NEWSLETTER

Edition 05 Parent Newsletter 2026-27

9 October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Autumn has certainly arrived, bringing cooler temperatures, wind and wet weather with it. As our school is an open site, please ensure that students come to school with appropriate warm and waterproof clothing. I would also like to thank parents and carers for their continued support with our recent uniform changes. It has been incredibly positive to receive so many complimentary comments from students, families and members of the wider community about the smart appearance of our pupils and the pride they take in representing our school.

You may also have noticed our increased presence on social media in recent weeks. We are working hard to celebrate the many successes of our students and to showcase everything that makes our school such a special place to learn and grow. From academic achievement and sporting success to acts of kindness, leadership and community spirit, our students continue to make us proud every day.

As families of current students, you are our greatest ambassadors. If you know families with children in Year 6 who are beginning to consider their next steps, please help us by sharing our posts and encouraging them to visit our school. There is so much to celebrate, and together we can ensure that more families see the caring, ambitious and successful community that we are proud to be part of.

We look forward to welcoming Year 10 and 11 parents and carers into school next Tuesday 13th October for the Transition and Exam Ready Evening. Talks start at 6pm, Year 10 in the Canteen and Year 11 in the School Hall.

A reminder that next Friday 16th October we will be supporting the national anti-racism campaign, Show Racism the Red Card. Students and staff are **invited to wear one red item of clothing** alongside their normal school uniform as a visible sign of support for equality, inclusion and respect. This is not a non-uniform day.

Autumn 2026 Parent/Carer Survey - we greatly value your feedback and views about our school. Your responses help us understand what is working well and where we can continue to improve. We would be grateful if you could complete our Autumn 2026 parent/carer survey via this link: Parent & Carer Survey - Autumn 2026 – Fill in form

Football Round Up - report by Mr Phillips

Yr 10's - Jack led the defensive line with poise. George was sharp and looked threatening throughout. Ted is Mr consistent and rarely makes any mistakes. Rory scored a brace and displayed a finishing master class. Played some nice football in tough conditions. Won 4-1.

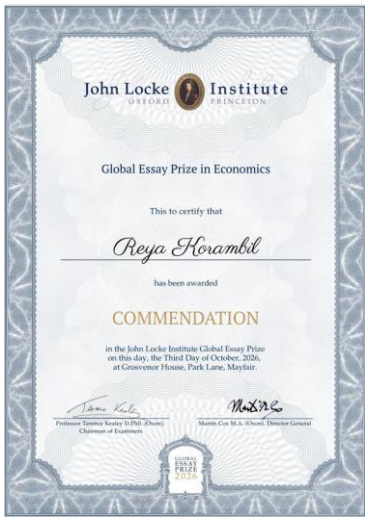
Yr 9's - A game of two halves. Against the run of the play the Yr 9's found themselves 1-0 down from virtually the only shot they faced all game. Rejuvenated in the 2nd half, the boys displayed some of the best football they've played for Park. Leo pulling the strings in the middle and dictating play was a highlight of the game. Reggie was our saviour to pull us back level; however, if it wasn't for an in-form Chulmleigh keeper we would have ran away with the victory. A must win game for the boys in their final group game next week.

Yr 8's - Defeated a big strong Chulmleigh team 2-1 in a scrappy and physical affair. Goals from Max and Jake first half were enough to get the team over the line. A special mention to Luke who successfully captained the side and gave a dominant and combative performance in midfield.

Yr 7's - The boys continue their perfect start to Park life with a comfortable 2-0 victory away to Chulmleigh. Big changes in personnel from the first fixture, we fielded near enough a whole new side. However, the Yr 7 talent pool spreads far and wide and the performance remained solid. Special mentions to Josh for producing a couple of frontpage worthy saves to keep his first clean sheet of the year. Also, Corey led the line brilliantly bagging a brace on his debut with a complete striker's performance to secure all 3 points.

Park School Leavers

It's so lovely to hear how our **Park leavers** are getting on in the wider world. **Freya** got in touch to let Miss Vidler know that she won a commendation for her economics essay and that that since starting statistics as part of her A-Level Maths course, her work at Park in sampling has set her up to succeed.



John Locke Institute
OXFORD PRINCETON

Global Essay Prize in Economics

This to certify that

Reya Korambil

has been awarded

COMMENDATION

in the John Locke Institute Global Essay Prize
on this day, the Third Day of October, 2026,
at Grosvenor House, Park Lane, Mayfair.

Professor Terence Kealey D.Phil. (Oxon), Chairman of Examiners

Martin Cox M.A. (Oxon), Director General

I hope you and your family have a relaxing weekend.

Kind regards

Ms V Owen, Headteacher

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES - SEND

Park SEND Team email: park.send@thsp.org.uk

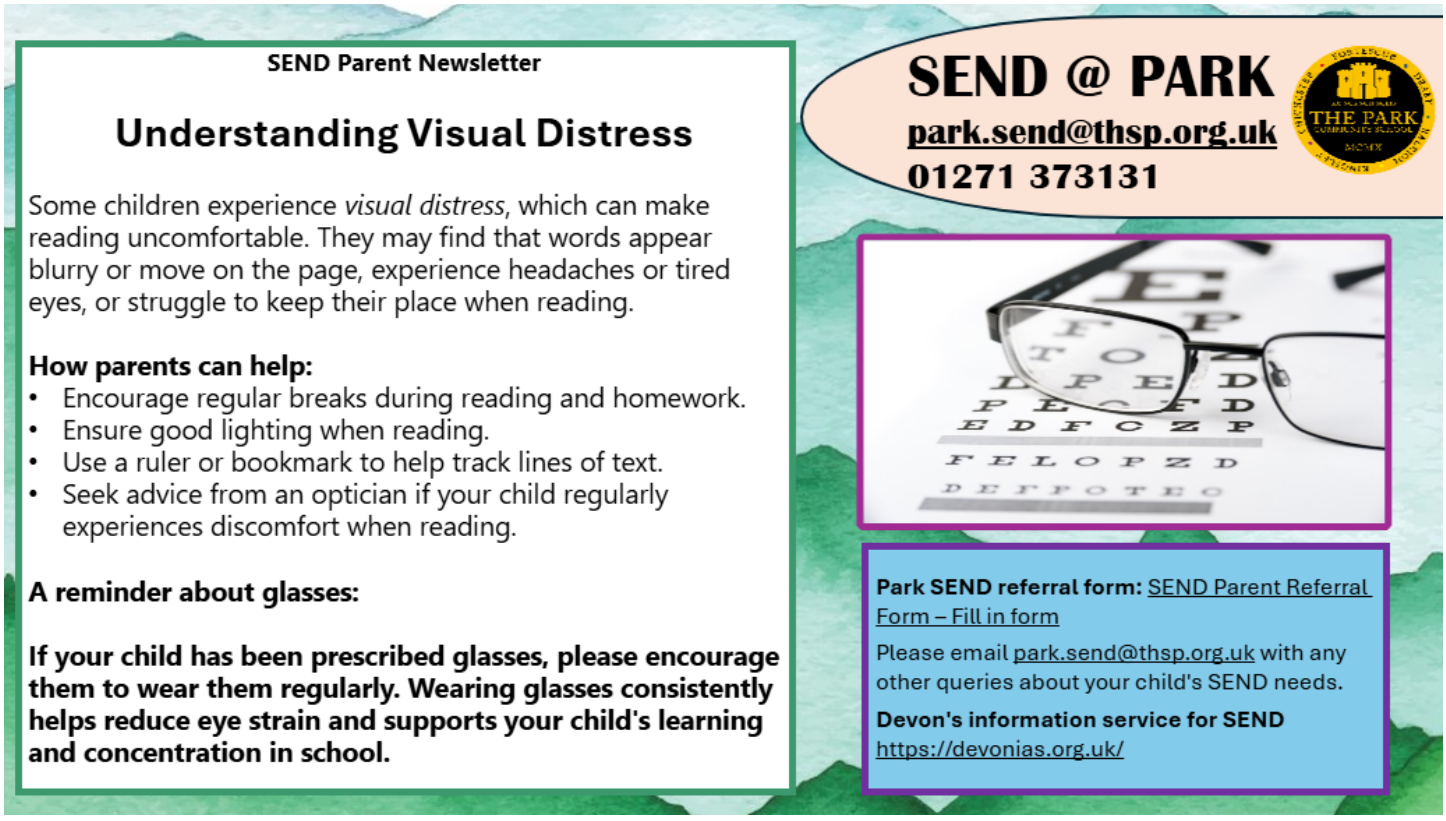
Park SEND Referral form: SEND Parent Referral Form – Fill in form

Park SEND website page and all newsletters link SEND - The Park Community School

Devon Information Service - https://devonias.org.uk/

North Devon Forum for Autistic Spectrum Conditions and ADHD https://www.ndfautism.co.uk/

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has produced a new leaflet to support children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in mainstream schools when receiving vaccinations. UKHSA 13544 Information for Parents Leaflet



SAFEGUARDING, MENTAL HEALTH AND ONLINE SAFETY ADVICE AND INFORMATION

Email: park.safeguarding@thsp.org.uk

Safeguarding website page and all newsletters link: Safeguarding and Online Safety

Mental Health website page link Mental Health and Wellbeing

Advice and Support for Parents website page link Advice and Support for Parents

This event reinforces our commitment to ensuring that every student feels safe, respected, valued and included.

Racism is a safeguarding concern because discrimination and prejudice can have a significant impact on a young person's wellbeing, confidence and sense of belonging.

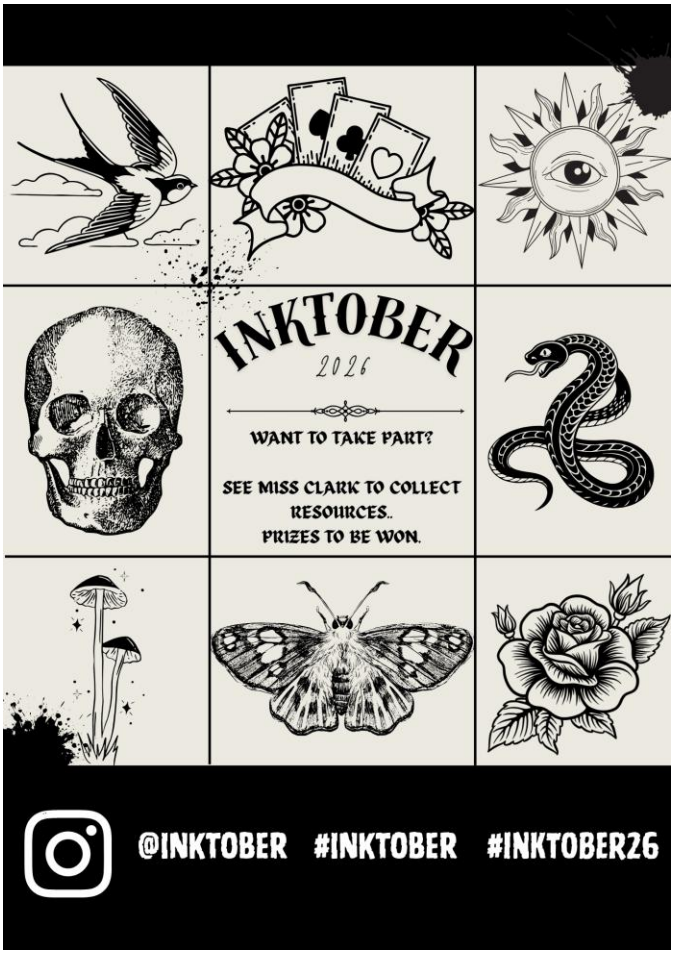
We encourage students and staff to wear something red as a symbol of unity against racism and in support of equality, respect and inclusion.

Parents and carers can support this important message by talking with their children about kindness, celebrating diversity, and challenging prejudice whenever they encounter it. Together, we can help create a school community where everyone feels they belong.

On Friday 16 October, The Park Community School will be supporting **Show Racism the Red Card Wear Red Day**.

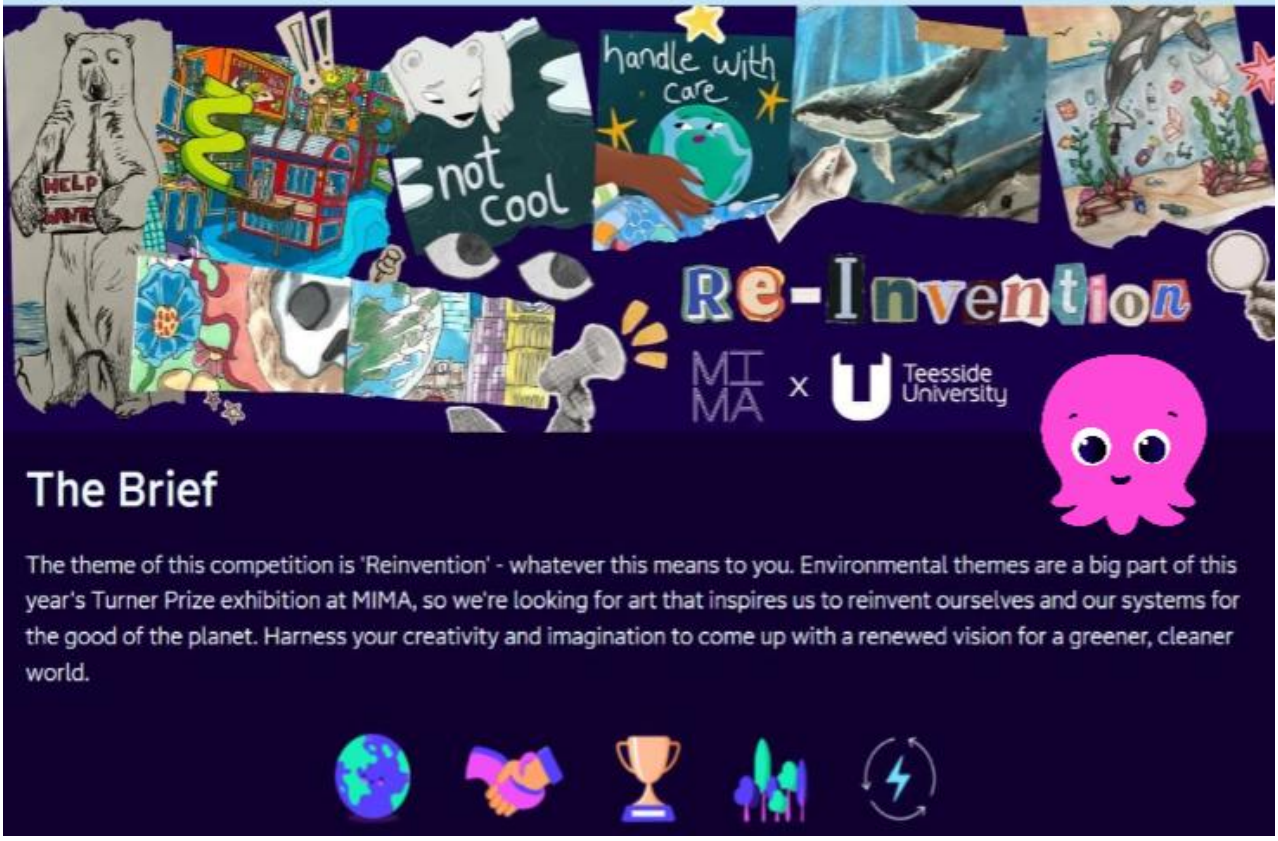
STUDENT /PARENT NOTICES/WHAT'S ON IN SCHOOL

ART@THE PARK



ART COMPETITION! – Open to all year groups.

Please see Miss Clark if you would like to take part. Art work must be submitted by 24th October.



Student Reception Stationery

Uniform
School Tie....£5.50
Gum Shield....£1.50

Knowledge Organiser
KO Book....£1.00
KO Tuff Bag....£1.00

Stationery Packs

Essential Pen Pack....£1.00
2 Black Pens, 2 Purple Pens, 1 Green pen and 2 Mini Whiteboard Pens.

Essential Stationery Pack....£2.30
All basic equipment required for lessons (excl. Calculator). 2 Black Pens, 2 Purple Pens, 2 Green pens, 2 Mini Whiteboard Pens, 2 HB Pencils, Eraser, Compass, Protractor, Ruler (Short 15cm/6") and Pencil Sharpener.

Enhanced Stationery Pack....£6.00
Maths tin, 2 Mini Whiteboard Pens, 2 Black Pens, 2 Purple Pens, 2 Green pens, 2 HB Pencils, Glue Stick and Coloured Pencils.

Paper Stationery
Revision Cards (Multi Coloured)....70p
Revision Cards (White)....55p
Small Blue Notebook....25p
Post It Notes (Small)....25p
Post It Notes (Medium)....45p

Additional Stationery
Clear Pencil Case (Small)....55p
Clear Pencil Case (Large)....85p
Highlighters (Pack of 4)....£1.20
Glue Stick....50p
Colouring Pencils (Pack of 12)....£1.90
Maths Tin....£3.30
Scientific Calculator....£9.00

Essential Equipment
Black Pen....10p
Purple Pen....10p
Green Pen....10p
Mini Whiteboard Pen....25p
HB Pencil....10p
Eraser....10p
Pencil Sharpener....20p
Compass....35p
Protractor....15p
Ruler (Small 15cm/6")....15p
Ruler (Large 30cm/12")....20p

Stationery - These items are available for students to purchase from Student Reception. Opening hours are Monday to Friday - 8:30am to 8:45am, breaktimes and lunchtimes. A reminder that we are a cashless school – should students wish to purchase items from Student Reception or top up their dinner money account; they are able to use a debit card. Students are not able to buy items from Student Reception using their dinner money account.

SCHOOL CALENDAR AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/EVENTS/REMINDERS

Parent Calendar	Website	Facebook Page	Instagram

Term Dates

Date	Year/s	Name of Event/Activity	Information
16th October	All Years	**PSHEE topics**	Year 7 – hygiene and periods Year 8 – becoming a teenager Year 9 – physical self-care Year 10 – taking responsibility Year 11 – PREVENT *Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from the non-statutory/non-science components of sex education within RSE. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the headteacher,* *email: park.headteacher@thsp.org.uk*
2026 - 27	All Years	**View our term dates**	Term Dates
2026 - 27	All Years	**View our Parent calendar**	Parent Calendar
13th October	Year 10 And Year 11	**Year 10 Transition Evening** **Year 11 Exam Ready Evening**	Year 10 Transition Evening letter Year 11 Exam Ready Evening letter
16th October	All Years	**Wear Red Day**	We will be supporting the national anti-racism campaign, Show Racism the Red Card. Students and staff are **invited to wear one red item of clothing** alongside their normal school uniform as a visible sign of support for equality, inclusion and respect. *This is not a non-uniform day*.
21st October	Year 7	**Tutor Evening**	Bookings here: www.parents-booking.co.uk/theparkcommunity
26th to 30th October	All Years	**October Half Term**	Last day of half term on Friday 23rd October. Return to school on Monday 2nd November. Timetable week 2.

Date	Year/s	Name of Event/Activity	Information
4th November		**Berlin Trip Meeting**	Parent and student meeting for those attending the trip, 5:30pm in the Dance Studio
10th November	All Years	**Flu nasal immunisations**	You can provide or decline consent for your child from the link in this letter: The-Park-Community-2026-FLU-Letter.pdf
19th November	Ex Year 11 Students	**Year 11 GCSE Exams Awards Evening**	Invitations have been sent to our Year 11 Leavers to join us for an evening of celebration to collect their official examination certificates.
19th November to 11th December	Y11	**Mock Exams**	Mock exams start for our Year 11 students. More information to follow.
27th November	All Years	**Inset /Non-Pupil Day**	No students are expected in school.
9th December	Year 11	**Christmas Dinner**	A special Christmas Dinner for our Year 11 students to spend together.
10th December	All Years	**Christmas Jumper Day**	Students and Staff wear festive knits!
15th December		**Christmas Concert**	We warmly welcome you to join in with our festive cheer at our annual Christmas Concert! Tickets available to buy on Arbor.
16th December	All Years	**Extra day for Flu nasal immunisations**	The School Immunisation Team are back in school to see those children not seen, with consent, on 10th November.
18th December	All Years	**Last day of Winter Term**	More details to follow. Return to school Tuesday 5th January 2027.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Please find a link to the Attendance Policy.

Please **report your child absent** by emailing: park.attendance@thsp.org.uk

FREE webinar on Emotionally Based School Avoidance: FREE WEBINAR School Avoidance.

Useful resource on EBSA: EBSA: Essential Guide for Parents | School Anxiety Support

We understand that unexpected circumstances and illness can sometimes impact attendance.

However, we would greatly appreciate your support in ensuring your child attends school regularly.

- Talk to your child about the importance of attendance and the impact it can have on the results.
- Discuss their options and courses for next year
- If your child is experiencing difficulties that are impacting their attendance, please contact us. We are here to support you and your child in overcoming any challenges.

PARK ONLINE LEARNING

Often it is difficult for a child to come back into school after a period of absence due to missing lessons. Although we wouldn't expect someone to be working while they are unwell, we often get asked "How can my child catch up?". Our English, Maths and Science teams have put together this Remote Catch Up Curriculum to support students if they are absent. There is a page for each subject which then splits into Year groups: the lessons follow the same units and topics as the students are being taught in lessons - not as good as a real lesson but a great way to catch back up if your child has been absent. We hope you find it helpful.

CAREERS/VACANCIES

View all The Park School and all Harbour Schools Partnership career opportunities click here.

Current vacancies:

- Kitchen Assistant
- Mealtime Assistant
- Exam Invigilators

FOOD AT PARK AND FREE SCHOOL MEAL ENTITLEMENT INFORMATION

Information about our **food service at Park** - Food - The Park Community School.

Apply for Free School Meals through the Devon Citizens Portal.

RAISING FUNDS FOR PARK – SCHOOL LOTTERY AND EASY FUNDRAISING

Did you know we have a **School Lottery**? You can join our weekly lottery from £1 per week and it's an easy way to support our school and help raise funds - 40% of ticket sales come back to us. There is a guaranteed winner each week. It's so easy to sign up and start supporting our school today - just click here Support The Park Community School when you play Your School Lottery.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Homework Club

Libraries Unlimited

IT Suite
Tuesdays (term time) 4-5.30pm
from 6th October
Suitable for 11+
We'll provide:
A supervised space
Free snacks & drinks
Paper & pens
Wi-fi
Chrome Books (on request)
1 x free A4 print per person per session

Funded by DCC Places to Go Things to Do

Devon County Council

BLCC

BARNSTAPLE LIBRARY COMIC-CON 2026

WHAT'S ON

Saturday 10th October 2026

10AM – 3PM

Magic Times Face Painting - 10am - 12pm
Stormtroopers - 10am - 12pm
Silent Disco - 10am-12pm & 1pm-3pm
Meet the Dalek - 10am-12.30pm - Foyer
Play VR - 10am-2pm - £12 per person, please book in advance.
Laser Run Competition with Play VR - 2-3pm - £10 per person book on the day
Wizefloor - 10am-3pm - Foyer
Retro Gaming - 10am - 3pm - IT Suite
Exmoor Dark Skies - 10am-3pm - Foyer
Badge Making - 10am-3pm
Boardgames - 10am-4pm - 1st floor
Old Wyvern LARPing - 10.30am-11.15am & 11.45am-12.30pm - Room 3B
Meet the Superhero - 10.30am-12.30pm
Dungeons & Dragons (New adventurers) - 11am-12.30pm - FREE - Please book in advance.
Manga Drawing Workshop - 1pm - 2pm - Please book in advance - Room 3A
Old Wyvern Storytelling - 1.30pm-2.30pm - Foyer
Dungeons & Dragons (Experienced adventurers) - 1pm-3pm - FREE - Please book in advance.
Zine Making Workshop - 1.30pm-3pm

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

Libraries Unlimited

North Devon's

Vale Holiday Parks

LIVE DRONE SHOW

GOLDEN COAST DRONE SPECTACULAR

SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER

Golden Coast Holiday Park,
Station Road, Woolacombe,
EX34 7HW

**Bring your family,
Bring your friends,
Bring your dog**

**FOLLOWING OUR AMAZING DRONE SPECTACULAR-
THE ENTERTAINMENT CONTINUES IN:**

- THE OLD MILL PUB- **ALL VERY WELCOME**
- THE BEACH HOUSE- **PARK GUESTS & OWNERS ONLY**

TIMINGS

**THE OLD MILL PUB
(OPEN FROM 12 NOON)**

FROM 4PM

HOG ROAST

LIVE MUSIC

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

FRESHLY PREPARED & SERVED, TRADITIONAL LOCALLY SOURCED PUB GRUB UNTIL 9PM

DRONE SPECTACULAR
Approximately 7:00pm
(Be ready for something very special)

ALL THE WONDER NONE OF THE BANGS

Join us for an unforgettable evening of live entertainment as the skies above Golden Coast come alive with a spectacular drone light show unlike anything previously seen in North Devon.

Designed to be enjoyed by everyone, The Golden Coast Drone Spectacular offers a fresh alternative to traditional Bonfire Night celebrations.

Pet Friendly **Sensory Friendly** **Family Friendly** **Farmer Friendly**

Kingsley
SCHOOL DEVON

COMMENDED 2026
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS OF THE YEAR AWARDS
IN ASSOCIATION WITH schoolbluster

Devon's Leading Independent Day & Boarding School

Sixth Form Open Evening - 15th October, 6.00 PM

- Home of **FC Rise**, and Elite Rugby, Judo, Gymnastics and Netball Academies
- **Top 3%** in Sports Science and English Literature A Level
- **Top 10%** in Art, History, Maths, Spanish and Business A Level

Book your place or arrange a personal tour

Nurturing wellbeing | Achieving success

20 X 26
WAVELENGTH
UK SURFER AWARDS WINNER
Surf School of Year 2026

Bideford College

Sixth Form Information Evening 2026

Thursday 26th November - 4:30pm until 7pm

We invite you to join us for our Sixth Form information evening to find out more about the range of subjects and opportunities we have to offer.

Bideford College, Abbotsham Road, Bideford, EX39 3AR Dr Claire Ankers, Principal

T: 01237 477611 E: mail@bidefordcollege.uk W: www.bidefordcollege.org

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LANDMARK LAUNCHPAD: CREATIVE PATHWAYS

A practical launchpad for 16 – 25s stepping into the creative sector and beyond.

COURSE CODE: PSG509

Bridge the gap between creativity and work. Explore everything from playwriting and technical theatre to body language, budgeting, time management, and unlocking your transferable strengths.

Wednesdays & Thursdays (14th Oct – 10th Dec)
10:30am - 3pm @ The Landmark Theatre

For more information about joining, please visit our website or contact our team:

Telephone: 01392 384094
Email: learndevon@devon.gov.uk
www.learndevon.co.uk/news/launchpad/

SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFO

LANDMARK THEATRE
ILFRACOMBE

learndevon
adult learning and skills

https://wild-pets.org/

Wild Pets = kids breeding British wildlife

Wild Pets is a network of children helping Britain's collapsing wildlife by raising endangered native species in their own homes, under the guidance of professional ecologists from Derek Gow's Species Recovery Centre.

Apply Now to become a Wild Kid

We're looking for 20 young people aged 8–13 from Devon to join our very first Wild Pets programme. Could your child be one of them?

If selected, your child will breed and care for harvest mice at your home during Spring/Summer 2027, before they are released into the wild in September 2027.

Before applying, please read the FAQs for Parents and Application T&C. If your child is accepted, you will need to sign the Parent/Guardian Agreement.

The deadline to apply is **1st December 2026**, but applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, and successful Wild Kids may be selected and announced throughout the application period. This means that places may be filled before the final competition deadline, so we encourage families to apply early.

Wild Pets **warmly welcomes participants from all backgrounds, cultures and abilities.** Parents or guardians are required and encouraged to be present throughout the programme and can provide as much practical or emotional support as their child needs.

Things you'll need for the application

- ✓ Your child must be aged 8–13 and living in Devon, UK
- ✓ A short video of your child explaining why he/she wants to become a Wild Kid
- ✓ Up to 500 words written by your child about their passion for wildlife and the environment
- ✓ Parent or legal guardian agreement

Apply now

BriBooks Presents

NATIONAL YOUNG AUTHORS' FAIR™

The largest book writing festival in United Kingdom

Participation is completely **FREE**

Calling All Aspiring Young Writers!

Your Story. Your Voice.

Join the **National Young Authors' Fair United Kingdom 2026** and begin your journey as a young author. Use the **AI** powered BriBooks platform to write your own story and **publish your very first book.**

How to Participate:

Scan the QR code below to register

Start writing your book and unlock your potential!

Publish your book

Why Wait?
Get started today and share your story with the world!

Use the link to participate:

www.yaf.bribooks.com/events/student/signup/nyaf-uk-2026-27?sid=192738

OR

Scan the QR Code to Register!

BriBooks

SCAN ME

Rewards & Recognition:

Award Trophy & Certificate

BriBooks Podcast Invitation

Awards & Exhibition Ceremony

Digital Media Feature

Amazing Prizes
(Trophies, Medals and many more)

The Park Community School

For any queries contact at globalsupport@bribooks.com

Saturday Club

Second Saturday of the month, 2pm-4pm
For young people aged 10-14
FREE

Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon

A chance to come along and explore the museum and it's collections in your own way and respond through **art activities, crafting, model making and trying new ideas**
Eg. sketching, painting, printing, clay work, willow weaving, 3D sculpture, boat design, mosaics, & more...
All materials will be supplied, including your own sketchbook
Based in the Learning Room with group sizes limited to 10-15 per session
Learn new skills, work with artists and makers, meet new people... and have fun!

There will also be the chance to take part in Arts Award at Discover and Explore levels. https://www.artsaward.org.uk

YES please! Id like to apply to take part in Saturday Club!

NAME	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
PHONE NUMBER	
SCHOOL/COLLEGE	
AGE	

Please tell us a little about why you would like to be part of Saturday Club at the Museum

I may be interested in doing Arts Award at Explore or Discover level YES / NO

If selected, you will be invited to come along and REGISTER for the club and will need to be accompanied by the adult parent/guardian/carer who is giving permission for you to attend, and who will be able to provide emergency contact details. This is a way for you, your adults and the museum team to all meet up and get to know each other.
All sessions will be delivered by experienced staff, working with Museum staff and volunteers, in accordance with our Safeguarding Policy.

NAME of responsible adult	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
PHONE NUMBER	
RELATIONSHIP TO YOU	

Please return this form to:
FAO **Tamasine Addie, Learning Officer, Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon** tamasine.addie@northdevon.gov.uk
It can be sent by email or paper copies can be posted / dropped in at the museum
Please get forms to us by **MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2026** as we hope to start our first sessions in November

We will get in touch once we have received forms and let you know if you have been selected to join up – Good luck!