



Welcome From The Head Of College

So, the validated data from last summer's exams has been published by the government and Dawlish College is ranked 10th in Devon. Whilst this is cause for celebration it is certainly no reason for complacency and the progress and well-being of the students currently in the school is our top priority. In selecting a school for my Year 6 son, I was mindful of academic outcomes but also wanted a school environment that was stimulating and offered opportunities beyond the classroom. This cannot be so easily measured in a league table.

It is for this reason that I am so proud of everything that my staff offer beyond a great educational provision in the classroom. The contents of this newsletter represent a taste of what has gone on in one short half term. There wasn't room to mention the students who have completed sections of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh, have performed beautifully at a local music event or those who are raising money for charity – maybe they'll make it in next time. I am so lucky to spend every day with such amazing staff and students. I can't wait for my son to start!

Rachel Wickham
Head of College

What's on:

24-28 Feb.	PPE MFL Speaking exams
9 March	Year 10 Art PPE Year 11 Business Studies Presentations
16 March	New Year 7 Welcome Evening
24 March	Year 11 Parents' Evening
27 March	Last Day of Spring Term
14 April	First Day of Summer Term

Mattresses For Malawi

You may remember that earlier this year we asked for donations to support a school in Malawi to purchase mattresses. It was a school visited by Mrs Lithgow and we were pleased that staff from the school came to visit us.



We are delighted to say that the £700 raised in October has now bought a huge number of mattresses for the children at Balaka Secondary School in Malawi. They have been purchased and transported during the rainy season which must have been quite a challenge! The microscopes and slides donated by our Science department have also been greatly received by the science classes in Malawi.

Helmes, one of the teachers who visited us earlier in the year has written: "Thank you for the assistance. The donation has really come at our neediest time. The school and the students are so appreciative for the donation. Our partnership with Dawlish College has been beneficial to us. I know it was not easy for you and the school to raise this amount. Thank you so much once again". A huge thank you to everyone for their efforts!



News Round Up



Some Year 8 students have been out for a day of spiritual and moral activities organised by Buckfast Abbey. The highlight of the day was the REconnect experience: a range of thought provoking and exciting activities including selfie reflect, who are you? T-shirts, the quotes kitchen, vote book, thought wall and chill out zone. Students chose friendship bracelets and made religious symbols while putting hopes on a spiritual tree. It was a different experience with lasers, lights and music. REImagine was a café style activity with refreshments where students could sit and talk about the experience in the Reconnect zone. Students also took part in a monastic trail and watched a film. There was time to visit the beautiful Abbey Church. Students answered a quiz around the Abbey. The REreflect activity was based in the oldest part of the Abbey and students enjoyed reflecting on Christian spirituality and prayers with a range of activities. It was a busy, thought provoking and inspiring day with all students showing great respect. They were an outstanding group with a lovely attitude who made the whole day very enjoyable for all.

Year 8 students took part in a drugs awareness workshop recently with a visiting leader from Hope UK. Students were asked to consider the difference between drugs and the impact any form of stimulant can have on our bodies. A great afternoon of learning and we look forward to welcoming Hope UK back in the summer for more PSHE based workshops, Good work Year 8!



In Art, Year 9 are currently working on a complex printing process known as Lino Colour Reduction. The students have created a design from a still life set up in the art room. They have since developed their drawings into a 4 coloured lino design. Once this is completed, the design is then transferred onto the lino and each colour is carefully cut out once as they apply the separate colours. It's a very physical and mentally demanding process, one mistake and the design alters! So far the students are at the mid-way stage with two thirds of the colours already applied and they are doing a fantastic job! Well done to everyone for their hard work and excellent focus! Meanwhile a regular group of year 7 students attend art club each week. Some do colouring whilst others work on their own artistic ideas and projects. All are free to use any materials, eat their lunch and work within the happy buzz of the department. Feel free to join us Thursdays Break 2 alternating between the two art rooms.



This academic year the Upper School year groups are participating in a 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 each year group were invited on a trip go-karting at Raceworld Exeter. Both year groups had great mornings out and improved their times massively over the duration of the morning. A day of racing and fierce competitions ensued, with some toughly fought battles. The eventual winner was Maddy who was very closely followed by Rosa and Gina. Well done to everyone for their fantastic efforts, leading to a thoroughly enjoyable day!



We were delighted to see so many of our students taking to the stage this Christmas in the many pantomimes and performances in the area. A significant number took part in The Shaftesbury Theatre's production of "Tarzan" which ran for ten performances at the start of January. Speaking to the cast members, they found the rehearsal process and run of performances extremely challenging and daunting, especially when balancing learning lines and choreography with PPEs and school work. However, they had a thoroughly enjoyable time in what must be one of the most exciting theatre forms. One said: "Each show was slightly different because the audience react in completely different ways. You had to really concentrate!"

Many of the cast are now gearing up for their next performance in the Shaftesbury Theatre's Youth Group's production of Arthur Miller's play *The Crucible* which takes place at the start of March. We wish them luck! (or break a leg! as thespians say....)

Camp Tanzania 2021

Our Camps International project was recently launched for any year 9 or 10 students who would like to get involved in the trip of a lifetime. The project supports fund raising to go on a 4 week trip to Tanzania in the summer of 2021

The expedition helps students understand the day to day challenges rural communities face, as they work on projects which transform communities and help them overcome significant issues they face including access to clean water, education and housing. It also increases students' self-worth helping them appreciate the impact just one person can have on the world.



Tanzania is home to tropical forests, mighty rivers, grassy savannahs and the Great Rift Valley. During the 4 week life-enhancing school expedition students will see some of the world's most spectacular wildlife including elephants, zebras, giraffes, big cats and monkeys as they visit one of the country's best wildlife areas. It has a diverse population, including the world famous red-robed Maasai tribe who live around the Tanzania – Kenya border. Students will meet the inspiring Mamas of the local villages as they are welcomed into the community and learn some of their traditional skills.

There is also an opportunity to take part in a 3 day trek through the vibrant tropical rainforest of the Usambara Mountains. The unique climate of these mountains is unlike other Tanzanian ranges, creating a cloud forest which make it one of the world's biodiversity hotspots. The mountains are home to an exceptional assortment of plants and wildlife.

Three students who took part last year agree that it was an amazing experience and well worth all the efforts of fund-raising. One parent wrote: *"My daughter had the most amazing, life changing experience. The fund raising was a challenge at times but well worth it. She fell in love with Africa and it has given her some WOW moments!"*

Visit the website for more information: <https://campsinternational.com/product/camp-tanzania-impact-school-expedition> or see Mrs McGeever for more information.

La Galette Des Rois

During the month of January, the MFL team have been celebrating Epiphany with the French traditional cake "**La Galette des Rois**" (King's Cake). This is made with almond paste ("frangipane": ground almonds, sugar, butter and eggs) encased with puff pastry – délicieux!

"La Galette des Rois" celebrates the **Epiphany** (when the three kings visited baby Jesus). You can eat the cake a few days before and after the 6th January and it can be found in most bakeries in France during the month of January! According to tradition, the 'Galette des Rois' was baked to "draw the kings" to the Epiphany.

A figurine called "**la fève**", is hidden in the cake before baking. Originally, "la fève" was a broad bean, but they were replaced in 1870 by a variety of figurines made of porcelain. To make sure that giving out the slices of cake is fair, it is traditional for the youngest person to go under the table and call out in turn who should get each slice. The person who finds the *fève* in their slice becomes King or Queen for the day and has the opportunity of bossing the rest of the family about! A couple of paper crowns are included with each cake to crown the "King or Queen" who must then choose their partner to be Queen/King.



In Ms Marc's year 9 class **Lucy** got the charm and chose **Emily** as her queen. **Grace**, being the youngest in the class, got to say who got which slice. In Ms Noble's year 10 class **Isobel** got the charm and chose **Callie** as her queen. **Lily** (an August baby) had the important job of deciding who was given each slice! **Ms Marc** also made a Galette for the faculty and **Mr Waterworth** was king once again and chose **Ms Lithgow** to be his queen. Look up the recipe on the internet and celebrate this tradition next year

you won't be disappointed!

Esther Wiseman joined Dawlish College in 2004. As well as teaching in the Design Technology Department she is also Head of Year 11. Here are the questions the students wanted to ask her:

Getting To Know You



Where were you born? Torquay, many years ago!

Do you prefer tea or coffee? Nice cup of tea, especially if someone else makes it for me.

What football team do you support? Really sorry but I'm more of a rugby fan! I love to go and watch Exeter Chiefs play at their home matches.

What do you like about working at Dawlish College? Two things – the staff and the students. I work in the Technology department and we are one big happy family (well most of the time!) which I love. Equally teaching the students and being part of their lives is great. Sometimes I'm not sure how many more questions I can be asked that day, but to see them all learning and loving it makes me smile.

What are your hobbies? I love running, well when I say running I mean jogging and talking. Last year I took part in several half marathons and an ultra. This year I am in training for the London Marathon and I can't wait. I have decided to run for Brain Research UK, something close to my heart as two very close friends of mine last year were diagnosed with brain tumours. So whilst I'm pounding the pavements at 7am every Sunday morning, I'm remembering the journey they had and are still going through. My aim is to raise £2000 by holding quiz nights, coffee mornings and sponsorship. If anyone would like to sponsor me I'd be grateful, the link is <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showROFundraiserPage?userUrl=EstherWiseman&pageUrl=2>

Tell us one fact we would be amazed to know! Before teaching I was in the Royal Air Force, and was lucky enough to travel to different parts of the world and also climb Mount Kilimanjaro!

PE Round Up!



Congratulations to Isla in Year 7 who competed in the South Devon Cross Country Championships where she ran incredibly to come 7th in her age group and qualified for the Devon round in Bournemouth. We are very proud of Isla's achievement and wish her all the best!

Year 7 played their first college football game two weeks ago against Ivybridge Community College as part of the **Devon Cup Football** Competition. The team worked extremely hard and played some good football for periods of the game. Unfortunately Ivybridge were just too strong on this occasion and won the game by several goals. We would encourage the squad to attend football training on a Tuesday evening after college so that we can practise before our next game. Year 8, 9 and 10 all have Devon Cup football matches coming up in the next week.



Students have been busy again with fixtures in a variety of activities. **The Year 8 Boys' futsal team** progressed through to the county tournament where they came 5th in Devon, a huge achievement with wins over Eggbuckland, St Luke's, drawing to ISCA and King's School and only one loss all tournament to Torquay Academy. The boys were superb all day with excellent goals from Zak, Harvey and Ben. A huge well done to this group of boys.

The girls' netball teams have been in action again with the Year 9s beating Brixham and narrowly losing out to Paignton and Churston. The Year 10s had another tournament where they narrowly lost out against Torquay Girls Grammar, Newton Abbot and Churston. The Year 8s took part in their first sports hall athletics event where they were up against strong competition from St Peter's School.



As well as competing, students have been leading primary events in gymnastics, dance and yoga alongside running netball tournaments for Gatehouse Academy. They have excelled in their leadership roles with positive comments coming from all teachers that have worked with them. We are very proud as a department of the hard work and commitment our students give and they represent our school perfectly.