING

Deepfake technology is already being used by people to create and spread false information. These false images and videos can be used to spread false information, including fake news, fake social media posts, and fake news stories. Deepfakes can be used to spread false information, including fake news, fake social media posts, and fake news stories.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TEACH HOW IT WORKS

Explain to children that videos can be faked – and show them how. Demonstrating state-of-the-art examples of how AI-generated clips might be used to spread false information, including fake news, fake social media posts, and fake news stories. Deepfakes can be used to spread false information, including fake news, fake social media posts, and fake news stories.

TALK ABOUT TRUST

Always keep lines of communication open. If a child sees something suspicious or uncomfortable, they should feel safe discussing it without judgement. Create an environment where they know they will not get in trouble for asking questions. This also helps you flag up quickly if harmful content has been shared about in what and needs to be removed.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL QUESTIONS

Help children question what they watch. Who made this? Why was it made? Is it trying to persuade me? Does it look like a real video? Encourage children to be critical of what they see online. Deepfakes can be used to spread false information, including fake news, fake social media posts, and fake news stories.

STRENGTHEN PRIVACY SETTINGS

Advise children not to share their name, address or personal details on public platforms. AI tools often scrape content from social media to create deepfakes. You should control the limit who can see their content and how often their content is shared. Please publicise changes to your privacy settings for updates.

Meet Our Expert

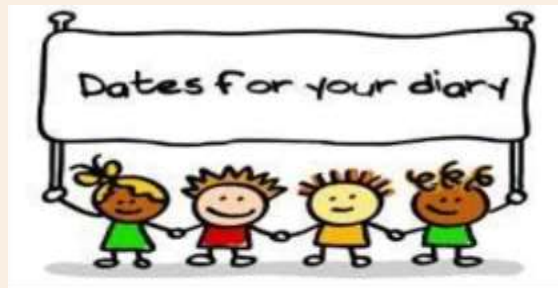
Brendan O'Leary is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and as adviser to the DfE at Ofsted, he specialises in digital safety, SEND, and pastoral care.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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APRIL 2026

- 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
- 5th GCSE Art (Day 1)
- 7th GCSE Art (Day 2)
- 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**