



For Students & Parents

# Weekly

11-12-2020

# 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.



**Dartmoor**  
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

This week has seen a strict one way system around each building, and more movement between lessons in order to prevent groups congregating. The way system has been a great success and the majority of students have adapted to the new routes around the college. 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.

From informal conversations with students they appreciate the movement breaks around the college and have experienced high quality teaching and learning in specialist classrooms. Their teachers have taken 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.

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.

If you son/ daughter were to test positive for COVID 19 it is essential that you contact the school immediately to allow us to follow public Health England advice. If this test was to happen outside of term time please email as a member of the senior leadership team will be on duty checking these emails. [office@tavistockcollege.org](mailto:office@tavistockcollege.org)

In the rare case of this happening you will be notified via school communication. It will either be one of two different emails in line with guidance from PHE: A general email telling you we have had a confirmed case. Or, an email telling you that your child needs to self isolate for 14 days because they were in direct contact. Below is the government advice

*We recommend all schools ensure staff, parents and carers are aware of the following information and relevant arrangements regarding positive cases in the holidays:*

- *Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.*
- *For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.*
- *School staff are not asked to remain on-call or conduct any contact tracing more than 6 days after the final day of teaching. Where a schools last teaching day is on Friday 18 December, there should be no pupil contact tracing asks beyond Thursday 24 December.*

*For the first 6 days after the end of term, schools are not asked to be on-call at all times. Staff responsible for contact tracing may designate a limited period in the day to receive notification of positive cases and advise close contacts to self-isolate (this can be done by text or email). The Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline and PHE advice service are available to support with any queries you have about positive cases in your school.*

*Where pupils are required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case after the first 6 days following the end of term, schools do not need to be informed about their absence until the first day of the new term.*

Thank you for taking the time to read this information.

Sincerely, James Stroud

## 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

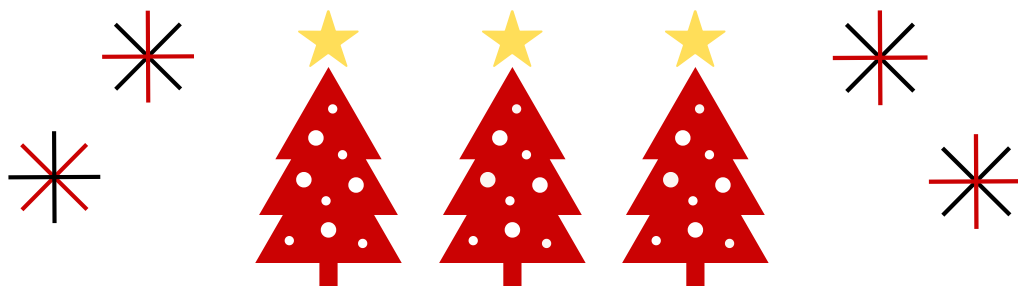
As you are probably aware we now have a group of students that will receive their learning remotely. We have been expecting this and are fully prepared with our systems to support our students working from home. With these systems in place, Google Classroom, ClassCharts and various other platforms we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

# Tavistock Foodbank Appeal



**TAVISTOCK FOODBANK APPEAL**

**FAMILIES IN NEED THIS CHRISTMAS**

**Please bring your donations to your hub by:**

**WEDNESDAY 16TH DECEMBER**



**THANK YOU!**



As we draw to the end of a very challenging and testing 2020, we are becoming increasingly aware of families in our community who may be in need of support, particularly over the festive period. Tavistock Foodbank undertakes vital work, supplying much needed essentials to families and individuals in these extremely difficult times.

The Sixth Form prefect team have partnered with Tavistock Foodbank, and are appealing for donations to help those most in need this Christmas. They are in need of anything with a long shelf life, however, they currently have a supply of; tinned tomatoes, soup, cereal, pasta and baked beans at the moment. They would gratefully receive any donations of other items.

If you would like to donate, please ask your child to bring this to the locations below by **Wednesday 16th December**:

<b>Year 7-8</b>	Key Stage 3 Hub
<b>Year 9, 10 &amp; 11</b>	Key Stage 4 Hub
<b>Year 12-13</b>	Sixth Form Office

We hope to contribute to this worthy cause and would like to thank you in advance for any donations you are able to make.

Yours sincerely, *Keely Andrew & Sixth Form Prefects*

# Message from Mrs Greener (HoY7)

Dear Parents and Carers.

Many thanks for your support for the college this term. The year seven team has really appreciated your positive comments and the way you have used technology to be in touch and support your child's learning, keeping in touch is a vital part of supporting your child and ensuring they are secure in the knowledge that home and school are all aiming towards the same goal for them. Year seven has continued to impress us with their good manners and their willingness to take on the new challenges that are a constant theme of this calendar year. The attendance of the year group is very good and their attitude to learning is excellent. Recent changes to using the other half of the school, previously unknown territory to them, has gone smoothly most due to their determination to get things right and to ask when they are not sure. Being able to ask for support is a sure sign of maturity and a sensible acknowledgement that none of us will conquer difficulties without support from others, and on another occasion supplying the support. I am delighted to see this is a part of how they are operating around school and it bodes well for support with studies as we travel up the school.

Next term I am going to work on a theme with the year group, about the way we approach learning things that we find difficult. Education uses the word resilience a lot to describe how students need to be. I have had a couple of conversations with different students this term about studying being hard work, my reply is that it should be hard work and rewarding, if you are doing it right! The year sevens will have earned their time off and rest this Christmas season.

There is a change coming after Christmas to the year 7 tutor team with us sadly saying goodbye to Mrs Harry Chudleigh from 7T and gaining Mr Lambert as a new tutor for them. Mr Lambert is an established teacher in the college and as many of you will know is a music teacher. His email is [j.lambert@tavistockcollege.org](mailto:j.lambert@tavistockcollege.org) do feel free to get in touch and let him know any information. Mrs Harry Chudleigh will obviously do a handover for any particular needs.

We are having a collapsed curriculum day this Friday which is going to complete vital areas of learning missed in the summer term.

I will end with one of the challenges I have set the students in tutor time this Monday. 'How many words can you make out of 'Merry Christmas?' The current record is 81 words completed by 7BA

Next week there are a number of prizes coming to various tutor groups for top attendance and best behaviour and for other reasons so I will be sharing the names of the winning tutor groups next week.

Kind Regards

Mrs J. Greener HOY 7

## The internet

On the whole an inspiring and positive place

The social media platforms have an age restriction of 13 years +

Tik Tok, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Youtube

The internet is an amazing resource which enables children and young people to connect, communicate and be creative in a number of different ways, on a range of devices.

However, the internet is always changing, and being able to keep up to date with your children's use of technology can be a challenge.

You may sometimes feel that your children have better technical skills than you do, however children and young people still need advice and protection when it comes to managing their lives online.

Issues that your child may encounter on the internet will vary depending on their age and online activities. We have grouped potential online risks into these 4 categories.

- Conduct: children may be at risk because of their own behaviour, for example, by sharing too much information
- Content: age-inappropriate or unreliable content can be available to children
- Contact: children can be contacted by bullies or people who groom or seek to abuse them
- Commercialism: young people can be unaware of hidden costs and advertising in apps, games and websites

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

## Christmas book swap

Year 7 tutors are organising a Christmas Book Swap for all Year 7 students. Students are bringing books and gift wrapping them to swap and take away a book for the holidays - all books being quarantined for 72 hours. It could be a lovely way to end the term, with all Year 7s being given a brightly wrapped gift. It also helps them to keep up with their reading, when it can still be difficult to get to the library and new books are pricey.

However - we need more books. So, if you are having a bit of a de-clutter to make way for Christmas and you have some children's books that are no longer needed, we would love to have them.

All donations can be dropped off at the KS3 Hub or E9.

## Sweet tub collection

Following the success of your efforts last year, we have again signed up with Devon Contract Waste to raise money for Dartmoor Zoo and Mind.

All students have to do is drop off all your clean plastic sweet and biscuit tubs (not takeaway containers!) in the bin in reception or the KS3 Hub, by 31 January. These will be collected by DCW, recycled and the money made donated to the charities. Last year we raised over £1000 so let's see if we can beat that this year.

Happy munching!

Mrs Coe

# 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](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](http://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](http://www.inourplace.co.uk) access code TAMAR.

## Support for parents

[www.parent-talk.org.uk/devon](http://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](mailto: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](http://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.

## 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

## Coronavirus helpline

To answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. For staff, parents and young people. 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday) Phone: 0800 046 8687 Email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)

# Kooth online

We are delighted to announce that Kooth Plc is working in partnership with the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI) to deliver mental health and wellbeing support to farming families across England and Wales. Kooth and Qwell are available to all farmers and farming family members over the age of 10 with no referrals, waiting lists or thresholds to meet. Services are completely anonymous and can be booked ahead of time.

Kooth (CYP 10-18) and Qwell (18+) can be accessed by visiting [www.rabi.org.uk/kooth](http://www.rabi.org.uk/kooth)

**RABI**  
Helping farming people

**kooth**

**Online wellbeing support and counselling for farming people**

- Community Support**  
Relate and connect with others by sharing similar experiences, and gain valuable self-care tips and tools from our engaged community and professional team.
- Professional support**  
Our team of professionals aim to provide early response to emotional wellbeing as well as emerging mental health needs via our online site and counselling sessions.
- Self-help**  
Helpful articles, personal experiences and tips from our community and professional team. You can also set personal goals, write in your journal, or start a discussion with the community.

Visit [rabi.org.uk/kooth](http://rabi.org.uk/kooth)

**Tavistock Locals Help**

**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](mailto:grahamparker1@me.com) or by mobile on 07545 07942**

# Free School Meals

May we remind you that if your child/children is/are eligible for Free School Meals you will have had a letter or other communication from Devon County Council asking you to register for vouchers under the COVID Winter Grant Scheme. You have until 18/12/20 to register for your vouchers. I regret that the college is unable to assist with this as we are not directly involved in the provision. There is further advice and signposting though at; <https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/free-school-meals-holiday-voucher-scheme/>

# Tavistock COLLEGE