

# Ambition Unlocked

Annual Review 2019-2020



# Welcome by the Headteacher

Whilst 2020 has become, understandably, defined by the COVID-19 pandemic and its far reaching consequences, I feel it is still important to reflect on and celebrate that which went before and continues to flourish against the odds.

I have to admit that, when Mrs Bukowski first mentioned the Annual Review 2019-20, I struggled to raise much enthusiasm. At that time we were closing the college, abandoning exams and getting to grips with new ways of working. Everything was upside down and I couldn't see past the confusion, sadness and fear. However, as the days turned into weeks the determination and resilience of my amazing staff and students shone through the darkness and revived my spirit.

Yes, the end-goal of GCSE exams had been pulled from under the feet of an entire generation of young people and the opportunity to celebrate the college's best ever set of results will now not happen as it would have. But, we managed to send them off in style and many Year 11 students continued to engage with Google classroom and their teachers to carry on their learning in lockdown.

Yes, all the plans around Year 6 transition have had to be cancelled and we will miss the excitement of getting to know them before they start in the autumn term. But I have overcome my fear of seeing myself on film and we have had fun making videos to ease their nerves and calm their anxieties.

Yes, we miss the students and being part of their personal growth and academic development. But the contact with students and their families through Google classroom, emails, telephone calls and epraise has kept us going. The ability of our young people to adapt to this new way of working has been impressive and humbling. Having some students and staff on site each day has helped me maintain some degree of 'normal' in a world where everything is anything but.

And yes, I miss my colleagues and the camaraderie of all being together working towards a shared goal- it can now feel pretty lonely at times. But I feel their strength and their support (albeit remotely interspersed with some precious face to face contact when they are in school supervising students and completing tasks that cannot be done from home). Talking to some other school leaders, I know I am blessed with an endlessly flexible and willing bunch of people who regularly, and without question, go above and beyond for our young people.

So, having initially been reluctant to engage with this year's Annual Review, I now feel an overwhelming sense of pride over what students have experienced and achieved this year – especially given that they have lost 4 months of their 'normal' school year to COVID-19. It seems that not even a pandemic can keep the staff and students of Dawlish College down and that's why I love them!

Please enjoy!

Rachel Wickham

Headteacher



*"I have always found it to be a supportive, caring environment that takes into account the needs of each individual child."*

Year 9 parent



*"The Headteacher is a committed and confident leader. She is passionate and determined and has significantly raised expectations regarding the quality of teaching and learning."*

OFSTED 2019

*"Pupils make good progress in all year groups"*

OFSTED 2019



*"Pupils' behaviour in lessons and around the school is good. They are proud of their school"*

OFSTED 2019

# Autumn Term 2019 - 2020

# September - December

## September



Best ever GCSE results celebrated in style



Students return from 4 week Tanzania experience

Teign Hockey Club provide coaching sessions to lower school students



Bikeability arrives at Dawlish College. Students learn cycle maintenance and road safety



Year 11 get smart for their mock interviews in preparation for college applications



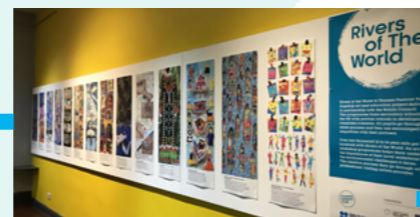
An early start for PE students to Metropolitan University, Cardiff to explore careers in PE

## November



£400 worth of new books hit the library shelves after a successful book fair

Student Art work exhibited at The Phoenix Gallery, Exeter



DT students create a motorbility and recycle truck!



70 shoe boxes packed with essentials and treats set off for Moldova

## October

Our first Africa week kicks off with a visit from teachers of our partner school in Malawi



A cracking evening's entertainment by The Performing Arts faculty

## December

Dawlish College pay their respects with a real-life bugler and hand-made poppies

League tables published: Dawlish College highest ranking school in the local area (10th in Devon.)

Yo Ho Ho! Students say thank you to local people by delivering hampers stacked with goodies.



U13 boys make it all the way to the final of the Futsal tournament, narrowly losing in the final



Dawlish students taste success in both rounds of The Young Chef competition



Year 9 and 10 burn rubber at Raceworld in recognition of their hard work.



# Spring and Summer Terms

# January - July 2020

## January



Dawlish College becomes a licenced centre for the D of E award, enrolling its first students

Girls' netball teams challenge schools across the County, with some success



Author John Townsend visits to share a few tips on writing - and shares a few phobias!



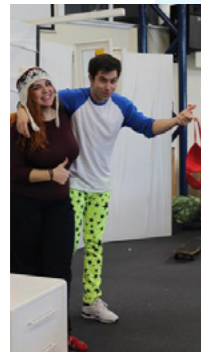
Fund-raising efforts provides mattresses for our partner school in Malawi



The RE Department visit Buckfast Abbey as well as host visits from groups



PE students lead a range of activities for primary schools



Year 9 students make a return visit to NAC for a performance of "Les Garçons"



The Geography Department complete field studies in Bristol and Dawlish



MFL students participate in the regional speaking competition - delivering presentations in French and Spanish

## March



Even in lockdown, students continue to produce amazing work!



Success in Futsal and Netball before tournaments are cancelled

## February



A visit to Marjon University as part of the Aim High programme



Year 7 students visit The Aquarium as part of their Natural Form coursework while Year 10 head to galleries in Bristol.



Girls from Years 9 and 10 participate in Women In Industry days as well as exploring careers in the NHS



The Year 8 boys' Football Team take on Cuthbert Mayne and leave with a 7-1 victory



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