

Dawlish College News

Welcome From The HeadTeacher



In a fit of nostalgia and in search of inspiration for the final newsletter of 2020, I dug out and read my entry from December 2019. What struck me is this:

Despite all the challenges and restrictions we have still welcomed our lovely new Year 7s into the college, we have still run a range of extra-curricular clubs, we have still given generously to charities near and far, we have still run PPEs for Year 11, we have still celebrated successes both large and small and, most importantly, we have still learnt and had fun.

What's on:

- 4 Jan. **First Day of Term**
- 14 Jan. **Year 11 Parents' Support Evening (to be confirmed)**
- 19 Jan. **Option Information Evening (to be confirmed)**
- 2 Feb. **Year 9 Parents' Support Evening (to be confirmed)**
- 12 Feb **Last Day of Term**
- 22 Feb **First Day of Term**

Ok, so everything is different. But different doesn't have to mean "bad". One of the things I value most about the wonderful community at Dawlish College is resilience – and, boy, we've certainly needed that this term!

We continue to thrive by working together and that takes all of us, including you. So, thank you and have a lovely Christmas.



Rachel Wickham
Headteacher

Christmas Delight



We are delighted to have collected 184 boxes for the Moldova Shoeboxes Appeal as part of the Dawlish Rotary Club campaign to offer support and aid to families across Moldova. Boxes for children of all ages, as well as grandparents, were passed to the Rotary Club this week. We are so grateful for the generosity of so many students, parents and friends who provided boxes and items. A huge thank you is also due to Gilbert Stephens Solicitors, who donated stationery to go with each box. Head Boy Alex said: "We are so pleased to receive so many boxes and gifts to send from so many of you this year. It is significantly more than in previous years. Your gift at Christmas will help them feel loved and not forgotten. Thank you everyone for your support with our collection.

significantly more than in previous years. Your gift at Christmas will help them feel loved and not forgotten. Thank you everyone for your support with our collection.

Earlier this term, staff once again had the opportunity to show off their baking skills, as they raised money for MacMillan Cancer with a bake off. Once again there was a wide range of options presented, with Mrs Medland's Malteser Brownie being a real hit. Definitely in the running was Miss Reed's Granny's fruit cake and Mrs Scott's smartie cake too! Well done to everyone who took part, raising over £150 for the charity.



As we go to press, we are excited to hold our last day of term events, with a non uniform Christmas jumper day. We asked students to donate items of food to the Dawlish Community Foodbank and have been astonished by the results! Thank you to everyone for their generosity. With a quiz and a couple of staff organised surprises, the end of term has arrived!

News Round Up



A huge thank you to everyone for supporting our book fair this month. It was run over ten days with students in all years able to browse newly published books as well as preview some soon-to-be published novels and stories. The wonderful news is that we managed to reach the amount of sales required to obtain 50% commission with an amazing £601.14 in sales! This means that the College now has an incredible £300 to spend with Scholastic. After the Christmas break, we will be asking each year group for suggestions of new books and publications they would like to see in the library.

Year 8 students recently participated in a Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) challenge arranged by the Smallpeice Trust, an educational charity whose aim is to get students interested in engineering and showing them how Science, Technology and Maths concepts learned in class can be applied in real life applications.



The challenge was to produce a wooden plane glider with a working propeller to travel a maximum distance possible. Students worked in small teams to design wings, horizontal and vertical stabiliser wings. They also needed to create a circuit using motors, switches and super capacitors as well as working out balancing points to ensure their gliders would exploit aerodynamics to travel the maximum distance. Students were supported by Science and Technology staff and created some amazing glider designs that were then tested at the end of the sessions.

Students thoroughly enjoyed the day with feedback including "It was really good fun. I learned what a capacitor was and how to work in a team," "I wish it had lasted much longer!" and "I learnt how to wire a full circuit. It was amazing!" Well done to everyone involved!



Well done to Dan and Lily for their latest roles in "Treasure Island." Originally, the production was supposed to be in April at Cygnet Theatre in Exeter and had to be cancelled as lockdown began. Nonetheless, with a rewritten script allowing for social distancing, the company once again began rehearsing in September and put the show on with no audience and filmed it. There are some lovely reviews of them both as Long John Silver and Captain Smollet.



We were also delighted to hear that The Shaftesbury Theatre Youth Group, which features many of our students, successfully applied to be part of The National Theatre Connections project and are currently rehearsing a brand new play which will be performed at the theatre and also at a partner theatre later in 2021. We'll give you more news as the project develops.



Well done to the students who have regularly attended the wide range of after-college activities this term. Year 7 students who have been attending craft club were busy last week making snowmen from socks! We all agree they look fabulous!

Meanwhile after school art club students are continuing to build up the surfaces of their doughnuts. They have taken their inspiration from artist Peter Anton and are using a range of materials including papier-mâché, cardboard, paper straws, polystyrene pieces and paint. We can't wait to see the final outcomes!



Once again, year groups have been participating in a range of activities, designed to reward students that show an outstanding attitude towards their lessons and make exceptional levels of progress. Those with the highest ATLs in Year 9 were recently invited on a trip go-karting at Raceworld Exeter. The students had a great morning out and improved their times massively over the duration of the morning. A day of racing and fierce competitions ensued, with some toughly fought battles. The eventual winner was Keison who was very closely followed by Eden and Dan. Driver of the day was Kathryn. Well done to everyone for their fantastic efforts, leading to a thoroughly enjoyable day!

Student Of The Month

This edition, we celebrate our three students who have been identified as our Student Of The Month. Staff have been asked to nominate students who they feel have made an outstanding effort each month both academically and in all aspects of college life.

Congratulations to Ethan who was selected as Student of the Month for October. Here are a few comments from staff about Ethan:

"Ethan has an amazing attitude to not only his own learning but that of his peers. He sets a great example by always giving 100% in class and always helps those around him when they need it."

"I remember teaching Ethan as a shy year 7 and look at him now! Such a lovely polite, hardworking and mature young man. Always willing to help, always happy to try, even when he is finding things tough himself. I am sure he will go onto be a huge success in life! "

"Ethan leads a very active life outside of the college, enjoying playing football for his local team and having the responsibility of refereeing football games for younger teams. He is also a member of the Police Cadets and helps out with demonstrations and supporting the regular police force."



In November, we were delighted to award Student of The Month to Olivia. It was clear from the comments received why staff were delighted to nominate Olivia:

"Olivia is not only an outstanding student but is a total pleasure to spend time with – this is clear as she is so highly respected by her peers. She applies herself fully to her home and school work, often going above and beyond. Taking Performing Arts was an act of bravery on her part and she has grown in confidence so much that she performed at The Shaftesbury Theatre in a lead role in "The Crucible". She is an inspiration to others!"

"Olivia is a fantastic student who also goes above and beyond in all aspects of her learning. I had the pleasure to teach her last year as well and she has developed so much in her ability and confidence in a short space of time. This is all down to her dedication in the subject! She is kind, caring and approaches all aspects of school life in a positive way. I am so proud of you Olivia. You are a star!"

"Olivia always gives everything her best effort; showing determination and resilience when she finds something difficult. She uses her initiative when help is needed and does all of this with a smile on her face and with great politeness."

This month, the award was given to Keison for his outstanding effort and achievement in all aspects of school life. Once again, staff were extremely complimentary about Keison's attitude to learning:

"Keison is a pleasure to teach! He's particularly good at analysing text and character and he seems to enjoy a good story with plot twists and gritty characters. (He's also a great entertainer - magic with a Rubik's cube!!)"

"Keison is a highly motivated, positive, and reliable student who should be very proud of his excellent attitude and achievement at all times in class."

"Keison has been a delight to teach in French so far this term. He puts in a great effort into class work as well as homework always showing excellent understanding and pushing himself to do his best following his teachers' advice.

Félicitations Keison!"

"Keison has worked tremendously hard in Music this year and his composition work is showing huge improvement. He is an awesome member of the group. Keep it going Keison"

"Amazingly consistent effort during science lessons, Keison diligently completes all tasks and ensures extension work is completed to a very high standard too."

Congratulations to all our students of the month!



Getting To Know You

Matt Blackwell re-joined the College staff last year, having previously worked here between 2011 and 2016. He is the Raising Standards Leader for Mathematics. Here are the questions the students wanted to ask him:



Where were you born? I was born in Cardiff and lived there until I was 25. I moved to Devon in 2011 when I first took up a post at Dawlish

Do you prefer tea or coffee? I do like a cup of tea but I am hands down a coffee addict. I dread to think how much money I have spent in coffee shops!

What football team do you support? Although I am from Wales I am a lifelong West Ham fan. (Someone has to be!) When my dad was growing up in Wales he never really liked football, but the lad he used to sit next to was obsessed with West Ham and the rest is history.

What do you like about working at Dawlish College? The thing I enjoy most about working at Dawlish is the enthusiasm and sense of humour of the students. They never fail to amaze me with how much they are willing to go the extra mile and get involved in anything and everything!

What are your hobbies? Outside of college apart from spending lots of time with my two young children. I am a very keen runner, I have taken part in a number of races over the last few years. My next half marathon is in London at the end of May 2021. I have also recently taken up watercolour painting as a hobby and so far am really enjoying it!

Tell us one fact we would be amazed to know! I did once do a bike ride from Blackpool Tower to the Eiffel Tower in Paris to raise money for Kidney Research UK. Also last year my wife and I were contestants on the 100k Drop with Davina McCall. Sadly we didn't win anything!

PE Round-up



The Sports Ambassadors have been busy recently, filming demonstrations of different sporting activities and explaining the rules of each activity which, once edited, will be sent to primary schools as part of the Devon Virtual Games challenge. These currently replace the primary and interschools' festivals which normally take place, although there is still a hope these will be able to take place in the future. The Sports Ambassadors were delighted to receive their new shirts, which have been kindly sponsored by William Power Roofing, Dawlish.

ASDAN visit



Mrs Parr was delighted to escort the Year 10 ASDAN group to the Alice Cross Centre in Teignmouth, to help support the elderly and local community. Due to Covid, the Alice Cross Centre is unable to provide and host the usual 100 Christmas dinners, so this year they have pulled together various local companies, schools and businesses to support them in making up Christmas Cheer bags. These bags will then be hand delivered by volunteers to those who would normally have been sharing a community Christmas meal together.

Our students made up 100 Christmas cheer bags which contain some mince pies, Christmas cake, a gift, bags of sweets, as well as handmade Christmas cards from local secondary and primary schools. It was a great pleasure to be a part of providing this wonderful gift for those who will be spending Christmas day on their own. We are very proud and thankful that our students were so willing in providing their time in supporting this wonderful Charity and making this Christmas special in a different way.



The Last Word

"My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?" – Bob Hope