



24th April 2026

Dear Prospective Parent/Carers,

We are looking forward to welcoming you and your child to Exmouth Community College in September 2026, whether you are part of the ECC family already, or will be joining us for the first time this September.

In addition to other communications that will be coming from the Transition team, we wanted to keep you updated with some key information in preparation for September.

Included in this letter:

- Key Dates
- Introduction of Mobile Phone Pouches from September 2026
- Moving to a Three-Lesson Day from September 2026
- Language Choices
- ECC website www.exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk

Key Dates

The first day of term will be on Monday, 7th September 2026. Students are expected to be in school from 8.20am onwards – further details about the first day will be sent to you nearer the time.

For most students, the Year 6 Welcome Days will be on 29th June, 30th June and the 1st July 2026 and will be an opportunity for your child(ren) to experience three days in the school whilst also preparing for their start in September 2026. For students at St Peter's Primary School, the Welcome Days will take place on 29th June 2026 and 14th July 2026 (due to a pre-arranged residential visit).

Our Welcome Days culminate with a Welcome Evening for all Year 6 Parents and Carers which will take place on 1st July 2026 starting at 5.00pm.

You will receive details about these events nearer the time, but please ensure these dates are in your diaries.

Mobile Phone Pouches

As of September 2026, we have decided to introduce the use of mobile phone pouches for all students in years 7-11, in line with the new DfE guidance published in January 2026. The aim of the mobile phone pouch system is simple: to create the best possible environment for learning, socialising and student wellbeing.

We are committed to introducing it in a way that is fair, inclusive and shaped by evidence and community feedback. We will be working closely with parents, carers and students on the final details throughout the summer term. This includes making sure that students with specific medical needs—such as Type 1 Diabetes—have appropriate arrangements in place and if a student ever needs to contact home, or if you need to reach them, staff will always be able to help make this happen.

We will be holding information events for parents and carers to explain how the system will work and to hear your feedback. As prospective parents and carers, you will be invited to attend, and we will share dates and details once everything is confirmed.

If possible, we plan to trial parts of the system on a small scale during the Summer Term. This will help us refine the process before it launches fully in September 2026. We will also publish updated guidance covering all likely situations.

Moving to a Three-Lesson Day from September

From September 2026, we plan to move to a structure of three longer lessons per day, each lasting 95 minutes (please note this will not affect the time of the start and end of the school day).

This has been something that we have been thinking about for some time and we have engaged in depth with the experiences of a number of schools that have introduced a similar model in recent years, who have been incredibly positive about the move.

Our current timetable involves frequent movement around a large and complex site. This results in lost learning time, congestion and lateness. With a 30-minute 'break' between each of the three main lessons this will significantly reduce these issues, resulting in more learning time and a calmer, more focused school day. Fewer lesson changeovers reduce corridor (and bridge) pressure and behaviour issues linked to transitions. Students will have a substantial break after each lesson, helping them to reset, refocus and return to learning ready to do their best.

Longer lessons also allow students to get properly "stuck in" to their subjects. They create space for practical work, extended independent work, and meaningful discussion, as well as time for teachers to check understanding and offer individual support. Teachers will spend more meaningful time with each class, helping them to get to know students quickly and respond to their needs effectively. This is particularly important for students who benefit from greater consistency and fewer daily transitions.

With fewer classes in a day, students have fewer room changes, fewer instructions to process and fewer homework deadlines. This simplifies the school day and supports better organisation and wellbeing.

We also know that no structure is without its challenges, and especially as a new structure 'beds in'. We are carefully planning to ensure all students are appropriately supported and will share more on this with you in due course.

Language Choices

Please could you indicate your preference for the language your child will study in Year 7. The available options are French, Spanish, or no preference. This information will help us to plan teaching groups and ensure we can meet as many preferences as possible. Please complete the form by **Monday, 11th May 2026**, and note that while we will do our best to accommodate choices, this cannot be guaranteed in all cases.

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/deWaPGKhLu>

Exmouth Community College Website

You can find lots of useful information on our school website www.exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk including **term dates**, parent and student key information, **attendance expectations** and our **school calendar** with key events throughout the year. We keep these pages updated so that parents and carers always have quick access to the details they need. It's a great place to check for upcoming activities, important reminders and day-to-day guidance.

We look forward to welcoming you to Exmouth Community College. If you have any queries or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the team.

With best wishes.



Tom Inman
Headteacher