



For Students & Parents

Weekly

23-10-2020

FOCUS



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

It has been long term with lots of changes for staff and students.

We have shown great flexibility and solidarity in adapting to these times. A large proportion of students have taken these changes in their stride but others have taken longer to settle into new routines. Staff have worked tirelessly to continue to provide quality first teaching to meet the needs of all students. As a result, excellent work is being produced that is challenging and contains extended writing. I hope to share some outstanding work through social media to give you a taste of working school life.

It is important that we remember and celebrate success in these times. This week we celebrate the excellent start four year 7 students have made this half term. They are pictured (right) with the Principal and Mrs Greener (HoY7). To celebrate they all shared a hot chocolate in the morning and discussed subjects and life in "big school". It's important to remember that all years 7s did not have our usual transitional experience but have embraced the Tavistock College values and ethos.

Please feel free to follow us on Facebook - search Tavistock College or on Twitter- we use the Twitter handle @Tavicollege. I hope you all have a fabulous and restful half term. We welcome students back on Monday 1st October.

Mr J Stroud



Dartmoor
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST



From left to right: Back: Sarah Jones, Principal and Mrs Greener, Head of Year 7. Front: Michael Schemanoff, Daniel Bull, William Metters and Emily Fletcher

Important reminders

Detention system.

This will only be used on rare occasions as an upscaled event for students not following rules and impacting the learning of other students. This will include failing RTL.

- These will be on a Tuesday and Thursday night only. This is due to late buses.
- Detentions will be on hour long and take place in the hall to meet social distance rules and our risk assessment.
- Detention staff will be on a rota
- Parents and Carers will be notified of an after school detention through class charts notification/ school communications.
- The detention will occur on the next Tuesday or Thursday unless it was issued on a detention day.

Remote learning

If your child is isolating work can be found on Google Classroom. This platform was used over 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. Teachers will be using class charts to notify students (and parents) about their homework.

- Classcharts - Positive and negative behaviour, homework notifications
- Google Classroom - A platform where work can be uploaded.
- Teachers will ALWAYS notify students using Classcharts. This might be a link to Google Classroom.

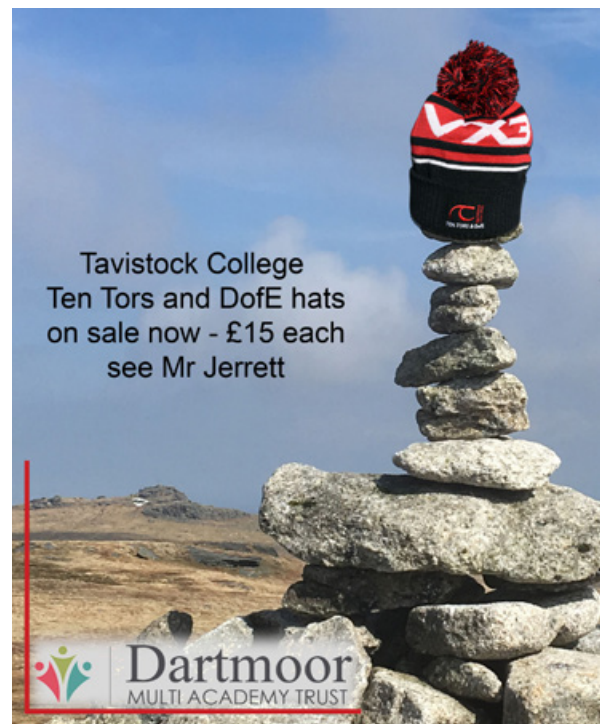
Revision guides and books

If your son/ daughter has any course textbooks/ revision guides please could these be returned to the college? If they could be dropped off to reception or handed over to teachers if a sibling attends the college.

Children becoming unwell

Could I remind you about protocols if students become unwell?

Children need to tell teachers if they are ill and teachers should then either settle and observe them, send them to triage (Sports Centre, Sarah Morewood) or call first aid if there is a real medical emergency. Students shouldn't call/ message parents and ask to be picked up.



Tavistock College
Ten Tors and DofE hats
on sale now - £15 each
see Mr Jerrett

Dartmoor
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

CATS - Cognitive Ability Tests

Message from Mrs Greener (HoY 7)

Firstly it is important to say that although education as a whole uses 'data sets' and the information they give us, it never replaces the student as an individual and it is the progress and dedication to hard work and determination that will bring about a great set of GCSE results in five years time wherever they find themselves starting from. So, while it is important to use well formed data as a part of the matrix that leads us to make decisions in a student's career here at Tavistock College, it is not the only factor that we take into consideration.

As you are all aware, because of the national disruption last year to all tests and exams, we do not have a set of SATs (Standardised Assessment Tests) for this year group to base estimated grades on. We use estimated grades to give you a measure of how well your child is progressing towards that estimation of achievement. It gives all of us; you, your child, me, tutors and teachers information to see where success is to be celebrated and where more support and information is required. In order to give all of us that basis, in the absence of SATs results, we are using the CATs results data in a developed manner. This year the results have been compared to previous CATs results (of comparable students) and then aligned with the SATs results of those same students. We then use these results as a basis for your child's estimated grades. This of course will not give us exact data for your child, however it will give all of us a reasonable set of data to start with and allows us to give an estimated range that students are assessed against.

As a school, we report your child's progress to you 2 times a year, with one progress report and one full report. These reports will include information about how well your child is progressing towards the estimates based on their CATs results. Myself, tutors and teachers are more than happy to have a chat with you about estimated grades and your child's progress towards them as this becomes available to you.

I hope this is helpful information about the use of CATs, and the forthcoming reports, but please do contact us as you need to, to make sense of the use of any data. As I have previously said, it is a part of the matrix used to give your child the best possible opportunity to succeed and give all of us an understanding of how they are progressing. It is really important that we work as a team around the reports when they come out; us, you and the students so where problems are highlighted we act swiftly to ensure progress is maintained and as on track as possible.

The year group is working hard and I am delighted with the way they are tackling the transition to Tavistock College. I have already had teachers spontaneously tell me how wonderful their year seven learning groups are. This is always music to the ears of a Year Head and I hope to you too.

I do hope both you and they have a rest over the half term and that they return refreshed and ready to tackle and grapple with the work as we approach Christmas.

Hoping half term is a restful and worry free time for you all.

Contact Details

Year 7 Team

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Family Support

LiveWest

If you live in a LiveWest property, are on a low income and do not have digital devices already at home, you could possibly qualify for a Hardship and Crisis grant for a laptop or tablet.

<https://www.livewest.co.uk/my-community/grants> or email grants@livewest.co.uk or phone 0300 1238 080.

Grants and funding

You may be entitled to some financial support through the West Devon Council Welfare support fund.

https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/grant-and-funding-support/#indiv_fam

Back To School After Lockdown

Tips From An NHS Psychologist

<https://www.mytutor.co.uk/blog/back-to-school-after-lockdown-tips-from-an-nhs-psychologist/>

Barnados

See Hear Respond by Barnados.

www.barnados.org.uk/see-hear-respond

See Hear Respond is a partnership to help children, young people and families cope with the Covid-19 crisis.

Free Solihull online courses

- Understanding your baby
- Understanding your child
- Understanding your teenagers' brain

Link to the courses www.inourplace.co.uk access code TAMAR.

Support for parents

www.parent-talk.org.uk/devon

Devon is at medium alert

What do local COVID alert levels mean?

Local COVID alert levels set out information for local authorities, residents and workers about what to do and how to manage the outbreak in their area.

It lets you know what you can and cannot do if you live, work or travel in each local COVID alert level.

You can find out the alert level of your local area by using your postcode on the [government's website](#). Devon is at 'medium' alert.

There's also an [interactive map](#) of the UK to show what rules apply where.

Why is the government introducing local COVID alert levels?

The government wants to make sure the right levels of intervention are made in the right places to manage coronavirus outbreaks.

They've simplified and standardised local rules so it's easier for everyone to understand what they can and can't do, depending on how prevalent coronavirus is in their area.

There are now three local COVID alert levels: medium, high and very high.

Devon is 'medium local COVID alert level'. What does that mean?

Medium alert level areas are subject to the national restrictions that continue to be in place. This means:

- you must not socialise in groups larger than 6, indoors or outdoors (other than where a legal exemption applies)
- businesses and venues can continue to operate, in a COVID-secure manner, other than those that remain closed in law
- certain businesses are required to ensure customers only consume food and drink while seated, and must close between 10.00pm and 5.00am
- businesses and venues selling food for consumption off the premises can continue to do so after 10.00pm as long as this is through delivery service, click-and-collect or drive-through
- schools and universities remain open
- places of worship remain open, subject to the rule of six
- weddings and funerals can go ahead with restrictions on numbers of attendees
- exercise classes and organised sport can continue to take place outdoors, or indoors if the rule of six is followed.

You must:

- wear a face covering in those areas where this is mandated

You should continue to:

- follow social distancing rules
- work from home where you can effectively do so
- when travelling, plan ahead or avoid busy times and routes. Walk or cycle if you can.

Full guidance on the restrictions in place to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in an area where the local COVID alert level is medium is available on the [government website](#).

Local Hero Help

Tavistock Locals Help Trust was set up in 2020 as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in response to the ongoing Coronavirus crisis. It is building on the original work of an informal community group which provided direct practical support to people in Tavistock whose lives were impacted by the lockdown. The Trust has been successful in a bid for funding to Devon Community Foundation and are hugely grateful to them for their support. This will enable the Trust to get things started with their mission to provide practical support to individuals experiencing hardship or significant change in life circumstances as a result of the Coronavirus Crisis in Tavistock.

Anyone meeting the criteria can apply through the Tavistock Citizens Advice for short term help, for example with purchase or replacement of goods or unexpected employment costs that arise specifically from the current crisis. Full details can be found on the Tavistock Locals Help website or through Tavistock Citizens Advice.

We are pleased that the trust will be able to start making a difference to local people who find themselves in immediate crisis owing to the pandemic. Tavistock Locals Help Trust will welcome applications with immediate effect.

We would appreciate it if you could share our information to any families that you feel may meet our criteria for support in some way. As part of our Charitable status we are restricted to helping families who live in the PL19 postcodes. For further information or to apply, the applicant would need to visit <https://www.tlustrust.org/> or contact Tavistock Citizens Advice.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Kind regards, *Dene Medland*

Tavistock
COLLEGE

