



# Honiton Community College

[www.honitoncollege.com](http://www.honitoncollege.com)

## NEWSLETTER

Thursday 23rd September 2021

### So good to be back!



Mr Glenn Smith  
Principal

It's a welcome return to nearer normal times and we are all glad about that! Personally, I am very excited about the return of clubs and other enrichment activities, as well as the return of the extremely popular Activities Week (more about that soon). Please check the enrichment programme and encourage your son/daughter to participate in one of the many opportunities on offer - all this has been so greatly missed over the last 18 months and it is great for both our physical and mental health, as well as our community spirit.

#### Testing times...

We've had an amazingly positive response to the asymptomatic testing we were asked to implement over the first two weeks of the Autumn term. The students were so mature in their approach. Please continue to take two asymptomatic tests (LFD) per week at home. Thank you.

#### Universal vaccination of 12 to 15 year old students against COVID-19

You will no doubt have heard of the government's decision to offer 12-15 year old students their first dose of the Covid-19 vaccination. Like all school-based vaccination programmes, the vaccines will be administered by healthcare staff working closely with the school and following the usual approach to school-based immunisation.

Our School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS) team, Virgin Care, has been asked to work with schools in the area to plan for the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccinations for 12 to 15 year olds. The SAIS will be the primary provider of the vaccination programme for healthy 12 to 15 year olds and will be legally responsible for the delivery of the vaccine.

For those aged 12 to 15 years consent will be sought by the SAIS provider from the parent or person with parental responsibility in the same way as for any other school vaccination programme. A consent form and information leaflet provided by the SAIS team will be used to seek parental consent. Parents will also be provided with a contact number for the SAIS team in case of any queries.

We have not been given any further details from our SAIS at this time, but I will let you have them as soon as I have.

#### Year Seven 'Meet the Teacher' evening

Next Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> September, Year 7 parents/carers are invited into college, with their child/ren, to meet their teachers and find out how they have been getting on so far. Though this is not a 1-2-1 chat with all of your child's teachers (that's the purpose of the Progress Evening) it is a great opportunity to get to know each other and to gain an insight into what is being learnt and will be learnt going forward.

### Important dates for your diary

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September**  
is a normal college day

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021**  
Year 6 Open Evening/Tours  
(for prospective new students) 5-7pm

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021**  
Year 7 Meet the Teachers 5-6.30pm

**HALF TERM**  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021**  
Sixth Form Open Evening  
(for current year 11) 5-7pm

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021**  
HCC Information Evening 5.30 – 7pm

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021**  
Yr10 Progress Evening 3.45 – 7pm

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021**  
HCC Carol Service at St Paul's 7 – 8pm

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021**  
Non-Pupil Day

**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS**  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December  
to  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022

## College Governors

Our governors are an essential part of our community. Their involvement ensures we provide the best educational experience possible for every student.

Currently, we have:

**3 Parent Governor vacancies (adverts will be out soon)**

**2 Appointed Governor vacancies (a background in education or finance would be perfect)**

Governors will be at the upcoming Year 5/6 and Year 7 evenings to speak to anyone who may be interested. If you are already keen to find out more about the role and think you could contribute to our successes (and to support us to make further improvements) then please contact Sarah Matthews at [smatthews@honitoncollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto:smatthews@honitoncollege.devon.sch.uk).

## Progress Evenings

As a result of the overwhelming success of the virtual evenings, run since the start of the pandemic, we have decided to stick with the online format. Feedback on the format has been extremely positive; a much calmer process, appointments running to schedule with no wasted time waiting in queues, conversations are more focussed on what needs to be done to improve, maintain current progress levels and succeed.

Our college calendar (on the website) will give you advanced notice of each cohorts Progress Evening but fear not, information will be emailed to you with a reminder nearer the actual date.

I would like to point out that there will always be the opportunity to make an appointment to come in and speak to relevant staff, here in the college, should the need arise.

## College term dates and public holidays

This academic year we have all been given an additional public holiday to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. To see when this is being celebrated and for all other important dates for your diary then please visit our website for [term dates](#), as well as our [college calendar](#); where you will find all the detail you need to make sure your child/children are prepared for each school day.

**Please note that Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September is a normal college day.**



## Enhancement and Extra Curricular Programme

### Autumn Term 2021



Follow the link to the extra-curricular activities running at the College this Autumn term and to external clubs. Take this opportunity to get active, get creative or to try something new. There are some brand new clubs on offer, please read the list carefully.

**<https://www.honitoncollege.com/clubs-enrichment>**

◆ See the member of staff in charge of any activity you are interested in for more details

**GOLD**  
EXPEDITIONS



Six of our Sixth Form students completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh expedition over the summer holidays. Our students have experienced all extremes of weather during their training, from weather warnings of heat and blistering sunshine to torrential rain.

However, the great British weather prevailed for their final assessed expedition which took place across Dartmoor. Starting at Meldon Reservoir in the early hours of the morning, the team began their four day hike with the aim of studying the signs and impact of man's work whilst travelling through Dartmoor.



Our gold team covered vast distances across the hilly landscape of Dartmoor whilst carrying everything they needed in their rucksacks, including food, sleeping bags, tents and cooking stoves.

On the final day, our students reached their final destination – Burrator Reservoir. All the students embraced the challenge, learned key skills and demonstrated many qualities such as leadership, resilience and teamwork. The Gold students will now complete their remaining sections of their award and we look forward to a trip to Buckingham Palace upon completion to celebrate their award. A fantastic achievement – well done!

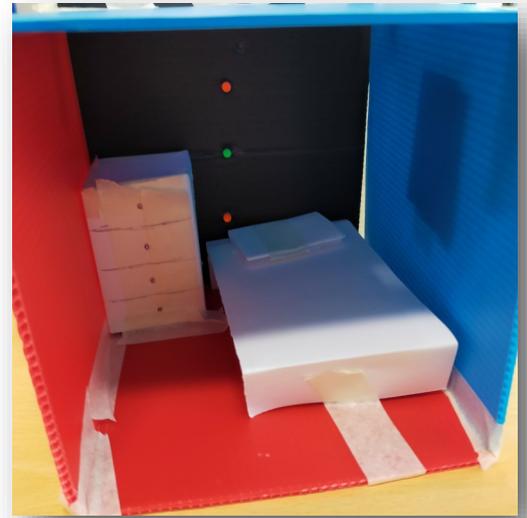
## THE FARADAY CHALLENGE



On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September we were fortunate enough to have Kiera and Phil (see photo) from the Faraday Challenge come in and work with a group of Year 8 students. The students were given a brief to design something that would make a hospital stay more pleasant for either patients or their family.

Lots of great ideas were presented, including moving beds and mood lighting. The winning idea was by Team 3 (**William Norris, William Parris, Sophia Rose, Maci Small, Oliver Smith and Max Spiller**) who went for bed lights to show if the patient wanted to be left alone or not. Their model is shown in the photo.

The winning team won £10 voucher each and the possibility of going to the final at the end of the school year.



*Dr J Murch, Science Department*

## Sports Academy students back in action!

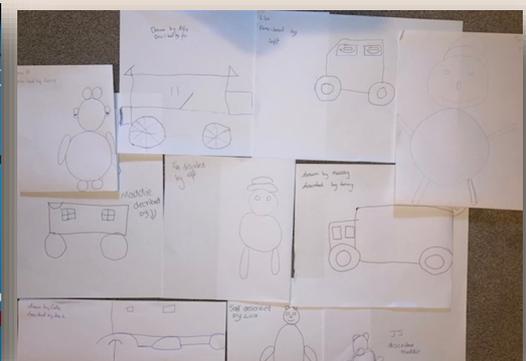
This week saw the return of Sports Academy sessions for both the Sixth Form and for Years 10 and 11. Sixth Form strength and conditioning sessions started again on Monday afternoon, with the new Year 12 members enjoying an hours workout in the fitness suite as they got to grips with the cardio and weights available in this superb facility. Also underway this week was the group of students from Years 10 and 11 that aren't involved in rugby or football. This group worked at Friday lunchtime completing individual training programmes under the expert tutelage of Mr Leach! Unfortunately my first sports academy session for rugby had to be postponed for a week as I have been out of action due to a back injury. This injury was sustained during a match for Tiverton against.....you've guessed it – Honiton! This was a stark reminder that age catches up with us all as, not only did I sustain a significant injury, but I was also playing against 5 ex-students (and one of my tutees' dads!) photographed in the picture.



## Sports Academy Workshop – Devon Virtual Games (Team Building)

The new Year 9, level 2 and 3 Sports Academy students experienced their first workshop on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, focussing on team building. The students had the opportunity to experience several team building tasks focussed on communication skills (both careful listening and giving concise instructions), effective leadership, the importance of knowing the strengths in your team and problem solving.

Our ice breaker was a drawing task where one person describes an object to their partner, sometimes with humorous results (see images below). The purpose was to think before giving instructions. We summarised this task by linking communication skills to a match situation where the team is under pressure and needs to be given clear guidance.



We then added a competitive element by trying the “Bank to Bank” task where students had to cross the obligatory “crocodile infested river” which is in the gym! They were able to do this by using the crocodile proof floats, which looked remarkably like pieces of paper! This task was based around agreeing on a plan, identifying leaders within a group and group cohesion. On summarising, we agreed that sharing best practice or “borrowing” ideas that are successful is an important part of completing tasks.



We continued along the same lines with the human knot and the hoop game. Our competitive element was to work together against the clock. The students developed an incredible technique to get the hoop around which looked somewhere between the Mexican wave and robotic dance moves – quite a sight!



The final task was again performed in treacherous conditions! This time the students had to remove a bucket of radioactive isotopes from the middle of the gym out of the radioactive zone. They had a few tools at their disposal to help them but had to work very hard to keep the rest of the College safe! Unfortunately, they were unsuccessful, and the isotopes spilt all over the gym.



*Mr T Skelding, Sports Academy Coordinator*

## FOOD & NUTRITION

**If your child, in Years 7 to 10, currently has Food and Nutrition on their timetable this information will apply now. If they have Design Technology this information will apply after February half term when they rotate to Food and Nutrition**

Should you wish to know what your child will be cooking in their food lessons, all information will now be on Classcharts the week before they cook. This will include a list of ingredients for those that choose to bring in their own ingredients.

Can we also take this opportunity to remind you to send your child in with a named container to bring home anything they cook in the lesson.

**Any queries relating to Food & Nutrition lessons please email our Food & Nutrition Teacher, Mr Nick Snowdon at [nsnowdon@honitoncollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto:nsnowdon@honitoncollege.devon.sch.uk)**

