



For Students & Parents

# Weekly

06-11-2020

# FOCUS

Please feel free to follow us on Facebook - search Tavistock College or on Twitter- we use the Twitter handle @Tavicollege



Welcome to the latest issue of the weekly newsletter that aims to keep our communication lines open between home and college. I hope you have had a lovely relaxing half term despite the announcement at the end of the week. The students have come back energised and ready to learn. This is an important term leading up to Christmas especially for year 11 students who have a round of PPEs to assess progress in their subjects. These are vital to allow their subject teachers to assess progress, highlight weak areas of the curriculum and give more accurate predictions into their final grade in the summer of 2021. Everyone is uncertain on the future but these grades would have influence on final grades should another lockdown happen. All mock exams are important not just in examination years.



Dartmoor  
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

To assist study skills and meet our educational catch up plans, we have postponed extra curricular activities and will be offering a Period 6 for targeted students. This opportunity will be small groups of students with one of our teachers working on essential knowledge and/ or misconceptions. In some cases external tutors will be used to meet the demand. In each case this small group will be covid safe and meet the needs of the students.

You would have received a letter from our Principal regarding the impending national lockdown and new restrictions. I have summarised the four main points:

1. It will become an expectation that all students wear a face covering in corridors and common areas. Staff already comply with this rule. The DfE advise that face coverings are not necessary in lessons as students are grouped in year group 'bubbles' and sit facing the front of the classrooms. Students may remove face coverings once they are seated in class, or in the refectory/ Ndeeba room to eat. If there are reasons for exemption from this policy, the appropriate Head of Year should be informed. The risk of transmission of the virus is greater now than in the summer, so everyone must play their part in controlling further infection. I therefore seek your support in ensuring that your children bring and wear a suitable face covering in school from the 5th November onwards.
2. Rooms and buildings must be ventilated at all times. As the weather becomes less clement students may wear their coats in classrooms to ameliorate against the additional impact on room temperature which may be caused by the need to keep windows and doors open to ventilate the rooms. This is not a dilution of our high expectations, rather a practical response to circumstance. We still expect the correct uniform (or approved PE/Dance kit as appropriate) to be worn at all times.
3. The need to self-isolate is becoming more prevalent, I am pleased to let you know that families will still receive their Free School Meals entitlement, during their isolation, where appropriate. We are currently in negotiation with the Dartmoor MAT about the practicalities of food versus vouchers, but families need have no worries about their free meal's entitlement.
4. Any child who is self-isolating will be able to continue with remote learning. If you have limited access to IT and feel that this is likely to prohibit your child's ability to engage with online learning during enforced isolation please contact Laura Roper (l.roper@tavistockcollege.org) as soon as is convenient as we have a limited amount of hardware available (chrome books, dongles etc) to plug these gaps.

A polite reminder that parents/carers MUST NOT COME ON TO SITE AT ANY TIME unless invited by a member of staff. All vehicles should not be brought onto site unless dropping off and only travel as far as the bus bays (the triangle). This does not apply to parents of disabled students. All communication must be through office@tavistockcollege.org or by phone.

James Stroud

## Change of recess

With the change in half term it is important different year group communities get to use different space. The changes are to allow years 9 and 10 to use the hard court areas as this is less affected by weather than the primary field. It also gives opportunity for years 7 and 9 to use Harlequins and dine in the refectory.

	Period 1	Period 2		Recess 1		Period 3	Period 4		Recess 2		Period 5
	09.00 - 10.00	10.00 - 10.45	10.45 - 11.00	11.00 - 11.15	11.15 - 11.30	11.30 - 12.30	12.30 - 13.15	13.15 - 13.30	13.30 - 13.45	13.45 - 1400	14.00 - 1500
7			Refectory	Primary Field					Refectory	Primary Field	
8			Primary Field	Ndeeba					Primary Field	Ndeeba	
9				Refectory	Hard Courts			Refectory	Hard Courts		
10				Hard Courts	Ndeeba			Hard Courts	Ndeeba		
11				Geog	Refectory				Geog	Refectory	

# Dear Parents and Carers of Year 7.

Many thanks for a smooth return to college and being on the ball with the use of masks requested by the government. We have a colourful array of new face wear.

To give the year 7s something to think about, I have issued a challenge to them for this half term to 'do something good for the environment.' This is an open challenge where they can do something small or something big. There is a prize for the most impactful and best sustained response to this challenge. The students have to be able to prove they have completed their chosen strategy and they need your permission. For example, a medium sized thing, maybe to use their exercise hour in lockdown to do beach clear-up, a photo or two of the bags of rubbish will be the evidence needed.

Another option may be to take over managing your recycling at home for the 6 week period. One year a family made a pond! This is a completely open challenge and you may well feel you have enough challenges occurring at the moment! I can fully relate to that.

However, if they do want to complete something small but with a real measurable impact they could, for example, become the thermostat monitor in your home or maybe commit themselves to a couple of degrees down in the shower every day. We will be giving them opportunities in school to also think about this and complete some small tasks. There is a prize for the most impactful idea.

I hope this communication finds you well. Thank you for the contacts made with us in the year 7 team, the tutors are working effectively to ensure your communications are dealt with and where needed come to me in the hub. We are seeing, in school, a year group full of potential. We are very excited about seeing them go from strength to strength over the coming months and years.

The more immediate excitement, for them, of being at a new school is beginning to be replaced with a maturing understanding of the steady effort that secondary school does and will require, I am sure that by working closely together as a team, you and us, that we help them to effectively rise to this challenge.

As a school we declare that We Care, We Challenge, We Excel and this is true in so many ways. I have added to that for the year 7s to help them set their faces to the road ahead, it is this: 'In year 7 we are ready for anything.'

Kind Regards

Mrs J. Greener HOY 7

## Tavistock College needs YOU...

Armed services or emergency/uniformed services.

Are you an ex-student now serving in one of these organisations? OR are you a parent/carer with serving children? If so we need YOU!

In order to keep our alumni up-to-date and to celebrate the success of former students we would love to hear from you! A short message about your story would be greatly appreciated, or even better, some edited photos of 'a day in the life...' would be amazing.

Please email [n.hosking@tavistockcollege.org](mailto:n.hosking@tavistockcollege.org)

We want to celebrate our amazing public services, former students and the work YOU DO.

Thank you in advance for taking some time to inspire the next generation...



## Living Life to The Full - 2020

Supporting mental health is vital for the success and well-being of our community.

Living Life to The Full is due to begin again next week at Tavistock College. These cognitive behavioural therapy sessions will be delivered to students via podcasts and can be accessed at home. Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) is utilised in order to help some of our young people understand different emotions that they are often feeling but might struggle to understand. Giving advice and guidance around: activity, diet and simple strategies to improve emotions has proved really valuable in the past. Stress and low mood can be common in young people but the help and advice from previous Living Life to The Full programmes has proved very effective and engaging for all involved.

The weekly podcasts will cover;

1. Understanding your feelings
2. Doing things that make you feel better
3. Looking at things differently
4. Building Inner Confidence
5. How to fix almost everything
6. The Things you do that mess you up.
7. 1, 2, 3 Breathe
8. 10 things you can do to feel happier

If you have already contacted me, I will send by email details of how your child can access the weekly podcasts.

If your child is experiencing anxiety or other mental health issues and not receiving intervention please contact me to request these podcasts.

Mr Hosking

[n.hosking@tavistockcollege.org](mailto:n.hosking@tavistockcollege.org)

# Family Support

## LiveWest

If you live in a LiveWest property, are on a low income and do not have digital devices already at home, you could possibly qualify for a Hardship and Crisis grant for a laptop or tablet. <https://www.livewest.co.uk/my-community/grants> or email [grants@livewest.co.uk](mailto:grants@livewest.co.uk) or phone 0300 1238 080.

## Grants and funding

You may be entitled to some financial support through the West Devon Council Welfare support fund.

[https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/grant-and-funding-support/#indiv\\_fam](https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/grant-and-funding-support/#indiv_fam)

## Back To School After Lockdown

Tips From An NHS Psychologist

<https://www.mytutor.co.uk/blog/back-to-school-after-lockdown-tips-from-an-nhs-psychologist/>

## Barnados

See Hear Respond by Barnados.

[www.barnados.org.uk/see-hear-respond](http://www.barnados.org.uk/see-hear-respond)

See Hear Respond is a partnership to help children, young people and families cope with the Covid-19 crisis.

## Free Solihull online courses

- Understanding your baby
- Understanding your child
- Understanding your teenagers' brain

Link to the courses [www.inourplace.co.uk](http://www.inourplace.co.uk) access code TAMAR.

## Support for parents

[www.parent-talk.org.uk/devon](http://www.parent-talk.org.uk/devon)

# Hammer success

Young throwers end athletics season on a high at Tavistock

PLYMOUTH SPORTS GAZETTE - NOVEMBER 1 2020

Tavistock's young hammer thrower Phoebe Milburn ended her season in style as her club hosted their final autumn athletics series meet.

Milburn threw a new personal best of 38.89m on Wednesday evening and finished 2020 ranked sixth in the UK at under-15 level. She was also second in the shot with 9.16m

What a fantastic achievement!!

## Department for Education Coronavirus helpline

A helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline  
Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)  
Phone: 0800 046 8687  
Email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)

# Important reminders

## Detention system.

This will only be used on rare occasions as an upscaled event for students not following rules and impacting the learning of other students. This will include failing RTL.

- These will be on a Tuesday and Thursday night only. This is due to late buses.
- Detentions will be on hour long and take place in the hall to meet social distance rules and our risk assessment.
- Detention staff will be on a rota
- Parents and Carers will be notified of an after school detention through class charts notification/ school communications.
- The detention will occur on the next Tuesday or Thursday unless it was issued on a detention day.

## Remote learning

If your child is isolating work can be found on Google Classroom. This platform was used over lockdown so students should be familiar with the process. Please encourage your child to access Google Classroom to complete work they are missing from their timetable each day. That way they will not fall behind when they return to school. Teachers will be using class charts to notify students (and parents) about their homework.

- Classcharts - Positive and negative behaviour, homework notifications
- Google Classroom - A platform where work can be uploaded.
- Teachers will ALWAYS notify students using Classcharts. This might be a link to Google Classroom.

## Revision guides and books

If your son/ daughter has any course textbooks/ revision guides please could these be returned to the college? If they could be dropped off to reception or handed over to teachers if a sibling attends the college.

Tavistock College  
Ten Tors and DofE hats  
on sale now - £15 each  
see Mr Jerrett

Tavistock COLLEGE

- TEN TORS -  
2021

Dartmoor  
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

# Tavistock COLLEGE