



Dear all, a very happy new year to you. I'm not sure when you should stop saying that, but since it's the first Fortnightly Focus of the year I think I can still get away with it.



**Dartmoor**  
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Since returning to college for 2018, we have rolled out our new behavior system, Ready to Learn. We are very proud of this system. It is based on what other schools in the local area have done, but more importantly was developed after consultation, listening to the responses of all of our constituency groups. Students, parents and staff all had their

say to ensure that this system is specific to the Tavistock College community. So far we have had a very positive start to the new system. We have already seen a drop in levels of poor performance across the school, both in lessons and at social time, and the feedback we have received from students, staff and parents has been both positive and supportive. Another change is that we are now part of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) with like minded schools that share our co-operative values. It was vital to the fabric of the school to ensure that any partnerships developed those values, and did not diminish them in any way. We look forward to working with our partner schools and the benefits that will bring the college community.

This half term we will welcome colleagues from Humanotopia, a company that assists schools supporting the development of their students. They will be spending significant amounts of time with both Year 8 and Year 10, working to increase the students' awareness of personal development to benefit them in all areas of their lives.

As usual, a busy half term coming up for everyone involved with the college. I hope that January doesn't drag on for too long and that those new year's resolutions are still intact. Anyone wanting to kick-start a health or fitness program as part of a new year's resolution, might consider ringing James in our sports center, he will be more than happy to help you out!

*Mr Forster - Assistant Principal*

## Diary Dates

**Governors meetings**

**Resources Committee**

24 January @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**Curriculum Committee**

7 March @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**Resources Committee**

28 March @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**Half Term**

12 - 16 February

**Easter Break**

30 March - 13 April

## Outcome of Multi Academy Trust Consultation

On the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017 I wrote to you to confirm the formal consultation process on the proposal for Tavistock College to become an Academy in the Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust.

Following the consideration of all the comments received during the consultation process, I am writing to advise you that the Governing Body took a unanimous decision to transfer into the Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018.

Our proposal for conversion to academy status in order to form the MAT is underpinned by a shared commitment to ensure the best possible outcomes for students at Tavistock College and that the individual identity, characteristic and ethos of our school is maintained and strengthened.

Thank you to all of you who made contributions in the consultation process. In accordance with good communication in the school, you will appreciate that full consultation has been concluded but should you have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

*Sarah Jones, Principal*

*Ralph Crook, Chair of Governors*

TAVISTOCK COLLEGE ENDOWMENT FUND 'A Registered Charity'

## Do you need financial help to support your education?

The Tavistock College Endowment Fund is a registered charity set up in 1932. Its purpose is to help pupils of the College with the expenses of education.

Grants can be awarded:-

- To support education costs.
- To provide assistance with clothing, tools and instruments on leaving school.
- To fund travel abroad to pursue education.
- To provide facilities for recreation and social or physical training.
- To provide financial assistance to study music or other arts.

### Eligibility

Young people under the age of 25 who are attending the college or have attended at any time for not less than 3 years and are resident in either the urban or rural areas of Tavistock (In the opinion of the trustees).

The trustees meet in **January May and October** each year to determine applications. Application forms are available from the Principal's office or can be downloaded from the college website.

<http://www.tavistockcollege.org/our-college/tavistock-college-endowment-fund/>

Applicants should provide **as much detail as possible** regarding family income and reasons why funding is required. Students should note that Trustees rarely fund the whole cost of a school trip or project. They expect the student or their family to raise funds or contribute towards the cost. **Please supply as much detail as you can when applying for a grant.**

# The World of Work



## Year 12 Work Experience

Year 12 work experience week is fast approaching and takes place on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March inclusive. Having it earlier in the academic year has allowed students in recent years to access a greater range of placements in both the local community and further afield. Work experience is a statutory requirement for students studying in a school post 16 and is incredibly valuable in assisting their future UCAS applications and job prospects.

Through the tutor programme, year 12 tutors are currently exploring a range of resources to assist students in searching out and acquiring their placements.

The following websites are incredibly useful if students require further ideas and inspiration towards making the most of this opportunity:

[www.careerpilot.org.uk/](http://www.careerpilot.org.uk/)

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/>

<http://www.careersbox.co.uk/>

<https://www.plotr.co.uk/>

Students have access to a database of local employers who have supported work experience placements in the past. We are fortunate to be supported greatly by our local community but the onus is very much on the students to take the initiative and make contact with local employers in a professional and polite way. The work experience consent form is due back by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February. This leaves some time for the school to ensure all correct risk assessment checks are in place so students can fully benefit and enjoy their placement.

Students should speak to Mr Ruse if they have any particular queries or questions about the process.

## Year 10 Work Experience

Year 10 work experience week runs from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> until Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July inclusive. Whilst this may seem a long way away it is crucial that students are proactive in seeking out these placements now. Firstly it takes time for the relevant paperwork and risk assessment checks to be carried out and secondly many schools in West Devon and Plymouth undertake work experience at a similar time.

As part of the tutor programme students are going to explore wider employability skills and future opportunities to assist in the process. The following websites are incredibly useful if students require further ideas and inspiration towards making the most of this opportunity:

[www.careerpilot.org.uk/](http://www.careerpilot.org.uk/)

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/>

<http://www.careersbox.co.uk/>

<https://www.plotr.co.uk/>

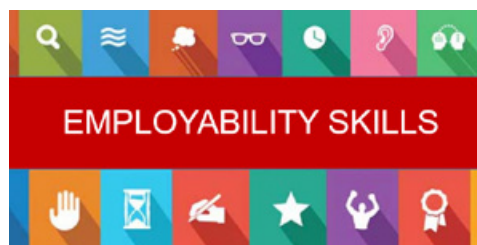
Students should speak to Mr Ruse if they have any particular queries or questions about the process.

## Work Preparation Day

Last term a group of sixth form students attended a Work Preparation Day working alongside the College Enterprise Advisor. Nigel Halford is the ex CEO of Plymouth Science Park at Derriford and has been working alongside Mr Ruse in recent months to help build a strategy around employability skills at the College whilst developing links with local businesses and industry.

The work preparation day gave students an extended period of time to consider their future. Time was spent on the importance of employability skills including communication and problem solving. Students also had the opportunity to look at the skills of CV and UCAS application writing. The day concluded with a series of mock interviews. Some students were able to experience the challenge of being interviewed in a formal situation whilst others formed part of the interview panel and could focus on other aspects such as the importance of body language and communication.

The students were incredibly positive in their feedback after, particularly citing the value of undertaking a mock interview given the fact this process, whether it be for a University place, apprenticeship or job often provides great anxiety for our young people. As Nigel often says 'if you have been called to interview you are half way there already. The interview is your chance to convert the opportunity'. Students at Tavistock College have two periods of work experience in year 10 and year 12. These form a central focus on the employability skills young people need to develop and time is given within our tutor programme to further develop and foster these transferable skills. Students at the College also have the opportunity to receive impartial, independent careers advice from Careers South West. Any students in years 11,12 or 13 who feel they would benefit from a formal careers interview and subsequent action plan should contact their tutors or Mr Ruse directly.



PE CLUBS 3.30 – 4.45PM	
CLUB	WHEN / WHERE
Y10 SPORTS TOUR FOOTBALL	MONDAY
Y11 GCSE PE REVISION	MONDAY
INDOOR CRICKET	MONDAY
Y7 & 8 BOYS FOOTBALL	TUESDAY
BASKETBALL	TUESDAY
FITNESS SUITE	TUESDAY
TABLE TENNIS	TUESDAY - GYM
HOCKEY	TUESDAY
Y11 GCSE PE REVISION	TUESDAY
GIRLS FOOTBALL	TUESDAY
1ST TEAM FOOTBALL	WEDNESDAY P5
1ST TEAM NETBALL	WEDNESDAY P5
Y9 & 10 SPORTS TOUR NETBALL	THURSDAY
BADMINTON	THURSDAY
FITNESS SUITE	THURSDAY
JUDO	THURSDAY
GIRLS RUGBY	THURSDAY
BOYS RUGBY	THURSDAY
Y7 & 8 NETBALL	THURSDAY



## PE House System

Current Overall Positions

2017-2018

Position	House	Points
1st	DALEY	88
2nd	SIMMONDS	88
3rd	ENNIS	84
4th	AINSLIE	78

# Swimming Success

The college swim team took part in the annual 'Tamar Cup' and achieved 2nd place overall, narrowly losing out to Launceston but winning more race points than Okehampton and Budehaven. With a lot of pupils from Y7 and 8 swimming against older pupils, there is lots to be proud of!

Combining our team results with that of Okehampton, we competed for Devon v Cornwall for the Tamar Cup. After 24 races, the scores were tied and the cup was awarded to both counties.

The college team was excellent with lots of swimming talent captained by Amy Roberts. The overall results were:

- 6 x 1st place
- 10 x 2nd place
- 4 x 3rd place
- 4 x 4th place

Congratulations to the team:

Niamh Iles, Polly Laseby (1st front crawl), Orla Maguire, Theo Marshall (1st front crawl), James Meredith (1st breaststroke), Ruby Montgomery, Sam Palmer (1st breaststroke), Sam Rice (1st butterfly), Amy Roberts, Charlotte Walker, Hannah Walker, Aiden Weeks, Abigail Whitehead, Ben Whitehead

(girls yr 7/8 - 1st in medley relay)

Mr Corkell

**EH4MH**  
EARLY HELP & MENTAL HEALTH

## '10 a day' choices towards balancing our mental health



1

Talk about your feelings



2

Do something you enjoy and are good at



3

Keep yourself hydrated



4

Eat well



5

Keep active in mind and body



6

Take a break



7

Stay connected to those you care about



8

Ask for help



9

Be proud of your very being



10

Actively care for others

**Tavistock**  
COLLEGE