



Tavistock College Newsletter

Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust



@collegetavi

24/05/2024

As we reach the end of a busy half term, I want to take this opportunity to recognise just how incredible our Year 11 and 13s have been in preparing for and sitting their exams. Their focus and engagement is testament to our College commitment to ensure that every young person is able to live a life of choice and opportunity. Examinations continue after the half term break and we are offering two intervention and support days for our young people on Thursday and Friday.

On that note, I want to recognise our staff team who have been going above and beyond for our young people. I want to say thank you to them for all that they do for our community.

It has been an exciting term with STEM events, performances from our creative arts team, our Ukrainian Super Learning Day, primary sport events facilitated by our young people, the beginning of the athletics calendar and so much more.

Our collaboration with Normal Magic (commissioned mental health service for young people in West Devon) continues with a raft of staff training next half term and we look forward to further developing our mental health strategy in that way.

At the end of my first half term as Principal and for my first newsletter, please can I say a thank you to all those who have made me so welcome.

Have a great half term,

James Buchanan
Principal

Holidays aren't happy for everyone

ChildLine
0800 1111

<https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/>

If you are concerned for the safety of a child, please report it on 0345 1071 1071 or call 999 if they are at immediate risk of harm

Catalyst Youth Team

01 what is catalyst
we are a youth work charity, focused and providing and supporting young people in the community of Tavistock and the surrounding areas

How we help
We help by running the mentoring scheme in school and by listening to your current needs. We also run lots of different clubs, such as after-school youth work, Christian unions, and detached work in Hornabridge, Bere Alston and Tavistock

02 SCAN ME

03 More information
If you would like to learn more about catalyst please contact us
info@tavistockcatalyst.com
follow us on facebook or instagram at @tavistockcatalyst

Safeguarding our college

Child Protection

Your child's safety is of paramount concern to us. If you have a concern which involves the safety and wellbeing of a child or young person, please contact Mrs Hazel Blackmore (Designated Safeguarding Lead), Mr Jack Brokenshire or Miss Rachael Squire immediately.

If the concern is outside College hours, please contact MASH on 0345 155 1071 (email: mashsecure@devon.gov.uk) Children's Social Care Emergency Duty Team (out of hours) on 0845 6000 388 or Police on 101 (non-emergency) and 999 (emergency).

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Young Carers

What is a young carer?

A Young Carer is a child or young person aged between 5-18 years old, who provide emotional, physical or practical care to a relative who experiences poor physical or mental health, a disability or substance misuse. Some children begin caring from a very young age while others can become carers overnight.

Young Carers are just young people with caring responsibilities. They look the same as everyone else but can lead very different lives.

What life like as a young carer?

Life as a Young Carer is different for everyone. Not everyone is caring for the same reasons. Despite this, some tasks such as cooking, cleaning, shopping, collecting prescriptions, and dressing the person they look after are the common tasks Young Carers have to do. However, these are some of the more simple tasks taken on by Young Carers, many Young Carers are responsible for much more complicated tasks which can vary depending on the situation.

How can being a Young Carer affect someone mentally and physically?

Some Young Carers with a significant caring role may be more resilient than those with a less demanding caring role. Many Young Carers describe feeling tired and constantly pressured. Caring can place considerable physical demands on a child or young person which, when combined with a lack of sleep, can result in exhaustion. Mentally, Young Carers can often feel alone or isolated which can have a serious and negative effect on their own mental health and well-being. Lots of Young Carers state that they find it difficult to find or make time for themselves, and they don't want to worry people with how they feel.

How can you support friends who are Young Carers?

Checking in- Being a Young Carer can be difficult, just make sure they know you are there for them. Don't just assume they're okay- You may only be seeing what is happening to them on the surface, they might just be really good at hiding what is happening and how it is affecting them.

Be there for them in the long term- Being a Young Carer isn't always temporary, for most people it will continue until they turn 18 and beyond.

Who are young carers?

A young carer is someone **under 18** who regularly helps look after someone in their family, or a friend, who is ill, disabled or misuses drugs or alcohol.

How many young carers are there?

- There are about **700,000 young carers in the UK**. (BBC 2010)
- That's about **1 in 12 secondary aged pupils**.
- There are likely to be young carers in every school and college.

*The Census identified over 200,000 young carers, but many remain hidden.



1 in 3 young carers spend between 11-20 hours each week caring.



Which one is the young carer?



Young carers are just young people – with caring responsibilities! They look the same as everyone else but they can lead very different lives!

The average age of a young carer

= **12**



SUMMER PE CLUBS

TUESDAY

DUKE OF EDINBURGH
YEAR 9
NHO/JNB/CTA

ROUNDERS
ALL YEARS
NIN/RDO

CYCLING
ALL YEARS
NHO
(WEEK A ONLY)

TRAMPOLINING
KS3
SBT

THURSDAY

CRICKET
ALL YEARS
JNB/NMU

TENNIS
ALL YEARS
CTA

BADMINTON
ALL YEARS
ABE

TABLE TENNIS
ALL YEARS
SHU

Please ensure you bring the correct equipment to participate.



TOGETHER: WE CARE, WE CHALLENGE, WE EXCEL

Horrabridge Rangers SA U12's Football

Horrabridge Rangers Sports Association are looking to recruit players currently in school year 7, in preparation for next season as we step up to 11 aside

HORRABRIDGE RANGERS
SPORTS ASSOCIATION

Facebook:- Horrabridge Rangers
SA Official

Twitter:- @HorrabridgeRSA

Instagram:- @HorrabridgeA

We play our home matches at Yelverton

Currently training on Tuesdays 6-7pm

We are a competitive mid league team with
FA UFEA C coaches.

Contact Adam Dawe on 07591172798



To more information on how to get involved with our community club, please contact:
HRSA Club Secretary: Ian Mulholland
Mob: 07764983441
Email: hrsa@hotmail.co.uk



SEN Notice Board

Director of SEND- Mrs Turner
SENDCO - Mrs Champion



Academic Highlights

We've reached the end of another successful term at Tavistock College. The SEND department are proud of the hard work and dedication our students have shown this term, in particular how well our year 11's have coped with the start of their GCSEs and we are sure they are looking forward to their last exam!

Extracurricular Excellence

Some of our Adventurer students have also taken part in some extracurricular excellence such as a camping trip last week, the students were dropped off at Cadover Bridge and walked to the Dewerstone, they then set up their own tents at the Dewerstone Outdoor Activity camp site they all did really well and had a fantastic night under the stars! They have completed this as part of their training for the Three Peaks Challenge, well done!

Some students also had the opportunity to go to The Theatre Royal to see The Artist. They all had a fantastic evening and many thanks to Mrs Biggs and Mrs Hayman for driving the minibus.

Next term

We look forward to saying hello to our future year 7s next term to complete their enhanced transition. They will take part in a range of activities and get a chance to get to know the school before they officially start in September.

After nearly thirty years of service, we are saying farewell to Julie Edwards who will be retiring at the end of the summer term. Julie has worked tirelessly within the school and has been a pillar of knowledge and support to all who have worked with her over the years.

I am sure that you all will agree that it will be a bittersweet farewell and that she will be greatly missed.

Year 7 Notice Board

Head of Year - Mr Hunter

Assistant Head of Year - Mrs Massey



Hey Year 7 parents, carers, and students! As we approach the final stretch of the school year, let's take a moment to reflect on the wonderful progress and achievements our Year 7 students have made. It's truly inspiring to witness their growth and development, and I couldn't be prouder of the fine young individuals they are becoming.

As we look around at Year 11 and 13 students sitting their exams, I encourage you to envision where you want to be in four years (it's closer than you think!). Start thinking about the positive learning habits you exhibit daily and recognise the investment you are already making in your future. Embrace the value of lifelong learning and understand that each step you take today is adding to the GCSEs you'll be sitting in the future.

I also want to congratulate our outstanding students who exemplify care, challenge, and excellence. The students who get shoutouts in each newsletter are just a small sample of the amazing students we see living these values on a daily basis - well done!

Finally, a special shoutout to every Golden Ticket Winner this week: I know it's disappointing not to have your name drawn for a prize but being recognised out of your whole class to receive the ticket is an incredible achievement in itself.

So although your journey is just beginning, remember the future holds endless possibilities: you have the potential to achieve remarkable things, and we can't wait to see the incredible individuals you will become.

Being a Good Friend

Being a good friend is about more than just spending time together; it's about showing kindness, understanding, and support to those around you. It's essential to remember the importance of being there for each other. A good friend listens without judgement, offers a helping hand in times of need, and celebrates successes together. It is great to witness so many year 7s being a good friend.

However, there are some who at times forget how important this is. Let's strive to be empathetic, inclusive, and respectful of each other's differences, fostering a welcoming and supportive community where everyone feels valued and accepted. Together we can make our journey through Tavistock College a memorable and fulfilling one, enriched by the good friendships we make along the way

CARE
Emily E for being a good friend.

CHALLENGE
Owen S for your resilience.

EXCEL
Sophia H for exceeding 350 green boards.

20 GOLDEN TICKET WINNERS

Lilly-Anne V, Oscar C-C, Summer K, Amelia S, Olivia T

Beau B, Adam S, Toby C-C, Marta P, Seren B-W, Alastair T, Jack C, George S, Daisy P.

Golden Ticket Winners:

Tommy S, Sophia H, Kiera-Lilly M, Freddie M, Aiden G, Lily L, Cassidy W, Harry R, Belle L, Lillia P, Alistair F, Willow S, Sophie D, Harry M, Archie H.



Congratulations to our year 7& 8 students who play cricket for Tavistock Falcons U13 team. They competed in their 1st tournament this weekend. The students were Sofia, Evie and Emily and they all played brilliantly. They narrowly lost to 2 well established teams- Paignton and Teignmouth but showed lots of promise.

Devon County Council

IF YOU ARE A PARENT OR CARER

You can text a Health Visitor on **07520 631 721**

We can help with all kinds of things like.....

CHILD HEALTH & MENTAL DEVELOPMENT HEALTH
ADJUSTING TO SLEEP & FEEDING ROUTINES
PARENTING CONTINENCE
FAMILY HEALTH

Text us for confidential advice & support

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Devon County Council

HEALTH FOR TEENS

TEXT YOUR SCHOOL NURSE FOR **CONFIDENTIAL HEALTH ADVICE AND SUPPORT:**
07520 631722
 OR SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFO:

GET HELP WITH ALL KINDS OF THINGS LIKE...

HEALTHY EATING | RELATIONSHIPS | SMOKING
EMOTIONAL HEALTH | BULLYING | SELF HARM
ALCOHOL & DRUGS | ANXIETY | SLEEP | PUBERTY

WWW.HEALTHFORTEENS.CO.UK/DEVON

SEE VIDEOS, FIND HEALTH INFORMATION, TAKE QUIZZES, AND FIND OUT THE TRUTH BEHIND THE RUMOURS

FIND US ON INSTAGRAM: @healthforteens #HealthforTeens

Disclaimer: We may need to share information if we are concerned about your safety but we would usually speak to you first. Your messages are stored securely and can only be accessed by other professionals under strict professional guidelines. We will not share your information with anyone else. If you need help before you have had your first period, please contact your GP. We are not responsible for any actions taken by you based on the information provided. We are not responsible for any actions taken by you based on the information provided. We are not responsible for any actions taken by you based on the information provided.

Devon County Council

IF YOU'RE 11-19 YEARS OLD TEXT A SCHOOL NURSE
07520 631722

WE HELP YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ALL KINDS OF THINGS LIKE...

RELATIONSHIPS
MENTAL HEALTH
BULLYING
SELF HARM
ALCOHOL
HEALTHY EATING
DRUGS
SMOKING

Text us for confidential advice & support

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Year 8 Notice Board

Head of Year - Mrs Ingleby
 Assistant Head of Year - Mr Marsh



20 GOLDEN TICKETS

Iola S, Oscar M, Grace R, Ellie G, Thomas H, Lexi T, Carrie C, Olivia T
 Brendon W, Elsie D, Joshua P, Annabel L, Archie N, Francesca.H
 Katie H, Daniel N, Eloise P, Callum B, Alex C, Lola G



Golden Tickets

We're thrilled to announce the incredible launch of the Golden Tickets, which has received an overwhelmingly positive response from both students and teachers! Every lesson, teachers have the joy of awarding these coveted tickets to deserving students. And the excitement doesn't stop there! These tickets are then entered into a thrilling prize draw, which takes place during our year group assembly. It's truly amazing to see the impact this scheme is having on everyone involved, with students eagerly striving to earn their own Golden Ticket!

Demonstrating one of the cooperative values- Solidarity, Self-help, Self-responsibility, Democracy,

Demonstrating one of our ethical values- Openness, Honesty, Social-Responsibility,

Caring for others:

- Ivan M
- Archie N
- Iola S
- Lexi T
- Samuel G

CHRISTIAN UNION

Exploring Christianity



All are welcome, faith, food, and fun
 Every Tuesday in G1 from
 3:15-4:15 pm

REFUGE

Youth club



FREE ENTRY

EVERY MONDAY, 3:15 - 5PM

FOOD . FAITH . FRIENDS

AT KINGS CHURCH, PIXON LN, TAVISTOCK PL19 9AZ

<https://tavistockcatalyst.com/>



COTEHELE QUAY GIG CLUB

JUNIOR SQUAD
 ACADEMIC YEAR
 7 to 11

Do you want to improve your overall fitness and make new friends?
 Try Pilot Gig racing, a truly Cornish sport which is growing in popularity.
 Be part of our Junior team and get involved in an exciting community.



Where - Cotehele Quay PL12 6TA
 When - Saturdays 11am - 1pm; Wednesdays 5.30pm - 7pm (BST)
 How - Email Juniors@cqgc.org.uk
 Or scan QR code



Year 9 Notice Board

Head of Year - Miss Evans

Assistant Head of Year - Miss Fox



I thank you and well done to all the students who have helped us promote the vocational pathway to the current year 8 students. Staff and parents were blown away with your positivity and professionalism in both the video and on the presentation evening. A big thank you to Henry A, Oliver E, Felicity S, Jemima T-W, Sienna M, Logan C-P, Isaac M, Olivia S, Alex A and Mikayla H-C. You are an absolute credit to Tavistock College!

Reminders

This is a gentle reminder that even when the sun is finally shining, shirts need to be tucked in, ties should be worn and skirts should not be rolled up!

Now that the weather is finally getting warmer, it would be advisable for Year 9s to bring a water bottle!

If any Year 9s do wish to change their options for KS4, please remember to complete the Google Form. Please also be aware however that the request might not be able to go ahead but we will try our best.

Please also remember that Year 9 has the Farmers' Union in college on June the 6th. If any student wishes to take part in their workshop, they must speak to their tutor in the first instance. The Farmers' Union will also be delivering an assembly to the whole year group.

Enrichment

The intermediate girls athletics' team were awesome on Tuesday 7th May!

The team were praised by the event officials and members of staff from other schools for their conduct, cohesion and team spirit at the event. Mr. Ingleby said that, "It was probably the best fixture I have taken students on during my time at school!" The team included Hazel S, May G, Nell M and Lamorna C.

Lilia K and Molly R were part of the Horrabridge FC U15 team that won the cup final this weekend.

A massive well done must also go to the Tavi Blacks U14 who won the cup final last weekend. A special mention to Joel B who scored 2 goals to contribute to their win!

A special shout out must also go to Amelia D who has achieved a massive 355 green boards putting her in the prestigious position of the most green boards in the entire school! Well done Amelia, well deserved.



CARE

Annika W - For looking out for others and caring about the college values.

CHALLENGE

Meghan D - for her reading challenges that she's smashing.

EXCEL

Miriam H - Fantastic contributions to the college through the anti-ambassador programme and looking at improving college life for Young Carers.

20 GREEN BOARDS

May G, Alan E, Archie B, Amelia D, Henry W, Anastasia M, Eddie T-Y, Shannon C, Isabella N-C, Henry J, Christopher D, Jasmine C, Charlie B, Lamorna C, Lauren M, Elija H, Oliver H, Freya R, Hazel S and Amelia J.

Year 10 Notice Board

Head of Year - Mrs Squire
Assistant Head of Year - Mr Trimmer



Year 10 Girls Devon Junior and Minor League Football

The girls team won the league by 15 points and were unbeaten! The team won 11 games and drew 1. They also won the Cup Final 4 -3 after being down at half time 3 - 2. An outstanding season for the players and an exceptional group of girls showing those core Tavy values of care, Challenge and Excel. Well done to all of you team!

Temisan, A, Molly R, Courtney P,
Lacey N, Macey P, Isla M,
Issy K, Ellie J, Ashlea J F,
Luana P, Lilia K, Kaitlyn J.

Work Experience June 24th - June 28th

At the end of this week the Work Experience week will be a month away. If you have not completed the google form for this, please do so as soon as possible. All students need to be in a work placement for this week. If you have problems or need help with this please contact us in the HUB for help seeking a placement.

Make this an exceptional week for you where you expand your horizons and experience a different kind of working week. We look forward to visiting as many of you as possible during the week. Remember those of you completing the Three Peaks Challenge will need to inform your work placement that you will not be there on Friday June 28th as you will be travelling up to Yorkshire.

CARE

- Students really showing that they care about their work with 1435 Green boards awarded for working hard and 638 consistently meeting expectations in lessons and 801 positive points for outstanding effort in lessons Keep this up Year 10.

CHALLENGE

- Students really showing that they care about their work with 1435 Green boards awarded for working hard and 638 consistently meeting expectations in lessons and 801 positive points for outstanding effort in lessons Keep this up Year 10.

EXCEL Outstanding girls football team



20 GREEN BOARDS

Thalia W, Faye P, Josh A, Manni H, Isla M, Jamie C, Tamsyn R, Eleanor B, Rebecca A, George G, Ryan C, Daisy W, Josh D
Jessica M, Molly B, Livvy W, Cerys M, Katie W, Brodie B, Zoe B.

Year 11 Notice Board

Head of Year - Mr Jacob

Assistant Head of Year - Mr Murphy



With exam season in full swing, the finish line is almost in sight. The students have made a fantastic start to the exam season and it has been really positive to see the students trying the best and knuckling down, focusing and engaging with learning and revision. Please keep an eye out for daily communication regarding the students timetable for the day and where booster sessions are available.

Remember to make the most of your time, revise and focus. Consider revising for shorter 30 minute periods with regular breaks, this will allow your brain time to focus and take on information.

Please remember that all the staff are here to support you during this exam period and understand that this will be stressful. Come and speak to us if you feel you are struggling or need help. We would like to wish you all the best of luck!

Study leave for students

Please see the below message regarding study leave

"We firmly believe that there is great benefit to all students attending timetabled lessons, where appropriate, to receive high-quality teaching and learning from our specialist teachers. The College is hosting a series of targeted hot-lessons and revision sessions prior to each exam, which will be of great benefit to your young person. Lessons taking place for those subjects which have already completed their exams are now dedicated to revision, and are therefore still offer valuable revision and preparation opportunities. We would encourage full attendance wherever possible. However, if there are further extenuating circumstances that you feel should be taken into consideration, please do let us know."

Passport to prom

Keep working hard and remember to earn those passport to prom points. A reminder of how you can achieve these can be seen below:

- Attending additional revision gains the students 5 extra points.
- Creating subject specific revision notes gains 10 extra points.
- Completing past papers gains 10 extra points.
- Normal green boards will also go towards passport to prom points.

Keep working hard and you will gain the points you need.

Please see the information regarding the year 11 graduation and prom. The dates for graduation and prom are Tuesday 9th July and prom will be Thursday 11th July.



	Name of payment request on Gateway
Prom ticket is £27.50 per person	24YR11PROM
Return coach ticket per person is £6.64	24YR11PROMBU
SPECIAL OFFER - BUY A YEARBOOK AND HOODIE TOGETHER AND PAY £27.91 Please remember to state size and colour when paying	24YR11HOODBK
The price of a Yearbook is £9.64	24YR11YRBOOK
The price of a Hoodie is £21.31 Please remember to state size and colour when paying	24YR11HOODIES



We are pleased to announce that we will be continuing our Rainbows' provision in the new academic year to include students who are suffering a loss due to parents being separated either through a parental relationship breakdown or because a parent is on deployment. This offer also extends to our 6th form.

When something significant happens in a family, the entire family is affected. Even though death, divorce or other loss issues appear to be only adult problems, it has a profound effect on the children who are touched by such experiences. If a parent dies, a divorce or separation happens, or some other painful loss occurs, not only do the parents grieve but obviously the children do also. Children may find it extremely difficult to verbalise their feelings of grief because of their age and inexperience.

We have a group of extremely sensitive, caring and trained adults within college who are able to help these children put their feelings into words, work through their grief, build a stronger sense of self-esteem, and begin to accept what has taken place in the family.

If your child is part of a single parent family or a step-family, has experienced the death of a beloved family member, friend or sibling, or is struggling through a painful experience, this will be an opportunity for them to share with a special member of staff who cares about the pain they are suffering.

As a college, we care deeply about improving the lives of our young people, enabling them to achieve their goals and aspirations. We believe that this wrap around care is essential to help them overcome these emotional obstacles and therefore help them to excel.

Please discuss this opportunity with your child. If both you and your child are willing to participate in our programme, please contact me directly by emailing me.

so.fox@tavistockcollege.org

Yours sincerely,

Sonia Fox

(RAINBOWS Coordinator)



Cost of living Help and guidance



Are you worried about the rising cost of energy bills, food and transport?

You are not alone, the cost of living crisis is affecting many of us.

You may want help accessing grants and debt advice, support getting all the money you are entitled to, or simply want to know more about the government's recent support measures. West Devon Borough Council want to reach out to residents to make sure you are aware of support available.

Free School Meals

Many people are not aware their children qualify for a free school meal. Check using this website – you do not need to tell the school yourself.

www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals

Your child will receive a nutritious two course meal each day.

School holidays can put increased pressure on finances but there are ways in which you can be supported through subsidised or free holiday clubs.

www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/family-support/haf-programme/information-for-parents

Healthy Start Card

If you are 10 weeks pregnant or more, have a child under four years old, or you or your family get certain benefits, you may be able to qualify for a Healthy Start card. The card has money on it to be used in shops to buy:

- plain liquid cow's milk;
 - fresh, frozen, and tinned fruit and vegetables;
 - fresh, dried, and tinned pulses; and
 - infant formula milk based on cow's milk.
- You can also get free vitamins.

See online to find out more and for ways to apply.

www.healthystart.nhs.uk/how-to-apply

Food Support

The cost of living crisis has made it much more difficult for many people to afford food. If this is something you are experiencing, the Council have collated a list of food hubs on their website.

www.westdevon.gov.uk/foodbanks

There is also support for your animals –

www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/costofliving/foodbank

Household Support Fund

This will be available from April 2023 to provide short-term financial support to help meet the needs of those struggling to afford food, energy, water bills and other related essentials.

Applications can be made online.

In addition, our partners will issue food vouchers to families of children who receive free school meals so they can buy food through the school holidays. Keep an eye on our website for more information.

www.westdevon.gov.uk/household-support-fund

West Devon Support Directory

An online support directory has been created to provide information on a wide range of support available from within the Council and our external partners.

www.westdevon.gov.uk/support-directory

If you need any more information from the Council, then reach out to us through our 'Contact Us' page which will direct you to the information you are looking for.

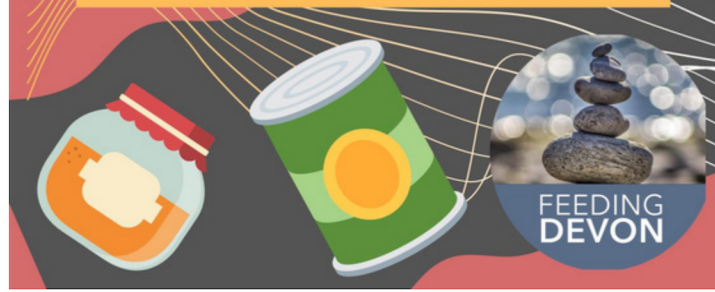
www.westdevon.gov.uk/contact-us

Tavistock food hub

An Affordable Food Club

Feeling the pinch? Why not join our food club and save up to 60% on supermarket prices. Only £5 donation per bag!

Wednesdays 11.30am to 12.30pm at
The King's, Pixon Lane or
Saturdays at The Red & Black Club,
Crowndale Road 11am to 12pm
email info@feedingdevon.org.uk



- ⚡ Energy
- £ Income
- 🏠 Home
- ❤️ Wellbeing

WANT A NEW SKATEPARK? SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!



We are Tavi Skate, a local steering group, with a vision for a new concrete skatepark to be built in Tavistock.

We want to start conversations to build a picture of the community's outlook for future facilities. Quality skateparks support vibrant, healthy communities. These dynamic spaces can be used for skateboarding, BMXing, scooter riding and rollerblading for riders young and old.

Our goal is to replace the current skatepark with a modern park that's quieter, safer, and more welcoming for all. To make it happen we need the support of our community - show you'd like a new skatepark by scanning the QR code and filling out our short survey.

SCAN HERE →
COMPLETE OUR
SURVEY OF SUPPORT
& FIND OUT MORE.

Are you missing out?

More money for your school!



Nutritious meal every day!



Access to free holiday clubs!



More teachers, trips, and activities!



Check your eligibility today for Free School Meals

https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE



Contact: 0345 155 1019



hello.taviskate@gmail.com
www.tavistockyouthcafe.com

Tavi.skate
Tavi Skate

TAVISTOCK YOUTH CAFE



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HELLDIVERS 2



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Within weeks of release, Helldivers 2 had become one of 2024's biggest gaming success stories. The sequel to a top-down shooter from 2015 has smashed sales expectations, owing to its frantic gameplay and tongue-in-cheek humour. However, the game comes with several risks to younger players, as indicated by its 18+ rating.

PEGI 18 RATING



Due to its intense violence and the presence of in-game purchases, Helldivers 2 carries a PEGI 18 rating. While players are generally fighting fantastical enemies like giant bugs and robots, their characters can be killed in various gruesome ways, up to and including dismemberment. It's certainly worth considering whether such a game is appropriate for younger players.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

In Helldivers 2, players can use real money to buy in-game currency, with which they can unlock cosmetics and new weapons. At the time of writing, all the in-game items can be acquired without spending so much as a penny – but excited young players wanting to keep up with their friends may still feel the temptation to purchase new weapons more quickly, rather than laboriously earning the in-game currency through play.

VOICE CHAT AND MESSAGING

Helldivers 2 is always played online with others, who often use voice chat or in-game texts to coordinate, strategise or just joke around. This does mean that children who play without their friends will be put in contact with strangers. Unfortunately, this represents a roll of the dice, as the game can't control how people treat each other online. However, you can easily report other players for abusive behaviour via the game's 'Social' tab.

FRUSTRATION TRIGGER

The thrill of barely scraping through a dangerous mission in one piece is integral to Helldivers 2's appeal. To accentuate this feeling of achievement, the game includes some very difficult levels that could prove to be too hard for some players – even those who are legitimately old enough to play. Losing streaks can be incredibly annoying, so repeatedly failing in missions could easily provoke frustration or anger in younger players.

LACK OF ACCESS



The game is available on PC and PS5, but not (as yet) on other consoles. Some people will naturally be disappointed they can't get involved and might look for similar alternatives to play on their own console – alternatives which may contain similar levels of violence and gore but lack the same balanced approach to user misconduct and in-game purchases as Helldivers 2.

Advice for Parents & Educators

GIVE IT A GO FIRST



Helldivers 2 is a third-person shooter with intentionally humorous elements, but much of its comedy is rooted in satire which may go over the heads of some players. Consider playing the game first yourself – while shooting bugs and robots feels too unrealistic to be upsetting, seeing your character get torn to pieces may be too much for young players.

SET EXPECTATIONS



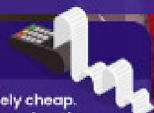
At the time of writing, Helldivers 2 costs £34.99. It could turn out to be an expensive and wasteful purchase if a player gets irritated and gives up shortly after receiving the game. If a young person tends to become frustrated easily, it's worth considering whether Helldivers 2 is really the game for them.

CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES



If playing on Xbox – where Helldivers 2 isn't available – consider something like Halo: The Master Chief Collection as an alternative. One of its game modes – Firefight – replicates Helldivers' mechanics to some degree. Alternatively, younger players may be better suited to the more light-hearted Deep Rock Galactic, which sees them play as fantasy dwarves in space, involving far less gruesome violence.

KEEP AN EYE ON PAYMENTS



Many titles offer in-game purchases, but Helldivers 2's are comparatively cheap. You'll still need to monitor your payment information (or use a prepaid card on the account), in case your child buys the in-game currency in bulk; on the whole, however, the game's selling methods are far less egregious than most similar titles on the market.

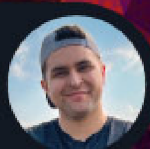
MONITOR COMMUNICATION & ADJUST SETTINGS



Thanks to an in-game 'Ping' system (allowing players to highlight important details without speaking), communication isn't as integral to Helldivers 2 as it is in other games. You can turn off the chat options in-game on PC, or on the PS5's own settings, and feel more secure in the knowledge that your child won't be speaking to people they don't know.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon, and has been working in the games media industry for five years. As well as being an avid long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and many more.



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