



Welcome From The Head Of College

Dear Parents

So, the last term of the year is upon us and advent calendars will be available in shops soon! Every day I am reminded how wonderful our young people are and for how short a time we share their lives.

The new Student Leaders have been selected and they are preparing for their new responsibilities now that Year 11 are focussing on their exams. The selection process is extremely rigorous and robust, much like the real world, and Year 10 applicants have put their best foot forward. Dealing with disappointment in life is an important skill and it is only ever a failure if you give up or learn nothing from it. Whether they were successful or not we still think they are fab!

Next term everyone will be 'a year' older and, as Year 11 ready themselves to leave, I was privileged to watch the final rehearsal prior to a drama exam. The task set by the exam board was around the challenges facing some of society's most disadvantaged and vulnerable students. I was so proud of the emotional intelligence displayed by our students in their understanding of these difficult issues and the dramatic skills they had at their disposal to convey them to an audience. It gave me goose bumps and brought a tear to my eye. (I don't think anyone noticed – phew.)

I clearly cannot end my welcome to this month's newsletter without reference to the Ofsted inspection. I have had the opportunity through assemblies to say a massive 'thank you' to the students for all their hard work: we are a team and nothing is possible without everyone's effort and co-operation. I would like to take this opportunity to say 'thank you' to the parents who continue to support us and challenge us to be even better. The families of Dawlish deserve a 'Good' school and that is what they have.

Enjoy the spring sunshine when it emerges.

Rachel Wickham
Head of College

What's on:

3 June	First Day of Term
3-7 June	Year 7 Exams
6 June	College Awards
10-14 June	Year 8 Exams
17-28 June	Year 10 Pre-Public Exams
1-2 July	Year 6 Induction days and Welcome Evening
3 July	Year 7 Parents' Evening
8-9 July	Year 5 Taster Days
10 July	Year 5 Circus Event
19 July	Last day of Term

Welcome To The New Student Leadership

We are delighted to welcome our new student leadership team to their roles. Once again, the numbers applying for positions of responsibility were high, and it was fantastic to receive so many letters of application which identified students' strengths and commitment to the college as well as to activities outside of school life.

Staff had the unenviable duty of short-listing from these before setting students a group task. They were required to prepare and deliver a presentation on how to improve the lives of Dawlish College students, identifying their legacy as a team of leaders. With four weeks to prepare, it was clear students had put a significant amount of thought and time into their presentations. They then were formally interviewed before positions were announced. One candidate for the role commented: *"It was difficult to write the letter, thinking about what was good about myself, but I found the whole process challenging in a good way."*

Thank you to all those who took part in the process and congratulations to the new team. We are excited by your plans!



News Round Up!

Dawlish Water Rotary Club and Dawlish College are delighted to announce the success of the **Young Chef** competition held recently.

Twelve year 9 finalists competed for prizes and the recognition of their great culinary ability. The judges—Matthew Tilt, Michelin star chef from the Rodean restaurant in Kenton and Amy Mitchell, Chef from the Old Library restaurant in Ashburton - had a difficult task in selecting the winner as the standard of cooking was excellent.



All students performed highly and the judges were impressed with their professional work ethic and enthusiasm. Amy is a past winner of the Rotary National Young Chef competition, which is particularly inspiring for students. Lucy, our winner, was presented with a magnificent trophy gifted by Malcolm Protheroe from the Mount Pleasant Inn, Dawlish Warren. Well done to everyone involved!

Year 9 French students have been busy learning all about going on holiday to France and, of course, eating out! To revise the unit they combined their linguistic and acting talents to create and perform a scene in a French restaurant. Madame Noble was very impressed by the clarity of their performances, and many included lots of new language structures which they have been learning. Bringing languages to life is what we are about here in Dawlish College and our students demonstrated brilliantly that they could do just that! The winning team were Eva, Monique and Isobel.

Following this, the students who had looked at French recipes put their culinary skills to the test for a Dawlish College "Bake Off". Students chose between *La Mousse au Chocolat* and *La tarte aux pommes*. Students enjoyed being judges and giving scores for "la presentation," "le goût" and "la texture." The winner was Chloe with her delicious *Mousse au chocolat*. Bravo Chloe!



4 very excited (and nervous) Dawlish College students travelled to Barnstaple to take part in a regional **MFL Speaking Competition**, held at Pilton Community College. They had to deliver a presentation in French or Spanish to a room of nearly 100 people – no mean feat!

Having listened to talented linguists all day from KS3-KS5 (giving presentations in more than 5 different languages) we hope they will be inspired to continue with their love of languages.

We are very proud of their achievement – they came away with a certificate and a goodie bag but, more importantly, memories

of day they will never forget!. Well done Mia, Gina, Lucy and Alicia-Jane.

Years 5 and 6 students from **Exminster Community Primary School** have been attending STEM workshops here at Dawlish College. In previous weeks, they have designed their own Space Hotel logo using a CAD (computer aided design) programme called 2D Design and exported these to a laser cutter. These designs were then made into wooden stamps. In addition to this they baked biscuits and used their stamps to imprint their Space Hotel logos. Last week students made their own Alien Bug using electronic components, engineering them to walk. In science, the children have been testing the strength of reinforced concrete. They have planned and carried out several experiments to see which concrete mix can hold the greatest weight. One group managed to hang nearly 6kg before the piece of concrete gave way.



A huge thank you to all you who supported our **Book Fair**! We had a huge variety of new books, all of which were half price or less, plus stationery and posters. During break times students helped staff with the selling of books and other items and we would like to say a huge thank you to all our student volunteers. With their help and your support we raised just under £380, giving us a commission of 10% to add to our library purchases.

The Black Death

7X3 have been learning about The Black Death. They used empathy to describe the scene in a Devonshire village during this time. This account, by Harry, was written as a diary entry as if he was the village priest. It must have been horrible to have been there at this time.

August 13th 1348

I woke up about to pray to God, then I heard crying. I could smell a disgusting odour in the air around me, I opened the door and I saw people vomiting down through the street, Everyone was coughing and collapsing around every corner and

on every street. People were crying, I wanted to help, but I knew I couldn't.

I heard a noise, it came from an old man with black ooze spilling out of his buboes like a carton of sour milk. It had a disgusting smell. I think this is a punishment from God. A man crawled to me, this disease is spreading, he vomited blood.

I ran back into the church. I felt this was the only safe place! I didn't know how long before the disease would get to me. I feel like I am lucky, but I know I'm not. Why, why God do you punish us? All those poor people and children dying!

PE News



The PE Department has been busy attending a variety of fixtures recently taking part in football, netball and rugby tournaments. The girls U13 and U15 football teams have both successfully qualified for the county finals at the end of May after playing brilliantly and showing great determination and teamwork, with many of the girls playing up an age group.

At the start of April 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.

We now look forward to the summer season of Athletics, Rounders and Cricket and encourage all students to get involved in our extra-curricular clubs.

Celebrity News

Students recently attended a performance of Bloodbrothers in Torquay and were delighted when, after the show, Danny Taylor—who had played "Sammy" in the production joined them for a group photo! The students thoroughly enjoyed the show (and there were a few tears at the end!) but the highlight for many was meeting a real life actor!



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 pupils of Year 7 and Year 8 learned that this author had learned 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! Some lucky Year 7 and 8s were invited to take part in a writing workshop in which they developed their imaginative writing in a range of genres. 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! Well done to everyone involved!



Getting To Know You....



Recently, almost 150 women attended an event at County Hall to mark International Women's Day. The event celebrated those women who have gone beyond the call of duty to help others, who have made a difference in their communities or achieved excellence in their field of expertise and had been nominated by someone in their community. We were delighted our very own Kate Bukowski was invited to attend. Here are a few questions the students posed:

Where were you born? *I was born in Sheffield and had a very strong Yorkshire accent until the age of 10, when I then moved around all over the place..... Essex, London, Cambridge, Ireland, Germany, France, Birmingham and finally Dawlish!*

Do you prefer tea or coffee? *Coffee all the way and every day.*

What football team do you support? *My dad would like it if I said Sheffield Wednesday but having worked with West Bromwich Albion Academy I feel obliged to follow some of my ex-students in their careers - although to be honest I don't pay it much attention.*

What do you like about working at Dawlish College? *I love that every day I find myself smiling with the students, the staff, the drama, the ups and the downs. It is a fab place to work and certainly keeps me busy and out of trouble.*

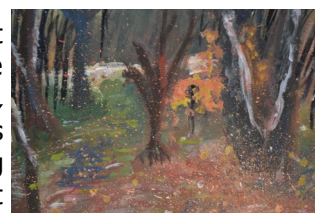
What are your hobbies? *I love my family, I enjoy theatre, reading, running and the occasional glass of wine with friends!*

Tell us one fact we would be amazed to know! *I once starred on television, playing a trainee teacher on Hollyoaks..... Little did I know that it would become a reality a few years later!*

Arts Update



Year 11 students were given 3 months to plan for their 10 Hour GCSE Art Exam which took place recently. Their work was a response from a choice of themes, including *Messages, Habitats, Spaces, Abstract, Working, Texture and The Elements*. We are so very proud of all the 38 students taking the exam, and the range of outcomes was stunning! It is exciting that so many of our students will be carrying on with Art at College next year and we know they have a very sound foundation to spring from!



Meanwhile, we were excited to see so many of our students' work displayed at the Dawlish Against Plastics exhibition at Torre Abbey. The range of work was astonishing and it received many very positive comments. Well done to everyone involved!



We recently held a highly successful evening of Key Stage 2 performance work. Students in many of the local primary schools had worked with our staff to create Drama and Music performances. Parents and friends joined us to enjoy the performances as well as look at the exhibition of Art work they had created. It was a fabulously lively evening so well done to Cockwood, Exminster, Starcross, Kenn and Kenton Primary Schools as well as Gatehouse and Westcliff Primary Academies for their amazing work and to the staff for their sterling efforts!



Tanzania Calling!

We are delighted by the endeavours of three students who are aiming to spend their summer in Tanzania. Over the past year, 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. They are now tantalizingly close to their final total and have received the final details of their expedition.

Whilst in Tanzania they will spend four weeks supporting local people and working on local projects which include digging foundations for a classroom, plastering and painting classroom walls, making furniture for classrooms and painting educational murals on classroom walls as well as being fully engaged in village life. We look forward to hearing

