



Principal's Introduction

Tavistock College has seen another busy, yet successful half term. I feel very fortunate that, as the Principal, I am given the opportunity to celebrate so many of our students' successes alongside parents and staff. This half term I attended an annual highlight, run by the PE Faculty, The Sports Personality of the Year. This year's event, now dedicated to our late colleague, Ashley Tossell, gave us an opportunity to recognise sporting achievements across team events and individual successes. It is wonderful to see so many talented young people succeeding in a range of sports from boxing, through equestrianism to more familiar rugby, athletics and netball events.

The Ashley Tossell Sports Personality of the Year 2015 was awarded to Darcy Hepworth with runners up Barney Tossell and Jenny Sabine. The Principal's Award went to the Show Jumping Team Frankie McKechnie, Heidi Littlejohns and Becky McArthur. Of course many sporting achievements are gained in local events. We have seen the revival of the rugby matches against Mount Kelly School which proved popular with the community of Tavistock, and the birth of a mini-tennis tournament against other local schools. Many students compete in sports in their own time and I am delighted to recognise the talent of Y7 student Louise Matthews. She has a confirmed place in the Devon County Bowls U21s team for a match against Wiltshire in January. We wish her well.

We have also seen two magnificent Creative Arts events. The Hall was full for both and the talent showcased in The Christwinklejinglesparkle Show resulted in many congratulatory emails from a delighted audience. I would like to pay tribute to the wonderful PTA, staff and Governors who continue to give their time to ensure events like these continue against a backdrop of increasing challenges in education.

The annual Remembrance Service was a very special and moving event. Many thanks to The Very Revd Dr Chris Hardwick for inviting us to mark this event in St Eustachius' Parish Church, Tavistock. All students who attended were a credit to the College. We returned again to the Church for a more celebratory event, the College Carol Service, this week. Thank you to all who attended alongside our students. The vocal contribution by VOX was lovely and prepared everyone for the Christmas season.

Students studying for their Japanese GCSE were able to participate in a two week visit to Japan. This was an amazing opportunity, and one that not only has assisted with their study, but has given them an unforgettable cultural experience. Sixth form students are given this in abundance. This is why the majority of Tavistock students in Y11 really ought to be considering returning to our sixth form next year. Not only will they be able to access high quality level 3 courses, but they will be well known and ably supported by staff they know well. Recently Mrs Hubbard accompanied a group of Y12 students to Exeter Cathedral to participate in a question-time styled debate. The panel were bowled over by the level of questioning our students provided, especially by Joe Jordan and Marianne Quinn who I was proud to watch airing their views.

As part of their A level law studies Tavistock College law students have all attended court this term. Year 12 law students visited Plymouth Magistrates Court, where they were welcomed by local magistrates who accompanied them during a morning in court, seeing a wide variety of cases. Year 13 students went to Plymouth Crown Court, seeing the more serious criminal offences, and were fortunate to have Judge Galloway, a highly experienced barrister and Recorder, clear the court to welcome the students and explain his role in the system. His descriptions of memorable cases were riveting and students left with a much greater understanding of the criminal court system.

We have continued to play a leading role in the Schools Co-operative Society. Our goal is to become global leaders in co-operative education. Why? Because we believe no child should be left behind in learning, no learner should disengage and no-one in the Tavistock Community should be in isolated misery. Underpinning our College and the co-operative values and principles through our approach we are striving to inspire dialogue between students and students; students and teachers; and teachers and parents. I know we do not always get this right. I invite all students, parents and staff to get involved in our membership 'voice' groups. We are working hard to raise the bar. We expect all students to succeed with an increasingly intellectually challenging curriculum, and I am already seeing an increasingly scholarly attitude emerging. When matched against the social and cultural opportunities described above, I think we have an absolutely wonderful school.

To everyone who has contributed to another successful term at Tavistock College, thank you. I hope you have a really good Christmas. I look forward to welcoming students back in the New Year.

Key dates

18 December

Last Day of Autumn Term

SPRING TERM 2016

4 January

First Day of Term

12 February

Non Pupil Day

15 -19 February

Half Term

24 March

Last Day of Spring Term





New Equine Science Course



Tavistock College has recently introduced a new short course in Equine Science for small groups of high achieving students interested in veterinary and biological science or equine related careers. This unique course has been specially designed to stretch and challenge students, with topics on the evolution of the horse, the history of the horse in human civilisation, functional anatomy compared and contrasted with human anatomy, and finishing with an in depth discussion on common diseases, injuries and treatments. All lessons are vividly brought to life by the presence of the ponies Fleur and Treacle, enabling students to gain hands on experience of assessing health, finding the heartbeat, and listening to normal gut sounds; concluding with assessment of the relative seriousness of different wounds - illustrated in this case with tomato sauce!

The course is delivered by a uniquely qualified family trio with long standing connections with the college. Helen Harris, currently Head of Law at the college, District Commissioner of Lamerton Hunt Pony Club and now President of the club, has many years' experience of working with children and ponies. The expertise on science is provided by husband Lawrie Harris, Cambridge Natural Sciences graduate and an inspirational Head of Biology at the college for 25 years. Former student at Tavistock Dr David Harris MRCVS is a vet with extensive equine experience, at present lecturing in Higher Education, and he brings the veterinary module to life for the students, who were riveted by his stories of treatments in practice. The course has been warmly welcomed by parents and students alike, who feel that it really does give a truly academic perspective - indeed some of the explanations of biochemistry are beyond what is expected at A level Biology.



Geography Ambassadors

On 30th November the Geography department hosted two ambassadors from the Royal Geographical society (Where Paddington Bear goes in London to look for films on Peru!). Grace and Emily, minus Paddington Bear spent the day with Year 7, 8, 10 classes as well as Sixth Formers looking at the role of geography in society, the responsibility geography has in a sustainable future as well as careers opportunities from studying the topic.

Through interactive sessions and geography games, RGS Ambassador Grace hopes to return to college in the New Year with Year 9.

Year 8 reviewed their session:

"Their use of geographical knowledge and experience made our workshop great fun" Jacob "There's no job that we could think of that doesn't include elements of geography" Becky "I thought it was good that they gave us a clear understanding on what they do and how we could become like them". Mia

"I like it when we were doing activities about countries" Paolo
Mrs Froud



International Christmas Fair



The MFL Language Leaders have been holding an International Christmas Fair every day this week at lunchtime in order to raise funds for our link school in Nepal. There have been competitions and Christmas presents to buy and Japan Club helped out enormously by making beautiful origami cards.





Parliamentary Workshop

Year 7 and 8 Student Voice were delighted to welcome Roz Birch from the Parliament Education Service who led them through a workshop on Voting and Debating as part of our Parliament week celebrations.

“On the 25th November we met a woman named Roz and she taught us about voting. She told us the timeline of how voting included more people and put us in order holding information cards. Then we set up the room like the House of Commons and we had to debate whether compulsory voting should be brought in or not. Most of us said not to bring it in so we decided not to pass the bill. I loved doing it because I learnt a lot” *Katie Bennett, 7D*



The “Thinking Space”

The “Thinking Space” in IT1 at lunchtimes has become a popular place for students of all ages to come and express their creative computing abilities. Numbers have swelled recently with the poor weather but we have a dedicated bunch of regulars who like nothing more than to come and give reign to their imaginations exploring hardware and software that they have met in their computing lessons or heard about and wanted to have a go at. As well as access to the computers we have some good old fashioned toys like Lego



and logic puzzles to stimulate the imagination and provide a break in the hustle and bustle of the College day. Any old Lego, Meccano, Rubik Cubes or other ‘thinking’ games would be much appreciated if no longer needed at home. Our only rule is that time is spent creatively or constructively – we don’t play games (unless they are recommended by a teacher). *Mrs Neill*



Matthew Bourne Dance Workshop

In October, dancers from the famous Matthew Bourne dance company came to Tavistock College to teach over 75 dance students from year 9-13. They were taught repertoire



from their touring production of Sleeping Beauty. This was a fantastic experience and we were one of the only schools locally to have this amazing opportunity! Well Done to all the dancers who worked very hard. *Miss Giles*



Picture by James Bird - courtesy of Tavistock Times Gazette



Cheque Presentation

Year 11 Personalised Pathway students were pleased to present a cheque for £50 to Carly Jarvis, from the Community Outreach Services of the National Autistic Society. The students raised the money by raffling produce and then chose the charity they wished to support. Ms Jarvis took the time to explain the work of the society to them and then gave them the chance to decide how the money should be spent. After some deliberation they chose to give the money towards buying more communication aids for the society, such as iPads to help autistic people understand better about travelling by photographing key landmarks along the route. Having the chance to decide where their donation should go was really encouraging for the students, and made their efforts seem truly worthwhile. *Mrs Harris*



Science Club

Science club runs every Wednesday lunchtime in S4 and is open to all Key Stage 3 students

The Tavistock College Science club took off with a BIG bang this term, much to the delight of the students who were very eager to be involved in such a broad range of exciting practical activities.

From cultivating crystal gardens to investigating fluid dynamics, Mr Perkins has organised a variety of fun and interesting experiments that have relied heavily on student feedback to direct practical work based around what scientific concepts interests students the most. Students have thrown themselves into all activities including firing methane rockets, making bouncy balls, building their own loudspeakers, and making custard jiggle, jump and dance!

The Science faculty is committed to encouraging critical thinking, cultivating inquisitive minds and developing practical scientists of the future. Most of all, we want students to appreciate that Science is fun!

So, whether you want to know what gives fireworks their colour or how to build a magnetic Gauss accelerator, Science club has something to offer for everyone.

"Science club is great because you can suggest stuff to do and work on things that in lessons you might not be able to. Making the bouncy glue ball was very fun!" *Abigail Whitehead, 7B*

"I went to Science Club and it was really fun. Sir bought in some gloop and we put it on a speaker. Another time we had a competition on who had the most decibel scream. It was soooo fun!" *Amy Allott, 7GX*



Forensic Science

Year 12 and 13 Science BTEC students recently spent an away day studying cutting edge practical science with a vocational focus. The class visited Cornwall College campus at Cambourne where they were introduced to practical forensic science, using gas liquid chromatography to measure methanol in different vodka samples, as part of a mock murder scene. They then moved on to Falmouth Marine School where they looked at aquaponics and learnt about the mathematics associated with catch rates from trawler fishing. Altogether it was a fantastically useful insight into the application of science in the real world and students came away with a much better understanding of where their science studies could take them in the future. Many thanks to Mr Jackson for organising the day. *Mr Harris*



For Chemistry week earlier this term Dr Jeynes, from Exeter University, ran a Forensic Science day for years 7 - 10 and sixth form BTEC science students, ably assisted by Mrs Jeynes and A level Chemistry students. Students had the opportunity to study fibres, to identify suspects' clothing, finger printing, chromatography to check on makes of inks and flame testing to look at different types of soil - all the tasks that forensic scientists have to do in support of the police and the Crown Prosecution Service, to ensure that the right people are charged with offences in court.

Tavistock College has been sponsored by the Royal Society for Chemistry, which has enabled us to buy the microscopes necessary for scientific research work. Many thanks to Mrs Jeynes for all her work in organising the day. *Mr Harris*



Primary Science

Believing that science studies should start early, Tavistock College staff have been supporting the STEM club at Whitchurch Primary School. Science Technician Theresa Tyler Smith has spent every Monday after school with the Whitchurch club, taking along practical equipment and giving advice from her years of secondary science experience. Staff at Whitchurch are delighted with the support they are receiving, and have been able to explore the Periodic table and conduct proper acid and alkali experiments as a result - so thanks to Mrs Tyler-Smith for all her assistance to the next generation of scientists.

Christwinklejinglesparkle



Congratulations to everyone involved in the amazing Christwinklejingle sparkle Show.

Happy Christmas!



Work Experience

Year 10 with support from their tutors, parents/carers are busy finding placements for their work experience week at the end of the summer term (July 11th to 15th 2016)

Tutor Information packs and student work experience forms have been distributed to tutor groups.

Students are advised to source a placement as soon as possible and to visit Mrs Sharp in the careers library inside the main library at break and lunch for support, information, advice and guidance.

The Royal Marines have a selection day at the beginning of February for any boys wishing to gain a place on their work experience week in July; unfortunately this opportunity is not open to girls. Interested students should contact Mrs C Sharp or Mr Hosking.

Careers

Fred Jenkins Careers South Advisor will be available for one to one independent careers advice during the spring term. These appointments are open to Year 11, 12 and 13 students and can be booked via Mrs C Sharp.

Mrs Sharp is also available for careers Information advice and guidance, please visit me in the careers library.

Year 11 progression interviews are underway, assisting students to choose study options in the sixth form and gain advice on alternative pathways post 16.

Events

Simon Hall BBC Spotlight Crime Correspondent and Author visited the college this term to deliver an inspiring, interactive and enlightening talk to students about Careers in the Media.

March 15th 2016 Skills Show Plymouth Pavilions Interactive Careers Fair

Mrs C Sharp Careers and Work Experience Coordinator

csharp@tavistockcollege.devon.sch.uk

01822 614231 ext.279



Year 11 students on their volunteer work placement at Burrator Discovery Centre.



Poppy Design

This autumn in Resistant Materials lessons we made poppy brooches for the Royal British Legion; to raise money for all the soldiers who have fallen; the ones who currently fight for our country and the soldiers who previously fought for our country and those who are still injured. We were given an A3 sized sheet of laser-ply with a starting value of £2, the idea was to make a profit for charity by adding value to the material through effective Product Design. Once we came up with our charity (Royal British Legion) we designed a poppy that would not only be functional but look aesthetically pleasing as well. We designed and batch manufactured 40 poppies on our sheet and then we used the laser cutter to cut them out. After that we spray painted each individual piece of the poppy and painted the stigma black. We then carefully glued them together-using PVA wood glue. Then we attached pins to the back and ribbons pointing to 11:00 o'clock. We then sold them and raised £80 for the charity which we were delighted by. Next year we will be manufacturing a large number of these and hopefully making even more money for the Royal British Legion.

Euan Burke and Alice Francis Year 10



The Technology Ambassadors Christmas Market Stall

A huge number of our students and staff were involved with running a stall for a day at the Tavistock Pannier Market. Students produced, over lunchtimes and after school sessions a wide range of goods from tasty mince pies and shortbread, 3D printed bookmarks, to embroidered fabric hearts and wooden reindeer Christmas decorations. Our stall also stocked jams, Tavistock College's apple juice and stunning Christmas cards made by our students. It was a huge success with our students taking just under £400 in total. Money raised will go towards Children's Hospice South West, The Tavistock College Young Co-Operatives, the Tavistock College Nepal fund and Green power. Our amazing Technology Ambassadors are Shannon Argue, Ellie Fisher, Amber Turner, Arnis Mezinis, George Perry- Dunn, Becky Phelpsted, Jemma Ninnis, Milli Salisbury, Niamh Iles, Isabelle Cousins, Nathan Savage, Ned Hope and Tyler Hunt whose enthusiasm, motivation and dedication made this work. A big thank you also needs to be said to the College's Trustees who enabled us to get set up, all the parents and grandparents that came and supported us on the day along with all the staff who supported the stall and students.



Year 13 have finished a long and stressful term and I am delighted to report that they are still smiling and able to summon the energy for Octofest...a celebratory music session in the Octagon. Most have completed their UCAS applications, if they intend to go to University, and we have had countless offers through from a vast range of Universities, covering a host of different courses. Four students were called to interview at either Oxford or Cambridge and we know they will have been a credit to themselves and their families. We are thinking of them as they wait to hear the result. There are some students who have yet to hear and again, I reiterate that all Universities operate to different time scales and sadly, some students have to wait until well into the Spring to find out how their application has been received.

With the focus shifting firmly towards their studies, Year 13 now must strive to meet the grades set out for them in their offers. Any student can speak to me, Mr Jacob or Jeni Mortimore if they feel they need a hand prioritising work or are worried about their progress.

Year 12 have also begun to think about their futures, after College. We have been visited in assemblies by representatives from Universities in Europe, such as Maastricht in the Netherlands, and they have discussed the viability of studying abroad. Also, Plymouth University have spoken to students and their student ambassadors have told year 12 about undergraduate life and especially the Art and Textiles courses.

With the kind support of the Trustees we have been able to arrange visits to different Universities and Colleges and opened these to any student, on a first come, first served sign up basis. Students have visited Falmouth, Plymouth and we are arranging trips to Cardiff and Bristol in the Spring. We will also invite all of year 2 to a UCAS fair in March in which they can learn more about the process.

I continue to be delighted with the work ethic of all 6th form. The study rooms are always busy and the atmosphere is calm and purposeful.

Students who are still unsure about the future choices should speak to Mr Jacob or I and we can arrange careers interviews with careers South West.

From a rather tired, but happy 6th form, we wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year. *Mrs Hubbard*



Falmouth University Experience

Year 13 Product Design students went this November to visit Falmouth University's 'Sustainable Product Design' degree course as part of our A-Level progression partnership with the university. The four students took their A-Level design portfolios and presented their ideas to the degree lecturers and third year students. The presentations were followed by very supportive but also challenging work critiques and the sixth formers who presented brilliantly came away full of new inspiration. The visit is one part of many elements to the partnership which is now in its second year. This December, Drummond Masterton who is the degree course leader and his colleague Simon Andrews will be coming to Tavistock College to do a similar work critique with each of our year 12 design students. The link gives our students access to degree level lecturers, facilities and a guaranteed interview for the degree course on our recommendation. Last year two of our Product Design students joined the course and are thoroughly enjoying their experience. We are really proud of this partnership and look forward to lots of further collaborations. It is fantastic to see the aspirations of the students so high and see them developing their designing in this higher education forum.



Martin Dawes Visit

Former BBC foreign correspondent and Unicef senior communication officer Martin Dawes, now an Advocacy adviser at CDAC network, came into College to talk to A level geographers all about the future of disaster response, focusing on Ebola and its management for their Human Health at Risk unit.

Martin commented "I hope they justify their efforts with great results."

It was a terrific opportunity for the geographers being able to work with a renown and leading author and adviser in the field that they are currently studying.

"A rare and brilliant opportunity" *Alice* "Fact filled fun. Knowledge is power" *Jerry* "Martin was really engaging and gave us a fascinating insight into the origin of Ebola. At the same time diminishing the media's myths on the disease" *Alice* "A highly intellectual insight into a topic I have only seen through the media" *Sophie* "Today allowed me to form a new and more perceptive opinion about Ebola, as Martin provided us with a detailed insight into a world behind the media" *Ellie* "Martin Dawes's talk on Ebola was both interesting and informative, as well as full of enthusiasm" *Poppy* "Very detailed and up to date information which is really helpful and interesting!" *Tash* "Very engaging, informative and eye opening" *Tom*

Mrs Froud





A Level Law

As part of their A level law studies Tavistock College law students have all attended court this term. Year 12 law students visited Plymouth Magistrates Court, where they were welcomed by local magistrates who accompanied them during a morning in court, seeing a wide variety of cases, from drugs possession to assault and actual bodily harm. These cases illustrated many key principles of the criminal justice system and were a real introduction to the actuality of court life.



Year 13 students went to Plymouth Crown Court, seeing the more serious criminal offences, and were fortunate to have Judge Galloway, a highly experienced barrister and Recorder, clear the court to welcome the students and explain his role in the system. His descriptions of memorable cases were riveting and students left with a much greater understanding of the criminal court system.

Mrs Harris and Mrs Lay. Law department.



Year 12 Public Services



On 19th November eight of the Year 12 public service group organised and led a leadership session on Pew Tor as part of

an assignment brief. The pupils organised a carousel of activities that ranged from map reading, compass work, stretcher making, treasure hunt and cooking then enjoying the ration packs! Regardless as to whether the Students were delivering or taking part in the activities they all excelled themselves. The weather added to the excitement when the fog came down which really tested the students navigation skills.

Well done to all involved, it was a great afternoon even if it was foggy and drizzly *Mrs Doyle*



Cathedral Debate

A group of Year 12 and 13 students attended the hugely prestigious Exeter Cathedral debate. Along with 6th formers from many Devon schools students posed political, ethical and moral questions to a panel of public figures, chaired by Samira Ahmed, the journalist and presenter. Questions were adult, thoughtful and provoked much debate amongst the panel and the audience. The topical debate was enhanced by the glorious and formal surroundings of the cathedral. Tavistock students excelled, with Sophie Kent Woolsey asking the question "Is it necessary to infringe on people's privacy for the fight against organised crime?" Many of our students contributed pertinent and knowledgeable comments which challenged the views of the panel members.

All the students enjoyed this topical and searching debate and were a credit to the College. *Mrs Hubbard*



Sophie Kent-Woolsey speaking in Exeter Cathedral

And Finally...

Congratulations to former Tavistock College student, Joseph Dax. Joseph has been awarded a Scholarship at Mansfield College, Oxford University. This award is given to a very small number of students who perform consistently well academically. Well done Joseph.



Japan 2015

The annual College educational and cultural exchange trip to Tokyo continues to make a strong and lasting impression on all the students who participate and this year was no exception. 2015 marked our 15th exchange visit and twelve pupils from year 11 stayed with host families from our partner school, Kanto Daiichi Senior High School (SHS), in Edogawa ward, on the east side of Tokyo. They were warmly welcomed by Mr Masami Tada, the mayor of Edogawa, who praised the high level of Japanese of our pupils and talked about how the relationship has deepened between Tavistock and Edogawa now



that over 270 pupils from Tavistock College have been hosted by families in Edogawa. Apart from taking part in daily lessons in Kanto Daiichi SHS we spent a morning at Meisei elementary school and an afternoon at the Kyoiku education community centre where pupils participated jointly in lessons and met mothers and young children. Throughout the two weeks the Japanese schools, families, and officials from Edogawa looked after us wonderfully and our students acquitted themselves perfectly.

As always, we will have the chance to reciprocate next March (19 -27) when 15 pupils and 2 teachers will visit from Kanto Daiichi SHS. Our special relationship with Edogawa is valued greatly by mayor Tada who said "the success of the Edogawa-Tavistock exchange programme lies in the fact that pupils can have completely different experiences: Tavistock pupils can live the city life, commuting on subways to school and walking around iconic temples such as Sensouji in Asakusa while Tokyo pupils can feel the wide open spaces and go horse-riding on Dartmoor."

Personally, I would like to thank all the pupils, teachers and families for their continued support and enthusiasm for this exchange programme. *Chambers sensei*



The marvellous, massive Mount Fuji was the backdrop to Tokyo that book ended my stay. I only saw it twice during the two weeks; in between, the view was obscured by the countless sky scrapers of Shibuya and Shinjuku. We got a unique cultural insight into a bulging city with efficient buses, vending machines on every litter-less street corner. We went to a community centre, a primary school and lived alongside fifteen year-olds and their families, six thousand miles away. *Sam Chambers*

When I met my host family I was very nervous, but once I got home with them they were very friendly and they accepted me into the family immediately. I miss them now, but I know I'll see them again one day. *Amelia Roberts*

I mostly enjoyed staying with the host family and experience how they live myself. I thank my teacher, sensei chambers for the amazing opportunity to go to Tokyo tower, one of the viewing towers in Edogawa, Tokyo. The view was breathtaking, the tower lighting up at night is amazing. *Sophie Manton 11BA*

I had a great time experiencing Japanese culture and found it very interesting. I was surprised by the amount of seaweed and rice they ate, even having rice for breakfast. I was also surprised by how respectful school students were to each other. *Joe Mulroy 11F*

What I noticed about Japan - other than how stunningly clean it is, even in the busy streets and shopping centres of Harajuku and Shibuya - is that in the capital, Tokyo, traditional and modern aspects are interweaved smoothly together. In the Meiji Jingu shrine, at the heart of Tokyo, was an old forest with a gravel path leading to the shrine where a Shinto wedding was taking place. It was so quiet, you could forget that you were in Tokyo. Walking out, the gravel smoothly changes into concrete and you're suddenly in Harajuku. *Weng Vooi 11G*

The food in Japan is very different to England. Even though you can still go to McDonalds (and get it delivered to your house) English food is very hard to find. I tried a variety of different foods including eel, octopus, ramen and okonomiyage. *Rebecca Banks 11T*

I would have loved to stay longer and explore more. My host family made me feel at home even though I was in a foreign country and didn't know where to go and what was acceptable. When I fell ill the school nurse treated me with exceptional care. Everyone made me feel welcome around them. *Jake France 11T*

My time in Japan was amazing, everyone was so nice and kind and made me feel happy. My most memorable time was staying with my lovely host, Honomi, and her family. They accepted me into their house straight away making me feel very comfortable. *Taylor Besgrove 11B*

I learned so much, like Japanese culture and a lot of new words and phrases. I made so many new friends, everyone was so kind and polite, they treated me well and made me feel wanted. My favourite parts of the whole trip were probably going to Tokyo Disney and staying with my host family. *Joe Shadrack 11DA*

I had a lot of fun on the Japanese exchange trip. I enjoyed spending time with my host family and going to the Edo Tokyo museum. I enjoyed the sightseeing and visiting the school. Everyone was very friendly and I made a lot of friends. I also enjoyed making the wind chimes and visiting Disneyland. My host family made me feel very welcome and I really enjoyed my stay. *Ellie Down 11B*





Iceland 2015

Leaving College at 4am on a mild Sunday in October, A2 geographers landed in Iceland before midday to snow covered grounds. Meeting our tour guide Gunnar and our coach driver Svanur we proceeded to the Reykjanes Peninsula, almost completely covered with lava flows, walking up lava cones and craters just as Neil Armstrong had done in training before his mission to the Moon. After lunch we discovered Krysuvik Geothermal Field where the steaming vents, fumaroles and mud pots bubbled away, whilst the snow fell on us, including Midnight the Owl, our trip mascot. Our first and last nights were within a wonderful hotel in Reykjavik (with great Wi-Fi much to the joy of the Tweeters!).



We awoke to brilliant blue sky, sunshine, calm seas and three hours of whale watching. Whited beaked Dolphins, Harbour Porpoises and a Minke whale later we warmed up from our -5oC experience with lunch at the Thingvellir National Park, drinking water directly from the fresh pure lake. Before moving on to the Strokkur Geysir where water sprouts and sprays 35m every 3-8 minutes, and arriving at the star attraction of the famous Gullfoss waterfall for sunset, where the river drops 32m. We then proceeded to Hvolsvollur, where after a session of karaoke we settled into our log cabins which were to be our home for the next two nights.

Walking along the Glacier snout of the Solheimajokull Glacier before arriving at Vik and Reynisdrangar the sea stacks, rising 66m metres out of the sea, which is the most southerly point of mainland Iceland, we proceeded to do a spot of Pilates on the black pebbled beach and tried a delicacy of local (sustainable) shark. Learning about the Folklore stories of Trolls and the Hidden Folk was reinforced by a visit to the Skogar Folk Museum, where the 4' high doors were a struggle for some students, but not all staff! After climbing the steps to view the stunning 60m high Skogafoss waterfall we visited a geothermally heated swimming pool before returning to have a Onesie night at our accommodation, complete with glow-sticks as we had not yet managed to witness the Northern Lights, so we created our own!



Gunnar and Svanur had to leave us this evening replaced by Arni and 'Joe', but before they departed they told us that Tavistock Students were some of the best that they had ever experienced and they wished that all their school groups could be like us. Then asked to be requested by name for our returning trip next year.

Wednesday brought us to the spectacular Seljandsfoss waterfall which allows you to walk behind it and a visit to the Eyjafjallajokull eruption visitor centre focussing on the 2010 eruption that caused devastation on a local level and international chaos as airspace came to a total standstill. We then visited the Hellisheidi Geothermal Power Plant which is a state of the art plant showing how geothermal energy is harnessed in a sustainable manner, in a country where 90% of the energy is green. We finished our day with a walking tour of Reykjavik, including tasting 'the most famous hotdogs in Iceland'...some students went back for seconds.

Our last morning had time again in Reykjavik, where shopping, museums and Icelandic coffees were on the agenda in +17oC, even seeing David Cameron- in passing! Before having lunch at the Perlan viewing platform, one of the more recognisable landmarks in Reykjavik where 5 immense hot water tanks are topped with a domed revolving restaurant. We then relaxed and enjoyed the world famous bright blue mineral-rich swimming pool, with geothermally heated water in the middle of a large lava field, that is the Blue Lagoon. Meaning we arrived for our evening flight all pampered and chilled. Returning to College at 0400 on Friday.

The students were an absolute delight, they were sensible on the volcanic terrain and terrific fun throughout. Every single element of the experience was made even more pleasurable by the wonderful students that we took on this all inclusive Geography Iceland 2015 expedition. Takk og Bless (thank you and goodbye!). Mrs Froud

"It was amazing. I loved seeing all the waterfalls." Josh "So much fun and unforgettable (didn't want to come home) real geography in action." Freya "An incredible experience, unforgettable." Tash "Iceland was a geographically fascinating experience- we had so much fun." Daisy "Thank goodness for swimming pools heated to 37°C!" Lily "It was an amazing experience, one that I will never forget." Martha #goodtimeswithgoodpeople Tobias "Iceland, more than just a cold, expensive Dartmoor! Much more..." Scot "It was made to be a really fun trip, I especially loved the Blue Lagoon and Whale Watching. The landscapes were truly incredible." Beth "The opportunity to experience a diverse and beautiful country was simply amazing." Katy "It was an adventure and I loved every single minute of it!" Amy "What can I say about Iceland? An amazing once in a lifetime experience that I will never forget." Jack "A once in a lifetime opportunity to go to an amazing country with great friends and great staff." Rebecca "The Iceland trip was the best experience of my life. I not only went on a plane for the first time but I learnt about so much including different cultures, people living with volcanos and also geothermal energy. I also had the best company, could not of gone with anyone better. I will never forget the trip. Especially the man bus and Gunnar our tour guide! Takk takk!" Sophia





Parent and Teacher Association Christmas Fayre 2015



The 9th of December saw the Tavistock College PTA put on an extravaganza of Christmas cheer through their annual Christmas Fayre. With over 30 tables booked to sell all sorts of Christmas goodies it was always going to be a great event;



however the College students stole the show. No less than 8 tables were student led selling teams, our developing Young Cooperative groups. These groups can be set up as either business or social enterprises, run by the students for the students. Selling goods such as apple juice, from

apples handpicked by our Year 7 students from the college grounds, to Tyre Fires, a business run by a team of year 12 business students. All of the students had a fantastic evening and certainly impressed the public as well as College staff. Mrs Hubbard who attended the event said "The student selling teams really made it" and Jane Beard Chair of the PTA said that the students were a wonderful addition.



The Young Cooperative movement will take centre stage next year with all of these groups being developed further to drive their enterprises.



The PTA would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the event and hope that you will support it in future years. Have a very merry Christmas.
Mr Forster



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 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.

SIMs Learning Gateway

SIMs Learning Gateway 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 please email g.young@tavistockcollege.devon.sch.uk.

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.

The Prevent strategy

What is the Prevent strategy?

Prevent is a government strategy designed to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorist or extremist causes.

The Prevent strategy covers all types of terrorism and extremism, including the extreme right wing, violent Islamist groups and other causes.

How does the Prevent strategy apply to schools?

From July 2015 all schools (as well as other organisations) have a duty to safeguard children from radicalisation and extremism.

This means we have a responsibility to protect children from extremist and violent views the same way we protect them from drugs or gang violence.

Importantly, we can provide a safe place for pupils to discuss these issues so they better understand how to protect themselves.

What does this mean in practice?

Many of the things we already do in school to help children become positive, happy members of society also contribute to the Prevent strategy. These include:

- Exploring other cultures and religions and promoting diversity
- Challenging prejudices and racist comments
- Developing critical thinking skills and a strong, positive self-identity
- Promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, as well as British values such as democracy

We will also protect children from the risk of radicalisation, for example by using filters on the internet to make sure they can't access extremist and terrorist material, or by vetting visitors who come into school to work with pupils.

Different schools will carry out the Prevent duty in different ways, depending on the age of the children and the needs of the community.

KEY TERMS

Extremism - vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values such as democracy, the rule of law and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

Ideology - a set of beliefs

Terrorism - a violent action against people or property, designed to create fear and advance a political, religious or ideological cause

Radicalisation - the process by which a person comes to support extremism and terrorism

Frequently Asked Questions

How does Prevent relate to British values?

Schools have been required to promote British values since 2014, and this will continue to be part of our response to the Prevent strategy.

British values include:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty and mutual respect
- Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

Isn't my child too young to learn about extremism?

The Prevent strategy is not just about discussing extremism itself, which may not be appropriate for younger children. It is also about teaching children values such as tolerance and mutual respect.

The school will make sure any discussions are suitable for the age and maturity of the children involved.

Is extremism really a risk in our area?

Extremism can take many forms, including political, religious and misogynistic extremism. Some of these may be a bigger threat in our area than others.

We will give children the skills to protect them from any extremist views they may encounter, now or later in their lives.

Where to go for more information

Contact the school

If you have any questions or concerns about the Prevent strategy and what it means for your child, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

See our policies

You will find more details about radicalisation in our safeguarding policy, available on our website.

We also have information about spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and British values.

External sources

The following sources may also be useful for further information: Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales, HM Government https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/417943/Prevent_Duty_Guidance_England_Wales.pdf

Frequently asked questions, Prevent For Schools http://www.preventforschools.org/?category_id=38

What is Prevent? Let's Talk About It <http://www.ltai.info/what-is-prevent/>



Important Information

Membership

Our membership offers unlimited gym usage along the opportunity to have a personal programme designed for you, for free!

In addition, the use of our athletics track and seasonal, outdoor heated swimming pool are available to all members

Class Schedule

Members can attend for FREE

Classes are available to non-members at only £5 per class. We offer a wide variety of classes and our fantastic instructors cater for all ages and abilities

Below are classes we have available...

Day	Time	Class Name
Monday	18:00-19:00	CycleFit
	18:00-19:00	Body-Weight Training
	18:30-19:30	FitStep - Strictly Come Dancing
	19:00-20:00	Yogalates
Tuesday	18:00-19:00	Step and Tone
	18:00-19:00	Postural Alignment
	19:00-19:30	Total Abs
Wednesday	18:00-19:00	Yoga
	18:00-19:00	Circuits
	19:00-20:00	Postural Alignment
Thursday	17:30-18:00	HIIT Session
	18:00-19:00	CycleFit
	18:00-19:00	Legs, Bums and Tums
Friday	18:00-19:00	Kettlecise
Saturday	09:00-10:00	CycleFit
	10:00-11:00	Postural Alignment

TCSC Clubs

Our Sport Centre clubs cater for the wider community, with something for everyone! We use top qualified coaches and offer great value for money. Clubs include...

No Strings Badminton - Sunday 10am-12pm (£2.50 Youth, £4 Adult)

Friday Night Football - Friday 6pm-9pm (£3, 11-16 years old)

Basketball - Wednesday 5pm-6pm (£3, 15-24 years old)

Winter 7 a-side League - Sunday 6pm-9pm (£25 match fee, per match)



Christmas and New Year Gym Membership

3 months for £75 (Adult)
3 months for £45 (Student/Concessionary)
Available to new members only

Includes full use of fitness suite and unlimited access to ALL classes Postural Alignment, CycleFit, Legs Bums and Tums, Yogalates, Kettlecise and much more...



Holiday Clubs

During the school holidays we have fun-filled activity clubs taking place at the Sports Centre! Below is what we have coming up...

Day	Activity/Time	Age Group	Price
Monday 21st December	Football 10.00am - 4.00pm	8 - 11 Years Old	£10.00 per child
Tuesday 22nd December	Football & Multi Skills - Cricket, Tennis, Hockey & Frisbee 10.00am - 4.00pm	5 - 7 Years Old	£10.00 per child

To book a place, contact either of the below;

Mark Wickett
mark@markwickettsoccerschool.co.uk
01822 615995 / 07975 832249

Sports Centre
sportscentre@tavistockcollege.devon.sch.uk
01822 813238

Membership Prices

Student Monthly	£22.00	Student Annual	£220.00
Concessionary Monthly	£22.00	Concessionary Annual	£220.00
Adult Monthly	£32.00	Adult Annual	£320.00
Couple Monthly	£52.00	Couple Annual	£520.00
Family Monthly	£88.00	Family Annual	£880.00
Casual Use	£5.00		



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: Daily 8.30 – 9am and Monday and Wednesday 1.30 – 2pm.

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

1. Tavistock College supports the (DCC) Devon County Council's "No Pass No Travel Scheme" that operates on transport to and from this school.
2. 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.
3. Please ensure that your child has their travel pass before they leave home every day.
4. 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.
5. DCC will carry out regular pass checks throughout the year.
6. Drivers are not allowed to carry passengers who cannot show a valid pass.
7. 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

Student Newspaper

A group of students are setting up a school newspaper written and produced by and for students and the wider community.

We are seeking sponsorship to subsidise the costs of the paper and would be happy to include advertisements for local businesses. Please could you contact the editor, Joe Jordan, on tcnewspaper@outlook.com if you are interested in supporting this opportunity.

Vehicular Access to College Site

Parents are reminded that students should not be dropped off or collected by car between 08.20am - 08.50am and 3.10pm and 3.30pm unless authorised to do so. Full details can be found in the letter sent out by the College on 19th November 2014 which can be found on the College website under the letters home section or follow the link: <http://tavistockcollege.devon.sch.uk/pear/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/141107-All-Parents-Car-Park-Let.pdf> This letter gives details of alternate safe routes into the college.

Thank you for your cooperation

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.

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 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



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 Safeguarding Lead

Barbara Manning, Vice Principal

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Alexandra Thomas, Health and Multi Agency Co-ordinator

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Jo Northmore, Behaviour Intervention Manager

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Jane Brown, Inclusion Hub Coordinator

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

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



Tennis Tournament

Students from years 7, 8 and 9 took part in a mini tennis tournament last week against both Callington and Ivybridge.

With students competing in singles, doubles and mixed doubles, the level of competition was very high.

This was the first tournament in the region after the 3 colleges become satellite hubs for West Devon with the aim to increase tennis in the region.

Tavistock finished 3rd with 145 points, followed by Ivybridge (178 points) and the winners were Callington with 210 points.

Hopefully Tavistock will continue to progress ready for the next tournament. There were lots of individual success and our students won 11 matches throughout the day.

Also supporting the day were the year 10 tennis leaders who were a credit as they umpired, scored and ran the tournament.

Congratulations to all of the students involved in the tournament. *Mr Corkell*



Year 7
Faith Bishop
Hayley Plokker
James Meredith
William Russell

Year 8
Jack Emptage
Tom Hogan
Jenny Green
Heidi Turnock

Year 9
George Danise
Keiron Crockford
Erin Boulding
Katie Gray

Year 10
Tennis leaders
Dylan Wood
Tom Roberts
Tom Pearson
Alex Norgate
Archie Howell-Andrews
Isaac Buncle
Ben Anning



Netball

On 3 December the Year 7 and 8 netball teams went to Launceston on a very wet and windy evening, the fixture had to be played inside due to the conditions. The Year 7 girls had a great game with Rubie Hepworth as captain. Grace Maccugowska was chosen by the Launceston team as player of the match which was due to her scoring a couple of great shots. The Year 7 team came away with a 3 - 0 win.

The Year 8 girls had the opportunity to play two teams, the first team where slightly stronger and we lost by one goal however in the second game we came back even more determined and secured a win. The players of the match went to Kate Hillson and Amy Brimacombe.

Well done girls you showed great sporting etiquette and determination, once again a pleasure to take away. *Mrs Doyle*



House Matches

Good Luck to all of the students who are competing in the Physical Education House Matches this week.



Sports Personality Awards

The Ashley Tossell Sports Personality of the Year awards



Last night saw one of the highlights of the school year, the Ashley Tossell Sports Personality of the Year awards. With over 100 students nominated for individual and team awards, it was an amazing showcase of the sporting talent, determination and dedication of our students and staff.

The Ashley Tossell Sports Personality of the Year award, named in loving memory of our former colleague and governor, was a tightly fought affair with eight students recognised for achievement, success, contribution to college life and of course personality.



The finalists were: Morgan Warnett, Gemma Arundel, Barney Tossell, Darcey Hepworth, Lauren Harvey, Jennifer Sabine, Sophie Horn and Stephanie Hutchins.

Voted for by members of the teaching and support staff at the College, the winners were announced on the night as

1st place – Darcey Hepworth

2nd place – Barney Tossell

3rd place – Jenny Sabine



Darcey Hepworth achieved the accolade of the Ashley Tossell Sports Personality of the Year 2015 because: Darcey doesn't know the meaning of defeat and consistently

challenges herself to raise the bar; this is displayed in her progress towards an A* in GCSE PE, and her consistently outstanding Distinction assignments in BTEC Sport Level 2. The quality of work she produces is exceptional and a pleasure to assess. It would be understandable for Darcey, in Year 11, to keep this as her priority, but she continues to contribute so much to the PE faculty. She works as a Platinum Sports Ambassador and performs her role as a mentor in the PE Student Leadership Team with ultimate class. This has been recognised by both peers and staff at Tavistock College and also colleagues within other PE faculties. The term role model is frequently used, but Darcey is the definition of a PE role model which other students should aspire to follow. In the sporting arena Darcey excels in football, but she

also represents the college in numerous sports, helping teams get to county finals. She continues to represent Plymouth Argyle, she is part of the Regional Development Programme and is consistently being linked to national squads.



A big thank you for all the student support we have had in the PE faculty during Open Evening and the Sports Personality of the Year awards. *The PE team*

