



The last Fortnightly Focus of the half term gives an ideal opportunity to update our parents, carers and the wider community about events taking place at the College.

Last week saw many of our students involved with the Humanutopia project. This involved students spending an extended period of time reflecting on themselves as people and how their actions can impact on other people and their school community. It was brilliant to see so many year 10 students volunteer to be 'heroes' and work with our year 8 students later in the week. Mrs Greener speaks in more detail about this later in this issue and as a school we are looking forward to seeing the longer term impact of such a commitment to student leadership and a shared, common ethos across the school.

In recent days we have continued to see students excel on the football pitch and netball court, year 9 students involved in a drama workshop, and a range of students utilising their Goose Fair Day to fundraise for their forthcoming expedition trekking in the Himalayas and even seek additional work experience in the local community.

Can I take this opportunity to confirm that the follow up Parent Forum on drugs awareness will take place next Wednesday 17th October and begin at 6pm in the main hall. We would be delighted to see a similar parental response to the first event we ran back in September.

Finally, I saw the very best of Tavistock College and it's students earlier this week when unfortunately one of our students suffered a nasty injury on his way to school. The responsible and caring attitude that a number of students showed towards this individual, calling for an ambulance, keeping him warm with donated coats and jackets and generally going out of their way to help, and make a difference was fantastic to see and is exactly how we want and expect students of Tavistock College to behave and act towards each other within their local community.

Phil Ruse, Assistant Principal



Dartmoor
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Humanutopia

As a year team we experienced the Humanutopia session on Tuesday last week. This means a team from the organisation came down and took the year 10 group through a series of mental and emotional exercises to remind them what it means to be human, in all the best ways. It gave them an opportunity to express their concerns and hurt at sometimes being treated badly. Equally, opportunities were made for some wonky relationships to be put right. The work done in the hall was life changing for some, as the students listened and digested the openness with which the presenters challenged them to be a bit more human in all the best ways. However it is the work the young people have done behind the scenes with each other that is truly impressive, forgiveness and reconciliation are terms and ideals that bring the highest challenges to us as people living together and the year ten rose to this challenge and as a result we have a happier, more cohesive year group than before. A big WELL DONE to them from me. 47 of the year group have chosen to continue as 'heroes' and we will be seeing them use their further training to help other people who are faced with their own challenges. Many thanks to Humanutopia and to the year ten students who were just brilliant. *Mrs Greener HoY (10)*

VAPING WARNING

We are aware that some young people may have bought vaping equipment at Goose Fair and that there is a chance that this material may be counterfeit and therefore unsafe. Please can we reiterate that vaping is banned at the College and it is illegal for students to buy any vaping equipment. Anything brought into school will be confiscated and those students punished appropriately, with parents being asked to come in and collect the vaping equipment. It seems some vaping equipment was deliberately marketed at Goose Fair to young people as being free from nicotine. I am sure you would share our concerns about the message this gives out as well as the safety question marks around such an unlicensed product. Please speak with your children about this and if you do discover any inappropriate equipment we would recommend you contacting Trading Standards and/ or the police

Diary Dates

Year 12 Business Applied trip to Aquarium

12 October

Macbeth – Theatre Royal

17 October @ 5:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Parent Forum

17 October @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Half Term

Monday 22 October - Friday 26 October

OCRA Netball Festival

7 November @ 9:30 am - 11:45 am

Year 11 Parents/Carers Evening

8 November @ 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Remembrance Service

9 November @ 12:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Year 8 Options Evening

13 November @ 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Sports Personality of the Year

15 November

OCRA Sports Festival

3 December @ 9:20 am - 12:20 pm

Year 8 Parents/Carers Evening

6 December @ 4:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Local Governing Body Meeting – Full Committee

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

PE House Matches

17 December - 21 December

Year 7 Carol Service

19 December @ 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Last Day of Term

21 December



Update – School Funding Campaign

Firstly, thank you for the huge support that you gave to Headteachers who campaigned for improved school funding at Westminster on Friday 28 September. Over 2000 head teachers attended in London with many more supporting their actions too.

It is clear from the emails that colleagues and I received, that parents overwhelmingly support the need for much improved investment in our schools. As soon as we receive a reply from the chancellor, we will let you know. I am sure everyone will watch with interest to see how he responds to our requests during the Autumn Statement (Budget) on Monday 29 October.

Following recent headlines, Headteachers across the country hope very much that the Government and the Department for Education, in particular, will stop providing parents and the wider public with misleading information about spending on schools. This week's scathing letter (see link below) to the Department of Education from the UK Statistics Authority underlines all of the points that Worth Less? have repeatedly stated to parents over the past three years.

https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20181008_Sir_David_Norgrove_letter_to_SoS_for-Education.pdf

“I am sure you (The Department for Education) share my concerns that instances such as these do not help to promote trust and confidence in official data, and indeed risk undermining them.” Sir David Norgrove – Head of the UK Statistics Authority (8/10/18)

Frankly, it is entirely wrong to suggest that Government spending on schools is much higher than in other comparable countries, when the Department for Education tries to include spending made by families on university tuition fees (loans to students) and independent (private) school fees. This adds billions of pounds to headline data but has absolutely no effect on funding received by schools. It is a completely unacceptable way of defending real term cuts.

The Department for Education must now work hard to rebuild trust and credibility. We hope that ministers will apologise unreservedly and put all of their efforts into investing adequately into school funding and supporting much improved recruitment and retention of teachers.

Parents have also asked how they can support the drive for improved funding. In light of this we are able to let you know that parent groups have lobbied parliament (10 October) and there will also be a national day of parental action on 19 October. For more information about 19 October, please search **#parentsteachersunite** on Twitter or Facebook.

We would again like to thank you for your support and confirm that our campaign will remain reasonable and determined with a single goal of ensuring that every school and pupil receive a much better deal in the near future.

Sarah Jones
Principal

Employability Links at Tavistock College



The college is currently involved with a number of projects where local, national and international companies support our enterprise and careers education at the College. Last year students worked on a project at the Ambrosia Creamery around aseptic techniques which helped bring alive aspects of their A Level biology course. We have

forged a link through the Plymouth Manufacturing Group with Schneider Electric who are going to support the college this year with a host of opportunities including work placements, workshops and some work around careers for women in STEM. Next week we welcome Plymouth company Pixalytics to the College who are going to run an exciting workshop for

Y12 Geography and computing students around their Earth observatory work. We have also just established a link with international construction company Galliford

Try which will also help create further opportunities for our students and widen their horizons to the range of careers available to them locally in the South West.



Careers Education at Tavistock College

In January 2018 the Government released a new National Careers Strategy. This is built around the premise that schools are responsible for providing all students with high quality, independent careers advice and multiple opportunities to engage with local employers, complete dedicated periods of work experience or work shadowing and to develop their employability skills that may be transferable during their future career.

The College would appreciate any support or help that local businesses or organisations are willing to provide our students. Opportunities that you as parents/ carers may be able to help and assist with;

- Offering work experience placements. Schools have a statutory requirement to provide a week of work experience for students before they are 16, and a further week before they are 18. Our Year 10 work experience takes place this year from 24-28th June whilst our Year 12 students go out from 25-29 March.
- Offering a work shadowing experience for a student. This may be a short one off experience or could be a more regular opportunity – particularly for our sixth form students.
- Give a talk or presentation to a group of students who may be interested in a particular career.
- Contribute to our programme of mock interviews for students.
- Mentoring students to support their studies with a link to their future career and aspirations.
- Contribute to a careers fair type event that showcases possible career paths and options for students once they leave Tavistock College.

As a College we are always keen to work with and support our local community so please do get in touch if there are any ways in which you think our students could benefit you as local employers and organisations.

Please direct any queries to Phil Ruse, Assistant Principal:

p.ruse@tavistockcollege.org
01822 614231 ext 250

World Challenge



Tavistock College students were busy running a stall at this year's Goose Fair to raise funds for their forthcoming training

expedition to Snowdonia as part of their World Challenge expedition to the Himalayas in July, 2019.



Sophie climbs Mount Kilimanjaro

Recently, ex-Tavistock student, Sophie Nicholls took on the challenge of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, whilst raising £3000 for the Meningitis Research Foundation. Sophie was one of only 7 to make it to Uhuru Peak out of 22 that started. Sophie says " It took 5 and 1/2 days to get up and down the mountain, of which one of those I was walking for 37 hours on an hours kip. With lack of sleep, altitude sickness and the temperature at -40 degrees Celsius, I don't think anyone will begin to understand the uphill battle I had with not only the mountain and my physical endurance but the mental capacity to carry on. On summit night we could only see torches above us - some so high up it seemed impossible that we were going to be able to walk that far. But we did. It was the craziest experience of my life but something I urge people to do. I've learnt a lot about myself and I am still glowing after my success. Dreams are there to be chased"

Sarah Jones, Principal at Tavistock College added that Sophie was a real inspiration to other students and that the college was looking forward to Sophie coming in to share her experiences with other students.



Girls Football

The girls U13 football team traveled to Callington in the first round of the national cup. 2-0 down at half time, the girls responded with an early in the second half though Liberty Knappes before Evelyn Bray scored the equalizer with 5 minutes left. Extra time penalties decided the results with Callington winning the tie. Some excellent saves from the Callington goalie proved the difference on a night where Tavistock had the better chances in open play and missed a penalty in normal time. The girls played excellent and were a credit to the college with coached play going to Yana Cole and players player awarded to Ellie Blamey.

The squad were: Georgia Soan, Kirsty Balsdon, Jana Cole, Georgia Antolic, Tess Hopes, Korynne Morrison, Ellie Blamey, Liberty Knappes, Saskia Whiting, Katie Murrin, Chelsea Corney, Harriet Murdoch, Evelyn Bray and Caitlyn Lynch.



Y7 boys football

National cup first round

Tavistock 3 Egguckland 0

Following on from winning the co-operative tournament, the Y7 boys football team were in national cup against Egguckland. The opponents were very strong and a difficult challenge for Tavistock. This was reflected in a tense first half, only a wonder strike into the top corner of the goal from Thomas Townshend separated the teams.

In the second half Tavistock created more attacking opportunities and scored twice more from captain Tayden Williams and striker Will Elliott.

Another fantastic display from the whole squad, especially the defence and goalkeeper Daniel Holman who are yet to concede a goal this season.

Congratulations to: William Addison, Thomas Townshend, Daniel Holman, Christopher Higgs, Tayden Williams, Josh Brownlow, Will Elliott, Jayden Jessney, Tyler Bonnet, Michael Stewart-Reid, Sheldon Higgins, Lewis Meeds, Charlies Orm and Aaron Hughes. *Mr Hulbert*

Netball

It was my pleasure to take our Year 9 netball team to Plymouth for the Plymouth and West Devon netball festival. This was there first outing of the season and were placed in a very tough group however they played well and best of all improved after each game.

Charlotte Ewings captained the side brilliantly from centre. Mr Forster

Tavistock College Athlete Profile

Reuben Frise

What is your greatest sporting achievement?

Becoming both Western Area Closed and Open Champion. Also being accepted on to the Regional England Development Squad (REDS).

Who do you see as your role model(s) and why?

I look up to Olympian Ben Fletcher, who competed in the Rio 2016 Olympics and comes to coach at my club, Drake Judo Club. I also see all my coaches as role models because of how much effort and time they put in to training all of us.

Describe your typical week training in your sport.

I train 4 days a week with DJC. 2 out of the 4 sessions are 1.5 hours, the other are an hour long. 1 of them is a squad only session, focussing only on developing competitive techniques and stamina for competition.

I also attend Devon and Western Area county training sessions monthly.

What is has been your greatest challenge and how do you motivate yourself to persevere?

I had a big growth spurt recently, which effected my success at competition. This was because I wasn't used to my height, weight and centre of gravity changing so quickly. I motivated myself to train harder, focusing on what techniques now enhanced my new height, strength etc and how to use them to my advantage. I always wanted to keep going and do my best which helped me carry on developing.

What advice would you give to future potential athletes for success?

Always try your best and have fun with the sport. No matter what happens at competition, if you've done your best then that's the main thing. Also don't worry about what other members of your club are doing. Focus on your own success and training to get the most out of it.

How do you see your development in the next year?

I see myself improving my stamina and technique through REDS training. I'm moving up to the next age range in competition which is Pre-Cadet which will open up new competitions in other countries which will help me develop my knowledge of how judoka from other countries train and fight.

How can Tavistock College PE Department support you with your sport?

By continuing to allow the usage of the fitness suite so that I can work on my fitness at school. I would also appreciate allowing me to have the day off school if I ever need to travel to important competitions that are on during term time.



Tavistock

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