



Exmouth  
Community  
College

*Belonging · Ambition · Responsibility*

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27 August 2025

Dear Parent/Carers,

We hope that you've had a lovely summer and that students feel refreshed and ready for the start of term next Wednesday. Please read the whole letter to ensure that students are fully prepared for the start of term and are in the best possible place to ensure a really positive start to the year. In this letter:

- Celebrating Year 11 and Year 13 Results
- Welcome to the new academic year!
- Key staffing changes
- Uniform Standards and Personal Appearance
- Mobile phones
- Equipment
- Start of term arrangements
- The importance of attendance
- How to report an absence
- Pastoral support and the House system
- Arrangements for Cover Lessons
- Equity in Education Survey
- Who to contact

### **Celebrating Year 11 and Year 13 Results**

We have been delighted to celebrate some excellent results with our Year 11 and Year 13 students over the last couple of weeks. We have seen improvements in results across the board, and record results in some measures. For more information, please see our press releases:

- [Exmouth Community College - Year 13 Students celebrate brilliant results](#)
- [Exmouth Community College - Year 11 students celebrate record GCSE Results](#)



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We're so proud of what our students have achieved and, more importantly, the amazing young adults that they have become. This also demonstrates the incredible commitment of staff and parents – it's a real team effort, and we're delighted that this has been reflected in the results.

### **Continuing to raise our expectations**

We're really looking forward to the new academic year and to building on these successes so that we can give the very best experience that we can to our brilliant students. We will be working tirelessly to ensure that this is the case, but we can't do it on our own. We will be unapologetic in continuing to raise our expectations for students, and we need your support to reinforce this at home. The expectations below, are all part of this and all the research (as well as our own experience) tells us that getting it right in the first few weeks makes a considerable difference throughout the rest of the year. Thank you in advance for this.

### **Key staffing changes**

As ever, the new academic year brings a number of staffing changes across the College. We wish all our departing colleagues the very best and thank them for their tireless efforts working in the College and with the students, in some cases over a number of decades.

From the Senior Team, both Nick Smith (Assistant Headteacher, Inclusion) and Dave Holt (Assistant Teacher, Key Stage 4) will be departing, and we thank them for their significant commitment and contribution to the College over recent years.

Joining the Senior Team will be Chris Hunter-Smith (Assistant Headteacher, Raising Achievement) and Sarah Lasker (Assistant Headteacher, Equity in Education). Also, Nicola Wright joins us as Head of Lym House. I know that they will make a huge contribution to ECC over the coming years and know that you will join me in welcoming them and our other new staff.

### **Uniform Standards and Personal Appearance**

Please ensure that this is correct from Day 1 so that we can focus on giving your children the best experience we can in school. To do so, we need to have real consistency in our basic expectations.

For the full uniform list for Year 7-11, please see: [Exmouth Community College - Uniform and Personal Appearance](#)

In particular:

- New House Ties – please ensure that you have purchased these before the start of term. They



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are available from Proserve and Shipshape. If you have any issues, please contact your child's Head of House and we will support where possible.

- Old Ties - please don't throw away the old school ties – we would like to collect them in to act as 'temporary replacement ties'. These should be handed to tutors by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September - by doing so, you'll be in with a chance to win one of two £25 Amazon vouchers!
- Shoes must be plain black and polishable.
- Nails – nail varnish or false nails are **not** allowed.
- Piercings – only one stud in each ear is allowed (no hoops). Nose studs are not allowed. Additional piercings will be confiscated. Please ensure that students do NOT get additional piercings in the days before the start of the school year. Students will be asked to remove piercings regardless of how recently the piercing was done.
- Hair colour must be natural and extreme haircuts (including buzz-cuts) are not allowed.

### Mobile Phones

Mobile phones must be switched off and placed in bags prior to entering the College site. We ask for your support with helping your child take responsibility in meeting these expectations. This has remained a challenge for a small number, and we continue to review the best way to ensure that students are both protected and able to concentrate on learning during the school day. It is so important to create a culture where we are able to learn and engage without the distraction that electronic devices bring.

### Equipment

From the start of term, we will be placing real importance upon students taking personal responsibility in being organised with having the right equipment everyday. There will also be an expectation that students are using their Student Handbook on a daily basis to support them in establishing the habits to be prepared and organised in order to maximise their learning. For this reason, all students will be issued with a Student Handbook that must be in their school bag every day as it contains vital information. If the Student Handbook is lost, a new one will need to be purchased via students' IPAY account. A reminder of the essential equipment required is below:

- A clear see-through pencil case (to hold all of the items below)
- 2 pens for writing (black only)
- A whiteboard pen (this is new from September 2025 – please ensure it is non-permanent)
- A purple pen for completing feedback
- A highlighter
- A pencil, rubber and pencil sharpener
- A ruler
- A protractor for Maths (a compass will be provided by College)
- Water bottle



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- Packed lunch (if not buying food from canteen)
- Student Handbook

## **Start of Term Arrangements**

Term starts on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Students in all years should be on site by no later than 8.20am, as usual.

Year 7 students should congregate on the Tennis Courts on Green Close, where their tutors will meet them. All other students should go to their tutor group locations. Student timetables will be emailed to students on Monday or Tuesday next week. Please note that timetables will become visible on ClassCharts early next week.

Please note that Tutor Group names are changing to reflect House memberships. For example, 7Ex1 are part of Exe House.

All year groups will have welcome assemblies on the first day of term – we will share the information from these with parents next week.

Year 7 students will have the opportunity for an early lunch for the first few days to help them settle into the queuing and dining routines.

## **The importance of attendance**

Attendance is so much more than just being present at school – we value every individual who is part of our College community. When students are absent, we are not able to teach them, support them, encourage them and champion them.

Attendance in the first weeks of school is a strong predictor of overall school attendance – if students start with full attendance in the first few weeks (as most do), then attendance remains considerably higher throughout the year. Regular attendance helps build positive habits and routines, supports learning, develops relationships with staff and peers and allows them to access so many other opportunities – all in the pursuit of helping your child be the very best they can be.

We will monitor and work with students and parent/carers as early as possible where concerns arise with regards to school absence to ensure that appropriate intervention and support is in place to reduce the risk of any further absence.

## **How to report an absence**

We kindly remind parents/carers of their responsibility to report any absence by **no later than 8.15am**



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via the email addresses below (see below). This is an important part of our responsibility in keeping our children safe in education. Please note the change to these email addresses– this will help the attendance team process attendance information more effectively:

Year 7 – [Y7attendance@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto:Y7attendance@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk)

Year 8 – [Y8attendance@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto:Y8attendance@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk)

Year 9 – [Y9attendance@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto:Y9attendance@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk)

Year 10 – [Y10attendance@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto:Y10attendance@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk)

Year 11 – [Y11attendance@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto:Y11attendance@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk)

Sixth Form – [sixthformattendance@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto:sixthformattendance@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk)

## **Pastoral Support and the House System**

In the summer term we transitioned into our new House Teams; this is part of our ambition to ensure we provide great pastoral provision for all. Students will be able to access support through the House Student Receptions on either site. Students can access both receptions, but the following Houses are based in the following spaces:

- Green Close - Lym House, Tamar House and Otter House (as well as the Year 7 Hub)
- Gipsy Lane – Dart House, Exe House and Avon House

## **Arrangements for Cover lessons**

Whilst we do all that we can to avoid it, sometimes the ‘usual teacher’ is not able to teach their classes (for example, through illness). We have some brilliant staff who act as ‘cover supervisors’ to help give students as much continuity as possible, but sometimes the need is greater than that and we need to rely on ‘external supply’ staff. These staff do not know our students and our systems, and too often this doesn’t lead to the quality of learning that we’d all hope for.

This year we are introducing two ‘cover centres’, where, at times, more than one class of students will be supported to engage in online learning platforms if their normal class teacher is not present. This learning will sometimes be focused on core subjects (English, Maths, Science), even if the lesson is for another subject. We are confident that this will increase the quality of the overall learning experience for students when their usual teacher is not present.

## **Equity in Education Survey**

We are committed to supporting every student and their family as best we can and your feedback is incredibly important to us. We are currently reviewing some aspects of how we best support students. This questionnaire is an opportunity for you to share your thoughts on what’s working well, where there are gaps and how we can improve. Whether it’s financial challenges, wellbeing concerns, academic support, or ideas for new initiatives — your voice matters.



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We'd really welcome your feedback: [ECC - Equity and Inclusion Parent Voice Survey](#)

If you have any further questions or comments about this survey please contact:  
[sarah.lasker@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto:sarah.lasker@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk)

### Who to contact

As a rule, tutors should be the first port of call for queries or concerns. If a more significant concern arises, you are able to contact the House Teams. Please see a summary of their contact details below:

	<u>Head of House</u>	<u>Assistant Head of House</u>
Year 7	<a href="mailto:clare.toomey@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk">clare.toomey@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk</a> (Head of Year 7) <a href="mailto:stuart.prior@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk">stuart.prior@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk</a> (Deputy Head of Year 7)	<a href="mailto:nicola.price@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk">nicola.price@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk</a>
Avon	<a href="mailto:gavin.dawkins@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk">gavin.dawkins@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk</a>	<a href="mailto:clementine.donald@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk">clementine.donald@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk</a>
Dart	<a href="mailto:alex.coull@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk">alex.coull@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk</a>	<a href="mailto:liz.seargeant@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk">liz.seargeant@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk</a>
Exe	<a href="mailto:michaela.dorrian@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk">michaela.dorrian@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk</a>	<a href="mailto:tallis.morris@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk">tallis.morris@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk</a>
Lym	<a href="mailto:nicola.wright@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk">nicola.wright@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk</a>	<a href="mailto:emma.hall@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk">emma.hall@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk</a>
Otter	<a href="mailto:roxanne.merry@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk">roxanne.merry@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk</a>	<a href="mailto:hilary.millman@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk">hilary.millman@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk</a>
Tamar	<a href="mailto:sarah.leslie@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk">sarah.leslie@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk</a>	<a href="mailto:ellen.jordan@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk">ellen.jordan@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk</a>
Sixth Form	<a href="mailto:ashley.dyer@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk">ashley.dyer@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk</a>	<a href="mailto:rachel.wright@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk">rachel.wright@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk</a> <a href="mailto:Rosalind.davies@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk">Rosalind.davies@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk</a> (Deputy Heads of Sixth Form)

We will be sharing more information, including contact details of tutors and other key staff, in our 'Page on a Fridge' guides that will be issued soon after the start of term.

As ever, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We'd rather more contact than less so that we can resolve any worries before they grow.

With very best wishes for a successful start to the new academic year.



Tom Inman  
Headteacher



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