

Mount Tamar Family News- March 2023

Student Absence

If your child is going to be absent, please call this number to record this, giving your name, your child's name and the reason for absence. **07840 856030**

Welcome back!

We hope you were able to enjoy the half term. We are really looking forward to this next half term leading up to Easter and hope that we will, by then, have transferred to our new Academy status with Transforming Futures Trust.

There will be far more opportunities for our school to share learning opportunities with the other schools within the trust - exciting times are ahead. For your child, they will see very little change on the surface - only improvements to the environment are planned for the very near future. The same staff will be working with your child and no class changes are planned either. It will be a seamless transfer for the pupils at Mount Tamar School. Much work will be and already is being carried out by the whole of our Staff team to ensure rapid improvement across all of our centres.

IMPORTANT UPDATE REGARDING NON PUPIL DAY DATE

Due to our transfer to Transforming Futures Trust, an additional INSET day has been agreed to ensure that staff undertake induction and health and safety training with the Trust. This date will be immediately after the Easter break - **on Monday 17th April**. The school will be closed to pupils on this day.

What A Musical Family!

This afternoon during rewards, we saw a Y11 pupil happily showing a Y6 pupil around an electric guitar. The conversation between the two boys was a pleasure to listen to and be a part of. Clear respect of each other from both boys!

In the IT room of the music room another pupil was proud to show off their composition skills by showcasing a guitar piece they had composed and written lyrics for. Apparently another student is learning the lyrics and will sing them!

We hope they will agree to share this piece when it is finished.

There were smiles all round when a member of staff started playing the drums, another on the keyboard and a reluctant staff member even picked up the triangle and maracas!



Things we are supporting in the coming weeks



It's World Book Day Time of the Year again! - Thursday 2nd March 23

This event is normally very well supported by our young people. Students and staff are invited to come into school dressed as a book character - click on the schedule link below so you can see the exciting day we have planned!

[World Book Day Schedule 020323](#)

Red Nose Day - Friday 17th March 23

The theme this year is based on the Mr Men and Little Miss characters - feel free to encourage your child to come as one of their favourite characters from this series OR - wear something RED:)



Children's Mental Health Week



At the end of Children's Mental Health Week we supported "Dress to Express Day" This gives - this gave students and staff the opportunity to wear their favourite colour or favourite clothes for the day.





Youth Parliament

This week secondary students had a visit from a local youth worker who introduced and explained what the Youth Parliament is and how it works. After watching a video introducing their local candidates, Students were given a ballot paper and encouraged to vote for their chosen person. Some of our pupils have already expressed an interest in standing for Youth Parliament in the future - Watch this space!



Student Attendance

Before half term, attendance letters went home to all our students. We have had several queries regarding this so, to clarify:

The percentage score in the letter reflects only the days your child was present in school - it does not include medical appointments, authorised absences, illness and exclusions

School Uniform

We will soon be canvassing thoughts and ideas of families and students regarding the Mount Tamar uniform. Please don't panic - there will be no big changes or expectations for an outlay of expensive items! We will be contacting you soon for your thoughts.

Useful Links

These links will be a permanent feature of the newsletter to ensure parents have up to date information and resources - all courses are free

ChatGPT Friend or Foe - The White Hatter

The future is upon us. Or that is what the makers of ChatGPT would have us believe, touted as a true AI chat-bot (meaning it gives answers to questions) the makers of the software – OpenAI Laboratory, have rolled out an AI which generates content based on user demands. Launched in November last year, the programme has certainly made waves, with its supposed ability to answer essay questions, write computer programmes and create songs, poems and movie scripts. Indeed, so supposedly effective is it at enabling pupils to cheat their way to success in the classroom, that it will soon be referenced throughout the playground in an almost ubiquitous manner. So new and disruptive is this technology that some predict it will soon make google redundant, such is its ability to produce answers. And that leaves us in the educational sphere with a question, will ChatGPT be an ally or a hindrance to educating pupils. Well, The White Hatter has done its best to answer these questions, to find out more please follow the link below:

[What parents and educators need to know - click here](#)

Tik Tok! - what is it - how can I make it safe for my child?

Learn to feel safer and comfortable with your family using Tik Tok - use the link below for a useful 13 minute session

[Tech Tips - Tik Tok - click here](#)

Tech shock - online podcasts exploring digital family life.

Subjects such as “are children being ripped off by online games”, “How we can children’s right to be on line with children’s right to be safe”

[Tech Shock Podcasts - click here](#)

National College - An introduction to “streaming”

A 4 minute bitesize guide to online streaming

[Click Here for introduction to streaming](#)

National College - Annual Award for parents in “Online Safety”

Separated into Key stages - click the one most relevant to your child

[Click Here for Annual Award in Online Safety](#)

A special BBC programme recently showed 2 parents who have bravely shared their experiences around County Lines - it shows the devastating impact that criminal exploitation has on families - it's a hard but informative watch.

[Click here for BBC link](#)



Parents against Child Exploitation have updated their blog to share information on how to have a conversation with your child about online safety.

[Click Here for link](#)



FREE SCHOOL MEALS LINK

If you think you might be eligible for **Free School Meals**, please check the eligibility criteria here <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/schoolseducationchildcareskillsandemployability/freeschoolmeals>.

National Online Safety - Free online courses for parents

Developed by safeguarding experts and presented by TV presenter, musician and passionate online safety advocate, Myleene Klass, these courses takes you on a detailed journey through your child's digital habits, explaining the type of online world they're experiencing now, what risks they might be exposed to and just what you can do to support. There are different links for different age groups - click on the link below and have a look ! They are **FREE**

[**National Online Safety-link to parent courses**](#)

Term Dates

February Half Term

Last day of term: February 10th

First day back at school: February 20th

Easter Holiday

Last day of term: March 29th

First day back at school: TUESDAY April 18th

Coronation Bank Holiday - Monday 8th May 2023

May Half Term

Last day of term: May 26th

First day back at school: June 5th

Summer Holiday

Last day of term: July 28th