



Welcome From The Head Of College

The nights may be drawing in and the lure of the central heating may be becoming increasingly difficult to resist, but life here at Dawlish College continues to be full of light and energy.

The euphoria of the best ever exam results was overtaken by the excitement of welcoming our new Year 7s and now, after only a few weeks, it seems as though they have always been here. I have been impressed with their enthusiasm and willingness to try new things – they are an absolute delight.

Talking of trying new things, all Year 7 and 8 students had a coaching session earlier this half term from Teign Hockey. The coaches were highly complimentary about both the younger participants and the older students who were helping out. I was just relieved that all shins and teeth were still intact at the end of the day!

One of my favourite parts of the day (and not for the reasons you may think) is after the bell goes at 3:05pm. I am always cheered to see so many of our young people choosing to stay on and take part in additional activities whether they be Year 11s attending an English GCSE enrichment session, Year 7 and 8 students cooking up a storm in technology or students clad in PE kit getting sweaty and often muddy. I particularly enjoy gate-crashing the Wizard of Oz rehearsals but fear that there may be a connection between my attendance and 'an urgent phone call requiring my attention'!

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of our newsletter, maybe even under a blanket with the central heating on.

Rachel Wickham
Head of College

What's on:

28 Oct.	First Day of Term
29 Oct.	Settling In evening with Year 7 Tutors.
5 Nov.	Year 11 Parents' Evening
19 Nov.	Year 10 Parents' Evening
3 Dec.	Year 9 Parents' Evening
9-18 Dec.	Year 11 Pre-Public exams
17 Dec.	Year 7 Parents' Evening
18 Dec	Last day of term
6 Jan	First day of Spring Term

Safety First!

It was fantastic to see students taking part in Bikeability activities recently.

Bikeability is based on the government approved National Standards for Cycle Training, which teaches trainees the necessary skills to ride confidently on today's roads. It is a life-long skill, encouraging a healthy lifestyle, boosting confidence and developing independence. All instructors are registered to deliver Bikeability by meeting certain minimum standards. Students are taken out in small groups and given advice and guidance about cycling on pathways and roads.



There are three award levels for Bikeability, with a level to suit all abilities, from beginner to experienced commuter or rider: Level 1 teaches basic bike-handling skills in a controlled traffic-free environment. Level 2 teaches trainees to cycle planned routes on minor roads, offering a real cycling experience. Level 3 ensures trainees are able to manage a variety of traffic conditions and is delivered on busier roads with advanced features and layouts. Well done to everyone involved!

Out and About!

Dawlish College is delighted to welcome back our intrepid explorers!

Amelia, Catherine, and Sophie spent four weeks of the summer break working and exploring in Tanzania as part of the Camps International project, accompanied by maths teacher Amy Reed. They had spent the previous year engaged in a wide range of fund-raising and sponsored activities to raise money for their trip and were very excited to actually head off at the end of July.



After arriving at Kilimanjaro Airport, the students travelled to Lake Manyara, in the northern part of Tanzania before moving to four other camps. The students took part in building projects, helping to improve the local school facilities as part of a development project. They were involved in creating and laying pathways, building and decorating new classrooms for the local children and taking part in community projects to raise awareness such as making keyrings from washed up flip-flops and paper from elephant dung.

Accommodation was much more basic than the students were used to; making use of traditional tents with foam mattresses for most of their stay. Each day started at 7am, with a brief afternoon break to avoid the hottest times, before heading back to their accommodation for dinner at 6pm. Bucket showers were available which were most welcome after a long day working in the heat. The camps were situated close to the heart of the villages and so the students were able to fully engage in the lives of the local community. Most excitingly, the waterhole used by animals at dusk was close to the camp and provided fantastic opportunities to see animals in their natural habitat as well as having monkeys as guests at breakfast.

A real highlight was a three day trek through the Usambara Mountain Range, getting up close to a vast array of exotic plants and wildlife including tree-climbing lions, elephants, buffalo, giraffes, zebras, wildebeest, impala, waterbuck, and warthog.



Overall, the trip was hugely successful and highly educational with Amelia, Catherine, and Sophie saying: *"It was a once in a lifetime experience. We just wish we could have stayed for another month"*. Amy, our fearless maths teacher added: *It was a fulfilling and inspirational experience which widened everyone's knowledge of diverse cultures and developed their sense of being independent. Everyone should be encouraged to do something similar!"*



Meanwhile, our MFL students have just returned from their expedition to Madrid. The linguists spent four days travelling around Madrid, perfecting their language skills. They visited Santiago Bernabéu (home of Real Madrid FC), Las Ventras Bullring, Palacio Real (The Royal Palace) and El Escorial as well as El Parque Del Retiro. The energy as students and staff took part in a flamenco lesson was fantastic to see before they were able to sample the real thing, watching a performance from some of the best dancers and musicians in Madrid.

The students got a real flavour of the history and culture of Spain, whilst sampling some fantastic food. (The paella was amazing!). Staff were delighted to witness them using their skills to talk to people in shops and restaurants as well as finding their way around the Metro system! Comments from the general public who met them were highly positive. Well done to all those involved and to Miss Marc for her relentless energy in organising the whole visit!



Art in the news!

Dawlish College's first Africa week has been a great success with money raised for mattresses for Balaka Secondary School!

South West artists Becci Eriksson & Gaby Lovatt of 'Participate Arts' came in to work with 30 Year 8 students. This opportunity was kindly funded by The Helen Foundation and formed part of the college's first Africa Week. Students learnt about Gule Wamkulu and Nyau Dancers and then designed and created their own masks.



(Gule Wamkulu means "Great Dance", referring to a performance of masked characters and is the distinctive cultural manifestation of the Chewa people of Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia.)

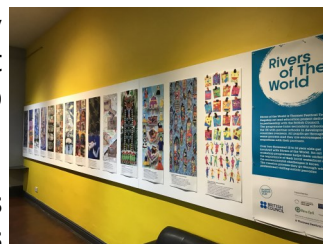
We took inspiration from the UN Sustainable Development Goals to focus on Gender Equality as an area of need in Malawi. 24 Year 9 GCSE students explored positive female role models in African culture and produced portraits using patterned mark making. We transferred these drawings onto lino to produce patterned lino cuts. We also explored the Shire River of Malawi and Malawian fabric and colour to produce painted patterns which were repeated on Photoshop. Many made their black and white print onto their colourful pattern backgrounds to produce striking compositions of these inspiring women to form this final composition arranged on Photoshop by local artist Steven Buckler. All of this work was then exhibited at the Exeter Phoenix!



During the week we welcomed 3 teachers from Malawi; Peter, an English specialist (head teacher at Liwonde Secondary School), Helme, a Geographer (Blaka Secondary School) and McAnthony, a biologist (Malosa Secondary School). They spent the week exploring the local area but were most impressed by the warm welcome they received from everyone they met.

In college we had displays, masks and books for everyone to see, African inspired food in the canteen, assemblies by Mrs Lithgow about her trip to Malawi in June, tutor activities covering life in Malawi, a quiz (kindly created by recent Tanzania explorer Amelia W of Year 11), discussion of the UN sustainability development goals and of course the fundraising effort for Mattresses.

We visited a private view at the Phoenix Gallery in Exeter of work completed by 25 students from Year 10 as part of the Malawi connecting classrooms project funded by the British Council. The work will be on display until November, so please pop in to the corridor gallery if you can over half term to take a look.



We also managed to fill a very large bag with brand new school uniforms, coats and book bags from Gatehouse Primary School and old microscopes and glass slides from our Science Department. This bag will be sent back with Helmes on the 15th October for their students to use and keep, along with over 100 hand-made postcards with messages from our students.

Thank you to all the staff and students for your work, donations and engagement to make this week such a success.



Mr Smith joined us in September as a transition teacher. Here are the questions the students wanted to ask him:

Getting To Know You

Where were you born? I was born in Torbay Hospital

Do you prefer tea or coffee? It depends on my mood but nothing beats a coffee on a cold morning.

What football team do you support? The one and only Torquay United

What do you like about working at Dawlish College? Seeing the progress, both academic and social, of students.

What are your hobbies? Biking, hiking and reading

Tell us one fact we would be amazed to know! I met my wife whilst diving on the Great Barrier Reef.



Mock Interview Success

At the start of October we held mock interviews for all Year 11 students, an annual event organised by Dawlish College and the Rotary Club of Dawlish. This year, interviewers from a variety of professional backgrounds included directors of companies, engineering specialists, human resource managers, child care specialists, project managers from the Environmental Agency, IT communication consultants, legal consultants, public relations, estate agents, politicians, chartered surveyors, marketing executives, head teachers, catering and hospitality managers, farm management, retail managers and medical professions.

Students were extremely polite and respectful towards all of our interviewers and their conduct throughout the interview process was exceptional. We are, as always, extremely grateful to the business professionals and Rotary Club of Dawlish for their time, making this event such a highly valuable experience for our students.

Year 11 students are now more prepared for future interviews and understand what they need to do to improve their CV and Personal Statement moving forward. Year 11 are now able to focus on their future career options. We have careers advisors from Exeter College, Careers South West and Newton Abbot College offering advice whenever it is needed throughout the rest of this academic year. Year 11 students should be thinking about making their application to post 16 courses or apprenticeships from January 2020 onwards. Any questions regarding this, please e-mail careers@dawlish.devon.sch.uk.

Design Technology Enterprise



Dawlish College Design Technology Faculty has been delighted to be working with Dawlish Community Transport, converting a mobility scooter into a more substantial car with promotional facilities. The idea was to create a shape that could be clipped on and off the frame combined with a board that could be fitted on the back to advertise the Community transport service. The aim was for staff from the Community Transport group to be able to ride the scooter to and from events whilst still being able to use it as a normal scooter.

We were delighted to receive a great number of designs and the students then began working on creating the final design. As well as designing the car, students have also been instrumental in its construction, with materials donated by Morris & McGinn Builders Merchants.

This summer the finished vehicle has been driven around by Community Support Officers, Councillors, Rotarians, children and adults alike. It was fantastic to see it in the Dawlish Carnival Parade where it was awarded a Highly Commended in the Motorised Walking Entry.

The Faculty has also been working with Gatehouse Primary Academy on their latest project to supporting recycling. The train frame was built by students from Dawlish College for Gatehouse primary school, finished and painted by Gatehouse and filled with plastic waste by Dawlish Against Plastic to highlight plastic waste and recycling. Congratulations to everyone for their amazing efforts!

