



For Students & Parents

First Day

05-09-2017

FOCUS

Welcome Back!

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all those students and parents returning for another year with us at Tavistock College, as well as giving a huge welcome to all our new students and parents who are joining us for their first year.

In this introductory version of Fortnightly Focus (a fortnightly information and communication newsletter for parents and students) we have information regarding the way we are issuing the college planner as well as advertising some parent consultations and events that will be on this term.

This term is going to be a busy one, there will be a new extra-curricular list next week across many subjects and I'm sure you will want to fill up your afternoons with the huge variety of clubs offered. Clubs will start next week (wk. beginning 11th September) and therefore there will be no late buses this week.

As ever there are lots of way to get in touch and find out information; your first port of call should be your child's tutor, then take a look at our website: <http://www.tavistockcollege.org> and the Tavistock College Facebook page.

If you can't find what you're looking for, please ring reception on 01822614231 or email office@tavistockcollege.org

We hope that you have a great start to the new term and we look forward to the next academic year. *Tristan Forster, Assistant Principal*

College expectations

As ever we have extremely high expectations of our students and staff.

Attendance

Our expectation is that students should aim to be in college as much as they are physically able to be so. The new college gate will close at 8:40 and any student entering the college after this time will get a late mark. Students are expected to be punctual.

Uniform

We sent out a uniform letter at the end of last term and our expectations remain, based along the schools policy, if any one has any questions please contact your child's tutor or head of year. Students wearing inappropriate uniform will be placed in ISU for social time.

Equipment

It is the responsibility of the students to ensure that they are equipped and ready to learn for the school day. This includes having the correct stationary, exercise or text books for the specific days and appropriate additional equipment, for example cooking ingredients or Physical Education kit when appropriate.

Attitude

As a co-operative college we place good manners as one of the most important traits that we look for in students, staff and parents. We hope that you can support us in ensuring that the members of the college community are friendly, kind and well mannered.



Diary Dates

Governors meetings

Chairs Committee

20 September @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Full Committee

20 September @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Curriculum Committee

4 October @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Non Pupil Day

11 October

Half Term

23 October - 27 October

Governors meetings

Curriculum Committee

15 November @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Resources Committee

22 November @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Chairs Committee

6 December @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Full Committee

6 December @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Christmas Break

18 December 2017 - 1 January 2018

Online payments

Don't miss out on important electronic communications and services - make sure you are signed up to School Gateway and download the App now – it's free!

This allows you to make payments online and offers an excellent messaging system allowing you to reply to emails and text for free when using the app.

Remember to download the School Gateway app to enable you to make cashless payments to Tavistock College.

Please refer to the college website and Online Payments under Parent for full details on how to activate your account.



College Uniform Consultation

Following communication with parents and students regarding the current uniform policy and the hot weather we experienced in the summer, we have started a consultation with parents regarding the current uniform, during a meeting held in early July we agreed to move forward with the following principles:

- The college should have summer and winter uniform policies
- The college should have a compulsory uniform with optional items
- The college uniform should be gender neutral

Over the summer we have been exploring these principles, and would like to invite you and your son / daughter to come and see and comment on the ideas that are being put forward for the summer term of 2018. The consultation meeting will be held on Thursday 5th October at 6pm in the Octagon. We look forward to seeing you there.



Changes to the College Planner

During the summer term we consulted with staff and students regarding the way that we use and the value the college planner. Feedback showed that only 10% of students in Key stage 4 used their planners and that parents of students in that age bracket felt 'Show My Homework' (SMHW) was the best way to access and participate in their child's homework and studies.

Taking into account the views from the parent consultation, and feedback we collated from SMHW we have made the decision not to issue college planners to Key Stage 4 (Years 9, 10 and 11) students, utilising the money saved in other areas of the school.

As well as the information gathered about the use of the planning and diary segment of the planner, only 6% of students in Key Stage 4 used the other areas of their planner. We have decided, however, to offer these for purchase as some students and parents may prefer them to relying on SMHW. You may purchase them through our online payment system for £2, they will be delivered to your child within their tutor period.

In Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8) we have decided to continue using planners following feedback from the annual transition survey and focus groups, where the majority of students and parents felt that it was a great tool for communicating with teachers and their child's tutor. Students felt that the planner helped them to settle and 'get used to the college site and lessons'. We also believe that the planners will support students in Year 8 to make GCSE option choices.



We would be delighted if you could join us at our

Open Evening

Thursday 21 September
5.30pm - 7.30pm. Presentations at 5.45pm and 6.45pm.



@tavicollege
Tel: 01822 614231
E-mail: office@tavistockcollege.org

Together: we care, we challenge, we excel.



Crunchie

Crunchie won this rosette for being the most chilled out guinea pig (ever, I think!) at the Cavy show this summer. Well done Marianne!

Mrs Harris

Dear Friends of St Luke's

On behalf of everyone at St Luke's Hospice Plymouth, I would like to thank you for your very generous donation of £493.91 from your pupils versus teachers rounders fundraising event. We are so grateful for your fundraising efforts and your support for such a vital charity.

We believe that no-one needs to be alone in the last days, weeks and months of their life, or when they lose someone close to them. without supporters like you we simply couldn't do this. We are incredibly grateful to you and all of our supporters in the community.



Together: we care, we challenge, we excel.

Tavistock College are proud to announce that we are a SKRUM Partner School



SKRUM can help
And so can you!
Together we can fight HIV

'A bespoke and fully sustainable, gender equal, education and coaching package to benefit the lives of everyone involved'



Your contribution to our work will help us achieve something really imperative in our community. The care St Luke's provides to over 3,000 people a year is comprehensive and far-reaching; however we are only caring for about half of the people in our area who really need our help, this is why our fundraising can never stop! And the money you have given will help us to achieve that.

If you would like any more information about our services or our fundraising them please visit our website: www.stlukes-hospice.org.uk

We really appreciate your continued support and would be happy to either invite a group of 6th formers for a tour of the hospice or visit the school to give a talk about our work in your community.

Thank you once again; your gift is greatly appreciated.

With very best wishes,

Wayne Marshall, Community Fundraiser

Tavistock

COLLEGE