

## Welcome From The Head Of College



It surely can't be just one half-term since we came back to college? What happened to the summer? Who put advent calendars on the shelves? The weeks have simply rushed by in a flurry of activity and it feels like our Year 7s have always been a part of our community.

This term, I have been speaking to students frequently about the importance of resilience, not only as a learner but also in life. I have shared with them my own trials and tribulations as I have battled with the concepts and complexities of website construction. Many of them were truly shocked to learn that, when I was at school, the 'world wide web' did not even exist! It would not be an exaggeration to say that the new website has been a labour of love and that there have been a few tears and tantrums along the way. But resilience is a life skill (and one that I think has paid off with the new Dawlish College website).

### What's on:

<b>29 Oct.</b>	Start of Term
<b>30 Oct</b>	Year 7 Settling In Evening—Tutors only 4-7pm
<b>13 Nov.</b>	Year 11 Parents' Evening 4-7pm
<b>22 Nov.</b>	Year 10 Parents' Evening 4-7pm
<b>6 Dec.</b>	Year 9 Parents' Evening 4-7pm
<b>17-19 Dec.</b>	Year 11 Pre-Public Exams
<b>21 Dec.</b>	Last day of Term
<b>7 Jan.</b>	First day of Term

One of the highlights of the half-term has been Open Week. We did several things slightly differently this year but one of the changes in particular saw sharp intakes of breath from other Headteachers: we had tours of the College going on during changeover between lessons and break time! This may have struck fear into the heart of some but I was completely confident that our students' behaviour around the site would be exemplary – and it was. On the Open Evening itself we were inundated with visitors; they were quite literally queuing down the road and chairs had to be sourced from all corners of the college to accommodate them. We had a fabulous evening that went on way past the scheduled finish time but none of my wonderful staff and students minded as they were having so much fun sharing their incredible college with future students and their parents.

After such a busy first half-term, I wish you all a spooky Halloween and a sparkling bonfire night just don't mention Christmas!

Rachel Wickham  
Head of College

## Settling In

The new Year 7 Transition students have settled into life at Dawlish College brilliantly. Working as a smaller class for part of their timetable means they really get to know each other and working together in various forms becomes an important part of their learning. The students study the humanities subjects and extra English and Maths over 6 lessons of their timetable each week. Some of the students were interviewed to talk about their start at the college and being a part of the Transition group. Here are some of their very positive comments:

*The transition group is a helpful group as it builds our confidence – Archie*

*I am learning more things every day and it is all fun – I am also getting help with my reading using Lexia – Joey*

*I feel more confident with a lot of subjects and knowing where I have to go in the school – Daniel*

*It makes me feel more comfortable, and I learn more and get better results - Tia*

## Congratulations!

We were delighted to hear from George and Bradley in Year 8 who recently started a series of maths masterclasses with Exeter University. Nominated by the **Maths Department**, they have joined students from schools across the county who meet each Saturday. Each 2 hour session is based around maths challenges beyond the GCSE curriculum, and the boys clearly enjoyed their first sessions; exploring completely new concepts and ideas to support their maths work in school. Well done boys. We look forward to hearing more about your adventures!



Some **Year 7 Art** classes have started the year by studying Mexican Day of the Dead in time for Hallowe'en. We have been drawing animal skulls to develop observational skills, researching our own family traditions, colour washing and practising Spanish vocabulary with help from Mrs Marc, one of our Spanish teachers. We aim to complete our own altar of remembrance, harvest and celebration, complete with skulls, flowers and crosses, in college after half term.



It was fantastic to hear recently of the **success of one of our former students**. Sam left two years ago and recently secured two A\* grades and an A grade He has begun to study civil engineering at the University of Bath. Sam is a keen rugby player, playing for Exeter College and England Colleges, and hopes to continue playing while at university . We wish you luck Sam!



Students in **French and Spanish** in year 7 have made progress in leaps and bounds so far in the last 6 weeks. They are now able to have a full conversation in French or Spanish involving greetings, how they feel, spelling their names, saying where they live, giving opinions and saying how old they are. The teachers don't have to answer the latter ;-)

They have enjoyed some singing and also performing during their French and Spanish role-plays. Bravo! Merci/Gracias!



Four students are starring in **Dawlish Musical Theatre Company's** Autumn Show, *'A Night At The Musicals'*, at the Shaftesbury Theatre over half term. Lauren, Jessica, Lucy and Hannah are involved in a selection of song and dance routines and have been working extremely hard during rehearsals over the past couple of months to make sure the show is brilliant. This promises to be a show not to be missed and tickets are available from the theatre box office from the 15<sup>th</sup> October or by calling 01626 863061. It's wonderful to see our college students working so hard in the wider community to bring such pleasure and enjoyment, and we would like to say *'break a leg'* for the run!

The **staff** had a busy time baking for our **MacMillan Coffee Morning** this month. Their fantastic efforts (and a raffle) raised over £180 with Mr Fisher being named "Star Baker" for his exquisite lemon drizzle cake, which disappeared very quickly. The Year 11 COPE group are holding their own bake off and coffee morning this week and we anticipate they will add significantly to the final sum! Well done to everyone for their amazing efforts.



## New Initiatives

Writing Challenges – all year groups are getting more practice at writing creatively – you said you like it!

Monthly Mock Language Practice was launched in October at 3.40 in room 1. This is open to any Year 10 or 11 and takes place on 1 November, 22 November and 20 December.

English Literature Extension Seminars take place in Room 1 at 3:40pm on 31 October, 14 November, 28 November and 12 December.



Accelerated Reader is GO! New books in the library, new prizes every fortnight, a brand new leaderboard! Read, Quiz  
**REPEAT!!**

## English Department News



Podcasts by the fabulous English Department – watch the staff discussing key issues in the set texts.

Targeting Top Grades – Lectures by Mr Paul Hayes – by invitation only!

Trip to see 'A Christmas Carol' for some lucky students

## Highlights of the Half Term

'Dracula' and 'An Inspector Calls' have been huge hits!

Discussions in classes on AIC have revealed unexpected Capitalists among us!

New year 7s are settling in well

At the time of writing, 2,140,573 words have been read by Year 7 and 8 – keep going!

## AQA Feedback: Key Points

### LITERATURE

- If two characters are mentioned in the question, both must be mentioned in the answer but, as with the extract/whole text balance, do not have to be treated equally.
- Planning answers always helps
- Making links across the text is the key to higher grades

### LANGUAGE

- In Paper 1 Q3 has improved but need to avoid narrating the extract. Key question is "How does reading about this, at this point, add to my understanding of the text as a whole?"
- Terminology such as flashback and foreshadow are technical enough
- Paper 2: Question 2 this year referred to the concrete item of the surfboards – it does not have to be a question on thoughts and feelings
- Paper 2 Question 2 can be about similarities as well as differences – avoid analysis
- Paper 2 Question 4 does not have to be the same focus as Question 2 and we need to improve the focus on perspectives and HOW the methods are used to present them

AQA said AO2 needed improving generally – ask HOW is the method USED by the writer for WHAT purpose?

## Getting To Know You

Mr Hayes joined the English Department this September. Here are the questions the students wanted to ask him:

**Where were you born?** In the deepest darkest recesses of Devon.

**Do you prefer tea or coffee?** Tea, at The Savoy, Coffee everywhere else.

**What football team do you support** None. I prefer the idea of fencing.

**What do you like about working at Dawlish College?** I really enjoy the spirit of the school. It feels like a close knit community, with everyone supporting each other. The environment, in stark contrast to East London, views of the sea each day help, as well as the close proximity of swans.

**What are your hobbies?** Painting, writing, music, being enigmatically wistful. Otherwise, I'd have to say impersonating a 19<sup>th</sup> century French prince with foil in hand...

**Tell us one fact we would be amazed to know!** I used to be a chef before I started teaching. I once cooked for Tracey Emin and got told off by Andrew Lloyd Webber, oh and once got sacked as a waiter after University for being rude to Noel Edmonds.



## Careers Success



Recently we held Mock Interviews for all our Year 11 students. This is an annual event organised with the Rotary Club of Dawlish to support students as they begin to consider their future pathways.

This year, interviewers came from a variety of professional backgrounds, including directors of companies, engineering specialists, human resource managers, child care specialists, project managers from the environmental agency, IT communication, public relations, estate agents, chartered surveyors, marketing, teaching, catering and hospitality, farm management 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. We would also like to thank them for holding the interviews at Dawlish College this year.

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 forwards. 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 this academic year. Year 11 students should be thinking about making their application to post 16 courses or apprenticeships from January 2019 onwards. Any questions regarding this, please e-mail [careers@dawlish.devon.sch.uk](mailto:careers@dawlish.devon.sch.uk).



[www.dawlish.devon.sch.uk](http://www.dawlish.devon.sch.uk)

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