



Exmouth
Community
College

Belonging · Ambition · Responsibility

Gipsy Lane, Exmouth, Devon, EX8 3AF

Telephone: 01395 264761

Email: admin@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk

www.exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk

Headteacher: T. W. Inman BSc, PGCE, NPQH, MTeach

22nd February 2026

Dear Parent/Carers,

We hope that you have enjoyed a happy and restful half term; we look forward to welcoming students back on Monday morning.

We have had a very busy half term since Christmas, with the weather and the marina ‘unexploded bomb’ presenting particular challenges. However there have been many significant achievements in the classroom, on the sports field, on trips and visits and in many other aspects of school life. The positivity, commitment and kindness of students continues to speak volumes of them – and we are genuinely proud of the young adults they are becoming.

Please find below the following updates as we move into the second half of term:

- Attendance
- Site Access and Safety
- Uniform and Appearance
- Mobile phones, including update on consultation on introducing mobile phone pouches
- Accessing toilets in lesson times
- New School Website
- ‘New look’ OFSTED inspections

Attendance

As you’ll be aware from previous communications, attendance is a particular focus for us at the moment. We appreciate all the support from parents to ensure your children get into school, on-time, and we’ve seen a clear reduction in the number of students arriving late to school in the mornings, which has been encouraging to see. However, there remains much to do!

As part of this focus, we want to ensure we celebrate the vast majority of students who are doing all they can to be in school every day. As such a new ‘Attendance Streaks’ reward system will begin from this week whereby students will gain entry to a draw of prizes for every ‘full week’ streak that they complete.



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We will also be communicating with particular families where attendance seems to be an ongoing worry to discuss how we can, together, ensure the highest possible attendance for your child. Please note that this is a genuinely supportive measure to help what we all want – as high attendance at school as possible.

Site Access and Safety

As per previous communications, from Monday, 23rd February 2026 the Phear Park gate on Green Close will be open only between 8:00–8:20am and 3:00–3:20pm, with staff present at these times. Main entrances on Green Close and Gipsy Lane remain unchanged.

Uniform and Appearance

The vast majority of students get this right all of the time – they look smart and act as real ambassadors for the school. We need this to be the case for all and can I please draw your attention to the following particular points to support this for those in Year 7-11:

- Hair colour – hair should be a natural colour and should not have any streaks / parts that are not a natural hair colour.
- Piercings - students are limited to one stud in each ear, and nose studs are not allowed
- Shoes must conform to the school expectations – as with other uniform, if students are not wearing correct shoes, they will be asked to borrow a pair (the school has a stock of new shoes for students to borrow for the day).
- Those wearing skirts need to ensure that they are of a decent length – skirts are sometimes rolled up significantly and in a way that is inappropriate.

Mobile Phones, including update on consultation on introducing mobile phone pouches

As we continue our focus on ensuring calm, focused learning environments, may we please remind families that mobile phones should not be used during the school day. Students must keep mobile phones switched off and out of sight from the moment they enter the College site until they leave. If there is a genuine reason for a student needing to contact home, this would always be supported by staff in an appropriate way.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our consultation on the possible introduction of mobile phone pouches from September. We are engaging with our Student Ambassadors on the consultation this week, after which we will review this feedback carefully and share the outcome of the consultation within the next two weeks.



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Accessing Toilets in Lesson Times

We recognise that occasions do arise when a student may need to use the toilet during lesson times. However, this should be rare, with students proactively using the toilets before school and in the breaks. Staff will, of course, make reasonable adjustments for students with particular medical needs.

Please reinforce this with your child(ren), as we continue to see far too many students requesting to use the toilets during lesson times. This has a significant impact on learning.

New School Website launching on 27th February

Our new school website will be launched next Friday, 27th February, offering clearer navigation and updated information. The web address will remain the same: www.exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk. If you have feedback or spot any errors, please do let us know. Thank you.

'New look' OFSTED Inspections

This week marks two years since our last OFSTED inspection. We expect to be visited again by inspectors at some point in 2026, although we're not sure exactly when.

The inspection system has changed significantly, including the way in which the outcomes of an inspection are reported. For a brief insight into the changes, please see the following video:

[New Ofsted report cards and grades: a guide for parents](#)

This half term is slightly shorter, at just less than six weeks, but it will be very busy, and especially for our brilliant Year 11s and 13s, who have mocks over the next two weeks and lots of preparation for the summer exams. Wishing them, in particular, a smooth and successful half term of preparation.

Hopefully we'll see the sun a bit more than we've done so far this term, as Spring approaches. We're so proud of the 'keep calm and carry on' approach of our students through a very wet winter, especially on such an 'outdoor' site.

As ever, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

With best wishes.



Tom Inman
Headteacher



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