



Tavistock
COLLEGE

INFORMATION PACK



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Tavistock College Information

The Local Area (including the College catchment)

Tavistock is a bustling market town with 11,000 residents. It is situated in West Devon, close to the border with Cornwall with Dartmoor National Park to the north-east and the city of Plymouth to the south. It is an ancient Stannary town and derives its name from the River Tavy which runs through the town. Tavistock has a rich history: the site of a Benedictine Abbey, a Market Charter town in 1105 and the birth place of the famous Sir Francis Drake in 1542.

The town receives visitors from UK and abroad who use it as a base for exploring the beautiful countryside or enjoy wandering around the market, many and varied shops or along the river to the park, the 'Meadows'.



The biggest employer in the town is Tavistock College while others work in wholesale and retail trade, health and social work and hotels and restaurants. There is a high percentage working in public administration and defence. Many residents work in Plymouth and there is large sector of retired people in the town. Unemployment levels are quite low in the area as a whole as are economic activity rates. Self-employment levels in the surrounding rural area are significantly higher than the County and national averages which may reflect the numbers involved in farming.



The College



The College which is situated 10 minutes from the town centre is the only state secondary school in the town with currently just over 1250 on roll. The College is an 11-18 Community Comprehensive school with Specialist Status in Languages. The nearest secondary schools are Kelly College, a private school for pupils aged 4-18 which lies to the east of the town, Okehampton Community College, 8 miles to the north, Callington, 9 miles to the west in Cornwall and the secondary schools in Plymouth.

The 15 primary schools served by the College range from fairly large primaries with 200 pupils to small schools of 75 pupils with mixed year classes. The College's catchment area covers nearly 425 square miles and stretches as far as Two Bridges on Dartmoor, the north of Plymouth and into the Tamar Valley. Over 50% of pupils (871) catch a bus to get to College with 41% being provided with a dedicated school bus. 36% come to College on foot and 11% in a private car/van. The College runs late buses on two days a week which are free to students to enable them to attend after school clubs and activities.

The College community is made up predominantly of students, parents and teachers of White British origin whose first language is English. Slightly more than average numbers of students come from high social class households and households with at least one parent having completed Higher Education. The number of over-crowded households is just over a third of the national average in a typical catchment area and the social deprivation indicator is nearly half of the national figure. The take up of free school meals is half the national average. Less than half a percent of the students are in care.

In September 2012 the College became a Co-operative Trust. In September 2013 the Trust expanded to include 10 of our feeder primary schools. The Trust is founded on co-operative values and key partnerships which add value. The partners of the Trust are The University of St Mark and St John, The Tavistock Chamber of Commerce and Tamar Grow Local. These partnerships add value and provide additional CPD opportunities for staff and innovative joint projects such as the development of food growing in the College grounds.

At Tavistock College we offer you the following:

- opportunities for teachers to undertake Action Research Projects which can lead to Masters Accreditation
- bespoke programme of professional development to suit your needs
- the opportunity to lead in a high performing and ambitious College
- the opportunity to work with governors and leaders who are dedicated and effective, and who work tirelessly to ensure every student succeeds
- the opportunity to work with students who enjoy learning, participate in, and contribute to, their community and who describe their teachers as “the best”

Tavistock College is a faith neutral, value-driven school. We are a Co-operative school and everyone who works at the College is expected to foster value and principles of the International Co-operative Alliance. These form the foundations of our ethos and support our principle aim and commitment to our parents/carers, students, staff and the community that all students will achieve and learn effectively. We strive to ensure that every young person gains the best learning experience and achievement possible. We have high aspirations for all of our young people and are passionate about providing the appropriate curriculum to best suit the learning and aspirations of each student. Many of our students opt to stay with us for Post 16 provision. Through this we aim to offer something for all students. Many of our students leave us and go on to attend some of the top universities. We are very proud to have Post 16 provision offering a range of A level courses and vocational provision both at level 2 and 3.

We are part of a wider Co-operative Trust with 10 of our local primary schools. We all work together for the benefit of all the young people in our schools. We collaborate to raise aspirations so that our students develop a sense of self-esteem, responsibility and mutual respect. We aim to equip all our students with the skills and personal qualities which will enable them to lead productive lives. Co-operation gives our daily lives meaning and ensures that no one is left behind in building a strong community of learners.

| CO-OPERATIVE VALUES | CO-OPERATIVE PRINCIPLES |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self Help • Self-Responsibility • Democracy • Equality • Equity • Solidarity • Ethical Values, Honesty, Openness, Social Responsibility and Caring for Others | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary Membership • Democratic Member Control • Member Participation • Autonomy and Independence • Education, Training and Information • Co-operation amongst Co-operatives • Concern for Community |

The College Site



The College is situated on a site of 29 acres with Tavistock Community Primary School situated at the eastern end of the campus. The College has outstanding sports facilities including a state of the art athletic track and a purpose built sports centre. We also have an outdoor heated swimming pool.

The College Staff Room is situated on the ground floor of the Main Block. Basic kitchen facilities are available including vending machine and chilled water dispenser. Pigeonholes for teaching staff, teaching assistants (TAs) and other support staff are located here as are a staff work area, staff information and professional association noticeboards.

Staff car parking is available on the College site. There is also secure cycle storage on site.

The College has a well stocked library and all staff are welcome to join.



The Governing Body

The Governing Body is constituted to 16 members. As well as meeting on a regular basis as a full Governing Body, Governors are also members of either the Curriculum or Resources Committees.

Community Links

The College enjoys and promotes rich links with the community. Over the last few years it has worked closely with Sport England, the Football Foundation and the National Sports Foundation, as well as Kelly College, Tavistock Athletics Club, West Devon Borough Council, Tavistock Town Council and the local community to enable the successful completion of a £3 million development of the sports facilities and the College is now the proud home of the Tavistock Community Sports Centre.



Based at the College, Tavistock Community Sports Centre is a community based facility providing a diverse range of leisure activities for local people. It has a fully equipped 33 station fitness suite, two multi purpose sports halls, full size basketball court, state of the art dance studio and a multi use exercise room. The facilities also include a competition standard athletic track, a full size 3G all weather football pitch, both of which are fully floodlit, as well as a number of grass pitches. The facilities are used by several local clubs including Tavistock Athletics Club and other rooms in the College are used by the community after school and at weekends.



The Performance Studies department regularly run performances open to the community including 'Commedia del Arte' in the park and pantomimes in local village halls. Many departments make the most of the rich environment with Art visiting the local reservoir at Burrator, Geography taking field trips to Boscastle and the Eden Project and English visiting Bodmin Moor. The College works closely with local artists, Dartmoor Park rangers, Tamar Valley as well as local conservation groups.



As well as the many local and national links, the College has strong international links with schools in Japan, Sweden and Nepal.



The College offers all students the opportunity to take part in many trips and visits both at home and abroad, which aim to expand and broaden students' understanding and experience of different worldwide cultures as well as building their confidence and personal development.

The College has partnerships with local FE providers Plymouth City College and Duchy College who support the increased flexibility programme and diplomas. It also links with HE providers such as The University of St Mark and St John, University of Plymouth and Exeter University.

Communication

Staff Briefing Meetings are currently held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning at 8.25am in the Hall. All staff are required to attend unless they are on duty or their working hours are such that they are not in the College at these times, in which case they will refer to the briefing minutes circulated via email.

Dates and times of scheduled staff meetings for each academic year are published in the College Calendar. Some faculties require their support staff members to attend their meetings.

The College Intranet, which is an important tool for internal communication, carries a great deal of information including reports, vacancies, policies, email addresses and the on-line curriculum. The staff section of the intranet includes a wealth of information about the College.

Tavistock College's free Newsletter is published termly, and is available on the College website.

