



Student Voice - Academy Status

Questions we have about the College potentially becoming an Academy

Q) Will the behaviour policy (rewards and sanctions) change?

A) This will be unrelated to whether or not we become an academy. All policies are under review and students are welcome to comment on them at any time in tutor activities.

Q) Will the College name change?

A) There are no plans to change the name of the college.

Q) Will the dates and times of the College day change?

A) There are no plans to change this but this may be reviewed in the future. Parents, staff and students would be consulted on this matter before any changes were made.

Q) Why do we need to change?

A) This is a decision made by the Government in their democratic responsibility to run the country. It is proposed that all schools will be academies by 2020.

Q) Will tutor groups be changed?

A) There are no plans to change tutor groups.

Q) Will there be an increase in student numbers and more buildings?

A) This is unlikely but the governors of the college will be seeking additional funding to improve the buildings of the college.

Q) Will it affect the catering and Refectory?

A) This is unrelated to becoming an academy. Students are welcome to join the student voice group that is advising the catering staff under the leadership of Mrs Horn, the Business Leader. Please contact Mr Forster if you are interested in joining this group.

Q) Will pupils get a greater options list of lessons at KS3, including ICT and creative subjects?

A) The college plans to continue to offer all subjects that are in the national curriculum including ICT and the creative subjects.

Q) Can an activity week be introduced?

A) There are no plans to introduce an activity week because the college already offers a very wide and extensive extra-curricular programme.

Q) Would there be another college joining us?

A) Yes, the idea is to link some primary schools and one other secondary school to Tavistock College but the students in those schools will still attend their own school.

Q) How would it change student opportunities?

A) There will be greater opportunity for students to have a say in the organisation and day to day running of the college and to take advantage of the opportunities in other schools by working together.

Q) Will there be more sports fixtures with other schools?

A) Possibly but these have not yet been finalised.

Q) Will there be more extra-curricular activities like trips for KS3 students?

A) Possibly but these have not yet been finalised.

Q) Which community groups will be involved in the Academy Trust?

A) There will be exciting opportunities as yet undecided.

Q) Are we getting more funding for equipment?

A) We will seek additional funds directly from the Department for Education instead of Devon County Council. It will be their decision whether or not we get more funding for equipment.

Q) Will any of the behaviour rules change?

A) All policies are under review and students are welcome to comment on them at any time in tutor activities.

Q) When do we plan to convert?

A) September 1st 2016 is the planned conversion date but the Department for Education may still turn us down so it is not guaranteed.

Q) Would we interact with students from linked schools?

A) Yes, there will many opportunities to do this but students will continue to attend their own schools for lessons.

Q) Will it change the way we are taught in lessons?

A) It will have no impact.

Q) Will our uniform change?

A) There are no plans to change the school uniform.

Q) Will clubs change?

A) There may be even more opportunities to attend clubs and there are no plans to reduce any clubs.

Q) Will the class groups change?

A) There are no plans to change any groups.

Dates for the Diary

Year 11 Parents Evening

Wednesday 10th February

Preparing for the Future Day

Thursday 11th February

Non Pupil Day - Friday 12th February

Half Term

Monday 15th – Friday 19th February Inclusive

Year 8 Parents Evening

Thursday 25th February

Governor Opportunities

Get involved in your local community by becoming a School Governor! This role offers a unique opportunity to help contribute your own expertise to help build the future of our local community through education. Following retirement and relocation of former Governors the board of Governors is now seeking to add three new members with professional backgrounds and skills in either law, accountancy, marketing or purchasing/procurement to strengthen the oversight and guidance of the College. Even if you've never been involved in this type of rewarding experience before, full training and continued professional development and support is offered. Interested? Want more information? Please feel free to contact us: enquiries@tavistockcollege.devon.sch.uk

<http://www.nga.org.uk/Be-a-Governor.aspx>

Athletics Success

Congratulations to all of the students who represented the college with pride on Tuesday in the West Devon indoor athletics (track and field) competition at Ivybridge Community College.

Stand out performance was from Tabitha Myler Y7 who came 2nd in the very difficult 6 lap event. Competition was very fierce and the students all gave 100%. They should be really proud of their performances.

Y10 leaders were also brilliant! *Mr Hosking*

Y10 – Young Leaders Dylan Wood, Tom White, Rhiannon Williams and Ellie Taylor

Athletes Tabitha Myler Y7, Grace Baker Y7, Ellie Meakin Y8, Abi Brimacombe Y8, Jennie Green Y8, Lottie McLeod Y8, Freddie Fuller Y7, Daniel Luckham Y7, and Josh Monk Y8



Getting to know your staff

Mrs H Blackmore

Mrs Blackmore is the Head of Year 7, returning after a spell away from college on maternity leave.



1) **What's the best part of your job?** The fact that every day is different. I get to work with a fantastic team of people and a great mix of students both in the PE department and in my role as Head of Year.

2) **When you were little what was your dream job?** When I was little I always wanted to be a primary school teacher as I loved all subjects and couldn't decide on one!!!!

3) **If you could have one wish, what would you wish for and why?** That my grandparents were alive to meet my children.

4) **Football or Rugby?** Both

5) **If you've had a really rubbish day, how do you cheer yourself up?** Chocolate..... lots of chocolate!

6) **If you could have a superpower for a day, what would it be?** To be able to go back in time each day to correct any mistakes that I have made.

7) **What is your favourite song EVER?** S Club 7 Reach!!!! I am that sad that I actually went to see them at the O2 as part of their reunion tour last year.

8) **Who is the most inspirational person you know?** Mrs Bishop, my PE teacher at school who inspired me to become who I am today.

9) **Give us one interesting fact about yourself.** I used to compete in Synchronised Swimming and was trained by Ian Waite off Strictly come dancing.

Attendance Reporting Student Absences Up to 3 Days' Absence

- It is the responsibility of the parents/carers to inform the College of the reason for a student's absence by 9.00 a.m. on the day of absence by ringing the college and using option 4 for the attendance officer

- The College will operate a First Day Calling system and the parents/carers of every absent student will be contacted by the Attendance Officer.

- Any absence where a reason is NOT provided, will be followed up with a School Comms Message in the first instance then a letter from the Attendance Officer.

More than 3 Consecutive Days' Absence

- Parent/carer must contact Attendance officer on 3rd day of absence giving expected date of return.

- Where there has been no parental/carer notification after 3 consecutive days, HOY should contact parents/carer.

- Where there has been an absence of more than 4 consecutive days and parents/carers have not made contact or cannot be contacted by school, EWO should be informed.

- In the case of 5 or more days of illness, the college should be notified so that teachers can set work. Medical evidence will need to be provided to the school in order for the College to authorise the absence. The EWO will be notified if the absence is unauthorised.

Methods of Reporting Absences

In any case of absence, parents/carers should contact the College by one of the following methods:

- By phone to the Attendance Officer. (option 4)

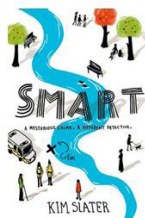
- Personal contact with Attendance Officer who will note the reason for absence on SIMs. Attendance Officer will notify the tutor of absence and reason.

- If you are unable to contact the Attendance Officer, a parental note explaining the absence must be passed to the Attendance Officer on the first day back at College.

- Notification by fax and e-mail cannot be accepted, we do however accept messages via School Coms.



Children's Book Award 2016
The Federation of Children's Book Groups
Registered Charity 268289



Help choose the winner of the Children's Book Award 2016.

Read the top three and decide on your favourite.

See Mrs Davies for more information.

Tavistock COLLEGE