



6th Form

Fortnightly

06-03-2018

FOCUS

Dear parents, carers and students
Welcome to this edition of the 6th Form Fortnightly Focus.



Dartmoor
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Thank you to the sixth form students who set such a good example to the lower school students who were rather excited by the imminent snowstorm last Wednesday. I trust students used their time wisely, enjoying the rare time snow settled on the ground as well as studying and revising. Although there was not a huge amount in Tavistock itself, outlying areas were cut off and stories of people being isolated and even trapped in cars are scary. It is nice to hear the many human stories of a community coming together and helping one another. One student in year 13 even rescued a rabbit!



SPRING CONCERT
6pm
Featuring Musical Acts From Year 7 to Year 13
All proceeds go to SKRUM
14/03 Tickets are £2
TAVISTOCK COLLEGE MAIN HALL

I was shocked and saddened to see the barbarity of the shooting in the Florida school shooting. Sadly these events are becoming more frequent, but this incident resonated with me as many of the students were of a similar age to those in our sixth form. America seems reluctant to make changes to their laws and constitution, and although there is little we can do practically, we raised the subject in assembly and called for solidarity with those wishing change in the United States. As students in year 13 approach their final exams, Year 12 students need to start thinking about their next steps. Students are encouraged to visit universities or apprenticeships on open days, but we will be offering the trips to universities run by Tavistock College. These visits are kindly funded by the trustees of the college and we are extremely grateful for their support. We will be visiting Bath Cardiff, Falmouth, Swansea, as well as Oxford and Cambridge in the upcoming weeks and months. Please look out for details in the Weekly Bulletin. In addition to these opportunities, we will be taking every student in year 12 to the UCAS university fair in Exeter on 20th March and to Plymouth University on 27th June to learn about university life, higher education opportunities and the application process.

Diary Dates

- 14-15 March** Skill South West conference.
- 14 March** Spring concert
- 20 March** UCAS fair Exeter
- 21 March** Social careers talk
- 28 March** Easter Service year 12 St Eustacious church
- 30 March** Sports Tour
- 30 March - 13 April** Easter Break
- 2 May** Mrs Mabey's Birthday
- 7 May** Bank Holiday
- 8 May** Product of the Year
- 11 May** Ten Tors

International Relations Seminar

Students from Tavistock college will be joining students from Mount Kelly to discuss International Relations in a seminar/lecture with Dr David Blagden, lecturer at Exeter University. Students will discuss politics and the challenges of nuclear deterrence. Parents are very welcome to attend, there will be an opportunity to ask questions of David and the student panel.

David Blagden joined Exeter as Lecturer in International Security and Strategy in March 2015. He was previously the Adrian Research Fellow in International Politics at Darwin College – where he remains an Associate Member – and a Research Associate at the Centre for Rising Powers, both at the University of Cambridge. Dr Blagden's scholarly publications have appeared in International Affairs, International Security, and International Studies Review, amongst other outlets; he has also provided commentary for the BBC, been quoted in the UK and US national press, and written for The Guardian, The Spectator, the New Statesman, and War On The Rocks. He obtained his doctorate at the University of Oxford, where he was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), having previously completed his MA (with distinction) at the University of Chicago and having read Philosophy, Politics, and Economics at Oxford as an undergraduate.

His research focuses on the following areas:

- The causes and consequences of the rise of new great powers
- UK foreign and defence policy (particularly in the context of European geopolitics)
- The security implications of economic globalization
- Nuclear strategy (particularly deterrence, coercion, and disarmament/ rearmament dynamics)
- Navies and sea power
- Domestic political and economic pressures on strategic behaviour
- Realist international relations theory (particularly war causation, balancing theory, and offence-defence theory)
- Philosophy of science and its implications for international-political thought.

Celebrating Successes

Tavistock College is planning an exhibition of the outstanding achievements outside the classroom of all our students, past and present. Many of our former students have gone on to achieve at exceptionally high levels in their chosen fields, whether in professional careers, on the sports field or in the arts - in a host of disciplines. If you know of someone whose achievements you feel deserve celebrating, and who could be an inspiration to our current students, in whatever field, please do get in touch with the college. Contact h.harris@tavistockcollege.org or ring 01822 614231 - I am sure there are some amazing stories out there that we don't yet know about.

Royal Shakespeare Company Workshop

by Archie Allen

On the 6th of February, 30 students from Tavistock College, took part in a drama workshop with Sophie Hobson from the Royal Shakespeare Company. The company are currently touring their Graffiti Ghanaian twist on 'Hamlet', so the workshop itself drew from many aspects from the play. We were encouraged to just completely let ourselves go of all reserve and as a result we all threw ourselves into the vocal, physical and mental warm ups and the exercises that followed. These exercises all revolved around Hamlet, whether it be script, plot or theme focused. After warm up, the group worked to create several freeze frames reducing down the plot of Hamlet, from a happy family, to the death of a father and the subsequent twists of the tale. We utilized script from Hamlet's opening monologue, memorizing lines and portraying our concept on the meaning behind them. After experimenting with text and language form, we had a chance to create and perform the argument between Hamlet and his mother, Gertrude. We played with the way we performed it, using different techniques to convey a variety of emotions, spinning the scene whichever way we were asked to, for instance having to perform an otherwise tense scene in an ecstatic manor or repeating key phrases from another character. All in all the group partaking in the mentally and physically energetic workshop thoroughly enjoyed it, as each of us took away something interesting that we had learnt from the experience. Two days later, with a further 20 students, we then went to see Hamlet at the Theatre Royal Plymouth, which was by many accounts an incredible, memorable piece of theatre, that we would all highly recommend anyone to go and see.



Matthew Bourne Workshop

by Amber Turner Year 12

Members of Matthew Bourne's prestigious New Adventures Dance Company have been working with students from year 8 - 13 from the Faculty of Creative Arts at Tavistock College. The recent workshop was based on the New Adventures' production of Cinderella, which students then went to see at the Theatre Royal Plymouth.

After a fun energetic warm up, swing style, the interactive workshop taught students a piece of repertoire from the show based on an air raid. In true Matthew Bourne style which they were then able to combine this movement work with their acting skills to create a full scene. This was a dance routine that was highly enjoyable and fun to perform, yet rather challenging. The instructors taught the routine at a very fast pace - allowing students to ultimately gain an insight into how a professional dance company runs. In the question and answer session that took place after the workshop, students further learned that ability to pick up material quickly and sustain long rehearsals was essential as a New Adventures production typically is up and performing within 3 weeks.

Students said one of the most enjoyable moments in the workshop was when they all collectively recreated a scene from the show - based at the Cafe de Paris - which portrayed each character slowly coming back to life. The instructors explained that the motifs they created were inspired by the bombing of the Cafe de Paris in 1941, so students used this as a stimulus (in combination with our own creativity) to add their own take on the material, creating an altogether mesmerizing scene with a "slow motion" effect.

The highly practical and hands-on workshop was an thoroughly enjoyable experience for anyone with a passion for dance, regardless of their ability. The instructors were very informative, answering any and every one of our questions along the way. Overall, they gave a highly detailed and critical insight into both their own dance journeys and what life is like as part of a professional dance company.



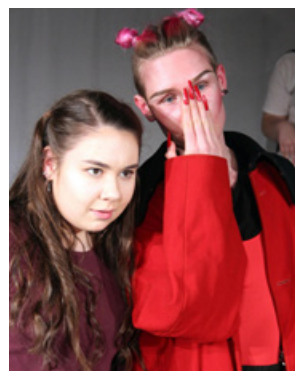
Mythfits

The 9th Degree Theatre Company shared their first production in The Play Station Studio theatre at Tavistock College this week. Established by Year 12 students at the college the company



sets out to 'tell old tales to new folk' and launched their company with their self-created piece 'Mythfits'. The piece of musical theatre was entirely crafted by the students with each taking on performance roles as well as marketing, script writing, costume and stage management. Head of Creative Arts at the college, Eva Pearson said 'I'm so impressed by their creative work ethic, they have tirelessly improvised, scripted, choreographed,

composed and created a hugely enjoyable, very funny community piece. I can't wait to see what they go on to do after such a promising start!'. The company's next venture will see them reworking so classic scripts in the Summer.



Student Perspective

Damien Hirst

by Tom Roberts

Life is all that there is, and death is an inevitable and ultimate part of it. Damien Hirst once said that “The fact that flowers don’t last forever makes them beautiful” and it is this belief that mortality should be acknowledged, demonstrated, displayed and even celebrated which inspires his artworks. Hirst’s work contrasts heavily against a society that attempts to cover up the fact of death, resulting in a strange and dividing appeal as viewers encounter a force that will either reinforce or dismantle the popular habit of avoiding the subject.

A Catholic upbringing at an impressionable age, surrounded by gruesome artworks of “flayed apostles and tortured saints”, introduced and familiarised Hirst with death and how fragile life really is. The artist pursued these ideas, going on to visit morgues and anatomical classes dissecting corpses, leading to a great body of paintings, sculptures and installations that would throw into question what is deemed appropriate or acceptable in communities across the world.

A sculpture titled “The Physical Impossibility of Death in the Mind of Someone Living” was Hirst’s first significant work, becoming one of the most iconic pieces associated with contemporary art and beginning the artist’s divisive reputation in 1991. A 13 foot tiger shark is preserved in formaldehyde solution within a glass display case, allowing the viewer to come face to face with a formidable creature while simultaneously being separated from danger both by the shark’s lifelessness and a physical barrier. The shark’s spirit and energy is preserved by its suspension and yet knowledge that the animal has deceased confronts onlookers as much as its terror, demonstrating how certain death is despite any efforts to resist it. Within this blue-tinted solution, the shark’s prior aggression is maintained as it appears to be in its natural habitat. The juxtaposition between these factors and the shark’s lifelessness is reflected in the work’s title which suggests that death is incomprehensible to a living person. Uncertainty over what comes after life may be the cause of this inability to understand, or perhaps it is the fault of the unwillingness to approach this ultimate part of life. Damien Hirst, with this artwork, demands that viewers react to death; a (formerly) deadly creature opposes the viewer and so they must overcome this “Physical Impossibility” and create conclusions about death.

Two years later, Hirst added another sculpture to his “Natural History” series with the title of “Mother and Child Divided”. The piece consists of four glass tanks: two larger and two smaller. A cow and calf are each bisected and the halves of their bodies are placed adjacently within the pairs of glass cases. This artwork continues the themes of death’s confrontation and inevitability though in a significantly more physical and violent way. The pairs of tanks are placed with room enough for viewers to walk through the middle of each animal. In this way, viewers are once again forced to acknowledge death, the brutality of which showcased by the cattle much more prominent this time. Hirst also draws on the uncanny appeal of decease, amplified by gore and violence, relying on the viewer’s intrigue to present the desired effect in its entirety. More subtle links are present in “Mother and Child Divided” such as the title referencing Hirst’s Catholic upbringing; the Mother and Child are versions of the Virgin Mary and Jesus Christ. Whereas in the Bible the Holy Mother and Child are idealistic, Hirst’s versions are realistic. The artist demonstrates the fact that none are exempt from death’s necessity and destroys impossible fantasies of idealism which none of God’s creations can uphold. By revealing the innards and intricate structures within living things, Hirst reminds onlookers of their own mortality. However, when seen side-on, the cattle appear to be whole, reflecting the artist’s frustration at how we attempt to cover up and avoid death, though even from this angle the formaldehyde and vitrines reveal the lifelessness of the subject matter. The animals are suspended slightly above the base of their tanks, legs dangling unnaturally. Within a white-framed turquoise-transparent box, a museum-like atmosphere is created, leading the viewer in to show the true state of the dead.

Separate from Damien Hirst’s “Natural History” series, “For the Love of God” presents similar themes through a distinct and extravagant method. The piece is a platinum cast of an 18th century skull covered completely by 8,601 flawless diamonds. However, the skull’s owner or origins are unimportant, similarly to the specific subject matter in many of Hirst’s works (for example, the shark in *The Physical Impossibility of Death...* was replaced after the first suffered decay, while the meaning and principles remained the same). Instead, the focus of this piece was to convey the extent to which society (particularly Western society) avoids and disguises death, altering it into something unrecognisable. For this effect, therefore, a less extravagant artwork would have had far less of an impact. The piece is also reminiscent of traditional “memento mori” (meaning “remember death”) and vanitas (meaning “vanity”) art, showcasing the materialistic nature of humanity and how pointless possession and life is when death is impending. In “For the Love of God”, the diamonds and their associated value represent unnecessary items and how, in the end, they mean nothing. Here, beauty and the symbolic nature of the skull juxtapose one another, forcing viewers to ponder over the value of their own life and the things within it



1st Netball Team

I've always been proud of our students in sports fixtures especially this year with our 1st netball deciding to enter the adult league in Plymouth. Thursday nights, although long, have been a pleasure, seeing them develop as a group through sport.

But when you lose players like Darcey Hepworth Abbie Wilkinson and Laura Meredith to injury or illness it starts to look like you're thin on the ground! So tonight we gave two players a first team debut and they were brilliant!

Year 9 students Charlie Myler and Maddie Wall, at 14 played one and two quarters respectively they did amazingly well and really contributed to the team effort to win the game 26-12

Congratulations to the sixth form girls, and particular congratulations to Charlie and Maddie on their achievement. *Mr Forster*



Energy drink ban

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk>

Sales of energy drinks to children under 16 have been banned in most major UK supermarkets, amid concerns about high levels of sugar and caffeine.

Boots is also joining supermarkets such as Asda, Waitrose, Tesco and the Co-op in introducing the rule. Retailers will limit sale of energy drinks containing more than 150mg of caffeine per litre to under-16s. Co-op said it recognised the "growing concern about the consumption of energy drinks" among children. Other outlets with supermarkets locally will be following suit.

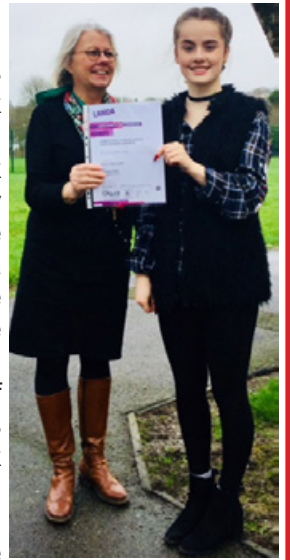
A Boots spokesperson said: "Helping our customers to live healthier lives has always been our core purpose. "We have listened to the growing public concern about young people consuming these high sugar and highly-caffeinated drinks."

The move follows calls by campaigners for a complete ban on energy drinks, and after MP Maria Caulfield asked Prime Minister Theresa May to consider a UK-wide ban earlier this year. Celebrity chef Jamie Oliver, who led the #NotForChildren campaign, welcomed the news.

The NASUWT teaching union has also campaigned for restrictions on energy drinks sales to children, and called on schools to ban high-caffeinated beverages from their premises. "The very high levels of caffeine and sugar these drinks contain impact adversely on pupil behaviour...there is a chronic lack of awareness about the effects and long-term health impacts of these drinks which many pupils and parents think are just another soft drink."

LAMDA Success

Under the excellent guidance of Mrs Vanessa McCarty, students who took LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Drama Art) examinations at Tavistock College just before Christmas not only maintained the College's 100% pass rate but exceeded it by every student gaining a Distinction! Mrs Pearson, Head of Creative Arts is delighted with the results; 'These qualification results reflect hard work, rigorous rehearsal and a real depth of understanding in their area by the students - we are very proud of them Holly Kellock Year 13 House Captain for Bedford said, 'I am very proud that I got a Distinction in Grade 8 mime; LAMDA has developed me as a person and performer and is a qualification highly respected by universities. I gained 30 UCAS points towards my application'



Social Careers

There is an opportunity for students interested in a career in social work to meet practitioners from the sector on Wednesday 21st March in the Innovation centre period 5. Interested students to see Mrs Stephens

SKRUM

As part of their fundraising for the charity SKRUM our sixth form ambassadors, who are travelling to Swaziland in July this year, continue to look at fundraising ideas and have organised a Staff v's ex-student football match, which they will officiate and run as an event. The Game is Monday 19th March with kick off at 6:30pm and the event will finish at 7:45pm

STAFF VS



EX STUDENTS

Stade de Tavistock Astro

Mon 19th March 18:30

£1.00 Proceeds to SKRUM charity
Hot Drinks!

Tavistock COLLEGE