



I can't believe another academic year is fast drawing to a close. Students in year 13 have officially left us following their graduation day and are ready to move on to the next chapter of their exciting lives. Year 11 students have experienced a similar right of passage with their prom and graduation and we are excited to see many of them return in September to begin a variety of post 16 courses. This edition of Fortnightly Focus has a clear celebration theme, reporting as it does on the plethora

of end of year events and trips that have been taking place. This Saturday the College plays a part in the annual Tavistock Carnival. We will be setting off from Down Road at 6.30pm so look out for some surprises as part of the College entry. We are eagerly awaiting our final major events of the year with our Celebration Evening at 6pm on Tuesday 18th July and Sports Day on the following day. More great opportunities for the College and its local community to come together and celebrate the achievements and talents of our amazing students. I will leave the vivid photographs and words of other people in this edition to do the talking for me, other than to say that I wish all of our students, parents, carers and wider local community a restful and relaxing summer holiday and look forward to seeing you all return fit and healthy on Tuesday 5th September for the beginning of a new academic year.

*Mr Ruse*

## Diary Dates

**18 July**

**Celebration Evening**

**21 July**

**Last day of Summer Term**

The school year will end at 13:30pm on Friday 21 July 2017.

The usual buses will run early to coincide with this early closure. Would all parents and carers please note that no student will be permitted to remain on the premises beyond this time as there will be no suitable supervision.

**5 September**

**First day of Autumn Term**

## Update on the Dartmoor Multi-Academy Trust from the Governing Board of Tavistock College

The governors of Tavistock College are delighted to announce that our plan to convert to an Academy and join the proposed Dartmoor Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) are now taking shape. We, and our proposed sixteen partner schools, have now received Academy Orders. This indicates that our application has been accepted and that our proposed plans meet with the approval of the Department for Education.

The next steps involve further consultation in September and October and the process to ensure continuity of employment and the transfer of employees' terms and conditions. The target date for the formation of the MAT is January 2018, although it is recognised that this target allows no room for any slippage in the process.

The governors chose to pursue conversion to an academy and join the proposed Dartmoor MAT because they believed it was the best way to secure the optimum environment for continuing to improve teaching and learning for students at the college, while being able to preserve our co-operative identity. They reviewed this decision at the full governing board meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> July and unanimously confirmed their commitment to it.

## Tavistock College Site Safety

Tavistock College plans to complete the work started in 2014 to secure the school site against possible intruders. A fence currently runs around the external perimeter of the college with gated entrances and exits. This summer the fence will be extended across the front of the school and will include new pedestrian and vehicular entrances. The design of the fence, along with associated works, has been carefully designed to be aesthetically acceptable has been subject to a best value tender process to ensure that public money is spent wisely. Car parks and bus bays will remain open and unaffected. Sarah Jones, Principal at Tavistock College said 'This fence is not an attempt to separate the college from its community or to keep students imprisoned. It is a necessary step to ensure our site is secure and that all students are safeguarded. The DfE instruct schools to keep their site secure. The multitude of older buildings at Tavistock College prevents us from complying with these instructions unless we complete the fence'.

If members of the public would like any further details they can contact Linda Coe, Site Manager, to discuss the construction plans.



## 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.





# Year 6 Taster Days



On Monday 3rd and Friday 7th of July we hosted our annual Year 6 Taster Days. Students from over 15 primary schools came together to take part in these two exciting days. During their first day at college students spent time in their future tutor groups, meeting students from other primary schools and making new friendships. They watched an action packed science production full of amazing experiments and explosions. Time was also spent getting to know a timetable and map which they would be following during their second taster day.

On Friday we again welcomed Year 6 students for their second taster day. Students followed a full timetable and spent time getting to know teaching staff and taking part in varied lessons throughout the day. Lunch time was spent in the refectory where they mixed with other year groups in college and even had time to practice a fire drill in the Year 7 area.

We were delighted to see so many confident smiling faces leave at the end of the day. We look forward to welcoming these students into Year 7 on Tuesday 5th September



# Workshop for prospective vets/vet nurses

This summer term the college arranged a workshop for prospective vets/vet nurses, looking to aim high before starting their GCSEs. The students were those who had expressed an interest in following this career path and they listened intently to the academic and work experience requirements. Year 8 is not too soon to start work experience aiming for this route!

The session was taken by Dr David Harris MRCVS,



former student at the college, who has worked as an equine, farm and small animal vet before his current role lecturing at Plymouth University and working as a consultant to the veterinary industry. He brought a selection of implements and equipment and there was a strong emphasis on practical skills, with a hands on session using the ophthalmoscope and the stethoscope and trying out their skills bandaging a range of toy animals.

The college plans to hold more specialised work shops highlighting different career options, with the aim of raising aspirations and achievement. The students really appreciated the opportunity and were riveted throughout, especially with the occasionally dramatic anecdotes of life as a vet. Jess Asquith said 'It inspired her to work to become a vet' and

Anya Taylor said 'it was really useful and fun, thinking about future careers - really good'.

*Mrs Harris*



## Tavistock College Founder's Day

As part of Tavistock College's reinvigoration of the house system, we held our first Founders Day service for some years this July, in St Eustachius church. Year 8 students attended, while the sixth form team of Head Boys and Girls and the House Captains gave a selection of readings about the long history of the school.



We were delighted to welcome local civic dignitaries including the Mayor of West Devon, Cllr Moody and his wife, along with the Deputy Mayor of Tavistock Paul Ward. Members of the Reunion Society were there too along with school pastors, governors, past teachers and parents. The service looking back a thousand years to the foundation of the school and celebrated the achievements of some of the great men of Tavistock - Bedford, Drake, Fitz, Glanville and Tremayne - whose names are commemorated in our five houses. The address, by Mr Philip Ruse, assistant principal, looked to the future of the college as part of the wider community of Tavistock in the 21st century, where students raise money and volunteer for local charities and play an important part in the life of the town. As part of this link between the town and the college representatives of each house presented a box of goods donated for Tavistock Food Bank, and there was a display of student work created for the cattle market about Goosie Fair. The service finished with an excellent performance by Vox, the student choir, and afterwards students were heard to say: 'I never knew that about the school - who would have thought the school has been here so long!' *Mrs Harris*





# Art Workshops 2017



There have been a number of brilliant workshops run throughout this year in the Creative Arts Faculty as part of the cultural curriculum offering opportunities in art that would not ordinarily be available to students.

In January sculptor James Lake, based in Exeter, worked with year 11 GCSE Art students on their identify unit, creating sculptural heads using recycled materials. Students included personal objects and imagery from their project to create a wide variety of creative outcomes which contributed to their GCSE coursework.



In March artist Naomi from Nature Make worked with about half of year 8 over two days creating magical mini sculptures using natural and found objects. Students were totally captivated by the experience, working spontaneously and immersing themselves in a fantasy world.

'It was really fun and I had a really great time and I loved how creative everything was!!!'

'Great fun! The workshop lets your imagination run wild.'



Finally, year 5 pupils from Whitchurch Primary School came up to the collage to do a ceramics workshop. They had been working on the theme Space at school so we let our imaginations run wild creating ceramic space monsters. 'It was a successful morning and it helped the children feel more confident about their future transition to secondary school. We are grateful to Tavistock College for their help and support.' Mrs Higginson year 5 teacher. *Roz Barker*



## Summer Concert

On the 11th July 2017, 60 students from all year groups performed at Tavistock College's annual summer concert. The talent on show was spectacular, with highlights



including a duet of Prokofiev's 'The Montagues and Capulets' performed by Emily Handel and Charlotte Davis, a returner's performance from the year 13 BTEC graduates that was worthy of a professional functions band, Vox choir's a capella version of Humans and

Skin by Rag n' Bone Man and of course the infamous Jazz Band's dedication of 'Green Onion's' to our very own Mrs Horn. The whole evening was organised by the current year 12 music BTEC students and the success of the evening was a testament to their hard work and dedication to the department. Elysia Hix, Eilidh Sinclair, Sam Roberts, Milly Norris and Eric Moore in year 12, have all gained vital skills that will help them with events management and music performance in the future. *Mr Lambert*





# Art Exhibition

Friday the 14th of July saw the annual exhibition of art celebrating the work of our GCSE and A level Art and Photography students. It was a real visual treat with sculptures, large scale canvas paintings, photographs and mixed media pieces among the work on display. Philip Sanders the mayor of Tavistock and Jeff Moody the mayor of West Devon were both in attendance and lavish in their praise. Cllr Moody commenting on the exhibition spoke of "such an incredible standard and variety of work to stimulate the viewer". Everyone who came to the show had high praise for all the students work and were unanimous in their comments about the talent that was evident from Tavistock College students. Many congratulations to all the creative students involved. *Mr Byron*



Josephine Evans



Camilla Snowden

Daisy Trewartha-Wyatt



Maisie Williams



Will Dax



Ruby Wood



Jessamy Clemens





## Farewell Class of 2017

Whilst the Government want us to judge our students on academic progress, Mr Hosking taught them about progress in life, values and care for one another. The Year 11 prom last Thursday was a real success - it was wonderful to experience a year group who have truly bonded under his careful guidance. The more confident students were taking care and showing compassion for others, ensuring everyone enjoyed their night, was a real testament to the role model he has been through the years.

With the final songs of the night, the genuine emotions of saying goodbye was touching. Seeing students giving sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr Hosking on the evening was a testament to all the hard work and dedication given to these students since Year 8. He has steered them all through both difficult and exciting times with equal skill. As ever, being his humble unassuming self, he congratulated and said goodbye as they left the venue as the class of 2017 for one last time. *Mr Palmer*



Year 11 Students finished graduation week in real style with their Prom being held at Boringdon Park Golf Club in Plymouth on 6th July. Bedford Square, as the traditional place to meet before Prom, was typically stylish as the students gathered to celebrate. Stylish continued to be the theme of the evening as the prom very quickly got into full swing at Boringdon Park.

The evening was a huge success and gave the year group one last chance to celebrate and remember the good times shared over the past 5 years. We look forward to welcoming many students back into 6th form and wish all those going on to apprenticeships and FE colleges the very best of luck.

*Mr Hosking*



## Amnesty International

Beau Waycott, Ben Moran, Emily Handel, Amber Jutson, Charlie Exworthy and Megan Shaw

The Amnesty International Group at Tavistock College work hard to campaign against human rights violations around the world. They have tackled a variety of issues this year, from gender rights to the refugee crisis and come up with a wide variety of ways raise money in support of these campaigns. They are currently working on a campaign to collect sanitary products to send to refugee camps around the world. These products are not cheap, but are a necessity many cannot afford. Through the generosity of the staff and students across the College we have been able to make a substantial contribution to this cause and Amnesty International is very grateful to all those who have donated throughout this year.

*Mrs Lay*

## Year 13 Graduation



Year 13 Graduation celebrations.

Read the full account of the Year 13 Graduation in the next edition of the 6th Form Focus

# Dartmoor Classic Cycling Challenge

Congratulations to all of the members of school community who participated in the Dartmoor Classic cycling challenge on July 2nd.

Will Dax Y13 got a bronze on the long route. Jason Blake, Y11, got a silver on the medio route. I got a bronze on the medio route. Sally Hubbard got a bronze on the Piccolo route, while her husband did so on the Medio and her son, Jimmy, on the long route. Other parents who rode included John Blake, who achieved bronze and Mr Glanville on the PTA. *Tim Alexander (governor)*

# East Cornwall Netball League

Year 7	2nd in the league
Year 8	Joint 2nd in the league
Year 9	2nd in the league
Year 10	Won the league

Congratulations to all of the players

**Tavistock Community  
SPORTS CENTRE**  
01822 813238

**MARK WICKETT**  
SOCCER SCHOOL



# Summer Holiday Camp

Mon 24th July - Weds 23rd August

Day / Date	Activity	Age Group
<b>Monday</b> 24th July 31st July 07th Aug 14th Aug 21st Aug	Football & Goalkeeping	5 - 8
<b>Tuesday</b> 25th July 01st Aug 08th Aug 15th Aug 22nd Aug	Just Play Football	8 - 11
<b>Wednesday</b> 26th July 09th Aug 23rd Aug	Cricket, Tennis, Hockey & Frisbee	5 - 9

All classes run from 10am - 4pm  
and cost £12 (cash) or £13 (cheque) per child per day.  
All payments MUST be made on booking

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

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

# Sports Academy

Charlie Brownlow - Year 7.



On Sunday 9th July, Charlie went to Okehampton to play for the South West Devon hockey squad competing against 5 other teams representing Cornwall, North Devon and Torbay.

Throughout the competition, Charlie showed his attacking ability by scoring 6 goals in the 5 games. The team were extremely successful finishing second overall after winning 3 and drawing 1 of the 5 games. This resulted in Charlie winning the silver medal.



**Tavistock**  
COLLEGE

