

College News

Welcome From The Head Of College



Happy New Year!

Although the festive season seems a dim and distant memory, we continue to have many reasons to celebrate at Dawlish College: an evaluation inspection from the Local Education Authority saw the College being judged as 'good' overall; we are looking forward to beginning work with our new Year 7s in the spring following a 50% increase in the number of parents selecting Dawlish College as the secondary school of choice for their child; the performance tables have been published placing us 13th in Devon, out-performing our neighbouring secondary schools in all key areas and we're on track for another set of strong results in the summer.

What's on:

25 Feb..	First Day of Term
8 March	World Book Day
20 March	New Year 7 Welcome Evening 6pm
4 April	Performing Arts Trip to "Bloodbrothers"
5 April	Last Day of Spring Term
23 April	First day of Summer Term

Day to day life remains busy and fulfilling as students take part in a plethora of trips and activities from rugby training with Exeter Chiefs to visiting the universities of Oxford and Cambridge with Holocaust Memorial events, go-karting and Uno tournaments in between.

It may be dark, cold and miserable at the end of January but the passion and commitment of staff coupled with the enthusiasm and idiosyncrasies of students never fails to brighten my day.

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/compare-schools>

Rachel Wickham
Head of College

Well-Being Evening

The college hosted it's very first 'Wellbeing Evening' this month which was fully supported by both local and national agencies sharing their expertise in all things wellbeing! Visitors commented on how informative the evening was and how encouraging it is to know the Dawlish College takes the wellbeing of our young people seriously.

Visitors were able to chat with staff, find out about resources and gain information and advice regarding local support systems. With a variety of stalls and information, visitors were able to experience mindfulness colouring, Lego building, calm/meditation on line support, sample healthy snacks (made by our college catering students) and even Beeble the therapy dog! Visitors were also invited to attend short presentations held in the Drama Studio.

Perhaps the most inspiring of all was ex-student Neve Jackson. Neve and her mum Michelle gave an honest and engaging speech about the turbulent times that they experienced whilst Neve was a student here at the college. Neve explained the trigger points and shared with our visitors the vital choices she made in making a change. She highlighted that trusting an adult was the biggest change in her behaviour and ability to stay in control of her future. She shared her heartfelt experience of how staff at the college had supported and guided her; always offering her space and time to listen during moments of crisis.

We are so proud to have taught, known and supported Neve – she is a credit to her family and is now successful and happy, following her dream of becoming a nurse and working at the Hospital. We are sure this won't be the last we hear of her. A true inspiration!

Dawlish College Out and About!

Students have been out and about this term, gaining valuable experience and exploring opportunities for personal development.

As part of our careers programme a group of students recently visited Exeter College's construction campus and spent time learning about the courses and career opportunities available. Students took time to explore painting and decoration, carpentry, brick-laying and engineering areas and also scored highly on the welding activity!

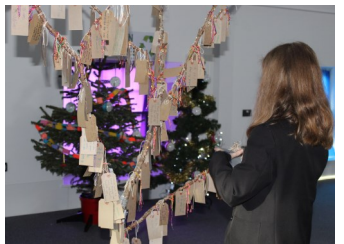


Students in Years 10 and 11 have been investigating opportunities in further education. A group enjoyed a day at one of the Oxford University's colleges, where they took part in a Science-based activity and talked with current students before having a tour of the facilities. It was certainly a thought-provoking visit for all involved.

On Thursday, a small group of students are looking forward to a visit to Cambridge University to take part in a range of workshops focussing on the processes of applying for courses and support them in making the best application to Universities

The Religious Education Department have been very busy recently with Year 8 and 9 students involved in off-site activities.

Year 8 students took part in a day of spiritual and moral activities organised at Buckfast Abbey. They participated in a wide range of activities—the most popular being the ReConnect zone where there was a range of thought-provoking activities, including a "Selfie - Who Are You?" activity, a thought wall and opportunities to create something for the "Hope Tree". Students went on a monastic trail and learnt about the history of the Abbey. A café style activity with refreshments to talk about the experience in the Reconnect zone was also popular. There is now a fantastic display of students engaged in all the activities, which has drawn a lot of interest from students across the year groups.



Meanwhile Year 9 students spent a day engaged in events and activities in Exeter as part of a Holocaust Memorial event. The theme of this year's events was *torn from home*.

Students completed a spiritual walk around Exeter reflecting on the victims of discrimination and persecution in the history of Exeter. There was a visit to Exeter Cathedral, Exeter Synagogue, Catholic Church, the Jewish cemetery and Dissenters' graveyard. They then heard from a married couple who were refugees from Syria who have now made a life for themselves in Devon which really brought home the message of the Holocaust Memorial events this year. It was a very important and inspiring day with all students showing great respect and taking the opportunity to reflect on what they had discovered.

Earlier this term a group of year 9 and 10 students were taken to Raceworld, as a reward for their positive attitudes towards learning in the classroom. As you can imagine, a fantastic time was had by all!



STEM Days

Dawlish hosted another successful STEM challenge day run by Dawlish Rotary Club and Design Tech staff at the College. Four teams attended including Starcross Primary School, Westcliff Primary Academy, Gatehouse Primary Academy and Exminster Primary.



The brief was to construct a chair with minimum seat height of 40cm, the back had to be 10cm and a seat of minimum 25cmx25cm using only straws, spaghetti and glue. The chairs were then subjected to a weights test to find the strongest structure.

Westcliff Primary won the challenge with a winning design that was both robust and well thought out. Well done Westcliff!. Thanks to Rotary Club's Colin Timms for organising the activity and to all the Primary Schools that came along to get involved in the day.

We are delighted that over thirty Year 8 and 9 students have been awarded the Bronze Crest Award from The British Science Association. Students completed an engineering project, working in teams of 5 to design and make water filters.

This project aims to inform and educate students about engineering, offering them some insight into what engineering is and giving them the chance to apply theoretical knowledge to a real life problem faced by engineers day-to-day, as well as helping to develop transferable skills such as teamwork and problem solving.



The initial STEM day was interactive and six professionals helped with hands-on practical engineering skills, making water filters. Students had to continually evaluate and make improvements to their design and materials. As well as completing the design and build project students gave clear presentations about their design and practical work at the end of the day.

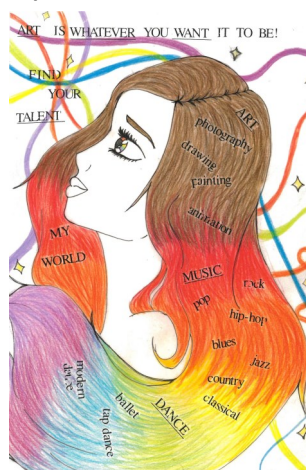
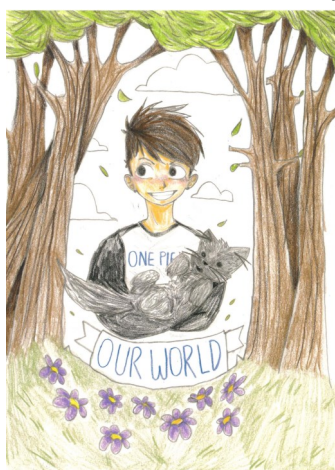
We are very thankful to the Smallpeice Trust and South West Water for their enthusiasm, time and resources during this day.

Young Art Devon 2019

We are delighted that our students have once more excelled themselves with their entries for the Young Art Devon Exhibition 2019.

The theme for 2019 was ***Our World***. Students were asked to submit a picture based on this theme. All money raised through entries is donated to the charity's Kids & Teens appeal, which exclusively funds research into children's cancers.

The students have worked hard, exploring a range of processes and media to produce their final pieces. As expected, the range of responses was enormous and it is fantastic to see students really rise to the challenge of creating something very personal and unique. We wish everyone luck in this year's competition and look forward to the exhibition later in the year at Torre Abbey, Torquay in May.



Sacha Willoughby is the Kitchen Manager, having worked at the College for over 20 years. Here are the questions the students wanted to ask her:

Getting To Know You

Where were you born?

Exeter

Do you prefer tea or coffee?

I do love a really strong cup of builders tea, but I mostly drink black de-caf coffee usually cold!

What football team do you support?

Dawlish United, I used to volunteer for the club and my husband managed youth football for them for many years so I ended up washing lots of muddy kits! I loved watching England play during the last world cup—it was very exciting.

What do you like about working at Dawlish College?

Cooking for the children and staff is a most rewarding job. Serving the students daily, making small talk, it's a small thing but if it makes them feel happier and feel better about themselves, it brings a huge smile to my face. I have worked with most of the ladies in the kitchen for over 20 years so they are like family to me which makes coming to work easy.

What are your hobbies?

I walk a lot. I enjoy being outside. I love skiing and have been lucky enough to go on many trips with the college in the past. Otherwise I go to a yoga class every week, I play skittles for a team called The Has-beens which is every Thursday at Ashcombe village hall and I play lawn bowls in the summer. I love to read a good book or Netflix and chill.

Tell us one fact we would be amazed to know!

I met Peter Crouch in the mosh pit at the Isle of Wight Festival!



Catering Team In Colour!

Our catering team at Dawlish College have just received their new uniforms in our new college colours and we think they look fabulous. We thought it would be a good time to introduce them to all of our parents and carers.

The team work hard every day to provide a healthy and varied menu for our students. There are different foods on offer at each of the breaks and they cater for all tastes. Mrs Willoughby and Mrs Chetnik, who manage the service, are very happy to accommodate students' individual needs. Please contact them if you have any special requests. The team plays a big part in college life and we are lucky to have such a caring group of staff who are so friendly and always look out for the students no matter how busy they are.



Sports Round-Up

Year 9 South Devon Cup: Dawlish College 0 – Newton Abbot College 2

Newton Abbot travelled to Elm Grove Road for the first round of the Yr9 South Devon Cup on a wet and windy Tuesday afternoon. At the end of a very competitive first half the deadlock had not been broken with the scores remaining at 0 – 0. Dawlish started the second half brightly with several shots on target, but 10 minutes into the half Newton Abbot scored the opening goal from a corner. The Newton Abbot number 6 lost his marker and scored from a well worked corner, heading in at the far corner.

The second half remained a tight affair with Dawlish still in the game until the final minute of time when a Newton Abbot player put the ball over the Dawlish wall from a free kick on the edge of the box. Well played to all of the boys involved! Man of the match was the goalkeeper Max who made several fabulous saves, including one with his head.

