



Issue 7 (wk 4/5/2020)

Welcome to the latest issue of the weekly newsletter that aims to keep our communication lines open between home and college.

Whilst the circumstances may be very different it is interesting to reflect on the fact many of the usual school jobs are still taking place. Behind the scenes staff are finalising next year's timetable and allocating option choices for Y9 and Y12. Pastoral care to students and their families is happening every day and most important of all the teachers are still delivering a curriculum that is challenging and aspirational and our students are still producing high quality work. This is reflected in a beautiful piece of writing from one of our Y8 students; Molly Jamieson. She provides a wonderfully eloquent account of this 'new normal' and the challenges that we are all rising to. You can read her full article on page 2.

As ever, Tavistock College and it's staff are always available to help and assist with any questions or queries you may have. Subject specific advice should be sought directly from your children's teachers whilst their form tutor should be the first port of call for any pastoral issues.

Finally I would like to confirm that Tavistock College will be closed on Friday 8th May due to the bank holiday marking the 75th anniversary of VE day. We plan to remain open over half term (W/B 25th May) for children of key workers. As ever, we will update parents and carers, if and when any guidance over the provision being offered by schools changes.

Take care and stay safe.

Mr Phil Ruse

Assistant Principal

GCSE Pod

GCSE Pod is one of the many online tools that we have seen benefit our students in recent years. It has become even more relevant in recent times due to its ease, accessibility and the benefits it offers to GCSE students in their independent learning.

A series of free webinars are being offered as an introduction to parents. Full details as follows:

PARENT WEBINAR - Introduction to GCSEPod

May 13th	17:00:00	https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UlwWCH1NR6mA-pv_HyZgSg
May 15th	12:30:00	https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_D8c9SAfqQHyW2hBHxpMV0A

Quick reminders:

- Attendees don't need a microphone. Just headphones or speakers.
- Webinars work on tablets as well as computers.
- Joining instructions will be sent via email following registration.



An Academic Ghost Town: A Day in the Life of a School in Lockdown
by Molly Jameson (Year 8)

Is this the new normal? The type of normal where we see ourselves judging others for using their cars, going to the shops; muttering, "Is that essential?" or "Where are they going?" It shouldn't be like this. If there is one good thing that I hope that will come out of this pandemic it is that we learn to be kind. We are all in this together. There is no escaping. Sometimes on sunny afternoons or rainy mornings, I find myself forgetting about the outside world; hiding away from our abnormal reality. The isolation of the walk to the bus stop before school or the line of people outside the pharmacy always brings me crashing back to reality.

Both of my parents work for the NHS. This is my story as I continue to go to school throughout this pandemic. At first, the prospect of a small amount of my normal routine gave me a feeling of safety; that I could bury myself in a conventional environment. But the silence of the corridors and locked up classrooms created an alienating effect not exactly the normal routine I had imagined. There was almost a sense of guilt that lingered too - that the teachers had to come in, away from their homes and families - it made me really appreciate them and the time they spent trying to create an enjoyable schedule for us to find comfort in.

Sometimes I find going to school hard. It can feel isolating when you know everyone else is at home. It feels so strange hearing the echoing of my footsteps through desolated hallways like a strange dream, but I'm so grateful for everyone that allows me to come to school and therefore allows my parents to work in their jobs for the NHS. We start our day by working for two hours before having our standard break. We then have PE which consists of running laps, before heading back indoors to do another hour's work. We then have lunch before another hour of independent learning. Then it's home time. It can feel pressurising working without the normal environment of school but I know that the time and effort that I put in now will support me in the future.

If there is one good thing that I hope we will learn during these difficult times it is about how humans affect our planet. Already we have seen air pollution drop and I hope after this is over we will notice the impact on the earth and try to maintain it. I also think another thing lockdown has created is a wider sense of community, for example, the clap for our careers has brought together streets and neighbourhoods together with the simple display of appreciation and gratitude.

So again I ask is this the 'new normal'? And in conclusion, I believe it is. We can pave pathways for our time after lockdown or focus on our mental health. We can make our 'new normal' into whatever we want, but if there is one thing we need to remember it is: "In a world where we can be anything, be kind." (Caroline Flack)

By Molly Jameson



A Message for Year 11 Students

Dear year 11,

I hope you are all doing well in these difficult times. I have had some good conversations and email conversations with some of you and your parents, mostly thinking about next year.

If you are concerned about your 6th form application please do contact Mr Galli, Mr Jacob or me and we will forward your enquiry to the right place. If you are wanting to contact a teacher of a particular subject, but are not sure how, again email me and I will forward your inquiry on. We have had several enquiries of this kind, so please do not feel you can't do this.

Alternatively several conversations have been about apprenticeships, or other colleges, or people feeling generally not sure what they want to do next year, I have been asking Fred Jenkins from Careers South West (CSW) to get in touch with some of you and I think those conversations are helpful, with plans being made to go forward when it is appropriate to do so. This website is a great resource for all aspects of apprenticeships:

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>

Some reports I've had are about year 11s now working on farms helping with lambing and calving, solid evidence in many ways that life in some places has to 'spring' forwards.

Keep as positive as you can in these difficult times. Staying at home is a challenge and can be difficult - stay creative and generous with those around you, remember this situation is difficult for everyone. Keep smiling, you wonderful young people. I will see you sometime, sooner or later!

Mrs Greener
Head of Y11

Message for Y11 Joining Tavistock College Sixth Form

It is great to see that so many of you have joined the Google classroom set up to easily give updates and information about joining Tavistock College Sixth Form in September 2020. Access can be gained via this link:

<https://classroom.google.com/c/OTI1NTY2MTg3ODha>

and entering class code: pxrkp7x

Please ensure you engage with the induction booklet and pre course tasks as outlined through the link below. This research and work will be crucial in ensuring that you are starting on the right courses for you and that you have a full appreciation of the course content before you start.

<http://www.tavistockcollege.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Sixth-Form-Induction-2020-2021-Booklet.pdf>

Any specific queries regarding the Sixth Form should be directed to Mr Galli; t.galli@tavistockcollege.org

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Charity Skydive

Prior to lockdown and school closures, one of our students, Ellie Roper, had arranged a Non Uniform Day to help her fundraising to support the Devon Ambulance. Here is her message:

My skydive is for Devon Air Ambulance. Even during these times, their paramedics are still working, although their helicopters have been grounded they're still working with other services, mainly the new Nightingale hospital in Exeter. Babcock in Plymouth are currently working on a protective screen to have between the paramedics + patients and the pilot so their aircrafts can get up and running again. During these times like every other business/charity they need our help. I want to raise as much money as possible for the Air Ambulance especially during these times. Any donations, big or small would be a massive help.

Thank you

Ellie

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ellie-roper2>

Children's Mental Health - Changes to CAMHS Referrals

In light of the COVID-19 Pandemic CAMHS have changed the services offered to young people who present to district general hospitals experiencing a mental health crisis

CAMHS now provide locality based Crisis Teams, providing 24/7 responses to those Young People in crisis. During this time, in line with National guidance we are attempting to reduce direct contact with young people and families to a minimum and identify other ways to meet their needs. This includes telephone and virtual contact, alongside face to face assessments where absolutely necessary.

We ask that if any young person presents to the hospital experiencing a mental health crisis you follow the attached flow chart and seek CAMHS consultation in the onward management of the young person's care and treatment.

How To Contact CAMHS

Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm:

03300 245321 (CFHD SPA No)

Weekends, bank holidays and Out of hours:

0300 555 5000 (DPT SPA No)



Call Back Offer
Chat with a Youth Worker
by phone or text

Are you 13 or over?
Would you like to speak to
one of our youth workers via
text or a call-back?

All you have to do is fill in this form
Which is also available on our
website:
<https://spacepsm.org/>

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in Instagram f Twitter

Here to help

Action for Children

Have a question about parenting?

Action for Children is offering free online parenting support for families with children aged 0-19. You can ask us for help on all sorts of things – from how to keep your children entertained at home, to how to handle difficult behaviour, to how to manage stress and anxiety at this challenging time.

Head to parents.actionforchildren.org.uk to read our advice and useful resources, or talk directly to a parenting coach via our confidential 1-1 live chat.

Whatever you need, Action for Children are here to listen and support you.



Message from Tavistock Library

I am writing on behalf of Tavistock Library to tell you about some of the ways we can help you to support your students and their families during the current lockdown situation.

Our online resources

We have a range of free resources that all library members can access online:

- Download and stream free eBooks, eAudioBooks and eMagazines, with more than 3,500 titles on [Overdrive](#) (eBooks and eAudiobooks), and 1,000 unlimited use eAudiobooks through [RB Digital Devon](#)
- A selection of eMagazines are available on [RB Digital Devon](#)
- A range of eAudiobooks via [BorrowBox](#)
- Online reference resources at [Devon Libraries](#) including AncestryUK, Oxford dictionaries and Naxos music
- Online content and live streaming events via social media. Check out our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TavistockLibrary/> for more information

Free Online Courses

The Open University is currently offering hundreds of free courses, ranging from 1 hour, up to 50 hours long. A great, constructive way to further your own knowledge, study something you have always been meaning to or just to keep those brain cells ticking over during lockdown!

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue>

Peace Poster Competition

A reminder for students to enter this year's Peace Poster competition, organised by the Tavistock Lions. Full details found in the last edition of Weekly Focus or via the link below:

<http://www.tavistocklions.org.uk/our-events/peace-poster-competition>

Devon Youth Parliament Competition

Students are encouraged to enter the Devon Youth Parliament to design a logo and poster to showcase 'Greener Devon'. Full details can be seen on the next page. Entries should be submitted via greenerdevon@gmail.com by Midnight on the 29th May. Good luck!



DEVON YOUTH
PARLIAMENT



LOGO AND POSTER COMPETITION!

Get your creative talents recognised! Your design could be the face of our Climate Campaign-'Greener Devon'

We want YOU to design a
logo and/or a poster for
our 'Greener Devon'
campaign



Logo(one overall winner)

- Must be circular(so that it can be used as a profile picture for our social media, made into stickers etc)

- We are looking for a catchy design that is fun, memorable and relevant to the climate

Poster(winner from each age group)

- We are looking for a poster to raise awareness about the environment, and of what a 'Greener Devon' looks like to you!

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CLOTHES LABELS



- 15 Iron On Name Labels £ 1.99
- 25 Iron On Name Labels £ 2.99
- 50 Iron On Name Labels £ 4.99



- 10 Sew On Labels £ 1.99
- 20 Sew On Labels £ 3.50
- 30 Sew On Labels £ 5.00



- 15 Plain Name Labels £ 0.99
- 25 Plain Name Labels £ 1.60
- 50 Plain Name Labels £ 3.00



Peel & Stick Shoe Labels – 5 pairs for £1.50

Order From - www.labelcreating.co.uk

Email - labelcreating@gmail.com

Tel - Marion - 07754 515586

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2019-20: The Year in Review

It doesn't seem right to produce a school newsletter without any reports or articles about the very people that make the school what it is, our wonderful students. Clearly there is not much to report at the present time so what better opportunity than to use these weekly editions to reminisce about fantastic trips, sporting events, school productions and student achievements that have taken place during the first two terms this academic year.

This week we look back on an event from November 2019 which saw a number of students participate in the Plymouth Poetry Festival through their LAMDA work. Every year numerous students achieve superb levels of distinction through LAMDA, wherever it be through poetry, acting, mime or public speaking.

Poetry Festival

Congratulations to all the LAMDA students who took part in the Plymouth Poetry Festival this week. Students worked hard with LAMDA teacher, Vanessa McCarty, to prepare poems for performance with an audience. Particular congratulations to Conner Norman who came 1st in the Own Choice poem class along with Sammi Bulley coming 3rd in the same class.



Our new year 7s did particularly well on the Novice Poetry Speaking group where they were the youngest students performing. Alfred Forer gained a joint silver medal here and Tal Pearson took the Bronze. The students all looked and sounded fantastic, a proud representation of Tavistock College.

Mrs Pearson





Tavistock Weekly

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