

TDPC NEWSLETTER

October 2025

Headteacher Comments

As we reach the end of a busy and long half term, I would like to thank parents and staff for your ongoing support and partnership for our young people.

A few reminders as we break for a well deserved week off.

- Please remember all our sites are no smoking/vaping sites. Your support with this is essential by making sure your young person does not bring any form of smoking paraphernalia on to the school site. Please let us know if you/them would like support in quitting.
- Your support in upholding our dress code is important. Due to the colder weather, ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the winter weather (layers/long sleeves) as they are expected to hand coats in on arrival. The dress code poster is attached to this email and will also be on the website along with other information needed.

School returns on Monday 3rd November. Enjoy half term and stay safe.

Important Dates

- Monday 3rd November - first day back to school
- Thursday 13th November - Parents Evening
- Friday 19th December - Last day of term before Christmas holidays

Safeguarding

As the Autumn half term approaches, we have included some information to keep you and your children safe.

Keeping children safe on Halloween and Bonfire Night.

Please read the information in the leaflets attached to this newsletter to engage your child in a conversation about fireworks and fire safety. There are two to choose from depending on your child's age and stage.

Here is some important information from Devon and Somerset fire service for families:

- Only buy fireworks with a CE mark
- Keep fireworks in a closed box
- Follow the instructions on each firework
- Light them at arms length, using a taper
- Stand well back
- Always supervise children
- Keep pets inside

- Do not drink alcohol when supervising or lighting fireworks
- Do not go near a firework that has been lit even if it has not exploded
- Do not throw fireworks

It is illegal to carry fireworks in public under the age of 18

We have included some parental support information at the end of the newsletter on the subjects of group chats, Snapchat and vaping which we hope you will find useful.

Career Update

We've got lots of exciting career opportunities lined up for students this term. We are welcoming visits from four fantastic employers: The Army, The Navy, EDF, and the NHS. This is a brilliant chance for students to hear directly from people working in these key sectors.

We were also lucky enough to visit Stoke Wood Alpacas this week, who will be offering our students work experience in the spring.

Plus, we have expert advisors – Emma France, Marie Howard, and Beth Knight – coming in to offer support with essential skills like CV writing, apprenticeships, and independent careers advice.

We're also busy organising visits to Taunton College and helping our Year 10 and 11 students get set up with work experience.

Representatives from our local colleges, Skill Up Somerset and our independent careers advisor will all be at the Holway Centre for Parent's Evening in November.

If you want to chat about any of these plans or your child's next steps, please contact me on 07590861617



English

It has been a long term for students, and they have worked hard in their English lessons. At the start of term students focused on creative writing. Our theme of 'Travel and Country' allowed us to explore Bulgaria, Amsterdam and Spain. Students considered the 5 senses when writing about the historic town of Plovdiv, Bulgaria and the narrow streets of Amsterdam. For the second half of the term our theme of 'Weird and Wonderful' provided students with the opportunity to describe weird creatures, such as the 'Giant Isopod', using similes and metaphors. We then finished the term by diving into 'weird' news articles as part of their learning. We've been focusing on the 5 Ws, Who, What, When, Where, and Why, to help students understand how information is structured and how to identify key information in a text. Phew they deserve a well earned break this half-term. Well done all.



Outdoor Education

It has been a busy half-term with all things Outdoors! Some of our pupils have been hiking along Breen Down, with games of Man Hunt at the Victorian Fort at the end of our Hike. Others have enjoyed learning to paddleboard whilst we have hung on to some of the warmer weather! Mountain Biking on our (now not so shiny!) new VooDoo bikes has been popular, with lots of visits to Haldon Forest, where pupils have enjoyed riding the mountain bike specific trails and accessed the skills area, and pump track. A big well done to all of the pupils who have accessed these activities over the half-term, it is my hope that more pupils will come out after spooky season!

The Hub

Students have been working towards their AQA certifications in Beauty – and everyone has been getting involved, even the boys! We've had lots of fun learning new techniques in nail design and hair styling, and the results have been amazing.

We have one dedicated Beauty lesson each week, but the enthusiasm doesn't stop there – our hairdressing heads are always available for anyone who wants extra practice

Word of the Week

We've continued to build confidence and vocabulary with our Word of the Week challenge.

Our latest quirky word was "flabbergasted" – and the reactions certainly matched the meaning!

The Hub – Our Safe and Social Space

The Hub continues to be a safe, supportive space within the Holway Centre for our secondary students – a place where everyone can be themselves, find calm, and connect with others. It's also a social hub at lunchtimes, where students come together to relax and chat in a friendly atmosphere.



Maths

This term, students have been diving into key topics across year groups. Year 9 and 10 have been exploring Introduction to Algebra, building confidence with equations, and simplifying terms. They've also been investigating angles, learning how to apply geometric reasoning to solve problems. Meanwhile, Year 11 students are already in full GCSE preparation mode, working through past paper questions to sharpen their exam techniques and identify areas for improvement. The focus is on consolidating knowledge and boosting confidence. Well done to all students for their work this term!

Cooking

In cooking this term the students have been developing their knowledge on how to cook different recipes. In their books they have been recording the skills they've learnt, what they have enjoyed each lesson and how they would personally improve each recipe if they were to do it again. They have cooked a variety of things from chicken wrap to stir fry and recently for Halloween have baked a cake that they have decorated with icing fondant, fake blood and food colouring to create a spooky scene.



DDC

This term we have been learning all about the human body. From digestion to looking after our teeth, to how our senses help us understand the world and how our muscles and skeletons work and move. We have also found out how far germs travel in a cool experiment and thought about ways to stop the spread of germs.

We also conducted some cool experiments to try and trick our brains, such as putting our hands in different temperature water and seeing what happens when we then put them in room temperature water.

In Literacy we have been having fun inventing aliens and alien planets and then writing persuasive pieces to convince someone to visit our planets! We then made leaflets about our planets and will be writing some stories about them next.

World Studies & Citizenship

World Studies has continued this term with the unit titles 'Travel' where students have learnt about different countries and cultures from within Europe including Spain, The Netherlands and Bulgaria, and 'Weird and Wonderful' where students focussed on some of the more interesting and unusual aspects of their world. Lessons included bizarre traditions and festivals from around the world, learning about mysterious monuments and also learning about strange animals and habitats from around the world.

Citizenship has also continued throughout this term with the Year 11 students who are currently studying for the Citizenship GCSE in the Summer Term focussing on a variety of topics including, Population, Democracy, Human Rights and Law. Each week students were encouraged to answer questions on the weekly topic from previous GCSE papers. Students not studying for the GCSE have spent this term focussing on the changing face of the UK population and on the development of Human Rights around the world.