REMINDERS

Dinner money must be paid in advance. The cost is £2.60 per day or £13.00 per week. The office can bill payments termly if required. Don't forget to pay online using ParentPay. Ask the office for details of how to set up.

If your child is unable to come into school, please contact the school as soon as possible in the morning before 9am registration. Please keep us informed of continued absences.

In order to keep our records up to date, let us know if there are any changes to your address or telephone numbers for both you and any other contacts. Up to date information is vital should there be an emergency and we need to contact you.

Please can we remind visitors that Mayfield School is a NO PHONE ZONE

Remember to visit Mayfield's school website! Photos, events, trips and any latest information is regularly updated.

www.mayfieldtorbay.org

UPCOMING DATES

Friday 23rd October
Last Day of Autumn 1 Term

Monday 2nd November
First Day of Autumn 2 Term

Friday 20th November
Children in Need

Monday 30th November
Christmas Fayre

Monday 7th December
Christmas Performance Week

Friday 18th December
Last Day of Autumn 2 Term

Monday 4th January
First Day of Spring 1 Term



MAYFIELD NEWS

Autumn 1
2026



Welcome

Dear Families and Friends,

We are delighted to share our first newsletter of the 2026-27 academic year, celebrating some of the many wonderful moments from this autumn half term.

Across College, Chestnut and School, our pupils have shown confidence, resilience and determination, making progress and creating plenty of moments to be proud of.

A huge well done to them all, and thank you to you, and our staff team, for everything done to support them.

Kind regards,

Stuart Heron



SCHOOL **NEWS**

Exploring Inside & Out

Pupils in our EYFS and Lower Primary classes have enjoyed their first term back and for some pupils, their very first term at Mayfield!

They have all settled really well, exploring all the facilities and equipment on offer, both in and around the school.

During these explorations, pupils have been focusing on colours, shapes, sorting and matching.

Pupils have also looked at seasons, collecting leaves and sticks, matching them to their search criteria and creating amazing artwork.

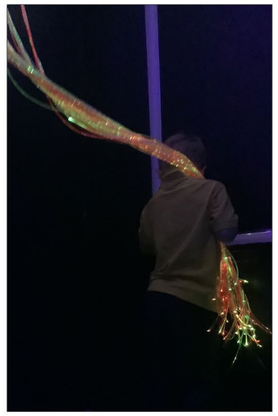
Classes have enjoyed a variety of favourite stories centered around harvest time and farm animals. The Harvest Assembly was a huge success with plenty of donations from families making a bright and colourful display of fresh produce!





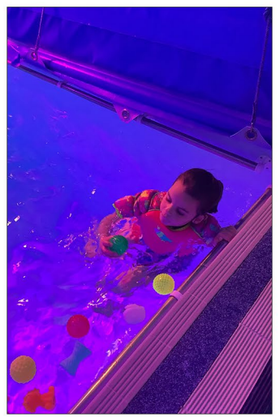










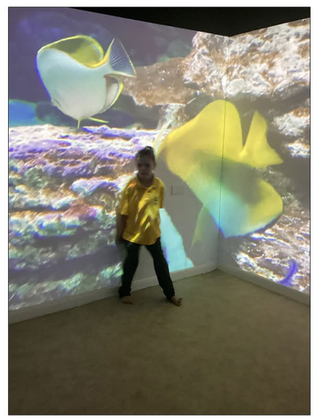
















SCHOOL NEWS





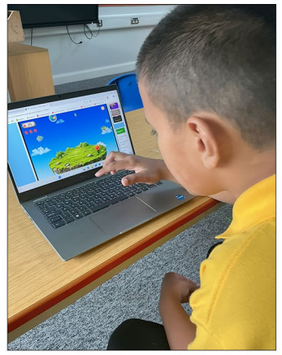
















Developing Skills

Pupils in our Upper Primary classes have been busy reinforcing and building on their skills. They have worked really hard in Maths sessions identifying shapes, understanding volume and developing their addition and subtraction skills.

Classes 8 and 9 have spent time on the laptops, expanding their typing skills and exploring a variety of fun programmes. They have also looked at turn taking and social skills with board games and group activities.

Pupils have really enjoyed their horticulture sessions this term, planting new seeds, identifying plants and trees from their leaves and watering the flower pots.









LOCAL BEAUTY SPOTS

Taking full advantage of the mild Autumn weather, pupils have enjoyed trips to several beauty spots around the bay.

At Decoy Park the group went for a walk on the woodland trail, hunting for leaves to match their colour charts before enjoying some time in the park.



At Stover Park the pupils kept a sharp eye out for the variety of birds to be found on the lake. They put their balance skills to the test walking along fallen trees and navigating the stepping stones across the stream. They have also had visits to Cockington, Cary Park and Dawlish.

Pupils in Class 11 have spent time in our Forest School area, foraging for leaves and sticks and climbing the tree stumps.

The group have really enjoyed using our indoor sensory environments such as the hydro pool, rebound room and soft sensory room.





SCHOOL NEWS

INDEPENDENCE SKILLS

Our Secondary pupils have been working very hard developing their independence skills and how to keep themselves safe.

They have learnt how to identify medicines and the dangers they may pose, further developed care skills by making a range of foods independently from wraps, sandwiches and toast to baking with support. This was followed by washing up, cleaning and laundry tasks to help prepare pupils for the future.

Class 13 have been cleaning staff members' cars as part of Work Related Learning tasks and Class 16 have explored animal care skills.

A highlight of the term was a visit from the local Police where they gave some helpful tips to pupils on how to stay safe. The group really enjoyed trying on the Police uniform and sitting in the Police car!

COMMUNITY ACCESS

This term has also been packed full of trips for our older pupils, enabling them to access a wide range of activities and environments.

Class 15 have explored Haldon Forest, Brunell Woods and Watcombe Beach, investigating the different wildlife to be found. Along with Classes 16 and 18, they also had a fantastic day at Oxen Park Farm where they got to meet the farm animals up close!

A trip to Coleton Fishacre to explore the gardens was a real treat and pupils enjoyed seeing the wide range of plants and flowers. This was echoed with their visit to Torre Abbey where they spent time in the greenhouse and courtyards.

Class 20 enjoyed a walk around Haytor and Class 17 also visited Haldon Forest and Decoy Park!



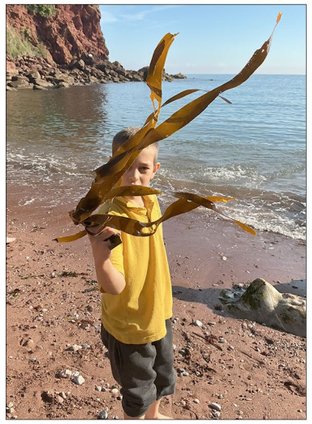






















COLLEGE **NEWS**

College Overview

Dear Parents and Carers,

A huge welcome to all the young people who started or transitioned to the College this term. The students are already demonstrating an increased level of independence even within such a short space of time. I am looking forward to seeing the progress our students will make both within the College and the community.

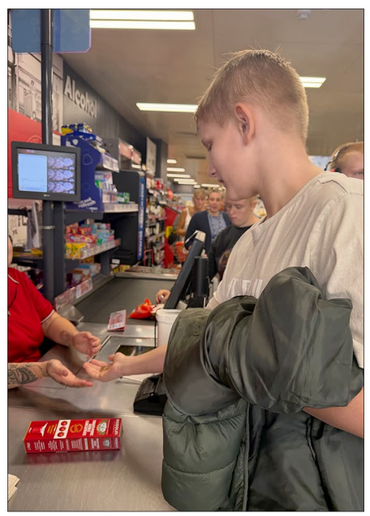
Have a wonderful half term break everyone!

Rachel Hawthorne
Head of College

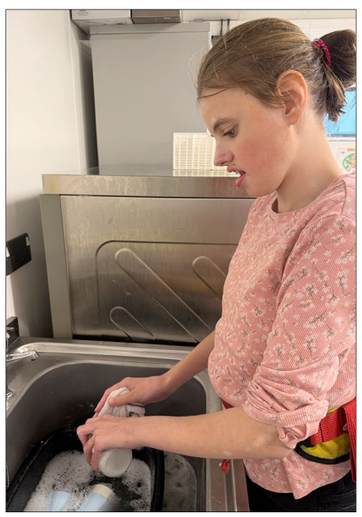
Foundation

What a busy start to the College year it has been! The Foundation group have focused on building relationships, developing self-advocacy skills and learning more about each student's interests, strengths and aspirations.

Students have been out in the community regularly, working on important life skills such as staying together as a group and road safety. They have also developed their functional ICT skills in real-life situations and practiced communication skills, visiting Paignton Library, the Geopark, Preston Park, Sports Direct and Poundland. Students have shown great progress in following routines in the community and have grown in confidence in a variety of different environments.







LIFE & LIVING

Skills For Life

Our Life & Living - SfL students have settled into college life with real enthusiasm. It has been fantastic to see new friendships forming and students making the most of the many experiences available to them.

They have been busy exploring the local community; visiting towns, supermarkets and beauty spots. Students have been developing their independence by managing their own time, making choices about activities and learning more about what College life can offer.

Creative sessions have already been a big success, with plenty of exciting projects planned for the year ahead. Students have also enjoyed cooking their own lunches and building valuable life skills along the way.

Student Voice

For Lewis, some of the highlights so far have been accessing Dartmoor and learning how to travel by bus. He has particularly enjoyed the freedom and increased levels of responsibilities that come with College life and says it feels much more grown up there.

We are incredibly proud of how everyone has settled in and we look forward to many more exciting experiences throughout the year.





Thriving Futures

The Thriving Futures pathway have worked hard on building relationships and establishing a positive, supportive group where everyone can feel a sense of belonging. Students have begun developing their work experience skills in The Hub; preparing and cooking meals for the College. They have also begun projects within Enterprise and explored volunteering opportunities at Cricketfield Community Gardens, which has quickly become a favoured part of their timetable!

Students have enjoyed trips out into the community, focusing on 'People and places that can help us'. They are developing their confidence, independence and understanding of the support and opportunities available to them.



COLLEGE NEWS

LIFE & LIVING

Careers & Further Education

Similar to the other groups, this term our Life & Living students have been developing their independence and community awareness through a variety of practical learning experiences. They have explored local businesses and organisations by identifying logos and discussing the services they provide. Visits to banks, supermarkets, cafes and other local amenities have helped to build their understanding of the role these services provide and the world around them.

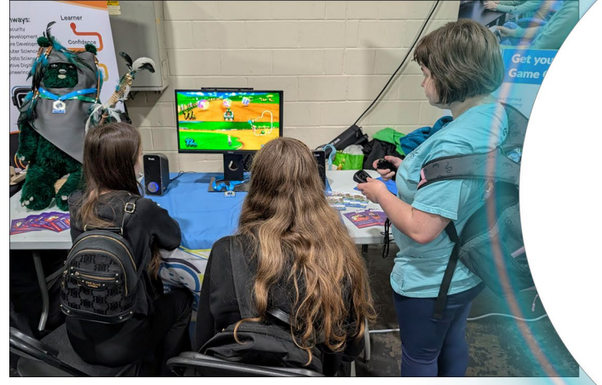
Practicing how to use lifts and escalators safely has been really beneficial for some students, transferring the skills they have learnt and applying them to new locations, demonstrating increased confidence, adaptability and independence in unfamiliar environments.

In Woodwork sessions, students have enjoyed designing, creating and personalising their own wooden signs and money boxes. This project has encouraged creativity, problem-solving, fine motor skill development and pride in producing a finished product. It has been wonderful to see students' ideas come to life!













INDEPENDENT LEARNING

It has been a busy few weeks in the Independent Learning pathway. Our 'POW! Pop Culture and Media' topic has been well received, with students learning about eSports and creating their own team. Some of the group enjoyed a brilliant trip to Comic Con to support the topic and develop their social and money management skills.

They too have been focusing on functional skills such as using lifts safely, looking for places in the community which can offer support, ordering food in a cafe and visiting the library. Their main focus has been on how to use public transport safely and efficiently, including planning their journeys ahead of time and using passes independently.

Some students have started a work experience placement at Stover clearing away invasive plants, while others have set up two businesses; one selling cake and the other a general Tuck Shop which will start after the half term. Their remaining time has been spent in the gym, playing a variety of sports and using the equipment.





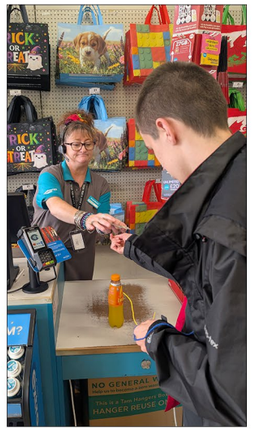






COLLEGE
NEWS

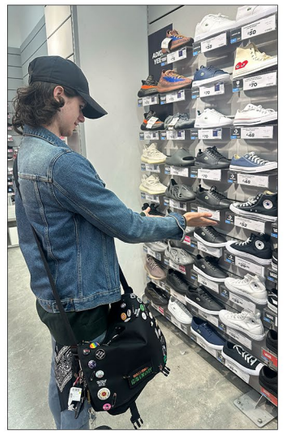












Preparation For Life

It has been wonderful to welcome the new students to this pathway this term. They have settled in extremely well, finding their feet quickly and embracing all aspects of College life. It has been lovely to see their confidence grow so rapidly, forming positive and meaningful relationships with both staff and peers.

Over the past few weeks the group have focused on becoming familiar with their environment, approaching new experiences with enthusiasm and resilience.

TRANSITION

Skills For Life & C&FE

Students in the Transition pathway have settled in exceptionally well. They have thoroughly enjoyed their community access sessions, developing their travel training and maths skills in real-life situations as well as embracing their Enterprise projects with enthusiasm.

The group have also taken part in a wide range of physical activities, from swimming in both the sea and pools to skittles and basketball along with lots of walking. It has been wonderful to see their confidence, teamwork and independence continue to grow. An amazing start to the year for everyone in the group!

TRANSITION

Careers & Further Education

Students have been building relationships and getting to know each other. They have worked on their Functional Skills Maths and English both in College and out in the community.

Some students have started using Winners Gym in Paignton, working on their own individualised fitness goals, which they are really enjoying!

Back at the College, students have set up their own Print Workshop using a heat press and they are really looking forward to selling their creative merchandise throughout the year!

CHESTNUT **NEWS**



STEP BY STEP PROCESSES

Pine Class have been focussing on instructions and what makes a good, clear, step by step guide to help people complete tasks. They thought about how they might create instructions to make a cheese sandwich and how they could improve, or break down each step further.

The following day they used their own instructions to make their sandwiches before sharing and comparing their guides with the rest of the group. The pupils considered how they could apply these skills to other activities and how to break problems or tasks down into smaller, manageable steps.



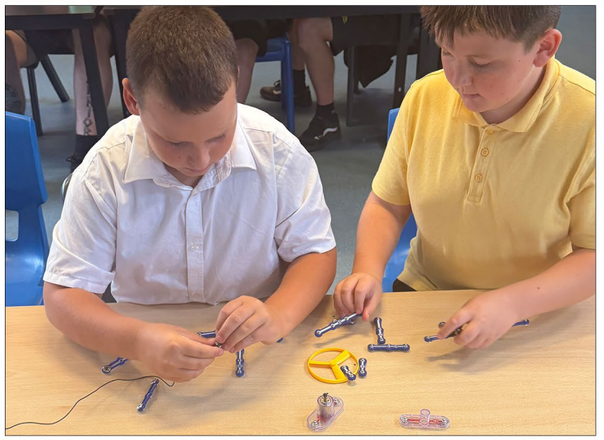




STEM Activities

Pupils in Palm Class have been learning all about conductivity as part of their STEM sessions. They had fun building different electrical circuits, exploring how small changes affected the current and how adding in extra components changed the flow of energy.

After grasping the basic concepts, some pupils worked in pairs to create larger and more complex circuits.



CORE SKILLS

Holly Class have had a very productive start to the year focusing on Maths and English skills. Using a variety of fun games and creative resources, the group have done really well matching numbers and patterns using dominos and number bingo cards.

In English, pupils have explored upper and lower case letters and when to correctly use them, as well as matching and spelling core vocabulary words.

