

Friday 9 October 2026

THE COSTELLO SCHOOL WEEKLY BULLETIN



Welcome from Miss N Moseley Associate Assistant Headteacher, Operations

I've been part of the Costello community for over 16 years, both as a member of staff and as a parent. My eldest child has been through Costello, while my youngest is currently in Year 9 and beginning his GCSE journey. This gives me a particularly valuable perspective on school life, understanding both the opportunities we provide and the experiences of the families we serve.

One of the things I value most about Costello is our strong sense of community. Having watched generations of students grow in confidence, develop their talents and achieve their ambitions, I know how important it is that every child feels supported, challenged and proud to belong.

My role is wonderfully varied. Alongside teaching Computer Science, I lead digital learning across the school, including our 1:1 iPad programme and support the wider day-to-day operations of Costello. I'm passionate about ensuring technology enhances learning, creates opportunities and equips our students with the knowledge and skills they need for the future.

Technology brings enormous benefits, but it also presents challenges for young people and their families. An important part of our work is helping students become confident, responsible and safe digital citizens.

With this in mind, I wanted to share some guidance on something you may have heard your child mention: VPNs.

VPNs: What Do Parents/Carers Need to Know?

As technology becomes an increasingly important part of young people's lives, understanding how they use the internet is essential.

You may have heard your child mention a VPN, particularly if they enjoy online gaming, social media or spending time online. But what exactly is a VPN and why should parents be aware of them?

What is a VPN?

A Virtual Private Network (VPN) is a tool that creates a more private connection between a device and the internet. VPNs have legitimate uses, including improving privacy and protecting information when using public Wi-Fi.

However, some young people use VPNs to access websites, apps or content that would otherwise be restricted by their home or school network.

Why does this matter?

At Costello, keeping children safe online is an important part of our safeguarding responsibilities. We use filtering and monitoring systems to help protect students when using school technology.

Depending on how they are configured, VPNs can interfere with some of these safeguards, making it harder for schools and parents to monitor or restrict access to potentially harmful content.

It's also important to recognise that using a VPN does not automatically make someone anonymous or safe online. Young people can still encounter scams, inappropriate material, cyberbullying and unwanted contact.

What can parents/carers do?

The most effective starting point is an open conversation with your child.

Rather than simply asking why they are using a VPN, you might ask: "Can you show me what it does and explain why you want to use it?"

We would encourage parents/carers to:

- Talk to your child about the apps, games and websites they use.
- Check whether a VPN is installed on their device and understand why they are using it.
- Review parental controls, privacy settings and age restrictions regularly.
- Remind children that a VPN does not remove the risks associated with being online.
- Encourage children to speak to a trusted adult if they encounter anything that makes them uncomfortable or worried.

Working together to keep children safe

At Costello, we want our students to enjoy the opportunities technology provides while developing the knowledge and judgement to use it responsibly.

Our 1:1 iPad programme is about much more than providing devices. It is about enhancing teaching and learning, developing digital confidence and preparing young people for an increasingly connected world.

By working together as a school and as families, we can help our children make informed choices, recognise risks and enjoy the benefits of technology safely.

If you have concerns about your child's online experiences, please do contact their pastoral team. We are always happy to offer advice and support.

ProudToBeCostello

October Half Term Intervention – Art and Photography (sent 5.10.26)

To support our Year 11 Art and Photography students in completing and developing their GCSE coursework projects, we are offering a supervised intervention session during the October half-term on Tuesday 27 October.

Year 11 MFL Speaking Exams PPE (sent 5.10.26)

We are writing to inform you that the first Modern Foreign Languages GCSE Speaking Pre Public Examinations will begin on Monday 19 October 2026.

KS4 Disneyland Paris - December 2027 Expression of Interest (sent 9.10.26)

We are pleased to propose an educational trip to Disneyland Paris for Key Stage 4 students, taking place over three days in December 2027. We have capacity for up to 100 students to participate in the trip.

The latest issue of BETTER Times - Issue 24, Autumn 2026 - is out!

With a brand-new format, celebrating our ethos of 'enjoy respect achieve', the magazine is a celebration of all things BET.

[READ BETTER TIMES 24 HERE](#)

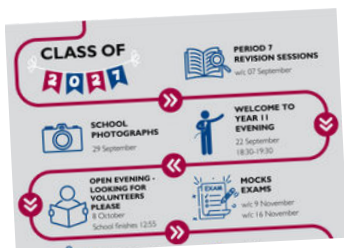
<https://www.bohuntrust.co.uk/news-main/better-times/>



REMINDER

Half Term

Monday 26 October – Tuesday 3 November
(students return on Wednesday 4 November)



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 Respect 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

Top 5 Achievers

Achievement Points awarded 28/09/2026 - 02/10/2026

YEAR 7 TOP 5

Kirill F (7AT2)	82
Sam L (7MA2)	82
Chloe E (7DA2)	79
Tarunya Y (7DA1)	79
Jason A (7RP2)	77

YEAR 8 TOP 5

Sparsh S (8JA2)	82
Rowan S (8MA1)	82
Heidi B (8AT1)	79
Vidhyuth V (8JA1)	76
Taylor C (8JA2)	75

YEAR 9 TOP 5

Toby M (9AT1)	77
Alexei L (9AT2)	73
Tara C (9MA1)	67
Will M (9MA2)	66
Joel O (9AT2)	64

YEAR 10 TOP 5

Sully W (10MA2)	82
Aimee H (10MA1)	78
Ella M (10MA1)	75
Aaron F (10MA2)	71
Tom H (10MA1)	69

YEAR 11 TOP 5

Poppy B (11MA2)	59
Freddie W (11DA2)	57
Aimee F (11AT1)	55
Gaby K (11MA1)	55
Eva B (11JA2)	55

Well done to all!

#CostelloCommunity
enjoy | respect | achieve

All Years - Communications

TERM DATES & INSET DAYS

Autumn Term 2026	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

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!

- Cream glass case with clear glasses
- Pale green metal water bottle "Clarks"
- Tu black school trousers age 15yrs
- Black girls "Mountain warehouse" coat size 14
- 38/40 boy PE top
- Blue JA tie
- Red RP tie
- Red RP tie
- Pastel heart design metal water bottle "bottle bottle"
- Red Argos plastic bag with b & w adidas trainers size 5.5
- Black school shoes size 39 "Memphis one"
- Black school shoes size 4 "Adidas"
- AT purple house tie
- Black school trousers size 26 "The school uniform company"
- Black school trousers age 16/17 "George"

School Age Immunisation Service - Parent Newsletter

Annual Flu Vaccination Programme

All children are eligible to receive the flu vaccine. Parents and carers are sent a link to the online consent form between September and November, ahead of the school vaccination session.

The vaccine is usually given as a nasal spray. For children who cannot have the nasal spray due to medical or religious reasons, a porcine-free injectable vaccine is available. Details about how to request this are included on the electronic consent form.

Why should I get my child vaccinated? Flu is a highly infectious illness that children can catch and spread easily. For many children, flu can be very unpleasant and may lead to complications such as ear infections, bronchitis, or pneumonia. In some cases, it can result in serious illness requiring hospital treatment.

Vaccinating your child not only helps protect them from flu but also reduces the spread of the virus to others who may be more vulnerable to serious illness, including babies, pregnant women, older adults, and those with long-term health conditions.

What if my child misses their school vaccination session? If you provide consent for your child to receive the flu vaccine and they are absent on the day of the school session, you will automatically receive an email inviting you to book an appointment at a local community clinic, ensuring your child still has the opportunity to be vaccinated.

It's not too late to complete the consent form. Even if your child's school vaccination session has already taken place, submitting a form now will allow you to book an appointment at a local community clinic.

For contact details and further information about the School Aged Immunisation Service and the vaccination programmes offered, please visit:

<https://www.healthforkids.co.uk/hampshire/collections/school-age-immunisation-service/>

Online Workshops

- Free impartial advice relating to SEND for 0-25 years.
- Confidential sessions not recorded.
- Peer support, talking to others experiencing a similar journey.
- A dedicated session with an experienced support worker

**9
OCT
13:00**

Considering an EHC Plan?

Independent and
impartial information to
guide you through the
process

**13
OCT
13:00**

Responding to a draft
EHCP

If you are in that critical
time frame having
received your draft

**14
OCT
17:30**

Appeals to SEND Tribunal

A step-by-step guide
through the appeals
process

**20
OCT
13:00**

Ordinarily Available
Provision and SEN Support

Looking at support
available for those who do
not have an EHCP

**28
OCT
10:00**

Responding to a draft
EHCP

If you are in that critical
time frame having
received your draft

**21
OCT
16:00**

Alternative Provision

What constitutes as a
suitable education in
relation to section 19 of
the education act



Join us for a fun filled day of acting, singing and dancing exploring all the amazing spooky musicals!

Monday 26th October 10-3pm

Ages 6 - 17 years / £35

Everest Community Academy, Basingstoke

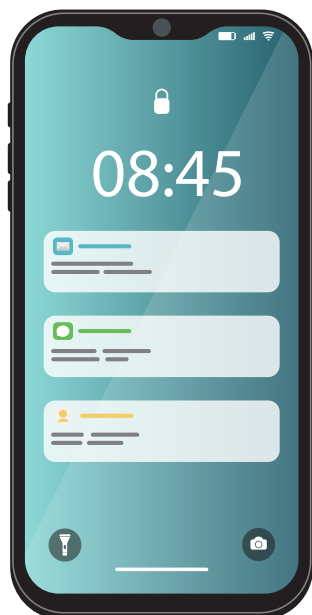
Contact Pip for more details

basingstoke@theatretrein.co.uk / 07763660335

theatretrein.co.uk/basingstoke

THEATRE DANCE
TRAIN ACT
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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](#)