



**COOMBESHEAD
COLLEGE**

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Dear Parent,

I am delighted to be able to introduce myself to you as the new Principal of Coombeshead College. The college has experienced challenging times recently but I look forward to building upon the achievements of the staff and Governing Body in the future.

For the last seven years I have been on the Senior Leadership Team, as Assistant and then Deputy Principal, of an outstanding 11-18 secondary school in Plymouth. Before that I was Head of English at an 11-18 secondary school in the North-West. I was born and educated in Manchester.

My aim is to ensure that the college has a vibrant, purposeful and exciting learning culture where each individual feels valued and able to fulfil their potential. All young people have talents, strengths, and potential. It is the role of educators to discover, develop and nurture young people's talents, helping them to recognise their qualities for themselves, providing them with the necessary skills and qualifications to enable them to make choices in life.

Coombeshead College is excellently placed to provide outstanding education for all students in the area. We have superb facilities and a highly qualified, dedicated staff body. Our Trust School status means that we can use the expertise of our partners: Exeter University, The BBC, Phoenix Education Trust, The British Council and Sustainability South-West, in continuing to provide the best educational experiences. I feel privileged to be the new Principal.

Since January, I have been spending time in the college; I am excited by what I have seen and overwhelmed by the enthusiastic welcome that I have received. There is a real sense of mission at Coombeshead College with all staff working incredibly hard to ensure that students are achieving to their full potential. The time I have spent talking with students has shown them to be actively engaged in their learning as well as keen to take full advantage of the excellent education that Coombeshead College has to offer.

My job officially begins on April 19th and I look forward to meeting with you then. I have established an email account for parents should anyone wish to contact me directly principal@coombeshead.devon.sch.uk. I am interested in your views and will respond once in post.

Yours faithfully,
Matthew J Shanks
BA Hons MAEd NPQH