



Dear parents, carers and students

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

Dear parents, carers and students, so much seems to have happened since the last edition of the Sixth Form Focus. Students have been involved in a myriad of activities both extra-curricular and academically, and even life changing experiences on the Florida sports tour. Students have recently experienced the workings of a university on trips to Cardiff, Bath Spa and Oxford. We are currently organising a UCAS evening for parents and students interested in going to university. A series of workshops will help explain the application process, the importance of personal statements, and understanding student finance.



For students in year 13 we are scarily approaching the end of their time at Tavistock College. Coursework units are being wrapped up and important exam preparation underway. The majority of exams begin in May and will run into June, I will provide a comprehensive timetable of exams in a future edition when they have been finalised. Students are working really hard and I would like to thank them for their diligence as well as their parents and careers for their support during this incredibly busy time. If any student feels overwhelmed, then please let your teachers or the sixth form team know. We are here to help.

I would like to gently remind all sixth form students the importance of attendance. All Schools and Colleges have a target of 96% attendance as set out by central government. Studies into the correlation between school attendance and academic progress clearly show that students who have higher level of absenteeism perform less well than those who have a good record of attendance.

Please enjoy the articles written by our students.

Tom Galli

The Employability Passport

What is the Employability Passport?

The rationale behind the Employability Passport is to better prepare our students for the transition of leaving Tavistock College and entering the world of Higher Education or employment.

The Employability Passport will help provide the following:

- An increased awareness for students of the employability skills and transferable skills that are needed to help facilitate your future career path.
- A chance to record on-going achievements and activities as they occur during your two years within the Tavistock College Sixth Form.
- A record that will be easy to refer to and utilise when making UCAS or job applications.
- A vehicle for fostering engagement with prospective employers who value resilience and motivation within young people.

The Employability Skills

The passport is built around the following 5 key skillsets:

1. Communication
 - The ability to communicate effectively with a variety of different audiences in both verbal and written methods.
2. Problem solving and IT skills
 - The ability to risk assess, identify and solve problems and utilise both IT and creative media skills where appropriate.
3. Teamwork
 - The ability to work effectively as part of a team with different people in different contexts to help achieve a greater collective result.
4. Independence and using your own initiative
 - The ability to work effectively alone with self-maintained high standards and a willingness to succeed.
5. Professionalism and business & industry awareness
 - A willingness to learn and be knowledgeable about your chosen career path whilst demonstrating high standards of professionalism.

How is it Assessed?

Students should take ownership over their own employability passport. It would be expected that tutors would work alongside their tutees at regular intervals to facilitate the collection of evidence within the passport and to check that it is being used correctly.

With sufficient evidence across all five employability skills students should complete their employability passport before the end of year 13. Students may want to achieve a 'distinction' within their employability passport. To facilitate this, a thorough self-evaluation of your own performance and progress will be needed alongside an opportunity to present a summary of your work to an audience of staff, governors and local employers.

Diary Dates

13-17 March

Year 12 work experience.

22 March

UCAS Fair in Exeter

Latest Scholastic Book Magazine available from the Library

Deadline for orders:
Monday 13th March



Student Perspective

Oxford University

2017 Aspire Trip

by Beau Waycott

On Wednesday March 1st Mr Galli and Mr Chambers took a group of 25 students comprising of 17 from Year 12 and 8 from Year 10 to Exeter College for the Oxford University Aspire Trip. We left College at 6.30 am and arrived at Exeter College at 10.45am where we were met by Ms Alice McCallum, Co-ordinator for Outreach and Undergraduate Admissions Officer. She had organised a comprehensive and informative programme for us which involved an insight into life at Oxford and an in-depth analysis about the courses offered and the type of student Oxford is looking for.

The students enjoyed meeting current Oxford undergraduates who talked about why they had chosen Oxford and their current social and academic life as well as where their future plans. The undergraduates talked about course funding, accommodation, clubs, support for their academic studies and how they were contributing to College life. After the Q & A we were given an enjoyable tour of the College, including the Quad and the Chapel, before having lunch in the wonderful dining hall which gave us a feel of being in a 700 year-old College surrounded by all its history and tradition.

After lunch we went to one of the auditoriums where students took part in a group discussion based on sample university questions and were given tips about accessing useful resources as well as how to find out more about individual subjects. The interview process places emphasis on how students think as opposed to what they know and often there are no right or wrong answers. A key point related to the importance of having a genuine passion for a chosen course or subject. Ms McCallum also explained the importance of showing in the personal statement how experiences have developed self-qualities rather than merely listing achievements. At 2.30pm we were given feedback and a final opportunity to ask questions before enjoying some free time in Oxford. Some students were delighted to see members of the English Rugby team in Oxford where they were holding their final training camp before the next Six Nations game.

We left Oxford at 4.00pm arriving back at the College at 8.45pm after a very enjoyable and successful trip summed up by some of the student comments below:

'The trip to Oxford was an amazing opportunity. It was lovely to be able to see the inside of Exeter College and visit the city of Oxford. I especially loved that we got to talk to the undergraduates' *Charlotte Davis*.

'I found it very useful and interesting. I was nice to chat to the current students and hear about the interview and application process' *Amelia Harrison*

The Oxford trip was beneficial on many levels. Whilst providing a clear insight into the Oxford application process – most helpfully the interview technique favoured by staff – the Q & A by undergraduates showed us student life as it really is and was very informative about the selection of A-Level subjects. I also loved the free time to walk round Oxford.'



Magistrates Court Visit

by Kiah Tetley

On Wednesday the 8th of February, Mrs Lay's and Mrs Harris' A level law class, had an amazing opportunity to visit Plymouth magistrates court.

We arrived promptly at 8:00, and were met by a magistrate. She gave some instructions about what to do, and what not to do, and gave us a brief introduction to what we would see throughout the day. We were all little bit wary at this point!

Our group of eight was then split in half, and we were led into two courts. One of which was purely for 'guilty' pleas. I was quite surprised to see how small the court we sat in actually was – smaller than we had expected. The seats for the public were situated behind the glass dock, in which the defendant would stand.

The first case started when the three magistrates entered the room. We all had to stand, until they gave a nod, and we could sit back down and the trial would begin. The case began with the legal adviser explaining what crime the defendant was accused of committing. Following this, the defendant was lead up from the cells, handcuffed to a guard and led to the dock. One of the magistrates then addressed the defendant and asked for his full name and where they currently lived. We then heard the details of the case. There was a lot to listen to in each case, but it was very interesting.

After hearing the details, the magistrates asked for the defendant's plea. Guilty or not guilty. Every case, but one, that we heard gave a guilty plea. Then they discussed whether bail or custody would be more appropriate. In some of the cases, the magistrates adjourned to a room at the back of the court, to deliberate and discuss the case. Not all three of the magistrates have to agree on the verdict, it just has to be the majority. Once they had decided, they came back into the court to deliver the sentence to the defendant, who was brought back up from the cells.

Each of the cases that we heard lasted roughly 15-20 minutes, which seemed very quick. We heard a variety of different cases, ranging from drug charges to drink driving offences and indecent exposure. It was very interesting as each case was different from the next, and we didn't know what the next case was going to be. It was also really helpful for our law A-level, to see exactly how Magistrate courts work and the procedures that have to be gone through to reach the outcome. The Plymouth magistrate's court is open to the public every day. I would highly recommend going down to listen to a few cases, if nothing else, it definitely makes you want to stay on the right side of the law!



Florida Sports Tour 2017

By Alice Kodritsch



The tour was made up of 30 sixth form students, 15 girls representing the college Netball Academy and 15 boys representing Academy Football... soccer. We were accompanied by Mr Forster, Mr

Hulbert, Mrs Preece, Mrs Blackmore and Nigel Larcombe-Williams, aka the fairy Godfather.

We left the college at 12:01am on Thursday 9th in the coach and made good time, arriving at Heathrow for around 5:00 in the morning. A few managed to sleep on the coach, but the buzz of excitement kept many awake. The flight was scheduled for 9:45 so, after check in, we had almost 4 hours to spend in Duty Free. Shopping at 6:30 in the morning was certainly a new concept.

The flight was around 9 hours long and we arrived around 2:00pm Miami Time. Unfortunately, many of us had not considered that our comfy hoodies and tracksuit bottoms would not be ideal for stepping off the plane in 25 degrees at Miami Airport. That afternoon was spent relaxing and settling into our rooms at the La Quinta Inn Plantation. To begin the American food experience, Nigel arranged for us to eat at 'Smokey Bones' steak house where we enjoyed a range of steaks and burgers.

Friday 10th began with a 9:00 training session for both netball and football teams in about 23 degrees. Following this we had our Miami City Tour with a stop for lunch at an open-air Cuban restaurant which was very different from anything many of us had ever tried before. The tour went through many Hispanic villages before reaching Miami Beach where we stopped for photos.

That evening the girls had their first netball matches. The first team played and won against the Miami Pacesetters and the second team played a good match against the Lauderdale Netball team, but were just beaten. The boys cheered on supportively from the side lines, bringing chants from the football field to liven up the atmosphere.

Saturday 11th started with shopping at Broward Westfield Mall. Mr Forster was very helpful as he became the girl's designated bag carrier.

That evening the boys had their first match against Plantation FC where they won 2:1! The girls also had their second matches too, unfortunately they were narrowly beaten, but both teams put up a good fight. Such a good fight in fact that a quite a few injuries were sustained to the extent that, to get a sense of the American private health system, Darcey Hepworth was taken to hospital following an injury to her ankle.

Sunday 12th was a relaxed morning by the pool. Lots of the other hotel residents made it out into the sunshine that morning leading to a welcoming chat in the hot tub for Jon McCarthy and some resident girls keen to listen to the British accent.

Following this, we packed up and left the hotel for the 3 hour drive from Miami to Orlando. As we arrived at our new hotel, Champions World Resort, our bus overheated and began leaking coolant. It proceeded to be left at the resort for the next few days, outstaying our residence there. For dinner that night we ate at Manny's American Diner to increase our burger intake.

Monday 13th was the daytrip to Disneyland, Magical Kingdom. The entertainment began while we were waiting to leave and Lauren Able walked straight past the coach, with the rest of us on board, to the bus that only the day before had broken down. After standing by its doors with an expression of confusion as to the empty seats inside, she promptly turned and noticed that we were all staring and laughing from a different coach.

Mr Forster seemed the most excited once we arrived at Disneyland. As for the girls, they reaped the benefits of pushing Darcey around in a wheelchair all day as it reduced their waiting times for each ride. In the evening we regrouped to watch the light and firework display around the castle.

On Tuesday 14th we spent the morning and the early part of the

afternoon shopping at an outlet mall. I think the boys may have actually spent more than the girls. It was nice being able to shop at USA based stores such as American Eagle Outfitters.

That evening the boys had their



second match which they won 1:0 against ACYS Spirit United - aptly celebrated with a McDonalds for dinner on the way back to the resort. The girls were able to watch this match and, led by Mr Forster, attempted to perform some of the football chants they had picked up from the boys over the tour to support them. Every quarter of the football ... soccer game began with a strained rendition of the national anthem, much to the humour of surrounding American teams training on the site.

Wednesday 15th was spent at Universal Studios. To try and reciprocate the success the girls had with Darcey in a wheelchair at Disney, the boys put down a deposit on a wheelchair for Universal to reduce their waiting times. For most rides it didn't make much difference, but for the Escape from Gringotts and The Mummy roller-coasters we managed to get large groups through in much shorter time, thanks to the two wheelchairs. While Darcey stayed in her chair all day - genuinely chair-bound, the boys had to remember who had been in the chair the last time they had gone on specific rides as each 'disabled' individual got bored after a while. However, it was entertaining watching Mr Forster attempt wheelchair 'wheelies' and falling off on one occasion.

Thursday 16th was our last morning before the travel back to the UK. We spent all morning by the resort's pool and each received our Tour Award for something we'd done that was memorable on the trip. These were anything from Lawrence Dobson's 'Most Competitive Player' award to Amber Cox's 'Miss Popcorn Chicken' award after she mistakenly bought a metric pound of popcorn chicken, not realising the portion size. We left the resort at 2:00 and began our journey to the airport.

It really was the most incredible trip. 2 weeks on, many of us are still having withdrawal symptoms. We really do appreciate all the time and effort the teachers put into the trip and would like to thank Mr Forster, Mr Hulbert, Mrs Preece, Mrs Blackmore and Nigel for all they did in helping make the Sports Tour happen.

"The opportunity that was provided through this trip was unforgettable and the support from the teachers and other students was excellent. If only the trip could have been prolonged." *Ben Holland*

"Best trip! Nice to see everyone supporting one another at games creating a magnificent atmosphere for all! It was great for the footballers leaving the USA undefeated too!" *Jon McCarthy*

"I really enjoyed the whole experience and was gutted when it came to an end. It was great to spend time with people and even make new friends whilst we were there. The staff who accompanied us made the whole trip worthwhile as they were chilled out, caring and funny! I'll miss America, but I'm thrilled I was able to be part of the team who went!" *Abbie Wilkinson*



Geoffrey Cox

Tavistock College sixth form students met Geoffrey Cox last week to hear about his work as a barrister and as an MP, followed by a wide ranging discussion where students raised a number of issues. Students came from the Law class and the student prefect team, plus members of the college Amnesty International Group, as well as others interested in the opportunity to listen and ask questions. The question of whether the voting age should be lowered to 16 was hotly debated, while other matters concerned whether or not politics was too difficult for many people to understand, whether MPs should be guided more by their constituents on voting in Parliament – and if so, how MPs could decide what people thought –and how the means testing system for university loans could be unfair and affect where students could choose to study at degree level. A particularly interesting aspect this year was when the debate became wider ranging, with Geoffrey Cox describing how important he felt the main political parties in the UK are to the British body politic, and how the different strands of political discourse are all vital for representing every point of view. His key message was to get involved – and the students present certainly did so! *Mrs Harris*



Photo by Amelia Roberts

Legal team from Bond Dickinson visit classroom



Tavistock College Law and Business Studies students welcomed a high powered legal team from Bond Dickinson, the national major law firm, to class this week. The team explained the different routes into a legal career, from the traditional university degree to the new higher level legal apprenticeships, and gave a presentation with a series of scenarios covering the kind of problems that clients bring to law firms for help resolving. Students found the presentation really interesting: as Tom Bloye remarked, “it was really useful to get an insight into commercial law”. Indeed one of the team, paralegal Becky Gliddon, studied A level Law at Tavistock some years ago – ‘It was lovely to welcome Becky back’ Mrs Harris said.

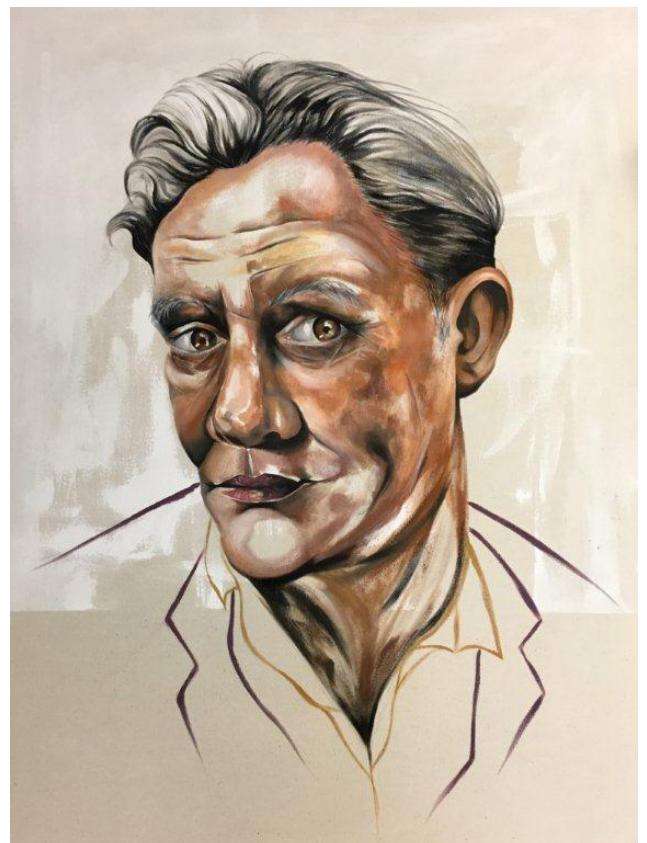


Question Time

Alice Kodritsch and Cyrus Larcombe-Moore represented Tavistock College at a recent local Tavistock version of Question Time at the Town Hall. The event was organised by Cllr Debo Sellis to enable local people to question a variety of representatives from key organisations: the leader of West Devon Borough Council, Philip Sanders, was able to respond to questions about planning, Devon and Cornwall police were there, along with representatives from the NHS and Clinical Commissioning groups. Our students brought a different perspective to the issues raised so that the views of the young people of Tavistock could be heard. Questions from the floor covered a wide range of local matters, from business rates to policing to local health care provision, and Alice and Cyrus were able to explain to the audience how their school lessons and the ethos at the college related to wider concerns about the local environment and the future of Tavistock.

Helen Harris

Gallery Space



Daisy Trewartha-Wyatt

Year 12 Community Performances



As part of the Cambridge Technicals Level 3 in Performing Arts the Year 12 group put on an evening of community based performances last week. The students had to write, compose, choreograph and design all aspects of the performances whilst also focusing on production skills. Each piece had a different commission: The novel by Arthur Conan Doyle *The Hound of the Baskervilles* set on the moors, the historical situation of the Bal Maidens of the local tin mines and the contemporary scenarios of refugees being placed in safe houses in Devon. These big topics were wrestled into shape by the group to create exciting, interesting and thought provoking performances thoroughly appreciated by the large audience that the students had gathered. One audience member said 'I can't believe how they have coped with such diverse topics in such a mature way - they've really made me think!'. The project

was a steep learning curve for all involved but the talent of the students shone through in their strong performances. Well done all! *Mrs Pearson*



Music Performance

On Saturday 21st January, the Year 13 music class performed at Tavistock Wharf supporting former pupil Sam Brockington and Double Denim. The Wharf was packed as the year 13 band 'For Pete's Sake' opened up the evening to rapturous applause! They played a 25 minute set and the audience all wanted more. The other bands and Wharf management were very complimentary about the professionalism and talent shown from the band members.



Congratulations to:
Peter Alexander, Aimee Chappell, Joshua Coombe, Mike Coomber, Tei Daratsa, Georgina Hiles, Anna Powell and Caleb Prouse

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Theatre Royal trip

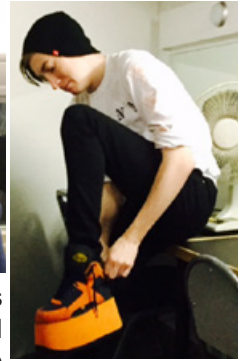
On Wednesday 1st February the Year 12 Level 3 Performing Arts course took their first industry trip.



We went to the Theatre Royal Plymouth to work with Pipeline Theatre Co and look at scriptwriting techniques. Working with Jon the Artistic Director and Pipeline's writer, students had the chance to look at how scripts can develop from what the writer initially starts with. There was a chance to perform on The Drum stage and try out sections of



Pipeline's script before doing a backstage tour of the Theatre Royal. Students were surprised at how 'functional' back stage is - its not as glamorous as expected and the anecdotal stories from Hannah our guide helped us really understand the workings of the biggest production house in Britain. Next stop was TR2 over at Cattedown where the secondary cast of Mama Mia were rehearsing and everywhere we went we could hear snippets of 'Dancing Queen'! we saw and tried on many costumes and had an exclusive glance at some of the sets being built. After a quick pizza fill up we were back in The Drum watching Spillikin - an original show by Pipeline Theatre Co with a robot as one of its cast members. The audible gasp from the audience at the lifelike response from the robot and the fantastic acting by the cast as leading character Sally descends into the



depths of dementia will certainly stay with us for a long time. A fantastic first trip for the group with sustainable learning about the real world of theatre.

Many thanks to Mrs Sharp for accompanying us. *Mrs Pearson*



Meet the Tutor

Mr P Keegan

I have been at the college for around 8 years and have enjoyed being a sixth form tutor for that whole time. It is a huge privilege to be able to support students through such a crucial time in life and I take a great deal of enjoyment from the relationships that we develop. I was actually a student here at the college and never imagined at the time I would come back, especially as a teacher! However it was the inspiring teachers at the time that clearly made more of an impact on me than I realised back then. My design and technology teacher Mr Charlie Loudon helped transform me from a slightly head-in-the-clouds teenager into an enthusiastic, ambitious and driven product design student. As a surfer I followed the waves in my choice of university and studied Product Design at Swansea Institute. After graduating I developed a fascination with the wider world and spent four years travelling abroad as well as working on the Cornish beach of Polzeath. Traveling to far-away places is something I believe all people should consider and I cannot imagine a more enriching experience. My favourite quote is 'Life is an exciting adventure, or it is nothing' which I think about a lot when trying to make life decisions. I started working as a carpenter and enjoyed a range of interesting builds for a couple of years but then the idea of teaching just hit me like a sledge hammer, I loved the idea of the scale of it as a personal challenge, to be honest the idea of actually standing in front of a class terrified me, but then I thought that surely everybody would feel this same way. A few months later I found myself starting my training down in Truro, again being near the surf wriggled its way into my decision making. I then secured my first teaching job in Ilfracombe College in North Devon, living at Croyde beach allowed me to surf before and after work on the good days which was a huge perk. When the Tavistock job came up I jumped at it. This is such an amazing school in such a buoyant and positive community, I have loved my time here and even after 8 years here I can honestly say that I have my dream job.



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