



For Students & Parents

Weekly

20-11-2020

FOCUS

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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

This week was Anti Bullying week so during tutor time students discussed the lasting impact of bullying in society. We always take bullying seriously but it's important that students have time to reflect, question and understand its lasting impact. Bullying has a long lasting effect on those who experience and witness it. But by channelling our collective power, through shared efforts and shared ambitions, we can reduce bullying together. From parents and carers, to teachers and politicians, to children and young people, we all have a part to play in coming together to make a difference. We're all a piece in the puzzle, and together, we're united against bullying.

We also play a vital role in tackling and reducing the spread of the virus. The vast majority of students are now wearing face coverings, and are being socially responsible. I urge all students to bring two face coverings to school in case one breaks or becomes damaged. Parents should ensure that they provide their children with appropriate face coverings. However, if your son or daughter is displaying any of these symptoms below please take them for a test and inform the college of the outcome. The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

We appreciate the weather is turning as we head into the new season but in order to remain COVID-safe, no visitor is allowed on to the schools site. This includes all parents/carers. Cars should not be driven up to the gates, unless parents are dropping off or collecting children with disabilities. Sometimes the gates are open for staff and students. This does not mean parents can enter.

It is essential that students are fully prepared to start every lesson with a positive mind and making sure that you have the right equipment for every lesson. It is important that all students bring in their own equipment due to Covid-19 regulations we will not be able to give equipment out for you to share.

You need to bring in the equipment below.

- Pen
- Pencil
- Rubber
- Ruler
- Calculator
- Mask

James Stroud

Change of recess

As a college we are always looking for ways to improve. We are always listening to staff, students and the community for ideas and solutions. In light of this, we are ensuring students get at least 30 minutes a day to consume food.

We have changed exercise and eating places for year groups during recess 2. The changes are in bold below. During recess 2 they will have 15 minutes in refectory/ Ndeeba but have a remaining 15 minutes to continue their food in community or outside. The catering staff are still providing a wide range of foods including hot and healthy options.

	Period 1	Period 2		Recess 1		Period 3	Period 4		Recess 2		Period 5
	09.00 - 10.00	10.00 - 10.45	10.45 - 11.00	11.00 - 11.15	11.15 - 11.30	11.30 - 12.30	12.30 - 13.15	13.15 - 13.30	13.30 - 13.45	13.45 - 1400	14.00 - 1500
7			Refectory	Primary Field					Primary Field	Refectory	
8			Primary Field	Ndeeba					Ndeeba	Primary Field	
9				Refectory	Hard Courts			Hard Courts	Refectory		
10				Hard Courts	Ndeeba			Ndeeba	Hard Courts		
11				Geog	Refectory				Geog	Ndeeba	

Message from Mrs Greener (HoY 7)

Dear parents and carers as always I'd like to thank you for the contacts you are making with the year team. It is important for us all to be in touch and even more so in these distanced times.

We, as a team, and wider teaching cohort, continue to be very pleased with the year group as they begin to settle to the routine of secondary school. We are well on the way to completing their first whole term here with four more weeks left until the Christmas holidays, breaking up from school on the 18th December. The students in year 7 are maintaining a steady hard working, feel at lesson time and it is a pleasure to walk through and see the concentration and hard work the students are engaging in. At break time there is a lively, energetic feel, with many smiling faces in evidence, that is a tonic to experience.

Part of moving forwards through this transition year is thinking about how to use the data/results from the CATs tests that the students, we, and you, have now had. After Christmas we are intending to put the students into sets for maths lessons. This will be the only 'ability' setting we are doing in this year group, and it is something that we are carefully judging by looking at CATs tests and data from the 'in class' tests that will be done. I have spoken with the year 7 focus group about this and they were very much in agreement with the idea of being set in maths.

The focus group met on Tuesday this week. At the meeting we focussed on a few things in school but quickly the students turned to conversation to think about helping the planet. As it is my open challenge this half term, to help the earth in some way, we spent some time talking about the recycling issues the school has. The outcome of this is that two of the students are going to write a letter to the local council looking at possibilities of helping us increase the amount of recycling we are able to do. We already recycle all of our paper and cardboard and supply food from the canteen in recyclable plastic containers. However we need to further develop feasible strategies for recycling plastic. The group are also setting out on a litter pick early next week, and will be talking to tutor groups about the issues litter can bring to the environment and wildlife.

One of the revelatory parts of the meeting was from Tom Cole, 7GA, who shared with us the internet search engine Ocean Hero. We learned just by using this as our search engine we are helping to pick up plastic out of the ocean. Mr Forster and I began using this straight away. Many thanks to Tom for this concrete way of using the internet to help the planet we are living on.

Thinking about use of the internet, a final comment from us this week is to mention social media use for our youngest school members, and to supply a link to an iplayer Panorama episode that you may find informative.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000p3p9/panorama-is-tiktok-safe>

Next Week Mrs Young tutor of 7G is going to write the year 7 news letter contribution and explain about the development of the reading passports and the new book club being set up at lunch times. Our first read is the Secret Garden.

Have a lovely weekend,
Mrs Greener

Tavistock College Creative Arts Christmas Card Competition

This year the Tavistock College Christmas card competition will be in a digital format.

- This can be as a traditional style picture, which is photographed and uploaded
- This can also be created digitally using an ipad or tablet

All submissions need to be emailed to your art teacher
or to k.wyatt@tavistockcollege.org

The closing date for all entries is 21 November please

Family Support

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

Free training from DIAS

Aimed at parent/carers supporting their child with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) who would like to find out more about how SEND support should work.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/demystifying-send-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-tickets-127732273669>

If you would like to know more about the sessions please email:

megan.kenneallystone@devon.gov.uk

Chat Health School Nurse

Text Messaging Service 07520631722

An anonymous, confidential text messaging advice service for 11-19 year olds (year 7 to year 13) that enables young people to contact their school nursing team with questions.

The Alcohol Education Trust

Online pupil learning zone www.talkaboutalcohol.com which includes a range of really fun and engaging games and activities which help students to learn how to make safe choices around alcohol.

Department for Education Coronavirus helpline

A helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline
Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)
Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Higher Education

There is an upcoming virtual event from Next Steps South West aimed at parents of young people interested in going into HE and discussing the benefits of this.

LET'S TALK ABOUT HIGHER EDUCATION PARENT INFORMATION WEBINAR

Thursday 10th December, 7pm – 8pm

Parents can register on <https://nextstepssw.ac.uk/events-and-activities/>

Toni Oatway, Enterprise Co-ordinator, Heart of the South West

The poster features the 'Next Steps South West' logo in the top left and the 'OfS Uni Connect Programme' logo in the top right. The main text reads: 'LET'S TALK ABOUT HIGHER EDUCATION PARENT INFORMATION WEBINAR'. Below this, it states: 'This event will be held via Zoom on Thursday 10th December 2020, 19:00 - 20:00'. The bottom half of the poster shows a photograph of a young man and a woman sitting together, looking at a laptop screen.

Digital youth services

Help improve our digital youth services

Space, who we commission to deliver youth services in Devon, have asked us to help them let families know about their survey to improve their digital offer.

Please click the link below to contribute to the survey.

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDEVONCC/bulletins/2acba3d>

The advertisement features a stack of ten grey stones on a grassy hillside. On top of the stack is a red and white hat with 'VXE' on it. The Tavistock College logo is in the top right. Text on the left says: 'Tavistock College Ten Tors and DofE hats on sale now - £15 each see Mr Jerrett'. On the right, it says: '- TEN TORS - 2021' with logos for 'DE' and 'DARTMOOR MULTI ACADEMY TRUST'.

Tavistock COLLEGE