



## Welcome From The Head Of College

Dear Parents

As I was reflecting on what to write about for this newsletter I was shocked to realise that it is a whole 12 months since my first ever entry! Where did the time go? Such a lot of things have happened in that time: my appointment as Head, the best ever exam results, being recognised as providing good quality education and pastoral care by the Education Authority, achieving 13<sup>th</sup> place in the Devon league tables, countless trips and enrichment activities, sporting triumphs and performing arts productions. No wonder the time flies.

This half term we have been busy meeting our new Year 7 students and their families. There are only a few spaces left for September and I'm super excited about welcoming them into our college community. There's nothing quite like seeing a testosterone-fuelled Year 11 boy bend down to gently help a lost Year 7 in their first week: brings a tear to the eye every time (it's the 'mum' in me)!

At the other end of the spectrum we only have a few weeks left with our gorgeous Year 11s as their exams begin on 13<sup>th</sup> May. Revision is well underway and I am hugely grateful to staff who give their time freely to run after-college and Easter sessions. All the hard work will be worth it on results' day when we share the joy of success with the young people who have been in our care for the last five years. Teaching is such a privilege.

Enjoy the lighter evenings and try not to eat too many Easter eggs!

Rachel Wickham  
Head of College

### What's on:

23 April	<b>First Day of Term</b>
29 Apr–3 May	<b>Year 9 Exams</b>
1 May	<b>Parents' Forum 6-7pm</b>
13 May	<b>GCSE Examinations Begin</b>
24 May	<b>Last Day of Term</b>
3 June	<b>Start of Summer Term</b>

## One Act Play Success

It was fantastic to see a large number of our students involved in this year's One Act Play Festival at The Shaftesbury Theatre recently.

Formed just under a year ago, the Youth Theatre Company is made up of young people between the ages of 11-18.

Their first production was "Rats!" by Alan Gardner. The play centred around the issues of vivisection in a humorous, but thought-provoking way.

There were five other companies in the festival this year, adjudicated by professional actor and director, Nick Wilkes, who fed back to each of the companies before offering a range of awards.

The company were amazing, with every one of the 18 cast members fully focussed and engaged throughout the performance.

Feedback was very positive, highlighting the cast's talent and commitment to their work.

We were delighted when Ewan was nominated for Best Supporting Actor and the theatre erupted when Tommy won the Adjudicator's Award for Best Performance, against strong competition from youth actors and adults.

Well done to everyone involved!



## Aiming High



As part of the Aim High Programme, which looks to inspire students to reach the highest levels of academic excellence, a group recently visited Plymouth Marjon University

The university is based primarily on a single campus on the northern edge of Plymouth and is keen to help inspire young

people to achieve their best.

The students spent the day involved in a wide range of activities including problem solving, and exploring the financial issues with setting up their own society.

They were able to talk to students and staff about the routes into university, exploring costs, the grades needed and also how to manage time and finances once there. They keenly enjoyed the tour around the campus, with one commenting: "It has given us a huge amount to think about and prepare for."

## Seasons In Poetry

In our Transition set, 7X3 have been working on various devices used in poetry.

As a table group, we created a number of poems by writing a line for a theme and passing it on to the next person to add their idea. We were amazed when our poems were read out, at how good they sounded!

The snow,  
The white snow,  
The snow was coming down,  
Cold,  
Hard ground,  
FROZEN!

Windy,  
It was cold as ice,  
Putting on lots of warm clothes,  
hats and scarves,  
It snows sometimes.



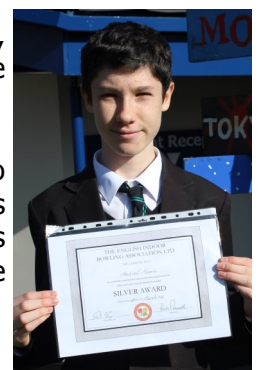
Warm,  
Calm sea,  
The glistening sea reflected like a mirror,  
The sea was blue like a blueberry.

Bright and colourful,  
The glistening sun,  
The colourful flowers,  
Gleamed in the sunshine,  
Yellow reminds me of daffodils in the Spring,  
And reminds me of the sun.

The colour is the sun in Summer,  
The bright golden sun shining on the lime coloured grass,  
Daffodils spring to life,  
The sparkly sun shining on the sapphire sea.

We were delighted to hear that Andrew's interest and commitment to bowling continues, going from strength to strength. Recently, Andrew took part in a skills test set by the English Indoor Bowling Association and achieved his silver award.

This required Andrew to demonstrate his bowling to very exact standards in order to achieve the award and he is now looking forward to achieving gold standard, with his sights clearly set on achieving the England standard. It is clear that Andrew spends significant time practicing and playing in competitions and tournaments around the county and his dedication is clearly paying off. Congratulations Andrew!



## World Book Day 2019

World Book Day 2019 was a huge success here at Dawlish. The well-known children's author, Tamsin Cooke, gave a really inspiring talk about becoming an author. She revealed secrets of her work, including the 12 years' perseverance it took to get published, as well as the really interesting research which goes into writing literature. The students of Year 7 and Year 8 learned that this author had studied how to disable



car and house alarms and what went on inside a stunt academy. They were treated to thrilling videos of stunts from films such as 'Everest' being filmed and learned that the most important piece of equipment to have if you want to be a writer is...a notebook! Inspiration can strike at any time, so be prepared. Some lucky Year 7 and 8s were invited to take part in a writing workshop where they developed their imaginative writing in a range of genres. We would like to say thank you to Tamsin and the students who responded so well.

Clearly, the highlight of the day however, was the English Department and the wonderful librarians dressing as characters from 'Harry Potter.' They were ably assisted by other staff members dressed in outfits ranging from Willy Wonka to Mary Poppins! Thank you to all involved!

## Getting creative with "La Saint-Valentin"

On Valentine's day, the MFL team celebrated by writing some love poems. Students in years 7, 8 and 9 used their dictionary skills to create some wonderful and original poetry.

Using the analogy of food and word association they came up with some very imaginative lines. Here are some of our favourites:-

Tu es la confiture sur mon toast  
(You are the jam on my toast)

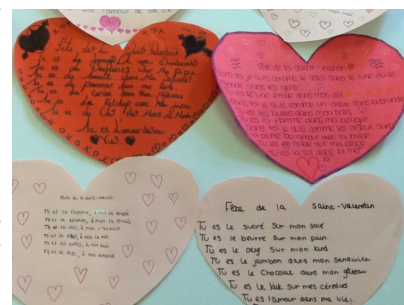
Tu es la crème anglaise sur mon dessert  
(You are the custard on my pudding)

Tu es le poisson avec mes frites (you are the fish with my chips)

Tu es la cerise sur mon gâteau (you are the cherry on my cake)

Eres el chocolate con mis churros  
(you are the chocolate with my doughnuts)

Eres la llave a mi corazón (you are the key to my heart)



## Art Challenges!



Year 7 students are currently engaged in a project highlighting the issues of plastics as part of their Art curriculum. The challenge has been set by the Dawlish Against Plastics committee and students are working hard to meet the entry criteria in the most thought-provoking and exciting ways!

Students are using inspiration from research about the issues of plastics to create pieces of Art. They are able to use any medium and are just beginning to explore their individual response to the challenge. The final pieces of work will then be judged by the competition committee with prizes offered for the best and most innovative response to the task. We look forward to seeing the final pieces!

Meanwhile it was fantastic to see the work of our Art Department at Starcross and Exminster Primary schools recently. The theme of the day was around plastic waste and how we could raise awareness about what plastic we are using and how to REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE and RE-PURPOSE. Students were introduced to printing and had a fantastic time printing their own designs. Read more about the work by visiting our website.

### Getting To Know You....

Marie Bannister has worked at Dawlish for almost 20 years. Currently our Examinations Officer and Cover Manager is geared up for a very busy season! Here are the questions students wanted to ask her:



**Where were you born?** The Black Country – yes it is a real place!

**Do you prefer tea or coffee?** Don't mind either. I will drink most things except de-caffeinated anything!

**What football team do you support?** I absolutely detest football! Or any sport.

**What do you like about working at Dawlish College?** That's a difficult one as there are lots of good things about working here. Doing the headless chicken dance when exams are on is my favourite! Seriously, I think I would have to say seeing the students arrive in Y7 and leaving in Y11 and how much they have changed in their journey with us.

**What are your hobbies?** With this job I have very little time or energy to have any – sad but true! I like walking whenever I can though.

**Tell us one fact we would be amazed to know!** I used to be a Punk.

## PE Round Up

Recently, 82 boys from across the county took part in trials for a place in the squad to play in the U15s Devon Rugby Squad at Exwick Exeter College Sports Centre. From those, 38 boys were selected to play against Somerset on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March. The match was held at Mount Kelly school in Tavistock. We were delighted to witness Logan from Year 10 play a significant part in the game as part of the B team, which the Devon Squad won convincingly (40-19). Well done Logan!



### South Devon Cup First Round – Coombeshead 3 v Dawlish 9

The year 7 team travelled to a very windy Coombeshead Academy recently. The team had been unlucky to lose a close encounter to St Luke's in the first round of the Devon Cup and so were excited to try and get their first win in the second competition of the year, the South Devon Cup. The team started strongly with striker Ben finishing from close range for the first goal a little after 5 minutes had been played. Theo made it 2 shortly after with a very nice individual goal, taking the ball around 3 defenders before finishing in the bottom right corner. Ben then scored another 2 goals before Coombeshead clawed a goal back just before half time making the score 4-1 to Dawlish. The second half carried on much as the first half had with a further 4 goals from Ben and a second goal for Theo. Coombeshead also managed to score 2 further goals, one of which was an outstanding free kick. Well done to all of the boys involved for an excellent team effort! We look forward to playing Torquay Academy in the second round of the cup!

**The Year 7 girls' Netball team** attended their final tournament of the season in Paignton on Monday. The team began with a strong start and managed to finish with a 4-4 draw against Spires. Next up the team took on a strong Paignton side. The girls showed great determination but unfortunately the game ended with a 2-8 loss. Torquay Girls Grammar were the next opponents. The girls knew it was going to be a tough game but showed resilience throughout and had a smile on their face the whole time. The game ended with a TGGGS victory but once again the girls didn't give up. The team then faced Brixham. The progress shown from the first game into the fourth game was brilliant, and this was reflected in the score: a 6-5 win to Dawlish. In the final game against Churston Grammar School, the team decided to play versatility. This meant playing any position they hadn't played much before. Unfortunately the final score ended as an 8-0 defeat but we were able to try out lots of different combinations on court which proved how versatile the team was. The girls did themselves really proud.



[www.dawlish.devon.sch.uk](http://www.dawlish.devon.sch.uk)

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Players of the matches were: Dawlish v Spires – Jess. Dawlish v PCSA – Jess. Dawlish v TGGGS – Millie. Dawlish v Brixham – Jess. Dawlish v CFGS – Taylor