



6th Form

# Fortnightly

21-07-2017

# FOCUS

## Dear parents, carers and students

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



### Diary Dates

**17th August**

A Level and AS results day

**24th August**

GCSE results day

**4th September**

New Year 12 enrollment day

**5th September**

First day of college

**22nd September**

UCAS early entry deadline for medical, veterinary and Oxford, Cambridge

It has been such a busy year, indeed it does not seem that long ago that Mr Jacob and I wrote the first 6th form focus! Time seems to fly at Tavistock College and in the education system as a whole. A combination of working hard and enjoying our time. We have now said goodbye and good luck to our Year 13 students who will be eagerly awaiting their results in August. We are immensely proud of the young men and women they have become, and I'm sure we will be able to celebrate their success come results day. There are also a number Year 12 students awaiting their AS level results. We have also been busy organising the next cohort of sixth form students for September, where numbers remain strong. We recently appointed a new prefect team, with Cyrus Larcombe-Moore as Head Boy and Darcey Hepworth as Head Girl. Samuel Beard and Rebecca Banks are their deputies whilst we also have a new team of prefects and house captains.

Last week I took the opportunity to talk with Torridge and West Devon MP Geoffrey Cox who was visiting the college to discuss education and finances with the Principal, Mrs Jones. I raised with him the concerns of students in regards to University fees and the student loans scheme. He seemed keen to engage and willing talk to our sixth form students. I will look forward to arranging a date in the next academic year where students will be able to discuss this with him further.

I will be inviting students and parents to a UCAS information evening in the new term to provide support with the application process. Representatives from several Universities will deliver a series of workshops on the UCAS process, personal statements and student finance. This is especially important for student and parents who have not had children or siblings go through the process before.

I would like to wish everybody a restful summer, and conclude by saying how I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know all the marvelous Year 12 students this year. Their commitment and dedication fills me with confidence for Year 13, and their futures that lay before them.

### UCAS

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

**Parent Guide 2018**

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

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

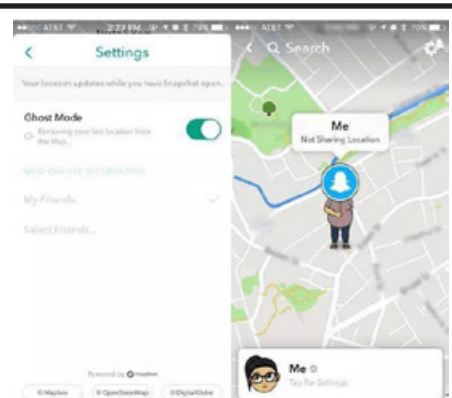
### Snapchat Warning

Snapchat has introduced a new feature in its latest update where you can view the exact location of your friends. It can give you the area, town and street, and if you zoom in enough, it shows the house on the street layout.

If your children are on Snapchat please check if this feature is active and, if so, that they have their location set to 'Ghost mode'. That way no one can see where they are.

To do this make sure app is the updated version and go to 'selfie' mode on the camera. Then zoom out. It will give you the option of changing to who can see your location.

As well as 'real' friends that users will be linked to, many will also have 'friended' fan accounts for leading actors and pop stars - they will also see your location and how can you be sure there is a bona fide person behind that account.



## 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.



## Founders 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. Mrs Harris



## Falmouth University

A group of Tavistock College sixth formers were welcome to Falmouth University on Tuesday 11th July, to see what the renowned creative institution could offer them beyond their A-levels.

It was great to see the enthusiasm of the students as they were shown the impressive technologies and opportunities offered by the Uni - particularly the photography department and the video game creation course, which had students and teachers alike discussing game ideas for the entire trip home. Other courses offered by Falmouth University include fashion design, fashion photography, film production and theatre stage production.

This was a truly inspirational trip, which will no doubt remind students of the importance of their A-Levels; they will need to return to College in September ready to give 110% to maximise their eligibility to get on the Uni courses they want Mr Hunter

## Careers Awareness

A group of Y12 students completed a careers and employability awareness day working alongside the College enterprise advisor Nigel Halford. Nigel was the CEO at Plymouth Science Park and his business contacts and connections have really helped the College this year. The students took a strategic approach to applying for jobs, writing applications, CVs and UCAS statements and were each given a mock interview which included some peer coaching and feedback. The focus was very much on those transferable skills that Universities and employers are looking for and will help our students with their decision making and CV writing that is a big focus at this stage of Y12. If any students feel they would benefit from a similar day or a mock interview they should contact Mr Ruse who can utilise Nigel or his contacts at the Tavistock Chamber of Commerce to provide a really useful and realistic experience.

Mr Ruse

### TAVISTOCK COLLEGE ENDOWMENT FUND

'A Registered Charity'

## Do you need financial help to support your education?

The Tavistock College Endowment Fund is a registered charity set up in 1932. Its purpose is to help pupils of the College with the expenses of education.

Grants can be awarded:-

- To support education costs.
- To provide assistance with clothing, tools and instruments on leaving school.
- To fund travel abroad to pursue education.
- To provide facilities for recreation and social or physical training.
- To provide financial assistance to study music or other arts.

### Eligibility

Young people under the age of 25 who are attending the college or have attended at any time for not less than 3 years and are resident in either the urban or rural areas of Tavistock (In the opinion of the trustees).

The trustees meet in **January May and October** each year to determine applications. Application forms are available from the Principal's office or can be downloaded from the college website. <http://tavistockcollege.devon.sch.uk/index.php/our-college/tavistock-college-endowment-fund/>

Applicants should provide **as much detail as possible** regarding family income and reasons why funding is required.

Students should note that Trustees rarely fund the whole cost of a school trip or project. They expect the student or their family to raise funds or contribute towards the cost.

**Please supply as much detail as you can when applying for a grant.**



# 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*

Maisie Williams

Will Dax



Camilla Snowden

# 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*





# Student Perspective

## Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis by Sam Chambers

What do unhatched eggs striving to fly, horses to grow wings, quivering dentist patients and toy soldiers all have in common? As well as being rather odd sounding metaphors, they are all, according to C. S. Lewis, us. The wretched 'human machines'. But why are we so naturally deficient, so confused, so in need of help? And what is the solution?

In the final few years of the Second World War, Mr. Lewis, a survivor of the lost generation of the trenches, gave a series of radio talks to the country in an attempt to outline, as broadly as he could, the Christian position. Mere Christianity is the collation of the transcripts of these talks and more. It has since become one of the most popular works in Christian apologetics. Some readers might, however, be surprised by how modern his views can sound, for example, on marriage: 'the Churches should frankly recognise that the majority of the British people are not Christians and, therefore, cannot be expected to live Christian lives.' (This is not, as we shall discover, his only view on the topic) Mr. Lewis leads the reader through Book One, Right and Wrong as a Clue to the Meaning of the Universe, to an understanding of the basic assumptions which underpin the Christian worldview. In What Christians Believe, the Oxford scholar and author of The Chronicles of Narnia goes one step further.

The universe is, unquestionably, callous and unjust. But where does one's notion of the just and unjust even come from? Even if the whole of reality is senseless, at least one small part of it—namely, one's own sense of justice—seems full of sense. 'If the whole universe has no meaning, we should never have found out that it has no meaning: just as, if there were no light in the universe and therefore no creatures with eyes, we should never know it was dark. Dark would be a word without meaning.' There is a moral law. And there must be a God which made it. From here, Mr. Lewis goes on to argue that wickedness is actually in no way a natural thing, but a perversion of goodness: the pursuit of good things, such as pleasure and power, through sadistic means. No one does bad for its own sake. Therefore, (although it may be noted that the light versus dark metaphor for good and evil would fail here) all evil comes ultimately from goodness, which exists in itself. Goodness as something eternal is one of the ways which Christians think about God. All evil, on the other hand, including death and the devil, arises as a consequence of the misuse of the free will which God has lovingly installed in the agents of His creation.

Such, shall we say, traditional concepts sit somewhat uncomfortably in the age of militant atheism. Yet the frank account Mr. Lewis provides of faith—his own arriving at the age of thirty-two only after a reluctant re-examination of the case for religion, which includes his argument from morality rehearsed above—is not stuffy; it is, in fact, rather refreshing. However, it is not a work of philosophy. In my opinion the logical consistency lasts up to the point at which the so-called leap of faith must be made. But how Mr. Lewis arrives at this point is nonetheless unsettling for proponents of a 'believe what you will' type of liberalism:

[Jesus] told people that their sins were forgiven, and never waited to consult all the other people whom their sins had undoubtedly injured. He unhesitatingly behaved as if He was the party chiefly concerned, the person chiefly offended in all offences. This makes sense only if He really was the God whose laws are broken and whose love is wounded in every sin. In the mouth of any speaker who is not God, these words would imply what I can only regard as a silliness and conceit unrivalled by any other character in history. And to those who say that Jesus may have been a great moral teacher without being divine, Mr. Lewis has this stinging riposte:

That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.

So, where does this leave us? Either the Gospels are in some literal sense true, or essentially fraudulent, perhaps immorally so. But Mr. Lewis' next move is to duly surrender himself because it appears to him 'obvious that He [Jesus] was neither a lunatic nor a fiend'. Well, it does not to me—and how reliable is the textual evidence on which the whole thing is founded, anyway? But Mr. Lewis can spare no time for historiography, and whisks us along to social morality, where he establishes the view that 'Christianity is the total plan for the human machine.' 'Total,' we should remember, forms the first five letters of another familiar word.

Then onwards we go to explore the depths of sin, sexuality and the like. Here, Mr. Lewis proceeds to bracket homosexuality in 'the bad psychological material [which] is not a sin but a disease. It does not need to be repented of, but to be cured.' Small relief may be found (later on in the book) in the reasoning that Mr. Lewis gives for the doctrine of why we should not judge one other—because we all shall be judged by our moral efforts and not, so to speak, by our moral performance. However, there remains a whiff of thought crime about the very pursuit of moral perfection (which we all fail in) and God's continual surveillance. And the eternal concentration camp too. Thus, sin is, as one would expect, covered extensively. Now what earns the accolade of The Great Sin (and an entire chapter to itself) may come as bit of a surprise. It is Pride. With a capital P. This may seem strange, but I think that the modern reader can take away a nugget of wisdom here. Pride, unlike the other vices, is essentially competitive. Greed may make a man want money, but pride will make him want more than his neighbour so to make him feel superior. Pride is what makes a tyrant hunger for more and more power until he is the most powerful of all. Pride is endless. We must realise that we ourselves are proud in order to acquire humility. 'If you think you are not conceited, it means you are very conceited indeed.'

By the time I had reached the blessed end (of the book) I had grown a little wearisome of the many metaphors for my innate inadequacy. (Born sick, and commanded to be well, as Hitchens said.) But the final chapter, on the post-Evolution 'New Men' which the cataclysmic event of Christ's arrival on Earth entails, left me, I'll admit, confused. For example: 'Eggs and alcohol and a good night's sleep will be the real origins of what I flatter myself by regarding as my own highly personal and discriminating decision to make love to the girl opposite to me in the railway carriage.' I should advise Mr. Lewis to lay off the eggs then (honestly, they are a real motif). From reading Mere Christianity, it is, at some points, possible to gleam a good conception of what the religious person means by authentic faith. But at other times, I am afraid, such as 'there must be something unnatural about the rule of wives over husbands, because the wives themselves are half ashamed of it,' I can't discern anything which resembles a proper argument at all. Alas, I remain an incorrigible agnostic. Still, I must acknowledge that C. S. Lewis was without doubt a superb writer, on the same level as his best friend J.R.R. Tolkien. But if looking for a piece of literature which might make you a convert, however, I should recommend The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe instead.



It was with a heavy heart that we bid farewell to our most recent cohort of Y13 students this week, as we held the annual graduation and prom.

Graduation was a resounding success, and afforded us an excellent opportunity to celebrate the various achievements of the year group. The only casualty on the day was Mr Smith's dignity, after his trousers were torn asunder whilst attempting to ride the bucking bronco hired in as part of the entertainment!

The Prom was held at The Loft in Plymouth, and saw students overlooking the picturesque Barbican whilst celebrating the end of their time at College. As ever, the students were well behaved and a credit to the College. It is with great pride that we wish them every success in their future endeavours.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in making each event so enjoyable, including students, parents and staff alike. A special thank you goes out to Mrs Mabey and the Prefect Team for their tireless efforts and great organisational skills, without which none of this would have been possible. *Mr Jacob and the Sixth Form Team*



## Sporting Heroes

Sports Day 2017 was won by Bedford house with 341 points

2nd - Glanville - 327 points

3rd - Tremayne - 270 points

4th - Drake - 251 points

5th - Fitzford - 212 points

Congratulations to everybody who took part.

Well done to the Student Leadership Team who competed where others feared to tread! Completing the obstacle race with style.



## Music Success

Congratulations to:

Sam Roberts - gr7 Bass Merit

Eric Moore - gr2 Theory Distinction

Taken with Trinity College London

# Tavistock

## COLLEGE