



# Exmouth Community College

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27<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Included in this letter:

- Welcome to the new school year
- Dates for the Start of Term
- School Day for 2024-25
- School Uniform, Appearance and Equipment
- The House System
- New Senior Staff Appointments
- Working with parents

## **Welcome to the new school year**

We hope you've all had a safe and happy summer holiday. We really look forward to welcoming all students back on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September and especially those that are new to the ECC family. We are excited about the new school year, and it's vital that we all work together to make a very positive start.

## **Dates for the start of term**

Term begins for students on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September. All students should be on site by 8.20am. Students should be able to access their timetables using the ClassCharts app. Staff at the school gates will also have lists to inform students where they should go for their initial tutor time period.

Year 7 will meet on the Tennis Courts on the Green Close site on the first morning of term.

A reminder that term dates for the forthcoming year can be accessed here:

<https://www.exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk/news-and-events/term-dates>

## **School Day for 2024-25**

A reminder that the school day will change slightly from September, with the 'first bell' going at 8.25am rather than at 8.20am. However, students are still be expected to arrive on site for **8.20am** to ensure that they are in the right place at the right time.

From September we will return to having tutor time at the start of the school day. Following the 'first bell' at 8.25am, students are expected to be in their tutor time classrooms (or Assembly venues) ready for an 8.30am start.

We are moving to a 'two-week' timetable from September. This is very common in Secondary schools and allows a slightly better allocation of subject lessons. Weeks will be labelled as 'Week A' or 'Week B' and will be clearly marked in student planners. The first two days of term will be 'Week A'. The week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> September will be 'Week B'.

### **School Buses**

We have recently been informed of a structural issue on a bridge on Moorfield Road. This affects the access of buses and coaches to the Coach Park on Green Close. We are working with the County and District Councils to seek to manage this as best we can. In the meantime, a copy of the letter from Devon County Council to the parents of those affected is here:

<https://www.exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=3008&type=pdf>

### **School Uniform, Appearance and Equipment for September**

Please do ensure that you plan for September by ensuring that your child has all the correct items of uniform and equipment. There are no changes to our uniform expectations from September, but we will be insisting that students are wearing the right uniform from the first day of term. Your support with this is needed and appreciated.

In addition to uniform, please ensure that your children are aware of, and are able to meet, our expectations of appearance, in particular:

- Earrings – students are allowed to wear one stud in each ear. Hooped earrings are not allowed. This was a common issue towards the end of last academic year, and we will be enforcing this strongly from the start of term
- Nose studs – these are not permitted. Students wearing a nose stud will be required to remove it. Therefore, please do not allow your child to get a nose piercing in the final days of the school holidays.

For full details please see our guidelines around uniform, personal appearance and equipment below:

Uniform and Personal Appearance: <https://www.exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk/parents-and-students/parent/-/carer-quick-guide/uniform-and-personal-appearance>

Equipment: <https://www.exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk/parents-and-students/parent/-/carer-quick-guide/classroom-equipment>

### **The House System**

As you will have seen in previous Parent / Carer updates, we are introducing a 'House System' to develop a greater sense of belonging and community in the school and a better platform to share and celebrate achievements. This will bring lots of advantages, not least in developing a sense of friendly competition between the Houses.

Our House names taken from South Devon rivers: Avon, Dart, Exe, Lym, Otter and Tamar. Tutor group membership will not be affected; all students in a tutor group will belong to the same House. Each House will be made up of two or three Tutor Groups from each yeargroup in Years 7-11.

For the next Academic Year, pastoral leadership will still take place through the Heads of Year as we transition fully towards the House System from September 2025.

### **New senior staff appointments**

As ever, we have a number of new staff joining the school in September; I am thrilled to be welcoming such a strong group of new staff to ECC.

This year that includes three new members of our Senior Leadership Team:

- Jason Trevarthen – Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral)
- Adam Green – Assistant Headteacher (Safeguarding & Behaviour)
- Alan Yendell – Assistant Headteacher (Behaviour & Culture)

This gives the school some very welcome extra Senior Staff capacity to continue our really important work on culture, behaviour and pastoral care.

### **Working with parents**

The 'Secondary' years are a really challenging (and sometimes confusing) time for young people and so it is vital that the expectations and messages from home and school are consistent. That's why the partnership between families and school is so important. We will seek to communicate as best we can so that you can support the school's position, but if there is something that you're not clear about or something that you don't understand, please contact us so that we can explain the position and discuss it with you – 99% of the time, any confusion is very quickly resolved.

I will write to you again before the start of term, together with an accompanying video, reminding you of the key changes, any further updates and with a reminder of key expectations and information.

With warm wishes,

Yours sincerely



Tom Inman  
Headteacher