



Fortnightly FOCUS

10-12-2021

For Students & Parents

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Welcome to the latest edition of our Fortnightly Focus for students and parents for this academic year. This is the final Fortnightly Focus of the Autumn Term, before we break up for the Christmas Holidays next week, so I would like to take the opportunity to thank our students and their families for their support over the course of this term.

As has every school, we have faced a number of challenges this term, particularly around all of the issues that the continuing Covid pandemic brings, but we are grateful for the support, patience, and positivity of the school and wider community as we have continued our focus on providing a quality educational and enrichment experience for our young people.



Dartmoor
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Over the course of the next few pages there are opportunities to celebrate and gain information around a variety of topics and achievements: some information about our KS3 reading intervention programme; the beginning of our journey towards achieving the Artsmark; and the achievements of a range of our young people both in and out of school. 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.

Before that, and on a much more sombre note, I must share some important information about a topic that you may find upsetting: suicide. We have been asked to share this information with the families of our students, along with links towards guidance, support and advice for anyone affected by this issue.

The Christmas period can be a very difficult time for many people, especially for those whose mental health is already fragile. Alongside that, we are sorry to say that Devon has recently experienced an increased number of young males dying by suicide. Of course, suicide can affect anyone, from any background, and so we would like to share with you the following links to websites, groups and organisations who offer support in this area:

- **Ripple Suicide Prevention:** Ripple aims to minimise the risks of the internet, while harnessing its potential for good. <https://www.ripplesuicideprevention.com/>
- **Samaritans:** Call 116 123 free. 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We're waiting for your call. <https://www.samaritans.org/>
- **Charlie Waller Memorial Trust:** A mental health charity created by the Waller family in 1997 in response to the loss of their son and brother Charlie to suicide having suffered from depression. <https://charliewaller.org/>
- **Papyrus:** PAPYRUS UK is a charity for the prevention of young suicide (under 35) in the UK <https://www.papyrus-uk.org/>
If you are having thoughts of suicide or are concerned for a young person who might be you can contact HOPELINEUK for confidential support and practical advice. Call: 0800 068 4141 Text: 07860039967 Email: pat@papyrus-uk.org
Opening hours: 9am – midnight every day of the year (Weekends and Bank Holidays included)
- **Childline:** HOW ARE YOU FEELING? <https://www.childline.org.uk/>
- **Kooth:** Mental health and wellbeing support to farming families. www.rabi.org.uk/kooth
- **Young Devon:** Everyone has mental health, and it isn't something you need to deal with on your own. <https://www.youngdevon.org/minds-that-matter-support/young-devon>
- **Young Minds:** You are not alone. However you're feeling right now, things can get better <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

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

Emma Herod, Assistant Principal

Covid information

Dear parents and carers

Since I last wrote to you on Wednesday morning, we have heard from both the Prime Minister and the DfE regarding the tightening of guidelines across the country and the government's plan to move to their 'plan B' strategy.

This has meant that we have had to look at our standard operating practices and our risk assessments and we have made the following changes.

We will no longer be allowing parents on site unless this is for legal meeting purposes. I have asked the staff to hold meetings virtually. Any one who needs to attend the college for legal or statutory meetings must show proof of a negative lateral flow test less than 24 hours earlier.

We have made the decision to cancel our carol concerts for year 7 and 8 this year. This is unfortunate and lots of people were looking forward to sharing this act of solidarity and celebration with the community but it is simply not possible now.

Staff and students are asked to complete lateral flow tests twice weekly and record these on the gov.uk website over the Christmas break and as you know we are planning for the staggered start to term so we can test all students on their return to school.

Next week will be a normal school week in the run up to Christmas, we will still be having our Christmas dinner day on Wednesday 15th and the last lesson of the week, Friday 17th Period 5 students will spend in their tutor groups, with their tutors. They will be taking part in virtual head of house assemblies as well as watching the college choir sing their festive repertoire

Yours sincerely, *Tristan*

Japanese Christmas card exchange

Tavistock College was recently contacted by teacher, James Eaton, who is working at a school in Hioki City, Kagoshima, Japan. He proposed a Christmas cultural exchange.

Students from both schools made a Christmas card to send to their contemporaries in the other country.



The cards contained messages in Japanese and English to encourage the development of the students' writing skills and to promote cultural awareness.

Our students are pictured with the beautiful cards they received from the Japanese students.

Christmas card competition winner

Mr Forster (Associate Principal at Tavistock College) was delighted to present Year 10 Art student, Lauren Buckett with a pack of Christmas cards of her own design. Lauren designed the beautiful Robin card for this year's College Christmas Card Competition and Mr Forster will use it to send holiday wishes out on behalf of the college



Artsmark

We are delighted to announce that we are officially starting our Artsmark journey! Artsmark is the creative quality standard for education settings, accredited and awarded by Arts Council England. The Artsmark Award provides a clear framework for education professionals to plan, develop and evaluate their arts and cultural provision.

At Tavistock College we are totally committed to the Arts and creativity being an essential part of a broad and balanced education. We have a wide variety of curriculum, extra and co curricular strands, events and resources in place already which has allowed us to start this journey but working towards Artsmark will support us to further develop and celebrate our commitment to arts and cultural education for all at Tavistock College. Artsmark will help us even further embed arts, culture and creativity to support our ambitious curriculum, strengthen pupil voice and support personal progression.

Why Artsmark?

- Support the health and wellbeing of pupils with arts, culture and creativity
- Ensure every young person can be creative and access a diverse, high-quality cultural education
- Engage, motivate and upskill teaching staff using Artsmark's CPD and whole school collaboration
- Access professional support, advice and resources to strengthen your arts provision

If you feel you would like to contribute to the Arts and Creativity at Tavistock College with resources, materials, practical support, suggestions, collaborations or artistic endeavours please contact Eva Pearson (Head of Creative Arts) on e.pearson@tavistockcollege.org



We're working towards Artsmark
Awarded by Arts Council England

Athletics success

Tavistock College Year 10 student Nicolas Maczugowski has had a very successful couple of weeks in the indoor athletics season. The first of these performances was in the Sportshall County championships where he won 2 golds and a silver and broke 2 City of Plymouth club records.

Nic opened the day with a massive standing triple jump of 8.17m, a fantastic 77cm improvement on his previous best jump. He followed this up with another record in the 4 lap sprint where he just failed to get under the 50sec mark with a time of 50.40s! This beat his previous best by 2.5secs!!

In addition, Nic had his first races of the indoor season at Lee Valley London on 5th December. This with the hopes of a chance to get the all important standard for Nationals in February.

He made a very late decision to switch events to do the 60m sprints and he beat his PB in the first race with a time of 7.56s and was only 0.02s slower in the second! This should be sufficient to secure his entry standard for Nationals in February!

Judo success

There were 5 students from college at the British Judo Association National Judo Championships last weekend. Two days of competition in Sheffield at the English Institute of Sport, with the elite of Great Britain all coming together to compete. As expected, all 5 fought extremely well, putting in some amazing performances, and all 5 should be proud of their personal achievements.

Erin Hopkins, Phoebe Frise, Alanna Hopkins, Charlotte Hay and Reuben Frise Alanna managed to progress into the final block but unfortunately lost her bronze medal contest. This still makes her 5th in Great Britain, which is a huge achievement!

Phoebe also put in some brave battles and achieved an extremely creditable 7th place, another brilliant result and one that she should very rightly be proud of.

Pony show

Ella Glennon and 6yr old Oreo attended Keysoe High Profile show for the FEI pony tests. Thrilled with a top ten placing for the Team tests against the top pony combinations. Sadly Oreo had a meltdown for the individual test though had some great marks at the beginning.



Lexia 'Power Up'

An On-line Reading Intervention which Parents and Students can Access from Home

Lexia 'Power Up' is a highly recommended on-line intervention designed to offer students a personalised programme of activities to boost their independent read skills. To help address the effects of lost learning time and the impact on students' literacy progress, the school has invested in 120 Lexia licences for students in Key Stage 3. Evidence-based research, carried out by the National Literacy Trust and the Education Endowment Foundation, has recently found that Lexia can have a significant impact on reading age, even after a relatively short period of time. Students who have already been using the programme agree that it is enjoyable and motivating; plus with success charts and awards you quickly get a sense of making progress.

Last year our own cohort of Year 7 students saw impressive results through using the programme. 37 Year 7 students regularly used the Lexia Power Up online reading programme during lockdown and on return to school in the spring and summer terms. The average reading age increase for these students was 11.4 months – this was achieved over a period of 6 months, including approximately 3 months of home schooling. 7 Lexia students made more than 2 year's progress in this same time period. 19 students made more than one year's progress. Therefore we know, that when students engage properly with this intervention, it does work.

In school we support students' use of Lexia through Personal Reading lessons, reading registrations and in withdrawal lessons with reading specialists. However, one of the main advantages of this programme is that it can be used

anywhere – at home or at school - anywhere where you can plug in a laptop or computer. Students have their own login and parents can view their personal dashboard and monitor progress from home too. To maximise the benefits, it is recommended that students spend at least 30 minutes on Lexia at home, as part of their home learning each week, to compliment what they are receiving at school. As Lexia 'Power Up' is designed for students' independent use, it is also an ideal home learning resource for any students who have to study from home or self-isolate.

If you would like to know more about the 'Power Up' programme or have any questions about reading intervention and support at Key Stage 3, please contact your child's English teacher or Shirley Young our KS3 Coordinator for English (s.young@tavistockcollege.org).

Thank you for your support.



Lexia Winners this Term

Year 7 (most work units completed independently)

Charlie Brown - 120 units

Jemima Trewartha-Wyatt - 86 units

Cleo Coles - 78 units

Year 8

Austin Bell - 148 units

Katy-Jane Membury - 116 units

Morgan Carter - 96 unit

Power Up tips

https://www.lexialearningresources.com/PowerUp/s2h/PowerUp_Tips_for_Remote_Learning.pdf

