The Costello School

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The Costello School

Friday 20 November 2026

THE COSTELLO SCHOOL WEEKLY BULLETIN



Welcome from Mr Rees - Head of Year 7

Year 7: A Fantastic Start to Life at Costello

It has been a genuine pleasure to welcome our new Year 7 cohort to The Costello School and to see the progress they have made during their first term. Moving from primary to secondary school is a significant milestone, bringing new routines, new expectations and many new opportunities. Our students have embraced these changes with positivity, resilience and maturity, making an excellent start to their journey at Costello.

One of the most impressive aspects of the year group's transition has been the way students have developed socially and built positive relationships with one another. Starting secondary school often means joining classes with students from a range of different primary schools, and it has been wonderful to see new friendships forming across the year group. Students have shown kindness, inclusivity and respect towards one another, helping to create a welcoming environment where everyone feels valued and supported.

This collaborative spirit has also been evident in lessons. Staff have been particularly impressed by how well Year 7 students are working together in paired and group activities. Students are learning how to communicate effectively, listen to different viewpoints, share ideas and support one another's learning. These skills are central to success both in the classroom and beyond, and it has been pleasing to see students developing confidence as they contribute to discussions, solve problems together and learn from their peers.

At social times, students have continued to demonstrate our values of Enjoy, Respect and Achieve. The Year 7 social areas have quickly become positive spaces where students can relax, socialise and build friendships. We have seen students showing consideration towards others, welcoming peers into friendship groups and displaying increasing independence as they navigate school life. The maturity shown by many students during break and lunchtime has been a real credit to them.

Our students have also embraced the wider opportunities available at Costello. Participation in co-curricular clubs and activities has been exceptionally strong, with students keen to involve themselves in sports, performing arts, academic enrichment and other clubs. These activities provide valuable opportunities for students to develop new interests, strengthen friendships and further enhance their sense of belonging within the school community.

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Throughout the term, students have embodied our cultural values of Enjoy, Respect and Achieve. The significant number of positive points awarded to Year 7 reflects the excellent choices students are making on a daily basis (over 80,000 from term 1 alone). Whether demonstrating respect towards staff and peers, showing commitment in lessons or engaging positively with school life, the year group has established a strong foundation for future success.

A special welcome goes to Miss Bone, our Assistant Head of Year, who has made a fantastic start working with Year 7. She has quickly developed positive relationships with students and has played an important role in supporting their wellbeing, helping students to feel settled, confident and supported during their transition to secondary school.

I would like to thank the Year 7 students, parents/carers and staff for the warm welcome and support the team has received. It is a privilege to work with such a positive group of young people, and I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing the confidence, maturity and sense of community that has developed across the year group. Watching students forge new friendships, support one another and embrace the opportunities available at Costello has been a particular highlight of the term. I am incredibly proud of the way Year 7 have represented themselves and the school, and I look forward to continuing to support them as they progress through their time with us at Costello school.

I would also like to thank all parents and carers for the positive engagement and support shown throughout the transition process. The partnership between home and school is vital to ensuring students thrive, and we greatly appreciate the encouragement and communication we have received from families. Thank you to those who attended our Welcome to Year 7 Presentation and Meet the Tutor Evening. These events provided valuable opportunities to strengthen relationships, share information and work together to support students as they begin their secondary education.

As students receive their first reports home, we encourage them to reflect on the progress they have made so far, celebrate their successes and identify areas for continued growth. We are extremely proud of what the year group has achieved during their first term and look forward to seeing students continue to grow academically, socially and personally throughout Term 2 and beyond.

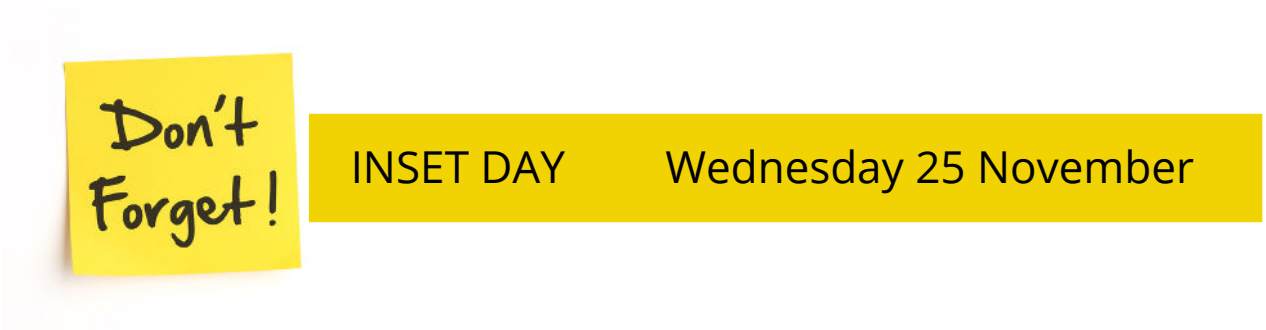
The Year 7 team is incredibly proud of the positive culture that is developing across the year group. The respectful relationships, collaborative approach to learning and strong sense of community that students have established provide a fantastic platform for future success. We look forward to celebrating many more achievements in the months ahead.

All Years - Communications

NHS Annual flu vaccination (sent 12.10.26)
Message from NHS School Age Immunisation Service regarding annual flu vaccination on Friday 27 November. Please let them know whether you do or do not want your child to have the vaccination using the link. Flu Vaccination Form - https://www.hiowhealthcareimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu?schoolcode=SH138287

Year 10 Parents/Carers Evening (sent 10.11.26)
We would like to invite you and your child to attend our Year 10 Parents' Evening on Thursday 10 December, from 16:00 to 19:00. This evening provides an excellent opportunity to discuss your child's current attainment and progress with their subject teachers. To access the system, please visit: https://costelloschool.parentseveningsystem.co.uk

Online Gaming, Safeguarding and Wellbeing (sent 17.11.26)
With the highly anticipated release of Grand Theft Auto VI (GTA 6) on Thursday 19 November, we would like to take this opportunity to highlight some important concerns regarding children's access to age-inappropriate gaming.



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Top 5 Achievers

Achievement Points awarded 09/11/2026 - 13/11/2026

YEAR 7 TOP 5	
Tarunya Y (7DA1)	80
Lily L (7AT2)	73
Tristan G (7AT1)	71
Bence C (7DA2)	70
Olivia P (7JA1)	70
Sophia L (7RP1)	70
Zoe G (7AT2)	70

YEAR 8 TOP 5	
Penny P (8DA1)	73
Reyaansh S (8RP2)	71
Rowan S (8MA1)	62
Heidi B (8AT1)	61
Ella G (8JA2)	60

YEAR 9 TOP 5	
Alexander L (9RP1)	94
Jack H (9MA2)	62
Kwesi S (9AT2)	60
Finley B (9RP1)	58
Emily A (9DA2)	55

YEAR 10 TOP 5	
Logan A (10MA2)	53
Alfie S (10MA2)	51
Adrian A (10MA2)	49
Aaron F (10MA2)	46
Corey D (10RP2)	40

YEAR 11 TOP 5	
Daniel H (11JA2)	26
William M (11RP1)	23
Max P (11DA1)	22
Aidan H (11AT1)	22
Asifa H (11DA2)	21
Harry C (11MA2)	21

Well done to all!

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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!

- Light green metal water bottle
- 36" Y11 jumper
- Tortoiseshell effect glasses
- Girls PE skort, label cut out
- PE fleece size L
- PE fleece size S
- PE socks
- Primark black coat age 11/12
- Black patent girls shoes size 6
- JA blue tie
- White short sleeve shirt age 13/14 George
- 34" Maroon jumper
- Black coat Primark size M
- Bright yellow shin pads
- Black "Sondico" shin pads
- Bright pink metal water bottle "Sistema"
- Light blue "Nutmeg" coat age 10/11
- Black metal water bottle with timings down the side
- 2 tone blue metal water bottle "Class of 2025"
- 34/36 PE hoodie
- Black coat "The North Face"
- 36" maroon jumper
- Dark grey metal water bottle "ION8"
- Orange jacket size XL
- Black belt

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THINKING ABOUT A CAREER IN TEACHING?

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Find out more at one of our free online webinars:

Tuesday 17 November, 9.30–10am
Wednesday 18 November, 6.45–7.15pm
Thursday 19 November, 1.30–2pm

Express your interest in webinars and/or training with IFT: teachertraining@bohunttrust.com

Visit the Bohunt IFT website to find out more here

Help inspire the next generation of game-changers by training to teach with Bohunt IFT

Reassuring Families About the New 2027 School Food Standards

Important Update from Your School Catering Team

Dear Parents and Carers,

You may have recently seen news coverage regarding the Department for Education's upcoming changes to the GOV.UK School Food Standards, which are set to become mandatory in September 2027.



At Accent, our heritage is built on serving food that is as delicious and exciting as it is wholesome. We have always cooked our meals from scratch using fresh, seasonal, and locally sourced ingredients, so **we are incredibly proud to say that our lunchtime menus are already aligned with these new guidelines.**

We know that changes to school routines can raise practical questions. We want to reassure you that **our core priority remains keeping lunchtime varied, delicious, and nutritious for your children**. These national updates are not about taking away the joy of school lunches — they are simply bringing the rest of the country up to the high standards we already hold ourselves to.

What is changing nationally (and how we already compare)

The updated guidelines represent the first major refresh of school food in over a decade. The primary focus is on boosting fibre from wholegrains and pulses while easing back on added sugar. Here is how we are managing this transition smoothly:

1. 

Fresh, Wholesome Ingredients: The new rules call for increased fruits, vegetables, pulses and whole grains. This is already our approach and you will see subtle changes to menus that add more nutritious pulses (like lentils or chickpeas) into our popular dishes and sauces to pack a nutritional punch, especially in to our vegetarian / vegan dishes.

2. 

Healthier Cooking Methods: We rarely, if ever, deep-fry items so removing deep fat fryers from school kitchens entirely is nothing new for us; our talented chefs already bake, roast, or grill our foods to keep them incredibly tasty and satisfying.

3. 

Balanced Treats: Sweetened baked goods and cakes will be limited across secondary schools. Our pastry chefs are already experts at this, crafting wonderful fruit-based desserts and reducing added sugars across our baking long before these guidelines were introduced.

4. 

Total Transparency: Schools will be required to publish full menus online and appoint a dedicated school food governor. We welcome this transparency and will continue to make our full menus and allergen information readily available to our schools and parents / carers via school websites and at appropriate school events.

Rest Assured: The school favourites are here to stay

We understand that some children can be hesitant around dietary changes. Please be reassured that **your child's favourite meals are not disappearing**. Staples like pasta and pasta bakes, curries, jacket potatoes, and classic roast dinners will remain firmly on the menu. Our culinary development teams and on site catering team are now doing what they do best: refining our recipes behind the scenes to make sure these meals remain on the menu, meeting both the pupils' requirements and the new criteria.

Our Next Steps

These rules do not officially come into effect until September 2027, we have a brilliant window of time to refine our offerings even further. Over the coming terms, we will continue trialling small, innovative recipe updates and gathering direct feedback from the pupils both in the dining room and also via our student panels to ensure they love every single bite. We are fully committed to making lunchtime a relaxed, positive, and tasty experience for every child. If you have any specific concerns regarding your child's dietary requirements or allergies, please feel free to contact us directly or via the school office.

Thank you for trusting us to feed your children every day.

Ian Crabtree
Managing Director, Accent Catering

All Years - Communications



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@bohunttrust.com

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Helpful Information

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!

Absence/Attendance Guidance

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

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