



Tavistock College Newsletter

Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust

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@collegetavi

15/09/2023

Child Protection

Your child's safety is of paramount concern to us. If you have a concern which involves the safety and wellbeing of a child or young person, please contact Mrs Hazel Blackmore (Designated Safeguarding Lead), Mr Jack Brokenshire or Miss Rachael Squire immediately.

If the concern is outside College hours, please contact MASH on 0345 155 1071 (email: mashsecure@devon.gov.uk) Children's Social Care Emergency Duty Team (out of hours) on 0845 6000 388 or Police on 101 (non-emergency) and 999 (emergency).

Every child should feel safe
You can get help here ...

childline
ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME
childline.org.uk | 0800 1111

DEVON Children and Families Partnership
THINK KNOW

TAVISTOCK YOUTH CAFE
CLICK CEOP
Internet Safety

NSPCC
Quality in children most at risk. FILL STOP.

FRANK
Friendly, confidential drug advice

keoth
Drug Alcohol Services

Intercom Trust
YOUNG MINDS
fighting for young people's mental health

CRIME STOPPERS
0800 555111
100% anonymous. 24/7

YOUNG DEVON
PREVENTION OF YOUNG SUICIDE

Whisper
mash
safeguarding is everybody's responsibility

The safeguarding team, your tutor, teachers and ATs.
We are all here to help and guide you.

Together, we care, we challenge, we excel

Together, we care, we challenge, we excel

Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust
...everyone in our Trust.

SAFEGUARDING OUR COLLEGE

If you have any concerns about your own safety, or that of another person, please talk to a member of our team or another adult at our College

 H Blackmore Designated Safeguarding Lead	 T Forster Principal	 J Buchanan Vice Principal	 N Read Assistant Principal	 A Savage Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead/ Assistant Principal
 S Hunter HOY 7	 N Ingleby HOY 8	 L Evans HOY 9	 R Squire Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead/ HOY 10	 D Jacob HOY 11
 T Massey Deputy HOY 7	 S Marsh Deputy HOY 8	 S Fox Deputy HOY 9	 P Trimmer Deputy HOY 10	 N Murphy Deputy HOY 11
 W Stephens Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead/ Head of Sixth Form	 E Ruxton Sixth Form Pastoral Lead	 L Howard Sixth Form Pastoral Lead	 R Turner Director of SEND	 J Brokenshire Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Come and see for yourself..

Tavistock College Open Evening

Years 4, 5 & 6
Wednesday 27th September
Presentations and tours:
5.15pm, 6.00pm & 6.45pm



Contact us: 01822 614231 enquiries@tavistockcollege.org

Non pupil day - Wednesday 11th October 2023

Meet the Tutor Evenings Year 8-13

We would like to invite you to meet a Meet the Tutor Evening and Presentation during the week beginning 18th September. The purpose of this evening is for you to have an individual meeting with your child's tutor, so you are able to discuss how they are settling back into college life and raise any concerns or questions. Refreshments are available.

Year Group	Date
Years 8 & 9	Tuesday 19th September 2023
Year 10 & 11	Wednesday 20th September 2023
Years 12 & 13	Thursday 21st September 2023

Appointments are available via the parents evening booking system and you will receive an invitation to book via email.



Cost of living Help and guidance

Are you worried about the rising cost of energy bills, food and transport?

You are not alone, the cost of living crisis is affecting many of us.

You may want help accessing grants and debt advice, support getting all the money you are entitled to, or simply want to know more about the government's recent support measures. West Devon Borough Council want to reach out to residents to make sure you are aware of support available.

RECEIPT
COST OF LIVING

- Energy
- Food
- Petrol
- Rent
- Shopping
- SUPPORT

Free School Meals

Many people are not aware their children qualify for a free school meal. Check using this website – you do not need to tell the school yourself.

www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals

Your child will receive a nutritious two course meal each day.

School holidays can put increased pressure on finances but there are ways in which you can be supported through subsidised or free holiday clubs.

www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/family-support/haf-programme/information-for-parents

Are you missing out?

- More money for your school!
- Nutritious meal every day!
- Access to free holiday clubs!
- More teachers, trips, and activities!

Check your eligibility today for Free School Meals

https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE

Contact: 0345 155 1019

Household Support Fund

This will be available from April 2023 to provide short-term financial support to help meet the needs of those struggling to afford food, energy, water bills and other related essentials.

Applications can be made online.

In addition, our partners will issue food vouchers to families of children who receive free school meals so they can buy food through the school holidays. Keep an eye on our website for more information.

www.westdevon.gov.uk/household-support-fund

West Devon Support Directory

An online support directory has been created to provide information on a wide range of support available from within the Council and our external partners.

www.westdevon.gov.uk/support-directory

If you need any more information from the Council, then reach out to us through our 'Contact Us' page which will direct you to the information you are looking for.

www.westdevon.gov.uk/contact-us

Healthy Start Card

If you are 10 weeks pregnant or more, have a child under four years old, or you or your family get certain benefits, you may be able to qualify for a Healthy Start card. The card has money on it to be used in shops to buy:

- plain liquid cow's milk;
 - fresh, frozen, and tinned fruit and vegetables;
 - fresh, dried, and tinned pulses; and
 - infant formula milk based on cow's milk.
- You can also get free vitamins.

See online to find out more and for ways to apply.

www.healthystart.nhs.uk/how-to-apply

Food Support

The cost of living crisis has made it much more difficult for many people to afford food. If this is something you are experiencing, the Council have collated a list of food hubs on their website.

www.westdevon.gov.uk/foodbanks

There is also support for your animals –

www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/costofliving/foodbank



JOIN US ON YOUR RUGBY JOURNEY

TEAMWORK, RESPECT, ENJOYMENT, DISCIPLINE, SPORTSMANSHIP

TAVISTOCK JUNIORS RFC

ALL BOYS & GIRLS FROM SCHOOL YEARS 1 TO 11 OF ALL ABILITIES ARE WELCOME TO JOIN

ENJOY 4 TRIAL SESSIONS BEFORE SIGNING UP

MEMBERSHIP FROM £40 PER SEASON*

SIBLING DISCOUNT & OTHER SUPPORT AVAILABLE*

SCAN ME

OR CONTACT US ON 07509 719440
SANDY PARK, TRELAWNY ROAD, TAVISTOCK, PL19 0LL
*CONTACT US FOR DETAILS

Important parking information and restrictions

As the new school term begins we need to make you aware of our parking policy.

To ensure the safety of children at all times and due to the number of staff and the locations of the school bus drop off points, we do not offer any parking, waiting or dropping off facilities for pupils at the start and end of the school day. This applies to Tavistock College and Tavistock Primary School students.

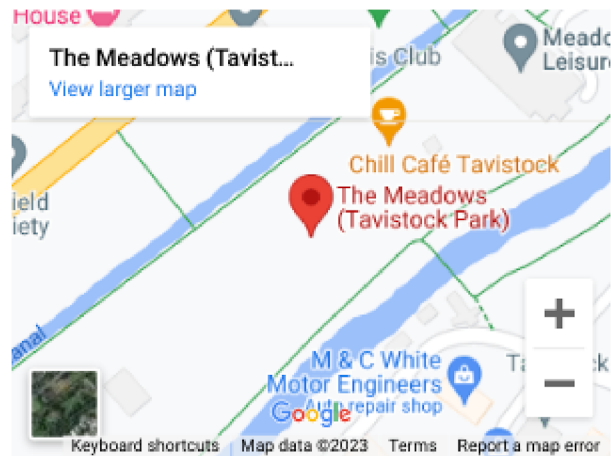
We ask that you drop off and collect your children from Meadowlands car park. Students can use both the front and rear entrances to the college site and safely walk to the underpass and into Tavistock Park towards Meadowlands carpark.

Families who are collecting disabled children who attend Tavistock College may use the 4 disabled bays available outside the main school.

If you have any concerns relating to your child being collected from the college site please contact your child's Head of Year.

You may use the college site to drop off and collect children during the school day for appointments from 9.00am up until 3.00 pm.

The college operates a parking permit system of identification; any vehicle parked within the college not displaying a valid permit will be treated as security risk.



Monday 23rd - Learn to Ride x 3 sessions (Hard Court)

0900-1100

1130-1330

1400-1600

Tuesday 24th + Wednesday 25th - Bikeability

Level 2 (2 day course)

1000-1500

Thursday 26th - Bikeability Level 3 (1 day course)

0900-1500

Friday 27th - Bikeability Level 3 (1 day course)

0900-1500

Tel - 07876735831

Web - [Add a subheading](#)

Facebook - [PSSP Cycle Training | Facebook](#)

Tavistock College Communication Charter

After listening to feedback from parents, carers and staff last year, we feel that to formulate a communication charter would benefit the Tavistock College stakeholder community.

Communication between home and the College is vital for the well-being of pupils, parents, carers and staff.

This Charter sets out how communication will be managed to make sure it is productive and positive.

In addition to progress evenings, family forums, school events, etc., there may be occasions when parents or carers wish to communicate with the College directly with questions or information related to their child. There will also be occasions where staff will need to contact parents regarding their child.

To make sure that this is effective these principles will be applied;



Our commitment as a College

We will:

- ensure that there is regular, proactive communication about your child's achievement and wellbeing
- aim to ensure that communication is purposeful
- not overload communication systems, to help important information not being missed.
- respond to emails, phone calls or requests for meetings usually within 48 hours and within the times set out in our working day.
- if there is an urgent matter, a school receptionist will ask an appropriate member of staff to deal with the issue as soon as possible
- display polite, professional conduct at all times
- acknowledge receipt of an email and confirm that a fuller response will be sent within 48 hours and within the times set out in our working day.

Our expectations of parents and carers

You will:

- ensure that any communication with the College, whether by email or telephone, is polite and respectful
- make use of information channels in place, such as the College website, newsletter, e-mail or educational apps for keeping up to date with routine information
- give an outline of what the issue is, to make sure the query is directed to the right person
- use staff college email or our main reception telephone number as first point of contact (the College will forward your request to the appropriate staff member)
- ensure your emails are brief and clear
- refrain from sending multiple emails regarding the same query
- limit the number of people you send an email about a query
- understand that a teacher or member of staff may be unable to respond on the same day on which a query is made
- understand that teachers or other College staff will not respond outside of College hours, i.e., evenings, weekends and school holidays

If there is a face to face meeting, everyone must show mutual respect. The meeting will focus on resolving the issues that are relevant to that family or pupil.

No offensive language, insults or personal attacks on College staff will be tolerated. If any such incidents occur, the meeting can be terminated with immediate effect.

No meetings or conversations shall be recorded without the knowledge and consent of all parties to the meeting.

Please note that unreasonable, repetitive, abusive or offensive communication is unacceptable, and the College reserves the right to address any such problems as they feel are appropriate. This can include restricting correspondence to a specified email address, using a single person as a point of contact or using hard copy post and/or by placing restrictions on phone calls. Parents and carers have an implied licence to enter a College site; in cases where behaviour is inappropriate, threatening or argumentative, this licence can be revoked.

We want to ensure that our vision for the young people of Tavistock and West Devon is at the heart of all communications.

'Working together to provide the highest quality of education for all local children to ensure that pupils from all backgrounds are able to succeed.'

Our aim is to ensure that all communications and discussions about pupils and their families are positive and move matters forward in a mutually respectful manner.

Attendance Matters at Tavistock College

Tavistock College recognises the importance of good attendance in developing conscientious students with the ability to achieve their potential.

We monitor students' attendance on a daily basis, both attendance at school and at individual lessons.

Parents are expected to inform the school by 8am if their child is absent by calling 01822 614231 and selecting Option 4 (absence line) or by emailing k.shalgosky@tavistockcollege.org - giving the reason for absence.

There are 190 school days each year, this means that there are 175 non-school days a year.

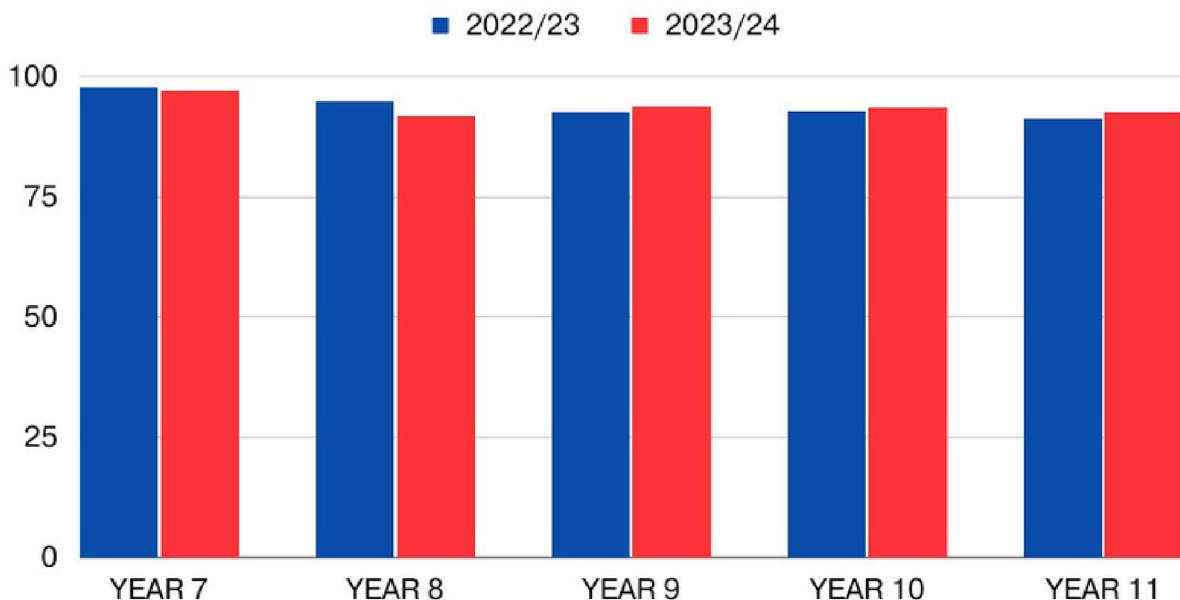
On average a student at Tavistock College with attendance of 95% or above achieved a GCSE grade 5 or higher

On average a student at Tavistock College with attendance of 80.1%-90% achieved a GCSE grade 4

On average a student at Tavistock College with attendance of 50.1%-80% achieved a GCSE grade of 2.8

TAVISTOCK ATTENDANCE DATA

CURRENT ATTENDANCE DATA FOR YEARS 7-11 WITH COMPARATIVE DATA FROM THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/23



Good Attendance means...

Being in school at least 97% of the time or 184 to 190 days

Remember

Education is important - don't miss out!

Did you know?

A two week holiday in term-time means that the highest attendance a child can achieve is

94.7%



Did you know?

When pupils attend school they:

- Can achieve their full potential
- Have better career prospects
- Learn how to look after themselves and be healthy
- Grow in confidence
- Keep up with work and homework
- Make new friends

There are
365 DAYS
in a calendar year

175 DAYS
are **NOT**
spent at school

Talk to us in confidence... Whisper it
TAV1 [+ your message] To: 07860 021 323
Report via SMS or visit: <https://swgfl.org.uk/whisper/tav1/>

Devon County Council

Autism & Us Programmes

Support for parents/carers of Devon's primary and secondary children who are either on the autism waiting list or who have received a diagnosis of autism.

Our 'Autism and Us' programme and themed workshops delivered this academic year will once again be offered during the autumn term for parents/carers of Devon primary and secondary school children, pre or post-diagnosis. We offer access for families of children and young people (CYP) who are currently on the autism assessment pathway, in addition to families of CYP who have received an autism diagnosis.

Attending the Autism and Us parent programme gives you an opportunity to develop your understanding of autism and look at practical solutions to managing and supporting your child's presenting needs.

Four weekly 'live online' sessions (each approximately 2 hours long) related to the following topics or themes:

- Autism overview
- Communication
- Understanding and supporting behaviour
- Sensory

To secure a place on any of the above programmes, or to express your interest in forthcoming programmes, please send an email to educationlearnersupport@devon.gov.uk. We will confirm your booking and provide you with a direct link to the event. Events will be delivered online 'live' using the Microsoft Teams platform.

Scan the QR code below for more details.



LET'S TALK

PRE-TEENS



Free support sessions for parents and carers

Let's Talk Pre-Teens is an opportunity for you as a parent or guardian of a young person aged approximately 9 to 12 years old to hear about the challenges they are facing today, and the tools you can use to support your children and community.

Dates:

- Thursday 21st September
- Thursday 28th September
- Thursday 5th October

Weekly 90 minute sessions starting at 7.00pm

Visit www.devon.cc/letstalk to find out more about each session and book your free place.



LET'S TALK

TEENAGERS



Free support sessions for parents and carers

Have you got teenagers? Join us online for a chat about some of the challenges young people are facing today, and find out what tools you can use to support them.

Dates:

- Tuesday 19th September
- Tuesday 26th September
- Tuesday 3rd October

Weekly 90 minute sessions starting at 7.00pm

Visit www.devon.cc/letstalk to find out more about each session and book your free place.



Year 7 Notice Board

Head of Year - Mr Hunter

Assistant Head of Year - Mrs Massey



Hello and welcome to the very first Year 7 newsletter! It's hard to believe how much we've managed to fit into this first two weeks at college: I think I can say with some confidence that the initial butterflies surrounding such a huge milestone have started to settle (for both students and parents), and that the school routines and routes around the college are starting to feel more familiar.

I've had the pleasure of getting to know a great many of our new Year 7s, and their enthusiasm and excitement is infectious. I know they are going to become an integral part of the college community, and as exciting opportunities present themselves over the coming months, we will be sure to make you are of them via this newsletter and our school comms.

We had our first assembly this week, and the topic was celebrating our 'wins'. That's not to say just the big wins, but the small ones too, and I'd like point out a few of these that the students might have overlooked:

- You've all just been through one of the most significant shifts to your life so far - it wasn't easy, but you did it - well done!
- You've now done a complete cycle of your two week timetable and have met all of your teachers and found your teaching rooms - even if you did get lost along the way!
- You've no doubt met new friends and faced challenges you may never have thought your able to do - you're more resilient than you might think.

I'll be eager to hear more of your wins when I see you around school or on duty - please be sure to share them with me!

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank our fantastic Year 7 tutoring team: we have a wealth of experience in the team, and I hope some of you have had the chance to speak with them already. Of course we also have our Meet The Tutor evening coming up in the next few weeks, and I hope to see a great many of you there as this is a lovely way to know our Year 7 families.

Please remember to contact your child's tutor if you have any concerns - they will be more than happy to support in any way they can.

Please can I remind all students to remember their Tavi 7: pencil case containing pencil, pen, ruler, eraser, reading book and bare essentials. We've now passed the two week grace period of not awarding red boards for forgetting these or lateness, so please be prepared!

An extensive list of clubs being run by the Creative Arts Faculty has been released this week. Students can find a full list of clubs and their timings on the creative arts facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/tavicreativearts/>

There is still time to sign up for Cross Country, which starts on 21st September. Last year it was really impressive to see how those involved matured through the season and onwards into the athletics season. Cross country is a great team sport and ultimately it's fun, and it's a great way for those interested to experience secondary school sport for the first time. There is never any pressure or expectation other than to take part and run their best.

If interested, please collect a form from the PE office.

CARE - Oliver N has shown a truly caring attitude by looking out for a friend in need this week.

CHALLENGE - George H has been incredibly brave since starting, as he's faced numerous challenges settling into school - well done!

EXCEL - Thank you to the many students who have already shown an interest in becoming students reps - you know who you are!

Top 20 - most green boards given this week

Ollie H	Lola W
Lilly-Anne V	Paige R
Mollie C-W	Lily-Mae P
James S	Seren B-W
Toby S	Jeeho K
George S	Alisha H
Jack T	Zac T
Heidi C	Tate R
Ailsa S	Alfie M
Ollie R-R	Sofiia D



Year 8 Notice Board

Head of Year - Mrs Ingleby
Assistant Head of Year - Mr Marsh



It is great to see so many year 8s with a smile on their face and a spring in their steps ready for this new academic year. We have made a fantastic start to the new school year. We thank you for your actions around the school, your school uniform and your approach to learning.

As you have well noticed there are a couple of changes from last year, especially regarding uniforms. Now the heat wave has disappeared and the week's 'grace' has been and gone, you are now expected to be dressed appropriately and a reminder of the schools minimum expectations are addressed in this newsletter.

Manners are going to be a focus this term along with how we look after and manage our mental health. Just a reminder that the key stage 3 hub is there to support you and where you will find Mrs Ingleby and Mr Marsh.

We have had a really busy couple of weeks since the last newsletter including trips to sports clubs and extra-curricular clubs will start up again soon. Please join teams and take part in the activities that interest you. These usually take place after school on a Tuesday and Thursday where late bus provision is provided.

Remember to let us know if you have a good trip idea in the future.

If you compete outside of school for any team or you do some fundraising or anything else that's worth a mention, please let Mr Marsh know.

REMINDER

- A blazer OR school jumper must be worn, unless a teacher allows you to remove them in class. **NEW FOR THIS YEAR.** Outdoor coats must be removed when you enter any school building, Shirts must be tucked in, skirts rolled down and ties worn. No excuses
- Ties, we have also noticed that more students are 'losing' their ties and coming to get a 'spare' from the Key Stage 3 hub. A tie is an important part of the uniform and moreover they cost money to replace! Please keep yours safe.
- Please make sure you adhere to STAR behaviours in every lesson and demonstrate courtesy to your teachers in and around the school.

Top 20 - most green boards given this week

Riley H	Alastair G
Tia M	Connor K
Thomas L	Riley M
Nevaeh B	Saba P
Charlie F	Olivia T
Layla C	Samuel D
Arthur M	Oscar F
Sophia W	Imogen N
Tyler C	Oliver P
Ethan E	Melody V



Demonstrating one of the cooperative values- Solidarity, Self-help, Self-responsibility, Democracy.
Demonstrating one of our ethical values- Openness, Honesty, Social-Responsibility, Caring for others:

Kayleigh B
Samuel G
Joe Monk
Jacob J
James O

Year 9 Notice Board

Head of Year - Miss Evans
Assistant Head of Year - Miss Fox



Welcome back Year 9! It has been a fantastic start and you all look amazing in your uniform. Please continue to wear it with pride. You have not only grown over the summer holidays but also matured continuing to develop into the lovely young adults that we all know you are. You are an exceptional group of people who have the ability to achieve all of your aspirations. We wish you luck for the year ahead!

Enrichment

Please remember to sign up for the Year 9 Sports Tour which is due to take place April 2024. You have until 12th October to put your name down for this fantastic opportunity. Not only will you get the chance for sport but you get to go to Disney World as well as a shopping experience. All this and Mrs Ingleby too!

CARE - Scarlett B - for consistently meeting expectations.

CHALLENGE - Scarlett K - for having a positive attitude and showing great kindness.

EXCEL - Alfie M - for his extremely hard working attitude, asking lots of pertinent and thoughtful questions.

Top 20 - most green boards given this week

Sienna M	Ethan H-L
Anastasiia M	Jaydon B
Cameron M	Archie B
Toby S	Shannon C
Emya T	Candie E
Emily W	Isabelle F
Harvey Y	Milly G
Henry W	Holly H
Billy P	Riley L
Archie P	Tori-Paighton L



Cross-country starts next Thursday. Mr Ingleby says you know who you are! If you are interested in taking part, please speak to Mr. Ingleby.

Please be aware that Creative Arts clubs start from Monday 18th. For more details look on the Creative Arts facebook page, speak to Mrs Pearson or anyone from the Creative Arts team.

REMINDER

A date for your diary is next Tuesday 19th September. This is our Meet the Tutor Evening which is from 4pm to 6pm. There will be a short presentation in the main hall but it will also be a chance for parents and guardians to meet and speak with your new tutor.

Year 10 Notice Board

Head of Year - Mrs Squire
Assistant Head of Year - Mr Trimmer



A massive well done to the new Year 10 cohort for returning from the six week vacation and really hitting the ground running with great attitudes and smiling faces!

The transition from the six week summer to the fast pace of school is always a tough one, but we have seen so many of Year 10 strive to be their best. Thank you and keep it up.

We also see this year a new look with the introduction of the tartan skirts making their mark. A final note from myself, Ms Squire and the whole tutor team. We look forward to working alongside each student in Year 10 to ensure that they are able to thrive and in turn strive to achieve their full potential, to care, challenge and excel.

CARE - We have seen a huge amount of care amongst the year group where students have been looking out for each other throughout the day and this week. It is great to see students striving to be their best in class and caring about their studies. Keep it up. We look forward to sharing more stories this term of individuals showing care.

CHALLENGE - Please share all of your successes with your tutors and teachers so that we can share this and celebrate your success.

EXCEL - We very much look forward to nominating students for awards and sharing achievements in all extra curricular and academic studies this year.

Top 20 - most green boards given this week

Sofia E	Isaac N
Miles I	Wilson E
Jamie C	Josh A
Jamie S	Finley H
Jack R	Philly P
Imogen Ha	Oscar M
Jazmine C	Morgan C
Ryan C	Joshua D
George G	Jack T
Brook GT	Ellie M H



LET'S TALK
TEENAGERS

Free support sessions for parents and carers

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Weekly 90 minute sessions starting at 7.00pm

Visit www.devon.cc/letstalk to find out more about each session and book your free place.

Dates:

- Tuesday 19th September
- Tuesday 26th September
- Tuesday 3rd October

Safer Devon
Working together to make Devon even safer



Year 11 Notice Board

Head of Year - Mr Jacob

Assistant Head of Year - Mr Murphy

We would also like to welcome Mr Jacob, who is our new head of year and our new tutors to the Year 11 team; Mr Hosking, Mrs Doyle, Ms Robinson, Ms Prior, Mr Wilson, Mr Lane, Mr Hillman, Mrs Raeburn, Miss Palmer and Mrs Millidge. We were very pleased to welcome back our Year 11 students and have really enjoyed hearing about the amazing things they have experienced over the summer holidays.

We have now reached one of the biggest stages in a young person's life, their GCSE year. The students have come back with a fantastic 'go get them' attitude, which is fantastic to see. The effort the students put in now will be rewarding come results day. We look forward to supporting our Year 11 students along their journey this year.



Top 20 - most green boards given this week

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| Riley B | Harriet S |
| Anya J | Lilli M |
| Charlie C | Jodie M |
| Jordyn P | Ash N |
| Niamh P | Lucas E |
| Sebastian L | Rosie K |
| Oliver D | Josie B |
| Tal P | Lennon M |
| Ben P | Bella D |
| Megan G | Hayden D |



CARE - We have seen a huge amount of care amongst the year group where students have been looking out for each other throughout the day and this week. It is great to see students striving to be their best in class and caring about their studies. Keep it up. We look forward to sharing more stories this term of individuals showing care.

CHALLENGE - Please share all of your successes with your tutors and teachers so that we can share this and celebrate your success.

EXCEL - We very much look forward to nominating students for awards and sharing achievements in all extra curricular and academic studies this year.

Come and see for yourself...



Tavistock College

Open Evening

Wednesday 27th September

Years 4, 5 & 6 Open Evening
Presentations and tours:
5.15pm, 6.00pm & 6.45pm

Open Mornings:
Tuesday 3rd, 10th & 17th October
Wednesday 4th & 18th October



Contact us: 01822 614231 enquiries@tavistockcollege.org

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about LIVE STREAMING

Live streaming involves broadcasting and watching videos online in real time, often on social media or via platforms like YouTube and Twitch. Viewers can interact through comments, chats and reactions during the broadcast: such instant engagement makes this an exciting way to share experiences, learn from others and build digital communities. Despite the many positives, live streaming also creates a potential platform for unsuitable content and poses some risks to children: it's essential to keep privacy and safety in mind and comply with each site or app's age restrictions.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

LACK OF AGE VERIFICATION

Despite their age restrictions, some platforms don't require proof of age at sign up – meaning that anyone can register for an account (and potentially pretend to be older or younger than they actually are). In many cases, this means that young live streamers can never be totally certain exactly who they are broadcasting to and who is engaging with their live stream.

DISCLOSING PERSONAL INFO

A characteristic of live streaming is the ability for videos to be instantly shared worldwide. Without the correct privacy settings enabled, a child could inadvertently reveal personal information or their location, making them vulnerable to online predators or identity theft. It's wise to regularly check the privacy settings (and what data is being shared) on any apps your child has signed up for.

ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN

As the video streams are live, children might encounter (or inadvertently share) inappropriate content. Most live-streaming apps have rules to prevent this and monitor their services, also providing report buttons where content can be flagged for review. It may not be dealt with instantly, however, meaning that your child could be further exposed to harmful content during a live stream.

AGE RESTRICTION

13+
16+ 18+

Age varies by platform

UNAUTHORISED RECORDINGS

Each live streaming platform stores completed videos for different periods (Twitch saves broadcasts for 60 days, for example, while Facebook and YouTube remove them only at the creator's request). Deleting a video, though, doesn't always stop it from being shared: in some cases, streams have been illegally recorded (or screenshots taken) by certain viewers and redistributed on other sites.

ROGUE CONTENT CREATORS

Children can also watch other people's live streams, which could potentially contain anything at any time (such as nudity, drug use or profanity). Most apps claim to monitor live streams and will stop any that don't adhere to their guidelines – but with millions of streams per day, it's complicated to regulate them all, so children could be exposed to inappropriate content without parents knowing.

DANGER OF GROOMING

There are increasing reports of children being coerced into performing "suggestive acts" by strangers on some live-streaming apps. Due to the lack of verification required for certain apps, almost anyone can sign up to these services (including anonymously or under a fake identity). It's vital, therefore, to ensure the correct safety measures are in place before your child begins live streaming.

Advice for Parents & Carers

PUT PRIVACY FIRST

Through the streaming app's settings, switch your child's account to 'private', so only their friends and followers can see their broadcasts. You could also turn off the live chat, shielding your child from any upsetting comments – although viewers' feedback is often seen as an integral part of the fun. Identify any nearby items (such as school uniforms or visible landmarks) that could give away your child's location.

MANAGE MULTISTREAMING

Some apps and sites let users stream their content through multiple social media platforms at once. A broadcast on StreamYard, for example, can be shared on YouTube, Twitch, X and Facebook if the accounts are linked. The privacy settings can differ on each of these, so we'd suggest only streaming via one platform at a time to maintain greater control over who's watching your child's videos.

GET INVOLVED YOURSELF

Research suggests a significant number of streams show a child on their own, often in a supposed safe space like their bedroom. If your child wants to live stream, ask if you could be present because you're interested in how it works. You could even set up your own account to gain a more detailed knowledge of what your child talks about in their live streams – and who they're broadcasting to.

TALK ABOUT LIVE STREAMING

Try to start with positives before discussing potential risks. You could ask which live streaming apps your child likes and how they use them. Do they just watch streams or create their own? Explain why it's unwise to reveal personal information while streaming (even to friends). If you feel your child's too young for live streams, explain your reasoning to them and perhaps agree to review this decision in the future.

CONSIDER THEIR ONLINE REPUTATION

As the broadcasts are live, it often causes the misconception among young people that whatever happens in their video simply 'vanishes' once the stream ends. However, videos can stay online indefinitely or be recorded by other users. It's important that your child understands what they do and say in a live stream could potentially damage their online reputation and, quite possibly, be seen by prospective future employers, colleges or universities.

Meet Our Expert

Rhodi Smith is Head of Digital Learning at Thomas's Kensington, London. Recognised in the EdTech 50 UK Awards Yearbook 2021/22 for his efforts in the digital transformation at Cubitt Town Primary School and Tower Hamlets, he is also a Google for Education Certified Trainer and guest lectures at University College London on the integration of technology across the curriculum.



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Source: <https://www.itw.org.uk/media/23/3nc2/distribution-of-captures-of-live-streamed-child-sexual-abuse-final.pdf>

12 Top Tips for USING GENERATIVE AI IN THE CLASSROOM

Since the launch of ChatGPT in late 2022, the education community has already begun to see the enormous potential of generative AI as a tool for planning, organising, content creation and learning support. The problem? The technology is accelerating so fast that many teachers have no idea how to begin making the most of it. Our expert's top tips could help you to start integrating AI into your classroom for the coming academic year.

ASK WHAT IT NEEDS

With ChatGPT, you could begin by asking what it needs you to initially input to provide the best response. So, something like: "I want you to act as a history teacher. I will provide the syllabus and you will provide me with a scheme of work. First of all, tell me what you need to know from me to create an excellent, differentiated scheme of work."

START BROAD AND ZOOM IN

If you ask ChatGPT to give you a fully differentiated and resourced scheme of work or lesson plan from just one prompt, you'll probably be disappointed. Instead, begin by requesting a weekly outline; then a daily breakdown; then a single lesson; then the resources. That way, you'll get a lot more detail and can tweak the output if it's not quite right.

ROLES HELP TO TACKLE TASKS

Because language models like ChatGPT are trained on human data, they're good at roleplaying. Asking it to assume a specific role – and telling it the tone you wish it to take – will likely make its output closer to what you're looking for. For example: "You will take the role of an expert AQA GCSE maths teacher. Write a syllabus guide for AQA GCSE maths in a friendly, reassuring tone."

CREATE 'CHARACTER' BOTS

You can create your own chat bots for students to have free access to ChatGPT without logging in. On zapier.com, choose 'interfaces' then select 'chatbot'. Filling in the fields allows you to customise the chatbot's persona (to 'helpful teacher' or 'literary analyst', for example) and create an action that copies the response to the clipboard. You can then release this to your students.

AVOID PLAGIARISM DETECTORS

We'd advise caution in using AI plagiarism checkers as they aren't reliable yet: they're easy to fool and often give false positives. Some students have already been wrongly accused of cheating, which has destroyed their relationship with their teacher. It's better to use your own judgement (as you'll know your own students' style) or consider other options such as controlled assessments.

WHAT IS GENERATIVE AI?

Generative AI encompasses the family of artificial intelligences which are capable of creating content. This includes large language models such as ChatGPT and Google Bard; text-to-image diffusion models including Midjourney and Stable Diffusion; the newer crop of apps which can create videos from text, like RunwayML; and music-focused software such as Google's MusicLM.

THINK BEYOND 'THE NORM'

Gamma is an app which uses AI to plan presentations, while Notion software employs AI to change the tone and length of text, and explore ideas. Even without the AI elements, however, both would be worthwhile additions for any school as online alternatives to Google or Microsoft applications (such as Word and PowerPoint) and are free to use, with free AI credits included.

SET UP AN 'ASK THE AI' STATION

Currently, it's hard for school-age children to engage with ChatGPT, as signing in requires a phone number and two-factor authentication. It's also problematic with data protection in many countries. Instead, you could set up one or two laptops in the classroom as 'ask ChatGPT' workstations, which you can direct your students to use at appropriate moments.

BE CRITICAL USERS

Because they sound so convincing, generative AI's occasional 'hallucinations' can cause problems. Teach your students to think critically about what AI tells them – and fact check its responses, particularly those involving references. Models like Google Bard, while good for ideation, have already garnered a reputation for confidently making up references and even website URLs.

GENERATE LOTS OF IDEAS

When exploring a topic with ChatGPT, ask it to generate 10, 20 or even 50 ideas around the theme. For example: "Give me ten interesting and unusual lesson starters to hook my Year 6 class into the water cycle." You can then overlay your human intelligence and choose the best option for your class. Some won't be great, but you only need one that is!

TAILOR YOUR RESOURCES

ChatGPT is excellent for differentiating resources to fit specific audiences, as it can rewrite any resource to better suit a different age or ability range. You could also ask it for alternative ways to present information, such as explaining a complex concept in the style of a blockbuster movie scene or giving three simpler analogies that a much younger pupil would be more likely to understand.

TODAY'S LESSONS:
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TRY THE OPEN AI PLAYGROUND

On platform.openai.com, go into 'Playground'. Choose the chat option from the drop-down menu, and then select the 16K model. This will quadruple the token size (or memory), meaning that you can paste in an entire chapter of a novel, act from a play or section of a textbook, and ask the AI questions about it. This makes the GPT model so much more useful.

DIFFERENT TOOLS FOR DIFFERENT JOBS

ChatGPT is impressive, but it's not the only tool in the box. Perplexity is a simple to use web-enabled AI that runs the most up-to-date version of ChatGPT in the background – while Pi is a friendlier-sounding chatbot that students can get into discussions with on almost any subject. They both encourage learners to go deeper by asking probing questions or suggesting ways to explore a topic.

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is Chief Operating Officer for Britus Education, a Bahrain-based company with nine K-12 international schools in the Middle East and North Africa region. A teacher and leader for 25 years, Darren is a blogger and thought leader on AI in education, who hosts The EduAite Podcast. Later this year, he will publish *Re-Generate*, a book on how AI is set to change the education world.



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Sources: chat.openai.com | platform.openai.com | zapier.com | perplexity.ai | gamma.app | notion.so | pi.ai

[@natonlinesafety](https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety)

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SHARING PHOTOS ONLINE

School is often a time chock-full of milestones for your child, and you may well be eager to share their accomplishments with the world. In today's digital age, sharing images of such precious moments on social media is commonplace, and – while that's a lovely thing to do – it does come with some risks attached. Our guide can help parents and carers to consider the potential dangers and make informed choices about safely sharing photos of their children online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INVASIONS OF PRIVACY

Even with the right settings in place, absolutely nothing online is 100% private. Anyone who can view your photos could take screenshots and potentially share them elsewhere. Privacy settings are still important, though, so it's always wise to ensure your social media accounts have them set up; just bear in mind that you can't completely control what happens to anything once it's gone online.

REVEALING PERSONAL DETAILS

Small details in photos can often reveal personal information. Backgrounds can give clues to where you live, for example, while school logos on uniforms, sports kits, or bags could help someone identify which school your child attends. With interactive maps and reverse image searches commonplace online, information like this could easily be misused by an individual with malicious intentions.

MISUSE OF IMAGES

Once something's been shared online, it's almost impossible to get it deleted. Photos can show up in search engine results and be downloaded, manipulated, and shared without consent. There's the potential for someone's images to be used for advertising purposes (which in many cases, isn't illegal) or even more inappropriate reasons, such as cyber-bullying or serious forms of exploitation.

ONLINE GROOMING

Pictures that convey details about your child's interests, activities, or daily routines could arm an online predator with the kind of information they can deploy to gain a child's trust. They might use this knowledge to pretend to be the same age as the child or to have a shared hobby. Essentially, the more a predator knows about a young person, the easier it is for them to invent some 'common ground'.

PRESSURE TO PLEASE

When their parents or carers share notable moments and accomplishments in a child's life on social media, some children may begin to feel an expectation to always meet certain standards, to achieve things, or to behave in ways that are "worth sharing". Knowing that other people (even friends and family) can see these posts on social media might also add to the pressure they're feeling internally.

IMPACT ON DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Every photo of a child posted online contributes to their digital footprint. Young people's lives have never been so closely and publicly documented as they are now, and this permanent online presence could affect a child's future opportunities or the choices they make as they grow up – in addition to influencing how they see themselves and, consequently, their emotional wellbeing.

Advice for Parents & Carers

REVIEW SETTINGS REGULARLY

Make sure your social media's secure in terms of who can view your content or see your location (only family and trusted friends, for example). Privacy settings aren't totally foolproof, but they do make it tougher for strangers to access your pics. Reviewing your settings regularly is also a good starting point for conversations with your child about managing their own social accounts when they're older.

CONSIDER OTHER CHILDREN

When taking a group photo, make sure you get parents' or carers' permission to share it on social media. There may be an important safeguarding reason for them not wanting their child's photo posted publicly online, or it might simply not tally with their personal beliefs or cultural background. A quick conversation in advance, just to make sure, is usually hugely appreciated.

CHECK YOUR PHOTOS

Photos of your child shouldn't provide any clues to where they live or go to school: even a house number, street name, or car number plate could be a giveaway. Cover up or blur out school logos, too. If you really want to share a particular pic, you could post a watermarked or low-res version, which can help to discourage misuse as those images are less appealing to download or reproduce.

THINK AHEAD

Try to consider the longer-term implications of what you post. Would you be happy with that photo being online in 10 years' time? Would your child still be OK with the image when they're older? Once your child is mature enough, you could ask for their consent before posting: it respects their privacy, fosters trust and understanding, and helps them to start thinking about their own online life.

Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with more than 30 years' experience working with children, families, and adults in education, local authority, and mental health settings, both in the UK and internationally. She has developed online safety training for local authorities and foster care agencies across Britain and is the online safety expert for FosterWIK.

