



For Students & Parents

Weekly

04-12-2020

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. From next week we are strengthening our health and safety arrangements within the college with the reintroduction of faculty teaching spaces to benefit the students. The Principal has sent a letter to all parents/ carers detailing and justifying the changes. This can be read below.



Dartmoor
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Dear parents and carers

I would like to thank you for your support during the last week, where, for the first time since the pandemic began, we have had confirmed cases of Covid-19 within the academy.

We were confident in our systems and were able on each occasion to quickly identify, with the help of Public Health England, those individuals who were 'close proximity contacts' and take the right action. Our risk assessments, teaching and learning practices, remote learning policies and community bubble areas within the school are under constant review. We have come a long way since September, but sadly we are seeing increased cases of coronavirus in West Devon.

It is with this in mind that I am writing to inform you that we intend to strengthen our approach to health and safety in this pandemic still further. There will be additional actions and new systems that will be implemented throughout the school from 7 December. This will include a strict one way system around each building, and more movement between lessons in order to prevent groups congregating. We will continue to ensure we have separate year group entrances, ensure year groups have separate eating areas and maintain the use of face coverings in the circulation spaces. We know from the latest guidance that ventilation and hand sanitising are the greatest mitigating factors against the spread of the virus. This is why we have to fully ventilate the buildings (even though it is cold) and ask students to use the sanitiser provided. This change will also see a return to the use of more specialised subject rooms and spaces to learn in. Teachers will take on greater cleaning responsibilities during lesson changeovers, whilst being able to call upon their subject specific teaching and learning tools and resources to improve the teaching and learning within the classrooms for the students.

None of the changes will affect our year group community areas for registration or recess times where all year groups will have their own designated areas for pastoral care, eating and outdoor play, as well as their own community bathrooms. This means that there will be no direct crossing of our communities for longer than is advised, as well as meaning we are still able to keep to the DfE guidance on 'bubbles' within secondary schools.

Thank you for your ongoing support at this difficult time. If you have any questions regarding the issues raised in this letter, then please contact office@tavistockcollege.org and a member of the senior team will answer any questions.

Kinds regards

Sarah Jones

In light of these changes there will not be a staggered recess so below in the new plan that tutors will share.

We have emailed all teachers to be made aware that some year 7 students could arrive late for at least the first week as they have not been to certain parts of the college. This week year 7 tutors have been touring the college in preparation for this change.

	Period 1	Period 2	Recess 1		Period 3	Period 4	Recess 2		Period 5
	0900 - 1000	1000 - 1100	1100 - 11.15	11.15 - 11.30	11.30 - 12.30	12.30 - 13.30	1330 - 13.45	13.45 - 1400	1400 - 1500
7			Harlequins	Primary Field			Primary Field	Harlequins	
8			Primary Field	Ndeeba			Ndeeba	Primary Field	
9			Hard courts	Harlequins			Harlequins	Hard courts	
10			Refectory	Hard courts			Hard courts	Refectory	
11			Ndeeba	Geog			Geog	Ndeeba	

Year 8 parents and carers only

If you have a son/ daughter in year 8 then they are due to start choosing their options for the next academic year. You would have been provided with information regarding this and the deadline for choices is in February. Please take your time, read the prospectus, watch the videos and have a conversation about careers and ambitions. All students will have an interview with members of SLT for additional support and information.

Mobile Phones

Can I remind you that students are required to connect to the school WiFi, this can be done using their normal login details. The Wifi is fast and reliable and blocks out all social media. Phones are useful teaching resources, they allow access to online books and educational websites but can only be used in lessons with the teacher's permission.

Catering

Just a quick update, there is a £5 limit to spend each day on food and drinks

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

Accountability in 2021

From 3rd December 2020 the government have announced Extra measures to boost fairness and support students ahead of next summer's exams and assessments

Today, the Secretary of State for Education announced that students sitting exams and other assessments next year will benefit from a package of exceptional measures to make them as fair as possible and manage the disruption caused by coronavirus (COVID-19).

Building on the 3 week delay to exams to free up extra teaching time announced in October, the new measures include:

- more generous grading than usual, in line with national outcomes from 2020, so students this year are not disadvantaged
- students receiving advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE, AS and A levels to focus revision
- exam aids, for example formula sheets, provided in some exams giving students more confidence and reducing the amount of information they need to memorise
- additional exams to give students a second chance to sit a paper if the main exams or assessments are missed due to illness or self-isolation
- a new expert group to look at differential learning and monitor the variation in the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak on students across the country

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.

Exams Update

Please use your QR scanner to access this information



Logo competition winner

Highlighting mental health at Tavistock College

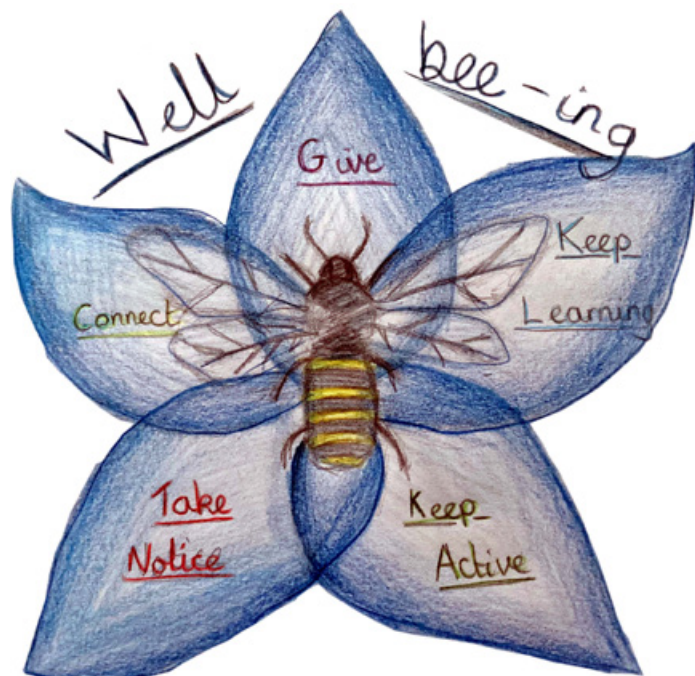
Tavistock College values the overall well being and mental health of our students in these challenging times. Raising awareness of well being is key to our College ethos, we have student mental health champions that promote well being and mental health as a priority among peers and in the College community.

We recently launched a competition to students to design a logo that captured our passion for promoting mental health. We had some very inventive and creative designs, but one entry really stood out. Our winner was a Year 7 student Eva Barrett who created this incredible design:

"well-being is really important and I am glad that I won because it helps people to take notice." Y7 Eva Barrett (winner)

"Judging was really difficult due to the high standard of entries and runners up were; Ellie Jackson, Joe Walker and Tamsyn Reid. Well done to all who took time to create a logo and more importantly help keep mental health and well-being high on the agenda!"

Mr Hosking n.hosking@tavistockcollege.org



Making Christmas a little sweeter



After a difficult start to the year, the Tavistock College Prefect Team decided to raise a little Christmas cheer in the college by ushering in Christmas at the very start of December. In preparation for this, they have decorated the Octagon (the Sixth Form common room) with all manner of festive decorations. Alongside this, the team decided to create a little stocking of goodies, ensuring all students had a sweet start to the Christmas season.

We would like to send special thanks to Tavistock Morrisons, who kindly donated us a large stockpile of sweet treats to fill the stockings as part of their Community Champions Campaign.

"The Christmas cheer was palpable in the Octagon this morning, and there was a noticeable lift in mood and spirit amongst the students. We would like to thank everybody who helped to create this magical moment, especially those students and parents who donated decorations." Mr Jacob (Deputy Director of Sixth Form)
"After all the doom and gloom this year, it was such a special surprise for us all. The energy around the sixth form is really festive" Abi Hix (Year 13)

TAVISTOCK COLLEGE



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY 2020



Friday 11th December 2020
£1 SUGGESTED DONATION

IN SUPPORT OF SAVE THE CHILDREN



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

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

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).

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

If you would like to know more 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

www.talkaboutalcohol.com 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/>

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>

The police PREVENT Act Early campaign



Christmas Treat

Are you alone this Christmas?

Does your family need help to provide a Christmas lunch?

Do you live in Tavistock, Whitchurch, Mary Tavy, Sampford Spiney, Horrabridge or Lamerton?



Tavistock Locals Help would love to help you
Our volunteers will happily bring you lunch on Christmas Day, a small present on Christmas Eve and a Boxing Day Box

There is no charge, but Treats are limited, so we will need to work on the basis of First Come First Served



To book a Treat, support financially, or to give a gift
Please contact Graham Parker by email at grahamparker1@me.com
or by mobile on 07545 074942



Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust



Poetry Competition

We're very excited to invite staff, parents/carers and students to enter our **first ever** Trust-wide competition.

Write a poem on the theme of **HOPE**

Overall winners in Primary and Secondary will win the opportunity to become Trust Primary/Secondary Poet Laureate for the year 2021

Other prizes of £20 book vouchers for the student categories 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, and £50 of books for schools to be won in the parent/carer and staff categories.

Entries will be judged by a mixture of panels of students and staff, including one of our new Trust Champions, Ed Finch

Please send in to ckelly@dartmoormat.org.uk and specify name, year group (students only), school, and category (see below)

Categories:

- Parents/carers
- Trust Staff
- KS1 Children
- KS2 Children
- KS3 Students
- KS4 Students
- KS5 Students

Closing date Friday 8th January



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

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