



For Students & Parents

Weekly

18-09-2020

FOCUS



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

After the first full week staff and students have been amazing, they have been flexible and very understanding in this current situation.

Some students are still finding their feet as the current school day has changed, this is totally understandable and we are supporting those students. The rule of six was applied this week to simplify and strengthen the rules on social gatherings, making them easier to understand and easier for the police to enforce. This does not apply to educational settings such as Tavistock College.



Dartmoor
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

With regard to face masks, there are some crossovers in circulation spaces. This is not deemed to be a risk factor by the DfE. However, we are strongly encouraging students to wear face coverings at these times. Our staff are all wearing them when moving around the site. Face coverings are **COMPULSORY** on the buses. 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 enabling the changes can be embedded consistently and reduce anxiety.

If your child is isolating, work can be found on Google Classroom. This platform was used during lockdown so students should be familiar with the process. Please encourage your child to access Google Classroom to complete work they are missing from their timetable each day. That way they will not fall behind when they return to school.

After speaking to the Heads of Year, I would like to mention how well student year groups have started. Their messages are on page 2.

Reminder of the school day and community areas

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

Public Health England launches Every Mind Matters campaign

Most families have experienced upheaval in their daily lives during the pandemic. With children and young people now back at school or college, the new Public Health England (PHE) **Better Health – Every Mind Matters** campaign provides NHS-endorsed tips and advice to help children and young people's mental wellbeing, and equip parents and carers with the knowledge to support them. The new advice available on the **Every Mind Matters** website has been developed in partnership with leading children and young people's mental health charities, including **Young Minds**, **The Mix**, **Place2Be** and **The Anna Freud Centre**. It is designed to help parents and carers spot the signs that children may be struggling with their mental health and support them, and also provides advice that can help maintain good mental wellbeing. The site also provides tools to help young people build resilience and equips them to look after their mental wellbeing. Please also make use of the signposting and information that we have on our College website which is under the "parent" tab and also respond, if you can, to the survey via the link that was emailed to you last week; <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/TavistockParentCarers/> by Friday 18th September .

Messages from Heads of Year

Year 7 Mrs Greener

Dear parents and carers of Year 7

What a fantastic start to the year for this wonderful bunch of people. We have asked the year 7 students to demonstrate resilience, reasonableness and kindness and they have risen to the occasion without exception every time. They are learning so many new processes as well as coming to terms with some new subject matter in their different lessons.

I have visited several learning groups through the week and they have all been working hard and looking like the dedicated students I know they are.

I expect they will be tired this weekend as their brains process all that have happened, and they set themselves squarely to do a full week next week.

I am already very proud of them as a year group and am very much looking forward to working with these amazing young people. I am sure you are very proud of your children anyway, and now as we reach the end of the week there is a tutor team that are very proud of them too.

Year 8 Mr Lane

Dear parents and carers of year 8

What a fantastic start to the academic year! The students have shown maturity and flexibility during these strange times. They have questioned and understood the new rules around the college site and took these changes in their stride. Although they are spending a large amount of time in community areas some have developed new friendships as a result.

Year 8 students have modelled to the fresh faced year 7 students how to behaviour, communicate and conduct themselves around the site. They have worked hard during lessons and shown great productivity in exercise books. They are keen to make up time for any lost knowledge. After all, this is an important year when they will choose GCSE options so hard work is essential. Your tutors and I are here to offer support and guidance so you make the right choice. Lastly, I would also like to thank you as parents for being so supportive, ensuring they have the correct school uniform and equipment for lessons.

Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any questions or concerns.

Many thanks
Elton Lane

Year 9 Mrs Blackmore

Dear parents and carers of Year 9

A very warm welcome back to my year 9 students. I am thrilled to be able to continue as their head of year this year. The last 6 months have been extremely challenging for everyone and it has been great to see students returning to school with such a positive attitude. It is clear to see how students, as well as staff have embraced the new routine and the changes that have been implemented. The year 9s have made a fantastic start to their chosen options and their core subjects.

Please do not hesitate to get in contact with me if you ever have any questions or concerns.

Kindest regards
Hazel Blackmore

Year 10 Mr Read

Dear parents and carers of Year 10

I want to congratulate Year 10 for their mature and responsible behaviours and attitudes since the start of the year. We have returned into a completely different environment than they are used to and they have taken it all in their stride, being great role models to other pupils in communal areas. It has also been incredibly pleasing how students have returned to lessons, approaching them with a willingness to learn and a positive mindset. I hope this continues throughout the year and onto their GCSE's.

I have urged year 10 students to ensure that they are all able to sign into class charts and access google classrooms for their lessons. This will ensure that if for any reason they are unable to attend college they can complete work and will not miss out.

I would also like to thank you as parents for being so supportive, ensuring they have the correct school uniform and equipment for lessons.

Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any questions or concerns.

Many thanks
Nick Read

Year 11 Mrs Squire

Dear Parents and carers of Year 11

All Year 11 students have made an outstanding start to their final GCSE year. Students have engaged well with all of the learning and activities set in all of their lessons. I am so proud of the way the students have stayed within their community, adhering to the many covid-19 related rules in place. They have shown great respect to their peers, teachers and all staff working in the college at this very strange time.

Some students have expressed concern about the future and the amount of time we have left until their final exams. Whilst the path is currently unclear, it is fantastic that all students are making such amazing progress and showing such dedication to all of their studies.

Thank you to all of the students for making the first week back such a success and thank you for all of your support throughout lock down and upon the return of the Year 11 students to college.

Year 7 CATs

(Cognitive Ability Test)

Year 7 students will be starting to take CATs, online assessments, from 08:45 on Monday 21st September, a schedule of which students are involved where and when will be shared later this week, most, but not all, assessments will take place in S8. Students need to refer to the letters handed out by their tutors showing individual dates/times etc. If students prefer to listen to the instructions rather than reading them, they do need to bring with them personal headphones.

Attendance

Attendance is key for good education achievement. The following information outlines the importance of attendance, support and how absences can be avoided.

The Link between attendance and educational achievement

A good education can be the cornerstone for future life opportunities. Missing school can leave gaps in knowledge and understanding and also place the student at a disadvantage in both their educational development and potentially in their eventual GCSE / A Level success.

We understand that on occasions absence will be unavoidable. However our **minimum expectation of attendance is 96%**, unless there are justifiable medical reasons, and accompanying evidence for not being able to do so. **The aspiration obviously remains 100% wherever possible.**

Here's why ...

By the end of the first term **95% attendance = 16 lessons missed.**

- **16 lessons** where key concepts that underpin the broader schemes of work are missed.
- **16 lessons** providing the opportunity to commit to longterm memory important and key facts important to terminal assessments and final exams missed.
- **16 lessons** that provide the opportunity to explore ideas and concepts in collaboration with their peers to develop deeper and independent knowledge missed.

By the end of the year **95% attendance = 49 lessons missed.** Almost a fortnight of school.

Attendance and the Law

The **1996 Education Act (s7)** places a legal responsibility upon parents/carers to ensure that their child fully attends the school at which they are registered. This means that your child must attend school every day and on time (unless as parents/carers you can prove that the absence was with the authorisation of the school or that it was unavoidable).

If your child has **unauthorised absences** then the school can make a request to the Local Education Authority (through the Education Welfare Service) to instigate Parental Responsibility Measures. If you have Parental Responsibility, this could mean receiving either of the following;

- **A Penalty Notice.**
Should a Penalty Notice be issued, one notice will be issued to each parent/carer for each child involved. Currently, each Penalty Notice is for £60 if paid within the first 21 days, this increases to £120 if paid after 21 days and before 28 days. If a Penalty Notice goes unpaid after 28 days, then a Magistrates Summons will be issued. Also, if a *Penalty Notice has already been issued within the previous 2 years then the Local Authority could proceed straight to Magistrates Summons.*
- **A Magistrates Summons**
This could lead to a criminal record, a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a term of 1 imprisonment for up to 3 months.

What happens if my child has unauthorised absences?

Schools are required to notify the Local Education Authority if a student has unauthorised absences. **Unauthorised absences can be acquired when:**

- **Leave has been requested**, but the circumstances are such that the school is unable to authorise the leave (and the leave is still taken anyway).
- **Leave is not requested** and/or the school has grounds to believe that the child has been taken out of school for an avoidable reason (example- a family holiday, buying uniform, looking after a sibling). Sometimes, there have been occasions when schools have been notified that the pupil is sick, but the school discovers or reasonably believes that the reason given for the absence is not genuine.
- **When a student has arrived late after the close of registration** with no relevant reason. The registration period officially closes at 9:00am.

Holidays and avoidable absences in term time

As of September 2013, an amendment to the **Education (Pupil Registration)(England) Regulations 2006** came in to force and greater clarity was introduced to the issue of schools authorising absence requests. These changes reinforced the Government's view that every minute of every school day is vital and that pupils should **only** be granted authorised absences by the school in 'exceptional circumstances'.

A family holiday is not considered by the Government to be an 'exceptional circumstance' and therefore will not be authorised by the school.

If you would like to request 'leave' to be considered for authorisation due to exceptional circumstances, please request, complete and return an **S2 form** to the school.

Should you choose to take your child out of school without the authorisation of the school, then Parental Responsibility Measures could be instigated (see **Attendance and the Law** above).

How parents or carers can help

As a parent or carer there are a number of ways that you can support your child's education. These can include;

- Ensuring that your child attends school every day and on time.
- Arriving at school with the correct equipment and in a fit state to learn (for example, not hungry or tired).
- Arranging medical appointments wherever possible outside of school hours.
- Notifying the school at the earliest opportunity if your child is going to be absent and why and providing medical evidence where necessary.

If for any reason your child is missing school, please just talk to us! We want to help.

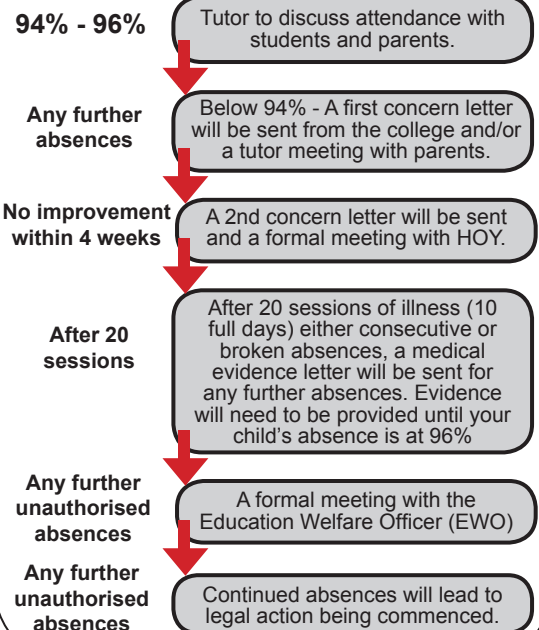
How we can help

There are a number of ways we can support your and your child with their attendance. Our primary aim to get them back into school as quickly as possible.

If you or your child is finding their attendance difficult then we can discuss how we could provide support.

This could include the school applying for '**Early Help**' support and if circumstances meet set criteria this could lead to further support from external agencies. Contact your child's Head of Year in this instance.

How will the school manage avoidable absence?



Contact us

Telephone - 01822 614231
Email - office@tavistockcollege.org
Website - www.tavistockcollege.org
Attendance Officer, Sarah Morewood
s.morewood@tavistockcollege.org

Year 7 Awards

I would like to thank you all of the parents/carers/grans/grandads/older siblings and anyone else that has worked so well to help prepare our new Year 7 year group for college. They are settling in really well and we know that is in large part due to the careful and detailed work you put in at home, ensuring uniform, bus passes, PE kit, equipment and the thousand other things you do and provide are in place. All of these small things contribute in a big way to your children being settled in at secondary school.

Many of you are getting into the swing of emailing or ringing in to keep in contact with us. That is great. I have seen over many years as a year head that communication is everything, and we will always do our best to get back to you as soon as humanly possible. Please let your child's tutor know anything that you feel you need to.

I had the great pleasure in picking out four winners from the letters that were sent in by the students at the end of summer introducing themselves to us. I was able to choose four that showed an energetic intention of tackling all that lies ahead with determination and resilience.

So congratulations to:

Miles Insley 7BA

Lyla Honey 7FA

Luana Pellegrinello 7GA

Jessica Phillips 7GA

Please see the contact details for all the tutors and the year 7 team below.

Head of Year 7	Mrs J Greener	j.greener@tavistockcollege.org
Assistant Head of Year 7	Mrs N Ingleby	n.ingleby@tavistockcollege.org
Administrator	Ms C Cocker	c.cocker@tavistockcollege.org
7B	Mrs J Gjoka and Mrs K Mooney	j.gjoka@tavistockcollege.org k.mooney@tavistockcollege.org
7BA	Miss B Gibbons and Mrs L Palmer	b.gibbons@tavistockcollege.org l.palmer@tavistockcollege.org
7D	Mr S Hulbert	s.hulbert@tavistockcollege.org
7F	Ms D Pengelly and Mrs J Madeley	d.pengelly@tavistockcollege.org j.madeley@tavistockcollege.org
7FA	Mr A Wilson	al.wilson@tavistockcollege.org
7G	Mrs S Young	s.young@tavistockcollege.org
7GA	Miss H Holbourn	h.holbourn@tavistockcollege.org
7T	Mrs R Harry-Chudleigh	r.harry-chudleigh@tavistockcollege.org

Guidance for parents and carers

There is lots of information being posted by the Dfe for school and colleges to follow. This includes updates which are crucial to reflect these changing times. I aim to include the changes below and provide the link if you wish to read the full article. So between this and the previous issue you are fully updated.

- The government is not recommending universal use of face coverings in all schools.
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an easy virus to kill when it is on skin. This can be done with soap and running water or hand sanitiser.
- Ensuring that pupils, staff and other adults do not come into the school if they have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or have tested positive in at least the last 10 days and ensuring anyone developing those symptoms during the school day is sent home, are essential actions to reduce the risk in schools and further drive down transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

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