



It's been another busy two weeks for Year 11, who have been sitting further important PPEs to prepare them for their summer exams. The College has also taken part in National Careers and Apprenticeship Week, with a big focus in the tutor programme and assemblies on careers education, and the importance of transferable skills. It is incredibly important that we offer information, advice and guidance to our students to prepare them on their next steps into further education or employment.

In this edition of fortnightly focus, we've included some successes from our ex-students. It is always good to hear about our alumni going on achieve great things and I hope it will give inspiration for all students to dream about what is possible.

It was lovely to see so many parents this week at the first Year 7 parents' evening and be able to discuss the achievements of their children and the good progress they are making. We look forward to seeing the other half of the year group next week.  
*Mr Palmer*

## First Aid at the College

We take the care and well-being of every child and young person here at the college extremely seriously. It matters hugely that all children are given the best and most professional support and care that we can muster. However, there is currently something of a disparity between expectations and capacity in terms of, "first aid", here at Tavistock.

We are absolutely obliged to provide "first aid" for all college members and we have a small team of appropriately trained and skilled colleagues here who do just that. We cannot, and do not however, provide any accident and emergency services or primary/crisis medical care on site. We have no full time "school nurse" available and although our externally commissioned school nursing colleague visits twice a month for six hours in total, her remit does not include providing crisis medical care.

If a child is ill before they leave their home and they are unfit for school, please do not send them in as we have no clinically trained staff or here to take care of them. Attendance in these circumstances also, in some cases, puts other children and young people at risk of contracting contagious conditions which, as we are sure you can appreciate, is a situation we wish to avoid. Similarly, if a child or young person becomes unwell, we are unable to diagnose illnesses and prescribe a treatment plan. In these instances the child in question will need to be taken, by a parent/guardian, to see a suitably qualified professional. Although fortunately a very rare occurrence, should any young person have an accident whilst on the school premises or in the care of the school, and be injured beyond the remit of pure first aid, either a paramedic or ambulance may need to be summoned and/ or you may be telephoned and asked to take your charge to the local A&E/medical facility. Please ensure that we have your current telephone contact details if you have not already done so.

Our first aiders are not prescribers or dispensers and we do not for obvious reasons carry stocks of medication. Should any child or young person require prescribed medication we refer you to the relevant policy on the college website <http://www.tavistockcollege.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Supporting-students-with-Medical-Conditions.pdf>

Please also be aware that there is no school based counselling service at Tavistock College. We do have one part time well-being worker who supports students to the best of their ability with emotional health and well-being but this is not a form of counselling. If you believe that your child(ren) need primary mental health support please either see your family doctor (GP) or visit the mental health area on our website for information and signposting as necessary; <http://www.tavistockcollege.org/parents/mental-health/>



## Diary Dates

DATE	EVENT	TIME
18 - 22 March	Y11 BTEC Dance final recordings - Mrs Pearson	
20 March	UCAS fair - Exeter - year 12 - Mr Galli	09:00 – 15:00
20 March	Japanese Students and Teachers to Tavistock College - Mr Chambers	
21 March	Y7 Y parents-carers evening - Miss Manning	16:00 – 19:00
25 - 29 March	Y12 Work Experience - PRU	09:00 – 15:30
1 – 5 April	MFL GCSE Speaking Mock Exams	
4 April	Easter service - MHA	12:00 – 15:30
8 - 22 April	EASTER HOLIDAYS	
23 April	SUMMER TERM COMMENCES	

## Proposal to change the school day from September 2019

Tavistock College is a thriving and popular school. Over the last few years we have increased our roll, and the college is set to increase again this September. This is putting a great deal of strain on social time and also on the capacity to run extra-curricular activities.

We are currently considering making changes to the school day to better accommodate students' eating habits and our desire to ensure that there is adequate time for children to participate fully in the life of the school.

I am very interested in your views about this proposal. If you have any comments to make, please can you email them to [consultation@tavistockcollege.org](mailto:consultation@tavistockcollege.org). The consultation period will begin on Monday 11th March and end on Friday 29th March. All responses will be viewed and a decision will be made in light of these comments.

# The Phoenix Project

PLYMOUTH LIVE - RACHAEL ATKINS - 5 MARCH 2019  
The Phoenix Project, founded by Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, is a week-long course which shows youngsters the services that Fire and Rescue teams deliver.

Young people have been learning first-hand the importance of fire and rescue skills thanks to a joint project between West Devon Borough Council and Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service.

The Phoenix Project, founded by Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, is a week-long course which shows youngsters the services that Fire and Rescue teams deliver to residents.

The course was completed at the end of February at Tavistock Fire Station and included 12 students aged between 12 and 14 years old taking part from Tavistock and Okehampton Colleges. The students were taught important life skills such as respect, team building, first aid and trust, as well as important fire and home safety awareness.

The scheme is designed to help teenagers who may require some extra support. It aims to boost their confidence and self-esteem by encouraging them to participate in fun and challenging exercises.

Ross Corkell, Assistant Head of Year 9, Tavistock College, said: "The pupils at Tavistock College have always benefited from the skills that are nurtured on the Phoenix project. This year is no different and the impact on these pupils as individuals is one of building a confidence to succeed and of improving their working relationship and respect of others. The college fully support this opportunity and will look to continue to do so in the future."

Students were mentored by senior fire and rescue officers. This helps to build respect for uniformed officers and the responsibilities they hold. The enthusiastic pupils also learned how to use specialist breathing apparatus.

The week finished with an exciting passing out parade, where the youngsters showed proud friends, families and teachers what they had learned throughout the course. This included demonstrations where they worked together to take part in practice sessions of hosing down a vehicle in the event of an engine fire, hosing down a building and running the hoses from the fire engine.

At the end of the drills, the Mayor presented the youngsters with certificates of achievement.

Cllr Mike Davies, Mayor of West Devon, said: "This fantastic project offers pupils something different while learning key life skills in a challenging and exciting place, such as the fire station.

"They performed very well during the parade and worked brilliantly as a team to keep calm under pressure, with the added addition of a large audience.

"West Devon Borough Council are committed to working with our partners to support our communities and promote safety and community responsibility to our young people. This project provides valuable skills for our young people."

Crew manager Josh Caunter, of Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service, added: "Our Phoenix courses provide a unique opportunity for young people to work with the fire and rescue service and take part in a variety of physical and mental challenges that improve their life opportunities. The team of Phoenix instructors have enjoyed working with the pupils and were impressed by their commitment to the course."



## Alumni Success

It's always nice to report on alumni progress and successes. Ex Tavistock College students, Kitty Austen and Sam Brockington are now working musicians. Kitty is the lead vocalist (also playing guitar and piano) in the band St Agnes, who are a gothic rock ensemble, signed with Primary Talent International. Back from a European tour they are now on a National tour which also has a 'home coming gig' at The Wharf in Tavistock next week. Their debut album 'Welcome to Silvertown' will be released on 3 May. Very different in style is chilled out singer/songwriter Sam Brockington and his band, who have just embarked on their UK/European 'Out the Back' tour. When they play Tavistock's Wharf on 14 April they have asked for their support acts to be from the college, which is a great opportunity for some of our current musicians to gain a local platform.

Mrs Pearson



# Creative Arts Trip



I recently partook in the three day Creative Arts Trip to London. The aim of the trip was to get a real insight into onstage, backstage and front of house of Drama, Dance, Music and Media in the capital city. We had been buzzing with anticipation from the moment it was announced and it certainly exceeded any expectations we had!

To be able to attend three London West End shows in two days was something truly spectacular. The first was the terrifyingly tense *Woman in Black*, in the intimate Fortune Theatre, which was incredibly well done. The Meta approach to having the story told as a rehearsal of a play added to the rising and falling tension throughout rendering it an equally enjoyable and frightening experience! We knew little about, 'Everybody's Talking About Jaime' as it is a relatively new show. This was a musical about a boy with a dream to become a drag queen. This high energy musical, with echoes of *Billy Elliott* and *Hairspray*, kept all of us wide awake (despite very early morning start) and was a hit with everyone. My personal favourite theatrical experience was seeing 'Wicked' at the huge and emerald green Apollo Victoria Theatre, on the second night. This world renowned musical captured my imagination from start to end and was a fantastical experience.

Our two backstage tours were interesting and insightful. The tour of the National Theatre was a great way to see how sets are built and how the backstage process works in this prestigious venue. Our tour of the majestic Royal Opera House was spectacular. Our tour guide who is still a performer, David, was extremely knowledgeable and very entertaining, giving insightful facts and context to the brilliant sights before us! We even got to see a set and rig change over, Matthew Ball (of *Swan Lake* fame) in rehearsals, and found ourselves watching the Royal Ballet rehearsals for *Don Quixote* along side the real *Billy Elliott* - a true once in a lifetime experience!

Our final day was made up of a Stage Combat workshop at Pineapple Studios which was both informative and hilarious! It has given us a great new set of techniques to use in our upcoming pieces both Performing Arts and Media.

As a final treat we visited the 'Avengers S.T.A.T.I.O.N.' on the way home: an interactive Marvel Superheroes experience! As a big fan of Marvel this was a real unexpected highlight that we were surprised with on the way there. It was useful to gain an insight into how big budget films are made but was a real experience for people like me and my friends who go mad for Marvel.

Overall, the trip was brilliant, insightful and fantastic value for money! From walking around Covent Garden listening to classical performances and getting involved in Street Theatre, to spending time on the South Bank, from seeing top quality shows to getting an insight into the real world of the Creative Arts - the laughs had on this trip will stay with me for the rest of my life! *Luca Bergonzini*

## Cashless Catering Update

From September 2019 we will no longer accept cash for catering, you will need to register for online catering – the link to set this up is on the website under “parents”

[www.tavistockcollege.org/parents/catering/cashless-catering/](http://www.tavistockcollege.org/parents/catering/cashless-catering/)

**NEW** USING GCSEPOD TO REVISE?

GCSEPod is the award-winning, learning revision resource, GCSEPod.

GCSEPod is designed to support your child through their revision. It's never too late for them to start using it!

! Emma actually asked if GCSEPod counted as revision as she can't believe it! How fantastic to have a resource that meets students on their level!"

Parent quote

- ✓ 3-5 minute expert-written videos ('Pods') covering all the key knowledge needed for 21 GCSE subjects.
- ✓ Exam specific playlists ('My Courses') provide ready-made revision.
- ✓ Watch Pods together and use the identified key words to create flashcards, memory posters and mind maps.
- ✓ Students can test their knowledge in GCSEPod assignments set by their teacher.

Top tip: Visit [www.gcsepod.com/parents](http://www.gcsepod.com/parents) to learn more about using GCSEPod.

Access your child's account at [www.gcsepod.com](http://www.gcsepod.com)  
Your child should already be aware of their login details.

gcsepod.com | info@gcsepod.com | 0191 338 7830

## Year 10 Netball

On 11 March our Year 10 team achieved a fantastic result on the netball court. Playing away at Launceston they came away 25-14 winners, this is obviously a great result, however, knowing the context makes it even better. Our Year 10 team played Launceston first team (under 18s) and some of our girls were giving away a full 3 years on their opponents.

They were confident, smart and outplayed the opposition to a player, working together to win every quarter in the game.

They next play Bodmin under 18s in their bid to continue their development in the game.

Congratulations to all of our Year 10 netballers on a very well deserved win! *Mr Forster*

# Tavistock

## COLLEGE