



FAMILY NEWSLETTER

25th June 2021

PUSHED FOR TIME? QUICK SUMMARY:

- **Rise in Devon's Covid-19 Cases** – You will know from local TV and radio updates that Covid-19 case numbers have risen across the region. At school, we are still keeping our pupils within their “bubbles” and making sure our staff continue to work in a safe manner (twice weekly lateral flow testing, wearing masks in the corridors, washing hands, using hand sanitiser). It is likely we will keep pupils in “bubbles” until the end of the Summer term.
- **ET Rural Skills Update** - Selected Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 students are working towards their Level 1 BTEC in Land Based Studies and also Construction.
- **HOPE Programme** – If you have a child under the age of 4 and would like some support, you can join an online support group which is meeting every Tuesday from 10.30 am – 12 noon. Call Briony on 07554 993842 to find out more.
- **Passwords** – As a parent, you may well have a number of logins and passwords provided to you to access various online apps. School has provided you with a login and password so you can access online learning for Jotter and teachers have access to this information, just in case you lose your login details. Please therefore do not use this password for any other personal logins you may use.
- **Ellen Tinkham College Menu** – The summer menu at the College is extending up to the October half term. The weeks and dates are below in the newsletter, so you can check what your young person is having for lunch each day.
- **Holidays Abroad** – If you are thinking of taking a holiday abroad this summer, please factor in time to allow your family to quarantine upon your return. Updated travel details will be available on the Government website. Pupils return to school next year on Monday 13th September 2021.
- **Fundraising at ET** – We've secured £800 for football gear and £5,000 from the Foyles Foundation for literacy. Good news!
- **Get a GCSE qualification for free with Learn Devon** - Devon County Council's adult education service is offering free Maths and English GCSE qualification courses to Devon adults starting this September. Click on the link in the newsletter for further details.
- **Cygnets - Parent Autism Awareness Course** – Available for parents with children between 7 and 18 years. Courses run on a Monday throughout July and August. Email the link in the newsletter for further details.
- **Arts Week @ Ellen Tinkham** - Week commencing 28th June – We will be celebrating Arts Week next week and concentrating on 'Nature In Art'.
- **Diversity Week** – Today was **Rainbow Friday** and our pupils celebrated what has been a great week of learning. Photos from across our schools will be sent out to parents next week.

Dear Parents & Carers,

Rise in Devon's Covid-19 Cases – Having attended a number of County Council meetings over the last few days, Devon is currently experiencing an exponential rise in the number of Covid-19 cases. Health Professionals attending these meetings have confirmed the Delta variant of Covid-19 has not yet fully impacted across the region but there is an increased number of positive cases being reported, particularly in Devon's secondary schools.

This is likely due to secondary-aged students regularly taking lateral flow tests which identify and confirm positive cases, whereas primary pupils and special needs pupils do not need to take a test.

As Senior Leaders, we review our Risk Assessments and Safer Working Practice and constantly monitor to check our schools are as safe as possible within the current Government guidelines. Our pupils are still keeping within their “bubbles” and there is no intention at present to deviate away from our “bubble” working before the end of this term. This will help keep our pupils and staff as safe as possible until we break for the summer holiday. Staff continue to take and register their lateral flow tests twice weekly, wash hands regularly, use hand sanitiser and wear face masks when in corridors and communal areas.

Rural Skills Update from Tom Bates, Rural Skills Lead – We are delighted to confirm Alex Hannis will be delivering and assessing Level 1 BTEC’s in Land Based Studies and also in Construction to selected Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 students at the College. Alex is one of the original Rural Skills team members previously based at Bidwell Brook and will be working with students from both the College and Bidwell Brook.

Ellen Tinkham – Early Years Request – Our younger pupils would like to plant some flowers and vegetables in their Early Years playground, but need a few more large plant pots or troughs. If you have a spare large pot or trough, please could you bring it into school for Katie Greenhough and Claire Garnett? Thank you so much.



HOPE Programme - Are you a parent caring for an under 4 year old? Are you experiencing stress, anxiety, low mood and feeling isolated? Would you like to learn about some self-management techniques and connect with other parents?then why not give the HOPE Programme a go!

This virtual HOPE programme is specifically aimed at parents with children under the age of 4. The 8 week course starts at the end of June and will be running every Tuesday from 10.30 am – 12 noon. For more information and to register please contact:

Briony: b.enright@nhs.net / 07554993842 or Elaine: elaine@teigncvs.org.uk / 07557334597

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Ellen Tinkham College – Lunch Menu – Devon Norse, our caterers at the College, have advised the current Summer Menu will be extended until October half term. Please see the corresponding weeks and dates below, so you can check the menu for your young person:

Week One: from 06/09/21, from 27/09/21, from 18/10/21

Week Two: from 13/09/21, from 04/10/21

Week Three: from 20/09/21, from 11/10/21



Holidays Abroad – If you are considering taking a holiday abroad this summer, please factor in and allow time to quarantine upon your return to the UK. Check the Government website for the latest travel restrictions. The Autumn term for pupils starts on Monday 13th September 2021.

Fundraising at Ellen Tinkham – We’re delighted to advise our PE Lead has won £800’s worth of football gear for the school in a competition he entered. Well done Grant Vaughan-Atkins! Also, Lucy Hardacre, our Literacy Lead, has secured £5,000 of funding from the Foyles Foundation. Good news!



Get a GCSE qualification for free with Learn Devon - Learn Devon, Devon County Council's adult education service, is offering free maths and English GCSE qualification courses to Devon adults starting this September. Completing the qualification takes 10 months with exams scheduled for May and June 2022. A GCSE

qualification can help learners improve their job prospects and achieve a promotion, enter into higher education or training or enable them to help their children with homework. Find out more on [Learn Devon's website](#).

Cygnets - Message from Babcock Cygnets Course Leaders - We are delighted to continue our offer of the Cygnets - Parent Autism Awareness - programme online. The programme is for parents and carers of Devon school children aged between 7 and 18 pre or post diagnosis. We are excited to announce that we have negotiated and agreed access for families whose children are currently on the autism assessment pathway, in addition to families of children and young people who have received an autism diagnosis. The sessions will be online on Monday mornings for 6 weeks during July and August. If you would like to know more, please contact Daisy Binnie at Bidwell Brook or Gill Allen at Ellen Tinkham, or email LDP-LearnerSupport@babcockinternational.com to book a place.

Arts Week @ Ellen Tinkham - Next week, we will be celebrating Arts Week and concentrating on Nature In Art. We look forward to showing you some great photos from Arts Week in the next Family newsletter.



Diversity Week – Across this week, all classes have been focusing on diversity in our society; being proud of who we are and celebrating everyone's differences. Today was **Rainbow Friday** and our pupils enjoyed celebrating their learning by dressing up and coming into school wearing brightly coloured clothing to represent colours from the Progress Pride Flag.

We'll send out some images to all families next week.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacqui Warne".

Jacqui Warne - Executive Head