

Newsletter

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24th October 2025

Dear Parents and carers,

As we reach the end of the first half term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a fantastic start to the academic year. Our three pillars of success, **Ambition, Community** and **Culture**, continue to shine through in our daily interactions and the achievements of our students.

I am immensely proud to share that our 2024/25 GCSE outcomes have been published and reflect the hard work, dedication and commitment of our students and staff. Our results, Attainment 8 and Strong basics and other measures, outperform both national and local averages for similar schools, which is a testament to the high standards and aspirations that define our community. This reinforces what we already know: students thrive when they are part of Coombe Wood School. Beyond the classroom, our students continue to excel in a wide range of activities including sports, trips and educational visits. These experiences are central to our mission of developing the whole child, nurturing not only academic success but also confidence, resilience and character.

We are also delighted to announce that the school reviewed the Healthy Relationships Award in recognition of our work with Tender UK. This achievement highlights our ongoing commitment to fostering respect, understanding and wellbeing among all members of our school community.

The House Race marked a wonderful end to the half term, celebrating our proud school traditions and the enthusiasm of our new Year 7 cohort, who have made an excellent start to their journey with us.

Looking ahead, the next half term will bring an important period of mock exam preparation for our GCSE and A Level students. I cannot stress enough the importance of excellent attendance, as term time holidays cannot be authorised. Attending school every day provides one of the most important foundations for every child's success. It supports strong academic progress, builds confidence and enables students to fully enjoy and benefit from the wide range of opportunities available to them.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the Home School Agreement and for the vital role you play in our shared success. Our partnership, your continued trust and partnership, remain at the heart of what makes this our community so special.

I wish you all a safe, restful and enjoyable half term break.

Kind regards

Headteacher

Clocks Fall Back This Weekend

Just a gentle reminder that the clocks will go back by one hour this Sunday, officially marking the end of British Summertime.

When we return after the half term, whilst this should mean that the mornings remain a little lighter, unfortunately as we move further into November/December the journey home will be darker and the temperatures will drop.

Please use the half term break to ensure that your child has weather appropriate clothing, and if they cycle to school, that the lights on the bikes are working sufficiently so that they are visible to other road users.

Sixth Form Open Evening - 13th November 2025

This event will be held in two sessions on that day: at 5:00 PM and 6:30 PM. Please see the below schedule for the door opening and closing times for each session. Students must be accompanied by a parent to attend.

Please use the following link to sign up [Sixth Form Open Evening Sign In Sheet](#)

For those attending the 5:00 PM session:

- Doors open at 5:00 PM and close promptly at 5:30 PM.
- The Head of Sixth Form speech will begin at 5:45 PM.

For those attending the 6:30 PM session:

- Doors open at 6:30 PM and close promptly at 7:00 PM.
- The Head of Sixth Form speech will begin at 7:15 PM.

Please note: After the doors close at 5:30 PM, they will reopen only at 6:30 PM and close again at 7:00 PM.

Sixth Form Applications for 2026

Dear Year 11 Parents and Guardians,

All Year 11 students have been sent an application link, along with their username and password, to their school email accounts in order to apply for the Sixth Form.

Please encourage your child to complete the application from as soon as possible. The deadline for submission is the 10th February 2026.

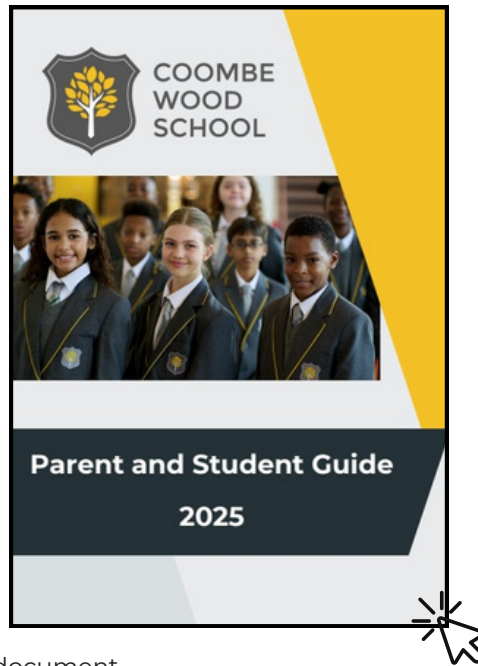
Kind regards



Assistant Headteacher/Head of Sixth Form

New Parent and Student Guide for 2025

We are delighted to announce the launch of our new Parent and Student Guide for 2025. The aim of this document is to help you by having all our key information available in one place.



Please take a moment to review the document

Kind regards

Mr Vass

Deputy Headteacher - Pastoral

Parent / Carer Survey 2025

We value your views!

Please take a moment to complete this short survey. Your feedback helps us to improve the experience and outcomes for all students at Coombe Wood School.

All responses are confidential and will be used to support school improvement.

The survey will close on Friday 14th November.

Many thanks

Mr Smith



Safeguarding Bulletin

Please find below my Safeguarding update for October 2025

I hope that you find it informative.

Kind Regards

Mr Weir

Assistant Headteacher-Safeguarding / DSL



New Year 7 Admissions for September 2026 Entry - Sibling Criteria Update

New Year 7 Admissions for September 2026 Entry - Sibling criteria

This is a reminder that if you have a younger child in year 6, the deadline to apply for year 7 is **31 October 2025**, and you must also make sure you tick the sibling criteria on the Croydon Council CAF form. This will then be checked and verified by Croydon Council and Coombe Wood School.

Coombe Wood Admissions Arrangements information concerning Siblings

Priority for students who will have a sibling at the school at the time of admission.

Your current child would therefore be already in Year 7-11 or Year 12 in the Sixth Form.

Sibling refers to: brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, foster brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent's partner, as well as children who are brought together as a family by a same-sex civil partnership. Cousins do not count as siblings

In every case, the child must be living in the same family unit at the same address, Monday to Friday, at the time of the application.

Link to how to apply through Croydon Council [here](#)



Any applications submitted after this date will be treated as a late application and will not be considered until after all those applications that were received on time.

Many thanks

Ms Marks

Admissions Manager

Key Stage 3 - Curriculum Booklets

We are pleased to share with you the KS3 Curriculum Booklets for Years 7, 8, and 9. These booklets have been designed to guide you through the curriculum your child will be following over the academic year. They outline the key topics for each subject, providing a clear overview of what your child will be studying.

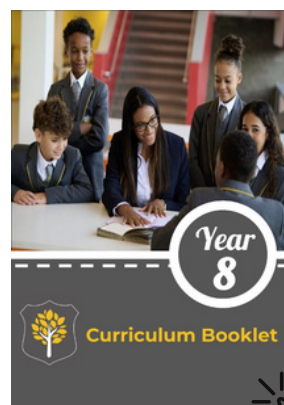
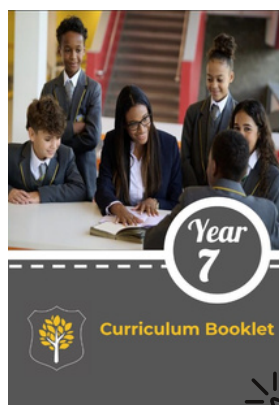
The booklets also offer insight into how you can support your child at home. Whether it's helping with homework, discussing key topics, or encouraging wider reading, understanding the curriculum can make a real difference in supporting your child's progress and confidence.

We've also included some optional tasks and activities that your child may wish to explore further, perfect for extending their learning and challenging themselves beyond the classroom. We hope you find this resource helpful.

Kind regards,



Head of KS3



Curriculum Enhancement Day - 13th November 2025

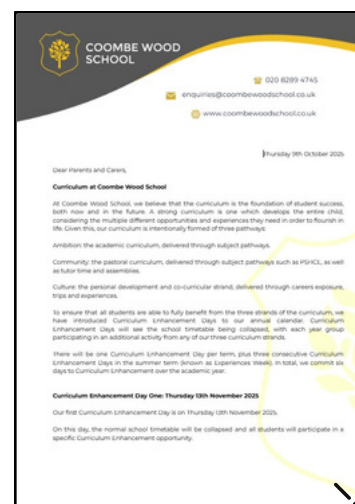
Please take a moment to ensure that you have read this letter, recently sent home.

It contains crucial information regarding our first Curriculum Enhancement Day, which will be on **November 13th 2025**.

Many thanks



Deputy Headteacher - Curriculum



Mock Examination Window - Year 10, 11 and 13

Year 10, Year 11 and Year 13 students will begin their mock examination period as soon we return from half term break.

Students who are sitting exams have attended assemblies outlining expectation and conduct during this period. We recently sent a letter home reminding everyone of these expectations.

For reference, the mock examination timetable is below.



We wish all students sitting mock exams the best of luck, and thank families for their ongoing support during this time.

Many thanks



Deputy Headteacher - Curriculum

Our Melville Neighbours

Please remember to be considerate of our neighbours in Melville Avenue and the surrounding roads when dropping off or collecting your child.

We would be grateful if you would avoid parking over their drives or idling for extended periods of time whilst waiting for your child.

Many thanks

Communications Update - Bromcom/MCAS

Please note that we no longer use SIMS at Coombe Wood School. **Bromcom** is our chosen platform and works hand in hand with **My Child At School (MCAS)**

We will use MCAS for all communication regarding behaviour, achievements, and detentions. Parents and carers should already have access to this platform, however please do not hesitate to contact the school office team if you are experiencing any issues.

This change will streamline communication, ensuring more consistent and centralised updates for all families. Please take a moment to check all your details are correct on MCAS.

This Newsletter will be sent out Bi-weekly on a Friday to all parents and carers. The next edition will be sent on **Friday 14th November 2025.**

Sports Results

Cross Country

Well done to all students who represented the school so well in the Croydon competition last week.

A special mention to Teddy E (Y13) & Charlie C (Y11) who came away with medals.



Football

Y8 Boys Football team drew to St Josephs last week in the league

Y7/8 Girls Football team beat Woodcote 1-0 in the league.



Netball

Year 9 and 10 Netball teams both won against Shirley High.

Well done everyone!

Miss Potkins



Outside of School - Sporting Shout Outs

Last Saturday Leena B Year 10 participated in the CASC (Croydon Amphibian Swimming Club) sprint swimming gala, and in 50m fly Leena came second in her age group with a time of 35.90 seconds, which was 0.15 seconds slower than the first place.

She also came second in her age group in 50m freestyle with a time of 30.95, which was her personal best. Amazing work well done Leena.

Ibrahim I (Y7) has been selected into the under 12's Surrey County Cricket Pathway programme and Under 13's MCC cricket boys cricket youth programme. Amazing work Ibrahim!

Charlie C (Y11), Teddy B (Y9) & Freya D (Y10) secreted to represent Croydon in the London Youth Games X Country competition.

Isaiah L (Y7) has made the Croydon district team.

Congratulations and Good Luck to Everyone!!!



Email apotkins@coombewoodschool.co.uk with sporting success outside school, we love to share this news within our community and via our newsletters.

Co-Curricular Clubs

Clay Club Creations

Students in years 7, 8, 9 and 10 have been busy creating Halloween inspired tea light holders this term. These pumpkins will be making their way into the kiln for firing on Friday; have your fingers crossed for us! Well done clay club for marking such skilled work 🎃

Ms Chirnside



Sports Hall Clubs

Week Commencing 10th and 17th November (first 2 weeks after half term). There will be no rec basketball/badminton or basketball clubs during this time due to mock exams using the sports hall. Clubs in the arena will start back week commencing 24th November.

Ms Potkins

Music Production Taster Course

Croydon Music and Arts are pleased to offer a new Music Production Taster course, taking place during October Half Term 2025 (please click the flyer below for more information).



Students will use CMA equipment to explore sound, learn the basics on concepts such as EQ, compression and reverb and other effects, and to create their own compositions and beats.

This course is intended for any students who have an interest in this exciting way of music-making and are looking to get started in the world of music technology.

School Carpark

Our school carpark is operated by Creative Car Parks. You will have a 20 minute grace period when dropping off or collecting your child. Should you need to stay longer than this you will need to enter your registration number into the i-pads which can be found in the main school reception or for out of hours in the HRF reception.

Should you incur a PCN, you will need to deal directly with Creative Car Parks, unfortunately the school is not able to intervene on your behalf.

ADVICE FOR WHEN YOUR CAR PARK USERS RECEIVE A PCN

If one of your car park users receives a PCN they may ask you for guidance on what to do next, or ask you to cancel the PCN. Please explain that you're not able to deal with PCN enquiries on site as the car park is managed by Civil Enforcement Ltd. They have one of two options available:

OPTION 1
Pay the PCN
They visit the website address shown below and make the payment. Note a discounted rate is available if paid within 14 days of the ticket being issued.
payments.ce-service.co.uk

OPTION 2
Submit an appeal
They visit the website address shown below and submit an appeal within 28 days of the ticket being issued. Note: drivers must attach relevant supporting evidence.
appeals.ce-service.co.uk

OR

Thank you for your help in supporting our PCN process, designed to deter misuse and improve space availability for genuine users.




Civil Enforcement Ltd
Horton House, Exchange Flags, Liverpool L2 3PF
www.ce-service.co.uk

PLEASE NOTE

We are not able to deal with Parking Charge Notice enquiries on site.

This car park is managed by Civil Enforcement Ltd.

Please follow the process outlined on the original Parking Charge Notice.



Civil Enforcement Ltd
Horton House, Exchange Flags, Liverpool L2 3PF
www.ce-service.co.uk

Christmas Lunch - Wednesday 10th December 2025

Our Christmas lunch will take place on **Wednesday 10th December 2025**.

The cost of the Christmas lunch will be **£5.00** and will include a full Christmas themed lunch followed by dessert. Vegetarian options will also be available.



[Christmas Menu](#)

Please complete the following form to register your interest for the Christmas Lunch so that we can cater for the right number of students.. Please top up your parent pay account as normal, you do not need to pre-book. If your child currently receives free school meals, as Christmas Lunch will be provided for them. Please submit this form by **FRIDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2025**



[Form](#)



Croydon Mental Health Support Team

We are happy to share the dates for our next round of parent / carer webinars which is open to all parents and carers in Croydon, Merton and Sutton

- Tuesday 11th November - 1.30pm - Supporting your Child with Emotionally Based School Non Attendance
- Tuesday 18th November - 1.30pm - Helping your child with Anxiety and Worries
- Tuesday 25th November - 1.30pm - Helping your Child with Behaviours that Challenge (Primary Age)
- Tuesday 2nd December - 1.30pm - Introduction to Neurodiversity
- Tuesday 9th December - 1.30pm - Supporting your Young Person with Low Mood

If you are interested in any of the above seminars, please book your space using the following link



Geography Field Trip - Hove

Over this half term a large number of our students have had the opportunity to take their learning outside of the classroom. Year 11 Geography students visited Hove in early October over a 2 day period. Whilst they were there, students were able to learn more about coasts, including coastal processes and coastal management.

The students actively measured the beach profiles along the coastline and carried out sediment analysis. They were able to see their learning from the classroom happening in the real world and make the connections which will hopefully develop their understanding of our coastline even further and support them with both their upcoming Mock exams and their Paper 3 for their real GCSE's next summer.

At the same location, later this month and over a 3 day period the Year 13 A Level Geography students were carrying out their own data collection for their NEA (non examined assessment). They were investigating a wide range of topics including the perception of crime, the impact of online shopping on the high street and coastal erosion in Hove. The students derived their own sampling and methods and actively engaged in their investigations, despite some challenging weather!

We look forward to continuing to support our Geography students at Coombe Wood in the future and explore other locations to support their curriculum journeys and wider cultural experiences.

Iceland in February is our next destination!



Mark your Calendar

Key Dates for October

Friday 31st October 2025

Deadline for New Year 7 Admissions for September 2026 Entry



Half Term - Monday 27th October - Friday 7th November 2025

Key Dates for November

Monday 10th November 2025

First day of Term - School will reopen at 8am

Monday 10th November - Friday 21st November

Mock Exams Season for Year 11 & 13 Students

Thursday 13th November 2025

6th Form Open Evening

Key Dates for December

Wednesday 10th December 2025

Flu Vaccinations

Wednesday 10th December 2025

Christmas Lunch - Information to follow

Thursday 11th December 2025

Year 11 Parents Evening (In Person)



Christmas Holidays

Monday 22nd December 2025 - Friday 2nd January 2026



Key Dates for January

Monday 5th January 2026

First Day of the Spring Term - School will reopen at 8am.

Monday 12th January 2026

Year 8 Careers Day

Thursday 15th January 2026 - 16.00 onwards

Year 8 Curriculum Evening - In Person - Details to follow

Wednesday 21st January 2026

6th From Interviews (Internal Candidates)

Jack Petchy Speak Out Challenge

Thursday 22nd January 2026

Year 10 Mock Interviews (Careers)

Thursday 22nd January 2026 - 16.00 onwards

Year 12 Parents Evening - Online - Details to follow

Tuesday 28th January 2026

Jack Petchy Speak Out Challenge

Thursday 29th January 2026 - 16.00 onwards

Year 9 Parents Evening - In Person - Details to follow

Key Dates for February

Thursday 5th February 2026 - 16.00 onwards

Year 10 Parents Evening - In Person - Details to follow

Half Term - Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February 2026

Tuesday 10th February 2026

Application Deadline for Sixth Form Applications 2026

Thursday 26th February 2026 - 16.00 onwards

Year 7 Parents Evening - In Person - Details to follow

Friday 27th February 2026

Careers Fair

In case you missed it!

MENU

Parent and Students
Handbook 2025

Curriculum
Booklets

Home Work Club
Monday - Thursday
3.05pm - 4pm
Years 7 - 10

HOME
WORK

Co-Curricular Clubs
Autumn 25

13 Music Lessons

Year 12
Curriculum Evening
Slides

Year 13
UCAS Evening
Slides

