



Dawlish Community College

# College News

## Principal's Welcome

### What's on:

03 Jan.	<b>Start of Term</b>
4 Jan.	<b>Year 11 Information Evening 4:30-6:30pm</b>
25 Jan.	<b>Year 8 Option Evening 6-7:45pm</b>
1 Feb.	<b>Year 11 Parents' Evening 4-7pm</b>
8 Feb.	<b>Year 8 Parents' Evening 4-7pm</b>
9 Feb	<b>End of Term</b>
12-16 Feb.	<b>Half Term</b>
18 Feb.	<b>Start of Term</b>
23- 24 Feb.	<b>24 Hour Concert</b>

Welcome to the final newsletter of 2017. It has been another busy term at the college with a number of trips and activities taking place. As ever I am thankful to the committed and hardworking staff we have at the college who provide the extra-curricular and learning opportunities for our students that are very well received by all. I recently had the pleasure of attending the Christmas Showcase and I was blown away by the quality of Expressive Arts we have here at the college. The students excelled in Drama, Dance and Music and a superb night was enjoyed by the audience. We have much to look forward to in 2018 and a particular highlight will be the 24 hour concert in February. Please do come along and support our students in what is a fabulous fund raising event for our community.

Another highlight in 2018 will be the South West Youth games. I was recently contacted by the Teignbridge Sports Officer and we will be working in partnership with other local sports facilities to host these prestigious games, firmly putting Dawlish and the college on the sporting map. I will write to you in the new year as there will be excellent opportunities for our students to be involved.

Finally on the 1<sup>st</sup> December we received a visit from an HMI from Ofsted. He carried out a one day visit to judge the progress we have made since the full inspection a year ago. I am afraid his report remains confidential until after the Christmas break and I will be writing to you in January with a copy of his letter.

For now I wish all of you and your families a peaceful and relaxing holiday and we look forward to seeing students again on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January on a week A timetable.

Best wishes

John Simon  
Principal

## Thank You!

Students and staff have done a huge amount this term to support a range of charities. Events this term have supported Children in Need, Pets As Therapy, Cystic Fibrosis and The Strand Church Community Christmas Lunch event to name but a few! We are very proud of everyone's effort.

**A BIG THANK YOU** must go to the following businesses who kindly responded to our request for donations, vouchers and gifts for students to be presented at the end of year celebrations, held on the last day of term. These will be presented to students in assemblies for attendance, attitude to learning, subject accolades and positivity. Without this kind donation this would not have been possible. So thank you to: Riviera Foodservice, Pasta King, Ryders Bakery, Young's Wholesale, FHMann, Shoe Centre, No 1 Café, Sea Sports, Sea Breeze and Cosen's Institute for your generosity.

## Travels Abroad!

Groups from DCC have been on a huge number of excursions in recent times, and this year was not different, with visits to Paris and Barcelona to broaden students' language skills and their knowledge of other cultures.

We had a marvellous response from students when we announced the trip to Barcelona and in early October, a group of 39 students, all studying Spanish at GCSE level, and 4 staff left DCC at 3.00am and flew from Bristol to Barcelona for 4 days.

We visited historic Barcelona, learning a lot about the city's past from Yesenia and walking through the Gothic Quarter and the Boqueria market. We saw the cultural and religious landmarks of the city such as Gaudi's Parc Guell and the stunning Sagrada Familia Basilica. There was also the Picasso Museum and the Columbus Column at the top of which Columbus can be seen pointing out across the Ocean. On a more modern note we toured the Nou Camp stadium and many (if not all!) of the students and staff were wowed by the triumphs and the trophies of Barcelona FC. A high point was the Tibidabo Theme Park afternoon and the cable car ride over the city, not forgetting, of course, the shopping time given to students!



The Paris visit was equally successful. This year we were blessed with fantastic weather and a wonderful group of students. The packed itinerary meant we visited all the sights of the city (Notre-Dame, Musée Pompidou, Sacré-Coeur -Montmartre- La Tour Eiffel, Arc de Triomphe, Musée du Louvre) as well as a gorgeous boat trip along the Seine on the famous "Bateaux-Mouches" and a morning in a typical Parisian market.

On the Sunday evening we enjoyed a fabulous meal in a restaurant on the Champs-Élysées and we even saw the Eiffel Tower sparkle!!

Our students also visited a French school and there was lots of "entente cordiale" as they chatted with the French students "speed-dating style" and eventually swapped Facebook/ snapchat addresses. We finished off our trip with an evening of bowling which was great fun. All the 30 students and 4 members of staff had a wonderful time, with one student commenting: "I thought the trip was incredible! We went to all the tourist attractions and had plenty of time at each. We were given a lot of freedom which made me feel very grown up." We are looking forward to the next one in 2018!

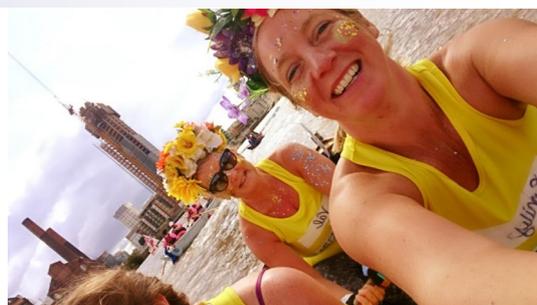


## Rowing For Gold

Earlier this year two members of staff took on the huge challenge of entering the London River Race.

Emily Parr and Val Marc rowed the London River Race in aid of Cystic Fibrosis. Despite gruelling training and a very difficult day, the two members of staff completed the course and still had plenty of energy left!

They managed to raise a staggering £1,700, with the students at DCC helping to raise money through sponsorship. Both members of staff were extremely grateful for the support. Well done Val and Emily, and a huge thank you to all students for their generosity!



## Art Attack!

Dawlish Community College was excited to take part in The Lantern Parade organised by TAAG (Teignmouth Arts Action Group) held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November; an annual event to celebrate the start of the Christmas season for the local traders and to officially turn on the Christmas lights throughout the town.

Rising to the challenge our students put in a lot of effort and time into preparing and creating their fabulous lanterns inspired by Titan the Robot (who later made an appearance at the event.)

The evening was a real success with our lanterns looking spectacular. The overall scene on the evening was magical, with the sky lit up by an array of colourful lanterns and accompanied by local choirs singing Christmas carols.

Other students in Year 8 were also busy exploring images of war and creating their own art work to commemorate those involved and affected by war. The resulting work was varied but hugely thought-provoking. One student said: "This is the hardest project I have worked on because it is so personal."

Meanwhile, all Year 9 Art students have been involved in the Young Devon Artist Competition in support of Young People and Teens Cancer Research project. The project has been set up to make more people aware of the need for further research in cancer treatments for the young. The exhibition will be 'what makes me happy' and judging will take place early next year. The pieces selected for the exhibition will be put on display in the Spanish Barns at Torre Abbey and judged by 3 very well know Devon-based artists, so fingers crossed for our students !

## Year 11 Information Evening

Year 11 parents and students are invited to an information evening on Thursday 4 January in preparation for this year's GCSE exams. During the evening there will be several sessions run by the Directors of Learning for Maths, English and Science informing you of the changes to the new GCSE structure and current topics that are being taught and that will be examined.

A revision session will run at various times throughout the evening, giving hints and tips about how to revise and strategies for setting up a revision timetable. There will also be the opportunity to look at different revision techniques and to purchase revision guides. Finally, if you are still unsure about your next step, Exeter College and South Devon College advisors will be on hand throughout the evening to answer any questions you have.

We would love to see you during this evening which starts at 4.30pm, finishing at 6.30pm. If you have any questions about the evening please contact Mrs Wiseman, Year 11 progress leader [ewiseman@dawlish.devon.sch](mailto:ewiseman@dawlish.devon.sch).

## The Slave Trade

8Y3 recently had the pleasure of working with two volunteers from Devon Development Education on the topic of The Slave Trade. Our question to them was: Had there been any connections with the slave trade in Dawlish? Gill and Sue (from DDE) showed us some records from 1835 linked to the compensation paid to slave owners from Dawlish, demonstrating there had been local involvement.

We studied the biographies of five local people to find out what they were like. We discovered one was an M.P, two owned a sugar plantation, one a cocoa plantation and Margaret Taylor was a descendant of slaves and had been brought to England by Hannah Barnes to work for her. Margaret had saved up her money to buy a slave. We are amazed that the slave trade existed in our town and are eager to find out more!

Name	Surname	Other	Address	Notes	Details	Comments
Towns						
Family of Nelson						
William	Nelson	Age 40	St. 12	St. 12	St. 12	St. 12
John	Nelson	Age 40	St. 12	St. 12	St. 12	St. 12
Margaret	Nelson	Age 40	St. 12	St. 12	St. 12	St. 12
Family of Taylor						
Margaret	Taylor	Age 40	St. 12	St. 12	St. 12	St. 12
John	Taylor	Age 40	St. 12	St. 12	St. 12	St. 12
Margaret	Taylor	Age 40	St. 12	St. 12	St. 12	St. 12
John	Taylor	Age 40	St. 12	St. 12	St. 12	St. 12
Margaret	Taylor	Age 40	St. 12	St. 12	St. 12	St. 12

We also looked at an online database to see how to find the information by ourselves. (If you are interested in doing your own research the website is: [www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs)) - One student is currently working with his Grandad to find out more, whilst another is trying to track down her ancestors in Ireland and France who owned a plantation!

## Getting To Know You

New Director of Learning for English & Humanities Emma Simmons has joined us at DCC and here are some of the questions the students wanted to ask her.....

**Where were you born?**

*I was born in Norwich, in Norfolk. It takes a minimum of 6 hours to drive to and is very flat there but Norwich is a very beautiful city. My mother still lives there, though sadly my father passed away.*

**Do you prefer tea or Coffee?** *I LOVE tea. I cannot exist without it. I drink gallons of it.*

**What football team do you support?** *I never liked football. I was a rugby fan – in fact I played rugby for Harlequins in London when I was a bit younger. Then I had a son! Children change everything! He loves football. I blame his godmother. She is a lifelong fan and kept buying him football items such as goals and balls...in the end I gave in. As neither me nor my husband had a team we supported, my son's godmother bought the strip of her club. She who buys the (ridiculously expensive) strip, calls the team! So now, we are all Manchester City supporters! Go City!*

**Where did you go to university?** *I went to Southampton University to study English Literature. I was going to be a politician! HA! But actually – I think I was born a teacher...*

**What do you like about being an English teacher?** *The books, the variety and the interesting conversations in class.*

**What are your hobbies?** *Wine. Stand up Paddle Boarding. Wine. Windsurfing - when I ever get to go to a nice hot place on holiday. Wine. Reading...and reading whilst drinking wine!*

**What is the best thing about being a teacher at DCC?** *The pupils and the staff are all so friendly and welcoming. You are all fantastic.*

## Science Works!

This term fifteen students from Year Nine embarked on a journey to Exeter School to hear the enlightening work of guest speaker Elizabeth Matthews from the University of Exeter.

The aim of the talk was to discuss and share her work in a branch of Astrophysics where she is looking to find and isolate exoplanets and debris disks using data collected by the SPHERE telescope in Chile.

Students were thoroughly engaged and talked non-stop on the way home, with one student stating: "That's just mind-blowing! Amazing!"

Alongside this, Year 8 students have been involved in a problem solving

day, working with South West Water to design and make a system to filter rain water. The key factor was that this would then be used to pump water to plants to support the recycling of water.

The competition was won by a group of girls whose design was considered the most intelligent and power saving system. South West Water commented that it was a classic design, which demonstrated the ingenuity and mindfulness of our Year 8 students!

