



## Principal's Introduction

It has been yet another busy and highly successful term. The College has achieved a Good judgement from Ofsted and we have a strong capacity to improve further.

We began the term by welcoming 10 local primary schools into the Cooperative Trust. This is a very significant development for the College as it has strengthened our partnership work across the area. The Cooperative Trust is already developing a number of projects. These include a School Direct Teacher Training project, Student Voice Conference for all schools and work in the schools to develop horticulture and food growing projects.

Over 60 young people from across the Tavistock Cooperative Learning Trust primary schools joined us here at the College for a Student Voice event. The purpose of this exciting event was to help the children to explore what being a Cooperative Trust means to them. They looked at the cooperative values and were then set a task to design a logo for the Tavistock Cooperative Learning Trust. The Sixth Form Student Leadership team at the College organised the event. We would also like to say

a big thank you to Neil Taynton-Young, from local company Fireproof PR who ran a very enjoyable workshop for the children. The learned about logos and brands and Neil then set them the task of designing their own. He was impressed by their energy and creativity. The best 3 designs will be amalgamated to produce a new logo for the Tavistock Cooperative Learning Trust. This term we have also embarked on a Solar Schools Project. We submitted a detailed application to become a Solar School and we were one of a small number of schools in the Devon area to become a Solar School. This is very exciting and we will be working hard to raise funds to transform our roofs into Solar roofs. This will also enable us to educate our young people about energy consumption and sustainable energy.

Most of you will be aware that Crispin Chambers, our Japanese teacher won the Pearson Teaching Award for Teacher of the Year in a Secondary School. After winning the regional heat, he beat off stiff competition in the final to win the Award. This has really put the outstanding teaching at Tavistock College on the map. Over a hundred supporters, including parents, students, governors and staff attended the final in London at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

We are also developing our links with schools in Sweden to explore digital learning and entrepreneurship. We were one of 3 local secondary schools who were approached to be part of this project. We were selected due to the highly innovative work that we are already doing to promote business links in the curriculum.

We are delighted to announce that after our recent Ofsted Inspection (14 – 15 November 2013) the College is a Good school. The rapid progress that the College has made was recognised by the Inspection Team. The College was judged Good in all areas – Achievement; Quality of Teaching; Behaviour and Safety; and Leadership and Management. Inspectors noted that improvements had been rapid since the last inspection due to very effective leadership at all levels. Inspectors wrote:-

The quality of teaching has improved significantly so that all students typically achieve well in lessons.

An increasing majority of students leave the College equipped with a good range of qualifications including English, Mathematics and Science.

Most students study a foreign language and achievement in Japanese is particularly high at GCSE level.

Governance is strong. Governors have a good understanding of the College's strengths and areas for development and continue to hold leaders to account.

The College is highly inclusive. Governors and College leaders have given the school a renewed identity based on strong values and high aspirations. Students respond well to the College ethos and their behaviour is good.

The Sixth Form is Good because the skilful teaching enables students to achieve well.

A full copy of the report can be found on the College website.

I would like to say a public thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to improve the College. I have been very grateful for the support of a strong and effective Governing Body. All the staff have worked very hard, sometimes through very difficult times to achieve this result. The community of Tavistock have supported us too and I hope that this judgement will restore confidence and pride locally. Our next big challenge is to strive to make the College Outstanding.

I would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Helen Salmon  
Principal





## Gold Plato Award for Crispin!



Students, parents and staff are celebrating after Japanese Teacher Crispin Chambers was announced Secondary Teacher of the Year at the Pearsons Teaching Awards Ceremony.

Often called the 'Oscars for Teachers', the awards recognise individual contributions to scholarship and learning, with winners receiving a gold Plato - the ultimate symbol of excellence in education. Crispin Chambers was nominated by head teacher Helen Salmon who said he 'lives and breathes' teaching; 'He is a natural and picks up every nuance in a classroom.' He has established a highly effect department within the MFL faculty and 'constantly finds new ways to present his subject in ways that fascinate and enthuse young people'. She said: 'He is extraordinary. He has great humility – he is truly in it for the students. I am very proud to have a teacher of this calibre in our school.'

The Japanese Embassy describes his 'great effect' on young people and the Japan Foundation says he is 'a trailblazer' for the language, having helped to train many of the staff now teaching Japanese in around 300 schools in the UK. Crispin Chambers is a pioneer for Japanese teaching beyond Tavistock, helping to train many teachers since he studied at Nottingham University 18 years ago. He acts as a mentor to student teachers from Nottingham and Plymouth universities and has specifically helped five other schools set up Japanese departments.

The UK judges were touched by the genuine affection for Crispin Chambers, expressed by students, parents and colleagues. They 'cannot speak highly enough of him' and believe he will always 'go the extra 1000 miles' for them. Numerous people gave evidence during the judging visits - including the mayor of Tavistock who believes that a statue should be erected in the town to recognise and thank this exemplary teacher. The head of sixth form said: 'He is inspirational, phenomenal, full of energy that he invests totally in the pupils. He's in love with his subject.' When he asked students to e-mail him about Crispin, he received over 200 e-mails about what made him so special. A senior leader at the school said: 'I feel the special buzz that indicates high engagement, enjoyment and rapid progress (of students). Crispin is unique; what he does is original.'



Crispin Chambers' results are outstanding - at GCSE more than half of students consistently achieve an A or A\* and more than 80 per cent achieve grades A\* - C. He runs a calligraphy club after school to foster Japanese writing. From next September all primary schools In England will have to teach at least one modern foreign language and Tavistock's 16 feeder primaries are already at an advantage since Mr Chambers visits them in his AST role. One primary head said: 'Crispin has given Japanese lessons which have inspired our children to learn about other cultures and languages. In this monocultural community he is vitally important.'

The annual Japanese exchange is described as 'life changing'. Twenty Year 11 and Year 13 students go to Tokyo and live with host families for part of the fortnight. They then act as hosts and interpreters when Japanese students pay a return visit to Tavistock. One parent said: 'The exchange is a magical experience for the students. They rise to meet his incredibly high expectations.' Another said: 'Our children learn so much from the Japanese students whose behaviour is impeccable. They come back different people and grow so much.'

Parents said Mr Chambers had changed the perspective of the town: 'He has taken Tavistock global and introduced students to the world.' A representative from the Japanese Embassy said: 'Crispin promotes mutual understanding and friendships. He has had a great effect on the students' future. Due to him the number of Japanese speakers in the UK has increased immeasurably.'

Crispin leads on professional development across all subjects and gives 'top quality feedback'. One teacher said: 'The guy is legendary in teaching. The improvements he made in my marking was overnight.'

A teacher born in Japan who was trained by Crispin said: 'He developed my strengths and spotted my weaknesses. With his help I got my first job in teaching (in the UK). Crispin is the seed for Japanese teaching and through his guidance I have blossomed.'

Since winning his award in the South West this summer Crispin's message board on the Teaching Awards website has had more than 80 postings – possibly a record!

'Congratulations Chambers Sensei!' writes former student David Roden. 'You completely deserve this recognition... Without you and the rest of the Japanese department, I probably would not be living and studying in Tokyo right now. Your passion for Japanese was addictive, and you were always so easy to learn from.'



## Remembrance Service

At 11am on 7th of November Year 9 students from Tavistock College bowed their heads in silence to remember those who had died in conflict and those who had been injured in wars. Guests, including the Mayors of Tavistock and West Devon, Councillors, College Governors and Trustees as well as many parents and visitors, joined students at this very special Service in St Eustachius Church.

The service was solemn and moving with a range of readings by College students. The College Head Girl, Flo Rodgers, explained the background to the First World War, and the Head Boy Calum Ross read the poem 'In Flanders Fields' by John McCrae. Army and air force cadets formed a guard of honour at the church door and marched up the aisle behind standard bearer Mrs Maureen Wilkinson from the Royal British Legion while a Year 9 cadet laid a wreath with the appropriate decorum and ceremony. The Roll of Honour, giving the names of those students of the College who died in the First and Second World Wars was read by the Deputy Head Boy and Girl, while the tribute was paid by Jamie Brown, a sixth form cadet. The final readings, a message of peace read in three languages, French, Spanish and Japanese, was given by Year 9 students Jess Davis, Molly Bolding and Rebecca Banks, and a Buddhist poem looking to the future, read by Sofia d'Alessio, commemorated the fact that peoples from across the whole world, of all faiths, were affected by war.



## Celebrating our First Harvest

Tavistock College and Tamar Grow Local are working together to produce local food and drink with a difference this autumn. The orchard at the college, stocked with old Tamar Valley varieties of apples, was planted 5 years ago with the help of the then year 7 students and supportive parents and governors. The planting was done during a day devoted to learning about the Tamar valley and a time capsule was buried for future generations. This year the trees produced the first crop of apples which were picked by year 11 students on the Land Based Studies course. The apples will now be made into juice and returned for the college students to drink, an initiative enthusiastically supported by the students and staff.

Two of the students who originally planted the trees are shown with Simon Platten, Project Manager for Tamar Grow Local. Simon commented: 'We are thrilled to be helping the college with the juicing of their apples. This year's apple crops have been fantastic in the Tamar Valley and it is brilliant that staff and students will be able to celebrate their first harvest by raising a glass of their own juice!'

Recently Tamar Grow Local became a partner in the new wide ranging cooperative trust which includes the college and local primary schools.

Helen Salmon, Tavistock College Principal, said: 'We are delighted to be working with Tamar Grow Local and I feel the scope for projects about food and horticulture is huge. They will also be able to work closely with primary schools in the trust.'



## Typhoon Haiyan

A group of year 7 students approached me, as Head of Year 7, and asked if they could raise funds for the people suffering in the Philippines after the typhoon .... They were very concerned and keen to organise themselves and share ideas about fund raising.

As a consequence of their efforts the College hosted a visit from Mr D Glover of Shelter Box who spoke to the year 7s about how this local charity is helping. He opened a shelter box and showed the students the tent, stove, water purification unit, blankets, tools and even children's crayons, all of which are part of the contents of one box which is designed to keep a family of 10 alive and healthy for the first few weeks after a disaster. The students were inspired and aim to purchase at least one box, at a cost of £590, by the Christmas break. Fund raising has included: the making and selling of friendship bracelets in the colours of the Philippines flag, a cake sale wonderfully supported by exceptionally talented Mums and Grans, the making of wooden reindeer, a staff netball match (female V male), a 6 a side football tournament and a whole college Mufti day.

We are very hopeful of making and exceeding our target and are pleased to think we might have helped some families in the Philippines.



# Improving Literacy

## Literacy News

Last year the College was proud to have created a “reading culture” which began with the introduction of the Accelerated Reader Scheme in year 7. This scheme, which was used by all students, guided students to books appropriate to their ability and which also provided challenge. After reading each book students took an on line quiz to test comprehension and success in the scheme led to many, many prizes and a measurable increase in reading ability. Accelerated reader has been expanded this year to include year 8 and we are delighted that there has again been an increase in books taken from the library. Our aim is to foster a love of reading as well as increase reading ability.



## The DEAR sessions

Drop everything and read sessions when both student and staff take time out to read are also continuing this year, with year 7 reading in tutor time for 10 minutes every day and a further 30 minutes later in the day. Year 8 read in tutor time and twice weekly during lesson time. Students hugely enjoyed this extended reading time and said they found it “relaxing” and it has certainly contributed to our reading culture.

We are pleased to welcome some new community reading mentors who are working with students from years 7 and 8. Many of the mentors, whose time we value highly, were happy to continue in their roles and have been joined by 3 newcomers and 37 Sixth form.



## Word Week

Year 7 recently participated in a Word Week, in which every member of staff, teaching and non teaching, wore a sticky label with a word on it. Words were changed daily and were appropriate to their teaching/ working area. Year 7 students had to collect the words in a booklet and then research its definitions. Prizes were given to those who had collected the most. The College is grateful to the support it has received from both Book Stop and Fairway Furniture.



## Literacy Campaign

A group of year 9 students are working with Neal Taynton Young from a local publicity and marketing business organising a campaign to highlight the importance of literacy skills to the student body. In order to stretch and challenge the students they have been set the task, but have to organise their own research, ideas and produce the campaign ...to a deadline.

## Accelerated reading celebration evening

On December 16th an Accelerated reading celebration evening was held for year 7 students and their parents. Those who are making good progress were awarded certificates and prizes of books. Also, any student who has ever gained 100% in the accelerated reading quiz which is taken after completing any book in the scheme, had their name entered into a draw for a Kobo. The College is hugely grateful to Peter Harding from Fairway Furniture, WH Smiths and Book Stop who have all sponsored this event and therefore helped to raise the profile of reading even higher.



# Gifted and Talented

## University visits



This term students from Year 10 have been able to visit both Cambridge and Oxford University to learn about University life, courses and how to apply.

We are extremely grateful to Downing College, Cambridge, who hosted our students and allowed them to live the life of an undergraduate for two days, staying in their historic Halls of Residence, eating in the refectory and attending academic sessions which challenged and extended their thinking skills. We saw many other Colleges, including the beautiful quad



and fountain at Trinity and Charles Darwin's room in Christ's College. The group enjoyed punting on the River Cam and watched Agatha Christie's Mousetrap in the unique theatre, the Corn Exchange. Many academic staff at Cambridge gave their time to welcome and teach our students.

Exeter College Oxford also hosted a group of Year 10 students who attended an academic session on economics and again, heard the message, aim high!



## Year 9 opportunities

Year 9 students have had a variety of opportunities. Very skilled mathematicians are studying for a GCSE in Astronomy in a weekly twilight session. They hope to complete the course and gain their GCSEs in under 9 months.

Another group are exploring ways to communicate the importance of Literacy to the student body. They have been set this task and how they choose to achieve a result, is up to them. They are being encouraged to be creative, open minded and to challenge assumptions.

## Peninsula Medical School

Medical students from Plymouth, Peninsula medical School have visited the College twice this term. They spoke with a group of students from Years 11 and 12 who all expressed an interest in a science or health related career.

They have also met with students from year 9 who were "inspired" by the interactive



workshop which centred on the treatment of asthma. Peninsula students were "thoroughly impressed" by our students knowledge of anatomy. The Year 9 students responded with keen enthusiasm to the presentation about how to gain a place in medical school and asked very specific and relevant questions about the necessary qualifications and work experience.





## Creative Showcase

On Friday 15th November 100 students performed in the Creative Arts Showcase Evening. The performers ranged from dancers, singers, actors and musicians. Even some beautiful art work was displayed in the foyer from talented art and photography students.

This evening was to show families and friends what pupils ranging from year 7- 13 have been up to at Tavistock College creatively. Furthermore for year 12 Performance Studies students



this was their performance exam for their A level.

We were overwhelmed with the 170 audience members who came to support. The evening was fantastic and everyone performed brilliantly. It was great to see how much the college are offering in the arts. Vox, Mrs Stephenson's new choir had their debut performance along side the dance company 'Fusion' run by Miss Giles. They collaborated and performed 'A thousand years'.

It was nice to see how all the art forms can work together and create inspirational work. We even made an inspector visiting the school emotional.

As one parent said "These just get better! This is probably the 4th showcase I have attended and this has to be the best yet. The talent on show here was at times jaw dropping, thought provoking and tear jerking. Tavistock college students you should be very proud of yourselves ..... A great evenings' entertainment."

Thank you to everyone who performed, came to watch and supported the event *Miss Giles*

## Year 8 Memory Boxes



In Year 8 Creative Studies lessons all students have been taking part in a project about dementia. They started off by finding out about the different types of dementia and it's symptoms. They then researched activities that might help someone with dementia, including the use of memory boxes. Students worked in groups to create their own memory boxes with different themes. The themes included childhood games, transport, music, celebrities and food.

On the 13th of December June Wildman from Tavistock memory café came in to work with representatives from each of the year 8 creative studies groups. June looked at the boxes and gave useful advice to the students about how they could be improved so that they can be used by visitors to the memory café. June was particularly impressed with the box which included games from the past.

June explained to the students that the memory café which is a charity has been open for about 8 years .It was one of the first of its kind although now there are about 38 in Devon. They have a variety of sessions to support both people with dementia and their carers. June has invited the students to visit the memory café and bring their boxes so that they can be used by their visitors on one of their Saturday sessions. The students are looking forward to putting their work to good use.

## Solar Schools

We are delighted to announce that Tavistock College has been accepted on the Solar Schools Programme. With the support of Solar Schools we aim to raise £20,000 next year through fund raising, match funding and community links for our own solar panel installation. It will be a fantastic opportunity to bring energy conservation and sustainability right into the classrooms as well as bringing the College community and partners together for this exciting project.

The project will be officially launched on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2014 (information to follow)

In the meantime, why not have a look at the Solar Schools Website [www.solarschools.org.uk](http://www.solarschools.org.uk) to see what other schools have achieved. Details of our own webpage will follow shortly.

## Transition Tavistock - Energy Savers Eco Fair

Tavistock College – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> Jan – 10:00 to 16:00. Chat to local suppliers specialising in making homes more energy efficient and helping you generate your own! Demonstrations through the day. See [www.transitiontavistock.org.uk](http://www.transitiontavistock.org.uk) , email [kate.royston@robbeesmole.com](mailto:kate.royston@robbeesmole.com) or call 07969-569-444.



## A Midsummer Night's Dream

The world is turned upside down, the seasons are altered, frost forms on summer flowers.....Midsummer is Midwinter...it is not global warming.....far worse.....the Fairy Realm is in bitter dispute. Lord Oberon, seething with jealousy over his Queen Titania's dalliance with Theseus in another time....and ...



making the same mistake that mortals do... forgetting his liaison with Hippolyta. He begs a human boy who Titania is raising, but she will not hand him over. In reaction to her defiance Oberon decides to humiliate his Queen in a scenario worthy of the worst of nightmares.

The mortal world struggles blindly on; Theseus plans his wedding to his trophy bride Hippolyta, and unsuccessfully attempts to settle a local family dispute between his friend Egeus and daughter Hermia. Hermia, betrothed to the inconstant Demetrius desperately escapes the law's threat of death if she disobeys her father and disappears into the forest of Athens with her beau, Lysander.

Somewhere in the same forest there are the 'mechanicals' (a local am dram group) desperately and secretly preparing a performance to share at the celebration of Theseus and Hippolyta's wedding Oberon's rage is manifested in a dream like fog which



sees the three worlds collide with disastrous, hilarious and world changing consequences..... Puck, Oberon's mischievous servant causes mayhem as he casts a spell that mistakes the mortal Lysander for his counterpart Demetrius, causing confusion and despair amongst all. Only the onset of night and Oberon's intervention can restore harmony again, and this is celebrated with nightly revels and great jollity at the wedding.

This was a play about magic, despair, confusion, trickery, humour and most of all, love. Love in all its guises. Love as friendship, parental Love, Love that is passionate, fantastical Love, Love that is blind and misguided, Love that is irrational, Love that is pure and honest. Mercurial and fickle in its narrative, we saw each story breaking down and rebuilding because of love....in just the same way that our worlds can today. Shakespeare wrote for the human soul and this will never change, here we saw all the delights and cares that frame human existence, brought into sharp focus against a back drop of a confused and topsy turvy world. When all else is removed there is but Love.

This is one of Shakespeare's most popular plays. Originally for a cast of approximately 18, it was revolutionised by the large and deeply talented ensemble of actors and technicians we have at Tavistock College.

Thank you to everybody who joined us or helped us produce this fantastic play.





## Solar Speed Challenge

Tavistock College recently hosted two exciting events to stretch the design and technology skills of fifty talented year 5 and 6 students from its local feeder primary schools. The Solar Speed Challenge days gave students the opportunity to develop their team working skills while creating, exhibiting and racing solar powered vehicles.

Students arrived at the college and were teamed up with children from other schools in teams of five. Each team was also assigned a team leader from the college's 'talented' product designer list. The team leaders who displayed remarkable leadership skills were linked to each team in order to stretch their team's capabilities and bring all students together. Each of the Y5 and 6 students selected a specific role ranging from 'Solar Engineer' to Graphic Designer' and 'Manufacturer' and they concentrated on this particular element of the design and their team's performance. The teams gelled immediately and by lunchtime the solar races were pushing engineering boundaries and were both looking superb and race ready.

In the afternoon it was show time, the teams moved to the hall and arranged a trade fair style display ready for the hordes of visitors who were on their way. Students had



been informed that amongst the visiting parents there were some mystery 'Dragons'. These 'Dragons'; Dr Lee Davis, a mechanical engineering lecturer from Plymouth University, Emma and Neal Taynton Young from Fireproof (a design and marketing company), Governors Dr Pete Rodgers and Mr Larcombe-Williams and Mike Harper from the Chamber of Commerce all entered into the spirit of the presentation and hid themselves well in the crowd. When "revealed" they spoke with enthusiasm about all the vehicles and praised the teams on their presentations. The Dragons were particularly important people to impress because the competition was won on votes from the visitors and each Dragon had the power of a vote worth ten times that of the other visitors. Visitors and dragons arrived and the students spoke with passion and expertise about their wonderful creations. They discussed with visitors why key decisions around materials and design were made and delivered exceptional explanations of their work. Two formal races demonstrated how effective the young engineers had been with all the cars functioning really well racing across the floor. The climax of the event was when the Dragons were revealed to the students and the results of the voting was revealed. The Dragons, visiting parents and staff were all delighted by the individual successes of the students and the wonderful team working skills that had come together.



The college is now a Solar School and will shortly be in a position to seek support from the community in the erection of solar panels on specific roofs in the College. The aim is not only to save money on energy bills, but to allow students to become more aware and involved in sustainability projects and energy use.

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## Primary Maths Challenge

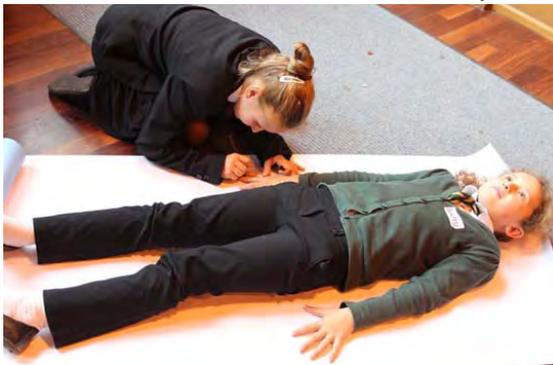
13 local primary schools from the Tavistock Area Learning Community took part in the Tavistock College Primary Maths Challenge on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2013. Teams of 4 pupils competed against each other in 4 exciting rounds testing their mathematical, communication and teamwork skills. The four rounds were; A speed maths round, a logic round, a cross number round and a group challenge. The competition was very close with the unprecedented outcome of a tie for first place. Overall gold medal winners were St. Peters C. of E. Junior School and St. Andrews C. of E. Primary School. The Bronze medal winners were Whitchurch Community Primary School. Tess Adams



## Tavistock College Co-operative School Primary Event



Earlier this term students from local primary schools joined us for a Co-operative Trust event hosted by the College. Year 5 and Year 6 primary students worked alongside members of our Student Leadership Team from Year 7 and the 6th Form. The aim of the day was to establish what being a Co-operative School means to us and to explore how we can demonstrate the values of our Co-operative Schools. Students also worked collaboratively with Fireproof PR to design a logo that embodies the values of our Co-operative. It was great to see so many enthusiastic students from different schools and different age groups working together and sharing ideas. At Tavistock College we are continually seeking to improve the service we offer to students, their parents and the community. An important part of our development strategy is



to listen to the voices of our students and those within the Co-operative Trust. We encourage students to contribute actively to their school community and empower and support them in their key roles. Our next Co-operative Schools Primary Event will be in the Spring Term. Thanks to Fireproof PR for their support and a huge thank you to everyone involved in making the event such a success.

*Mr J Smith*



## Sustainable Legacy

Tavistock College won 450 trees for the College and the community after entering a competition by the Woodland Trust, showing that we can provide an environmentally friendly and sustainable legacy for the pupils and people of Tavistock within a Co-operative Trust.

Representatives from some of the local feeder primary schools came to plant a tree in the school grounds with the help of some of the sixth formers, ensuring the legacy of a green future is in place.

A mixture of trees from Elder, Willow, Cherry, Silver Birch and Crab Apples were planted and will now be supported in their growth by different classes within the College.

The weather was mild and dry, albeit muddy, but after the tree planting, tummy's were warmed by hot chocolate and lunch in the geography department. Everyone was left smiling after a wonderful celebration of the environment.



## Sports Centre Tavistock Community SPORTS CENTRE 01822 813238

### Christmas Opening Hours

#### December

Sunday 22nd - 10am-4pm  
Monday 23rd - 7am-10am + 5pm-8.00pm (No classes)  
Tuesday 24th - Friday 27th - CLOSED  
Saturday 28th - 10am-4pm  
Sunday 29th - 10am-4pm  
Monday 30th - 7am-10am + 5pm-8.30pm  
(Classes as normal)  
Tuesday 31st (New Years Eve) - CLOSED

#### January

Wednesday 1st (New Years Day) - CLOSED  
Thursday 2nd - 3pm-8pm (Classes as normal)  
Friday 3rd - 7am-10am + 5pm-8pm  
(Classes as normal)  
Saturday 4th - 10am-4pm  
Sunday 5th onwards  
as normal



For further information  
please visit our website  
[www.tavistocksportscentre.co.uk](http://www.tavistocksportscentre.co.uk)  
or contact Reception on : 01822 813238



The newly formed Student Leadership Team has got off to a flying start this term, attending and supporting a range of events. The StLT, which includes a variety of Sixth Form student roles, ranging from Events Manager to KS3 Learning Lead, exists to actively improve the Sixth Form, allowing student opinions to be expressed and considered, and to lead and support our whole community.

So far this year, the team has helped out with the Tavistock College Remembrance Service, with students acting as welcomers and reading in the service. They have also assisted with our Cooperative Learning event, working with children from a range of local primary schools to design a logo for the Cooperative which expresses our key principles.

A number of projects have been set up with the support of the StLT, including individual focus groups for each year group, a Sixth Form Council and a whole

College Council. These bodies enable a range of students from across years 12 and 13 to voice their opinions on teaching and learning and student issues, and organizing events such as Sixth Form parties and the Year 13 Graduation/Prom.

Another group which are making a difference are 'Tavistock Interact' This group is made up of students from Tavistock and Kelly Colleges. They recently organised a quiz night in the Town Hall to raise money for 'Literacy in a Box' – a charity that provides books and teaching resources to developing world countries, particularly in Africa. Students from the Sixth Form were very involved in this and many others attended the event. There was a target to raise £275 to pay for one box. However, the night surpassed expectations and in the end £405 was raised!

With regards to the rest of the Sixth Form, many students have signed up to the Reading Mentors Scheme, assisting younger students with reading on a weekly basis, or are working as Learning Mentors, supporting specific Faculties, or as Pastoral Mentors, supporting tutor time. Business is booming at the Sixth Form Tuck Shop, with funds raised from sweets' sales going towards the Sixth Form Council and Leukaemia Care. Overall, it's been an exciting start to the 2013/14 academic year! By Emma Elder and Annabel Longdon



## National Competition

A group of Business Studies students are participating in the Peter Jones Tycoon in Schools competition. This is a national competition which involves students writing a business plan for a mini enterprise. If the business plan is successful the students are given a loan to help them set up and run their enterprise.

Three teams of students from Tavistock College were provided with funding and are currently running their enterprises.

- **Name it** are selling jewellery and engraved products within the college
- **Rainbow Smoothies (@rainbow\_shakes)** are producing smoothies which they are selling at breaks and lunchtimes
- and finally **21 Marketing (@21marketing)** are offering web design and IT solutions to local businesses.

All students are thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to demonstrate the theory learnt in lessons in a real life situation.



## Real World Learning

Sixth Form Geography students visited the Met Office in Exeter recently to contextualise the real world learning element of their extreme weather unit. The day included a workshop led by a senior researcher on climate change and how the Met Office data finds its way on to our television screens. This was particularly interesting in light of the recent St Jude's storm which hit the UK with 97 mph winds. We then had a comprehensive tour of the site which included a sneaky look at their 'super computers' and the huge array of weathering stations and monitoring equipment on the site. The day finished with an impromptu talk from Ben Rich; an ex Tavistock College student who now presents the weather for the BBC in the Midlands region. He provided a fascinating insight into the career paths possible and how succeeding at Tavistock College has helped him to achieve his perfect job in television.

"I have had a great day at the Met Office. It really opened my eyes to weather forecasting and I am hoping to apply for a work placement there at the end of the year". Dan, Year 12.

"I found the trip to the Met Office very interesting and learnt many new things such as how lightening, rainfall and air clarity are measured. I also experienced what the Met Office is like to work for which was beneficial to me because I am now considering different work positions that I hadn't thought of before". Maddy Cinnamon, Year 12.





## Your Future

### Careers, Advice, Information and Guidance.

The careers library (just inside the main library) will be open during Wednesday lunch times for students to drop in and find out about career pathways and post 16 study options.

The Careers library Drop in Careers, Information, Advice and Guidance sessions Wednesday lunchtimes.

This term year 11 students and their parents and carers where invited to the Sixth Form information evening finding out what Tavistock College has to offer post 16. Visiting stands from local further education providers such as Duchy College , City College Plymouth and Plymouth College of Art enabled students to find out about a variety of different options and make an informed choice about their future.



Year 11 progression interviews will carry on into the early part of the Spring Term, every student will be able to discuss their future and possible career pathway and be sign posted to relevant information advice and guidance.

Fred Jenkins from Careers South West will again be providing independent guidance to Year 11,12 and 13 students, through one to one and group sessions through out the Spring and early Summer Terms.

Contact and visits to and by local employers and businesses continues to expand, involving all year groups and linking into work related learning. Examples this Term include, trips to the Met Office in Exeter and Cornwall Farmers Tavistock and visits from The Peninsula Medical School.

Plans for next Term include an Apprenticeship information event and a visit from General David Hook.

## Work Experience

Several students in Years 10, 11 and 12 are undertaking one or two days a week, work experience as part of their studies. To gain a qualification alongside this, students on the Year 12 bridge pathway are also undertaking a BTEC in "planning and participating in work experience".

The College is very appreciative of the support students on work placement receive from local business and the community; it is a valuable and often life changing experience for our students.

Year 10 work experience week 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> July 2014

Four Year 10 students had a very successful and enlightening weeks work experience with the Royal Navy at HMS Drake this term, there will be another week offered in July.

Year 10 students attended a work experience launch assembly and an information letter was sent home this term, all paperwork and information regarding work experience is available on the school website. In January tutors will start supporting students in tutor time with research and work placement searches. Several other local schools are usually out on work experience during the same week, so students and parents/carers are advised to try and secure a suitable placement as soon as possible..

Useful Websites

[www.icould.com](http://www.icould.com)

[www.carerrsbx.co.uk](http://www.carerrsbx.co.uk)

[www.mycareersspringboard.org](http://www.mycareersspringboard.org)

[www.direct.gov.uk/nationalcareersservice](http://www.direct.gov.uk/nationalcareersservice)

Please contact me for any assistance; I have current information re work experience with the Royal Marines and Apprenticeship possibilities with Babcock Marine

Contact Cathy Sharp, Work Experience, Careers, Information, Advice and Guidance coordinator.

[c.sharp@tavistockcollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto:c.sharp@tavistockcollege.devon.sch.uk) 01822 614231 ext.203





## Improving Links with College

To keep your child/ren safe and ensure their well-being, we are constantly looking for ways to improve our links with you and keep everyone up-to-date and well informed. As sending written information home is sometimes unreliable; we have decided to implement Schoolcomms, an electronic school communication system. This will enable you to receive all your information from school quickly and reliably. We can send letters by email to your inbox and short messages directly to your mobile phone as a text message, or if you have an Apple or Android mobile phone, by app message.

Free instant messages with our School Gateway App



### Improved text messaging system – and you can help the school save money

From time to time, we send information to parents via text message to your mobile phone. A new, free, smartphone app for parents is now available for download called 'School Gateway' for Apple (iPhone 3GS or later, iPad, iPod Touch) and Android (2.3 / Gingerbread or later) devices.

**Please could you download this new app to your phone** (it's free) as it will help us improve communication with parents – and save the school money.

The set-up process is simple and will take no more than a couple of minutes:

1. Search for "School Gateway" in the Apple App Store/Google Play or on your phone go to [www.schoolgateway.com/apple](http://www.schoolgateway.com/apple) (Apple) or [www.schoolgateway.com/android](http://www.schoolgateway.com/android) (Android)
2. Install the app and if you are asked then say yes to "Allow Push Notifications"
3. When you launch School Gateway for the first time, please select 'New User' and enter the email address and mobile telephone number you have registered with the school
4. The system will send a PIN code to your phone; please enter this PIN code and the app will be activated for you. As soon as you've got the system set-up, all of the text messages we send you will appear in the app; you'll receive notifications/alerts as normal.



## Communication

We have invested considerable time and effort into improving our lines of communication with parents, carers and the local community as a whole. You can now keep up to date with day to day College news and essential information via these sources:

 [Facebook.com/TavistockCollege](https://www.facebook.com/TavistockCollege)

 Twitter: @taviccollege

 [pinterest.com/taviccollege/](https://www.pinterest.com/taviccollege/)

 [www.YouTube.com/taviccollegeuk](https://www.YouTube.com/taviccollegeuk)

 [www.tavistockcollege.devon.sch.uk](http://www.tavistockcollege.devon.sch.uk)

Groupcall: This is a facility where we can text parents short messages direct to your mobile phone.

In addition we also have the facility available for you to sign up to updates from the College direct to your personal email account.



## Risks Your Child May Face Online

As with the real world, there are risks online and it's important that you teach your child how to navigate them.

Cyberbullying  
Grooming  
Inappropriate websites  
Losing control over pictures or video  
Online reputation  
Overuse / addiction  
Viruses, hacking and security



**Offer reassurance and support.** Your child may be in need of emotional support or feel like they have nowhere to turn. It is rare that cyberbullying is only taking place online and is often someone your child knows through school or a group they attend. Their school should have policies and procedures for dealing with cyberbullying. Your child could visit CyberMentors. This is an online counselling service with a difference; the counsellors are also children and young people. This site has proved very popular and offers practical advice - [www.cybermentors.org.uk](http://www.cybermentors.org.uk)



**Tell your child that if they are being bullied to always keep the evidence.** Whether it's a text message or email, tell them not to reply to the bully or delete the comments. Ask your child if they know the bully or where the messages are coming from. Often it is someone within the school environment and can be dealt with quickly and effectively with assistance from the school.

**Block the bullies.** If someone is bullying your child on a social networking or chat site encourage them to block or delete the individual so that they can't be contacted by them anymore.

### What tools are available to help me keep my child safe?

Technical tools-such as parental controls  
Reporting tools-explore the Click CEOP reporting pages  
Education tool-use the Thinkuknow programme with your child [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

**Report any bullying content to the website it's hosted on.** If content has been posted, for example a video or image, which is upsetting your child you should report it to the website, for example, Facebook. Learn how you would report content on sites like Facebook and YouTube; every site is different. Contacting the website is the only way to get the offensive content removed, unless it is illegal. In cases of illegal content for example indecent images or videos of young people under 18, contact your local police or report it to CEOP.

## Child Protection

Tavistock College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people. The Child Protection Officers for Tavistock College are:

Senior Designated Child Protection Officer

Aimee Mitchell, Vice Principal

Designated Child Protection Officer

Janet Piper, College Nurse

Deputy Child Protection Officer

Jo Northmore, Behaviour Intervention Manager

Deputy Child Protection Officer

Jane Brown, Inclusion Hub Coordinator

Deputy Child Protection Officer

Justin Mifsud, SENCO

If you have any concerns regarding the safety and welfare of any student please feel free to discuss your concerns in confidence with any one of the Officers. All can be contacted via the school switchboard on: 01822 614231



# Important Information

## Educational Visits and Trips

Please note that ALL cheques for trip/visit/activities MUST be made payable to Devon County Council and NOT Tavistock College. Monies can be paid at the hatch in Student Services at the following times each day 0830 - 0855 and 1055 - 1120

Can you please ensure that the following information is clearly written on the back of cheques:

- Student name
- Tutor group
- Details of what the payment is for



## Key dates

- Monday 6th January** First Day of Spring Term – Week A
- Wednesday 8th January** Year 7 Parents Evening
- Monday 13th January** Start of GCE (AS & A2) Mock Exams
- Monday 20th January** Year 11 Progression Interviews begin and continue until 13th February
- Wednesday 22nd January** Year 11 Parents Evening
- Friday 14th February** Non Pupil Day
- Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February** Half Term
- Tuesday 25 February** Parent Forum Octagon – 1800
- Wednesday 12th March** Year 12 Parents Evening
- Thursday 13th March** Showcase - An Evening of Dance
- Wednesday 19th March** Year 8 Parents Evening
- Friday 4th April** Last Day of Term, Charity Non Uniform Day



## College Closure Policy

In severe weather conditions or other emergencies it may be necessary to close the College. If this decision is made the following arrangements will apply.

**If the decision is made to close the College before students have arrived:**

- Parents and staff will be sent a group text with the information via GroupCall.
- Local Radio stations will be contacted with news of the closure  
Radio Devon 103.4FM  
Heart 96.6 or 97FM  
Pirate FM 102.2 or 102.8FM (<http://www.piratefm.co.uk/schools/cornwall>)
- Websites

Log on to the BBC Devon website which is automatically updated to include closure information  
Log on to the DCC Schools Closure website (<http://www.devonschoolclosures.info/>)

Please note: In the event of severe weather we cannot guarantee that our switchboard will be staffed.

If the normal college transport does not collect your children because of the weather conditions, please do not try to bring them into college as transport will not be available to take them home.

Students who have not heard that the College is closed and who arrive in College should report as follows:

- Year 7 - Refectory
- Year 8 - Main Hall
- Year 9 - English Corridor
- Year 10 - History/Geography Corridor
- Year 11 - Ndeeba Room
- Sixth Form - Octagon

**If the decision is made to close the College after students have arrived:**

Checks will be made with students to ascertain whether or not they can return safely home or to a suitable alternative. Where this is the case, they will either:

- be returned to their dropping off stop by the college transport contractors if they travel on official college transport
- be allowed to make their own way if their home is within walking distance
- if they travel by service bus - every effort will be made to confirm that service buses are running

All parents will be sent a group text with the information via GroupCall.

It will be the responsibility of students to let us know if they can return safely home.





# Important Information

## College Uniform

We are pleased to inform you that College uniform can now be purchased from Lawsons, 1 Parkwood Road, Tavistock who stock a selection of College blazers, jumpers, ties, trousers and shirts. Alternatively ties and badges are still available to purchase direct from the College Inclusion Hub at the following prices:

Clip-on Ties £6.95

College Blazer Badges £2.20



## Bus Pass

No Pass, No Travel.

Any lost passes will need to be replaced, at a charge of £5. Temporary passes can be issued, they must be collected during either break or lunch times, they will only be valid for a two week period.

Buses will wait for a maximum of 10 minutes after school for students.

## Free School Meals

Parents/Carers receiving the following support payments are entitled to apply for Free School Meals:

- Income Support (IS)
- Employment Support Allowance (Income Related)
- Child Tax Credit without Working Tax Credit with an annual taxable income (as assessed by HMR&C) of less than £16,190
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance (IBJSA)
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

If a child is in receipt of FSM in Primary school this will automatically continue into Secondary school.

Parents / Carers applying for free school meals will, in most cases, no longer need to provide paper proof of qualifying benefits. All enquiries should be directed to Devon County Council who now check eligibility through a Department for Children, Schools and Families hub for all applications. In order to perform a hub check you need to contact Devon County Council, by either telephoning on 0845 155 1019, or via email on [freeschoolmeals@devon.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@devon.gov.uk) providing parent/carer surname, date of birth and National Insurance number. It is still your responsibility to let us know if your circumstances change and your child is no longer eligible for Free School Meals.

Although the College will no longer be directly involved in the application process we are always happy to offer any help with the application should you need it, so please do not hesitate to ask. The school receives additional funding for each student in receipt of Free School Meals through the Pupil Premium Grant which can be used to provide additional support where necessary. See our Pupil Premium Guarantee on the College website for more details.

**Claiming Free School Meals can provide additional support for your family and for the school so if you think you may qualify please make a claim!** *Aimee Mitchell – Vice Principal*

## Attendance Procedures & Update

Student attendance is monitored constantly throughout the academic year, with monitoring letters going out to all parents whose child's attendance has fallen below 94%. These vary from Head of Year concern letters, requests to provide Medical Evidence and in extreme cases legal meeting where a parent could be prosecuted for failing to send their child to school. Please inform Mrs Morewood – Attendance Officer should your child be seeing a hospital consultant for any genuine medical conditions. Where possible please provide the school with photo copies of any appointment dates you may have. We can then offer support for your child should they have any length of time off school which may affect their education. The school works with Jaye MacDonald – Education Welfare Officer who not only helps deals with students whose attendance has fallen below 85% but also helps support students that find it difficult engaging / coming back into full time education.

To report student absence please contact Mrs Morewood – Attendance officer before 9am using option 4 on the automated school telephone. Please state you child's name, tutor group, reason for absence and if possible the date of return. If you would like to speak to the Attendance Officer please request a call back.

Punctuality is also monitored closely at the College and any students that continue to arrive late to AM registration and lessons will be placed of Tutor / HOY report. Please be aware that registers close at 9.10am and 2.35pm students arriving after this time will receive an unauthorised late mark. Please ensure you child is on site ready to register at 8.40am and if they arrive late after 9.10am they must sign in at reception. Please provide a note to explain the reason for lateness as this will prevent the school from sending any unnecessary School Comms Messages home.

Due to government changes the school is no longer able to authorise holidays, so please be aware that should you take your child out of school during term time you will receive a fixed penalty notice. We are very compassionate regarding students whose parents belong to the Armed Force so please contact Mrs Morewood should your child need time off school to see parents returning from tours of duty. Any absences need to be applied for in advance, using the S2 absence request form; this includes absences for 1 or more days for any reason other than medical appointments. Due to the focus on attendance we have so far achieved a 0.7 % increase on attendance compared to the same period last year. We appreciate your support and understanding and hope we can work together to sustain this improvement over the whole school year.

## Tavistock College PE Faculty Sports Awards Evening



The second prestigious Tavistock College Sports Awards evening took place on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November to a capacity crowd in the main hall.

This was an evening to celebrate the fantastic PE students at Tavistock College and their work both at the college and in the local community.

All the students who won an award got an opportunity to meet Olympian Gorgs Geikie and the whole audience were inspired by Gorgs speaking about her achievements.

The evening saw a variety of awards including Effort and achievement in curriculum; Outstanding practical performance in the community; Contribution to college through sport; Team of the year; Tavistock College Sports Centre community award; Achievement In examination qualification and Primary PE performer award.

The Alumni award for sporting success of past students was won by Elliot Hoyte for his achievements in American Football.

This led to the unveiling of a shortlist of 8 students for the main Sports Awards trophy – Annie Westlake; Flo Rogers ; Darcey Hepworth; Luke Northmore; Megan McCormick and the top 3 students Keir Murphy, Saskia Sills and the Sports Awards winner Imogen Sills.

It was a fantastic evening supported by both student, parents and distinguished guests and very much looking forward to next years event. Mr. Shaun Hulbert



## Bringing Learning to Life



On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November our A Level PE students got a real life insight into 'popular recreation' at the annual Ottery St Mary 'Flaming' Tar Barrels festival which dates back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Around 20,000 packed into the town to witness the festival.

The festival involves 18 barrels that range in sizes from small to boys, medium for women and youths and 'great big unz' for the men. In the weeks running up to the event the barrels are soaked with tar. Every Barrel is lit outside each pub in the town and once flaming they are hoisted up onto the shoulders of local people born and bred in the village, in many cases this involves generations of the same family.

The students were exemplar to the college and have all come away with a real understanding of the characteristics of pre-industrial sports.

