ISSUE #03

Newsletter

COOMBE WOOD SCHOOL

9th October 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy and productive few weeks here at Coombe Wood School, and I would like to share some of the highlights with you.

This week we held our first Curriculum Enhancement Day of the academic year, on Tuesday. KS4 students focused on their core subjects, while KS5 students continued with their normal timetable. As part of the day, our KS3 students took part in several trips and visits such as the Science Museum, Moco Museum and the National Theatre and many more, broadening their horizons beyond the classroom. Our Year 7 students took part in "Take your Child to Work Day" , a wonderful opportunity for them to experience the world of work first-hand and begin thinking about their own futures from the very start of their Coombe Wood School journey.

These Curriculum Enhancement Days form an important part of how we deliver our curriculum and bring together the three pillars of Coombe Wood School, each working in harmony to holistically develop our students into the best versions of their future selves:

Ambition – unapologetically high academic expectations for all students, irrespective of their starting points.
Community – a relentless commitment to character education, ensuring that all students grow into confident, well-mannered and responsible individuals.
Culture – extremely comprehensive co-curricular opportunities, giving all students the chance to broaden their horizons.

Thank you to all Year 7 parents and carers who attended our first Parents' Evening of the year, meeting with teachers of Evolve and your child's tutor. We hope you found this a useful opportunity to support your child's transition to secondary school.

This week we also welcomed a strategic review visit from the Trust. It was a very special day, with senior leaders from across the Trust's schools meeting with students and staff, visiting lessons and observing a typical day at Coombe Wood School. Our students were very proud to be Coombe Wood School students, and spoke confidently about how lucky they feel to be part of this community, the benefits of disruption-free learning, and the support they receive from staff. The visit was extremely valuable in acknowledging our growth and success as a school, as well as validating our next steps to ensure the very best experience for our community.

Your feedback as a parent is also important and valuable to us. We encourage you to share your views as we continue to work together to support your child.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to thank our teachers and all members of staff for their continued hard work and dedication. We are working within an ever-changing educational landscape, and against the backdrop of a well-documented national staff retention crisis, the commitment our staff show to our students, every single day, should not be taken for granted. Please continue to work in partnership with us, and to support and value the staff who give so much to our school community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership as we work together to give our students the very best start to the academic year.

Ms Williams

Headteacher

Changes to Free School Meals

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Important Changes to Free School Meals & How to Apply

From the 1st September 2026 important national changes were made to **Free School Meal (FSM)** eligibility.

What changed?
Following new guidance from the Department for Education, FSM protections that have been in place since April 2018 ended in August 2026, and eligibility criteria was expanded. From September 2026, **every child whose household receives Universal Credit** is entitled to free school meals. We strongly encourage **all** of our families to complete an online application, even if you don't believe you meet the criteria.

What do I need to do if my child already receives Free School Meals?
If your child previously received free school meals you will still need to reapply, as your protections ended on 31st August 2026. If you don't reapply, it will mean your child will not receive free school meals in September 2026.

Please note: under the new national guidance, a child's eligibility will now be subject to an annual review to confirm their ongoing entitlement.

How do I apply?
Please apply as soon as possible via our secure online portal:

https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-greenshawlearningtrust

If you have already applied, please be patient with us. As I am sure you can imagine, this change has created a lot of extra work for the team whilst we upload the new approvals to our system. Please rest assured that any anomalies that occur to student parent pay accounts will be rectified in due course.

Kind regards,

Coombe Wood School Reception Team

Mock Exams Timetable - November 2026

Our first round of Mock Examinations will begin when we return from our Half Term break in November.

Please take a moment to read the letter sent home by our Deputy Headtecher, Ms Bowen and review the Mock Exam Timetable

Mock Exams Letter 2026

Mock Exam Timetable

New Year 7 Admissions for September 2027 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 2026**, and you must also make sure you tick the sibling criteria on the Croydon Council CAF form. The name 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Your current child would therefore be already in Year 7-11 or Year 12 in the Sixth Form
- Cousins or children of friends living with their parents in the same household are not included.

Make sure you apply through Croydon Council Admissions by **31st October 2026**

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

Year 11 English Independent Study Guidance

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

I have put together some guidance to support with independent study for English in preparation for their Autumn mock exams and general revision throughout the year. This includes suggested tasks for students and advice on how adults at home can also support.

Please contact class teachers if you have any questions on how best to support your child at home.

Best wishes,

Mrs Gould

Chefs of the Month

In Recognition of outstanding work and contributions within lessons.

Year 7
1st Place: Frank W
2nd Place: Raphaella H
3rd Place: Marija P

Year 8
1st Place: Joseph C
2nd Place: Joseph H
3rd Place: Elanur B

Year 9
1st Place: Adam E -H
2nd Place: Antasiya A
3rd Place: Azaan U-R

Year 10
1st Place: Mantas P
2nd Place: Ella O
3rd Place: Adam B



Well done to all of our chefs!

Ms Kerslake & Ms Gordon

Clay Club Creations

Our CWS Clay Clubbers have been busy creating some spooky creations ready to be fired in the kiln



Many thanks

Ms Churnside

Co-Curricular Clubs Initiative

Transforming futures and Unlocking Growth through the CWS Curricular Model. Please click on the attached letter to find out more about our new initiative to recognise student achievement in co-curricular activities. Co-Curricular Awards Scheme



Mr W Smith

Assistant Headteacher

Sports Club Timetable - Autumn Term 26/27

We are delighted to announce that our Sports Clubs resumed on Monday 14th September. Our exciting and varied timetable is linked below.

For any students who do not have HRF/Games on their chosen club day, should bring their HRF kit with them and change after school.

Our clubs are for all students, there is no sign up process for these sports clubs, students should come along to HRF after schoool where staff will direct them to the chosen club.

Sports Club Timetable - Autumn Term 26/27

Co-Curricular Clubs Schedule - Autumn Term 26

Dear parents/carers,

Please find attached the co-curricular clubs taking place this term.

Co-Curricular Clubs Timetable Autumn Term 26

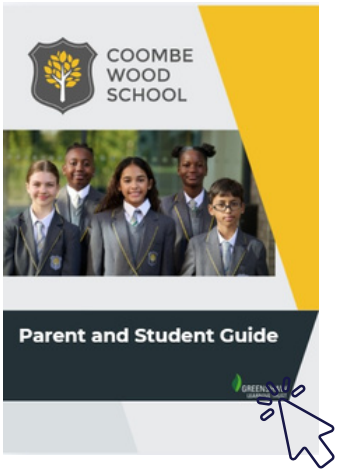
Please keep an eye on the bi-weekly newsletter for further details as more clubs may be added throughout the term and it is here where we will celebrate the efforts and achievements of our students in clubs and events. This is in addition to the Key Stage 4 intervention schedule and Key Stage 5 football pathway.

Will Smith

Assistant Headteacher - Personal Development & Wellbeing

Parent and Student Guide - Academic Year 26/27

Please take a moment to read the Parent and Student Guide which has been updated for the new academic year.



Many thanks

Mr Vass

Deputy Headteacher

A New Look School Canteen - The Food Hub

We hope that the students are enjoying the new look canteen area known as The Food Hub. This will continue to evolve as we continue through the term. Our new look menu is linked below.

Autumn Term Menu

Best wishes

Chris Young

Regional Catering and Development Catering Projects Manager
Greenshaw Learning Trust

Help Us Be Good Neighbours !!!

We would like to gently remind everyone to be considerate of our neighbours on Melville Avenue and the surrounding streets.

- **Parking:** Please be considerate during pick up and drop off and ensure you aren't blocking any driveways.
- **Environment**: Please turn off your engine rather than idling while you wait. and avoid dropping litter.
- **Behaviour:** Take a moment to chat with your children about staying on their best behaviour during their daily commutes especially whilst in school uniform and representing the school.

We truly appreciate your help in keeping our local community a pleasant place for everyone.

Wear Red Day 2026 - Friday 16th October 2026

What is 'Show Racism the Red Card'?

Show Racism the **Red Card** (SRtRC) is the UK's leading anti-racism educational charity. Founded in January 1996, the organisation harnesses the high-profile status of professional football and other sports to challenge racism, stereotypes, and prejudice across society.

Please show your support by wearing an item of red (as seen here) on Friday 16th October.



IMPORTANT:

These are the only ammendments to the uniform that will be acceptable on this day. Anything else, will go against the uniform policy and consequences will be issued.

Why It Was Set Up?

The charity was founded by activist Ged Grebby following a pivotal, ironic incident involving professional footballer Shaka Hislop (pictured)

In the mid-1990s, Hislop—then the goalkeeper for Newcastle United—was at a petrol station near St James' Park when a group of young people targeted him with severe racist abuse. However, mid-confrontation, one of the youths recognized him as the famous Newcastle United player. The group immediately shifted their behavior, walked over, and asked for his autograph.

This stark contrast made Hislop realize the immense power and influence of football. He realized that while these young people held deeply ingrained racist prejudices, they simultaneously idolized black athletes on the pitch.

Hislop connected with Grebby (who was working on anti-racism youth magazines at the time) and provided a modest donation to jumpstart the campaign. They realized they could use the power of "the beautiful game" and the status of players as role models to directly educate young people and dismantle racial prejudice



School Carpark

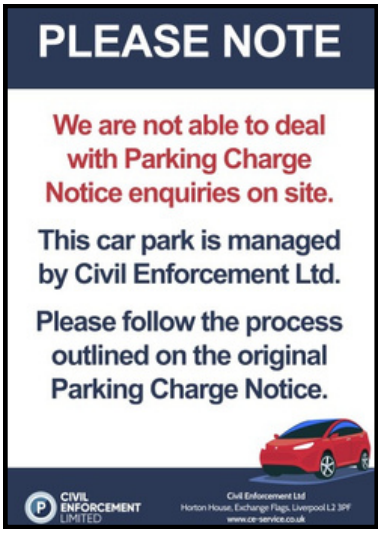
Our school carpark is operated by Creative Car Parks.

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 you 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.





Communications Update - Bromcom/MCAS

Please note that **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.

Please take a moment to check all your details are correct on MCAS.

Please note that we no longer be using SIMS / SIMS Parent or Classcharts as a method of communication.

This Newsletter will be sent out Bi-weekly on a Friday Week 1 to all parents and carers.



Key Dates for October 2026

Thursday 15th October 2026
Sports Awards - Details to Follow

Thursday 22nd October 2026
Year 12 Parents Evening - Details to Follow

Friday 23rd October 2026
CWS House Race - Details to Follow

Half Term -
Monday 26th October - Friday 6th November



Key Dates for November 2026

Monday 9th November
First Day of Term for Students - Door will open at 8am

Key Dates for December 2026

Thursday 10th December 2026
First Day of Autumn Term 1- All Students

Monday 14th December 2026
Year 11 Parents Evening - Details to follow

Christmas Holidays
Monday 21st December 2026 - Friday 1st January 2027

Monday 4th January 2027
INSET DAY - School is Closed to Students

Tuesday 5th January 2027
First Day of Spring Term for Students - Doors to open at 8am

Thursday 14th January 2027
Year 8 Parents Evening - Details to Follow

Wednesday 20th January 2027
Sixth Form Interviews - Details to follow

Thursday 28th January 2027
Year 7 Parents Evening (all subjects) - Details to follow



Key Dates for February 2027

Thursday 4th February 2027
Year 10 Parents Evening - Details to Follow

Half Term
Monday 15th - Friday 19th February 2027

Key Dates for March 2027

Wednesday 17th March 2027
Year 13 Parents Evening - Details to Follow

Thursday 18th March 2027
Year 10 Curriculum Evening - Details to Follow

Monday 22nd March 2027
Year 11 Parents Evening - Details to Follow

Thursday 25th March 2027
Last day of Term

Easter Holidays
Friday 26th March 2027 - Friday 9th April 2027

Key Dates for April 2027

Monday 12th April 2027
First Day of Term for Students - Door to open at 8am

Thursday 22nd April 2027
Year 9/KS4 - Curriculum Evening - Details to Follow

Thursday 29th April 2027
Year 11 Curriculum Evening (2) - Details to Follow



Key Dates for May 2027

Monday 3rd May 2027
Bank Holiday - School Closed to Students

Thursday 20th May 2027
Year 12 Parents Evening - Details to Follow

Half Term
Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June 2027

Key Dates for June 2027

Monday 7th June
First Day of Term - Door to Open at

Thursday 17th June
Year 7 Curriculum Evening - Details to follow

Key Dates for July 2027

Thursday 1st July
Year 6 to Year 7 Transition Evening for New September Starters - Details to Follow

Friday 2nd July 2027
INSET DAY - School Closed to Students
National Transition Day - Year 6 to Year 7 (September 2027)

Thursday 22nd July 2027
Last Day of Term - Student to be dismissed at 12pm

Summer Holiday
Friday 23rd July 2027mychart -

Term Dates - Academic Year 2026/27

Autumn Term 2026

Wednesday 2nd September - INSET DAY - School is Closed to Students
Thursday 3rd September - INSET DAY - School is Closed to Students
Friday 4th September - INSET DAY - School is Closed to Students
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Monday 7th September - First Day of Autumn Term 1- All Students
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Wednesday 16th September - School Open Evening - Students will finish at Midday
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Thursday 17th September 2026 - Later Start - Students to arrive from 10.15am for their Period 3 lesson.
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Friday 23rd October 2026 - Last Day of Autumn Term 1
***

Half Term - Monday 26th October - Friday 6th November 2026
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Monday 9th November - First Day of Autumn Term 2- All Students
***

Friday 18th December - Last Day of Autumn Term 2
***

Christmas Holidays - Monday 21st December - Friday 1st January 2027
***

Spring Term 2027

Monday 4th January 2027 - INSET DAY - School is closed to Students
***

Tuesday 5th January 2027 - First Day of Spring Term 1 - All Students
***

Friday 12th February 2027 - Last Day of Spring Term 1
***

Half Term - Monday 15th - Friday 19th February 2027
***

Monday 22nd February 2027 - First Day of Term of Spring Term 2 - All Students
***

Thursday 25th March 2027 - Last Day of Spring Term 2
***

Easter Holidays - Friday 26th March - Friday 9th April 2027
***

Summer Term 2027

Monday 12th April 2027 - First Day of Summer Term 1 - All Students
***

Monday 3rd May 2027 - May Day Bank Holiday - School is Closed
***

Friday 28th May 2027 - Last Day of Summer Term 1
***

Half Term - Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June 2027
***

Monday 7th June - First Day of Summer Term 2- All Students
***

Friday 2nd July - INSET DAY - School is closed to Students
***

Thursday 22nd July 2027 - Last Day of Summer Term 2
***

Summer Holidays from Friday 23rd July