

NEWSLETTER

Issue 1
 September 2009

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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Day	Date	Event
Fri	5th Sept	Year 7 & 12 Start of term
Mon	7th Sept	Years 8-11 & 13 Start of term
Wed	9th Sept	Year 12 Independent Learning day
Thu	10th Sept	Year 12 Independent Learning day
Fri	11th Sept	Year 12 Timetable distribution
Mon	14th Sept	Year 12 lessons commence
Tue	15th Sept	Year 11 PHSE Day
Wed	16th Sept	Year 10 Curriculum & Work Experience evening 7.00pm
Fri	18th Sept	House Officials Interviews
Sat & Sun	19th & 20th Sept	Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition
Mon	21st Sept	Year 7 NFER Tests
		Year 8 Learning to Learn visit (Au, Fi, Da & Gy)
		BTEC T&T Thorpe park trip
Tue	22nd Sept	Year 7 NFER Tests
Sat & Sun	26th & 27th Sept	Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition
w/b	28th Sept	Languages week
Mon	28th Sept	Year 8 Learning to Learn visit (Le, Wi, By & Gy)
Wed	30th Sept	Y7 Curriculum & Tutor evening 4.30pm
		Y12 Tutor evening TBC 4.30pm

Some October dates.....

Thu	1st Oct	HPV injections Years 8, 10, 11, 12 & 13
Wed	7th Oct	Coombe Boys' School Prospective Parents' evening
Wed	14th Oct	Early closure 12.30pm
		Prospective Parents evening 6.30pm
Thu	15th Oct	Open morning for Prospective Parents 9.30am - 1.00pm

Reporting Student Absence

Please phone or text the school no later than 9.30am.

Coombe Absence Line: 02089421242

Coombe Secure Website (text messaging service): 07797801419

WELCOME BACK

I would like to welcome everyone back at the start of this new academic year after what was, I hope, a refreshing and relaxing holiday. A particular welcome to all our new staff and students and I hope they will be happy and successful in their new school.

Last term saw us saying farewell to several staff but I am delighted to say that Coombe has a full teaching complement for this autumn.

Mrs Campbell, Headteacher

Heads of Department

The following staff are Heads of Department. Please contact them if you have questions about the curriculum in a particular subject, or setting arrangements or subject queries.

English	Mrs K Corkhill
Maths	Mrs N Hassan
Science	Mr W Sedgewick
Languages	Mrs J Davies
Technology	Mr J Pounds
ICT	Miss S Palmer
Art	Mr B Keeble/Ms S Elmore
Business Studies	Mr M Carragher
Citizenship	Miss V Sheldon
Drama	Ms S Borra
Geography	Mr R Jones
History, Politics & Sociology	Miss F Jones
Media Studies	Mr K Roberts
Music	Miss C Mitchell
PE and Dance	Miss K Pipe/Mrs R Perry
PSHE	Dr U Hodges
Psychology	Miss E Walsh
RE	Mrs E Ziriati
Sociology	Ms Lawrence
Health & Social Care	Mrs B Blanchard
Travel & Tourism	Miss Williams

“A particular
welcome to all
our new staff and
students”

Heads of Year

The following staff are Heads of Year and should be contacted for pastoral matters.

Year 7	Mrs E Ziriati
Year 8	Dr U Hodges
Year 9	Mrs B Blanchard
Year 10	Ms Lawrence
Year 11	Miss McGinn
Year 12	Mrs Pellett
Year 13	Mrs Law
KS3/4 Manager	Mrs Gibbins (On maternity leave)
KS4/5 Manager	Miss Walsh

Our Special Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) is Ms S Salih

Our Head of Careers is Miss E Thompson

The Leadership Team

Miss Howarth has overall responsibility as Head of Lower School for Years 7,8 & 9, Mrs Knight as Head of Upper School for Years 10 and 11 and Mr Peters is overall Director of Sixth Form. Ms Croke, Mr Peters, Mr Smith, Miss Howarth, Mrs Knight and Mr Power will have leadership responsibilities for the Heads of Department.

Mrs C Campbell	Headteacher
Mrs S Warne	Senior Deputy Head:Professional Development, Marketing
Ms H Buchanan	Deputy Head:Student Development, Timetable, Exclusion
Ms L Croke	Deputy Head:Curriculum, Gifted & Talented
Mr D Smith	Deputy Head:Data, Cross-Curricular Developments, Buildings
Mr D Peters	Assistant Head:Director of Sixth Form
Miss L Howarth	Assistant Head:i/c Lower School, Healthy Schools
Mr N Power	Assistant Head:i/c Specialist School, p/t LA Adviser
Mrs C Knight	Assistant Head:i/c Upper School, Student Voice

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

EARLY CLOSURES FOR THIS YEAR

There will be a limited number of days on which the school will close early in order to enable staff to prepare for major events. On these days pupils will be released from school at 12.30 pm. These are:

Wednesday 14th October 2009 for Prospective Parents' Evening
 Wednesday 11th November 2009 for Sixth Form Opportunities Evening
 Wednesday 24th February 2010 for Year 9 Options Evening

Any other necessary changes to the usual timings will be notified as far in advance as possible. At present, however, no more early closures are planned.

ACADEMIC MENTORING DAYS

There will, as usual, be two Academic Mentoring Days this year for which pupils will only be expected to attend for their appointment with their Tutor. These are:
 Friday 13th November 2009 and Thursday 11th March 2010.

INSET DAYS

Thursday 3rd September 2009, Friday 23rd October 2009, Thursday 1st April 2010,
 Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd July 2010.

“There will, as usual, be two Academic Mentoring Days this year”



A copy of the school calendar will be handed out to all students at the beginning of term. A copy can also be downloaded from the school website.

www.coombegirlsschool.org

VOLLEYBALL FINALS

As "Coombe girls school Volleyball team" beat every secondary school within the Kingston Borough (making us Borough Volleyball Champions!!), we qualified for the next round - The Inter-Borough Volleyball Finals!

On 15th July 2009, Miss Butler took Coombe A Volleyball team and Coombe B Volleyball team to Tiffin Girls' School to compete in a huge Volleyball competition.

Coombe A team consisted of:
Captain Malory Torr
Ellie Williams
Bella Lindsley
Annabel De Grouchy
Phillipa Ciezarek
Kieu-Oanh Vo

Coombe B team consisted of:
Captain Rosie Hudson
Laura Timmins
Aya Khedairi
Cathy Hensman
Zara Talat
Ayah Sharif

Coombe A team beat Teddington 37-14, beat Tiffin Girls' School 23-21 and beat Coombe B team 22-20. Coombe A team met Christ School from Guildford in the final!! The game was extremely close, and our girls demonstrated excellent tactics and displayed fantastic performances.

Coombe A team were silver medalists - (losing to Christ 25-21 in the final) so were named as runners up in the Inter-Borough Volleyball Finals.

Coombe B team beat Teddington 35-18 and beat Tiffin Girls' School 29-23. Coombe B team lost to Christ 23-19 and lost by 2 points to Coombe A 22-20. Coombe B team met Tiffin Girls' School in the 3rd and 4th place play-offs.

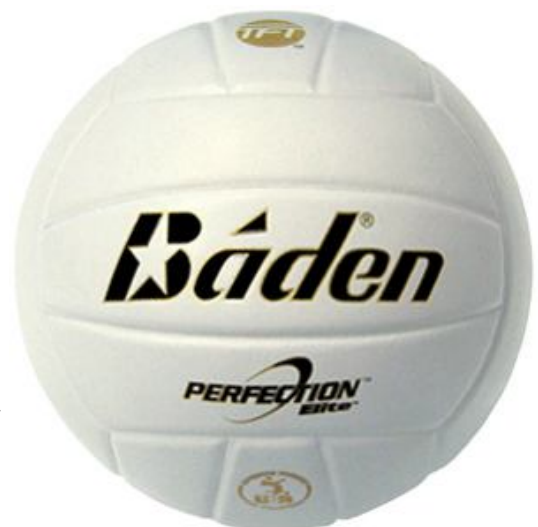
Coombe B team placed 4th overall within the Inter-Borough Volleyball Finals.

Well done Girls. It was an extremely enjoyable day and your motivation, and willingness to demonstrate excellent play was a credit to the school.

Lets get ready for next year!

Miss Butler - PE

"Coombe A team
beat Teddington
37-14"



CONTACTING COOMBE

Phone: 020 89421242
Fax: 020 89426385
E-mail: cmg@rbksch.org

PFA NEWS

Interested in the PFA?

Would you like to know more about the PFA?

We are always in need of new members so why not come along to our next meeting to find out more about us.

Several members of the current committee will be resigning their posts at the AGM in October this year due to various other commitments.

This provides the perfect opportunity for anyone with an interest in helping to run the PFA. We need parents to volunteer their services to take on one of the vacancies that will become available or just come to a meeting to find out more about the fund raising activities of the PFA.

Want to find out more before making any commitment?

Why not come along to our next meeting on Tuesday 15th September at 6.30pm in the Learning Resource Centre, to have a chat and see what it's all about. Meetings usually finish about 8pm.

Advance notice: The AGM will be on Tuesday 20th October in the LRC. All welcome.

Can't make it on the 15th September? Don't be put off, just email gparry@hotmail.co.uk for more information.

“If you have anything you no longer require please donate it to the PFA”

Second Hand Uniform

We would like to remind everyone that we are always looking for any unwanted items of new style school uniform in good condition. If you have anything you no longer require please donate it to the PFA. All items will be sold to parents along with other un-named and unclaimed uniform items at vastly reduced prices to help fund school projects. Please leave all donations at the school reception marked for the attention of the PFA. We are hoping to have second hand uniform sales at all parent evenings throughout the year as well as other events that will be advertised in advance.

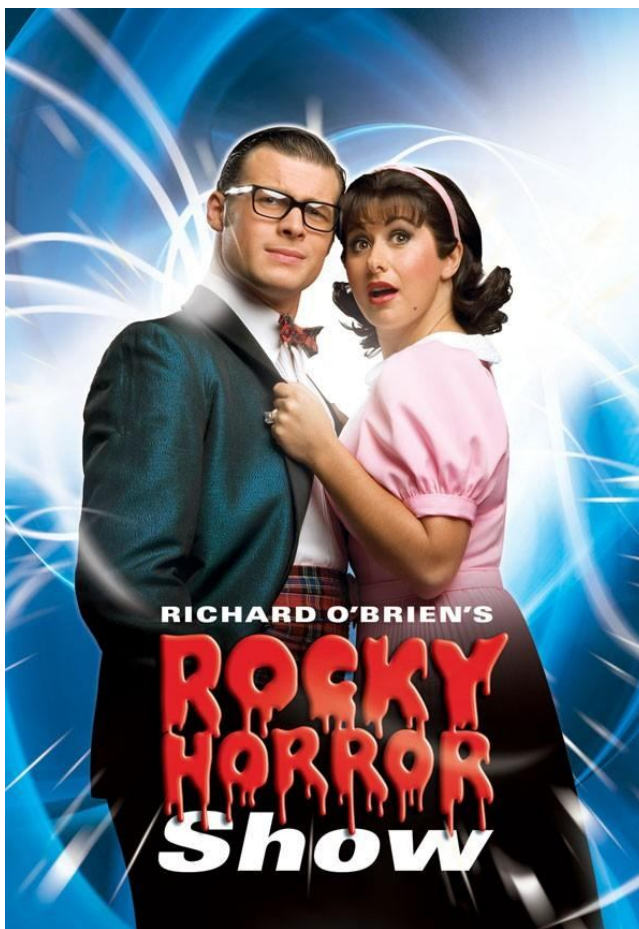


PFA NEWS CONT....

Theatre Club

We now have tickets for ROCKY HORROR SHOW at the New Wimbledon Theatre 23rd September at 7.30pm. Tickets are £23 instead of £30. This was a fantastic night when we did it a couple of years ago. 'Let's do the Time Warp again'!! Visit www.theambassadors.com for information on the show and call Fiona Sowell from the PFA to hold tickets on 020 8974 6779 / 07710 937 437. Buy tickets and raise funds for Coombe Girls' School.

We look forward to meeting you on Tuesday 15th September in the LRC at 6.30pm. Please use the Darley Drive entrance.



“We now have tickets for ROCKY HORROR SHOW at the New Wimbledon Theatre”

GREAT RIVER RACE

A special mention goes to Emily Orton who took part in the Great River Race on Saturday 5th September. Emily was rowing with the Petersham & Ham Sea Scouts Explorer Unit 'Eric the Red'. They came third in the under 16 section with a time of 3 hours 28 minutes and 38 seconds.

A list of local optical practices can be found in the telephone book, library and on the internet.



PARENTS!

No charge - get your child's eyes checked



Children's Vision

A survey of the vision of 1,000 school age children found that one in five had a sight defect that had apparently gone unnoticed. Some of these faults could interfere with education and development, so the sooner they are detected the better. In some cases the earlier the defect is found the more successful is the treatment.

Vision is a Developing Sense

The eyes of a newborn baby are normally well equipped to enable rapid recognition of its immediate environment. A baby's eyes may not seem to work together in the first few weeks of life, but recognition of family members is quick and within a few months, a baby should be able to focus accurately onto close objects. Although vision can reach adult standards by the age of 18 months, many further visual skills will be developed over the next three years. Poor focus in one eye could have permanent effects on a child's sight. In fact most squints and lazy eyes appear between the ages of two and three years. It is worth remembering that children cannot "grow out" of these defects and it is therefore important to detect visual problems at an early age.

What Happens During an Eye Examination?

Your child will be given adequate time to settle. Several simple tests are introduced to build the child's confidence and to check eye coordination. Vision and focussing are checked in several different ways. Some of these methods involve matching shapes or letters but other techniques are routinely used for the very young. Do not worry that your child might give an incorrect response; the optometrist never relies on a single answer but always checks the results carefully.

Treatment

Early detection of vision problems often enables successful treatment. This may involve spectacles, patching or exercises both at home or in the clinic. Optometrists are trained to recognise eye conditions needing medical attention and will refer you to an Ophthalmic Clinic if necessary.

Spectacles

NHS Vouchers are available to help you with the cost of children's spectacles. There are many sturdy and attractive ranges to choose from, and your local optical practice is there to help.



Every child should have an eye examination before starting school, (i.e. 4-5 years).



If there is a family history of long-sightedness, astigmatism, lazy eye or squint, your child should be examined before the age of two. This precaution could prevent permanent damage to vision.



All children should be examined periodically. Short-sightedness in the family emphasises the need for regular checks from the age of eight.



Remember a child cannot grow out of a squint. Should you suspect any eye problem, consult your local Optometrist.



Protection against Ultra Violet Radiation is important for us all, but particularly for children, with their large pupils. Ask your local Optical practice for advice on suitable sunglasses.



A list of your local Optical practices can be found on the NHS website by entering your postcode.



Children's eye examinations are available under the NHS so they will cost you nothing. Speak to your Optometrist today because

EYE CARE MAKES SENSE