



## Principal's Introduction

It has been yet another busy and highly positive term. A great many successful events have been run and we are working hard to sustain our progress and build on our successful Good judgement from Ofsted last year.

It is Year 2 of our Co-operative Trust work with our partners from 10 primary schools. The Trust has developed well. In October we ran the first ever Tavistock Schools Poetry Festival. This event was a huge success. We are also planning to run a 'Real World Challenge' Business Enterprise Festival across our schools. We are linking with 10 local businesses for this event. The Co-operative Trust has also developed a clear Action Plan covering 7

objectives. These strategies are practical and include ways to raise the aspirations of the children across all our schools.

We are also into the second year of our international project with schools in Sweden. This centres on digital learning and entrepreneurship. We have also linked with a partner school in Kathmandu in Nepal. James O'Connell and I were privileged to visit Nepal in the October half term.

This link came about through our connection with Ann Mercer the former Headteacher at Lamerton Primary School. Ann is currently in Nepal working on a VSO project to improve education for girls. Two staff from Nepal will be visiting Tavistock next year.

We are also developing links in Geography, Science, RS, English and Food Technology.

We have had many great events this term. These include trips and visits, festivals and fundraising events. However, three things really stand out:-

The Sports Awards Evening has become an annual highlight of our school calendar. It is wonderful to see so many talented young people succeeding in a range of sports and activities. The Sports Personality of the Year event was deservedly won by Tate Budge. Tate is the Junior World Champion in his Tae Kwon-Do event.

The recent 'Showstoppers' production from The Creative Arts Faculty also went down a storm. The standard of performance was exceptionally high and talented students in all years took part.

Our annual Remembrance Service is always a very special event. This year it was particularly poignant as we marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First World War. Students taking part were a credit to the College.

Ensuring that students leave our College with the best examination results possible will always be a top priority however, it is also important to recognise that achievement in a range of areas matters. Those students participating in the three events already mentioned gained a great deal. Education is about developing young people with a wide range of skills and qualities. We want all our young people to develop confidence, resilience and social skills as well as academic qualifications.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents/carers for their continued support for the college. The PTA organise many events to raise funds but also events which focus on educational issues and concerns such as the recent successful Question Time event.

I would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year. Next term starts on Tuesday 6 January 2015.

Helen Salmon  
Principal



## Key dates

**6 January**  
First Day of Term

**16 February**  
Half Term

**23 February**  
Non Pupil Day

**27 March**  
Last Day of Spring Term

**13 April**  
First Day of Summer Term







## David Hemerey leads aspirational project

1968 400m hurdles Olympian and gold medallist, David Hemerey, visited Tavistock College to train staff, on the aspirational programme he leads: "Be the Best You Can Be." The programme was established after the London 2012 Olympics and forms part of the promised legacy that the Games will inspire a generation.

The programme encourages and challenges young people to follow their dreams. It aims to help young people take more control of their lives by increasing their self-awareness and self-responsibility, so that they can establish what steps they should take to reach their goals. They will also learn how to look after themselves and how to support and coach each other. Year 7 students will be the first to be introduced to the programme, although David's message of taking responsibility and realising how to achieve goals will be embraced throughout the College.

In October Olympian, Craig Figes, started the Year 7s on their journey to "be the best you can be", when he showed them how to transfer inspiration into action. Principal Helen Salmon said, "This programme will help us unlock the potential of every child."



## Cambridge Visit

A group of Year 10 and 12 students from Tavistock College have recently visited Cambridge University in order to learn how to apply successfully to Oxbridge and Russell group universities. The group were the guests of Downing College and found it highly motivating to stay in the Undergraduate halls (we stayed in a room formerly occupied by John Cleese, in his undergraduate days!) The group of very able students were shown around both Downing, Emmanuel College and Trinity College and spent an afternoon viewing the College "backs" from a punt on the River Cam.

They attended two academic sessions to show them what a typical seminar would be like and honed their critical thinking and debating skills.

We are hugely grateful to Downing College who host Tavistock College every year and their schools liaison officer goes so far as to say, it is one of the highlights of his calendar to host students from Tavistock College.



## Design Technology Enterprise

Over the Autumn Term four Year 8 girls have been manufacturing pen holders and selling them to their teachers in support of St Luke's Hospice and 'Solar Schools'. Erin Bolding, Emma Bailey, Niamh Mathews and Cloe Phare worked tirelessly through all their lunches and breaks to produce the high quality pen holders and managed to make £120 for the charities. Mr Keegan who supported the enterprise was astounded by the effort,

commitment and enthusiasm shown by the girls. Community Fundraiser for St Luke's Hospice Wayne Marshall said, "From all of us at St Luke's Hospice we would like to pass on our thanks to Erin, Emma, Niamh and Cloe for their creative fundraising initiative. The money raised by the girls will go directly to providing specialist end of life care for local people". The girls are now considering other enterprising activities and have decided supporting an animal charity will be their next focus.



## STEM Enterprise Day

Year 10 students took part in a STEM enterprise day. They formed small property companies to tender to purchase a prime site on which to build a new development on the outskirts of town. Students worked in groups consisting of a mix of subject skills with Geography, Business, Graphics and Construction subjects all represented. This allowed the students to take on real world roles such as marketing director, architect, finance manager and project manager. The success of the teams depended on the appropriate allocation of jobs and sharing of their skill sets.

Groups had a strict 2 and a quarter hour deadline to complete all tasks on the property development challenge. This included a scale plan of the site, internal architects designs, newspaper advert, marketing ideas, tender letter and a series of finance calculations. Students worked under real time pressures, with people they wouldn't normally work with as a result of the mixed nature of the groups across subject areas. Another unique aspect of this challenge was the support provided by industry experts. Representatives from Cavanna Homes, The Met Office and construction were all on hand to stimulate thoughts and question students on real world tasks. A group of Tavistock College 6th Form students helped to mentor some students. The teams had to present their work to the industry judges and peers with the winning teams going forward to the grand final. Not only did this day build on subject knowledge of Eco homes from Geography, marketing strategies from Business and technical drawing from Graphics but more importantly exposed students to a real life challenge. As a result teamwork, communication, time management and leadership skills were all developed. All skills and attributes that are vital to our 21st century learners as we prepare them for the workplace.







## International Kids' Lit Quiz

On Friday Nov 28th, Tavistock College hosted the South West Heat of the prestigious International Kids' Lit Quiz. This was the first time Tavistock had hosted such an event and 27 teams entered from all over the South West.

The Kids' Lit Quiz is an annual quiz for students aged 10 – 13 years. Teams of four students, from Year 6, 7 and 8, are asked to answer 100 questions on children's literature divided into ten categories, which vary each year. Teams work collaboratively to answer each question put to them by the New Zealand Quizmaster Wayne Mills. There are 18 regional heats in the UK. The winning team from each region competes in the National Final which this year will be held at Kings' College School Wimbledon, London. The overall UK winning team will be invited to compete for the International Title in Connecticut in the summer of 2015. The fast paced quiz was exciting and involved spot prizes for the audience of parents and teachers as well as lots of prizes of books for the teams, kindly donated by Bloomsbury Publishers. The South West heat was won by Truro School, who will travel to London next week to try to win a place in the International Final. The organisers have thanked Tavistock College for their hospitality and the many 6th formers who helped marshal minibuses, welcomed visitors and scored the quiz. We wish Truro good luck in London.



## Burrator Project

Year 12 Geography and Business Studies students have embarked on an exciting opportunity to use their classroom based skills and knowledge in a real world situation. Working with SW Lakes Trust the 14 students will be working on a project to rebrand Burrator Reservoir with an aim of assisting visitors to 'learn about the area and look after the area'. Mrs Froud from the Geography department said "a sustainable world for future generations to enjoy is an essential ethos of geography today, so the opportunity to work with Business Studies and SW Lakes is fantastic geography in action". Mrs Berryman, from the Business Studies department will be focused on the funding and marketing elements of the project said "We're looking forward to working on this exciting project and giving the students the opportunity to experience real world learning".

The project has an initial time scale of 12 months, but it is hoped that it will evolve and be an on going relationship between the College and an area of stunning beauty.

## Political Speed Dating



and the first to involve the Sixth Form as part of the College's provision for politically interested and community minded students. Both Helen Harris, from the college, and Debo Sellis, Devon County Councillor, who organised the event, were delighted with the way the session went.

Debo Sellis said: 'There were some super ideas & enthusiasm from the students - brilliant!'

Helen Harris said: "We are very grateful indeed to the councillors for giving up their time. Students were really interested and engaged by this event."

Sixth form students at Tavistock College were pleased to welcome local councillors to a political 'speed dating' event last Thursday 15th October. A group of Sixth Form students were able to put to councillors on matters that interested them. Ten councillors from a range of areas, with widely varying responsibilities, attended and both councillors and students went away with a much better understanding of each other's respective roles and concerns.

This was the fourth such event, this time hosted by the college,



## Business and Accounting competition

On the 26th November, 6 Year 12 Business Studies students took part in ICAEW's National Business and Accounting competition. This provided a unique and exciting experience as students were able to put their classroom learning into practice. They were presented with information about a business scenario which outlined a range of challenges. Under the support of a professional mentor, the students assessed, analysed, debated and developed recommendations which they presented to a panel of respected judges. These recommendations and the professionalism of the presentation resulted in the students being placed in the final four teams in the competition, which was a huge achievement.

The competition enabled students to develop their employability skills outside the classroom as well as building confidence, knowledge and experience to take into their future careers. They were also able to establish contacts with employers and find out about what career opportunities are available as an ICAEW Chartered Accountant.



## WW1 Trip



"I had the good fortune to accompany the Year 9 trip to the Great War Grave yards, Flanders Fields and ceremonies at the Menin Gate in July. I went along in my capacity as a School Governor to support the trip. The staff were outstanding; the combination of teaching, counselling, managing interpersonal issues, support and listening made me tired just to watch it all!

Matthew Lucas, the guide from the Western Front Assoc. said the questions from our children were amongst the most thoughtful and intelligent he had encountered and the feedback from the coach drivers and the staff at the residence was equally outstanding.

The battlefields and the trenches and the sheer loss of life the children encountered on this trip was very moving. Children found names of long lost relatives, sent texts to parents with information, wrote their thoughts down and even the most uncertain of them were

clearly affected by what is after all the greatest loss of life before the Nazis came to power. Would I go again on other trips? Yes straight away. I made friends, learnt a lot and above all saw how clever, interested and committed to learning the young people at Tavistock College are." *Nigel Larcombe-Williams*



The cemeteries – bold, white stone, sterile and harsh compared to the lush green hills on which they sit. The company – whose presence was reassuring during both the happiest and most solemn of times. Most importantly, we must remember those who gave their lives striving to reach for a better tomorrow. *Esme Powell*

'Peace has come from well on earth and grass was grown where once was dirt.  
No more shall shells rain from the sky whilst all around young soldiers die.  
No more shall the ground run red with blood whilst bodies sink in to the mud.  
This land that has been torn asunder no longer rings with artillery thunder.  
The soldiers' blood not spilled in vain as this land over sees peace again'

*Sam Beard*



## WW1 Battlefields

In October Year 9 students, Jack Kerswill and Luca Bergonzini, represented Tavistock College in a visit to the Battlefields of France and Belgium. Part of a national initiative to mark the centenary of the start of the Great War, secondary schools had the opportunity to select two students to take part. Jack and Luca won a College competition, producing some commemorative poems and posters that showcased not only their historical awareness but also their creative skills.

One of the highlights of the visit was the presence of serving members of the armed forces. This provided a unique insight into modern warfare and army experiences and complemented the historical knowledge of the tour guides superbly. As well as providing a fitting historical commemoration for our pupils, the trip also provided a genuine real world learning experience.

*Phil Ruse, Humanities Teacher*



I was stunned by the size of Tyne Cot cemetery, the largest of the war cemeteries and it made me think about a great number of things. One fact I did not know was that all the gravestones are made identically to promote uniformity and the soldiers' equality, even in death. It was truly astounding.

The Thiepval memorial was my favourite place because of its sheer size and it's fantastic architectural value. What I found astonishing was the amount of work and time that went in to remembering the brave dead. It was an absolutely fantastic experience! Thank you to those involved for giving me this wonderful opportunity! *Luca Bergonzini,*

This trip really meant something to me because my Great, Great Grandad took part in the "Battle Of The Somme" but sadly died. He was part of the Royal Field Artillery. The trip was truly outstanding. The cemeteries really did make me think twice about the war. The Tyne Cot Cemetery was so big it really did make you think about the loss of lives.

We then visited the trenches, they were re-created and you could walk around them and it gave you a feel as to the conditions the men lived in. Although we didn't have bombs and bullets whizzing past us it was still rather extraordinary!

All the memorials we visited had their own story to tell. We sadly couldn't find my Great Great Grandads memorial. It was an emotional and educational trip that I will always remember. I can't thank the college enough for what they have done for Luca and I! *Jack Kerswill*





## HMS Northumberland

This term a Year 9 Geography class started an exciting project which brings the real world into the classroom.

Each member of the class has written to a member of the crew on board the Royal Naval Frigate HMS Northumberland, currently on deployment in the Gulf and Arabian Sea. The class asked them about their geographical experiences and highlights of their deployment so far, the class are hoping for an insight into geography in action before doing a unit on conflict later this year.

In October the students were thrilled to receive the blue BFPO letters back from HMS Northumberland. The Ship's Company and the Geography Department are so impressed by the communications that they would like to continue the link beyond one letter. A visit to the ship has been suggested and the sailors working with the College will be invited to come out to the school. "This project is one that we would like to see evolve; promoting students learning of geography



in action whilst supporting our servicemen and women at the same time. It is a superb way to engage students of all abilities" said Mrs Froud from the College Geography Department.

CPO AWW Burgoyne, liaison with the College from the Gulf says "It's been a great opportunity for members of the ships company to educate students on elements of our deployment. The ships company that replied ranged from an able rate who has just joined the RN to a LT CDR RN. LT CDR King studied for a Geography degree and really enjoyed his involvement with the school. We look forward to hosting them on board one day."



## Geography students at Plymouth University

Geography A level students were invited to two lectures at Plymouth University recently.

Twenty-nine A level students were invited to the Geography department to learn about life at university and get a taster of higher education. They were given a bespoke lecture in Human Geography and given a tour of the Geography facilities and the whole campus. Geography Teacher Mrs Froud said: "Our gratitude goes to Dr Richard Yarwood and the Geography department of Plymouth university for giving our students such a wonderful opportunity to have an insight into life at Plymouth University".

On Thursday 6th November Mrs Froud and AS geography students attended a lecture at Plymouth University as part of the public Mark Blacksell lecture series, titled 'Why do we need to look at military landscapes?' The lecture was a fascinating exploration of physical geography as well as social and political aspects of the military's use of landscapes within the UK.

Mrs Froud commented: "Our students were the youngest there, but conducted themselves in a mature manner and were a pleasure to spend the evening with in a fascinating lecture hosted by the Geography Faculty of the University of Plymouth".



## Geography AS field trip to Boscastle

Studying extreme weather from a textbook isn't good enough for our geographers, they went to experience first hand the impacts and consequences of the August 2004 floods.

Having had a beautiful day out in the Cornish sunshine, their knowledge of the village will benefit them well in their AS exams.





## Japanese Exchange 2014

After a smooth flight over we arrived at 9.25am and had a 45 minute coach ride into Tokyo spending the morning in Odaiba walking round the scenic walkways looking across Tokyo Bay.



We enjoyed a full day going out to see the Great Buddha in Kamakura in Kanagawa Prefecture by train and seeing Hachimangu shrine before returning to the heart of Tokyo for dinner in Shinjuku.

Students visited a kindergarten and attended a traditional tea ceremony.



We travelled across Tokyo by coach to Edogawa ward where we went up the Funabori Tower and visited Gyosen park before visiting Edogawa City Office to be welcomed by mayor Tada and officials from Edogawa city. After lunch in Funabori we went to the Kyoiku Plaza – an educational establishment for the community of Edogawa until it rained heavily on the way to the Green Palace Hotel where the students met their host families at a matching ceremony. Most families live within an hour of Kanto Daiichi Senior High School and the students were taken home by car for their first night.



All students came into school in good spirits after spending their first night with host families. They had 6 lessons in school before leaving with their host students for the weekend.

Everyone enjoyed sharing their individual stories of the time spent with their host families over the weekend. Our deepest thanks to all the host families who made every effort to ensure our students had the most memorable experiences. For example, Lawrence and Will were driven to Mount Fuji and Peter was taken to Disney Sea World and the other students were taken to some places of outstanding beauty.



On our final day in Kantou Daiichi Senior High School the skies were dark and we commuted into school in torrential rain. We were in a variety of lessons throughout the day. Our thanks to the Japanese students who put a huge amount of planning and effort into today's lessons and to the host families who have been incredibly kind and hospitable. All the host students could not have done more to make us feel at home.

Thank you to everyone who supported us during our time in Tokyo.





## Tavistock College links with school in Kathmandu, Nepal

Staff from Tavistock College have begun an exciting new development for the school. Having secured funding from the British Council, Principal Helen Salmon and Assistant Principal James O'Connell, were fortunate to visit Adarsha Saula school in Kathmandu, Nepal – currently judged to be the most successful state school in Kathmandu – over half term.

The aim of the visit was to build a partnership between the two schools so that students and staff from both schools can learn from each other. The broader aims are to develop a spirit of global citizenship and to create strong links so that more staff and students can visit Nepal and Adarsha Saula.

Students in Nepal and Tavistock have already begun communicating with each other via email and letters and there are a number of joint projects beginning in both schools to enable the students to learn from each other. These include studies of each other's festivals and cultural traditions, a study of diets and food where students will attempt to make each other's local dishes, and a science and geography project looking into the effects and power of water.

Helen Salmon, Principal of Tavistock College said: "It has been a real privilege to visit Adarsha Saula where we received an extremely warm and hospitable welcome. What impressed us most was the passion and enthusiasm of the students who are desperate to learn, recognising education as their chance for fulfilling careers and happiness."

Saroj Acharya, Principal of Adarsha Saula, Kathmandu, said: "We have been very happy to welcome our visitors from Tavistock and learn more about your school and area. We very much look forward to our visit in 2015 and building an even closer relationship."



## SHOWSTOPPERS

### A Celebration Showcase of Musical Theatre

Musical Theatre performers have always possessed what is known as the Triple Threat – they can act and sing and dance. We were thrilled to have 55 Upper School Performers who fit this description sharing their work in the recent 'Showstoppers' performance. They were accompanied by 56 lower school performers giving us great hope for the future of artistic endeavours at Tavistock College.



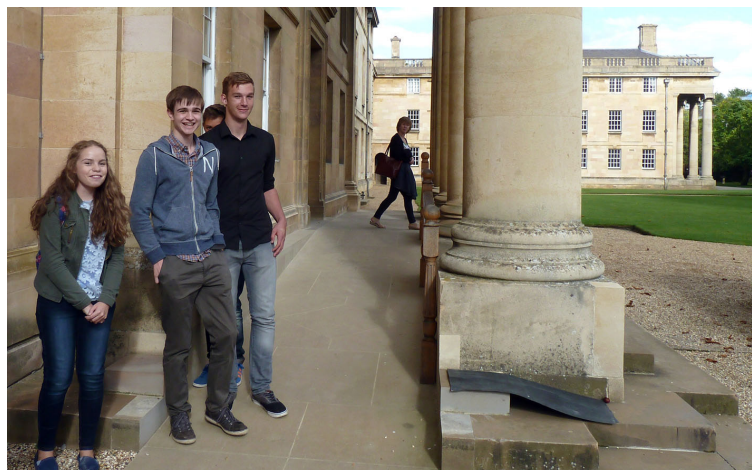
It is testament to the talent, skill and hard work of the students that we were able to share so many aspects of the musical – they were a joy to work with! The Musical Theatre style takes on a number of guises and we were able to share a wide range of works that enthused, excited, inspired and wowed our audience though a whistle-stop tour of musical theatre and all that makes it glitter!.







The new academic year has been busy with over 200 new Year 12s joining us. The new intake have made an excellent start. We began the term with an external speaker helping the new intake consider how to learn independently and to take responsibility for their own learning. This term has seen the creation of car passes for some Sixth Form students, officially allowing them to park on the school site for the first time. We have run our 'Octafest' event a couple of times, getting the whole Sixth form together to socialise, share a few snacks and listen to some of our outstandingly talented student bands and individuals perform. We have also taken all of Year 12 to Plymouth to attend the extremely powerful 'Learn to Live' Conference about driving awareness and not becoming one of the far too prevalent 17-25 year old casualties on our roads.



Around 70% of our Year 13s will be applying to university this year, with a few others waiting until next year to apply. Most have submitted their UCAS application but we're still encouraging a few stragglers to finalise their personal statements! It's always a privilege and fascinating to help with this process, discovering where students are headed. Cardiff, Exeter, Bath, Bristol and Plymouth, PCAD and Marjons continue to be popular choices. Falmouth's growing reputation is also generating a lot of interest. Others are determined to get further away from home and we also have many interested in the London universities as well as others in the north and Scotland. Two students are currently awaiting interviews at Oxford University and another has an application for medicine pending. Other students are planning exciting gap years or have apprenticeships or career plans lined up.

A strong and gratifying feature of our Sixth Form life is the burgeoning number of students involved in volunteering and contributing to the school and wider community. We have a large, over-subscribed team of reading mentors trained and working an hour a week at Tavistock Primary School, coordinated by Year 13 Ali Cox. Others are involved in supporting Year 7 students in the College library in their reading. Another large group, led by Jamie Brown, Year 13, have been trained as academic mentors and are meeting to support Year 11 students in one-to-one sessions designed to help them prepare and be successful in their GCSE year. Many others are involved in other ways with organisations like TASS and Oxfam and we are planning the launch of a 'Memory Café' in the new year for members of our community and their carers living with dementia. Our 'Interact' club (run by head Boy, Jed Coiley) – a young persons' branch of Rotary composed of students from our Sixth Form and Kelly College – have also been working hard and ran a very successful event, allowing bands and individuals to perform in an open mic evening, raising money for the local food banks. Each tutor group has launched it's own 'enterprise' idea, raising money for a charity of each group's choice. We are just running a 'Christmas jumper' day, organised by Sixth Form students (led by year 12s Jazz Rice and Celine Conley), in aid of Save the Children and St Luke's Hospice. This also ties in with some of the fantastic work many students are involved with in



Business Studies, with entries into some prestigious national competitions.



Later in the new year we are hoping and looking forward to running our own 'Festival in the Park' on the school site. This is being led by Head Girl Amy Collacott and Joe Way (both year 13). Planning has begun so watch this space. Also coming up in the new year will be a large-scale and exciting 'Preparing for the Future' Day on 4<sup>th</sup> February, where we will have a range of universities, careers experts and professionals discussing and explain choices and opportunities to year 12 and 13 students. All of Year 12 will be invited to attend the UCAS fair in Exeter in March, an opportunity for students to discover lots about the process of applying to universities, how to do so successfully, and where to apply to.





# Careers and the future

## Autumn Term Update

Fred Jenkins Careers South West independent advisor has been advising selected students this term and will be carrying out independent careers advice sessions for Year 11, 12 and 13 students during the Spring Term. These appointments can be booked through Cathy Sharp, who is also available for advice, information and guidance on career matters during break times and for individual appointments. The Careers Library, just inside the main library, also has up to date brochures and information regarding Further Education, apprenticeship and employment opportunities post 16.



## Skills Show

During the autumn term 40 year 11, 12 students attended the Skills Show Experience in Exeter. The event enabled the students to meet with Employers and Education providers from the Southwest, have a go at various work related activities and gain up to date careers information. The students all found the day inspiring and enlightening.



Year 11 students are currently attending one to one interviews looking at their sixth form options and alternative post 16 provision.

## Speakers for Schools Visitor

Dr Martin Coath, Scientist, Musician & Communicator from Plymouth University visited the College recently, delivering some master classes to sixth form science students and a general talk to a group of interested students from across the school on communication and the brain.



## Future events

Planned Events During the spring term.

The Sixth Form are holding a Collapsed Curriculum Day on the 4<sup>th</sup> February looking at their options for the future including career prospects, life and employability skills.

A trip to a careers fair in Plymouth during March.

Visit from various apprenticeship providers during apprenticeship week.

One to one careers advice sessions with Mrs Cathy Sharp or Mr Fred Jenkins.

The college continues to embed work related learning into the curriculum you never know who might pop into or be referenced in your lesson.

## Work Experience

Two Year 10 students successfully gained a week's work experience at HMS Drake this autumn. Both students really enjoyed their week gaining an insight into the Royal Navy.



## Work experience week is the 13th July 2015.

Mrs Cathy Sharp has been visiting tutor groups offering advice, guidelines and relevant paperwork. Students are encouraged with support from parents/carers and their tutors to find a placement as soon as possible. Mrs Cathy Sharp is available at break times for one to one support.

Further guidance and documentation will be posted on the new College Website next term.

Useful career search websites:

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

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

[www.careersbox.co.uk](http://www.careersbox.co.uk) [www.skillsexplorer.com](http://www.skillsexplorer.com) [www.mycareerspringboard.org](http://www.mycareerspringboard.org)

Cathy Sharp

Careers and Work Experience coordinator





## Remembrance Day Service

On Armistice Day, 11th November, Tavistock College held their annual Remembrance Day service in St Eustachius. The service was conducted by the Rev Andy Barton and attended by all year 9 and year 13 students. Readings from the head and deputy head boys and girl, Jed Coiley, Amy Collacott and Jamie Brown were followed by prefects Joe Waye and Issy Stuart reading out of the names of all those from the then Tavistock Grammar School who died in the First and Second World Wars. The tribute and epitaph was given by sixth form cadet Guy Williams, while a special part was played by six bilingual students reading a poem by Siegfried Sassoon in their native languages, to commemorate the world wide nature of the wars. Sofia d'Alessio introduced the poem in Italian, Louis Taylor spoke in French, Natasha Griffiths in Greek, Alex Norgate in Russian and Norika San Juan and Alyssa Benito spoke in Tagalog. The college army and air force cadets provided an honour guard for the occasion.



The service was attended by many parents and grandparents, along with former members of staff and friends of the college. It was a particularly poignant and moving occasion and the college is very grateful to Mrs Maureen Wilkinson, of the Royal British Legion, Mr Tony Holder, who played the Last Post and Reveille, and to the Town Hall for their kind offer of hospitality after the service.

## A Song of Ice and Fire



On Tuesday 25th November over 300 pupils from local 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 gave pupils the chance to see first-hand what happens when you cool a banana to  $-196$  degrees Celsius and at what speed you can launch a methane rocket. 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, tennis balls and rubber – they could then be shattered with a hammer! Pupils even had the chance to eat quick-frozen ice cream: chocolate milk mixed with the liquid nitrogen. The liquid nitrogen boiled at room temperature, giving the stage and audience a spooky feel.

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

Just when the audience thought they had 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 loud! Pupils made sure they covered their ears as Mr Smith lit balloons filled with hydrogen – a very explosive gas, followed with the pair firing rockets filled with methane.

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!





## Tavistock Poetry Festival

"From the Tamar to the Tavy a flow of words from children."

The recent poetry festival which saw 11 local schools and the community draw together to write and celebrate poetry was a resounding success.

Poets: Roselle Angwin, Vanessa Kisuule, Bob Liu- Devreux, Phil Bowen and Celia Warren worked in schools with children from 4 to 18. Much of the writing was centred on the theme of "our local area" and the photographs of local photographers, including Gary King from Tavistock College, were instrumental in sparking inspiration.

Vanessa Kisuule from a group known as "Slambassadors" worked with older students at the College and her trusting, sensitive way of working allowed students to explore their feelings and compare how others perceive them to their own sense of self. These students were encouraged to perform their poetry and willingly shared their thoughts. A beautiful example of the poetry which came from these sessions was written by Emily Handel. Year 8 Tavistock College

People assume that if you don't speak up,  
You have nothing to say.  
Because your voice isn't the loudest,  
Your thoughts aren't the strongest.  
But we live in a world where we all speak at once  
And when everyone's shouting  
You can't hear what's said.  
Maybe, just maybe,  
People are quiet because they're biding their time,  
Waiting for a break in the endless roar.  
So when they do speak they're quiet but everyone hears.  
They may not be shouting,  
But the meaning is clear.

The Poetry Slam which was held at the end of the week saw a team from each school perform an original piece of poetry. The trophy for first place was won by Tavistock Community Primary School with their poem about the area in which we live. It was delivered with much animation and movement.

## The Tavy to the Tamar

Francis Drake cries, 'Spanish Armada!'  
Dartmoor Prison says, 'Let me out!'  
The market shouts, 'Oranges for sale!'  
Buckland Abbey says 'Hey, have a walkabout!'

The White Lady murmurs, 'I'm drowning!'  
The Cauldron cries deep and dark.  
'Step on me,' says the viaduct.  
The meadows beckons 'Come to my park!'

The Gem Bridge says 'Walk across!'  
Crebers says, 'Smell my coffee!'  
The Town Hall sings, 'Come and see a play!'  
I Love Candy says, 'Have some toffee!'

The class says, 'Good Morning!'  
The teacher says, 'Good Night!'  
'Come and stay,' says The Bedford  
And Goose fair says, "See the lights!"

Tamar bridge says "Welcome to Cornwall!"  
Morwellham Quay says "Come and join the past!"  
The Plymouth Hoe says "Sail across me!"  
The sea says "You're free at last!"

The Key Stage 3 competition was won by Emily Frost and Katie Gray.



The Saturday saw a splendid and vibrant event in the Town hall with every school performing their work and displays of poetry and photographs. Tors, rivers, scrolls and postcards from Tavistock were beautifully displayed and conveyed in poetry. The school which won the "Build a Poem" competition was judged by a public vote to be St Peters Primary School and the beautiful photograph of Cox Tor at sunset, taken by Gary King and displayed in the Town Library all week was won by Samuel Beard.

## Dartmoor

Sky that's red and fire that burns,  
Sunlight cascading over bracken and ferns

Moorland turned crimson with dying light,  
Tors growing dark with the coming of night

A moment of beauty,  
Seen from a hilltop

Fields flowing and rolling,  
Ploughed with farmers' new crop

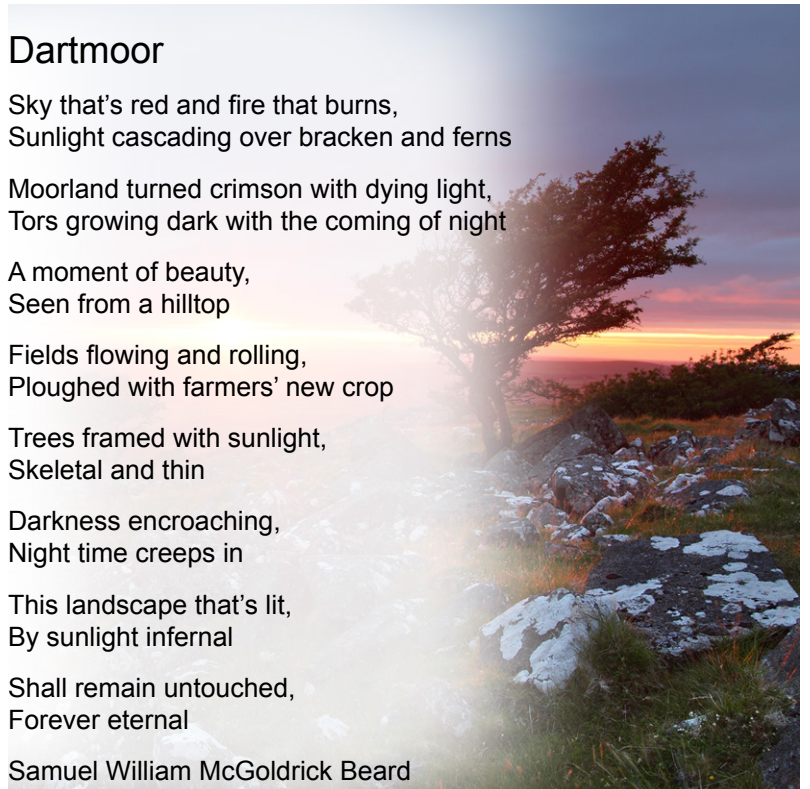
Trees framed with sunlight,  
Skeletal and thin

Darkness encroaching,  
Night time creeps in

This landscape that's lit,  
By sunlight infernal

Shall remain untouched,  
Forever eternal

Samuel William McGoldrick Beard



All the participating schools are keen to hold another Festival next year and again invite the community to get involved and be creative!





## 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.

### 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](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.

Free instant  
messages  
with our  
School  
Gateway App



## SIMs Learning Gateway

Recently we wrote home to you about SIMs Learning Gateway. This is a web portal which allows you to access real time information about your child's behaviour, attendance and achievement data. It also tells you specifically what homework your child has on a particular night. We hope that this will help to strengthen our communication so that the students achieve even better. We need the blue form to be returned to us as soon as possible so that we can issue passwords. If you need a new letter or did not receive one from us in the post then please email [g.young@tavistockcollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto:g.young@tavistockcollege.devon.sch.uk).

## Christmas and New Year Gym Membership Offer

### 3 months for £75

Tavistock Community  
**SPORTS CENTRE**  
01822 813238

Can be used as a  
Christmas present,  
voucher or  
New Year resolution  
incentive!

Includes full use of fitness suite and unlimited access to ALL classes including Pilates, CycleFit, Boxercise, Legs, Bums and Tums, Zumba and much more...

Kick start the festive period the right way!

Terms and conditions apply



Contact us - 01822 813238 [www.tavistocksportscentre.co.uk](http://www.tavistocksportscentre.co.uk)  
Follow us - Twitter @TaviSports or search us on Facebook







## Parental Engagement

We are keen to engage parents as much as possible in their child's education and to reach out to all parents to help them be a part of their child's learning.

We hope to hold more focus groups in the future, covering a variety of subjects, so that we can hear more feedback from more parents and then act upon that feedback. The table below will become a fixture of this newsletter and we hope the list of items will grow over the coming year.

You Said	We Did
You said you wanted the Educational Psychologist, who speaks on bringing up teenagers, to return to the College.	Rob Long is booked for January 15 <sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. All welcome.
You said you needed a KIT (keeping in touch group) formed in order that children from Services families can meet together to support each other and compile E blueys.	A KIT group will be formed in the near future, when we know how the students want it to be
You said you wanted a "Tavistock Question Time" so that some questions could be posed to the Principal and senior leaders.	Tavistock Question Time was held on Nov 27 <sup>th</sup> . The list of questions and a flavour of some of the answers is below.

## Tavistock Question Time

The panel: Jed Coiley (Head Boy) chaired the meeting. Helen Salmon Principal, Aimee Mitchell, Vice Principal, Gary King Assistant Principal, Julie Greener Head of year 10, Amy Collacott Head Girl.

12 questions were submitted and posed to the panel. This is a flavour of some of the questions.

**"What is the role of the Head boy/ girl?"**

Amy Collacott told the audience about her role as an ambassador for the College, as a mentor of younger students and as the coordinator of "Student Voice," the system introduced to ensure the Heads of Faculty, Heads of Year and Senior Managers receive feedback from students about their College.

**"The College appears to be very successful in providing extra opportunities for the most able students, but with an ethos of Inclusive Excellence, how do you ensure that ALL students are given equal opportunities, regardless of ability?"**

Aimee Mitchell answered that the College audits the extra provision it provides and tries hard to ensure that there are opportunities for all, regardless of ability and family circumstances. It can be a challenge sometimes, but all students are encouraged to take part in extracurricular activities, which can lead to visits to other schools, competitions etc. There is an annual Freshers' Fair which all year 7 attend to promote all the opportunities available. The College tries to offer diverse opportunities and is keen to listen to anyone with more ideas. The provision for gifted and talented is probably marketed, highlighted more than other activities and the College will look at that. Ms Mitchell is herself doing a piece of research into "the hidden middle" and hopes this will lead to some key measures.

**"How is the College preparing for a changing curriculum? For example the recent performing arts showcase was of a very high standard. How can this standard be preserved with students lower down the school having reduced access to the Arts?"**

Helen Salmon and Aimee Mitchell answered this question explaining that new Government policies are having a reductive effect on the curriculum and some schools have had to cut Arts subjects completely. We are determined to not do that and have had to carefully balance the offered curriculum so that students can access as much breadth as possible. There were cuts this year in Arts provision in Years 7 and 9. Next year we can redress the balance in year 7 and restore their full complement of lessons. There are other ways to encourage participation in The Arts as here, in Tavistock, the Creative Arts faculty is full of talent. We are exploring Arts Curriculum days and the award of Artsmark.

There are changes to the curriculum and assessment coming in KS 4 and 5. The College therefore has a duty to modify the curriculum lower down the College so that students are prepared for those changes. They will face more examinations and less coursework or modular assessment, for example.

**"The College has recently won an award for Inclusion. Can you explain what this was for?"**

Aimee Mitchell replied that, during our last Ofsted inspection, they were so impressed with the personalised approach to provision and support for all students that they felt this should be nationally recognised. Ms Mitchell took some of the Inclusion team and students to receive the Award at the House of Commons. The Inspectors were impressed by the system and team who lead on Inclusion, at the fact that it is "demand led" and not determined by "labels." The Inclusion Hub where the team of support workers, intervention officers and multi-agency workers have their base is now centred in the heart of the College and the ethos is that any students of any ability or circumstance might need support at some time, for a day or for their entire career at the College and it is our duty to meet that need and provide that support. The Inspectors very much enjoyed meeting year 10 and 11 students on highly personalised curriculums built around them, their abilities and aspirations.

## 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



www.YouTube.com/tavicollegeuk



Twitter: @tavicollege



www.tavistockcollege.devon.sch.uk



pinterest.com/tavicollege/

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

## 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



## School Transport

- Tavistock College supports the (DCC) Devon County Council's "No Pass No Travel Scheme" that operates on transport to and from this school.
- Only students who show a valid travel pass to the driver on every journey will be allowed to travel. Students must travel on the vehicle indicated on their pass.
- Please ensure that your child has their travel pass before they leave home every day.
- Please ensure that your child knows what to do in the event they are not allowed to travel or the bus does not arrive (e.g. because of breakdown or traffic conditions or severe weather). School attendance is very important and it is best to be prepared for any of these eventualities.
- DCC will carry out regular pass checks throughout the year.
- Drivers are not allowed to carry passengers who cannot show a valid pass.
- If your child loses their pass during the day they should go to the administration office to ask for a 10 day temporary pass. Replacement passes cost £5 each and can be ordered online, or by sending a cheque with a replacement form.
- Further info available at: [http://www.devon.gov.uk/school\\_transport](http://www.devon.gov.uk/school_transport)

## Vehicular Access to College Site

We are becoming increasingly concerned about the number of vehicles coming onto our College site in the morning between 08.20am - 08.50am and after school between 3.10pm - 3.30pm to drop off or collect children. Our main concern is for the safety of our students when the vast majority of them are arriving and leaving to walk home or travel by bus.

I am writing to inform you that we have reluctantly decided to ban vehicles coming onto the College site during these times (08.20am-08.50am and 3.10pm-3.30pm) to drop off or collect children. There is one exception to this; for students with disabilities or particular issues parents/carers will still be able to come onto the College site. If you require a specialist pass to drive onto the site please contact the Premises Manager, Linda Coe.

Students travelling by car to and from the College will need to be dropped off or picked up at an alternative location and walk into the College along one of a number of safe routes.

1. Students coming into College from the Bishopsmead area have a safe route via the bridge alongside the football ground which will allow them to use the pedestrian path along Crowndale Road.
2. Students coming in from the Monksmead area should use the safe route at the back of the College along the canal path.
3. Students from Whitchurch, Pixon Lane, Plymouth Road etc should use the underpass to cross Plymouth Road.
4. Students can be safely dropped off in the Wharf and Riverside car parks where they can walk through the Meadows and use the underpass to safely cross the road. There is no free parking and should only be used to drop the students off.

Please remember that if students have to walk from drop-off points, sufficient time will need to be allowed for them to arrive at the College by 8.35 a.m.

Cyclists should not use the footpath at the front of the College but follow the cycle route.

All regular users of our car park will be issued with a pass to use on the site and we will insist that this is displayed. The new system will take effect from 1st December 2014.

We are taking this action to reduce the risk of an accident occurring and ensure the safety of all our students.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

## Online payments for school meals

Our provider for online payments for school meals changed in June from ParentPay to Schoolcomms.

To get up and running with

Schoolcomms you need to open a School Gateway account using the email address and mobile phone number registered with the college as your primary contact details. Have a look at the Parents Communications section of our website [www.tavistockcollege.devon.sch.uk](http://www.tavistockcollege.devon.sch.uk) for full details on how to set up your School Gateway account. Once set up you will be able to top up your account, see a record of payments made and a list of your son/daughter's meal choices. The quickest and easiest way to access your account is via the School Gateway App – it's free to download and is available for Apple (iPhone 3GS or later, iPad, iPod Touch) and Android (2.3/Gingerbread or later) devices and can be downloaded from the Apple App Store/Google Play.

**Schoolcomms**  
all together, smarter

## Are You Thinking about Becoming a Teacher?

If you already have a degree why not consider training to be a teacher. Our School Direct programme offers places locally to train for primary or secondary teaching.

The secondary programme offers places for English, Maths, Physics, and Modern Languages.

If you would like to know more, please contact

Helen Carr at the college 01822 614231 or email [h.carr@tavistockcollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto:h.carr@tavistockcollege.devon.sch.uk)





# 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](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

Alexandra Thomas, Health and Multi Agency Co-ordinator

### 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

Guidelines about the new County Safeguarding Guidance – 'Keeping Children Safe' 'Paragraph 227 states that – Parents/carers using Facebook, Twitter and other social media to make derogatory remarks about staff is not acceptable under prohibition on reporting or publishing allegations about teachers in section 141F of the Education Act 2002



## Sports Awards

On Thursday 13th November, the third Tavistock College Sports Awards evening took place in a packed main hall at the college. This evening is an interactive show which celebrates and recognises students work whether this is through achievement or effort in curriculum time, successes in examination courses, contribution to the college through sport or practical performance in the local community. There were also awards for Primary school PE performer, team of the year and a Community Sports Centre award.

The awards evening was presented by the Tavistock College PE faculty and their fantastic student PE leadership team and guest speaker on the night was former student Nathan Newton, who also handed out trophies to winning students.

The awards evening concluded in the unveiling of the prestigious Sports Awards winner from a shortlist of 8 students, who were Sophie Horn; Tate Budge; Stephanie Hutchins; Ethan Lamerton; Cameron McGurk; Ben Edmunds; Darcey Hepworth and Luke Northmore.

The top three students were - 1st - Tate Budge, 2nd - Darcey Hepworth and 3rd - Stephanie Hutchins.

Another exciting and action packed evening and looking forward to celebrating the work of the PE students at Tavistock College again next year. *Mr. Shaun Hulbert*



## Sporting Stars

### Emily Morley

Emily is a member of DRKJ Karate group in Plymouth Crownhill where she has recently achieved her 2nd Dan at Karate Jutsu. Emily has also just taken away five gold medals in a tournament in the U15 - U18 age category.



Emily recently went to Saltash in Cornwall to compete in the Final League Championship event for U18 Karate black belts. Emily was the youngest competitor and the only female. She had a great event, taking on all the older male competitors and came away with a gold and silver medal.

Congratulations Emily! What a success!



### Tate Budge

Tate Budge, won at the British Taekwon-do championships recently and is now British under 16 sparring champion and British under 18 2nd degree black belt patterns champion! He has been on stage with John Bishop at Plymouth Pavillions to celebrate, and met the comedian back stage after his show for some photographs and a chat about the sport and becoming a world champion

### Chantel Whiting

12 year old Chantel started boxing at the age of 11 and hasn't looked back since. She has recently been selected to compete in Guernsey and Portsmouth representing the Western Counties boxing team. Chantel trains 3 time a week at the Mayflower Amateur Boxing Club and competes most weekends. She has been recognised as an up and coming talented boxer and boxing for the Western Counties at such a young age so early in her career is very impressive. Few female boxers have achieved this honour at such a young age. We look forward to seeing what the future holds for Chantel!



### Stephanie Hutchins

15 year old Stephanie has many talents when it comes to sport but she excels at cricket. Stephanie has recently secured a place on the Devon team; she has been for England trials and is now on the scouting watch out list and being monitored. She has been selected for the Devon Elite squad and won bowler of the year for the Devon U15. Her team recently came 2nd in the UK Plympton 1st regional Cup and won the Plympton 2nd Cup. Stephanie certainly has a very exciting sporting career ahead of her and it is all down to her hard work and dedication to sport.



## Plymouth Raiders Trip

In November Mrs Doyle and Mrs Blackmore took 50 Year 8 pupils to Plymouth to have a fun filled session with the Plymouth Raiders team.

They enjoyed a high quality training session with the Raiders' coaches and players, developing basketball skills and getting put through their paces physically. After the training session they had a question and answer session with Raiders team, then watched the very exciting and close game against Manchester Giants. The Raiders mascot Foxy kept them entertained, as did the cheerleaders – at times the teachers thought they were at a party and not a basketball game; The atmosphere was amazing. Sadly, Raiders lost the game but this was soon forgotten when we were all back on court collecting selfies and autographs.

A great time with a really great group of students!

*Mrs Doyle*