



# Fortnightly FOCUS

For Students & Parents

08-10-2021

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Welcome to the latest edition of our Fortnightly Focus for students and parents for this academic year. In this edition, there are a number of important pieces of information and reminders for me to outline, as well as our usual range of stories surrounding what our young people have been achieving success in, both in and out of the classroom.

As we near October half term, it seems a good time to remind everyone of our upcoming term dates:

- Friday 22nd October: break up for October half term
- Monday 25th October – Friday 29th October: half term
- Monday 1st November: return to school



**Dartmoor**  
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Before we break up for half term, a reminder also that there is a calendared non-pupil day on Wednesday 13th October. This is one of our annual staff training days which, this academic year, will be spent with staff developing their work on relational practice, and working with colleagues from other agencies to support students experiencing mental health difficulties.

Approaching swiftly after half term will be Remembrance Day where we will, as always, carry out a school-wide act of remembrance, as well as have representatives take part in ceremonies in the surrounding areas. As usual, any students who are part of a cadet group are welcome to wear their uniforms to school on Remembrance Day in place of their normal school uniform.

On the following pages are a number of success stories from our young people, which we are very pleased and proud to share with you. There is also, as usual, various bits of information that we will continue to distribute to ensure that you are all as informed as possible about where support is readily available and accessible.

As always, please take care, and don't hesitate to make contact with us if we can be supportive.

*Emma Herod, Assistant Principal*

## 7th October: Year 7 and 8 Language & Arts Climate Activism Day

### 'Get involved – Make a Difference'

Tavistock College Students shine a light on Green issues with climate activists Still/Moving and ex-student Chris Hines, co-founder of Surfers Against Sewage

On Thursday this week, students at Tavistock College worked with local artists and climate activists, 'Still/Moving', to create a large light work sculpture. Other creative workshops included creating a giant marine life mural and writing poetry to send an urgent message to world leaders who will be attending the Glasgow COP26 climate conference in November.



'Still/Moving' have previously worked on large scale art exhibits in Plymouth (#NONEWWORLDS) and, more recently, at Carbis Bay, in the lead up to the G7 conference in September. As preparation for their role as resident artists at the COP26 conference, they are conducting workshops with a range of local groups in the South West. Students at the college are currently working with Surfers Against Sewage to become a 'Plastic Free School'. Ex-student, Chris Hines, the co-founder of SAS visited the school in the afternoon to give his support and spent time talking with students.

Head Student, Edward Hopes: "We want this to be a day of creative activism to raise awareness among students and the wider community that the natural world - land and sea - need urgent protection. We all need to be aware of the environmental impact of waste, especially the impact of single use plastics."

Linda Coe, Site Manager at TCC: "Students have really impressed me with their proactive attitude to improving the college environment. We have recently introduced a plastic recycling scheme and staff and students have shown a real will to make this work."

Dr Laura Hopes of Still/Moving: "We are really excited to build participation with the arts as a way to explore feelings and opinions around climate emergency. Holding these workshops and conversations is a way to create a powerful communal voice; calling for change. It is particularly important to create space for voices that might be otherwise overlooked; those of young people, of underrepresented minorities, of those in rural communities. By creating these smaller light sculptures in communities across the UK, we are finding out what are the burning issues at a grass-roots level and bringing these voices with us to the global stage at COP26 in Glasgow."





## Message from Dan Morrow – Trust Leader - Trust rename

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to provide feedback on the Trust's proposal to review its name. We value your honesty and engagement. The purpose of such consultation is to listen to all views and respond.

What is clear from feedback received is that whilst the rename will be an exciting project for the entire Trust community, the focus on post-Covid recovery for our pupils is the top priority right now. We have listened. As a result, we have taken the decision to pause this project until after Easter 2022 at which point we will be able to reassess timing and plans. I'd like to assure you that the excellent ideas and suggestions you have already shared with us via our survey will be taken forward when we come back to this, and we very much looking forward to working with all of you on this at a more appropriate time.

Best wishes

Dan Morrow, Trust Leader

## Nicolas Maczugowski

Nicolas has achieved outstandingly in his first year competing at a National level in Athletics. In addition to his 300m bronze medal at Nationals, Nicolas achieved English Schools standard in 2 events (his 300m time would have also been a school standard if he'd run it earlier in the year) and finished 5th in his chosen event final. He also won the Schools Regional title on his way to the National Championship. He broke 3 City of Plymouth club records as well as finishing in the top 10 of UK rankings in 4 events (80mH, 300m, discus & pentathlon). More importantly, his performances in these events are in the top 7.5% nationally.

In addition, he achieved a top 20 ranking in the shot and top 30 ranking in the Long Jump.

His coaches have very high hopes that he will continue to improve when he steps up to the U17 age group next season.



## Tavistock College Alumni

### Uniformed Protective Services

On 28 September 2021. RAF Police dog handler and former Tavistock College student Cpl Jennifer Sabine returned to share a really valuable and intriguing insight into RAF life, ranging from day one of basic training to the role of a Police dog handler. Counter intelligence and security roles also featured in Cpl Sabines engaging presentation. Our Year 12 UPS students had an opportunity to ask questions about service life and all felt that the visit provided a great chance to learn more about roles in the RAF and armed services sector. Uniformed Protective Services has entered our curriculum at level 3 within the PE faculty. For more information please contact N Hosking. [n.hosking@tavistockcollege.org](mailto:n.hosking@tavistockcollege.org)



## LAMDA Success

This is some of our Yr 12 and 13 students who have recently gained their LAMDA qualifications. Each student has also accrued significant UCAS points to contribute towards their University applications. Well done to them for their hard work and achievements!



# Rural Craft Fair & COMMUNITY

23rd October

Okehampton College & Simmons Park  
10.am - 4.00pm. Entry free

Okehampton College is excited to be involved in the Rural Craft & Community Fair on Saturday 23rd October 2021 which will be a showcase of the opportunities that are available to engage in within our Town.

The Rural Craft & Community Fair will be the coming together of our recreational, support and voluntary organisations in the Okehampton area and will be an opportunity to find out more about what goes on in the town and what you can involve yourself in, whether that is sporting clubs, art/craft clubs, recreational/voluntary groups, or you want more information about support you can receive.

If you are a member organisation that would like to be represented at the Rural Craft & Community Fair and to take the opportunity to share what you do and recruit new members, please contact [community@dmatschools.org.uk](mailto:community@dmatschools.org.uk)

# 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)

## 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

[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.

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

## 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) Fun 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)

## Mind

The CoronaVirus (COVID-19) pandemic is affecting all our lives. Reliable resources and tips to help you cope during this time.

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

## Balancing mental health and screentime with Yoga!

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/nhs-fitness-studio/yoga-with-lj/>

## Youth Intervention

Answering questions about law and policing, Instagram account @yourpolice.uk Guidance on rights, law and terminology, plus quite a lot of information on consent, healthy behaviours and behaviour change.

## Early Help Resources

This is a really powerful set of videos about seeing parent conflict through the child's eyes. <https://www.seeitdifferently.org/>

## Hub of Hope

A national mental health database which brings together organisations and charities who offer mental health advice and support, together in one place. <https://hubofhope.co.uk/>

## How safe are Apps, Games and Websites?

Type the name of the game/app/website into <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> a quick, easy snapshot - what the app is, how safe it is etc.

## Keeping children safe online

The [safeguarding area](#) of the college website for resources and signposting that may be helpful to carers and parents when trying to keep their children safe online.

## A Guide to Potentially Dangerous Apps for Kids

Plus useful tips for protecting your child from cyberbullying and other online safety hazards

<https://www.familyeducation.com/mobile-apps/a-complete-guide-to-potentially-dangerous-apps-all-parents-should-be-aware-of>

## NSPCC Helpline for victims of sexual abuse in schools

Sexual abuse in any form is unacceptable.

Telephone 0800 136 663, or email [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk).

# The Lost Librarian

Coming to Tavistock Library from 23rd October until 6th November an exciting escape room mystery experience (12+ guidance) for all ages.

Using interactive mechanical books, small groups need to work together to solve the clues which unlock the books on a 60 minute journey uncovering a mystical tale of the last known witches in the UK and the legacy they left behind.

All spaces are COVID secure and we are following government guidelines. Sessions cost £12 for the group. To book visit <https://librariesevolve.org.uk/events>

# What if YOU spoke?

10 online writing masterclasses, 10 points of view from some of the UK's brightest new writers. We all have a story to tell and this is an opportunity for young people who live in Devon or use libraries in Devon, aged 15 to 25, to experiment with ways of writing and enter competitions to get published as well as win prizes.

Visit <https://librariesevolve.org.uk/watch-now>

Closing date is January 14th 2022 so there is lots of time to try all the classes and decide which suits your writing.

The master classes are bitesize and may be really useful as resources for teachers in class as well as for young people to try out.

More information from Tavistock Library tel: 01822 612218; email [tavistock.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk](mailto:tavistock.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk) and see our Facebook page for a taster of The Lost Librarian.

# Tavistock COLLEGE