# NENDRUM COLLEGE COMBER



# NEWSLETTER
# OCTOBER 2026

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# Parent

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## PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE



It is hard to believe that we have already reached the end of our first half-term. It has been a busy, positive and action-packed start to the new academic year, and I wanted to take this opportunity to share just some of the highlights from across our Nendrum community.

Before looking at this term, it is worth remembering just how strongly we finished the last academic year. Our summer term certainly ended with a bang! Our competitive Sports Day saw House Enler dominate the day, before pupils enjoyed our annual end-of-year Rewards Day, complete with the ever-popular inflatable assault course. We then brought the school year to a fantastic close with Nendrum's Got Talent, showcasing the confidence, creativity and incredible range of talents of our pupils.

We returned in August to more fantastic news, with our pupils achieving the best GCSE results in the College's history. An outstanding 92% achieved five or more GCSEs at A*-C, with 62% achieving five or more including English and Mathematics, while an impressive 58% achieved seven or more GCSEs at A*-C including English and Mathematics. These results are a tremendous achievement for our pupils and reflect their hard work and determination, alongside the dedication of our staff and support from families.












Since returning, life at Nendrum has shown no signs of slowing down. We were delighted to welcome our new Year 8 pupils into the Nendrum family, beginning with a two-day induction programme supported by organisations including Sport Changes Life and the YMCA. Since then, our pupils have represented the College through boys' and girls' football, netball and equestrian competitions, while also taking part in Prize Day, educational visits and a wide range of activities and experiences designed to help them learn, grow and develop.

As we reach the end of this first half-term, I am extremely proud of everything our pupils have already achieved. Nendrum continues to be a school full of energy, opportunity and ambition, and this newsletter provides just a snapshot of the many things that make our College community so special.
I hope you enjoy reading about what has been another fantastic start to the year.

## Attendance Matters

Improving attendance remains a key priority at Nendrum College. Last year, attendance increased by 1% to 87%, and this year we are aiming to reach 89%.
Regular attendance makes a real difference. Being in school consistently helps pupils keep up with learning, make progress and achieve their potential. Every day missed is learning missed.
Our Family Liaison Officer, Steph Doherty, continues to work closely with pupils and families to understand barriers to attendance and provide support where needed.
By working together, we can ensure our pupils are in school, engaged in learning and ready to Always Aim High.



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Celebrating Our Reward Winners This Term

As we wrap up a busy and successful half term, we are delighted to recognise pupils who have gone above and beyond in demonstrating our core values of Nurture, Commitment, and Community.

🌟 Pupil of the Month

Congratulations to our Pupils of the Month across all year groups! These students have shown kindness, resilience, and a positive attitude, inspiring others and contributing actively to school life. They truly embody our core values.

Year 8 Winner - Ethan Johnston
Year 9 Winner -Summer Griffin
Year 10 Winner - Alfie Govan
Year 11 Winner - Curtis Johnston
Year 12 Winner - William Skimin

🏅 Top Merit Winners for this term

Our top merit winners have displayed outstanding effort, positivity, and commitment to excellence. Their strong sense of community and support for others make them fantastic role models.

Year 8 Winners -
Year 9 Winners -
Year 10 Winners -
Year 11 Winners -
Year 12 Winners -

Class of the Month

Year 8 - 8N
Year 9 - 9J
Year10 - 10W
Year 11 - 11M
Year 12 - 12B

💖 Nurture Award

Awarded to pupils who consistently show empathy and kindness, making our school a welcoming and supportive place for everyone.
To be announced after the Halloween Break

💪 Commitment Award

Presented to pupils who demonstrate exceptional dedication to learning and school life through resilience, punctuality, and active participation.
To be announced after the Halloween Break

🤝 Community Award

Recognising pupils who go the extra mile to create an inclusive environment, welcome others, and promote fairness and cooperation.
To be announced after the Halloween Break

We are proud of all our award winners and thank them for making our school community stronger.

# HALF TERM HIGHLIGHTS

Our pupils enjoyed a fantastic football experience at Rangers Football Club in Glasgow. The boys and girls had the opportunity to take part in professional coaching sessions delivered by Rangers staff before putting their skills into action against Rangers Academy teams. Both our boys' and girls' teams secured excellent victories, making it an incredibly proud occasion for the College.




To round off a memorable trip, pupils were also treated to a Scottish Premiership fixture, giving them the chance to experience the atmosphere of top-flight football. A brilliant opportunity for our young people and a trip that will live long in the memory! ⚽🔵

Prize Day 2026

Our annual Prize Day was a wonderful celebration of the achievements, successes and hard work of our pupils throughout the previous academic year. We were delighted to welcome Carol Fitzsimons as our guest speaker, who helped make the occasion particularly special.

It was a fantastic day for the whole College community, recognising academic achievement, personal development and the many contributions our young people make to school life. Congratulations to all our prize winners!




🌟 Nominate One of Our Fantastic Staff! 🌟

The Blackboard Teaching Awards are a wonderful opportunity to recognise the outstanding staff who make such a positive difference to our pupils every day.




We would love to encourage our parents and carers to consider nominating a member of the Nendrum College team. Award categories include Educationalist of the Year, Special Needs Education Champion, Community Impact Award, Principal of the Year and more.

If a member of staff has inspired, supported or gone the extra mile for your child, why not nominate them and help celebrate the difference they make! Nomination will close in early Decemeber. If you would like to nominate please open the link below.

Open this link to NOMINATE - https://aisling-events.com/events/blackboard-awards-2027/

# KEY INFORMATION FOR 2026/27

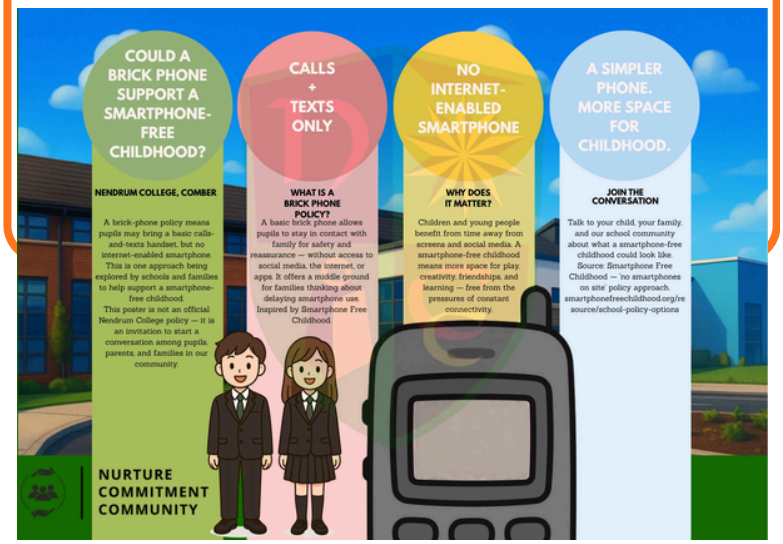
Smartphones: Delay, Not Deny

At Nendrum College, we want our young people to have more time to talk, play, build friendships and develop confidence without the constant pressure of being connected online. Our approach is not anti-technology. It is about considering when children are ready for everything that comes with owning a smartphone.

The Department of Education is currently consulting on measures to support mobile phone-free schools in Northern Ireland and we would encourage parents to share their views.

Click - Take part in the consultation

This isn't anti-technology. It's about giving our children more time to be children




# KEY INFORMATION FOR 2027/28

Girls' Uniform Review

As part of our ongoing review of College uniform, we are currently considering changes to the girls' uniform for the 2027/28 academic year.

The planned changes will include the introduction of a new College skirt, alongside a standard College trouser option for girls. The aim is to provide greater consistency in our uniform while ensuring pupils have a practical and appropriate choice.

There will be no change for the current academic year, and parents should continue to follow the existing uniform requirements. Further information on the new items, including their design, availability and arrangements for introducing them, will be shared with parents well in advance of the 2027/28 school year.

We recognise that changes to uniform require families to plan ahead, and we will ensure parents have plenty of notice before the new arrangements are introduced.





# KEY DATES FOR NEXT TERM

P7 Taster Day (All pupils revise from home)
7 December

Internal Exams
8-11 December - Yr 8 - 11 pupils

Work Experience Yr 12
8 - 10 Decemebr

Important Dates

Nov 3rd-6th- Food Nutrition practical exams
Nov 9th - Science DA & SA Biology unit 1 Yr 12 Resits only
Nov 10th - Science DA Chemistry unit 2 Yr 12 Resits only
Nov 10th - Science SA Chemistry unit 2 Yr 12 Whole Class
Nov 11th - Science DA & SA Physics unit 1 Yr 12 Resits only
Nov 11th - Remeberance Day Assembly
Nov 13th - English Language unit 1
Nov 16th - English Language unit 4
Dec 7th - P7 Taster Day (All pupils revise from home)
Dec 8th-11th - Internal Winter Exams (Yrs 8-11)
Dec 8th-10th - Yr 12 Work Experience
Dec 18th - College will finish at 12 noon for Christmas Holidays

# ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

Nendrum College is offering local businesses the chance to promote their brand while supporting youth sport and community development in Comber. Our football and hockey pitches are used extensively by pupils, community clubs, Comber Rec teams, Ards Hockey Club, and visiting schools, giving sponsors excellent, regular visibility.

Pitch-side advertising boards are now available:

- 1 year: £165
- 2 years: £245
- 3 years: £305

Benefits to your business:

- High-impact advertising to players, parents, supporters, and visiting teams
- Visibility at weekend matches and weekday training
- Positive association with youth sport and community involvement

All funds raised will go toward installing floodlights, helping us extend facility access for pupils, clubs, and the wider community.

Interested?

Contact us at info@nendrumcollege.comber.ni.sch.uk or call 028 9187 2361 and ask for Dawn Thompson.

Join us in supporting local sport while showcasing your business!