



For Students & Parents

Weekly

27-11-2020

FOCUS

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or on Twitter- we use the Twitter handle @Tavicollege



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



Dartmoor
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Confirmed positive cases

We have had our first confirmed cases this week (Wednesday and Thursday) these cases were not linked and are totally separate. I thank all staff, students and parents / carers for your support. We followed Public Health England (PHE) guidance and successfully coordinated a group of students leaving the site to self-isolate. If you haven't had a letter or phone call you don't need to worry, your child does not need to isolate. All students isolating will have access to high quality remote learning, some including live lessons and modelling through online platforms (ClassCharts, Google classroom etc) to ensure they receive an aspirational curriculum.

We follow guidance from PHE and inform them who is positive and establish when close proximity contacts as students or staff were in direct contact with a confirmed positive case. This is the start of the 14 day self isolation period. If it's a member of staff, typically more students would be in direct contact as they teach up to 160 students a day. A positive confirmed student case is localised in a community bubble. Both students and teachers move around the school, but they are required to gather in identified places for recess time and most lessons. This is why we have made mask wearing compulsory for all in circulation spaces, along with providing ventilation to the rooms and hand sanitiser. Teachers try to stay 2M apart from students when teaching, and ensure they do not spend more than 15 minutes with anyone if less than 2M. There are no staff collective areas.

Anti Bullying

With anti bullying week just past we are promoting students to become 'upstanders' and report any type of bullying to enable us to deal with any issue quickly and fairly. The work students have been doing this week and Black Lives Matter is extremely powerful and are developing the important value of solidarity. We have seen an increase in misogynistic comments since lockdown and we now have groups of students committed to tackling this behaviour.

Misogyny is distressingly common in young people's lives—in music lyrics, popular television shows, video games, magazines, and movies. Given the prevalence of sexually degrading and harassing behaviour in young people's lives, conversations are critical. There is a college wide approach to educating and discussing why comments or remarks are construed as misogynistic behaviour. We are encouraging learners to be a critical consumer of media and culture, encourage and expect upstanding behaviour and work to assure that young people have multiple sources of recognition and self-worth.

Consumers of media

In these situations, it is vital that parents and teachers speak up and help our children become mindful, critical consumers of this information—even if speaking up makes us uncomfortable. The use of media leads itself to particular subjects such as media and English literature.

Upstanding behaviour

We expect our teens and young adults to not only protect themselves when they're harassed or degraded but also to protect each other. Because they understand peer dynamics, are more likely to witness harassing behaviours, and often have more weight than adults in intervening with peers, young people themselves are often in the best position to prevent and stop sexual harassment and misogyny among their peers.

Comments and remarks made by students will be followed up by staff and could involve the behaviour policy. We will Talk to young people about solidarity and take collective action against any harassment.

Remote Learning

As you are probably aware we now have a group of students that will receive their learning remotely. We have been expecting this and are fully prepared with our systems to support our students working from home. With these systems in place, Google Classroom, ClassCharts and various other platforms we can continue the learning and keep the communication channels open with our students and parents/carers.

There is a remote learning policy on our website and for the group of students who are now at home, they will be following stage 1.

I urge students who are self isolating to follow their timetable when completing work at home to ensure coverage of the curriculum. I am pleased to let you know that families will still receive their Free School Meals entitlement, during their isolation, where appropriate.

<http://www.tavistockcollege.org/learning/remote-learning/>

COVID 19

We 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. 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.

Please be assured that Tavistock College is following all of the guidance provided by Public Health England and the Department for Education to keep your children safe. Once again, thank you in anticipation for your support. *James Stroud*

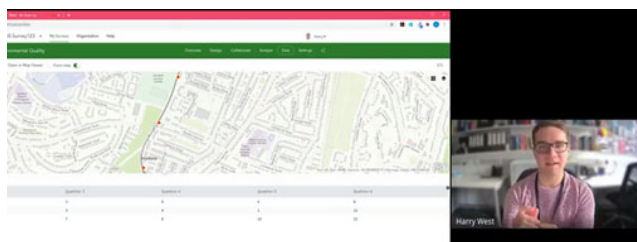
Geography training

On Monday 23rd of November the Year 13 Geographers experienced a virtual training session from The University of the West of England's GIS Lecturer: Harry West.

The students were shown how numerical data could be collected using app software, Survey123 and how this could then be displayed electronically in the form of a Geographic Information System. This is all in preparation for their coursework which is worth 20% of their final A level Grade and requires students to collect, present and analyse data to find spatial patterns.

Harry was due to visit personally back in March but this was sadly cancelled due to the lockdown. Instead of losing such an experience and his expertise, we re-arranged so that the Tavistock College A level Geographers students had a full hour's tutorial through GoogleMeet.

A huge thank you to The University of the West of England Bristol and Harry West for this outreach opportunity.



New Rewards for Learners

Through student and staff voice we are currently looking at improving *Behaviour for Learning* and moving towards a new tiered system still within the current policy. In order to improve, we are looking and making the rewards more meaningful and purposeful for the student. These rewards will be given for truly outstanding pieces of work that go above and beyond or contributions to the college or community.

So we are looking for kind donations from the community to act as an incentive. This could be anything for a small discount in a local shop, free sweets up to £1 to a new Ipad..... Any donation would be very greatly received and of course your item/ business will be publicised on our social media page.

Book Swaps and Book Bubbles

From the word, 'Go!' we have made reading for pleasure one of our top priorities for Year 7. Thanks to a charitable donation from the school's Board of Trustees, we were able to give every student in Year 7 a book gift to boost their personal reading. This has been supported with protected time for silent reading during registration and personal reading lessons as part of the English curriculum in Years 7 and 8. To promote reading loyalty, each student has their own 'Rooted in Reading' Reading Passport and can earn special reading green boards when they complete books. Some of our top readers have already completed five books (and counting...) entirely independently. We know reading for pleasure is vital for students' literacy development. The book gift titles also focus on storylines that complement our pastoral themes of friendship and belonging. It's great to walk along the Year 7 corridor on Wednesday mornings and see all classes reading, clearly engrossed in stories. Students are definitely on board with reading and understand its benefits as well as the pleasure it gives.

Christmas Book Swap

We want to keep this enthusiasm going. So, as part of our Christmas celebrations this year we are organising a book swap which will involve students gift wrapping and re-gifting a book for another student. The donated book could be the book that they were originally gifted, if they are happy to swap it, or another book in reasonable condition that they think a fellow student would like.

A Brand New Book Club for Year 7

The Year 7 'Book Bubble Book Club' will begin on Wednesday 25th November and offers students the chance to meet with friends and discuss books, as well as work on their own creative writing.

If you have any questions or suggestions about the reading programme for Year 7, please get in touch with your child's English teacher or Ms Young, the KS3 Coordinator for English, who will be very happy to help.

Best wishes and keep reading!



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.

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/>



Armed services or emergency/ uniformed services

Many thanks to those who have replied to our previous newsletter!

Are you an ex-student now serving in one of these organisations? OR are you a parent/carer with serving children?

If so we need YOU!

In order to keep our alumni up-to-date and to celebrate the success of former students we would love to hear from you!

A short message about your story would be greatly appreciated, or even better, some edited photos of 'a day in the life...' would be amazing.

Please email n.hosking@tavistockcollege.org

We want to celebrate our amazing public services, former students and the work YOU DO.

Thank you in advance for taking some time to share your story...

Kind regards,

Neil Hosking

Teen mental health

<https://www.mytutor.co.uk/blog/teen-mental-health-a-guide-for-parents/>

Police prevent

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8DPPQUem9A>

Please see the link for the police PREVENT Act Early campaign

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

Christmas card competition winner

The overall chosen design was from Kirsty Vernon (Year 13) and her work will be turned into the college Christmas card to be sent out from Mrs Jones.

We were however, extremely impressed with the creativity and designs from lots of students and therefore would like to display their work both around school and on the schools social media sites.

Please would you pass this message on and congratulate them on their hard work:

Riley Bond, Lara Dix, Niamh Petch, Lola Zaleski, Lola Garlick and Issac Thomas

Tavistock COLLEGE