



One of the most enjoyable parts of my job role is to engage with the wider Tavistock community. Having worked at the College for 12 years I have seen at first hand the great opportunities that are often afforded to our students by local businesses, employers, organisations and individuals. Similarly it gives great pride to see what so many of our young pupils give back to their community; whether that be through volunteer work, working with younger students, visiting our feeder primary schools or through organised work placements.

Goose fair is undoubtedly entrenched within the history and traditions of Tavistock as a market town, and it was brilliant to see our new young co-operative apple juice group of year 7 students selling their freshly bottled apple juice for the first time at Goose Fair. This project, which started with the planting of several rare Tamar valley fruit trees in our college orchard back in 2009 has been a wonderful story. The number of students involved in the various stages of the process; whether it be the artistic work designing the labels on the bottle, the hard labour of picking the apples or the entrepreneurial skills in the market place selling the finished product are a joy to watch. When ex-students who remember planting the trees stop by and buy the apple juice you know you have a true, successful community project on your hands.

This half term has been punctuated by several primary school visits where Mr Forster and Mrs Jones spend valuable time visiting our local schools and future students and parents. The great feature of these events is the role taken by our current students who enjoy going back to their own primary schools and being the best ambassadors possible for the work and opportunities on offer at Tavistock College.

I can't miss the opportunity to draw your attention to the fantastic piece of work in this edition of Fortnightly Focus by Emily Handel, in year 11. Her piece arguing that young people should be encouraged to access classical literature is beautifully written and powerfully argued and the ultimate compliment has been paid to her by it being published within the Times Educational Supplement (TES) – a national magazine based on the published work of teachers and educational consultants. Well done Emily!

I hope all members of our community enjoy their half term break when it comes. The Autumn term will recommence on Monday 30th October which is a week B.

Phil Ruse, Assistant Principal



This week's flowers at reception, put there for all the visitors and staff to enjoy, were grown and arranged by year 7 Horticulture students - well done!

Mrs Harris

Diary Dates

Half Term

23 October - 27 October

Parent Voice

7 November 6pm

Governors meetings

Curriculum Committee

15 November @ 6pm - 8pm

Resources Committee

22 November @ 6pm - 8pm

Chairs Committee

6 December @ 5pm - 6pm

Full Committee

6 December @ 6pm - 8pm

Parent Voice

We have made expectations about poor behaviour at the college clear. We are now looking to ratchet up these expectations further. We are looking at our behaviour policy again. Our proposal is based on the Ready to Learn system that other schools have recently implemented. We are consulting with staff, students and parents to hear their thoughts and to see if it would work at Tavistock College. There will be a parent voice meeting at 6pm on Tuesday 7th November in the Innovation Centre to discuss the proposal



CARDIFF CHRISTMAS
MARKET



Tavistock
COLLEGE

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING COACH TRIP



A Tavistock College fundraising event for SKRUM

SKRUM's mission is to engage the youth of Swaziland in the sport of rugby, at the same time educating participants about HIV/AIDS, inspiring better leadership in communities, reinforcing positive attitudes about gender and cross-gender relations and promoting the benefits of school and education through rugby's core values: respect, discipline, passion, solidarity and integrity. Help us to support this charity by Christmas shopping in Cardiff!

Join us for a trip to Cardiff City Centre
for festive Christmas shopping on
Saturday 2nd December

Leaving Tavistock from Tavistock College car park at 6.00am
and departing Cardiff at 5.00pm.

£20 per person

Book now to secure your place

Tickets are available from Tavistock College Reception

The vast majority of amazing shops, quaint Edwardian and Victorian arcades, restaurants and attractions are within a 5 minute walk of the Cardiff Christmas Market. You can take in the beauty of Bute Park, Cardiff Castle and many other sights all just a stroll away from the Christmas market.

For further details please contact Chantelle Cocker on
01822 614231 or via email at c.cocker@tavistockcollege.org



Harvest Celebration

Tavistock College celebrated harvest this year with ‘sharing what we have’ as our main theme. Year 9 students ran a raffle of produce from the college, including eggs, and fruit & vegetables grown by college students in their horticulture and land based studies lessons; part of our drive to focus on sustainability and community. There was a special assembly, led by the chaplain to Tavistock Food Bank, Rev Steve Martin, and Tony Welsh, formerly head of Tremayne house at the college for many years. Year 7 students and their parents donated generously to the Food Bank. Many thanks to all those who donated produce and took part in our celebrations - it was very much a community effort. *Mrs Harris*



Plant Donation

While the crab apple trees there have been a great success, the garden bed by the Ndeeba room has proved difficult to plant and maintain, being in cool shade much of the time - but now we have the answer. Former college governor Alison Wright has selected a range of plants especially for this tricky area and very kindly donated them to the college. Now it's up to the Land Based Studies team to plant them out! *Mrs Harris*



Strange New Worlds

The Physics department hosted the Institute of Physics Schools lecture “Strange New Worlds beyond the Solar System”, by Elisabeth Matthews, a University of Exeter PhD researcher. The talk showed how school Physics is the building blocks to understand how the world around us works and described how recent research using modern telescopes have discovered the presence of exoplanets in nearby solar systems. These strange worlds are very unlike ours; some are like hot Jupiters whilst others have silicon clouds that rain glass onto their surfaces. Year 9 pupils enjoyed the talk and asking a number of interesting questions. *Mr Quinlan*



Year 7 Apple Co-operative

Yesterday whilst their peers were running around at the fair all day a select group of fantastic Year 7 students were working hard to earn their corn at the fair. For the first time that we know of the college had a stall among the others and the students did themselves proud. the comments from members of the public, former students and parents as well as the parish council were tremendous they were an absolute credit to the school and they made just short of £300 in the process. one face book comment read “Great idea! this is what goose fair should be about fantastic!” Congratulations to the students involved for being just brilliant! *Mr Forster and Mrs Blackmore*



'Don't patronise teenagers – we're more than capable of enjoying classic literature'

TES - Emily Handel - 10 October 2017

Emily Handel, a Year 11 student at Tavistock College wrote a book review for a piece of homework her teacher, Mr Roberts, set recently. It was so good that he approached the editor of the TES and asked if they'd be interested in publishing it. They suggested instead that Emily write an article on why teenagers should be encouraged to read classic fiction. Here it is. We think you'll agree it's pretty impressive for a 15-year-old:

A Year 11 student explains why pupils may be put off classic literature – but says it is relevant to today's teens



I picked up *Anna Karenina*, unsure of what to expect. Due to its classic status, I was worried I might find it obscure. In fact, I found the opposite was the case. I was incredibly moved by the story, finding myself completely swept up in the characters' continually fluxing emotions.

I realised that the book is incredibly accessible, the characters endearing. This is partly due to Tolstoy's straightforward writing style. Instead of wrapping his characters in metaphors, he lays out their emotions in both their actions and thoughts. They are constantly crying, kissing and bowing, and all this goes alongside a narrative that travels into the thoughts of the characters, while remaining separate enough to give observations on the traits and emotions that they themselves are unaware of. In short, the characters are laid out for the reader, making them welcoming and relatable. It lays the foundations for Tolstoy to write a truly great novel.

Had I known how much I would love this book – how easy it would be to read – I would never have hesitated in starting it. So why did its label as a “classic” put me off?

Perhaps it was the stereotypes surrounding novels like Tolstoy's – their “academic” status, the idea that they're a “heavy” read – which made *Anna Karenina* seem daunting. But where do these ideas stem from?

Being 15, I can't help but feel that it's difficult to break away from reading young adult novels. Teenagers are marketed to as if these are the only books for us.

Don't misunderstand me; there are some fantastic ones (I've read Malorie Blackman's *Noughts and Crosses* more times than I can count), but only picking titles from this category is hugely limiting for adolescents. Why do we need to label novels “young adult”? Good books can be enjoyed by anyone, regardless of age. I still love to read *Winnie the Pooh*.

I also feel that categorising fiction can put teenagers off reading more widely. This, partly, is where the belief that classic literature is too intellectual for teenagers originates from. It is, I'm sure, one of the reasons I was so sceptical about picking up *Anna Karenina* in the first place.

'They never lose their relevance'

Writers such as Shakespeare, Austen and Tolstoy have so much to offer us. There are reasons why *Romeo and Juliet*, *Pride and Prejudice* and *Anna Karenina* have survived so long. These stories never lose their relevance. What, for example, can a teenager learn about love from Tolstoy?

Anna, searching for an escape from the oppression of Russian high society and her dispassionate marriage, falls scandalously for the handsome and impetuous Count Vronsky, believing this will bring an end to her suffering. Not realising that, to find happiness, she must first love herself. This is a profound message: one that we are constantly trying to instil, particularly in teenagers. Yet no one highlights its importance quite as clearly as Tolstoy.

The characters and emotions that are at the heart of these fictions never change; they resonate as strongly now as they did for people 200 (or more) years ago. This is why classic novels can be enjoyed by anyone, regardless of age. I know many of my peers enjoy film adaptations of these works, so why shouldn't they find the novels equally as engaging?

'Teenagers enjoy discussing the big questions'

We do, however, need some encouragement. School is the perfect place to be introduced to classic novels, and to explore them in more depth. Teenagers do not need to be patronised. We enjoy discussing the “big questions” – in my experience, that's one of the most engrossing aspects of our learning.

If we are taught to love these books, we will go on to read them for ourselves. Now is the time to set us up, for life, with a passion for what is timeless. Teenagers have the capacity to appreciate so much more than simply young adult fiction. Classic literature is for everyone. We need to tear down the prejudices surrounding writers from the past, and respect them for what they are: brilliant, insightful people who wrote, in the words of Jane Austen, “works in which the greatest powers of the mind are displayed, in which the most thorough knowledge of human nature ... the liveliest effusions of wit and humour are conveyed to the world in the best-chosen language”.

**NOW OPEN
FOR
BREAKFAST**
8.15 - 8.40

Price list

Egg Bap £1
Bacon Bap £1.30
Sausage Bap £1.50
Pan Au Choc 85p
Cereal Bar 80p

Hot Drinks 85p
Cold Drinks 40p-1.30



Sport Results

RUGBY

28th September

Year 9 & 10 Rugby v Callington. Tavistock lost

3rd October

Year 8 Rugby Tavistock 10 DHS - 15

BOYS FOOTBALL- ESFA CUP

5th October

Year 8 v Eggbuckland. Tavistock 4 Eggbuckland 0

9th October

Under 16's v Liskeard. Tavistock 12 - Liskeard 1

Under 14's v Liskeard. Tavistock 8 - Liskeard 1

NETBALL

27th September

Year 11 @ Heles (Plymouth Schools) Tavistock lost

4th October

Year 9 @ Heles (Plymouth Schools)

Tavistock 3 - Ivybridge 6

Tavistock 8 - Plymouth High School for Girls 1

Tavistock 4 - Lipson 1

Tavistock 6 - Stoke Damerell 1

5th October

East Cornwall League @ Liskeard

Year 7 (A) Beat Callington 9 - 0

Year 7 (B) Lost to Callington 2 - 7

Year 8 (A) Lost to Looe 1 - 8 Beat Liskeard 10 - 0

Year 8 (B) Lost to Callington 3 - 8 Lost to Looe 3 - 5

Saltash 2 - Tavistock College 3

The winning run continues!! On 12 October the Year 7 football team winning run stretched to 9 games on the bounce with their latest victory. Tavistock dominated play from the first whistle. The score was close, but the number of chances and goal scoring opportunities created, combined with excellent goalkeeping kept the score down. Reuben Pascoe scored a well deserved hat trick after leading the line tirelessly, he was admirably supported by the wing wizardry of Liam Wheeler and Will White. A special mention for Archie Wall, Euan Hogan and Elliot Piper for stand out performances but the whole team played extremely well with lovely attacking football well worth the match fee at Saltash Stadium. The Boys are now through to the third round of the ESFA. "Keep it going boys - immense!" *Mr Mifsud* (Coach)



Tavistock
COLLEGE

