



Principal's Introduction

We have had yet another busy term. There is so much going on that it is hard to single any one thing out. We have welcomed our visitors from Sweden and Japan. Our Senior Youth Speaks team have got through to the regional final for the third year running. Our Year 10 Business Students have got to the final of the Coca-Cola Challenge in London. We have gained the RHS Schools Award at Level 4. This is down to Helen Harris and her intrepid team of keen student gardeners. The Sixth form Aspire residential visit to London was very successful. The ski trip to Italy went exceptionally well, many thanks to Umberto Bergonzini and his team. Our sports teams continue to do well and the sports tour to Paris will run again this Easter.

We have been informed that we have won a national award from OFSTED for our inclusion work. Next term Aimee Mitchell will take a group of students to the House of Commons to receive this award. This is very prestigious as only three schools in the country have gained this award. It is down to the hard work and dedication of Aimee Mitchell (our Vice Principal) and the Inclusion Hub team. This recognises the outstanding work they are doing to support young people.

The expanded co-operative trust of 11 schools is also starting to make its mark. The Trust has launched a School Direct project with the primary schools. There will be a Trust Festival of Poetry in October. All the schools will take part and there will be a celebration of poetry in the town hall.

I would also like to thank the many volunteers who support the College. The PTAs are very active and raise funds to support projects. The Community Reading Mentors continue to give their time to help children to improve their reading. The School Pastor team also continue to give valuable support. Our exciting Product of the Year event is coming up once again on May 5th 5-7.30, please come and support this if you can.

Years 11 and 13 have worked hard to prepare for their exams. The Easter revision school has taken place again this year.

The College continues to improve and as you will see from all the great things which are happening the College is a vibrant and successful place to learn.

Helen Salmon
Principal



Key dates

22 April

First Day of Summer Term

25 April

Solar Schools Fashion School

30 April

18:00 Chairs Governors Meeting

1 May

Year 7 and Year 8
Learning and Achievement Evening

5 May

Early May Bank Holiday

9 May

Ten Tors and Jubilee Challenge

14 May

Curriculum Governors Meeting

26 May
Half Term

11 June

Year 5, 6 and 7 TALC Art Day

12 June

18:00 Parent Forum

16 - 20 June

Art Exhibition

20 June

Aspire Trip to London





Inspiration Day



On February 13th the whole school took part in Inspiration day.

Each Year group had a different focus aimed at inspiring their future.

Guest speakers and professionals were invited, delivering thought provoking talks and workshops throughout the day. The day was action packed, the College buzzing, students experiencing plenty of inspiring and thought provoking activities to reflect on.

The College Student Voice Radio station broadcast interviews and music all day (podcasts available on the College website), Mr Bird and a roving team of student film makers videoed activities, producing a short film reflecting the flavour of the day and shown to students in assembly.

Activities included: Year 7 Happy Future: The students attended six different workshops looking at how to be happy in the future: A relaxation session by Jo Tetherliegh, Puppet storytelling by Jacolly puppets, Zumba class, Healthy planet making eco-friendly houses, jobs of the future and Team building.

Year 8 My Future: Life and employment choices attending a series of guest speakers delivering thought provoking sessions on Science ,Technology Engineering and Maths (Peter Shrubsall), Fire Safety (John Mellor), Life changing events (Ben McBean ex Royal Marine) and survival and Team building (Spanner Manley Adventurer).

Year 9 Future Safety: Local GPs delivered Sex and Relationship Education sessions, followed by sessions on Road Safety, Manners, Cyber Safety and Anti-smoking and guest speaker (Martin Dawes UNICEF/ BBC) on your personal identity/ branding.

Year 10 Future employment: Investigating work experience placements and options post 16. Guest Speaker Facing Challenges Making decisions (Major General David Hook) and a carousel of different employers and further education providers including, The Royal Marines, a local farmer, local police officer and a journalist.

Year 11 Future qualifications: The day focused on core GCSE subjects with Maths, English and Science sessions and Team Building exercises.

Year 12/13 Preparing for my Future post 18: Guest Speakers delivered sessions on: Personal branding (Martin Dawes), Getting ahead being successful (Mark Poles), How do I decide what to do (Nigel Baglin), Facing challenges making decisions (Major General David Hook), My Story, overcoming challenges (Ben McBean) As well as various workshops covering topics such as cooking on a budget, self-defence, budgeting, DIY and interview skills.

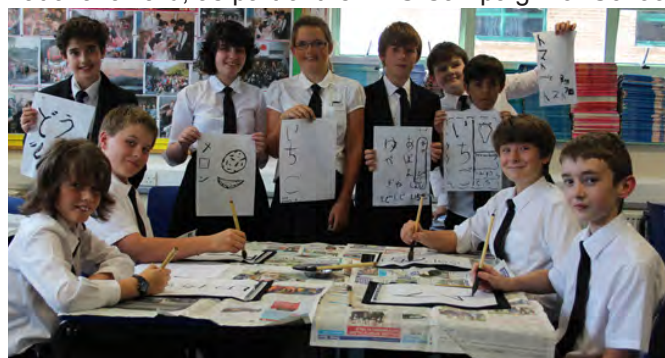


RHS Award

Tavistock College is delighted to have received an award from the Royal Horticultural Society this term in recognition of the work done by all years in the gardens around the college. This is a national award, as part of the RHS Campaign for School Gardening, and the Level 4 given to the college is the first for a secondary school in Devon. It has been very much a joint effort: students from Year 7 Horticulture classes have taken part, along with Mrs Rowe's Year 7 English class: Year 8 students have made garden signs in Japanese classes, Year 9 and Year 10 Public Service students have done much of the heavy lifting, while the Year 11 Land Based Studies class have planned the planting and harvesting.



Mrs Harris, who has co ordinated the efforts of the gardening team, is delighted with the results; 'We are now looking at the next and final level, Level 5 – it really is something to aim for and I am convinced we can go the extra mile and be one of a handful of schools in the country at this level. Indeed the RHS team at Rosemoor have been most impressed with our work so far.'



Japanese honour for Crispin

On Friday 7th March one of our Japanese teachers, Crispin Chambers, attended the Japan Conference for Schools organised by the Embassy of Japan, the Japan Foundation and the Japan Society. This event is for schools implementing Japanese into the curriculum, those involved with partnerships in Japan, and schools looking to enhance or develop an existing programme of Japan-related study. Crispin was the guest speaker as UK Teacher of the Year in a Secondary School, he spoke about how we initiated and developed the successful relationship between Tavistock College and Edogawa ward in Tokyo.

Before his lecture Crispin was awarded the Japanese Ambassador's highest commendation, for long-standing service to promoting UK-Japan relations over 28 years since first going to work as an English teacher at Sumoto Senior High School on Awaji Island. After making the presentation at a formal ceremony Ambassador Hayashi paid tribute to Crispin's efforts to bring together the young people of Japan and the UK. He referred to Crispin's time before Tavistock College when he worked in Tokyo for the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) as a programme co-ordinator on the JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) programme in 1988/89 and then at the Japan Intercultural Academy for Municipalities (JIAM) near Kyoto 1992-5 which enabled him to gain a valuable understanding and knowledge of Japanese local authorities before training as Japanese language teacher and successfully establishing Japanese at Tavistock College.

The Ambassador presented Crispin with a beautiful hand-written scroll which represents one of the highest honours a foreign national can receive.



POWERED BY SUNSHINE

FUNDED BY EVERYONE

Tavistock College Goes Solar

Tavistock College is being supported by Solar Schools (part of the 10:10 organisation created to cut energy consumption across business) to become a Solar School.

The College will be raising money to fund solar panels across its roof space. The target for the year is £20K. Not only is this an environmentally important strategy, but also provides an opportunity to bring staff, students, parents, PTA and governors together for one common goal. The school are looking to create partnerships with and involve the wider community – local businesses, partner agencies.

We've already raised over £1000 towards our solar panels. Go to www.solarschools.org.uk to see the amazing photos of our fundraising events and to check out the fantastic support we are having from local businesses and partner organisations.

We hope you can join us at one of the fantastic fundraising events coming up:

- PTA Charity fashion show on 25th April
- Car boot sale – 18th May
- Silent Auction – 4th July
- Athletics event – 28th June
- Evening walk – date to be confirmed

Don't forget you can help us in lots of ways – make a donation online, donate a raffle prize, advertise or help at an event or even organise your own event!



To find out more details about forthcoming events or to make a donation visit www.solarschools.org.uk

or follow the link on the college website www.tavistockcollege.devon.sch.uk



Tree Planting

Brent Day and I planted a Camellia, 'Debbie', as a symbol of positivity for Tavistock College, its staff members, and its students. We chose this variety, 'Debbie', for two reasons: firstly, its large, bright, pink flower displays a bold statement of confidence in itself – just like our College; secondly, in Hebrew the name 'Debbie' means 'Bee'. The College itself, is like a hive, where knowledge is produced. *Claire Carroll*

Improving Literacy

Youth Speaks

The first round of the Rotary Youth Speaks competition was held at Kelly College on January 23rd.

The College entered three teams who all spent many hours writing their speeches and presented them brilliantly.

The Intermediate teams were:

“School Fulfilled” A speech which asked whether examinations put students under too much stress

Main Speaker: Ben Moran

Chair Person: Beau Waycott

“Houston, do we have a problem?” A speech which questioned the value of space exploration

Main Speaker: Molly Bolding

Chair Person: Cyrus Larcombe Moore

Proposer of the Vote of Thanks: Emma Sampson



Senior team

“You can run but you cannot hide.” A speech which explored the issues surrounding the over surveillance of our lives.

Main Speaker: Freya Chambers

Chair Person: Joe Jordan

Proposer of the Vote of Thanks: Bert Rodgers



The Senior team won their competition and will progress to the District Semi Final at Callington Community College on Wednesday Feb 12th. They were up against stiff opposition at the District Final in Bodmin. However, even though the main judge considered it the highest standard she had ever experienced, the Tavistock team were in her words, “outstanding” and were declared Champions. Also, for the first time in our experience, the Tavistock team also won all individual prizes.

National Semi Final will be in Exeter on April 5th.

Year 7 Love Shakespeare

At the end of term Year 7 took part in a celebration of all things Shakespeare. The first lesson started off the week with pupils looking at how Shakespeare challenged traditional ideas of love. In the absence of a stage, googly eyes and old socks



were put to good use to create their own mini love stories in which a persuer and persuee were presented in the way that Shakespeare coined; women were accepted as intelligent and imperfect in their own right, whilst still being adored.

Literacy

We are continuing to see an increased focus on reading for pleasure and the associated increase in reading skills. Years 7 and 8 are fully immersed in the Accelerated Reader scheme, have access to reading mentors for specific individuals and the DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) time. An analysis of library use shows that there has again been an increase in book loans, especially in those years who follow the Accelerated Reader scheme (4107 books borrowed by Year 7 alone!)

Reading Mentor Scheme

18 external community mentors have been recruited and trained, with many choosing to continue from last year. They are hugely valued by us all. 25 6th formers have also been trained to support reading in lower years.

Peninsula visit



On Tuesday 11th March 2014, 13 students from Year 9 visited Peninsula School of Medicine and Dentistry. The trip, designed to show students the careers available in medical sciences, consisted of 3 activities: DNA Extraction, Cell Culture and Fly

Microscopy! In the first activity students had to mush a banana with salt, water and washing up liquid, before fishing the DNA out with a cocktail stick! The DNA was then transferred to tubes which the students could take home. Next, the students worked alongside real research scientists, who showed them how to use electric pipettes, how to study brain cells under a microscope and how to smash a flower! It involved lots of liquid nitrogen!! Lastly, the students had a session on the use of flies in the study of brain disease, and the alteration of the genome code. They used microscopes to look at the physical differences between flies, as well as the growth from egg, to larvae, to the fly itself! It was a brilliant day, enjoyed by all!



Political Speed Dating

Recently Tavistock College Year 8 students met with a dozen local councillors in a political speed dating event in Tavistock Town Hall, designed to allow councillors and teenagers to meet, exchange views and teach the students about how local government works. Helen Harris, Head of Law, was really pleased with the event – 'There was a real buzz in the hall. We plan to make this an annual event and it really helps our students to understand how democracy works at the grass roots.' Principal Helen Salmon added "Young people can feel very disengaged from politics but it is vital that they understand how to influence and understand the democratic process. One of our Cooperative Trust values involves fully understanding what democracy means and how it can change peoples' lives. This event gives our students a chance to see this first hand."

The students attending, as part of the extension activities for the Gifted and Talented cohort, were equally enthusiastic. Owen 08B and Luca Bergonzini said 'we received a warm welcome from the councillors. It was an absolute pleasure and a great experience.' Fellow students Bryony Alford and Emily Hill added 'We have learnt so much about how councillors run our local communities and how much they care for them. We would just like to thank all the councillors for kindly giving up their time to talk to us.'

Cllr Debo Sellis, who organised the event in conjunction with the college, commented that this event provided a real boost to community cohesion, and was invaluable in allowing councillors to discuss local issues with young people.



MP Visits Tavistock College

Tavistock College students welcomed MP Geoffrey Cox recently to speak to Year 7 Gifted and Talented students on the work of Parliament and the role of MPs. This was an interactive session, with students eager to ask questions, all clearly determined to understand exactly what was said. Afterwards several students said that they had found Mr Cox's talk inspirational, while Darcey Brown said that she felt 'extremely privileged' to have had this opportunity.

Afterwards Mr Cox went on to speak to Year 11 Business Studies classes and sixth form Law and Aspire students. This time there was a wider focus to the talk, with more emphasis on Geoffrey Cox's work as a barrister as well as his work as an MP. Helen Harris, Head of Law, said: 'The students learnt a lot about the work of the Supreme Court and the Judicial committee of the Privy Council, which will stand them in good stead when they go on to study these aspects of law at A2 and university.' The importance of a strong work ethic was emphasised, and all students were encouraged to work hard and aim high.





Bloodhound SSC

On Tuesday 4th March 2014, I was extremely privileged to get the chance to go to Tor Bridge High School and experience a fascinating, action-packed day with 50 other year 7 to year 10 students. We took part in many different workshops; all explaining how the different parts of the Bloodhound SSC are being built. For those of you who don't know, the Bloodhound SSC is an extremely swift and fast, streamlined car; it will hopefully break the current land speed record in 2015 in the Hakskeen Pan, South Africa, which has been cleared of all rocks and pebbles by around 300 local South African's. In 2016, it might even go faster than 1000 miles per hour!



The first activity that my group went to was all about 3-D printing! Dave (a rocket engineer working for the Bloodhound team) explained to us a bit about how 3-D printing works and what parts of the car were made by it; he then moved us on to an exciting practical, where we layered up pieces of foam to create our own 3-D objects!

Next, we moved on to designing and making our own K'nex rocket cars with Allen. We had to try and make them as light and streamlined as possible to be put in a race at the end. Everyone chose their groups, and then was given a plastic tube to be filled with air and fired like a rocket in the race. The members of the group with the best car got the opportunity to have their own name written on the fin of the real Bloodhound SSC! I was with Sennen Bench, Harry James, Anna 07BX and Olly Sampson (all Year 7). We won! So our names will actually travel at over 1000mph!

There were two more workshops, one using Dina Kars. These teach you about how data can be collected from the car while it is being tested and when it will be making its supersonic record attempt. The interactive session had us interpreting data in the form of sophisticated graphs and trying to mimic this with a state of the art model car which linked directly to a laptop. There was also a 'Show and Tell' session about the Car itself. A life size model was used for this and we had the opportunity to ask one of the engineers who is building it lots of questions. We also had a go in a simulator which helps you understand what it would be like to try to control the car as it picks up speed with its jet engine and solid fuel rocket. These sessions were great fun and remarkably educational. We learned many new facts throughout the day, and we all had great fun. If you want to find out more about the Bloodhound SSC project you can visit their website at www.bloodhoundssc.com. Thank you very much to Mr Keegan for organising the trip, Mr Lane and Mr Deves for looking after us, and everybody else who was part of the day. Thank you! Written by Darcy Brown (Y7)



Japanese visitors

'Konnichiwa' to students from Kanto Daiichi Senior High School

We hosted another memorable visit by 18 Japanese students and 2 teachers from Kanto Daiichi senior high school, our partner school in Edogawa ward, Tokyo from 21st – 29th March. The Japanese students were hosted by students in Years 8-13 which reflected the commitment from families and students in most year groups to participate in this exchange programme. All the host families and students attended the sayounara (farewell) party in the Octagon



and shared in some traditional Japanese songs and dances. By the time of the final good-byes on Saturday morning there were tears and long hugs between all the Japanese students and our host families with many new friendships made and lots of happy memories to look back on. Numerous thank you cards and e-mails have been received from the Japanese students since their return expressing their heartfelt joy and appreciation for all the enormous efforts made by the Tavistock College students and host families. Highlights of their stay included their annual horse-riding adventure on Dartmoor; trips to Exeter Cathedral and a cream tea in the Two Bridges Hotel; the mayor's reception and buffet in the Town Hall and the visit to Whitchurch primary school. They also enjoyed taking part in College life and attending lessons. The planning is now well under way for our trip to Japan in November when we will be looking to develop our partnerships with Edogawa ward and Kanto Daiichi senior high school.



Real Business Challenge

Eight year 10 students recently presented at the national finals of the Real Business Challenge at the British Film Museum in London. Whilst they didn't place in the top 3 they finished in the top 10 schools in the country in a competition where 75,000 students entered nationwide. This involved a market stall style pitch for their juice product and a presentation in front of a panel of judges on how their product could be incorporated into the Street games, which Coca Cola sponsor.

The teamwork, flexibility, creativity and nerve shown to present in front of so many people, including several senior executives from Coca Cola was really inspiring so if you see any of the following students give them a real pat on the back as they were superb ambassadors for the College. Well done to Ellesse Blackmore, Amber Mason, Alice Kodritsch, Sophie Horn, Jodie Stacey, Joe Buncle, Toby Samuel and Tom Bloye. Read more about the day at <http://realworldtavi.blogspot.co.uk/>



Biodiversity Lecture

10 Geographers (ranging from year 11-13) joined me in a lecture on Biodiversity & Climate Change (an A2 topic) by the London based Linnean Society hosted at the University of Plymouth last week by the American Professor Camille Parmesan, a Nobel Peace Prize Winning Environmental Scientist and it was an incredible evening. This was not a school trip, but I commented to the students that I was going and they asked if they could join me. By bus, train and fabulously supportive parents, they came to the University, and all left buzzing by what they had heard.

This was topped off by again seeing the BBC's own resident geographer Professor Iain Stewart, they were definitely the youngest there but their behaviour was incredible and they were a pleasure to spend the evening with. Mrs Froud

UK Mathematics Challenges

Recently our brightest mathematicians have taken part in 2 events. 2 year 8 and 2 year 9 students represented the college at the Junior Team Mathematics Challenge in Plymouth. They had to use both teamwork and mathematical cunning to solve some complex problems. They finished in the top half and they were a real credit to the college. The students were: Emily Hill, Amy Eaton, Rebecca Banks and Weng Vooi. Some of our year 11s, 10s and 9s have taken part in the UK Intermediate Mathematics Challenge. The students performed excellently. Jack Morewood achieved a gold certificate and also got the best in school and best in year 11. Matthew Chambers and Rebecca Banks both got silver awards and best in year 10 and 9 respectively. Here is an example of the types of questions they were expected to answer.

Not all characters in the Woodentop series tell the truth. When Mr Plod asked them, "How many people are there in the Woodentops family?" four of them replied as follows.

Jenny: "An even Number." Willie: "An odd number."

Sam: "A prime number."

Mrs Scrubitt: "A number which is the product of two integers greater than one."

How many of these four were telling the truth?

A 0 B 1 C 2 D 3 E 4

For the answer, ask one of the Mathematics team.

Winners

Gold: Jack Morewood (Y11)

Martha Peach (Y9)

Silver: Joel Gilhespy (Y11)

Alex Hiscocks (Y9)

Joe Sellars (Y11)

Bronze: Bert Rodgers (Y11)

Sam George (Y11)

Timmy Allen (Y10)

Victoria Richards (Y11)

Charlie Palmer (Y10)

Weng Vooi (Y11)

Bradley Plokker (Y10)

Emily Friend (Y11)

Nicole Beer (Y10)

Matthew Chambers (Y10)

Alex Ince (Y9)

Rebecca Banks (Y9)

Sam Chambers (Y9)

Josh Lethbridge (Y9)





A Song of Ice and Fire

On Thursday 23rd January nearly 350 pupils from our local feeder primary schools joined us at Tavistock College to watch an exciting and engaging show called 'Fire and Ice' presented by the Science department.

Mr Smith and Mr Allen (teachers at the College) gave pupils the chance to see first-hand what happens when you cool a banana to -196 degrees Celsius and what speed a methane rocket will launch at.



The show consisted of 2 parts: ice and fire.

Pupils were shocked and excited to see a range of experiments, which used liquid nitrogen, a very cold chemical to freeze flowers (see the video on YouTube), tennis balls and rubber – shattering them with a hammer! Pupils even had the chance to eat quick-frozen ice cream: chocolate milk mixed with the liquid nitrogen to freeze it in seconds.

The liquid nitrogen boiled at room temperature, giving the stage a spooky feel and giving the watchers something they had not seen close up before.

Then came the fire – Mr Smith demonstrated what happens when metals burn in oxygen and Mr Allen followed this up with demonstrations of burning ethanol, coloured metal solutions and the Thermit reaction – so hot it can melt through cars!

Just when you thought you'd seen

enough, the duo went on to burn sweets – making jelly babies scream and angel delight fireballs!

The finale of the show was the most shocking and loudest! Pupils made sure they covered their ears as Mr Smith lit balloons filled with hydrogen – a very explosive gas, followed with the pair sending rockets filled with methane shooting across the hall.

By the end of the show all pupils were in agreement that they had had a great time, but also learnt some things about Science and reactions. Here's to another great show next year!



Transition Dates

We look forward to greeting the new Year 7 students in September.

At the moment staff are visiting all the primary schools to learn more about the new students who will be joining us.

Parents will be invited to a Parents Evening on June 17th to meet their child's tutor. On July 8th all new students will come to the college for a "Taster day."

Next term Year 5 children will be invited to "Step Up days" to learn about the College and the opportunities we offer

Transition Art



designed large willow sculptures based on real or imagined marine animals. The willow designs were covered in tissue paper and painted and are now on display in Meadowlands café.



The College recently hosted a Transition event for local primary schools in which the Art specialist teacher from Lifton Primary School led two creative days learning about sculpture. College students worked alongside children from Years 5 and 6 from many primary schools and

Befriending Services New Life Stories Project Launched

The Lord Lieutenant of Devon visited Tavistock Area Support Services to launch the Befriending Services new Life Stories Project, which has been made possible by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Students from Tavistock College will be involved with the recording of the memories of older people living in the area.

This occasion also marked the first milestone for two students involved with the TASS Befriending Service. Lucy Poyntz and Melissa Turner are the first students to complete 10 visits to elderly people in Tavistock. The visits take place weekly and both students are enjoying getting to know their clients. The ladies they are visiting are delighted to have their company and are very appreciative. Certificates of Achievement were presented to Melissa and Lucy by Sir Eric Dancer, the Lord Lieutenant, who was most impressed by the joint project.

The other student Befrienders are also on track to complete their first 10 visits in the near future and will be receiving their certificates in College as visits by the Lord Lieutenant are rare!



Living with Teenagers

Over 80 parents attended an evening at Tavistock College to hear Rob Long speak about "Living with Teenagers." As usual Rob mixed profound words with his own brand of highly entertaining anecdotes and humour. All went away with various "mantras" to think about when faced with stressful situations and with more insight into normal adolescent behaviour. Rob's presentation was warm and empowering and everyone felt it would be good to invite him back to explore adolescence in more depth. Parents were appreciative of the evening and many felt it "refreshing" and "highly informative."

The College asked parents to list other areas for similar sessions and these ideas are being collated. All felt it good to come together to talk and learn about issues of common interest and the College is very keen to facilitate such sessions. Thanks go to the PTA who funded this successful evening and to all parents who attended and took part with such enthusiasm and energy.

Launch of College Online Archive

Tavistock College has recently launched the College Photographic Archive which is now available for the general public to view. Following a very successful Open Archive day last summer, the many photos kindly brought in by former students have now been scanned and where possible names have been added – so if you want to see who was in the Domestic Science class of 1945, or the boys' rugby team of 1976, it is now all available. The College is hoping that more names can be added, to make the collection an even more accurate record of the history of the college and its place in Tavistock.

If anyone can add names, or would like to contribute to the collection, please do contact Helen Harris (h.harris@tavistockcollege.devon.sch.uk)

The archive collection can be found at tavistockcollege.devon.sch.uk/archives/

The next Open Archive Day will be on May 1st, 11am-1pm, in the school hall, and all are welcome to come along.



1970 The schools first computer
(photo donated by Gerry Woodcock)

Rebecca Venning wins Mayoral Award

Congratulations to Rebecca Venning who has won the Under 18 West Devon Mayoral Award for 2014. Rebecca has been involved in youth work since 2007, volunteering in her local and other youth clubs. She has taken part in the National Citizen Service for two consecutive years, working with other young volunteers in community groups during several weeks of her school holidays, renovating youth clubs and working with the homeless.

Rebecca sits on the South West Youth Panel, a body which awards money to local youth projects, and has become a champion for young people's services. Her latest enterprise will see her travel to Westminster to lobby the Government for improved national funding for youth projects.

Rebecca was nominated by Assistant Principal at the college, James O'Connell, who said in his citation: "Her selfless service and passion for community voluntary work and social justice is extremely impressive."



Sixth Form News



At the start of the month, Mr O'Connell, accompanied by nearly 20 Year 12 students, travelled to London for the annual Aspire trip. During their time in London, the group visited colleges within London University - Imperial and UCL – the Old Bailey and parts of the City, and cultural centres such as the British Museum and Tate Modern. We are indebted to the Tavistock Trustees for making this trip possible.

It's been a busy term here at Tavistock College Sixth Form. In the last few weeks our students have had the opportunity to attend a number of exciting events. Most recently, we took over a hundred of our students to the Westpoint Exhibition Arena in Exeter to attend the annual UCAS Fair where they were able to meet and talk to representatives from the majority of UK universities. Prior to this, we also invited some 40 students to attend The Big Bang Apprenticeship event, where they were given the opportunity to explore a range of apprenticeship opportunities.



On Thursday the 13th of February, the College held an Inspiration Day for all Sixth Form pupils. Numerous guest speakers and professionals from all walks of life were invited into the College to run a variety of seminars and talks which students could sign up to and attend. Speakers varied from a Royal Marine general to life and career coaches. A truly inspirational tale was delivered by Ben McBean, a former Royal Marine Commando who was seriously injured whilst on duty in Afghanistan. Despite his life-changing injuries, Ben demonstrated how it is possible to face life's challenges head on, and thrive in the face of adversity. Since this event, we have been running a series of 'look at life' and careers' seminars during the Wednesday afternoon enrichment slots. Over the last few weeks we have had talks on medicine, law, anthropology, journalism and finance .Dan Jacob





Careers, Advice, Information and Guidance

During the spring term Year 11 students were invited to a progression interview with a college staff member, to discuss their options post Year 11. Finding out what the College Sixth Form can offer, what alternatives there are and signposts to further advice and guidance if needed.

Mrs Cathy Sharp has been supporting and advising Year 11 students who are looking at what subjects to take in the Sixth Form for their chosen career path and alternatives, such as Further Education College or an apprenticeship.

Fred Jenkins independent Career South West Advisor has carried out individual and small group advice sessions to referred Year 11, 12, 13 students, as well as running an apprenticeship guidance group session with interested Year 11's. He will continue to advise students during the summer term when requested.

Apprenticeship week in March provided the opportunity for students to attend apprenticeship related events:

A small group of Year 10 and 11 students attended The Skills Show 'have a go' event in Plymouth in March. This was an interactive day at the Plymouth Guildhall, where students were able to meet with a variety of local employers, Further Education and apprenticeship providers. They were able to try out different job roles from an electrician to nail technician, gather information and an idea of what is available for them in the local area.

Inspiration Day gave students an opportunity to meet with some

very interesting and inspiring people from outside the College and their local area. Year 10 focused on work experience and met with various local employers during their day.

A coach full of Sixth Form students attended The Big Bang, Science Engineering Technology and Maths Apprenticeship day at Bridgewater College. Hands on displays, workshops, education providers, apprentices and a very interesting, interactive talk about Space, gravity, meteors and matter, made for a very worthwhile trip.

Each Wednesday afternoon in the Sixth Form Octagon, students are able to meet and listen to invited guests covering a wide range of topics focused on real world learning, with the opportunity to hear from someone

actually doing the job they are interested in. Many speakers are connected to the College, be it as past students, parents of current students or previous employers. If you would like to take part as a guest speaker please contact Dan Jacob or James O'Connell in the sixth form office.



Work Experience

Year 10 Work Experience week is the 14th-18th July 2014.

Tutors have been supporting students in their search for placements and have access to forms and a list of previous employers. Well done to those who have found a placement.

Work Experience forms from students who have secured a placement are being handed in to Mrs Cathy Sharp via main reception. There are still many students who have not returned their forms or have been unable to secure a placement. Each work placement has to be approved and risk assessed, before a student can attend, please endeavour to find a work experience placement over the Easter Holidays.

Extended date for return of completed forms is now Friday 25th April.

Further information regarding work experience can be found on the College Website.

Please contact Mrs Cathy Sharp, Work Experience Coordinator, for support, guidance and assistance in finding a placement. Office opposite IT3

c.sharp@tavistockcollege.devon.sch.uk

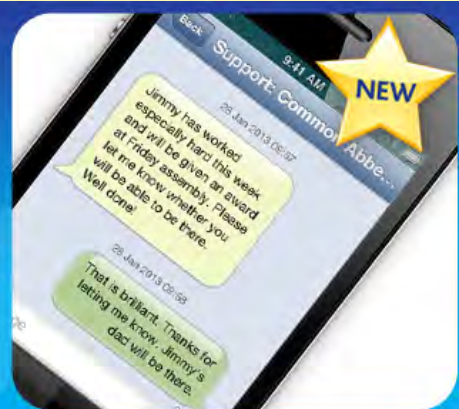
01822 614231 ext203



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

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 (Apple) or 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.

SIMs Learning Gateway

In September we hope to offer parents real time access to their child's behaviour, punctuality, attendance and achievement data so they can see how they are doing throughout the day. Parents will also be able to check what homework is being set and when it is due in for each of their child's classes. We will also be using the gateway to send home progress reports. There will be more information coming out shortly about setting the systems up ready for September.



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: @tavicollege



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



www.YouTube.com/tavicollegeuk



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.



Important Information

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



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

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



Forthcoming Events

learndevon



Fork to Plate for parents and year 7 students

Start date: Tues 29 April **Sessions:** 10
Time: 3.30pm-6.30pm **Course code:** FL3056X
Cost: Free **Venue:** Tavistock College

- Find out more about nutrition and cooking healthy food on a budget
- Learn the basics of garden horticulture and help design and create a productive garden
- Each session will be a mix of gardening and cooking your own tea!

www.learndevon.co.uk

acltavistock-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

01822 613701



*Eligibility criteria/terms and conditions apply. We recommend that you enrol six working days before the start of the course.

Funded by
Skills
Funding
Agency



Devon
County Council



POWERED BY SUNSHINE

FUNDED BY EVERYONE

PTA Charity Fashion Show

Tavistock College in conjunction with St Luke's Hospice Plymouth presents

Solar Sensations Fashion Show on 25th April at 7:00pm.

Featuring Tavistock College students on the cat walk.
Outfits from St Luke's Hospice Shops.
Hair by Cutting Company Hair and Beauty

£5.00 per ticket to include a glass of wine for over 18s only!

£3.00 concession for Tavistock College Students

Tickets available from the College reception and Odds and Sods (opposite St Luke's Shop Tavistock)

In aid of Tavistock College Solar Panels and St Luke's Hospice



Product of the Year 2014

Tavistock College

TAVISTOCK COLLEGE'S TECHNOLOGY FACULTY invite you to celebrate its students' amazing achievements at an exciting event:

PRODUCT OF THE YEAR 2014

Come along and see the fantastic products designed by over 70 of our most talented designers...

THURSDAY 8th MAY
5pm - 7.30pm, Main Hall

All too often we hear politicians bemoaning the fact that we don't make things anymore in this country. Of course we still do make things but nobody can deny that there has been some decline in manufacturing in this country. Employers constantly worry that students coming out of school don't have the skills they need. In our small way here at Tavistock College we are seeking to address this.

We want all our students to develop the skills they will need to thrive in the 21st century. This year there has been a focus on the College on real world learning in all subjects. This forms the basis of our partnership with Sweden. For us this includes Innovation and the ability to design and make things. Tavistock College is very proud of its Design and Technology department. Every year they deliver exceptional results and opportunities for our young people. They organise many exciting events throughout the year which bring in a range of people from local businesses and creative industries. The main event of the year for Design Technology is the innovative Product of the Year event. This event showcases all the wonderful products made by students over the last year. The event covers a range of areas including product design, textile design, fashion, food product design, graphic design, carpentry and robotics.

The event will be taking place on Thursday 8th May, 5.00pm - 7.30pm in the Main Hall at the College. We would welcome parents, local businesses and interested members of the public to this inspiring event. Come and see the talents and skills of the young people of Tavistock College. Mr P Keegan



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 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.



House matches

As part of the PE house system in conjunction with the Sainsbury School games, this week pupils from all years have been taking part in Football and Handball matches. These house games continue to build upon the Rugby and Netball games in the Autumn term with future games planned in the summer, concluding with Sports Day and Swimming Gala. The house names of Daley, Ainslie, Simmonds and Ennis are chosen to continue the Olympic legacy from the 2012 games where pupils demonstrate not only competitive spirit but the ideals of fair play and sportsman ship. Final results will follow with announcements in assembly and the display in PE due to be updated.



Show Jumping Success

On Sunday 16th March 2014 four students attended the South West Schools show jumping competition at The Grange Equestrian Centre. In the first round, all team members were clear, which meant we were in the running going into the second round.

The second round was against the clock and many teams were having problems over the new, more difficult course. Overall our team finished on 8 faults, which was very impressive and we were 7th in the Devon section out of approximately 15 teams. Fantastic news for the students who took part, especially as they were riding young and inexperienced horses. Mrs Congdon



Devon Rugby

Luke Northmore and Will Slater have been added to the list of youngsters from the college that have represented Devon in rugby. These two Year 12 boys made their debuts against Somerset this term, all at the school are very proud of this achievement and are sure that they will go on to win many more county honours in the future - Mr Forster

24 June

KS3 Reading Celebration Evening

25 June

18:00 Resources Governors Meeting

26 June

Carnegie Event

Year 9 and Year 10 Learning and Achievement Evening
Year 11 Graduation

1 July

Year 13 Leavers Day and Graduation

2 July

Year 4 and Year 5 Open Evening

3 July

Summer Music Concert

4 July

Year 11 Prom

8 July

Year 6 Taster Day

9 July

18:00 Full Governing Body Meeting

9 - 10 July

Sixth Form Conference - New Year 12

11 July

Sixth Form Prom

14 July

Year 10 Work Experience Week
Inspiration / Enterprise Day

16 July

Lower School Play

17 July

Charity Non Uniform Day

21 July

Swimming Gala

22 July

Sports Day

24 July

Last Day of Summer Term

14 August

A Level Results Day

21 August

GCSE Results Day

8 September

First day of Autumn Term
(Week A)