



## Welcome From The Head Of College

I can hardly believe that this is the last newsletter of the year, and what a year it has been!

This time, 12 months ago, we were preparing to meet 72 new Year 7 students in September. This year group has now grown with in-year admissions from other schools and we have recently spent 2 days with 130 Year 6 students as part of their transition into Year 7. I am delighted to see the college growing and can't wait to get to know them all individually.

As teachers, we have a habit of telling ourselves that at certain points in the year "it will get easier" – it never does! Year 11 may have left and the stress of GCSE exams may be over but we have still been as busy as ever with Year 6 transition, Year 5 taster days, the fabulous circus event, the (exhausting) 24 hour concert, PE residential, sports' day, inter-house rounders and much more. Before we know it we will be celebrating another strong set of GCSE results and throwing ourselves into September with all the new opportunities that brings.

I am forever grateful to all of my wonderful staff who go above and beyond every day to provide great education and amazing opportunities to your lovely children. I wish you all a relaxing summer and look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Rachel Wickham  
Head of College

### What's on:

3rd Sept.	<b>First Day of Term</b>
17 Sept.	<b>Open Evening from 6pm</b>
19th & 20th Sept.	<b>Open Morning Tours 9:15am and 10:15am.</b>
21st–25th Oct.	<b>Half Term</b>

## Circus Time!

Dawlish College recently hosted their Year 5 showcase event. This year the theme was the Grand Circus! Staff and students from Dawlish College have been visiting many of the local primary schools over the last few weeks working together in preparation for the 'Grand Circus Festival' Students have been working to create dance, drama, music, art and craft pieces inspired by this year's theme 'The Circus' to share with friends and family at an open festival of fun, with refreshments and live entertainment.



Exminster primary students opened the evening with a beautiful vocal piece, followed by a 'page to stage' poem written by students from Kenn. Gatehouse students showed fantastic flair in their dance pieces inspired by the Greatest Showman, whilst students from Kenton took on a scripted piece about a girl whose ambition is to walk the high wire. Cockwood year 5 students have been exploring the world of laughter with their stand-up 'make em laugh' routine of gags and one liners.

The College outdoor quad area was decorated with beautiful art pieces, bunting & clown ties galore created by students from Starcross primary whilst a wealth of crafts and circus themed technology projects were on display. All of this together with popcorn, ice cream and fizzy drinks – what more could a year 5 student wish for on a summer's evening?

## News Round Up!



As part of their continued efforts to raise funds for their upcoming **Tanzania** expedition, students and staff spent a hot weekend at the end of June picking up litter and washing cars. In soaring temperatures they walked an impressive 12 miles, exceeding their 10 mile target, picking up six large bags of litter along the way. Despite numerous blisters they remained in good spirits and took part in a fundraising car wash the following day.

A group of year 9 students visited the **Big Bang Southwest** where they spent the morning immersed in STEM activities. Students watched "Expanding Gas" by Wonderstruck, where they learnt how to use a jet engine as a hairdryer, felt the shock wave from a gunpowder explosion and observed the effects of liquid nitrogen on living matter. Students visited numerous stalls and workshops where they had the opportunity to hear from inspiring STEM role models from the armed services and some of the UK's biggest companies. Hands on activities included racing Usain Bolt in "The Accelerator", and experiencing different forms of Virtual Reality including visiting historic sites such as Stonehenge, welding and Flybe's Flight Simulator. The students were thrilled by the activities, commenting that *"the day gave me the opportunity to meet representatives from all the armed forces, inspired me to work harder and gave me an idea about future STEM careers."*

The **Religious Studies Department** have been busy with a number of visitors this term. During year 8 sessions, guests from the Dawlish Christian Fellowship – James, Andy and Cecelia- spoke about their Christian beliefs, including how Christian beliefs impact on their life and the way Christians are seen in the media today. Students asked lots of interesting and challenging questions and took part in lots of activities.



Meanwhile Jeanine and Jeremy Woodward from the Western Chan Fellowship spoke to Year 9 students about their Buddhist beliefs. They explored the beliefs and practices of Buddhists and showed us a range of artefacts and pictures. This really helped students to understand the GCSE Religious Studies course about Buddhist beliefs and practices. Students thought it was a great way to revise and extend the GCSE course. Year 7 students met a committed Sikh who showed us a range of Sikh Religious artefacts and pictures of her travels to the Golden Temple of Amritsar and to other Sikh holy sites. Penny Rouvas was able to answer lots of

questions about Sikhism and explained further the work we had done on the 5 K's of Sikhism, sewa, Sikh symbols and identity. Thank you to our guests for their time and effort.



Recently some year 10 students were rewarded with a trip to **Haven Banks** and some year 9 students were rewarded with a trip to **Go-Ape**. The students were recognised as having made the most progress from September until their most recent data drop. They thoroughly enjoyed the day!



Dawlish was host to over twenty businesses, colleges and industry representatives as part of our **Careers Fair** at the end of June. Each company offered students, parents and visitors from other schools information about their training opportunities, whilst the colleges and universities were able to provide students with information about entry requirements for the range of courses on offer. The afternoon was very well attended, with a large number of people visiting during the early evening. Thank you to everyone for their involvement.



Mrs Lithgow recently visited a school in Malawi, as part of an exchange programme, working with Balaka Secondary School, our partner school. It has 470 girls and boys who live full time at the government supported boarding school. She worked with 53 students aged between 12 and 15 on the topic of gender inequality. They used collage, stencils and shapes to illustrate their chosen word in their first ever piece of artwork. They then used paint to decorate a canvas bag with their life goal as a reminder to work hard towards this dream and to encourage the use of reusable bags as there is a litter problem in Malawi and no waste removal provision. None of the children had used paint before! Dawlish College raised £180 in college from staff and governors, selling cake with help from year 10 students Olivia

and Jasmine, to buy art materials. We had 60 canvas bags donated from the local School Art Club in Newton Abbot. Mrs Lithgow could only fit £100 worth of materials and small toys and sanitary items in her suitcase. The remaining £80 was used to buy mattresses for the boarding hostel as there aren't enough mattresses for each child. To find out more, you can read Mrs Lithgow's blog <https://elizabethlithgow.wixsite.com/malawi>

## That Was The Year that Was....



**September:** After the best GCSE results ever, students returned in style, sporting new uniforms after the College rebrand. The Year 7 Girls' football team secured a run of wins, beating St Cuthbert Mayne, Teign School and Spires College. Students joined the Exeter University Maths Masterclass, whilst the Year 7 students focused on creating Mexican Day of The Dead masks in Art. Year 11 students got smart for their mock interviews in preparation for their College applications organised by the Rotary club of August.

**October:** Year 10 students collected their Bronze Arts Award after 12 months of creativity and performance. The Year 11 students got ready for their GCSEs with motivational speakers and a group headed off to Oxford University—an early start but well worth it! Some of our students found time to rehearse and appear in "A Night At The Musicals" at the local theatre, whilst staff and students got busy baking for our MacMillan Coffee Morning raising over £180 through cake alone!



**November:** Dawlish College paid their respects with a real life bugler and 100 hand-made crosses on Armistice Day. Students and staff ran a successful book fair, raising over £500 worth of new books for the library shelves. The College garden group harvested their crab apples and made lots of crab apple jelly which was quickly consumed! Our CoPE students began their work experience at the Strand café while Science students made a visit to the Norman Lockyer Observatory to learn more about the universe, stars and other astronomical objects around us. Year 7, 8 and 9 Netball teams showed great determination and skill in a range of tournaments across the county.

**December** We were thrilled to be able to send 71 shoe boxes packed with essentials and treats to Moldova as well as deliver a number of hampers stacked with goodies to people in the local community. It was even more exciting to discover that Dawlish College was the highest ranking school in the local area when the national league tables were published by the DfE (allowing us to be ranked 13th in Devon). Meanwhile a number of Year 9 and 10 students were witnessed burning rubber at Raceworld in recognition of their hard work.



**January** We held our first "Well-being Evening" which was well attended. 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. Dawlish hosted another successful STEM challenge day run by Dawlish Rotary Club and our Design Tech staff at the College with students from Starcross Primary School, Westcliff Primary Academy, Gatehouse Primary Academy and Exminster Primary. The Year 9 Boys football team were narrowly beaten during their South Devon Cup run.

**February** Year 8 and 9 Science students gained the Bronze Quest Award from the British Science Association. A group of students made 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. Year 9 students visited Exeter as part of the Holocaust Memorial event whilst students' art work was exhibited as part of the Youth Art Devon Exhibition at Torre Abbey.







**March** Dressing up boxes were raided for World Book Day when author Tamsin Cooke visited to share her tips on how to get published. Our Mental Health Ambassadors graduated after extensive training and began to put into place a range of support systems. In Art, students used their skills to produce some incredible work exploring the issue of pollution: a challenge set by the Dawlish Against Plastics committee. As part of the Aim High Programme, which looks to inspire students to reach the highest levels of academic excellence, a group visited Plymouth Marjon University, participating in a range of activities.

**April** A full 2 day Section 5 OFSTED Inspection found Dawlish College to be "Good" in all areas. Year 9 students honed their skills in the Rotary Young Chef competition, whilst the Girls' Rugby team showed Exeter Chiefs what they were made of on a visit to Sandy Park. The Year 7 Boys Football team travelled to a very windy Coombeshead Academy as part of the South Devon Cup tournament and came away with a 9:3 win! Meanwhile a group of our students received lots of praise for their performance in the TADDfest One Act Play festival as part of the Shaftesbury Theatre Youth Company. There was still time for a few hard-working students to visit "Go-Ape" for some monkeying around! We welcomed our new Year 11 Student Leaders and Key Stage 3 Leaders, appointed after a rigorous process, who were quickly put to work.

**May** A group of linguists headed to Plymouth for a MFL speaking competition, holding their own against very stiff competition. Fun in the sun meant a group didn't get too wet at Haven Banks on a reward trip whilst Year 8 and 9 students rubbed shoulders with the cast from "Bloodbrothers." Years 5 and 6 students from Exminster Community Primary School attended STEM workshops here at Dawlish College, designing their own Space Hotel logo using a CAD (computer aided design) programme called 2D Design and exported these to a laser cutter. Dawlish College attended the Champs Sporting Festival in Exeter where 52 students represented the college impeccably. We entered U13 Boys Rugby, U15 Boys Football, U12, U14 and U16 Girls Football and an U13 Girls Netball team. The students had a brilliant day showing excellent sportsmanship and competitiveness throughout making college super proud.



**June** Final preparations were made by our intrepid students heading off to Tanzania this summer, where they will volunteer in a school. Amelia, Catherine and Sophie have been raising funds to finance the trip, from collecting and selling items at local boot sales, organising raffles, quiz nights, sponsored walks and car cleaning! Not to be outdone, Mrs Lithgow packed to travel to Malawi as part of an exchange project to bring Art to schools. We were pleased to reveal that students had raised £2633.33 for charity, with the 24 hour concert still to come. Year 11 students finally left us, having spent the month burrowed in the exam rooms, and headed into the long awaited summer weather.

**July:** Dawlish College hosted our Year 5 showcase event. The theme was the Grand Circus! Staff and students from Dawlish College had been visiting many of the local primary schools over the last few weeks working together in preparation for the 'Grand Circus Festival.' Students from Gatehouse, Starcross, Kenn, Kenton, Exminster and Cockwood schools delighted us with their performances and artwork. The nominees for the D'Award 2019 were announced and voted for by students and parents. Once again, the nominated work was outstanding, using a range of media and styles to produce work you would be happy to display on your wall. The Religious Studies Department welcomed a number of visitors of different denominations to talk about their faith; supporting students across the school with their coursework. Sports Day was hugely successful with some outstanding results....and we rocked at the 24 hour concert!

