



As we enter December we think, of course, of Christmas and the end of another calendar year. We think of the trials and tribulations that we have experienced, as well as the successes and achievements we have made over the last twelve months. Its an opportunity to reflect upon the amazing experiences and efforts our students and staff have been involved in,

if I were to list them it would take up far more than the space than I am allowed. Over the last two weeks we have seen some outstanding performances both on the sports field and on stage. Congratulations to everyone involved, also a massive thank you to the staff and volunteers that allow our students to be able to show their talents in such ways.

You are warmly invited to our annual Carol Service on Wednesday 13th of December, it would be great to see lots of parents, particularly at the evening service.

On Wednesday we will be having our first 'have your say day' of the year, this is the students opportunity to raise any concerns they have about the school and what we can do to improve the learning environment. Questionnaires will be available from members of the college student council at both break and lunchtime on Wednesday 6th December

As this is the last fortnightly focus before the end of term, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas season. *Mr Forster*

## A message for Christmas from the Vicar of Tavistock

TAVISTOCK TIMES GAZETTE - DICKENSIAN TIMES - 01 DECEMBER 2017

At Christmas, we should never tire of hearing of the baby Jesus in swaddling clothes in a manger at Bethlehem and of how the shepherds, guarding their flocks on the nearby hillside, were filled with awe as suddenly the angels appeared and proclaimed the good news of the birth of God's Son: "Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth". The great celebration of the nativity reminds us of the closeness of God to us, born into our ordinary life. It's a mystery which stretches our minds. The new-born child is our living link with God. Perhaps we are amazed and surprised that God should come among us in such humble circumstances, but Christmas is the promise that "God is with us".

By choosing to be born in such a desolate and poor place, away from the world's palaces and riches, God turns upside-down our worldly notions of fame and success. The first to share the joy of Mary and Joseph in their humble surroundings were country people, shepherds, guarding their flocks by night. Their presence was an assurance that God had come to ordinary people carrying out their normal work. The simplicity of it all challenges us to get rid of falseness and pretence otherwise we will never realise our need of a Saviour who will open a door and give us a fresh start with glorious possibilities.

To make this new beginning we need to rediscover the joy of the Christmas story, and we need to be a part of the story ourselves. We too need to come as the shepherds did to see for ourselves the great things that God has done. We too need to rejoice, for at Christmas God comes to each one of us.

Please celebrate the closeness of God and may the joy, peace and love of the Christmas season be yours.

*very Revd Dr Christopher Hardwick - Vicar of Tavistock*




### TAVISTOCK COLLEGE

## *Christmas Carol Service*

**WEDNESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017 AT 6.30PM**

**ST EUSTACHIUS PARISH CHURCH, TAVISTOCK.**

RSVP- Chantelle Cocker - c.cocker@tavistockcollege.org - 01822 614231 ext. 214



## Save the Children CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

**Christmas Jumper Day Friday 15 December**

Help raise money for Save the Children by paying £1 to wear jumper to school instead of a blazer!

## Plymouth Festival 2017

### Class S14 11 to 14 years

Oliver Crosher 85 – 1st

Euan Kurdzill 83 – 3rd =

### Class S19 OC 12 – 14 years

Constance Ballard 87 2nd

Anya Taylor 83

Emilia Barrett 83

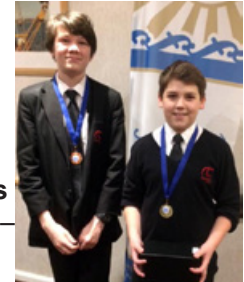
Hannah Barton 83

Ashton Jones 85

Lachlan Mitchel ill

### Class S86 Duo – Poetic 11 to 16 yrs

Chloe Shaw & Isabelle Hillman 84 – 2nd



## Please be Vigilant

We would like to bring to your attention some information from the local community safety partnership about parents being vigilant about where their children are going:

The partnership officers have been made aware that the newest social "craze" is "boot parties": A boot party is where a young person gets into the boot of a car on the promise of being taken to a party in another part of the country. Typically Cardiff/Bristol/London. As you can imagine this rarely ends well and some students in South Hams have been abandoned en route or not let out for hours.

# READY TO LEARN

Thank you to the many parents who came along to the parent consultation on the new Ready to Learn system. We took some of suggestions on board and teachers will be trained in the new system before Christmas. This week students have all had assemblies explaining how the new system works and why we have made the changes.



We acted because some students and parents have commented to us that there are instances of poor behaviour in lessons which are preventing them from learning. Many of our students identify that the poor behaviour of a minority of students disrupts their learning. This echoes the findings of a national report commissioned by Ofsted called Below the Radar. The report identifies that a key barrier to progress in schools can be low-level disruption. Here at Tavistock College we are clear that we will not allow the behaviour of a minority of students to have a detrimental impact on the quality of learning for others. Essentially, the aims of the system are:

- To eliminate all disruptive behaviour, so that there is a scholarly culture where students take learning seriously and no learning time is wasted
- To provide clarity for staff and students about acceptable behaviour and the consequences of poor behaviour or behaviour that means students are not ready to learn
- To foster an environment of respect for adults and fellow students.
- To encourage students to be self-motivated and responsible, independent learners who take responsibility for their own actions
- To enable teachers to deliver lessons that inspire, engage, challenge and support students to reflect on their learning in a positive learning environment free from interruptions

In the classroom, the Ready to Learn strategy gives clear expectations for teachers and students to enable teachers to teach and students to learn effectively. This is a straightforward system. It does not represent a change in our values and expectations, however it does enable decisive action to be taken to ensure that these expectations are consistently and rigorously applied.

In class, the teacher will give one warning to any student who is not meeting the Ready to Learn expectations. If this is repeated, he/she will be sent to work in the Ready to Learn room. The student will remain in this room for their learning for one full teaching day (5 lessons). Parents/Carers will be informed of the isolation by the class teacher via telephone. The class teacher will also meet with your child for a restorative conversation, so that the issue can be resolved and to support future learning.

The feedback from parents since I wrote to them this week has been very positive and parents have welcomed the high standards of behaviour that Tavistock College is insisting on. We will be starting the system on 2nd January and we will review the policy as and when required to make improvements. *Mr Smith, Assistant Principal*

**Tavistock  
COLLEGE**

Together, we care, we challenge, we excel.

## Ready to Learn

- Arrive on time, before the second bell at break/lunch
- Be polite to teachers and to other students.  
Be well mannered at all times (e.g. never swear or argue.)
- Be sensible in lesson and make sure that there are no disruptive behaviours.
- Only use mobile phones when the green sign is shown.  
No headphones allowed out in lessons.
- Listen respectfully (in silence) when someone else is talking
- Bring the correct equipment to lessons and look after school equipment if you use it.
- In lesson concentrate, complete your work and do not distract others.  
If a teacher asks you to work in silence, do so.
- Sit where you were asked to sit.  
If you feel that this is inappropriate respectfully ask the teacher at the end of the lesson
- No outdoor clothing (coats/scarves) to be worn in lessons
- No eating or drinking in class apart from water.  
Chewing gum is not allowed.
- Ensure that you behave in a safe way at all times (e.g. no pushing and wear eye protection when instructed to.)
- Do not run or make loud noises in the buildings.



## Law Trip

Year 13 Law students visited Plymouth Crown Court recently as part of their studies of the more serious criminal offences. In the case that day the defendant was charged with malicious wounding and due to certain peculiarities of the evidence it was one of the most technically interesting cases we have seen. The judge invited the class in before the official proceedings began to explain some unusual details, and the first hour was taken up with legal arguments between the defence and prosecution barristers as to whether statements could be read to the jury in the absence of the witnesses - in the end the judge decided they could. Students listened intently to the case built by the prosecution, and we are now waiting to hear the verdict of the jury. Altogether it was a very valuable lesson with both offences and defences presented by the barristers - real life useful examples for revision. *Mrs Harris*



# 2017 Japanese Exchange,

November 13 - 24



An immensely enjoyable and interesting experience. We visited cultural landmarks ...and a fantastic insight into the daily life of a Japanese family." Ben Moran

The level of Japanese of our students and talked about how the relationship has deepened between Tavistock and Edogawa now that over 320 pupils from Tavistock College have been to Tokyo since the exchange programme started in 1999. As well as visiting the iconic sights of Tokyo including Meiji Jingu Shrine, the Daibutsu (Great Buddha) in Kamakura, Asakusa and Harajuku, we spent a few days in different Japanese schools. The students enjoyed a day observing and taking part in lessons at Tamagawa Seigakuin Girls' Junior and Senior High School; a day at Tokyo City University Boys' Junior and Senior High School; and a day at Meisai primary school where pupils participated jointly in lessons and gave their self-introductions in front of the Meisei students. Throughout our stay the Japanese schools, families and officials from Edogawa and Setagaya looked after us wonderfully. We will have the chance to reciprocate when the Japanese visit in March 2018. *Chambers sensei*



"My trip to Japan with the school was absolutely, life changingly amazing." *Marnie Hoare*

"I would really advise others to take this opportunity, the friends and memories I have made will last a lifetime." *Josie Handscomb*

"An amazing experience that I will never forget as I saw things and experienced things I never thought would happen." *Joe McCormick*

"It was really nice to be able to practice my Japanese in the schools and with my host family." *Charlotte Mills*

"The trip to Japan was a truly fantastic experience." *Beau Waycott*

"Visiting the different shrines and temples showed how amazing the culture is" *Natasha Dettlaff*



The College educational and cultural exchange trip to Tokyo continues to make a strong and lasting impression on all the students who participate. Fourteen pupils from Years 11, 12 and 13 stayed with host families in Setagaya ward and visited Edogawa ward on the east side of Tokyo where they were warmly welcomed by Mr Masami Tada, the Mayor of Edogawa. He praised the



"The experience of staying with the host family was amazing and allowed me to see the real Japan." *Devon Jackman*

"The culture, food and people exceeded all expectations." *Charlotte Davis*



"It was the schools that I thought especially rewarding as all the students wanted to meet us and include us in what they were doing." *Benjamin Bowen*

Tokyo is an amazing place ... I experienced what it's like to live in a city and how different it is to Tavistock." *Amy Eaton*

"Japan is truly the most beautiful, amazing country I have ever been to. The host family were so kind, and we had so much fun with their family." *Susie Danvers*

"My favourite part of the trip was when we went with our families to the Tokyo Sky Tree, which was amazing" *Jack Tuckwell*



## Diary Dates

### Governors meetings

#### Resources Committee

4 December @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

#### Chairs Committee

6 December @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

#### Full Committee

6 December @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

### Nativity Musical

#### Theatre Royal

6 December @ 6:00 pm - 11:00 pm

### Year 8

#### Parents/Carers Evening

7 December @ 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm

### Year 7 Carol Concert

13 December @ St Eustachius Church 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm and 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

### Christmas Break

18 December 2017 - 1 January 2018

## Animal Care

The Year 7 Animal Care group completed their course with a session on caring for sick or injured animals, looking at treatments that can be provided at home and when to call the vet, with special emphasis on protecting themselves as well as the animal! The session was led by Teresa Tyler, science technician but also qualified in animal first aid. With the help of Shola the college dog she explained to the students what signs of ill health might be seen and what to do about them, giving the students confidence about caring for their own animals at home.

*Mrs Harris*



## Mary Budding Trust

Year 9 students on the Land Based Studies course raised over £50 this term, raffling garden produce they had grown at the college, in aid of the Mary Budding Trust. This is a local charity that supports primary school children with additional needs by providing grants and equipment. Jonathan Wates received the cheque on behalf of his father, the well known former head of Tavistock County Primary School Mr Anthony Wates.

*Mrs Harris*



## Year 7 Football

The Y7 football team successfully navigated the 4th round of the ESFA national cup competition, which sees us into the last 64 schools in the country for the first time. A massive achievement, the recently named young cooperative team of the year displayed all the traits of a motivated, passionate and talented team, who are modest and thrilled with their victory. We dominated the game for large periods playing intricate and attractive football with a cutting edge.

Man of the Match - Sam Hunter. Goal scorers - Wheeler, Short and Wall. Well done to the whole team. Mr Mifsud

## Year 8 Rugby

The Y8 rugby team attended the Mount Kelly invitational tournament and put together some fine performances against high caliber opposition. The competition were relentless as the boys played 4 team for 20 minutes each.

**Results** - Tavistock 0-0 Stover School, Tavistock 5-15 Exeter Cathedral school, Tavistock 10-5 Okehampton College, Tavistock 5-5 Mount Kelly. Tavistock finished joint 2nd with 5 points behind winners Stover school. The team won the game against Okehampton which was the main objective for them and the draw against Mount Kelly will lead to a rematch soon. Congratulations to the team. *Mr Corkell*

# Tavistock

## COLLEGE



Every Thursday  
15:15-16:45

tic tac

table top

Starts 23rd November

Come and play great games with us.

In the Octagon

Tic Tac Tabletop  
tictactabletop@gmail.com

## Sport Results

15 Nov

### Year 9 Rugby Tournament

Tavistock won all of their games:

Plympton Academy 4 - 1

Eggbuckland 3 - 2

Coombe Dean 4 - 1

Stoke Damerel 6 - 0

St. Boniface 8 - 0

16 Nov

### Y8 & 10 Netball East Cornwall League

Year 9 won 11 - 1

Year 10 won 7 - 1

9 Nov

### Under 15's EFSA Cup v Penryn (H)

Tavistock lost 7 - 0