

## Welcome From The Headteacher



Dear Parents/Carers

It's great to be back! And how busy we have been: the maths challenge has been conquered; a talk from Stuart Lawrence has enlightened, an interview with a holocaust survivor has humbled, Go Ape has been mastered and Year 11 final assessments, day of sport, army day and leavers' assembly have brought their time at Dawlish College to an end.

However, where there is an ending there is also a beginning and, whilst there were tears as Year 11 left us, there will be smiles as we begin the process of welcoming over 160 new Dawlish College students into Year 7 for September. It is wonderful to see the college and its students grow and flourish.

Thank you for all that you do to make what we do possible.

Rachel Wickham

### What's on:

7 June	<b>First Day of Term</b>
24 June	<b>Awards Evening (by invitation only)</b>
15 July	<b>Summer Show (by invitation only)</b>
22 July	<b>Last Day of Summer</b>
12 August	<b>GCSE Results Day</b>
7 September	<b>First Day of Autumn Term for students.</b>

## Bringing History To Life

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, Year 9 students attended a talk from Holocaust survivor Michael Brown co-ordinated by the Holocaust Educational Trust and arranged by Miss Wright.



Michael talked about his early life in Opole and Hanover as the eldest son of an aspiring lawyer and homemaker. He described the mounting persecution that he and his family faced during Hitler's time in power from 1933 onwards, culminating in the disturbing events of Kristallnacht in November 1938. Michael also entertained the students by recounting his obsession with football, and how this passion, however trivial it may have seemed, continued even during the dramatic increase in Anti-Semitic persecution.

His testimony was immensely moving as it offered a deeply personal insight into topics that the Year 9 students have been studying during their lessons, and it was made all the more compelling by the numerous photographs that Michael was able to show as he talked. Michael went on to share his experience of his and his sister's escape on the Kindertransport, in which Jewish children were accepted as refugees in Britain. Students and teachers were deeply moved when Michael shared the final letter that he received from his mother before she and her husband were murdered, in which she expressed how much she missed her children and how much she wished they could embrace again as a family.

After the talk, students had the opportunity to ask Michael several questions that they had prepared about his experiences, which he answered in great detail. Students have the opportunity to speak to their class teachers if they wish to ask Michael any further questions, and he will respond via email. At the end of the session, many students expressed that they were immensely grateful to have had the opportunity to hear the testimony of a survivor first hand. Students were aware that they may be the last generation to have the privilege of being able to pose questions to a survivor of the Holocaust. Learning of the personal pain and moving resilience of Michael Brown in his own words brought the traumatic events of his childhood into stark relief and heightened the resonance of his closing remarks that it is now more important than ever to be tolerant and understanding of the people around us.

## News Round Up



This term 70 students from years 7 and 8 took part in the UKMT Maths Challenge; a 60-minute, multiple-choice competition aimed at students across the UK. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. We enter KS3 students every year, promoting a love of problem solving and providing enrichment for our budding Mathematicians.

This year we have been able to access the competition online for the first time. All students taking part will receive a certificate of participation and those achieving a high enough score will receive a gold, silver or bronze award. Well done to everyone involved

Year 7 students participated in the new communications programme, called "About Me" as part of our dynamic careers programme. The programme aims to enable young people to identify and articulate their strengths, their skills and their values in positive language to adults. It enables young people to understand this is an important life and work skill to help them succeed in what they want to achieve, increasing levels of confidence, positive thinking, ambition, attitude & self-awareness.



Students received a twenty minute coaching session from a business coach. The business coach will help the students develop a 60 second presentation about themselves to be delivered to their tutor group and panel of business leaders during the summer term.

The first session was to identify their interests, skills, strengths and things they are passionate about and shape that into a presentation. A further session will develop ideas further and allow them to practice delivery of this presentation to the business coaches, to gain feedback and presentation technique tips.

We were delighted by how openly they spoke to the business partners about their aspirations and how well they put their ideas across. We are looking forward to the final presentations later this year.

As part of the range of different reward competitions designed to reward students that show an outstanding attitude towards their lessons and make exceptional levels of progress, the top 15 students in Year 10 finally made their trip to Go-Ape. As well as a reward for the highest ATLS, it also provides good team-building and problem solving opportunities. A fantastic time was had by all—and there is also video footage of Mrs Friend shooting down a zip wire! We just need to track that down....



We are delighted to announce our students of the month for April and May. In April we were over the moon to award Student of The Month to Beth. It was clear from the comments received why staff were thrilled to nominate Beth:

*Beth consistently shows one of the best attitudes to learning across all subjects. She has an excellent attendance record and is always willing to go above and beyond the college expectations. During the recent lockdown her attitude to remote learning was exceptional, attending and completing 100% of the work set in all of her online lessons in every subject. Well done, you should be incredibly proud of your hard work and dedication. Beth is one of the most lovely students I have ever had the pleasure of teaching. She is unfailingly polite, she always tries her very best, she is caring and just a beautiful human being. Well done Beth.*

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

*Laurence is always a pleasure to work with, motivated and enthusiastic. He joins in with every class activity and does everything asked of him. His conscientious attitude also stood out in his on-line learning in both College closures. A thoughtful and reflective student he has made outstanding progress and he should be proud of his significant achievement.*

*Laurence is quite simply delightful! He works very hard, is very diligent and tries his best at all times. He makes excellent verbal contributions in class and has great knowledge and understanding of the world around him. His written work is thoughtful and detailed. He is always willing to help and has a lovely smile and great sense of humour, quite simply lovely.*





**EXETER  
NORTHCOTT  
THEATRE**

## Grown Ups



This spring David, Richard, Ofa and Issy have been participating in an intergenerational project where school-age children interview elders about living through times of change. The project was commissioned by Exeter Northcott Theatre and is being produced by Mrs Richardson, Dawlish cover teacher, who has a side hustle as a theatre-maker.

David and Richard, who recorded their interviews in the Maths department after school, said they were buzzing afterwards. Ofa found herself talking to a cockatoo and parrot as well as her planned interviewee.

David interviewed Lynda Thomas who moved to England from Africa as a twelve year old, meeting parents she hadn't seen for eleven years and some new young siblings too. Lynda shared her fond memories of growing up in Sierra Leone where she could just pick fruits off the trees in her garden. She talked about being affected by racism as a school girl because she was stronger academically than a lot of the white school girls. She ultimately triumphed over the bullies to be a nursery manager, positively influencing thousands of young people. One of her three children has gone on to act in Emmerdale and her grandson recently performed in the hugely successful Bridgerton on Netflix.

Richard interviewed Phillip Stanley, a 93 year old who lives at Treelands Home. He joined the Merchant Navy as a fifteen year old and still remembers his service in Italy during the Second World War. Phillip, a widower, spoke fondly of his wife who, like Richard, grew up in Wales.

Ofa interviewed Graham Green (not the author!) who started out as a shepherd caring for thousands of sheep and has since worked as a musical promoter for many decades. During his career Graham met David Bowie, Elton John and Nelson Mandela. Graham's love of animals continues, however. He and his wife have rescued tens of exotic birds which they care for in their allotment aviary in Torbay. Ofa met Graham's parrot and discussed their shared love of birds as she herself keeps Love Birds.

Issy is hoping to interview her maternal grandmother who, after a tricky childhood, became a Ward Sister in a mission.

Dawlish students, like young people across the world, have coped with a lot of change this year. So what was the advice the elders gave them?

**Lynda: "The more stress you have in your life, the more you need to stay relaxed or you won't be able to keep going."**

**Graham: "If people block you in life, you can always find a way. Try not to be too rigid, but never give up. The right person will always come along to help you do what you need to do"**

**Phillip: "Make your own decisions, and try to make them the best way you can." Phillip also talked about the importance of caring relationships: "My wife was the world to me"... Though he couldn't explain the secret of having such a long life!**

We are really proud of the students' professionalism so far. The cut-down recordings of the interviews will be shared online in June, so watch this space!

Lucy Richardson joined Dawlish College as a Cover Supervisor in 2019. Here are the answers to the questions students wanted to ask:

**Where were you born?** In Hammersmith in London

**Do you prefer tea or coffee?** Tea. Need four mugs minimum to start the day.

**What football team do you support?** Last time I watched football was Euro 1996. Still scarred by Gareth Southgate missing the penalty against Germany in the semi-finals...Though he's subsequently made up for it showing everyone gets a second chance.

**What do you like about working at Dawlish College?** The staff are so lovely and it's small enough to get to know all the students. Every single student has an interesting skill or story to tell.

**What are your hobbies?** I don't have much time for hobbies other than running. I have a side hustle writing and running a theatre company.

**Tell us one fact we would be amazed to know...** My mum met Martin Luther King.



## Stamp Competition

We have been amazed by the response to the Royal Mail's national stamp competition from our students in Years 7 and 8.

In Art, students were asked to design a stamp to celebrate the heroes who have helped us through the COVID-19 pandemic, including frontline workers in healthcare, key workers and the many people who volunteered to help people in their communities who needed help or support. Once the entries have been received, Royal Mail will select eight designs to be made into stamps for us all to buy and use.

Below are just a few of the many designs we received. We are sure you will agree, the students' efforts are fantastic!

