



Fortnightly

For Students & Parents

21-01-2022

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Welcome to the latest edition of our Fortnightly Focus for students and parents for this academic year. We hope that all our students and their families enjoyed a wonderful break over the festive period and would like to take this opportunity to wish you a (somewhat belated!) Happy New Year.



Dartmoor
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

As you will be aware, there have been some further changes made to the UK's guidance in relation to Covid which, inevitably, affects a school setting. Mr Forster has recently written to all parents outlining the safety and protective measures that we will be taking at Tavistock College; what these will look like over the coming weeks and when these

will be reviewed. Please do take the time to read this letter, and ensure that your son/daughter is aware of what is expected of them. We would also like to thank and acknowledge the hard work of our students who have been sitting mock exams; these are always particularly stressful experiences for our young people, and we are hugely appreciative of the maturity and motivation the vast majority of students have brought to their preparation for and sitting of these exams.

As usual, over the next few pages, there are a number of success stories that we wish to share with you to highlight the achievements and efforts of our young people, both in and outside of the school environment. There are also some pieces of information shared which we hope may be of use to some of our families.

Finally, as a college, we received the sad news that a former colleague, Judy Brown, passed away recently. Judy taught at Tavistock College for many years and will be remembered by many in the community who were taught by her. Below are some words of tribute from former colleagues of Judy.

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

Emma Herod, Assistant Principal

First Aid Provision at Tavistock College

Keeping all of our students safe and well is always our number one priority at Tavistock College. This is the only way in which students can consistently achieve well, meet their true potential and succeed whilst they are at school. It's fair to say that the Covid-19 pandemic of the last two years has provided additional challenges for the smooth running of a school. We have appreciated the support from parents and carers in helping us comply with the DfE and Public Health England guidance in terms of Covid-19 symptoms, testing and rules around self isolation.

Can I take this opportunity to clarify a few points about general first aid provision at Tavistock College:

- We have a rota of first aid staff who are 'on call' to deal with any incidents that require 'first aid' during the school day.
- We do not have a school nurse on site. Therefore, can I respectfully ask that students are not sent to school with known illnesses or health issues that require likely medical attention in the short term. You should seek medical assistance via 111 or local Doctors Surgeries as appropriate.
- Minor first aid incidents in Science, PE and Technology may be dealt with within faculty areas by first aid trained staff.
- We endeavour to support the wider mental health of our students at all times. There are various systems in place to support which include mentoring, LSO support, peer mentoring and a students wider pastoral team. A student should always be able to speak to their form tutor in the first instance if there's a problem with which they require some support.
- Please ensure that any changed contact details or phone numbers are always updated with the College. This is crucial to help us with our timely communication home as appropriate.

Thanks in anticipation for your support.

Tributes to Judy Brown

It is with great sadness that we learned of the death of Mrs Judy Brown on 7th December 2021. Judy joined Tavistock College in 1977 where she taught for nearly 30 years until her retirement in 2006. With such a long career in one establishment, this provided her colleagues with a tremendous resource. As a new member of staff, I found her knowledge of students and their families and college events, past and present very helpful. She was always very patient and supportive so important when finding your feet in a new school.

Some will remember her as Mrs Lawson and then as Mrs Brown. She worked mainly in the English department where she was responsible for the GCSE courses up until her retirement. Her dedication to students' achievement meant that she frequently ran after school sessions to give students extra support for which they were extremely grateful.

After retirement she was able to enjoy her hobbies of reading and visiting the island of Crete, where she spent many happy holidays with her husband Derek. Speaking to colleagues who knew her well, we all feel that she saw Tavistock College as a very important part of her life and we in turn benefitted from knowing her.

Liz Rowe (Head of English 2003 – 2013)

It is with sadness that Tavistock College shares the news of the recent passing of Judy Brown.

Mrs Brown, or Judy Lawson as she was then, starting teaching at Tavistock College back in the 1970's when it was still known as the Comprehensive. As a member of the English department she was known as a loyal friend, supportive colleague and dedicated teacher, a regular member of staff social groups and a long serving teacher.

There will be many parents and possibly even grandparents of current students who will remember her fondly, indeed several members of the current staff owe their English O Levels to Mrs Lawson's lessons in E2.

Jo Neill

It's Not Okay

During the week commencing 10th January our College took part in the Dartmoor MAT-wide campaign "It's Not Okay".

This campaign aimed to raise awareness of sexual violence, harassment, and peer on peer abuse.

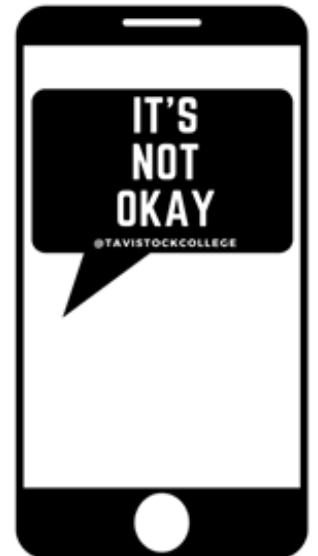
The aims of the campaign were to:

- raise awareness of sexual violence and harassment
- understand the impacts and connotations associated with our choices of language
- present a clear message across our school community that Tavistock College has a zero tolerance for any behaviours that come under sexual harassment and sexual violence
- promote the wellbeing, safety and health of all of our students
- encourage our students as well as their families to report incidents of unacceptable behaviour

During the campaign week students took part assemblies, tutor activities and social studies lessons; all focused around the "It's Not Okay" campaign.

The campaign week was an opportunity for the college to build upon the important work that already takes place building awareness and educating our students on these vital topics. The campaign has also paved the way for continued development and opportunities on how we, as a school, and the wider community, can continue to raise awareness of sexual violence and harassment.

The trust is committed to addressing these issues, educating and supporting victims and perpetrators, as well as working with our wider school community, and we thank you for your continued support.



Project Rugby

Over the past 12 weeks, in partnership with Premiership rugby club Exeter Chiefs, we have hosted Project Rugby.

Run by Premiership Rugby in collaboration with England Rugby this project is designed to increase participation in the game. Every Thursday an Exeter Chiefs community coach has led PE groups through Rugby based activities and our students across all year groups have benefited from these fun and developmental sessions.

During each week of the program, Brandon Allen and Jack Hall (6th form students) have volunteered to support the sessions, bolstering their own coaching and leadership skills while working alongside Exeter Chiefs coaching staff.

Jack and Brandon have developed excellent leadership and coaching skills over the duration of the project and were able to display these while leading activities at the multi-school rugby festival held in Exeter to celebrate completion of project rugby 2021. A big thanks must also go to Exeter Chiefs for running this amazing project.

For more information about Project Rugby, or student leadership at Tavistock College please contact the PE faculty.

Mr Hosking.



Congratulations Ella

Congratulations to Ella Glennon and her 6yr old pony Leo (Amden Supreme Golden Dancer). Ella been one of just 12 people accepted onto the National Academy for British Dressage.

The National Academy is an athlete training programme for young athletes who are demonstrating the potential to have a successful future in the sport.

Ella has trained this pony herself and is starting FEI pony level tests with him this year.

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

Barnados

See Hear Respond by Barnados. www.barnados.org.uk/see-hear-respond
Help to cope with the Covid-19 crisis.

Free Solihull online courses

- Understanding your baby
 - Understanding your child
 - Understanding your teenagers' brain
- www.inourplace.co.uk access code TAMAR.

Support for parents

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.

The Alcohol Education Trust

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>

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

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

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/>

Free Outward Bound Courses

The Sir Francis Chichester Trust is offering FREE places on [Outward Bound Courses](#) to young people aged 16-22 who live in Devon.

Early Help Resources

Seeing parent conflict through the child's eyes. <https://www.seeitdifferently.org/>

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.

Hub of Hope

A database which brings together organisations and charities who offer mental health advice and support. <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 when trying to keep children safe online.

A Guide to Potentially Dangerous Apps for Kids

Plus useful tips for protecting your child from 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.

Alleviating fuel poverty

YLEAP is a Devon wide service. Its free and saves households on average £1000. For West Devon <https://tamarenergycommunity.com/>

We are here to help You



Citizens Advice Torridge, North, Mid & West Devon helps people to solve their problems.

We provide free, independent, confidential and impartial advice to everyone on their rights and responsibilities.

We value diversity, promote equality and challenge discrimination.

If you would like our help please contact us.

Are you struggling with fuel costs this winter?

Household Support Fund

The fund is available to people in West Devon who have a pre-payment meter and are struggling to afford fuel and food bills this winter.

The fund is available until 31st March 2022.

If you have a pre-payment meter and are struggling with bills or you know someone who is, please contact us, we can advise on eligibility and help you to apply.

If you do not have a pre-payment meter and are struggling with essential bills and you live in West Devon, contact West Devon Borough Council on 01822 813600 or email customer.services@swdevon.gov.uk

Here are the ways you can contact us

Call our free, local AdviceLine on 0808 27 87 999

Get advice and webchat via

www.ruraldevoncab.org.uk click on 'get advice'

Email us on info@ruraldevoncab.org.uk

Message us

www.facebook.com/TorridgeNorthMidWestCA



Tavistock COLLEGE

