



Mount Tamar  
Aspire - Adventure - Achieve

# The Tamar Weekly



26th April 2019



## Mount Tamar School has been

### SHORTLISTED FOR THE TES SCHOOLS AWARDS 2019

The most outstanding individuals and institutions that the education sector has to offer have been recognised in the shortlist for the Tes Schools Awards 2019.

Tes editor Ann Mroz said: It is wonderful to see such great ideas and excellent practice emerging from our schools and teachers, especially at a time when schools are under financial pressure. We had a record number of entries this year and the standard was very high, so all those shortlisted should be very proud: it's an extraordinary achievement to be on this shortlist.

The winners will be revealed at our gala awards evening at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London on

Friday 21 June 2019.

[tesawards.co.uk](http://tesawards.co.uk)

It's been revealed that we have been shortlisted for the following awards:

1. Special school provision of the year - Mount Tamar School
2. Maths teacher of the year - Emma Wilton
3. New teacher of the year - Susie Kendall
4. Teaching Assistant of the year - Gary Maule

Well done to all of our staff, pupils and parents!

# A word from the Headteacher...

It was great opening the post this week and receiving the news that we have been shortlisted for the TES awards. This is very deserved recognition for all involved with the school, for the amazing things that go on every week here. We are all very proud of our school and maybe we can go to London and bring back the prize!

A big thank you goes to all involved in the Isle of Wight residential. It sounds like everyone involved had a great time, the photos look like everyone had fun.

With Year 11 leaving us soon, we change some classes from June. Therefore I will be informing you in the next few weeks if your child is moving classes or tutor. The timetables will change for most pupils as we look at improvements each year. Again I will explain this more next week as we are currently finalising the plan.

Please keep up to date with all that is happening through our Facebook and Twitter pages, we use social media daily to update and inform carers and parents of what has been going on in and around school and future events. We are always striving for excellence, if you have any suggestions for how we can improve come in and have a chat to Hayley or Sandra.

## Word of the week...

w/c: 29/4/19



### Initiative

Definition: the power to take charge before others do.



# Isle of Wight

The week before half term, a group of students participated in a residential trip to the Isle of Wight. It sounds like they had a brilliant time, here are some photos from the trip and a diary of what they got up to over the week...





# Isle of Wight





# Isle of Wight

## Isle Of Wight Diaries Day One

Students arrived at MT from 6.30am, we were greeted by 15 very excited boys ready for their adventure.



Coach number one left MT at 7am, students waved off by parents and carers, we had a quick lunch break at a service station then onto Portsmouth to catch the foot ferry.

We all boarded the Wightlink Catamaran and enjoyed the quick 20 minute crossing, the views were beautiful for the smooth crossing. On arrival in The Isle Of Wight students grabbed their cases and walked down the pier to meet coach number 2. With our destination now only 25 minutes away the excitement started to build, it was lovely to see the boys looking out the windows seeing a new place for the first time.

We arrived at Kingswood Activity Centre at 14.30 where we were met by a team of instructors and the famous camp squirrel. We were then given the grand tour of the site before entering our accommodation block, the boys quickly unpacked and settled into their new environment.

Dinner- Chicken Pie, Sausages, Mash and beans. The boys were very hungry and soon finished all of their dinner.

### **Activity 1- Bushcraft Shelter Building**

We were met by our instructor and taken down into the woods to have the task explained to us. Students were split into two teams and asked to make a waterproof shelter that could help them survive if needed. The two teams soon learnt that they needed to work as a team and communicate well in order to succeed in this challenge. It was great to stand back and watch the students working together and guiding each other to build the structures.

Both shelters were outstanding "the best structure I have seen since working here" was a quote from the instructor, This just shows that our curriculum is embedded in the boys, so well done to Tom and Jody!

### **Activity 2- Scrapheap challenge**

Again students were split into two teams, given a bank of resources and a water balloon each. The aim was to build a protective case that when thrown could protect the water balloon from popping, students were told that if they saved their balloon they could throw it at the instructor.

Great teamwork and communication displayed again from both teams they also needed to use problem solving to think about how to protect the balloon. Staff again stood back and witnessed the students teach each other and promote independence. Well done to team RACHELL who managed to safely secure their balloon and as promised threw it straight at the instructor! The team name was made up of the first letter of each of the team members name.

Time to warm up with some hot chocolate before bed. Most of the boys were asleep by 10.30 with the exception of a couple of boys who thought it would be fun to stay up late, they sure regretted that decision the next morning when they were woken up at 7am for breakfast.

# Isle of Wight

## Isle of Wight Diaries Day Two

The morning started with a dorm clean up, showers and then dressed for breakfast. All students were keen to fill their tummies with the unlimited breakfast options.

### Activity 1- Orienteering

Students had to work in 3 teams to navigate their way around the site finding numbers and letters. The winning team got to go to the on site gift shop first. Great team work skills demonstrated.

### Activity 2- Balance Beam

Some of the staff and students were very nervous about this activity. We were put in harnesses and each of us took turns to climb up as far as we could and then walk the beam of doom. Big shout out to Reece and Emma who are afraid of heights but agreed with each other if one did it they both would. Students cheered each other on as they climbed to their limits. Excellent resilience demonstrated.

At lunchtime students stuck in to a variety of food such as Jacket Potatoes, pasta, salad. All students sat together chatting and eating.





# Isle of Wight

## Isle Of Wight Diaries Day Three

The students tucked into another hearty breakfast this morning, it is lovely to see them trying new things. Fresh berries and live yogurt seem to be the favourite so far.

### **Activity 1- Problem Solving**

We started with 'Birthday Bench' students were all placed on a bench and told they needed to get into age order. Sam stood out straight away displaying excellent leadership skills by guiding the group to find the right solution. Our instructor Luke said to me "you are the first group to ever just get it, what amazing leadership from Sam".

Really proud of the boys.

'Tower Of Hanoi'

Amazing communication between the team again, staff are astounded with the leadership and maturity shown by Sam. The students did this challenge quicker and calmer than the MT staff did on their last challenge day.

'Equilibrium'

Balance ability where students demonstrated amazing communication skills.

'Charlottes Web'

No touching the rope, the students soon realised how to try and make their lives easier, so many learning opportunities accepted here.

'Hook the log'

Groups of 7 each took turns to work together as a team each having a rope to pull to try and hook the rope onto the log and then move it onto the pole in the middle. Again amazing team work displayed with each team gaining success.

The instructor was blown away with the communication skills demonstrated throughout these activities and said we were by far the best group he had seen.

Staff are feeling super proud of all of the students!

### **Activity 2- Jacobs Ladder**

Some students were a little nervous about this one.... Students chose their own pairs and then took turns to help each other climb the ladder into the air. A special mention has to go to Sam, Cameron, Abilio and Josh who reached the highest points with Sam and Josh both reaching the top ladder. Students all cheered each other on and used collaborative learning.

Quick shop break before dinner!

### **Lunch**

Fresh baguettes, Jacket Potatoes, and Pasta were all on offer. A nice healthy lunch to provide us with the much needed energy.

### **Activity 3- Leap Of Faith**

Another Adrenalin pumping activity. Students had to climb up a very high beam and then jump off the top eeeeekkkkk very scary. With a lot of encouragement Robyn G and Mrs Pillans took the plunge well done to them. Reece who yesterday was very frightened of heights managed to conquer his fears and leap off the top, huge well done to him. Resilience and perseverance is really shining through now.

# Isle of Wight



## Isle Of Wight Diaries Day Three continued...

### Activity 4- Nightline

Another experience for our students who were provided with the opportunity to experience what it is like to be blind. Students guided each other around a course using communication and a lot of trust. Big shout out to Lenny who was very nervous about being blindfolded but with support managed to complete the course, well done Lenny.

### Activity 5- Abselling

The theme today seems to be heights..... Students climbed the tower and then abseiled down, Casey and Ely who have been struggling with their fear of heights even managed this challenge, great determination to conquer those personal fears. Every activity the boys are becoming more and more resilient and have really got stuck into this alternative way of learning. Whilst waiting for their turns the boys demonstrated some of the skills they have learnt in PE with a quick game of Volleyball.

### Dinner

Italian night

Lasagne, Ratatouille, Pomme pasta with all the trimmings. Another outstanding meal where students displayed manners and discipline. Well done to Lenny for trying new foods this week! , Tonight he tried lasagne and pasta, well done Lenny! Quick clear up before tonight's activities.

### Activity 6- Aeroball

Split into four trampolines students had to bounce to score goals in the net of their opposition. Adam showed good accuracy and skill, smashing the back of the net many times. Outstanding performance from Josh with the winning score of 12. Dawson's accuracy was also on point those BTEC lessons are paying off! Students have requested one of these back at School please Mr Storry.....

### Activity 7- Hot Spots

OMG it was only giant twister walking in the hall seeing how excited their faces were when they realised what we would be doing was priceless. Mrs Pillans got to demonstrate those yoga lessons she has been having and Lenny displayed excellent balance winning the big game. The students have asked that we make our own for Sports Day so Mr Bryce has his work cut out. Another great activity!

Final stop of the day was our nightly hot chocolate

Another epic day enjoyed by all, staff are all beaming with pride at the way our students have excelled themselves, we really are blown away.



# Prospect Centre

Pupils from the Prospect Centre took a walk down to Ham Woods to explore the forest. They then had an Easter egg hunt around the building.





# SP Class Drama Lesson

An introduction to masks with Class S.P.



Putting on the mask and reading the expression. Thinking about the character and mimicking the masks expression. Finding a body shape and a gesture that expresses the feelings of the character.



## Dates for your Diary



**Monday 6th May-** Bank Holiday

**Thursday 9th May-** Parent/Carer Coffee Morning

**Thursday 23rd May-** Parent/Carer Coffee Morning



# Term Dates 2019/2020



## May Bank Holiday

- 6th May 2019

## May Half Term

- Last day of term: 24th May 2019
- First day back to school: 3rd June 2019

## Summer Holidays

- Last day of term: 26th July 2019
- First day back to school: 4th September 2019

## October Half Term

- Last day of term: 18th October 2019
- First day back to school: 5th November 2019

## Christmas Holidays

- Last day of term: 20th December 2019
- First day back to school: 6th January 2020

## February Half Term

- Last day of term: 14th February 2020
- First day back to school: 24th February 2020

## Easter Holidays

- Last day of term: 27th March 2020
- First day back to school: 14th April 2020

## May Bank Holiday

- 4th May 2020-

## May Half Term

- Last day of term: 22nd May 2020
- First day back to school: 1st June 2020

## Summer Holiday

- Last day of term: 24th July 2020

# Lovely Coffee Morning

## Again.....

How lovely to see you all feeling relaxed and gaining support from one another for all different reasons. Thank you for welcoming all new people to the Coffee Morning too.

A special little extra was that some of the parents were able to see their children's work and congratulate them in person - this really does make such a difference to the children.



Well done Ollie  
on your excellent  
work, Mummy is  
very proud!

Everyone was also able to enjoy some lovely cakes from Mrs Brown's Bakery!  
Yummy.





# Coffee Morning for Parents & Carers



**Next coffee morning dates:**

**9th May  
23rd May**

**Please come along to this informal  
get together. It's a lovely opportunity  
to meet other parents and carers.**

# Fake Chat Apps

**There has been a dramatic rise in the use of 'fake chat' apps among young people. These allow the user to create their own fictional conversations as they would appear in 'real life' on common social media apps. These apps are prone to abuse as users are employing them to create fake conversations/messages between themselves and other persons known to themselves. I have placed the link to three of the most popular ones below, but there are countless more.**

**Please in your conversations with your child stress the importance of not using these apps to fabricate any such conversations/messages with real persons. By doing so they are effectively making libellous statements.**

**<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/fake-chat-direct-message/id1170817680?mt=8>**

**[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.playfake.instafake.funsta&hl=en\\_US](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.playfake.instafake.funsta&hl=en_US)**

**<https://www.uplabs.com/posts/instafake-direct-message>**



# HappyMaps<sup>9</sup>



**A website for parents and carers.**

Reliable and up-to-date resources on  
emotional health for your children.

For all ages from babies to young adults.

**[www.happymaps.co.uk](http://www.happymaps.co.uk)**

Worried about your child's behaviour or mental health ?

Not sure where to start looking for help ?

HappyMaps will guide you to websites, books, videos and  
Apps to help you and your child plus there is information  
on being referred for specialist help, how to find  
counselling and parent support groups.

# Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

Twitter  
Facebook  
Instagram  
Pinterest  
Google+  
Tumblr  
Reddit  
Snapchat  
Secret



LinkedIn



WhatsApp



Vine  
Tinder



Path



YouTube  
Keek  
Foursquare  
WeChat  
Kik  
Flickr







SEA-ing Changes is a collaboration between Arterne: Enriching the next generation CIC and Beach Schools South West which offers an activity based group programme on the beach, for whole families, focused on mental health promotion and behavioural aspects. Families are invited to attend 5 sessions on the beach and will take part in a number of activities and discussions. The group programme can take place during all weathers.

1.	4 <sup>th</sup> May 2019 (provisional) 09:30 – 12:30 / 13:30 – 16:30	Bovisand Beach
2.	18 <sup>th</sup> May 2019 (provisional) 09:30 – 12:30 / 13:30 – 16:30	Bovisand Beach
3.	1 <sup>st</sup> June 2019 (provisional) 09:30 – 12:30 / 13:30 – 16:30	Bovisand Beach
4.	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2019 (provisional) 09:30 – 12:30 / 13:30 – 16:30	Bovisand Beach
5.	29 <sup>th</sup> June 2019 (provisional)ffn 09:30 – 12:30 / 13:30 – 16:30	Bovisand Beach

If you are a professional wanting to reserve a place for a family, please contact Arterne CIC on 07554665461 or Beach Schools South West on 07824388079

Arterne website details: [www.arterne.com](http://www.arterne.com)

Beach Schools South West website details: [www.beachschoolssouthwest.co.uk](http://www.beachschoolssouthwest.co.uk)



## For Your Interest April Newsletter (FYI)

Our April edition of For Your Interest is now available to download from our website. It contains a wealth of information on activities and events in the Plymouth area (many free) that will keep your family entertained over the Easter Holidays and beyond.

You can access the newsletter via the link below:



[For Your Interest: April 2016](#) (PDF - 8.72MB)

[www.plymouthias.org.uk/information-support/for-your-interest](http://www.plymouthias.org.uk/information-support/for-your-interest)



# Progeny

## Parent and Carer Workshops Mental Health Awareness and Young People

Location	Date and Time
Courtlands Special School	Wednesday 12th June 2019 9;30am-11:30am

These workshops are split into a 1 hour information session with the second hour providing an opportunity for Parents and Carers to ask questions/gain information from a panel of professionals comprising of The Zone, CAMHS and Young Devon.

**Please contact The Zone for further information and to book these sessions.**

The Zone

Registered office: Youth Enquiry Service (Plymouth) Ltd,  
14-16 Union Street,  
Derry's Cross,  
Plymouth  
PL1 2SR

**T: 01752 206626    M: 07837066484    W: [www.thezoneplymouth.co.uk](http://www.thezoneplymouth.co.uk)**



## **Plymouth Parent Carer Voice Events**

The information below is about forthcoming events that parents and carers with children and young people with SEND might like to be involved with.



- [Family Fun Day](#) - Wednesday 20 February 2019  
A family fun day for families with children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.
- [Accessing Public Services with CEREBRA](#) - Monday 4 March 2019  
A workshop for parents / carer and professionals who support them.
- [Behaviour Toolkit \(Primary\)](#) - Monday 29 April 2019  
A workshop for families wanting support in making a behaviour plan.
- [SEND parent carer Conference](#) 9.30-2.30 Wednesday 8th May 2019  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ppcv-parent-carer-send-conference-080519-tickets-56588074454>
- [Sleep with Cerebra - Primary School](#) at the Guildhall 10-2pm Tuesday 4th June 2019 for parents and carers
- <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ppcv-sleep-with-cerebra-primary-school-tickets-56946061202>

Bookings can be made through Eventbrite by clicking the links above.

For more information please contact Claire Paddon at: [claire@plymouthpcv.co.uk](mailto:claire@plymouthpcv.co.uk)



## Exam Timetable 2019 Maths English and Science

Cambridge	627	English First language (Core)	Paper 1	Core	1 Hour 30 Mins	Tuesday	1st May 2019 AM
AQA	8461/1F	Biology	Paper 1	Foundation Tier	1 Hour 45 Mins	Tuesday	14th May 2019 PM
Pearson Edexcel	1MA1 1F	Mathematics	Paper 1	Non Calculator Foundation Tier	1 Hour 30 Mins	Tuesday	21st May 2019
AQA	8463/1F	Physics	Paper 1	Foundation Tier	1 Hour 45 Mins	Wednesday	22nd May 2019
Pearson Edexcel	1MA1 2F	Mathematics	Paper 2	Calculator Foundation Tier	1 Hour 30 Mins	Thursday	6th June 2019
AQA	8461/2F	Biology	Paper 2	Foundation Tier	1 Hour 45 Mins	Friday	7th June 2019 PM
Pearson Edexcel	1MA1 3F	Mathematics	Paper 3	Calculator Foundation Tier	1 Hour 30 Mins	Tuesday	11th June 2019
AQA	8463/2F	Physics	Paper 2	Foundation Tier	1h 45m		14 June 2019 am

Note - Friday PM for the Biology AQA Exam Paper 2

## **Information for parents:**

2019 national curriculum tests at the end of key stages 1 and 2



Standards  
& Testing  
Agency



## Key stage 1 tests – year 2 pupils

Your child's teacher is responsible for judging the standards your child is working at in English reading, English writing, mathematics and science, by the end of key stage 1. To help inform those judgements, pupils sit national curriculum tests in English and mathematics, commonly called SATs. They may also sit an optional test in English grammar, punctuation and spelling.

The tests are a tool for teachers to help them measure your child's performance and identify their needs as they move into key stage 2. They also allow teachers to see how your child is performing against national expected standards.

The tests can be taken any time during May and they are not strictly timed. Pupils may not even know they are taking them as many teachers will incorporate them into everyday classroom activities.

Subject	Test paper
English reading	Short text and questions Long text with separate questions
Mathematics	Arithmetic Mathematical reasoning
English grammar, punctuation and spelling (optional test)	Spelling Punctuation and grammar (including vocabulary)

Teachers will use the results from these tests, along with the work your child has done throughout the year, to help them reach their own judgements about how your child is progressing at the end of key stage 1.

These teacher assessment judgements will be reported to you by the end of the summer term.

## Key stage 2 tests – year 6 pupils

If you have a child in year 6, at the end of key stage 2, they will take national curriculum tests in English grammar, punctuation and spelling, English reading and mathematics.

The tests help measure the progress pupils have made and identify if they need additional support in a certain area. The tests are also used to assess schools' performance and to produce national performance data.

The key stage 2 tests will be taken on set dates unless your child is absent, in which case they may be able to take them up to 5 school days afterwards.

Date	Subject	Test paper
Monday 13 May	English grammar, punctuation and spelling	Punctuation and grammar (including vocabulary) Spelling
Tuesday 14 May	English reading	English reading
Wednesday 15 May	Mathematics	Arithmetic Mathematical reasoning
Thursday 16 May	Mathematics	Mathematical reasoning

At the end of the summer term you should receive test results for:

- English grammar, punctuation and spelling
- English reading
- mathematics

### Teacher assessment

As there is no test for English writing, this will be reported as a teacher assessment judgement. This is a judgement teachers will make, based on your child's work at the end of key stage 2. You will also receive a teacher assessment judgement for science.





#### How can you help your child to prepare?

Teachers will make sure all pupils in their class are prepared for the tests. There's nothing specifically test-related that you should do to prepare your child.

You should follow the general advice teachers give about supporting your child's education throughout the year.

#### What do the tests look like?

You can look at [past papers](#) by clicking on the hyperlink or searching online at [www.gov.uk/STA](http://www.gov.uk/STA).

### Further information

Your child's teacher will be able to answer any questions you may have about the tests and teacher assessment judgements.

For more details you can visit [www.gov.uk/STA](http://www.gov.uk/STA) or watch our [short videos](#) for parents about the tests at key stage 1 and key stage 2.

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Information for parents: 2019 national curriculum tests at the end of key stages 1 and 2  
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