



For Students & Parents

# Weekly FOCUS

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



**Dartmoor**  
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

I am overwhelmed with the generosity of our community following our Facebook campaign for donations of hardware. These are currently being formatted and will be distributed. With this and the work with our MAT, we are confident that students have access to ICT provision to support their remote learning.

This full week has seen high quality remote learning being set and marked, and students have enjoyed the interaction with their teachers and tutors. We aim to provide the highest standard of learning opportunities for all students, ensuring that their education and pastoral care continues, including identifying good mental health. We have been proactive and innovative during these times, including praising students for completion of remote learning, publishing How To videos, and distributing 4G dongles, chrome books and headphones to vulnerable students and students working from home. We are here to support your child during this pandemic. If you or your partner is a critical worker, or if your child is classed as vulnerable, then the school will remain open

From feedback and conversation with parents I would like to draw your attention to the following tips.

- All work will be on Google Classroom not class charts. Think of the Google classroom as their actual timetabled lesson where the teacher will be with resources for learning
- Teachers will issue a deadline for that work to be completed. This will allow the students to organise their time with the "To Do" function in google classroom.
- Students need to login to their email account using their @tavistockcollege.org address.
- Teachers will issue praise points for completion of home learning and notify parents if it hasn't been completed purely from a supportive not punitive perspective.
- We are looking at running an online troubleshooting session to support parents and students with accessing our online learning platforms.
- If accessing Google meet from their phone they need to download the app.
- Accessing any "live" video conference students MUST turn off their camera and microphone before entering the "room"
- Work should be submitted on Google classroom, this is preferably a shared document however the teacher will specify how they want it submitted in the task. Once submitted the teacher has a record and can offer feedback, marks and then return it back for improvement.
- We will not be setting homework during this period. The remote learning set is one package.
- Teachers will be available for the duration of the whole lesson for support and feedback. Students just need to use the "chat" function or private message for support.

If you are worried about data to access remote learning Mr Ruse sent out a link (also in this newsletter, below) that allows some families to access free data and we still have a few chrome books that are available for students who have limited access.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage this unprecedented situation. Please continue to take care and to stay safe.

If students or yourselves need support then please contact the college where we can resolve any issues. *James Stroud*

## Support with mobile data increases

In this challenging and difficult time the government has announced that they are committed to supporting the remote learning provision that schools are putting in place.

Schools, trusts and local authorities can therefore request mobile data increases for children and young people who:

- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data for their devices
- are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education

Children with access to a mobile phone on one of the following networks might be able to benefit: Three, Smarty, Virgin Mobile, EE, Tesco Mobile, Sky Mobile. Other providers may hopefully join the scheme at a later stage.

Given the criteria outlined above, if you feel that you would qualify for this assistance please complete the following form:

<https://tinyurl.com/y5vut65q>

If there are any difficulties with the above link please use this link instead:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=kG0HO7J4vUqeBcIPJicRptIKd4SORVDsPmsSqa661IUQ05YNFZINKmSkMyS1dRNDdEU1FBSzdORyQIQCN0PWcu>

Please note the Dartmoor Multi-Academy Trust is collating this information and liaising directly with the DfE and government for this assistance to be put in place. *Mr Ruse*

# Coping with lockdown 3

## coping with lockdown 3.0

We are all finding things tricky right now. Being isolated from friends and family can make these feelings even harder to cope with.

### Young Minds

lots of us are worried about our loved ones

Anxiety is really high at the minute for a lot of people, even those who aren't usually anxious.  
THIS IS OK!

### You are NOT ALONE

"I'm worried about my future"

is a great place to check out if you are feeling worried, low, anxious or alone. There are some helpful links below but feel free to browse the whole site. Reach out, stay safe

if you need urgent help

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/get-urgent-help/>

Coronavirus mental health support

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/looking-after-yourself/coronavirus-and-mental-health/>

for all types of mental health support

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/>



## Message from Mrs Greener (HoY 7)

### Dear parents and carers of year 7.

Firstly I would like to say a big well done if you and/or your child has managed to get on a computer/chrome book/tablet/other device and attend a (or more) lesson(s) and make progress in learning this past couple of weeks. I say again, well done. I remain proud of the year 7 group. It is a strange experience of secondary school they are having for sure, and to some extent, a slight advantage they have in not knowing any different, as it is anticipating and waiting for something we cannot have that often causes dissatisfaction. The watchword for this current time is adaptability and the year sevens are already demonstrating as a group they can do that and support each other in that. I have, several times, come across students helping each other with technological questions or pointing out how to use a process a teacher has set out. We always encourage students to support each other and I welcome and am grateful to see them do this.

This 'home learning' business is challenging and it may be helpful to think about something I have spoken to the students about when they arrived at Tavistock College; and this is the 'tabula rasa' or blank slate approach to things. If they are having a bad day or finding things too much, there is always a fresh start tomorrow. If they are finding they are behind in work or cannot manage a piece (or several pieces) of work, do communicate with us - we are here to help. A quick email to me can quickly be disseminated to members of staff to inform them of difficulties experienced, or if you have their email please do e-mail directly if you are happy to. There is a change again for 7T, following the departure of Mrs Harry Chudleigh, we were, as per the previous newsletter sent, to have Mr Lambert as a tutor, however as with many things, this has changed and instead we are delighted to have on board a new teacher to the college, Mr Jenner. Mr Jenner is a maths teacher, as was Mrs Harry Chudleigh, and is the new tutor for 7 T. Please do ask the students to email him at some point to introduce themselves. [a.jenner@tavistockcollege.org](mailto:a.jenner@tavistockcollege.org). Thank you.

A final comment from me is that Mrs Young, one of our tutors is doing sterling work in supporting students from whom extra literacy or reading is helpful, however this tactic is not only for a few, do encourage, at home, as much reading as possible with your child as this will automatically help any learning they are doing.

Thank you again for your continued support. As a team we remain hopeful that before this academic year is out we can have the pleasure of meeting many of you face to face.

Kind Regards

Mrs J. Greener HOY 7

## Supporting

### your child

### during the

### Covid-19

### pandemic

It's no secret that lockdown is hard for everyone, not just adults.

The amount of pressure this pandemic is putting on everyone's mental health is incalculable.

The good news is there is support available, you are not alone and there is no shame in seeking help

### Young Minds

is a fantastic place for young people to access help for all mental health worries. There are tools and information for caregivers too.

for young people

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/get-urgent-help/>

for caregivers

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/>

## Message from Mr Ruse

### Dear Y11 and parents,

As you may already be aware Tavistock College employs a CSW Group careers adviser, Jenny Wall. She offers independent careers advice and guidance to many of our students. Some of you will already have had your interview, but we are aware that there are other students where this has not been possible due to current restrictions.

If you have any careers related queries re future direction for your son/daughter either for next September or further ahead, Jenny is offering an email service on Monday 18th January. Please send in your question to Jenny at [jenny.wall@cswgroup.co.uk](mailto:jenny.wall@cswgroup.co.uk) any time from now until the 18th January, with 'Tavistock – Name of Student' in the subject line of your email and Jenny will spend the day answering emails. If you are available by phone on that day and would prefer a conversation please include a relevant number and she will do her best to respond (if there is a specific time you would like to be called please indicate this and she will accommodate this where possible).

Phil Ruse

Assistant Principal

# Family Support

## Grants and funding

Financial support through 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)

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)

## Free training from DIAS

Aimed at parent/carers supporting their child with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/demystifying-send-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-tickets-127732273669>

If you would like to know more please email:  
[megan.kenneallystone@devon.gov.uk](mailto:megan.kenneallystone@devon.gov.uk)

## Chat Health School Nurse

Text Messaging Service 07520631722

An anonymous, confidential text messaging advice service for 11-19 year olds that enables them to contact their school nursing team with questions.

## The Alcohol Education Trust

[www.talkaboutalcohol.com](http://www.talkaboutalcohol.com) a range of really fun and engaging games and activities which help students to learn how to make safe choices around alcohol.

## Teen mental health

<https://www.mytutor.co.uk/blog/teen-mental-health-a-guide-for-parents/>

## Police prevent

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8DPPQUem9A>

The police PREVENT Act Early campaign

## Coronavirus helpline

To answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Phone: 0800 046 8687 Email:

[DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)

## Kooth online

Mental health and wellbeing support to farming families. Services are anonymous and can be booked ahead of time.

[www.rabi.org.uk/kooth](http://www.rabi.org.uk/kooth)

# Mental Health

The CoronaVirus (COVID-19) pandemic is affecting all our lives. Many of us are struggling with how its affecting ourselves and our loved ones. Those of us already living with mental health problems are facing extra challenges too.

Please click on the link below to find reliable resources and tips to help you cope during this time.

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus/>

# Youth Intervention

I know our young people have a lot of questions about law and Policing, and handily this Instagram account @yourpolice.uk addresses a lot of those questions that they may not want to ask an adult, trusted or otherwise. As well as a lot of guidance on rights, law and terminology, there is quite a lot of information on Consent, healthy behaviours and behaviour change.

# Using Xbox or PlayStation to access Hwb

Accessing your remote learning. An alternative method of accessing remote learning during times of lockdown.

## Xbox

1. Plug a keyboard in to the Xbox USB slot
2. Go in to my games and apps
3. Find Microsoft Edge and select
4. Type in: Hwb and log in as you would at school
5. You can then access your work through Google Classroom or OneDrive and use key packages including;
  - Word
  - Teams
  - Excel
  - PowerPoint
  - Your emails
6. To move around you use the Xbox control or plug in a mouse

## PlayStation

1. Identify the PlayStation internet browser icon (it is www with dots around it)
2. Press the PlayStation logo on the controller
3. Go to the library and find options for games and applications
4. Go in to applications and you will find the internet browser
5. Type Hwb into the browser and log in as you would in school
6. You can then access your work through Google Classroom or OneDrive and use key packages including;
  - Word
  - Teams
  - Excel
  - PowerPoint
  - Your emails