

Friday 11 September 2026

THE COSTELLO SCHOOL WEEKLY BULLETIN



Welcome from Mr A Conway - Headteacher

It has been a pleasure to welcome students back to The Costello School. The school has quickly returned to being a calm, purposeful and positive place and I have been enormously impressed by the attitude students have brought to the new academic year.

A particularly warm welcome goes to our new Year 7 students and their families. Starting secondary school is an important milestone and our youngest students have made an excellent first impression. They are already participating confidently in lessons, finding their way around the school and embracing everything that life at Costello has to offer.

An exceptional start

In just over a week, our students have already earned an extraordinary 42,980 achievement points for their effort, learning and contribution to school life.

At the same point last year, students had earned 27,661 points. This year's total is therefore more than 15,000 points higher, representing an increase of approximately 55%.

Each point reflects something worth celebrating: an excellent piece of work, sustained effort, thoughtful participation, kindness or a student going beyond what is expected. Together, they demonstrate how strongly our students have begun the year and how consistently they are living our values of Enjoy, Respect and Achieve.

They should feel extremely proud of the start they have made. We certainly are.

Celebrating the Class of 2026

We also begin the year celebrating the excellent GCSE results achieved by the Class of 2026:

- 72% of students achieved grade 4 or above in both English and mathematics;
- 54% achieved grade 5 or above in both English and mathematics;
- 84.5% achieved grade 4 or above in English;
- more than one quarter of all GCSE entries were awarded the highest grades of 7–9;
- an impressive 79 grade 9s were awarded across the year group.

Among the many exceptional individual performances, Sofia D achieved a remarkable clean sweep of nine grade 9s, an accomplishment achieved by only around 0.2% of students nationally. Izabelle W matched Sofia's nine grade 9s while also securing two further top grades. Mary Jane M achieved six grade 9s and three grade 8s, while Max H secured seven grade 9s, three grade 8s and one grade 7.

Behind every result is an individual story of commitment, resilience and ambition. These outcomes reflect the hard work of our students, the expertise of our staff and the invaluable support of parents and carers. Most importantly, they have enabled our former students to progress confidently to sixth forms, colleges, apprenticeships and other exciting opportunities.

We are immensely proud of the Class of 2026 and look forward to seeing what they achieve next.

Investing in Costello

There has also been significant work across the school site. Our new air source heat pumps have now been installed, with the final stages of the installation almost complete. Together with the solar panels fitted last year, this represents another important step in improving the sustainability and energy efficiency of our school.

There is much to look forward to during the year ahead, both within the classroom and through the wide range of clubs, trips, performances, sporting opportunities, CCF and Duke of Edinburgh activities available to our students.

Thank you to parents and carers for your support at the start of term. The partnership between school and home makes a genuine difference and we are grateful for the trust you place in us.

From our new Year 7 students to the remarkable Class of 2026, our young people have already given us many reasons to feel Proud to be Costello.

Mr Conway



Year 7 ClassCharts Invitation Letter (email sent 4.9.26)

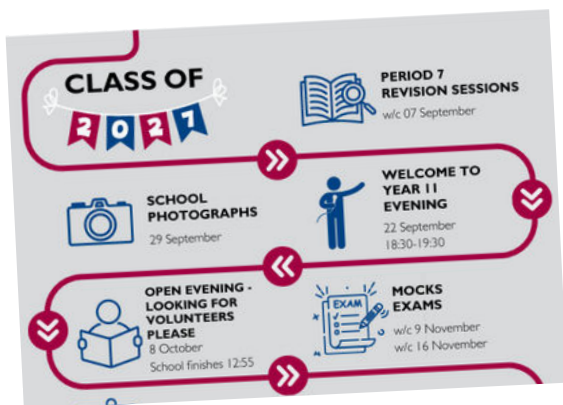
This platform brings together several important functions, including our homework system, timetable, teacher communication, absence reporting, and behaviour management.

Year 7 Welcome Disco (email sent 4.9.26)

We are delighted to invite all Year 7 students to our Welcome Disco, giving them the opportunity to celebrate the start of their journey at Costello School.

'Welcome to' Evenings (email sent 7.9.26)

We are delighted to invite you to our upcoming 'Welcome to' evenings, an important opportunity to meet our team and hear more about the year ahead for your child.



Key Events (Roadmaps) 2026/2027

All years roadmaps showing key events can be found on our website here - [Communications - Key Events](#)

Co-curricular Activities

Autumn Term Timetables now on our website - [Enjoy Resect Achieve - beyond the classroom](#)

Enrichment activities – Autumn T

MONDAY		
ACTIVITY	YEAR GROUP	STAFF
TUTOR TIME		
LUNCHTIME		
Multi gym	9-11	
Chess Club	7-11	Mr Jennings
KS4 Art & Photography Drop in	9-11	Mr Thomas
Digital Languages Club (French, German & Spanish) – for support with Quizlet and other online language learning or	7-11	M Spacagna
		Mrs McDougall

Hampshire County Council is holding a consultation in relation to proposed changes to the school catchment area for The Vyne Community School, Basingstoke. This consultation will run from Tuesday 1 September 2026 to Tuesday 29 September 2026 during which time comments on the proposal may be submitted.

Details regarding the proposal can be found at this website from today including maps of the current and proposed catchment areas:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/vyne-community-school-basingstoke>

All Years - Communications

TERM DATES & INSET DAYS

Autumn Term 2026	INSET Days	Tuesday 1 – Wednesday 2 September
	Term Begins	Thursday 3 September – Year 7 and Year 11 ONLY
	Term Begins	Friday 4 September – All Years
	BET INSET	Friday 25 September
	Open Evening	Thursday 8 October – Early finish at 12:55
	Late Start	Friday 9 October – 09:50 start (following Open Evening)
	Half Term	Monday 26 October – Tuesday 3 November (students return on Wednesday 4 November)
	BET INSET	Wednesday 25 November
	Term Ends	Friday 18 December – Early finish at 12:00
	Christmas Break	Monday 21 December – Monday 4 January (students return on Tuesday 5 January)
Spring Term 2027	Term Begins	Tuesday 5 January
	Half Term	Monday 15 February – Friday 19 February
	INSET Day	Monday 8 March
	Term Ends	Thursday 25 March – Early finish at 12:00
	Easter Break	Friday 26 March – Friday 9 April
Summer Term 2027	Term Begins	Monday 12 April
	Bank Holiday	Monday 3 May
	Half Term	Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June
	BET INSET	Tuesday 22 June
	Term Ends	Wednesday 21 July – Early finish at 12:00

Red/Blue Weeks Planner

Top 5 Achievers

July 2026

Achievement Points awarded 06/07/2026 - 10/07/2026

YEAR 7 TOP 5

Kayden M (7ATI)	64
Seren B (7JAI)	43
Chloe B (7MAI)	40
Karim L (7DA2)	40
Minnie C (7RP2)	39

YEAR 8 TOP 5

Katie S (8MA2)	81
Marcus W (8MAI)	80
Calum M (8DA2)	79
Jack B (8DAI)	79
Alexander L (8RPI)	77

YEAR 9 TOP 5

Tom H (9MAI)	81
George F (9MAI)	69
Aimee H (9MAI)	67
Miron M (9RPI)	64
Nick C (9MA2)	59

YEAR 10 TOP 5

Erica R (10DA2)	44
Jacob M (10ATI)	41
Rebecca N (10AT2)	40
Avani L (10DA2)	38
Isla R (10DA2)	37
Tom M (10MAI)	37

Well done to all!

#CostelloCommunity
enjoy | respect | achieve

VIEW LOST PROPERTY ON WEBSITE

Lost property items that are not named can now be viewed on our website!

[VIEW LOST PROPERTY CLICK HERE](#)

Items will be kept for a minimum of four weeks, after this time it will be recycled or given to charity.

Students have daily access to the lost property spreadsheet, via their tutor. This lists everything that's been handed in unnamed. Please ask your child to refer to the list, if they have lost anything, as well as retracing their steps, and asking their Teachers.

Remember, it would greatly help if all uniform and water bottles etc are clearly named.

Any lost property queries please email Mrs McClure - h.mcclure@costello.hants.sch.uk

Last chance to claim!

- Black & grey patterned pencil case
- Black Asda trousers age 11/12 slim leg
- 32/34 Girls PE top
- Boys PE top (label cut out)
- Smokey black "Cornerstone" plastic water bottle
- Lilac metal "bottle/bottle" water bottle
- Pink hairbrush
- Black pencil case
- Beige and clear plastic water bottle
- 32" maroon jumper
- 30/32 PE hoodie
- Black "Avenue" hoodie size XL
- 30" maroon jumper
- Black Nike Air pencil case
- 1 x black Nike Air pencil case
- Bright pink glasses case (empty)

Do you love Rock 'n' Roll? Jazz? Film Music? Dance Music?

Then why not learn to play it yourself?

We're delighted to offer a fantastic opportunity for private and group saxophone lessons for students at The Costello School! Whether you're a complete beginner or already making music, there's never been a better time to give the saxophone a try.

Interested?

For more information, please contact Ms Wagstaff via cadmin@costello.hants.sch.uk. Let's make some music!

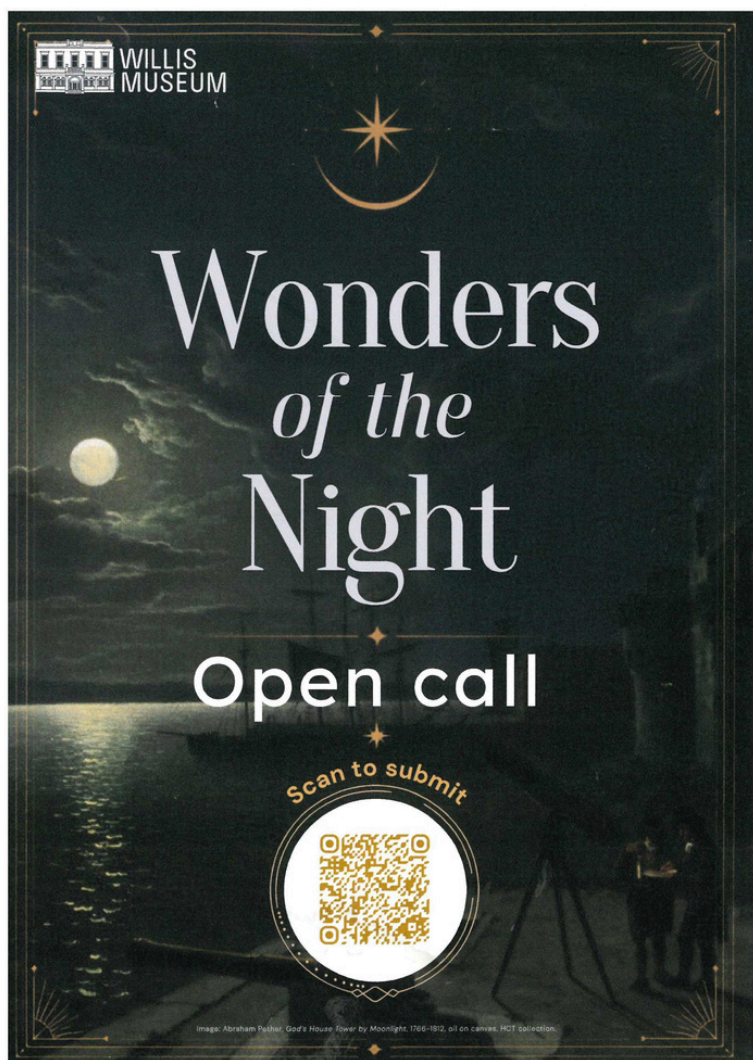


Find Your Sound!

From Rock 'n' Roll & Jazz to Film & Dance Music...

Learn Saxophone at The Costello School

Private & group lessons available



WILLIS MUSEUM

Wonders of the Night

Open call

Scan to submit



Image: Abraham Pissarro, God's House Tower by Moonlight, 1766-1812, oil on canvas, HCT Collection

Calling Hampshire Artists

We're inviting artists from across Hampshire to exhibit in our flagship Sainsbury Gallery as part of our next exhibition, *Wonders of the Night*.

Inspired by curious objects from our collections, dating from across the centuries, the exhibition brings past and present together through our shared fascination with the night.

Themes you might explore...

The night sky

The moon, stars, constellations, planets and the cosmos.

Wonder and curiosity

Astronomy, astrology, star signs, exploration and our place in the universe.

Nature after dark

The changing light of dusk, twilight skies, nocturnal wildlife, moonlit landscapes, campfires and the glow of towns and cities after dark.

Stories of the night

Dreams, folklore, imagination, mythology, memory, grief, or even artwork created after dark.

Your interpretation is entirely your own. Artwork must respond to the theme, but does not need to have been created specifically for the exhibition.

We welcome all mediums, including painting, drawing, pastels, photography, printmaking, textiles, sculpture, mixed media and film.

Key Information

Exhibition dates: 14 November 2026 – 7 March 2027

Venue: Willis Museum & Sainsbury Gallery, Basingstoke

Submission close: 25 October 2026

£3 per entry, max 3 entries per artist, Junior Category (17 and under) free
25% plus VAT commission on any sales

People's Choice Award: 1st Prize: £100 voucher, 2nd Prize: £50 voucher
3rd Prize: £25 voucher

For enquiries, email: tabitha.g-pollock@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk

Submissions will be considered for inclusion in the exhibition by a selection panel. Artwork will be selected from the image(s) provided with your application, so please ensure these clearly represent the work being submitted.

Successful applicants will be notified on Tuesday 27 October and will need to deliver their artwork within the following two weeks. Drop-off will be available in Basingstoke or Winchester.

ARE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS UP-TO-DATE?



We politely remind you of the importance of keeping your contact details up to date with the school. Recently, we have experienced an increase in cases where we have been unable to reach parents/carers due to outdated information.

To ensure the safety and well-being of our students, it is vital that we have your most current contact details, including phone numbers, email addresses, home address etc. Any changes must be provided to us in writing as we are no longer able to accept verbal updates over the phone.

If you are the priority 1 contact, we appreciate your patience if we need to verify any details with you directly. This is a necessary step to maintain accurate records and ensure effective communication in case of emergencies or important updates. If you wish to check the current information we have held for you then please contact our friendly Reception Team who would be happy to help.

Please email cadmin@costello.hants.sch.uk if you need to update any information.



Have you thought about joining the brilliant teaching profession or know someone that should?

We offer all the benefits of being part of a large national programme while also providing locally delivered school-based training.

Find out more about training to teach with Inspiring Future Teachers contact us at teachertraining@bohuntrust.com

Medication in School

If your child requires medication to be administered during a school day, these need to be stored in the Medical office along with the medicines administering form signed by a parent. Medication should be in original packaging with the information leaflet included. Students are not permitted to carry any medication on them, apart from inhalers and auto-injectors.

Medical Help in School

Please be reminded that students should not be contacting parents and arranging to be collected from school during the school day. If your child starts feeling unwell, please advise them to go to the Medical office to receive medical assistance or, if required, the school will contact the parents to arrange to take the student home.

Lost Property

We have an ever increasing amount of lost property. All items of clothing/property should be clearly labelled with your child's name. If your child has misplaced any of their personal belongings they are welcome to come to Reprographics - Mrs McClure, Reception or Site, during breaks or after school to see if these have been handed in. Any valuable items will be kept at Reception. [VIEW LOST PROPERTY CLICK HERE](#)

Change of Address/Circumstances

Please notify us if there are any changes of address or circumstances by emailing cadmin@costello.hants.sch.uk

Enrichment

Co-curricular details can be found [HERE](#). We urge all students to sign up to a minimum of one club per term but the more the better!

Key Dates & Events

To view key dates and events for this academic year for your child you can view this [HERE](#).

Pre-loved Uniform

We sell a range of pre-loved uniform from our shop in the Reprographics office, with prices ranging from 50p to £5.00. (Cash only please). Please email Helen McClure, should you wish to enquire-giving approximate sizes to ; repro@costello.hants.sch.uk

Also, should you wish to donate any outgrown uniform, we are always very grateful-thank you!



Illness

When your child is unwell you must inform the school on the first morning of absence and for safeguarding, please ensure absence is reported daily. We recommend absences are reported promptly before 09:00. Please refer to the NHS 'Healthier together' app or see guidance [here](#)

Planned Leave of Absence

Please note, there is no legal entitlement for time off during term time and adequate notice needs to be given. Please use the [LOA form](#) to report any planned absence.

Medical appointments

If you are unable to obtain a medical/dental appointment outside of school hours, the appointment details are to be advised on '**Report an**

Absence' via Classcharts.

Alternatively, email to cadmin@costello.hants.sch.uk

Report an Absence

This can be done on '**Report an Absence**' via Classcharts or email to cadmin@costello.hants.sch.uk

Guidance on how to report via Classcharts [here](#)