



For Students & Parents

Weekly

11-09-2020

FOCUS



Welcome to the latest issue of the weekly newsletter that aims to keep our communication lines open between home and college.



Dartmoor
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

I am excited that Tavistock College is now fully open and welcoming back all staff and students. My colleagues and I have an exciting opportunity to reinvigorate and excite our learners and inspire them to be successful in all they do.

Whilst I'm sure we all agree how important it is to get all students back into school, I do recognise that there may be a number of parents, carers and children who will be feeling a little anxious at this time. This is totally understandable. Please familiarise yourself with our risk assessment and procedures that can be found on our website. We are here to answer questions at any time.

To meet our risk assessment some changes obviously had to be made. This will be all new and exciting for year 7 and look a bit different to all other year groups. Tutors have been vital in giving information to students about changes within the school days and routines to maintain social distancing while keeping year groups within their own community.

The new timings of the day to ensure the students do not mix with others outside of their community are:

Year	Period 1	Period 2		Recess 1		Period 3	Period 4		Recess 2		Period 5
	0900-1000	1000-1045	1045-1100	1100-1115	1115-1130	1130-1230	1230-1315	1315-1330	1330-1345	1345-1400	1400-1500
7			Ndeeba	Exercise 1					Ndeeba	Exercise 1	
8			Refectory	Exercise 2					Refectory	Exercise 2	
9				Ndeeba	Exercise 1			Ndeeba	Exercise 1		
10				Refectory	Exercise 2			Refectory	Exercise 2		
11				Exercise 3	Refectory				Exercise 3	Refectory	

Each year group has a designated area to stay in recess time. They are encouraged to stay in these areas and not mix with anyone else from another year group.

- Yr 7 - Primary shared field and in front of reception
- Yr 8 - Hard courts
- Yr 9 - Primary shared field and in front of reception
- Yr 10 - Hard courts
- Yr 11 - Outside Geography
- 6th form - Outside Octagon and study spaces

If students have a timetabled lesson of PE or dance on that day they are required to wear their PE/ Dance kit. Changing rooms are out of bounds.

Obviously there is some crossover in circulation spaces. This is not deemed to be a risk factor by the DfE. However, we are encouraging students to wear face coverings at these times. Face coverings are **COMPULSORY** on the buses. Some parents have alerted us to the fact that some students are not complying with the driver's instructions. Please can these two messages be reiterated at home then the changes can be embedded consistently and reduce anxiety.

Our uniform and mobile phone policy has not changed. The Ready to Learn rules are in operation to enhance and maximise learning by reducing low level behaviour. The RTL room is in the hall as it is a larger space to keep students in year communities while maintaining social distancing.

During partial closure, staff became proficient at using Google Classroom to enhance learning. Students are being signed up to classes to enable effective communication between their teachers and tutor from now on. This means we will be ready to go should a local lockdown occur, or should a student go into isolation. So please ask your son/ daughter about their Google Classrooms.. We will still be using class charts for rewards and homework notifications but Google Classroom is a platform where multiple resources including teaching video can be uploaded.

I hope your son/ daughter enjoyed their first week at school.

Mr J Stroud

Results day

The staff and governors were extremely proud of our students' achievements this year, both in A-level, GCSE and vocational qualifications.

We were delighted to see so many smiling faces as students look forward to taking the next step in their educational journey.

Top performing A level students this year included:

- Tamar Hearne who received an A* for English language, an A* for EPQ (extended project qualification), A* French and an A for psychology A. Who is going to Edinburgh to study French and English.
- Beau Waycott, English literature A*, history A, Japanese A*. who is going to Oxford to study Japanese.
- Benjamin Moran, English language A*, Japanese A, media studies A; who is going to Manchester to study Japanese
- William Thompson, EPG A, geography B, maths A, physics A*. who is going to Manchester to study Aerospace
- Amber Gunby, art A, further maths A, maths A, Spanish A. Who is going to York to study Mathematics

Back to School Comms Messages for Parents from DfE

The DfE has launched a communications strategy to reassure parents and students that schools and colleges are ready for their return in September. Please find below resources to share with parents/carers.

Please share the social media posts using #backtoschoolsafely:

<https://twitter.com/educationgovuk/status/1295737399042027530>

<https://www.facebook.com/educationgovuk/photos/a.317627041606420/3191534104215685/?type=3&theater>

Please share the friendly URL, which is currently being updated with parental guidance and information www.gov.uk/backtoschool

Guidance for parents and carers

The full link can be found below but I have summarised the most important parts

- School attendance is mandatory from the beginning of the new academic year.
- If your child is unable to attend school or college (in line with public health advice) for these reasons, contact the college asking what support we can provide for remote education.
 - are self-isolating
 - have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves
 - are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Do not send your child to college if:
 - they are showing coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
 - someone in their household is showing symptoms
- Arrange a test if you or your child develops symptoms. Inform the college of the results.
 - If the test is positive, follow guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection, and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.
- Our curriculum remains broad, balanced and ambitious. Students will follow a high quality and challenging programme of study. The necessary changes to enable subjects such as Science, PE and music have been made. We have also made plans for providing remote education if needed. This includes students self isolating or a local lockdown.
- Children are not expected to wear face coverings but can do so if they wish.
- Face coverings are expected on public transport and the government encourages alternative options such as walking or cycling.
- Full school uniform is expected and sanctions put in place if this is not followed..
- All kitchens are fully open for hot and cold food.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

