

Welcome From The Headteacher



Dear Parents/Carers

And here we are again. The end of another interesting year. Will we remember how to do anything that doesn't involve 'bubbles' and 'zones'? I'm not sure I even remember what school looked like before but I'm sure it will all come flooding back in September!

Having navigated the year with no mass isolations, it was sad (although probably inevitable) that we had to isolate a relatively small number of students in the last 7 days of the school year. Despite rising cases and increased staff and student absence, we have continued full steam ahead with making school days the best days and continuing to offer every opportunity that we can.

This term's newsletter is a perfect snap-shot of what makes our school – its staff and its students - so incredibly special. If there is a way to make it happen, we will find it!

Enjoy reading and have a good summer. See you all on the other side.

Rachel Wickham

What's on:

7 September	First Day of Term: Year 7
8 September	First day of Term Years 8, 9, 10 and 11
9 September	Year 7 and 8 Information Evening
22 October	Last Day of Term
1 November	Non-Student Day
2 November	First Day of Term for students.

Student Of The Month

Congratulations to our nominated students of the month for June and July.

In June we were over the moon to award Student of The Month to Charlotte. It was clear from the comments received why staff were thrilled to nominate Charlotte:



I have never known a student to show so much enthusiasm for school! What a delight Charlotte is, always happy, smiling and trying her very hardest in everything she does. Determined and resilient every day – a fantastic example of a Dawlish student! Charlotte is a conscientious student who is always puts 100% effort into everything she does. She is an inquisitive learner who is always willing to share her ideas in class discussions. Her written responses are impressive as she expresses her ideas in a detailed and thoughtful manner. I have really enjoyed teaching Charlotte and her enthusiasm is infectious! A particular highlight of the year has been watching her grow in confidence!

In July Eliot was an obvious choice from the many very positive comments we received about his work, attitude and contribution to college life.

Teaching Eliot is an absolute delight. He is an extremely polite, sensitive young man, who is always keen to do his best. He takes an interest in all science work, asking questions and offering his own suggestions in discussion. A helpful, hard-working young man who fully deserves this award.

Eliot is an absolute star in Drama and in Citizenship and we like nothing more than sparkling and exciting debate to get our brains working on a Tuesday morning! Eliot is a critical thinker but also takes time to mull over a topic before sharing his insightful and often deep reflections with the rest of the group. Yes, he can be serious, but he is also very funny and can perform comedy with great aplomb and wonderful timing! Thank you for being you. Big congratulations Eliot.



News Round Up



The Helen Foundation kindly financed and supported our Year 10 Art students with a one day Artist workshop run by James Hedge, exploring Identity in relation to Climate crisis. In preparation for the workshop, the students needed to collate images around five aspects of portraiture:

- Landscape/Context
- Body Language
- Physiognomy
- Costume
- Attributes/Symbols



The students initially created a Surrealist Collage, using their collated images based on Identity and Climate Crisis, this was then the foundation for the days workshop. Once the student had a strong Collage image they were then transferred onto a board where they were introduced to the 'Fill and Stroke' technique along with building up a monochromatic image. The outcomes are wonderful, every student was fully engaged in the process and delighted with their work. Students will be using this work to support their 5 Hour Art Exam, to use their experiences from the workshop and interpret an independent piece of work to support their GCSE Art portfolio. Our thanks go to the Helen Foundation, DAISI and James for a very valuable workshop.



As part of the range of different competitions designed to encourage and reward students that show an outstanding attitude to school life, this term's top students in Year 10 enjoyed time kayaking and paddle boarding at Teignmouth. Year 9 students also had a fantastic time canoeing up the River Dart. Despite the overcast skies, a brilliant time was enjoyed by all!



Year 9 Design Technology Students have been busy creating some fantastic lightboxes this term, based on a simple USB lighting circuit with LED strips. They have designed their layers on CAD software, which was then laser cut and hand decorated before being finally assembled. Well done to Year 9 for some amazing work showing real imagination and great skills!

After a break of several years Dawlish College is now licenced to offer students the opportunity to participate in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. We are delighted to announce that in spite of the difficulties presented by the pandemic over the last 18 months, 15 students have completed or almost completed their Bronze Award. The final section was the expedition which took place over a weekend. The first day was a practice day where the students learned map reading, navigation, some basic first aid and how to use a Trangia cooking stove. This was all put into practice over the next two days. As three groups, they planned their own routes calling in at various checkpoints on the way and all three groups managed this successfully, despite the need for full waterproofs, One group even decided that their route between two checkpoints was far too short so they planned and walked a much longer one! Well done to all of the participants who successfully passed the expedition section and should feel justifiably proud of themselves.



This term the library has been buzzing with the enthusiasm of a group of avid Year 7 readers who have been getting together to share their love of reading. It has been wonderful to hear their passion for reading and for finding ways to encourage their peers to discover the joy of immersing themselves in stories too. They have spent time sharing their own personal recommendations as well as collectively reading a selected text, arriving ready to discuss the characters, plot and themes each week. Their incredibly valuable insights into the text we all read have helped to inform a new scheme of work which be taught in English next year. Their mature approach and creative ideas have been awesome and we are looking forward to continuing and expanding the club from September.



The Case of The Stolen Chemicals



Year 5 students from Exminster Community Primary School and Starcross Primary School donned their forensic scientist hats and took part in CSI sessions. Students used chromatography, fingerprint and fibre analysis to analyse evidence from the crime scene. They then compared the evidence, collecting fingerprints, fibres and pens taken from the three suspects. Having put their forensic skills to the test, the young investigators were able to compile their evidence and use it to identify the guilty party!



MFL Tasters

This year Ms Marc and Ms Noble have been teaching French and Spanish to year 5 and year 6 students from Westcliff and Gatehouse Primary school. Pupils have been singing songs and playing games with topics such as numbers, colours, the alphabet and greetings and can give simple information about themselves in French and Spanish.

The college has received great feedback from these sessions and our Primary colleagues have described them as "inspirational" commenting they have witnessed pupils having full conversations in French and Spanish in the playground.

We hope that pupils will feel more confident when they arrive in their language lessons in Secondary School which hopefully will have a positive impact on their learning from then on. Both Ms Noble and Ms Marc have been really impressed with pupils' enthusiasm in the lessons and their ability to converse in a foreign language.

Sports Ambassadors

We are extremely excited that we have been able to expand our sport ambassador team of students this year. Students had to complete a gruelling process which included writing a letter of application, planning and teaching an activity to younger students and an interview. We were delighted to appoint seven successful applicants. This group of students join our other sport ambassadors to make a great team with lots of exciting projects happening in the new academic year. A huge well done to these students and everyone that applied.



Annual Awards Evening



It was a pleasure to welcome a number of students and parents/carers back onto the school site recently to take part in our annual Awards Evening. It was fantastic to see people face-to-face and to have the opportunity to celebrate the amazing achievements of our students. As Mrs Wickham said in her address: "So many of our young people have worked so hard and achieved so much during this challenging year. Please know that the awards you have received have been well and truly earned by you: your talent, your hard work and your positive attitude. I am incredibly proud of you"



Reading, Raising and Being Amazing!



A massive well done to all the students who took part in our Readathon, raising a total of £107.70. Each student who participated found sponsorship for each book or part of book they read and we were delighted by the number who took part. Reading took place at many times during the college day and during students' free time. The money raised will go towards the very worthwhile cause of providing children in hospitals with books to read. Pictured are just two of those who participated, Well done to everyone for their fantastic efforts!



Jason Parnell joined Dawlish College as Design Technology/Art Technician in Dec 2009. Here are the answers to the questions students wanted to ask:

Where were you born? Brixham

Do you prefer tea or coffee? Tea, preferably PG Tips

What football team do you support

I used to support Chelsea, only because I used to live in a shared flat right on the edge of Stamford Bridge, on the Fulham Road. Long before the large development that now surrounds the stadium we used to get up on the roof through the fire escape where we could see about a quarter of the pitch.



What do you like about working at Dawlish College?

I am lucky enough to have been working at Dawlish for over 10 years and have enjoyed working with the staff who are great and the students who are also a lovely bunch of people. Everyone helps each other out in a very supportive team. I like helping the students with their work and I am always amazed at their ability to create interesting and well crafted pieces of work often well above their age range. Every day is different and keeping up to date with new software and equipment means that there is always something new to learn.

What are your hobbies?

I spend a lot of my free time entertaining my 10 year old son which usually involves beach walks, swimming, paddle boarding, tennis, badminton, football and the like. More recently stopping him from jumping off ever larger objects since he became interested in parkour!. I did Couch to 5k a couple of years ago and try to run twice a week. I also like building things and still like to fix things that are at the end of their life or been thrown away and try to give them a second life. It doesn't always go my way but when you fix something and it's all working again the satisfaction nearly always outweighs the grief.

Tell us one fact we would be amazed to know...

I learned to drive aged 12 with my brother (who was 11) in an open top Mini Moke on the dirt roads of the Tate and Lyle sugar plantations in Zambia Africa, where my father worked for 25 years as an irrigation/agricultural engineer. Coming from a small village in Devon it gave me an early interest in travel and seeing how machinery was re-purposed and kept alive with the skill of the local mechanics and craftsmen sparked an early interest in building things which has stayed with me to this day.

Sports Round-Up

This summer term we experienced a bit of 'normality' with the return of fixtures into our college calendar. We were lucky enough to take the Year 9 students to Churston for a mixed rounders tournament where they performed exceptionally and won all of their games and the whole tournament. Our team beat Churston, Kingsbridge, Torquay Academy and Newton Abbot College. Despite having to tell the boys to not use their feet during the warm up and getting caught in a huge downpour the day was great and the Year 9s represented the college superbly, showing outstanding ability, teamwork and attitude. It was a pleasure to take them and winning the tournament was the icing on the cake, with catch of the day going to Riley! Well done to Zak, Riley, Lawrence, Harvey, Fergus, Charlie, Chloe, Darcy, Gracie, Jess, Fern and Ruby.

Summer term brings athletics competitions, allowing students to compete against other schools in athletic events. During this term the Year 8s have competed at two athletic meets at Churston where they finished 3rd out of 9 schools: a huge achievement. All students gave maximum effort to their events, encouraging each other and behaving impeccably. Stand out performances came from Isla winning the girls 1500m in an outstanding time, with other teachers commenting on how excellent a runner she was, Sonny for winning his 100m during the first meet and 200m on the second meet as well as coming 2nd in shot putt, Noah for winning the boys 200m Frazer for coming 2nd in 200m, Josh for winning boys 1500m in the second meet and the combined relay team of Sonny, Frazer, Noah and Josh who won a very close race to take home double points. Well done Year 8.

Not to be outdone by the Year 8s the Year 7s also attended their first athletic event and first fixture with excellent results. As the Year 7s first away trip in the minibus I had to listen to them sing the entire way to Churston and back; safe to say they enjoyed themselves! Performances of the day came from the javelin with Esme and Georgia taking 1st and 2nd and Ethan and Freddie coming 1st and 3rd respectively. Esme also came 2nd in her 200m and Olivia winning the girls 1500m in an impressive time. Well done to all who competed in these events and representing Dawlish College PE Department. We look forward to more fixtures next year.