

Fortnightly FOCUS

For Students & Parents





Dear all, I'm struggling to get my head around the fact that it's nearly the end of January, in fact Mr Jerrett informed me today that it is 11 months until Boxing Day!

We have a very busy fortnight ahead, a visit by external

company, Hunamutopia, taking up a lot of time for our Year 10 and 8 students. Their project is titled 'Who are you' and is aimed at students gaining an understanding of who they really are, where they come from, why they make the decisions that they do and how those decisions affect both themselves and those around them. Lots of students are busy fundraising in the community for different groups, both home and abroad. Bring and

buy sales, bag packing in local supermarkets and selling raffle tickets, the students are taking a very active lead in supporting different groups in their own time.

I hope that you have a fantastic end of January and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming parents evenings. Mr Forster

Bits and Bob

Following the very successful Apple cooperative, the Year 7 team are pleased to announce the start of a new venture with the launch of Bits and Bobs, our new on-site stationary store. Initially stock will be limited to pens, pencils, pencil cases, but we hope to extend our range over time.

The shop will be located in the library during tutor time on Monday to Thursday and staffed by volunteers from Year 7. In addition, pop-up shops will be touring the faculties and tutor groups each morning.

Please note, that we are currently a cash only shop.



Sport Results

10th January

Indoor Cricket v Okehampton.

Tavistock lost.

11th January

Indoor Cricket Year 9 & 10 @ Ivybridge. Tavistock through to county finals in Exeter.

10th January

Year 7 Girls Football v Coombeshead.

Tavistock 3 Coombeshead 2

15th January

Under 15s Rugby v D.H.S.

Tavistock lost

17th January

Year 10 Boys v D.H.S.

Tavistock 3 - D.H.S 1

Art Workshops 2018

There have been two brilliant workshops this month in the Creative Arts Faculty as part of the cultural curriculum offering opportunities in art that would not ordinarily be available to students.

Sculptor James Lake, based in Exeter, was back in for the third year running working with Year 11 GCSE Art students. Students created sculptural heads using recycled materials as part of their GCSE coursework. They created fantastic sculptures and got the opportunity to work with a successful local practising artist.



A selection of Year 8 students also got the opportunity to express their creativity with Andy Cairns of



West Devon Art Workshops based in Tavistock. He worked with students to create 3D willow sculptures. Students revelled in working spontaneously and produced a diverse range of creative forms.



'It was such a fun, exciting experience and I would love to do it again. Also I got loads done in the two hours and managed to finish it.'

'I really enjoyed the workshop because we were taught the basics and then we were just allowed to make anything we wanted, our only restriction being our imagination.'



Message From The Principal

National Funding Formula – Headteachers' response

As you are aware, we have campaigned for much improved funding for our schools for a sustained period of time.

In September 2017 the government announced its new National Funding Formula. Consequently, the Department for Education reduced the amount that it had originally planned to take from school budgets by £1.3 billion (2015-2020) and confirmed new formula arrangements for how schools would be funded from April 2018.

Headteachers have looked in detail at the Department for Education's own funding information and statistics and have concluded that the new arrangements fall well short of what was promised.

Despite promises to the contrary, your child's education is still worth less than that of many others. It is acknowledged that factors such as deprivation, mean that schools should be funded differently, but the disparities that will still be in place for the next financial year 2018-19 (and beyond) are impossible to regard as being satisfactory in any way.

Some basic headlines – again using the Department for Education's own statistics - confirm the following:

- Pupils in Devon will receive around £30 million less than the same number of pupils in the average funded authority, £139 million less than the same number of pupils in Westminster and £212 million less than those in Hackney.
- Over five years, for example, Years 7-11 therefore, this equates to differences of £150 million from the average funded authority and a staggering £1 billion less than students in Hackney.
- In Devon, a secondary school of 1139 pupils will have a budget of £5.4 million. This compares to a budget of £7.5 million for the same size school in Hackney. The total funding difference is £2.1 million (36%)
- In Devon, a secondary school of 1010 students will have a budget of £4.9 million. This compares to a budget of £6.7 million for the same size school in Hackney. The total funding difference is £1.7 million (36%).
- In Devon, a secondary school of 795 students will have a budget of £3.8 million. This compares to a budget of £5.2 million for the same size school in Hackney. The total funding difference is £1.4 million (37%).

The following fact sheet provides examples across a range of Devon secondary schools, which clearly demonstrates how your child's education is being penalised by the proposed new formula. The same percentage differences are also apparent in our primary and special schools.

To give an idea of how badly children in Devon schools are being funded, when compared to other areas, we can confirm that, an additional £1 million of funding can purchase the following:

- 34 teachers at an average salary (including on costs) of £30,000
- 63 teaching assistants at an average salary (including on costs) of £16,000
- 2000 computers at an average cost of £500
- 40,000 text books at an average cost of £25

Additional funding could also be spent on a range of other crucial resources and support staff in areas such as Special Educational Needs and Disability, counselling services and intervention work for students across the ability range.

For over two years, Headteachers have run a relentlessly reasonable campaign requesting a fair deal for the children in our schools. We have absolutely no desire to see schools in other parts of the country have a reduction in their funding, but we cannot accept that the children that we educate are treated so unfairly.

At times, our resources and that of the Local Authority are so stretched that we worry about carrying out the most basic duty – that of maintaining the best possible welfare provision – to the levels to that all schools should be able to.

Some schools are even resorting to asking for parental contributions to supplement our beleaguered budgets. This is entirely unacceptable.

Headteachers in thousands of other low funded areas of England, are all stating the same facts. We are delighted that a cross party group of councillors from Devon are also continuing to support our campaign so clearly. On 16th January 2018, councillors and representatives of headteachers from Devon primary and secondary schools met with MPs to highlight the issue of school funding once again. The proposed new formula is "not fit for purpose"

In November, representative Headteachers from 5000 schools across 25 counties, petitioned the chancellor directly. The response was both superficial and inadequate. We now need every parent to step up alongside their child's school and insist that matters must improve.

As a first action, we need our local MPs to raise their voices publically and unequivocally once again to confirm that the new funding formula proposed by the government is simply not fit for purpose. Their constituents must come before any party interest

Our collective work – and in particular, the sustained intervention of local MPs - was important in ensuring that some improvements were made to original proposals for the new formula. We now need to have this work finished fairly and adequately. Maintaining the status guo is just not acceptable.

Every pupil sits the same examinations and all pupils have the right to adequate levels of funding and support so that their dreams and aspirations can be fulfilled. It is also vital to our country's future wellbeing and prosperity that every child is given a proper opportunity to succeed.

Sarah Jones
On behalf of all schools in Devon

Funding information and factsheet January 2018

Context:

Schools and academies in Devon have been severely financially disadvantaged for at least a decade. Over the past three years additional rising costs have seen matters reach a critical point. On average, large secondary schools have been making savings of approximately £250k year on year. Primary and special school budgets have been under equal pressure.

What does the National Funding Formula do for low funded schools and counties?

"In conclusion, the new national funding formulae will redress historic inequities in funding that have existed for too long" - Justine Greening MP – former Secretary of State for Education – New National Funding Formula announcement, Sept 2017. "This means that for the first time everyone can see what the national funding formula will mean for them and understand why. Alongside addressing these historical injustices..." – Nick Gibb MP – Minister for Schools, October 2017.

The new National Funding Formula **does not** solve the two problems that it was designed to tackle – **real terms funding decline** and **funding inequalities** across schools and counties.

The new National Funding Formula has injected some additional cash in to schools. Much of this will be offset by rising costs. In real terms school budgets will either have a small uplift or will remain static in 2018 and beyond. Worked examples for individual schools can be provided in order to demonstrate this point.

Schools and pupils are judged by identical performance data including KS2 and GCSE outcomes and also OFSTED. Funding for schools with similar socio-economic characteristics will still be hamstrung by significant inequities under new National Funding Formula proposals.

Please note these statistics are all based on the Department for Educations own database for the financial year 2018-19. The figures relate to year groups 7-11 and **do not include additional funding such as Pupil Premium Grant (PPG).** PPG is worth £1320 per eligible pupil in primary schools and £935 per eligible pupil in secondary schools.

NB a secondary school with 250 pupils eligible for free school meals in the last 6 years would receive an additional £233,750 through PPG.

A large secondary school with 25% of pupils (400) eligible for Pupil Premium would receive an additional £374,000 each year. It should be noted that London schools must pay a higher London weighted salary but this has been removed from the calculations.

How does the new funding formula impact upon schools and academies in Devon?

Average per pupil unit funding	Primary (PUF)	Secondary (SUF)
Average per pupil funding Devon	£3,880	£4,884
Average per pupil funding Greenwich	£4,898	£6,451
Average per pupil funding Hackney	£5,887	£7,840

Please note that the same proportionate funding differentials apply in the primary school sector.

Special schools in Devon also receive lower average funding than equivalent schools in other local authorities. Furthermore, unlike mainstream schools there is no planned funding uplift, even 0.5% per pupil, planned in 2018/19 owing to the funding pressures affecting High Needs.

Performing Arts

It's been a very busy start to the new year for our sixth form performing arts students! In the space of just 2 very intense weeks, Year 13 did brilliantly well to complete three major units of their course. Hard work certainly paid off in the outstanding, insightful and sophisticated performances that students gave in all three performing arts; dance, drama and music. They certainly deserve a (momentary!) rest before commencing their final unit of the course in a Combined Arts performance.

Year 12 have been busy rehearsing, directing, advertising, choreographing and composing for their upcoming show 'MythFits'; which is shaping up to be a hilarious, witty and imaginative delight not to be missed! Tuesday 6th February, performances are 4pm, 5.30pm, 7pm in the PlayStation Theatre.





Diary Dates

Spring Term

26 January

- James Lake art workshop Y11
- Holocaust webcast Y9
- Bring & Buy sale Y9 2:10pm 7:10pm

29 January

Hamlet Workshop 3:15pm – 5:30pm

30 January

- Humanutopia Workshop Y10
- Brittany Trip parents/carers meeting 6:00pm – 7:00pm

31 January

Humanutopia Workshop Y10

31 January

- Matthew Bourne workshop
- Parents/Carers evening Y9
 4:30pm 7:30pm

1 February

- Humanutopia Workshop Y10
- Matthew Bourne's Cinderella 6:00pm – 11:00pm

5 February

 DIAS SEND parent information event 9:30am – 12:30pm

6 February

- Humanutopia Workshop Y8/10
- 'Mythfits' Y12 Community Exam practical theatre 4:00pm, 5:15pm and 6:30pm

7 February

- Humanutopia Workshop Y8/10
- Hamlet Theatre Royal 6:00pm 11:00pm

8 February

 Y13 parents/carers evening -4:30pm – 7:30pm

Half Term 12 - 16 February

20 February

- Fire Brigade presentation Y10
- Art Workshop at artist studio Y12

22 February

- Print making workshop Y12/13
- Y12 parents/carers evening 4:30pm
 7:30pm

23 February

Choir Workshop Y8 - 13

28 February

Sports Tour meeting - 6:00pm - 7:00pm

1 March

Skills South West Fair

5 March

- Y12 Work experience 5-9 March
- Y9 Triple Vaccinations

12 -16 March

National Science Week

14 March

- Skills Show South West
- Y7 Race for the Line
- Triple Vaccinations Y9/10
- Spring Concert

15 March

- Skills Show South West, Pavilions
- Y7 X side Parents/Carers evening 4:30pm – 7:30pm

20 March

Y12 UCAS fair in Exeter

21 March

World Challenge planning meeting

22 March

 Y7 Y side Parents/Carers evening 4:30pm – 7:30pm

26-29 March

Yr 11 BTEC Dance Performance

27 March

The TAFTAS

28 March

Y10 Easter Service

Easter Break

30 March - 13 April

6-8 April

Silver DofE assessed expedition

Summer Term

27 & 28 April

WHITTY KIDS performance

2 May

OCRA Quad Kids event

3 May

Le Navet Bete production

Bank Holiday 7 May

8 May

· Product of the Year

10 May

OCRA Rounders - Mhairi McCall

11-13 May

Ten Tors Event, Okehampton army camp

14 May

 Summer season external exams begins

Half Term 28 May - 1 June

8 June

OCRA Quad Kids - SHU

13 June

Mop Up vaccinations - MHA

26 June

 Year 6 parent/carer info evening 5:30pm – 7:00pm

2/3 July

- 6th form Conference
- · Year 7 Naturemake Workshop

2-6 July

- Year 10 Work experience week
- Art/Photography exhibition

4 July

- Founders Day
- Year 11 Prom

5 July

Year 11 Graduation

6 July

Year 13 Prom

9 July

Primary Step Up day

10 July

- Sports Day
- · Y11 6th form Information Evening

11 July

Primary Step Up day

12 July

- KS 3 & 4 Rewards trips
- Y4 & 5 college open evening

13 July

KS 3 & 4 Rewards day

17 July

Celebration Evening

Summer Break 20 July

Governors meetings

Curriculum Committee
7 March - 6:00 pm - 8.00 pm
Resources Committee

28 March - 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Chairs Committee

18 April - 5:00pm - 6:00pm Full Committee

18 April - 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Curriculum Committee 6 June - 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Resources Committee 20 June - 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Chairs Committee 11 July - 5:00pm - 6:00pm Full Committee

11 July - 6:00pm - 8:00

