



6th Form

# Fortnightly

16-06-2017

# FOCUS

## Dear parents, carers and students

Welcome to this edition of the 6th Form Fortnightly Focus.



### Diary Dates

**22 June**

Prefect team interviews

**28 June**

Bristol University trip

**30 June**

Geography field trip to  
Seaton and Donderry

**3 July**

Year 13 Graduation

**5 July**

Year 13 Prom

**7 July**

Art Exhibition

**11 July**

Andy White memorial  
cricket match.

**18 July**

Y12 Celebration Evening

**17 July**

A Level results day

As another academic year draws to a close, the pressure on our students remain immense. The A Level exams are still ongoing and Year 12 PPE's (Mock exams) begin week beginning 19th June. And even when completed, students applying to university will more than likely be feeling anxious about their results which will not be released until August. For students in Year 12, the UCAS application process has already begun. I will be providing advice and details to support students and parents through the weekly bulletin and a parents information evening in September. Despite the pressures of college, we can also look forward to a time of celebration with sixth form graduation and prom. I hope you have received the group call invite to the graduation which will be held in St Eustachius church on Monday 3rd July at 10:30.

In the last edition of the focus, I encouraged sixth form students of voting age to engage with democracy and vote. Whether the young people of Tavistock exercised their right or not, youth turn-out was considerably higher than 2015. The recent surge in political engagement is critical for young people to have a voice and be considered when politicians develop policy.

A politician once said that on the final day of general election campaigning he had just enough time left to visit one of two places: a students' hall of residence or an old people's home. He chose the old people's home. The calculation was clear: it was in the old people's home that he stood the better chance of meeting actual voters. Politicians of all persuasions will now have to consider where and who their policies are aimed at.

We do live in uncertain times and I hope that Tavistock College has helped to provide the young people in our community the capacity to triumph over any trials and tribulations that life may throw at them. We have watched the current Year 13 students develop and grow so much over the last 2 years, to become the talented, marvelous young men and women that they are, and I wish them the very very best for their futures.

## Tavistock College Prefect Team

One of the most rewarding aspects of my role within College is being able to oversee the Prefect Team, and this year has been no exception. I have worked alongside this group of fantastic young adults since their initial recruitment last year, and have thoroughly enjoyed the experience ever since. The Prefects are a multi-talented group of individuals, and have fulfilled many duties in their time, of which "parking attendant" seemed to be the firm favourite. Each member of the team has willingly given so much back to the College – commitment, energy and time – and has gladly reinvested in some of the younger members of the College through their roles as House Captains and Student Liaisons. Between them, the Prefect Team have accomplished a great deal in the College; I am grateful for their honest feedback, and proud of their efforts. I would like to take this opportunity to give sincere thanks to each and every member of the team. My final thanks are reserved for Lawrence and Alice, our Head Boy

and Head Girl, who have done a phenomenal job in leading the team and representing the College.

I wish each and every one of you the very best of luck for the future, although having witnessed how capable and talented each of you are, I am confident you will never need to rely on such luck. I will keep an eye out for you on the cover of Time magazine.

*Mr Jacob*



### UCAS

#### INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

##### Parent Guide 2018

Everything you need to support your child with their higher education choices

<https://www.ucas.com/file/101806/download?token=2DHk4PXV>



# Drama Performances



## HORIZON

We chose the commission of Galileo making his first spyglass in 1609. He was 45 years old when he made his spyglass, a father of 3 and already well known for contesting the established theories of velocity and astrological significance.

We were excited by Galileo's relentless conviction that there was much more to the world than just what he could see. At this stage in

our lives the idea of broadening horizons and looking beyond the safety of what we have always known is pertinent. We were interested in Galileo's feelings as he entered the unknown and saw things for the first time- some unexplainable, some frightening, some confusing things and things that ultimately brought conflict between the world of science and religion.



## HOME

What first grabbed our attention about E.T. as a commission was the strong themes of friendship and isolation and how they are built through each other. The relationship between Elliott and ET caught our eye as well as the idea of trying to find your way back 'home' raising the question of 'what is home?' and 'why have you lost it?'





# Student Perspective

## Gallery Space



Lydia Marks



Shauna-Leigh Page



Amelia Roberts



## Ten tors review

The Ten Tors 55 mile challenge was successfully completed by the team of 6 chosen to represent the college. The team consisting of Ben Roberts, Ryan Brimacombe, Nathan Sellars, Darcey Hepworth, Poppy Field and Joe Mulroy tackled this task on the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> of May.

It was a tough 55 mile trek across Dartmoor's unforgiving terrain, blessed with sunshine the team made good time working as a team to get the best results. In the first day the team walked 40 of the 55 miles leaving the camp at 7 and finally stopping for the night at 10:30 pm. During the day excruciating blisters caused problems for two members of the team however both members showed



incredible strength of character to carry on refusing to quit.

The following day was an early start and after eating, rehydrating and packing up camp the team was fresh for the second day. Leaving at 5:15 am the team made it back to camp by 2:00 pm finishing well on their route and also beating their Mount Kelly rivals. During this time the blisters got worse which only served to motivate the team, as well as struggling team mates. The thing that stood out so clearly was the selflessness of the team as with a long distance still to travel everyone pulled together carrying more weight to help out struggling members allowing everyone to keep up with the high pace.

*Nathan Sellars*



# Student Perspective

## An Exploration of Wordsworth's treatment of nature in Lines Written in the Early Spring and Ode: Intimations of Immortality by Sam Chambers

In *Lines Written in the Early Spring* and *Ode: Intimations of Immortality*, Wordsworth both personifies and Christianises nature so that he may rejoice in the corporeal experience of life. Written in 1798 and 1807 respectively, both poems are deeply reflective: *Lines* expresses Wordsworth's radical fin de siècle reflection on his revolutionary surroundings, while the focus of his *Ode* is his own life. The poetry of the so-called 'Priest of Nature' abounds with luscious vernal imagery that signifies nature as the source of human happiness, and imbues it with numinous meaning.

Wordsworth deeply regretted the rapid industrialisation and urbanisation that was transforming Britain in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. *Lines Written in the Early Spring* juxtaposes pastoral imagery with Wordsworth's grief for mankind's folly throughout: 'In that sweet mood when pleasant thoughts / Bring sad thoughts to the mind.' The spondee of 'sweet mood' gives an indulgent impression, before the speaker's 'pleasant thoughts' are brought into contrast with his 'sad' ones, as performed by the sibilance of the three adjectives. Pleasure and nature are directly linked in the poem's structure; the diacope of 'sweet' in 'sweet bower' in the third stanza implicates nature as Wordsworth's source of happiness. Nevertheless, his spontaneous shifts to melancholy reflect the essential humanity of the universal experience that nature evokes. Although he grew disillusioned at how the on-going French Revolution had descended into violence, Wordsworth was also humanised by his experiences. Armed hostilities between Britain and France had forced him to leave his wife and child, but this caused his poetry to transition from exclusively natural experiences to focus more on Rousseau's assertion: 'Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains.'

In simulation of Rousseau's concept of the noble savage, Wordsworth exalts the state of youth in virtue of how the 'Child' is not yet restrained by society and is in closer contact to the Divine spirit. In *Intimations of Immortality*, Wordsworth addresses his own former self with the rhetorical interrogative: 'Why with such earnest pains dost thou provoke / The years to bring the inevitable yoke [...]?' The metaphor 'inevitable yoke' suggests the ubiquitous means of transport in Wordsworth's time, the horse. Wordsworth, however, imparts the bucolic image with connotations of depersonalisation and subjugation: adults should be free but, like beasts, are reduced to merely economic assets, straining under the inescapable burden of work. While a horse may have its sight constrained by blinkers, Wordsworth offers nature as a means of salvation as he employs the theme of the imagination – in opposition to the popular scientific language of the Enlightenment: 'The Pansy at my feet / Doth the same tale repeat: / Whither is fled the visionary gleam?' The Romantic trope of personification, here of the Pansy, serves to illustrate the presence of God, as is indicated by the common noun's capitalisation. The rhetorical interrogative which follows employs the Wordsworthian trope of the diction of 'gleam,' providing further suggestion of the Divine. Wordsworth here continues to lament the superseding of faith with reason through his poetry; he wishes to preach the message of nature in order to bring the common man (hence his relatively simple use of language) back to faith and therefore freedom through an appreciation of nature.

Wordsworth represents the beauty and harmony found in nature in the set rhyme scheme and uniform stanzas of *Lines Written in Early Spring*. The parallelism of 'Have I not reason to lament / What Man has made of Man?' in the middle and final quatrains incorporates mankind into the natural domain, hence the capitalisation of 'Man,' which promotes the sense of mankind's shared universal Spirit. The dynamic physical verb process of 'made' refers to industrialisation and the rhetorical interrogative in which it is used conveys a tone of despair: Wordsworth offers no practical suggestions on how to protect nature. Wordsworth's strong belief in a Divine power – the homographic paranomasia of the noun 'reason' clearly denotes Wordsworth's hostile views on rationalism and its increasingly attendant atheism – causes him to accept that, despite his libertarian beliefs, he is merely one individual within the natural superstructure. Wordsworth thus views it as his vocation to submit to the magnificence of nature: 'And I must think, do all I can, / That there was pleasure there.' The deontic modality conveys the sense that, more than anything else in earthly life, Wordsworth respects nature and the 'pleasure' which it induces.

Wordsworth's metaphysical views on life and death are articulated in *Intimations of Immortality* through the extended metaphor: '[...] in a season of calm weather / Though inland far we be, / Our souls have sight of that immortal sea.' The personification of the 'immortal sea' infers the omnipresent nature of the Holy Spirit, as signified by the allusion to the biblical conception of the firmament. Contemporary readers, schooled in the Christian cosmology, would recognise the allusion to Genesis, in which God is said to have the firmament 'divide the waters from the waters.' The land-sea boundary symbolises that the liminal space between life and death is spanned by the soul (yet obscured by civilizational fixations) as 'the season of calm weather' causes Wordsworth to acknowledge that he is in the Winter of his own life and will soon transition into a new mode of existence. Such pathetic fallacy combines sublime imagery so prevalent in Wordsworth's earlier poetry, such as *Tintern Abbey*, with a mood of religious tranquillity. Furthermore, his frequent use of abstract nouns such as 'sight' suggests a sensory gateway to the Divine; however, the senses, when they are stimulated by nature, provide 'intimations' only. Fundamentally, there is an 'eternal Silence: truths that wake, / To perish never.' Wordsworth therefore implores of his readers to adhere to his visionary rhyme 'And see the Children sport upon the shore, / And hear the mighty waters rolling evermore.' That the imagination is the only mode through which man can discern heavenly reality is the notion which Wordsworth most wishes to impress.

Nature's role in Wordsworth's poetry is as the mechanism through which man derives most pleasure. *Ode: Intimations of Immortality* and *Lines Written in the Early Spring* express despair and delight in the same tone in virtue of Wordsworth's belief in the Holy Spirit. For Wordsworth, nature alone connects us to God and God is therefore the reason for man's realisation of pleasure in nature.



# Dog Blog

If you want real, true adoration, come to school not as a teacher but as the school puppy. Everyone wants to make a fuss of you and life is generally wonderful and endlessly fascinating.

Shola is our college dog – she is a 4 month old Irish setter puppy who has been socialised with this in mind from the beginning. Her name was chosen from over 300 suggestions put forward by the students and she was presented in assembly when she was just 9 weeks old.

From the very first she has loved her work – she will trot jauntily down the corridor, tail wagging, looking out for children (and staff) to make a fuss of her. She has an adoring public and she expects everyone to love her.

Shola brings smiles to faces throughout the college – she comes to staff briefings in the early morning (which can distract staff from notices, but does lead to a relaxed atmosphere), then in this exam season it is off to meet and greet any students waiting to take their exams. From a long line of students queuing many will stroke her 'for luck' as they go, and staff can also benefit – before Maths GCSE many of the Maths teachers also came over to stroke Shola.

She has a real ability to identify students suffering from stress, which her presence seems to alleviate. Before one exam we had a student so stressed she felt she couldn't take the exam, but meeting Shola brought a smile to her face and she was then able to go in to sit her exam. In a class with some students known to be worried and anxious, Shola will invariably choose to sit beside those students rather than the other, calmer, students.

College life fascinates her – last week she discovered the college chickens and was riveted to the window watching them peck and scratch in the straw the other side of the glass. PE is always interesting and she always wants to go and play whatever game the students are playing (although she is kept off the pitches for health and safety reasons).

In any day in college she will meet well over 100 students and staff.

Yesterday we had 20+ year 7 PE students fussing her, 2 governors and the SEN department: the entire admin office came to a halt to say hello, she assisted in A level Law and History (where a student said she was the best thing all day), came to the staffroom at break and met more staff, sat in the concourse and received her due adulation from another 30+ students, and said hello to the college rabbits and guinea pigs. Between times she has a quiet bed in the History office, where she sleeps on her back, most inelegantly, deeply asleep like all young animals.

If she is hungry the kitchens insist she has fresh meat (it was cooked turkey last time) and students are always looking to see if Shola is in today – if the answer is yes, students have been known to drop everything in the corridor and rush in to see her. 'She's so soft!' they marvel as they stroke her silky coat – and it smiles again all round.



# US Sutton Trust Programme 2017 Success for Rebecca Banks

We are pleased to announce that Rebecca Banks in Year 12 has been selected for the prestigious Sutton Trust US Programme 2017. We would like to congratulate her on her successful application and examination, which will enable her to apply to the top US universities. Rebecca is one of 150 programme participants, selected from over 1000 qualified applicants for this year's programme. In order to learn more about how US universities make their admission decisions, Rebecca will go to the US this summer for a residential week at Yale University to receive support in the US university admissions process. The Sutton Trust is providing Rebecca with financial support to enable her take part in the residential. Prior to going she must take a series of ACT exams in Maths, English, Reading and Science in June, as well as numerous other tasks and assignments. Her place at one of the most renowned US universities is dependent achieving the highest grades in these examinations as well as her A Levels. In addition, she needs to perform at the highest standard in extra-curricular related activities. The university application process is different in the US so Rebecca will be able to apply to any number of US universities. We wish Rebecca continued success in the next stages of this rigorous US university application process.



## Photographic Competition

Over all theme of this year's competition is "Environment"

There are 3 competition age groups: 4 to 9 years. 10 to 14 years. 15 to 18 years.

There are 4 categories in each age group, they are as follows:

1) Wild and wonderful. 2) Tenderness 3) Growing things 4) People at work.

You may enter 3 photographs in each category at £1 per entry.

Photographs should be printed on A4 Glossy Paper

Attached or printed on the reverse must be the entrant's name, date of birth, address and telephone number and school attended.

The category entered must also be attached to the photograph or written on the reverse.

Photographs may be submitted from June 12th 2017 until 10 a.m. on the final submission day of Wednesday 4th October 2017. Judging will take place shortly after.

The entries will be accepted at the reception desk at Tavyside Health Centre, Abbey Rise, Tavistock. PL19 9FD, together with the entry fees.

Envelopes should be addressed to The T.P.A and marked "Photographic Competition".

We regret that we are not able to return the photographs entered into the competition but they may be collected after the exhibition by arrangement with the T.P.A.

The Prize Giving will take place in the Conference Centre at Tavyside Health Centre in October (date to be confirmed)

As in previous years, the prize for the winning photograph of an enlargement on canvas is again being generously sponsored by Dartmoor Photographic.

The engraving of the Maureen Reynolds trophy and all the monetary prizes for the category winners are once more sponsored by Mr Eric Reynolds.



# Diary of a Foyle Young Poet

By Cyrus Larcombe-Moore Foyle Young Poet of the Year 2016

<http://poetrysociety.org.uk/competitions/foyle-young-poets-of-the-year-award/prizes/diary-of-a-foyle-young-poet-2/>

If poetry was a place, The Hurst would be that home of writing. I have never experienced anything quite like being solely surrounded by like-minded people, and people with the same goals, hopes and dreams of attainment as each other. It is something I will always cherish. To be encompassed by such inspiring vistas, to enjoy good company and learn as much as I did about a craft I hold so dear, was quite magical.

The group sessions, spent with pens held tightly and sat around a table where we were all equals, were at first intimidating but once one understands that everyone around that table is there to push you to achieve more, you relax and words flow from you and from all the other writers too. There is no true silence at The Hurst, for wherever you go you will always find someone writing, and the sound of insistent scribbling is comforting.

Individual sessions taught me the most. The Poets [W.N Herbert, Malika Booker, and special guest Sarah Howe] were kind yet honest and provided us all with valuable snippets – which, when added together from those short periods of time, give you a well sculpted idea of where you need to go, and what you next need to write, or edit, or leave behind. These more intimate one-on-ones are what I enjoyed most and found most useful. No feedback clashed with the other and both [judges, W.N Herbert and Malika Booker] have changed the way I write poetry for the better. We built a community in the short time we had together at the Hurst. All were friends; late comers felt as if they'd been with us for months; and one always could find support in another member of the group. I'm not sure if we were lucky and came together as a group of people who could simply get on and gel without issue, but it certainly felt I had been friends with each member of the 15 for much more than a few days. I think it was the subtle combination of intimacy and escapism. You were able to isolate yourself completely or remain with a handful of people for days at a time. This dynamic brought a comfort to the friendship, as it allowed us the sanctuary of each other and of being solitary. Truly something I doubt I will experience again and wish I could. The food was good, the people were wonderful, the location was beautiful and the time I had was splendid. I would do it again if I could, and I would do it again after that and again after that. It was without question one of the best weeks of my life. I have met people I hope to know for a long time, and expect their names to be published in the near future. I tell them we will do this again, and I'm sure we shall. Some bonds aren't broken by distance and I think the connections made between poets in those few days will remain.

The Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award 2017 is now open for entries. The top 15 winning poets will attend an Arvon residential course, and are published in a winners' anthology. 85 commended poets are also published in an online anthology. All 100 winners receive Poetry Society membership, a goody bag and an invite to the awards ceremony at the Southbank Centre.



# Political Speed Dating

Year 7 students, accompanied by the Year 12 Law class, met local councillors for a political speed dating event at the college recently. Small groups of students had 7 minutes to question the councillors - then the whistle blew and they were off to the next one. Councillors from Devon County, West Devon Borough, Tavistock Town and various local parish councils were present in this popular annual event organised by Helen Harris for the college and Debo Sellis for the councils as part of the college's work on democracy.

Students asked challenging questions on a range of local issues, such as education and environmental matters, particularly recycling. Bus fares, voting ages, health matters and local speed limits also came up for discussion.

Councillors were enthusiastic about meeting the youth of Tavistock and were friendly and helpful, guiding the children through their viewpoints and explanations. Many thanks to all who took part



# The First Teenage Market

The Teenage Market is a national initiative that is designed to increase the involvement of young people in the business, enterprise and commerce of towns and cities around the country. The concept is simple in giving young people the space and opportunity to sell their home-made or sourced products without having to worry about the fees, overheads or insurance requirements that are often needed to sell in a public space. The first Teenage Market to ever take place in the Cornwall or Devon took place in Bedford Square on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May.

Despite the persistent rain the day was a great success. Market stalls ranged from our ever popular year 7 Apple co-operative apple juice, to sixth form artists and photographers showcasing their creative talents to home-made baking and stress balls aimed at young people. Entertainment was provided by Joe Crosher in year 9 and there were even some ex Tavistock College students present supporting Frances Spry and her fledgling fashion business.

The next Teenage Market is scheduled for Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October and we look forward to showcasing even more creative and entrepreneurial talent from within the College.





## Assistant Librarian

The College requires 6<sup>th</sup> form students to cover the library at lunchtime.

Salary: £7.78 an hour, by casual claim form.

Successful applicants will possess the following attributes:

- A love of books – essential
- Willing to interact with younger students
- Self confidence
- Good communication skills
- Good organisational skills
- Be ambassadors for the college library

The job will involve:

- Signing out books and maintaining the structures and systems of the library
  - Being responsible for maintaining order and standards in the library
  - Liaising with students and staff
  - Organising and cataloguing
  - Occasionally supporting the library as ambassadors or in extra reading events and activities
- 
- The hours will be 1pm to 2pm Monday to Friday
  - Due to the fact this includes period 4, we will need several students to ensure we can fully cover and this may involve split shifts
  - To apply: Email or hand in a letter of application to Mrs Davies in the Library: [l.davies@tavistockcollege.org](mailto:l.davies@tavistockcollege.org)
  - Your letter should outline why you will make an effective assistant librarian.
  - Deadline: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June, 4pm
  - Interviews will follow

## Raising money for St Lukes Hospice

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May, students from the sixth form, year 10 and 11 and members of staff had an enjoyable late afternoon playing rounders to raise money for St Lukes Hospice. To enter, each student team had to pay £30 and each staff team paid £40.

The weather was surprisingly kind, with even a few of the teams looking a bit red by the end of the afternoon. Teams represented year groups and faculties from the across the college, including DT, maths creative arts, science. Mrs Jones competed with the PE faculty. The turnout was fantastic with a good crowd ready to cheer on the teams. A tasty BBQ was on hand to help fuel the competitors as well as raise money. Thank you to Mr Forster for organising this event and congratulations to the Year 13 BTEC team for winning. Great fun was had by all. *Rebecca Banks*



## Meet the Tutor

Mr S Hulbert

Year 12 tutor and Head of PE.

**Teaching history** - it has been my pleasure to have been at the college for the last 11 years. It is my passion to see students develop their skills and become successful in a sporting environment.

**Nickname** - Doc - apparently I resemble a well known Doctor Who!!!!

**Interests** - I really enjoy watching and playing any type of sport, even the ones I'm bad at!!!! I'm hugely competitive.

**Biggest achievement** - Coaching the Sixth form Under 18s football squad to the recent Florida sports tour. To win both games on tour against outstanding opposition was a fantastic achievement. It was a privilege to have coached the football scholars.



# Tavistock

## COLLEGE

