



Sally Banfield

Headteacher

21st May 2026

Dear Parents and Families,

In Mrs Banfield's absence, instead of receiving a Head Teacher's Newsletter, today's letter is being temporarily rebranded as a "Letter from the Deputy Head Teacher". As we come to the end of another busy and successful term, the whole Senior Leadership Team and I would like to take this moment to thank you for your continued support. The children and young people have worked incredibly hard and made us all very proud. With half-term fast approaching, we hope you and your families are able to enjoy a well-earned break.

Residential and In- School Activities

Children recently enjoyed two residential trips. KS2 visiting Bideford and Year 7 heading to Wales; with the in-school groups having similar experiences a little closer to home. They all seem to have had a wonderful time and have made both Combe Pafford and their families proud. All students were extremely well behaved, despite being challenged at times outside of their comfort zone, which is exactly what our school enrichment programme is all about. If you haven't followed us already, please do check out our Combe Pafford Facebook page which has shared and will continue to share some truly amazing photos of a whole range of activities and experiences. These have been real moments to treasure.

GCSE's

Please see the dates for your diary page at the end of this letter for a full list of GCSE's due to take place in the coming weeks. We wish all our Year 11, 12 and 13 students the very best of luck with their external exams. Though we're only part way through, I am so proud to say that our students are really excelling in their approach to the exam season, which includes end-of-course assessments for entry levels and other qualifications. Students continue to show such resilience and maturity.

Extra Inset Day on 22nd May

A gentle reminder that the children and young people break up today due to the extra inset day on 22nd May. We welcome our students back to school on Monday 1st June.

We wish you a lovely, relaxing time and hope the weather is kind so everyone can make the most of the week ahead.

Kindest regards

Rachel Calandro

Rachel Calandro
Deputy Headteacher

Torbay FACT Support Group

Running Mondays from 1st June, this group is for families to access support with their finances and plan for them to move forward. They are aware of how helpful food support is over the holidays but want to get to the root of people's issues and try to find a solution for them moving forward. They understand that each family's situation is very different, and there may not be a quick fix, but with the help of budgeting advice and possibly debt management, they can hopefully make a difference. Please feel free to contact them on the email below for more information.

anna@turningheads.org.uk



Every Monday

9.30am until 3pm

FAMILY HUB






• **FREE FRIENDLY** •
• **SAFE SPACE** •
• • • •




1B PARKFIELD ROAD, TORQUAY •
• • • •

Support with budgeting and organising your finances, food support, debt advice, housing and council tax support.

www.turningheads.org.uk – contact anna@turningheads.org.uk

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.nationalcollege.com).

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) SOLUTIONS

AI solutions are trained on a large dataset of text to learn patterns and relationships in the data and generate text, images, sound or even video based on the data they are trained on. As such, users can ask a question, provide a prompt or provide other source material, and the AI solution will then provide a response.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ACCURACY

AI language models such as ChatGPT, generate their responses based on the data they have been trained on. This is often drawn from the internet and therefore may include incorrect facts, leading to responses which contain errors and inaccuracies.

BIAS

AI language models, including ChatGPT, can perpetuate existing biases present in the data they were trained on. This could lead to biased responses and the reinforcement of stereotypes.

SENSE

AI solutions do not have the ability to understand the context or meaning behind a question or prompt. This could result in inaccurate or irrelevant or even non-sensical responses, whether that be in text, image or other responses.

ACCOUNTABILITY

AI solutions do not have the ability to take responsibility for the responses they generate. This could cause confusion or misunderstandings in language models if the AI's responses are taken as fact and the truth. With generative AIs that create images, it can lead to output derived from other people's content but without any attribution of the source artist's work.

LACK OF CREATIVITY

AI solutions are not capable of independent thought and rely on the data they were trained on. This may potentially produce a lack of creative thinking and problem-solving abilities if students come to be heavily reliant on AI solutions.

Advice for Parents & Carers

A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Empower children and young people to use the various AI models in a safe environment and with appropriate content filtering/supervision, and to raise any concerns or questions as they arise.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

Encourage children to use AI solutions as tools to help them research and learn, but remind them to not take the model's responses as the truth. Emphasise that they should question, verify and think critically about the information they receive.

DISCUSS BIAS

Discuss with children the potential biases that may be present in the responses generated by AI language models and encourage them not to simply accept the responses that it gives them at face value.

MONITOR USAGE

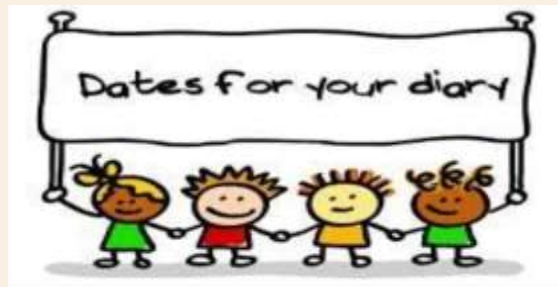
It is important for parents to monitor their children's usage of AI solutions (as with technology use in general) to ensure that they are utilising it responsibly and to provide opportunities to discuss its use, if needed.

ENCOURAGE HUMAN INTERACTION

Help children learn how to use AIs in conjunction with other resources, such as books and the internet, but also humans such as teachers, relatives and friends. Emphasise the importance of human interaction as part of life and as part of learning.

SCHOOL GUIDANCE

Be aware of school rules or other guidance in relation to the use of AI solutions in relation to a child's education and discuss appropriate and inappropriate with young people accordingly.



MAY 2026

- **21st May** **Last day of Term**
- **22nd May** **INSET DAY FOR STUDENTS**

JUNE 2026

- **1st June** **Students welcomed back to school**
- **2nd June** GCSE Statistics Paper 1
- **2nd June** KS2 Swimming
- **3rd June** GCSE Maths Paper 2
- **5th June** GCSE English Paper 2
- **5th June** Year 7 Swimming
- **9th June** KS2 Swimming
- **10th June** GCSE Maths Paper 3
- **12th June** GCSE Chemistry Paper 2
- **12th June** GCSE Statistics Paper 2
- **12th June** Year 7 Swimming
- **16th June** KS2 Swimming
- **19th June** Year 7 Swimming
- **22nd June** Paris Residential – Years 10 & 11
- **23rd June** KS2 Swimming
- **24th June** Gran Canaria Residential – Sixth Form
- **26th June** Year 7 Swimming
- **30th June** KS2 Swimming
- **30th June** Meet the Head and Parents Evening