ISSUE #04

COOMBE WOOD SCHOOL

Newsletter

23rd October 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of a busy first half term at Coombe Wood School, I would like to thank our students for their resilience and hard work. It has been a brilliant start to the academic year.

We are delighted to have been recognised by the Fisher Family Trust (FFT) for our attendance, placing us in the top 25% of schools nationally and of similar schools. This is a wonderful achievement and one that reflects our school pillars of Ambition, Community and Culture working together. Our Ambition is seen in the high expectations we hold for every student, and in the understanding that every second of every lesson, every day counts. Our Community is seen in the strong partnership between students, families and staff, and in the commitment to making sure our students are in school, on time and ready to learn. Our Culture is seen in the wide range of opportunities, trips, clubs and events that make students want to be here and give them a real sense of belonging. Thank you for your continued support, which plays such an important part in this success.

Last week we celebrated our Sports Awards Celebration evening. Well done to all the students who received awards and recognition for their many contributions to sport. A special thank you to our HRF department for hosting such a spectacular event. Additionally, following the amazing assemblies delivered by Mrs Cooke and our Year 11 students for Black History Month, we also marked Wear Red Day. Thank you to everyone who took part and helped make these occasions so meaningful.

Unfortunately our annual Year 7 House race was cancelled due to the weather. We will reschedule when the weather is better as this race is part of our tradition to mark the end of the Autumn term and to celebrate the Year 7s strong start to their secondary school journey.

After half term, our Years 10, 11 and 13 students begin their first mock period. This is an important part of their preparation for their forthcoming public examinations in May, and we wish them every success.

I would like to thank all of our staff for their commitment to our school community. Thank you also to our parents and carers for your continued support and for working in partnership with us. Please remember that your **feedback** is important to us.

Please use the half term break to replenish your child's stationery so that they are fully equipped and ready to learn when they return. A reminder that students will now need their winter coats as the weather has definitely changed.

Enjoy the two-week half term break. School will reopen on Monday 9th November at 8am.

Ms Williams

Headteacher

Headteachers Recognition Awards

Each week we like to reward those students wo achieve the highest positive achievement points in their year group with no Negative behaviour points. For the Week Ending 14th September those students were:

Week Ending 2nd October 2026
Year 7 - Marija P
Year 8 - Kaira C
Year 9 - Ayanah-Katriel D-K & Kacey-Leigh M
Year 10 - Zain K
Year 11 - Emily T

Week Ending 9th October
Year 7 - Nell M
Year 8 - Anupama A
Year 9 - Aliyah F-A
Year 10 - Mercedes E
Year 11 - Nilaksh D

Week Ending 16th Ocotber
Year 7 - Beatrice N
Year 8 - Anupama A
Year 9 - Aliyah F-A
Year 10 - Vihaan C
Year 11 - Antonella L



Congratulations to them all.

Ms Williams

Mock Exams Timetable - November 2026

Our first round of Mock Examinations will begin when we return from our Half Term break on Monday 9th November 2026.

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

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.

English Independent Study Guide

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

Best wishes,

Mrs Gould

Back to Back Champions - CWS takes Top Spot

Back-to-Back Champions! CWS Takes Top Spot at the Environmental Design Competition

Huge congratulations to our brilliant team of ten CWS students who competed at Imperial College London on Saturday, 12th October. Facing stiff competition at the Environmental Design Competition, the team delivered an outstanding performance to secure first place for the second year running!

A massive well done to all students involved for representing CWS with such innovation, dedication, and school pride. 🏆🌱





Year 7 Students Visit Ten Degrees

20 Year 7 students from Coombe Wood School visited Ten Degrees, Croydon's 44-storey luxury build-to-rent development, for workplace experience.

Students toured show apartments and communal co-working spaces to learn about property lettings, before tackling an event planning challenge, budgeting and designing a resident Halloween or Christmas event suitable for all ages (and pets!), sticking to a strict budget.

Students rated the trip 4 or 5 out of 5 stars:
100% felt more prepared for future careers and inspired to work hard at school.

Top skills gained: Teamwork, budget management, creative problem-solving, and communication.

Student Voices:
"If I work hard, I can achieve anything."
"I learned how to work within a specific budget and plan an event, can we go there again?"
"We need more trips like these! I really appreciated the staff taking time out for us from their busy schedule."

A huge thank you to the team at Ten Degrees for hosting such an inspiring day!

Ms Knox

Sporting Success

U13 Girls Football team- well done on their 7-0 Win against Woodcote.

Y7 Boys Football team- First game and first win. 5-1 against Harris Purley

U15 Girls Football team- Great team performance against a good Royal Russel side. The girls sadly lost but lots of resilience and progress shown.

X Country- Well done to all those involved. Standout performances; Humaid S (Y7) 1st place, Molly B (Y8) 7th place & Charlie C (Y12) 2nd place.

Miss Potkins

Sports Clubs

There will be no sports clubs the final day of term (after the race).

The arena is being used for mock exams the first 2 weeks back after half term. It is more likely your HRF lessons will be outside. Please ensure you are prepared for this (suitable coats will be allowed).

There will be no Y9-11 Recreational Badminton/ Basketball club, Year 7-8 Basketball club or Y9-11 Basketball club during this time.

Please note - You will not represent the school football team without long black socks, shin pads and black shorts. You are representing CWS and that includes looking the part and being safe at fixtures.

Parent / Student Voice Surveys

We encourage all our famillies to take part in the Parent and Student Voice Surveys.

Parent Voice Survey



Student Voice Survey



Your feedback helps us shape the future of Coombe Wood School

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

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

Clay Club Creations

What a difference a couple of weeks can make to our Clay Clubbers creations.





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 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

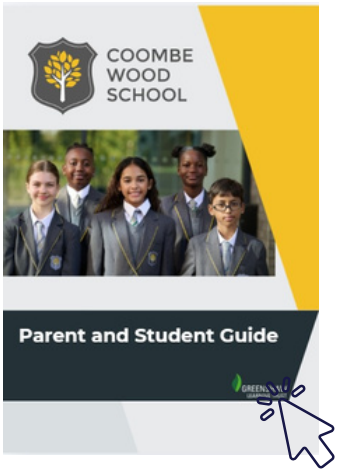
Please keep an eye on the bi-weekly newsletter for further details as more clubs may be added throughout the term and it is here where we will celebrate the efforts and achievements of our students in clubs and events. This is in addition to the Key Stage 4 intervention schedule and Key Stage 5 football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

Mr 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. Followign feedback, we have made a few minor tweaks to the menu for next term.

Autumn Term Menu - 2

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.

School Carpark

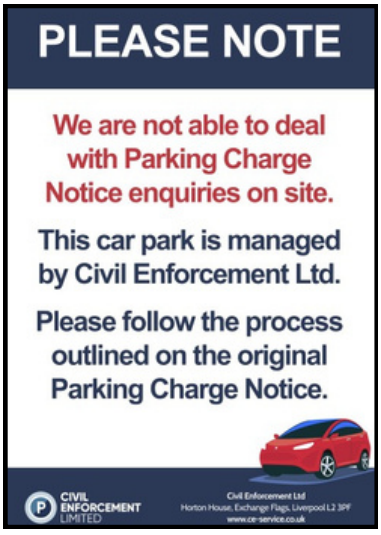
Our school carpark is operated by Creative Car Parks.

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.



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

Key Dates for November 2026

Monday 9th November 2026
First Day of Term for Students - Door will open at 8am

Monday 9th - Friday 20th November 2026
Mock Exams - See timetable for more details

Monday 12th November 2026
6th Form Open Evening

Key Dates for December 2026

Tuesday 1st December 2026
Flu Immunisations

Thursday 10th December 2026
Year 13 Parents Evening - Details to follow

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

Friday 18th Decmeber 2026
Last day of Term

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



Key Dates for February 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

Mark your Calendar

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 2027 -

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
***

Wednesday 16th September - School Open Evening - Students will finish at Midday
***

Thursday 17th September 2026 - Later Start - Students to arrive from 10.15am for their Period 3 lesson.
***

Friday 23rd October 2026 - Last Day of Autumn Term 1
***

Half Term - Monday 26th October - Friday 6th November 2026
***

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